

The Parish of St. Andrew's, Sadberge,

Report and Financial Statements of the Parish Church Council (PCC) for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Rector: The Revd. Mark East. Associate Minister: The Revd. Sue Chew.

Bankers: NatWest, High Row, Darlington.

Independent Examiner: Mr Steve Collinson.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Mark East and his associate minister, the Reverend Sue Chew, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Grade II listed Church and its grounds including the Lych Gate and Churchyard Wall which are both Grade II listed.

Objects and Activities.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our Parish Community. The PCC reviews the pattern and style of worship in St. Andrew's and ensures, as best it can, that our services and other activities put faith into practice through scripture and prayer, sacrament and music.

When planning our activities for the year we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We 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 of and

To enable this work, it is essential to maintain the fabric of our Church.

- trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and the wider community.
- Missionary and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

The PCC responds to the wish of its regular congregation to take part in traditional forms of worship. Most Sundays there is Holy Communion which is sung by a small, enthusiastic and effective choir. On the first Sunday of the month a more flexible form of worship is frequently used. These services are often devised by the associate minister in conjunction with members of the congregation and occasional liturgy from the Iona Community is used to great effect. Leading of worship is shared between the two ministers. The Reverend Sue Chew has taken approximately 90% of the services in 2023.

All are welcome at our services. At present there are 43 members on the Church Electoral Role. Of whom, 16 are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance at services is 28 but this number is at least double at Easter, Christmas and other festivals.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life.

Those who are not able to come to Church are not forgotten and are visited by members of the congregation, often lifelong friends and by the associate minister who is willing to give Holy Communion to those who request it.

Deanery Synod

Two PCC members attend the Deanery Synod and report back to us, so providing a link with Churches around us but also with the Diocese.

Church Fabric

The stewardship of Grade II listed structures is a constant challenge and a significant drain on PCC resources. During 2023 service visits were required to maintain our oil-fired heating boiler and our fire extinguishers. It has become clear during 2023 that more extensive repairs to the church roof will be required in the near future; the roof may need replacing soon. At considerable expense, aided by charitable grants and local generosity the tower clock was repaired and refurbished. The PCC regularly discusses long-term plans to attempt to ensure that sufficient funds are available for predictable future needs.

Mission and Evangelism

The PCC aims to maintain and improve the good links between the Church and the community. The Associate Minister's report details these efforts. The Church and Village newsletter, *The Roundabout*, is delivered, free of charge, throughout the year to every household in the village. The PCC is immensely grateful for the generosity of parishioners and others who contribute to the printing costs as well as to the volunteers who undertake delivery of *The Roundabout*.

Music

As mentioned above St Andrew's is fortunate (unlike many small churches today) in having a small but enthusiastic choir whose membership has grown again this year. We normally sing a setting of the Communion service most Sundays with the addition of occasional anthems, chanted psalms, and seasonal music during Advent, at Christmas and Epiphany and during Lent. The PCC is very grateful to choir members for giving freely of their commitment and talent.

Many members of our congregation work tirelessly on a voluntary basis to support, maintain and develop the activities of St. Andrew's and without whose support the Church could not function. The PCC is profoundly grateful to all who have supported the activities mentioned in this report as well as to those who keep things ticking over from week to week. Members of the PCC participate fully in this work and continue to support, encourage and care for one another and all members of our community while ensuring that a very warm welcome is given to visitors and newcomers. We are all also grateful to the several members of our congregation who read lessons and provide intercessions. And last but not least we greatly appreciate the work of our folk who provide refreshments and flowers.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Corporate Body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the method of making appointments to the PCC is set out in the Church Presentation Rules. At St. Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), the Associate Minister, the Church Wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Role of the Church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of concern and importance to the Parish, including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC meets six times during the year. This year, for the first time, a small Standing Committee (SC) has been formed to facilitate the PCC Agenda, drive forward PCC determinations and to react to urgent needs.

Financial Review

The attached accounts give the detail of St Andrew's income and Expenditure in 2023. The following notes may be helpful in interpreting them.

