



2023

Annual Report  
St Michael and All Angels  
Spennithorne

(Reporting on the calendar year 2022)

### **Aims and purposes**

St Michael and All Angel's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Chris Lawton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC has yet to create its own vision. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC encourages as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the community at St Michael and All Angels. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. When planning our activities for the year the PCC try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne.

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Michael and All Angels church belongs.

Taking part in socially important events held at church such as Remembrance Day, The Queen's Jubilee evensong on the village green and the Queen's memorial service.

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the month and over the course of the year, that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, evening song provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in different styles of worship are provided through mid-week and Sunday Morning Prayer services, Family services and Holy Communion. As part of the Benefice of Lower Wensleydale other services are available across the other five parish churches in the benefice, including Simply Together, Café Church T.O.A.S.T. Services with the offer of prayer for healing, Patronal services, services to mark the Agricultural year, along with services such as; Vigils and Compline at specific occasions during the church year are also offered. During the period of Covid St Michael and All angels' church and the Benefice has also facilitated the attendance of a range of services through PhoneChurch. This continues with a regular PhoneChurch service enabling those unable to attend a service in person, able to participate over the phone.

Following an easing of Covid-19 restrictions following a discussion with the benefice council the Rector reintroduced the common cup at communion. This was well received, and assurances were given to those who wished to keep receiving only the bread that this had always been a normal practice in the Anglican Church for those who needed special provision.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We open our church daily so that our community has the opportunity for private prayer, this needs to be published more overtly as many in the community are unaware of this.

### Attendance

The Sunday attendance: ranges between 13 and 20 but this number increased during services associated with events and festivals; The Remembrance service; 46 attended and Easter Holy Communion 30 attended. The Christmas Services, Lessons and Carols service and Crib service had over 118 attendees. We have celebrated one baptism, three weddings and held seven funerals/memorials in our church this year.

### St Michael and All Angels Church Building

The fabric of the church building remains on the whole in fair condition.

The PCC is insured with 'Ecclesiastical Insurance'. The Quinquennial survey was conducted this year and the revised report correcting inaccuracies is still being awaited. Work to the gable ends is anticipated to be detailed as there is an obvious ingress on water during periods of rain.

Various works to the fabric of the building has been completed or is planned to commence in the very near future. The kitchen tiled 'splash back' continues to need replacing.

The boiler has been serviced and repaired and the timer replaced.

It was highlighted during the year that the font cover hadn't had any maintenance and was not mentioned in the previous Quinquennial report. Therefore, last year after extensive research and seeking advice the insurers arranged for, at cost to us, an engineering surveyor to review the mechanism. The mechanism was found to be sound. At this time we were informed that this test needed to be conducted annually. However, after further research and seeking advice from the Diocese this is not the case. A visual check is needed annually by a suitably experienced person and if there are concerns a structural engineer will be employed.

The maintenance of the churchyard has been transferred to Richmondshire District Council commencing in April 2022. After a problematic start they took on the grass cutting and the churchyard began to look much improved by the autumn. The tree by the south entrance and those by the Public Footpath exit have been highlighted as needing their canopies lifting.

The electrical wiring has been checked and several repairs were highlighted as requiring attention e.g., the external lights. These have been addressed. The Vestry wiring and lights have been replaced. The Vestry continues to need redecoration and awaits quotes from decorators who use 'hot lime'.

Policies, guidance, and Risk assessments connected with the safe use of the church have been reviewed and adopted. Risk assessments along with Accident forms are now readily accessible at the back of the church.

Fire extinguishers and lightning conductors have been checked.

### Pastoral care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Rev'd Chris and Rev'd Lisle and members of the church have visited parishioners when requested and where appropriate have been able to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital.

### Mission and evangelism

Along with the other parishes in our benefice we have been able to reach out to our community on a number of occasions throughout the year at events such as.