Income

- Income was again greater than in previous years, though direct comparisons are difficult and probably invalid because of the variation in grant income and inter-account transfers associated with capital projects
- The generosity of parishioners both through regular and one-off giving provides very welcome support for St Andrew's finances for which we are always hugely grateful.
- Fundraising also makes a big contribution to our income. As in previous years, Open Church Wednesdays, Coffee Mornings and concerts all help us to meet the expenses of the church. The PCC's thanks go to everyone who worked hard to make these initiatives, large and small, a success. Ignoring the income they generate, they are an important part of the church's social work in the Sadberge community, but I am conscious that they are a huge help to our finances.

Expenditure

- As last year, this looks large compared with previous years because of the expenditure on the capital projects mentioned above
- The monthly payments to the organist are refunded through Parish Giving, with the addition of Gift Aid
- The monthly payment of £75 to St Andrew's Haughton to cover the cost of printing was discontinued last year, so, as predicted, printing costs this year have been significantly reduced
- St. Andrew's continued to pay the largest contribution the PCC felt it could afford to the Diocesan Parish Share, which pays the stipends, housing costs and pensions of the clergy of the Diocese

Other points

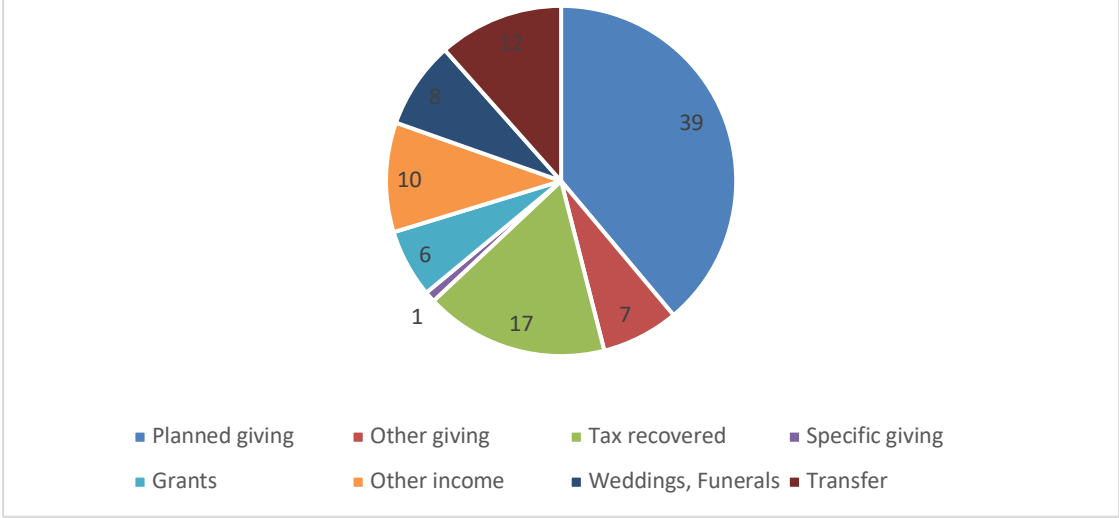
- The work on the repair and refurbishment of the church clock took place in late 2023. Inevitably, deterioration in parts of the clock and bell mechanisms were discovered high on the bell-cote once scaffolding was erected. The PCC decided to go ahead with the extra expenditure needed to repair the clock fully. Funding used to pay for this project as well as the grant aided income to support it fall within the 2024 financial year, so will appear in next year's accounts.
- As mentioned elsewhere in the APCM report, much thought has been given to the difficulties caused to the church by our ageing and inadequate heating system. Financial estimates for a variety of solutions have been procured, and meetings held with companies whose products might be good investments to provide winter comfort. Late in 2023 it became clear that St Andrew's has a chance of receiving support from the Church of England Net Zero Demonstrator Church project. Nothing was finalised by the year end, but work will continue, and the results will appear in this report next year.

The graphics on the next page may be helpful in giving an overview of our financial position. Detailed accounts follow the graphs.