- Platinum Jubilee Events
- Village Fetes
- The Wensleydale Agricultural Show
- Hunton Steam Gathering

In May, Grace and Simon Stretton Downes came home for a visit from Liberia where they are serving with Serving In Mission (SIM) an international, interdenominational Evangelical Christian mission organization. Simon is leading a Dental project and Grace assisting with the Nursing provision at the ELWA site. They gave a presentation at St Andrew's Finghall at a gathered Benefice Service.

Rev'd Chris continued his role as a chaplain to the Agricultural Community through his membership of the 'Agricultural Chaplains Association' & Yorkshire Churches Rural Business Support'. Principally this is through the Mart at Leyburn but also through visits to individual farms and businesses as well as through advocacy on farming issues.

Rev'd Chris also sits as a board member on several local charities and supports the deanery and diocese in active membership of the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Leeds Board of Patronage.

### School

Links with the village Primary school; which is part of a two school federation, are improving. The school held their Christmas service in the church this year and also contributed decorated trees for the tree festival and two Easter gardens.

### Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding incidents to report. All members of the PCC held valid DBS checks.

### Financial Review

Total receipts £29,598.91

Total payments £25,995.65

### Receipts

Voluntary receipts totalled £19,552.85

Tax reclaimed £4,192.33

Planned Giving £1,2186.24

Fund raising £1,968.58 – much improved on last year.

Receipts from Weddings and Funerals increased.

A Benefice Energy Grant of £900.00 was received from the Church Commissioners via the Diocese and Crakehall PCC

There was an increase in the interest received from money invested in respect of the Organ and Fabric Funds amounting to £124.35.

We have lost some of our Planned Givers and will need to give this thought.

### Payments

The Diocesan Share request was paid in full also our Deanery Levy.

There was an increase in the cost for heating and electricity and a slight increase for the Insurance.

The gutters and drains were cleared.

Electrical repairs have been carried out along with the annual servicing and testing of the boiler/individual electrical items/servicing the clock/fire extinguishers also Lightning Protection system Test and Inspection.

A vacuum cleaner, carbon monoxide alarm, display items etc. were purchased also communion wine.

Benefice Expenses covering the period July 2021 to Sept 2022 were paid.

Local Fees are paid for Weddings and Funerals i.e., Verger, Heating, Organist together with the Vicars Travelling Expenses. Those acting as Verger did not claim a fee this year it therefore remains in Church Funds.

Payments to Charities are mainly at the request of relatives being half of the collection received at Funerals. Part of the Remembrance Day collection was forwarded to the Poppy Appeal. St. Oswald's Hauxwell received a donation from the Annual Summer Fete and the collection taken at the Christingle Service was forwarded to the Children's Society.- all have been acknowledged.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to complete work on the Vestry walls and decorating same, although work of providing new light fittings has been carried out. The re-fixing of the tiles in the Kitchen remains to be done, the delay is mainly due to difficulties in getting Contractors to provide the necessary quotes. The Weathervane has been removed from the tower and awaits repairs to parts of its structure.

### Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. This was equivalent to £6,499. The cash balance of £14,258.16 held in unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

### Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church run smoothly. Particularly Norma Croft who is the treasurer, organises rotas, cleans, 'meets and greets' any workmen and opens and locks the church daily, and Julie Morton Lee the Church Warden for all that she has done to care for the building and assist in the leadership of the benefice.

### Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

There were four ordinary Synod meetings and one special meeting during the year. The discussion focus for 2022 was on the Environmental & Zero Carbon Plan. Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

In February, there was a presentation by Rev'd Jeff Payne who gave examples of how churches can make practical changes to help the climate emergency.

He had prepared a baseline spreadsheet to help churches calculate their emissions and guidance on how to offset. Members of the Finance task group offered visits to PCCs to assist with using the annual report templates that will keep the accounts in the Deanery consistent.

For five weeks in April and May a course run by the deanery, entitled Living in Love and Faith took place. The course looked at The Pastoral Principles which look at how areas of disagreement within church communities and across the church. It also focused on sexuality, marriage and relationships, by looking at the different viewpoints and understandings with the Church of England.

In May a special Synod met with Bishop Helen-Ann speaking on “What it means to be a Rural Church”. Her talk emphasised thanking our congregation, resilience, creativity, attitude, being bold in being small, being a slow church (not fast asleep or frenetic) and accepting failure is an option.

The June meeting of the synod took place in Kirklington. The discussion topic speakers were Rev'd Jeff Payne and Jemima Parker the Diocese Environment Officer. The presentation with slides “Saving Creation: Six steps to Carbon Net Zero” gave lots of information on ‘how to start a church’s journey’. It was also emphasised how the Diocese had help and guidance on offer and also through the Church of England website.

In September the meeting was held in St Matthew’s Church, Leyburn where Rev'd Dr Dave Bookless, the Director of Theology for A Rocha International gave a presentation on where Theology comes into Biodiversity and Climate Change. He encouraged preaching and explaining the importance of creation to our faith.

The final meeting of the year was held via Zoom in November. The speaker was Dr Anne Readshaw and her biodiversity talk was about managing grassland and road verges and making our villages more wildlife friendly.

There were the following new appointments:-

Gillian Lunn was ordained as curate for Leyburn and Bellerby. Also Bishop Helen-Ann was to be installed as Bishop of Newcastle in early 2023.

Deanery Prayer meetings continued to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael and All Angels, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC meet six times a year. Given the small number of PCC members there are no committees, other than the Standing committee. The PCC have both independent and joint Benefice PCC meetings. The AMP & APCM was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.



Each month, there have been Leader's meeting/Conference calls via PhoneChurch or meeting in person at St Gregory's to link PCCs across the Benefice.

### Administrative information

St Michael and All Angels' Church is situated in the small village of Spennithorne, North Yorkshire. It is part of the Benefice of Lower Wensleydale and in the Diocese of Leeds, within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Patrick Brompton, North Yorkshire.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2022) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

#### Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Chris Lawton (Chairman)

#### Wardens:

- Mrs Margaret Crocker (til April 22)
- Mrs Julie Morton Lee
- Vacant Seat

#### Deanery Synod

- Mrs Norma Croft (Treasurer, Secretary)
- Mrs Julie Morton Lee

#### Elected members:

- Mr Digby Angus
- Mr Graham Crocker
- Mrs Margaret Crocker
- Mrs Elaine Nuttall (til April 22)
- Mr George Molyneaux
- Mrs Enid Molyneaux
- Mr Michael Morton Lee

#### Electoral Roll

There were 25 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom eight are not resident within the parish. Two names were added during the year and two names were removed because they moved away from the parish and no longer worship with us.

#### Bank

The PCC banks with - HSBC 77 Market Place, Thirsk. YO7 1EU



Approved by the PCC on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend RDC Lawton (PCC chairman)

## Appendix 1

### Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which are set out on the attached pages of this report.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\_\_\_\_\_ (P E REED)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Relevant professional qualification or body)

Hargill Close, Harmby, Leyburn \_\_\_\_\_ 2023



Receipts and Payments Financial Statement

Receipts

2021

2022

£12,081.15 Balance brought forward £20,233.45

**Voluntary Receipts**

£14,073.89	Planned Giving -	Gift Aid	£9,965.00	
£ 144.00		other	£ 84.00	
	PGS Donations		£2,137.24	
£3,684.34	Plate collections		£5,545.45	
£ 230.00	Gift Aid (unplanned)		£ 415.00	
£ 25.60	Wall safe		£ 51.16	
£1,105.00	Personal and sundry donations		£1,355.00	
£7,483.53	HM Revenue Tax reclaimed		£3,657.99	
£ 474.98	PGS Tax Gift Aid		£ 534.34	<u>£23,745.18</u>

**Fund Raising Etc.**

£509.25	Fete		£1,206.28	
£220.00	Quiz		£ 448.00	
£ 56.00	Coffee Mornings		£ 74.30	
-	Ceilidh		£ 240.00	<u>£ 1,968.58</u>

£1,493.00	Wedding/Funeral Fees		£1,562.00	
£ 617.35	travel expenses/local fees		£1,298.80	<u>£ 2,860.80</u>