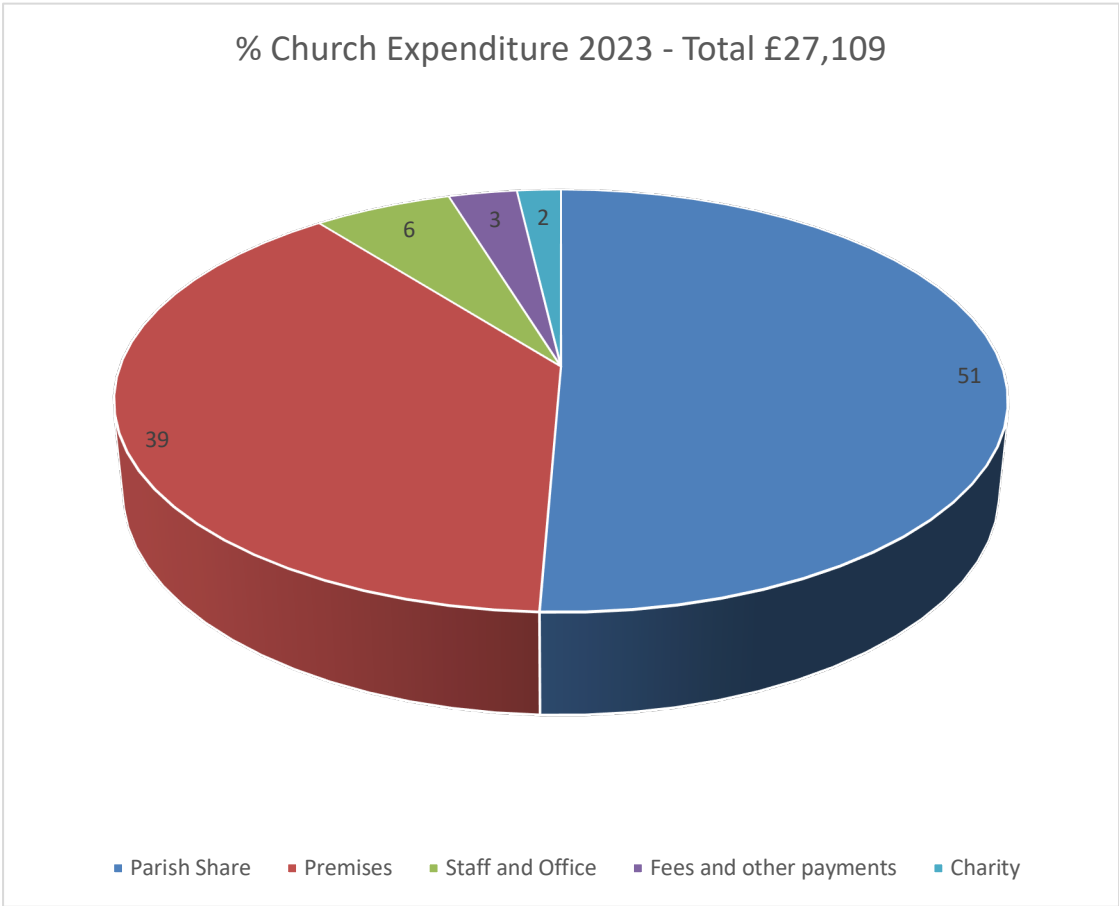
Richard Bloodworth, Treasurer to the PCC

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

% Church Income 2023 - Total £31,773
(excluding transfers between accounts)



% Church Expenditure 2023 - Total £27,109



Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

St Andrew's Sadberge PCC - Draft Financial Statement for the 2023 Financial Year January to December						
Opening Balances	£3,831.67	£15,002.68	£649.33	£2,482.24	£740.25	
	Current Account Transactions	Kitchen Account	General Reserve	Organ and Music	P Bell Repair Fund	
INCOME						
Tax efficient planned giving	11,172.63		-	-	-	Regular giving
Tax efficient Specific Gifts	217.10					One-off gifts
Other planned giving	1,185.00		-	-	-	
Collections	1,781.95		-	-	-	
All other giving & voluntary income	485.06		-	-	-	
Income tax recovered	5,388.44		-	-	-	Tax recovered through Parish Giving
Legacies received	-		-	-	-	
Recurring & one-off grants	1,000.00		-	-	-	£1,000 from Sadberge Parish Council Grants to come from CDCF and Sadberge PC
Clock Project	100.00					Donation
Heating project	1,000.00					Grant from Sadberge Renewable Energy Ltd
Fundraising income (Gross)	1,973.62		-	-	-	Coffee mornings, concerts, etc.
Dividend & interest income	-	163.38	20.81	79.55	23.73	
Fees to the PCC for occasional offices	2,555.00		-	-	-	Weddings, funerals, etc.
Transfer of funds from other accounts	3,671.60					£700 payment to DCDF (clock) £430 for vestry handrail £2541.60 first payment towards clock repairs
Roundabout donations	90.00		-	-	-	
Roof donations	-					
Coffee donations	1,152.84		-	-	-	
Flowers donations	-					
Hall rental income	-		-	-	-	To be chased up with Sadberge Village Hall
TOTAL INCOME	31,773.24	163.38	20.81	79.55	23.73	
STATEMENT OF ASSETS						
Bank Current Account Balance (Calculated at 31-12-	8,495.61	£11,494.46				
Bank Current Account Balance (Actual at 31-12-2023)	8,495.61	11,494.46				
Deposit Account Balance			670.14	2,561.79	763.98	
IN-YEAR CHANGE	4,663.94	-3508.22	20.81	79.55	23.73	