**Other Income**

£ 300.00	Churchyard Maintenance	-		
-	Church Commissioners Energy Grant	£ 900.00		
£6,872.80	Parapet Repairs Insurance Claim	-		<u>£ 900.00</u>

**Restricted use receipts - schedule 1**

	Organ Fund			
£ 1.46	" Interest C B Fund		£ 28.60	
	Fabric Fund			
£ 3.79	" Interest C B Funds		£ 95.75	
<u>£49,376.14</u>				<u>£49,832.36</u>

Payments

2021

2022

**Share Payments**

£11,730.00	Leeds DB Finance	£11,862.00
£ 115.00	Deanery Levy	£ 77.00
£ 211.00	Wedding Fees	£ 436.00

**Church And Services**

£1,383.92	Heating and Electricity	£2,025.88
£2,726.85	Insurance	£2,895.92
-	Clearing Gutters/Drains	£498.00
£1,032.00	Organ Repairs	-
£576.00	Electrical Testing/Repairs	£1,380.13
	<b>Servicing/Testing: Boiler/Lighting</b>	
£539.89	Protection/Fire extinguishers/Clock	£473.00
£320.00	Font Inspection	-
-	Vac Cleaner (purchased)	£189.99
£20.25	Altar Candles	-
-	Communion Wine	£7.75
£9.72	Photocopier	£18.08
-	Fire Extinguisher./Carbon Monox. alarm	£34.24
-	Display items/Printer Ink/Tea lights	£95.73
£170.22	Benefice Expenses	£1,353.06
£25.00	Organist fees (Services)	£735.00
£65.00	Organist fees (Weddings/Funerals)	£785.00
£102.15	Rector's Travel Exp. {Wdgs/Funerals}	£52.65
-	Travel Exp. Funeral	£4.05

**Other Expenses**

£300.00	Churchyard maintenance	-
£125.00	Events Expenses	-
£1,173.20	Entrance Gates	-
£7,372.80	Parapet Repairs	-
£405.00	Professional fees – Quinquennial	£966.24
£15.70	Bank Charges	£133.87

**Payments To Charities**

£723.99	Schedule 2	£1,972.06
---------	------------	-----------

**CLOSING BALANCES**

£10,754.25	Current Account	£14,258.16
£25.00	Cash in Hand	-
£9,454.20	CB Fund	<u>£ 9,578.55</u>
	£23,836.71	
£49,376.14		
	<b><u>£49,832.36</u></b>	

Statement of assets and liabilities

as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

## Assets

### Cash assets

1.	Current Account as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022: General Fund	£14,258.16
2.	Cash in hand as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Nil
3.	CBF Fund as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022:	£9,578.55

This includes restricted use funds as follows:

a)	Organ Fund	£2,202.51
b)	Fabric Fund	£7,376.04

### Fixed assets

1. Inventory assets vested in the Churchwardens on special trust.
2. One Richo printer (housed at Mill Lodge). Purchased July 2010 costing £1,404.12
3. Grounds maintenance equipment: one petrol lawnmower and one two-stroke strimmer.

## Appendix 2

### Rectors Report

2022 was another challenging year for us in the Benefice, however we continued to faithfully fulfil our mission in service to the community and worship of God. As in 2021 we saw changes to the pattern of gathering due to the ongoing concerns over Covid-19, however as the year progressed people started to return to something like pre-pandemic norms. Numbers attending services was significantly improved towards the end of the year and it was a joy to return to social gatherings again. As a benefice, we continue to grow together and for that I am deeply grateful. We made big strides in safeguarding training and certification and for that I am thankful to our PCC's and especially Julie. In terms of governance, we are still desperately short of officers and role holders and this is now a pressing need that must be addressed. I am once again thankful to all who come together to be the church here in Lower Wensleydale and recognise the immense privilege it is to continue to serve this community.

### School Governors Report

None submitted as we continue to seek a volunteer to take on this role on behalf of the Rector.