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

	Current Account Transactions	Kitchen Account	General Reserve	Organ and Music	P Bell Repair Fund	
EXPENDITURE						
Fund Raising Costs	30.00		-	-	-	Donation to St C's for Faure copy loan
Mission Giving & Donations to Charities	502.96		-	-	-	Christingle, St Teresa's (funeral collection), Christmas Journey donation of £113
Parish Share	13,731.04		-	-	-	
Salaries Wages & Honorarium	-		-	-	-	
Clergy & Staff Expenses	900.00		-	-	-	Monthly payments to organist (gifted back above)
Mission & Evangelism Costs	-		-	-	-	
Church Insurance	1,583.22		-	-	-	
Church Cleaning	-		-	-	-	
Church Admin Costs	-		-	-	-	
Church Maintenance Costs (Minor Repairs)	4,841.61		-	-	-	Clock deposit to CCDF; vestry handrail; fire extinguishers; woodworm treatment First payment for clock repairs
Upkeep of Services	220.90		-	-	-	Copyright License
Upkeep of Service - Flowers	-		-	-	-	
Churchyard Maintenance	2,231.29					Mowing and materials
Other PCC property Upkeep	-		-	-	-	
Church Governance Costs	-		-	-	-	
Oil Costs	814.25		-	-	-	
Electricity Costs	634.20		-	-	-	
Water Costs	177.16		-	-	-	A new entry!
Photocopying	658.67		-	-	-	Refunds to RMB for printing costs
Hall Letting Direct Costs	-		-	-	-	
Transfer of funds to other accounts		- 3,671.60		-	-	
Major Repairs to Church Buildings	-		-	-	-	
Major Repairs to Church Hall	-		-	-	-	
New Building Works	-		-	-	-	
Fees to DBF	634.00					All occasional office fees now up to date
Fees to Verger	-					
Fees to organists	150.00					Organist - Faure Requiem
Back Payments to DBF	-					
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27,109.30	- 3,671.60	-	-	-	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('The Trustees') of St Andrew's Church, Sadberge

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are attached to this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC (the Trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The 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(5)(b) of the 2011 Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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 the Church Council (the Trustees) concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give 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 these 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.

Signed: 

Date: 12TH APRIL 2024

Steve Collinson
10 Rivergarth
DARLINGTON
DL1 3SE

Associate Minister's Report

Sunday worship remains consistently good and we are pleased to have welcomed two new worshippers this year.

This year there we have held:

- 5 Baptisms
- 2 Weddings
- 2 Funerals

All our services are greatly enriched by the excellent contribution made by our dedicated choir under the expert leadership of Richard our organist. The music is much appreciated by our regular worshippers and visitors alike.

The summer service of Hymns and Pimms is now an established Sadberge tradition. Candlemas is usually celebrated with a service in the Village Hall and a much enjoyed time of fellowship over a bring-and-share lunch.

The King's Coronation was marked with a special morning service followed by a glass of Prosecco and a celebration cake.

We joined with the congregation of St Andrew's Haughton to celebrate St Andrew's Day in November followed by the traditional fish and chip supper. We also joined with them on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent.

Ascension Day was marked with a joint service at Sadberge followed by a pie and peas supper with desserts provided by the Haughton worshippers.

For the first time this year Sadberge art group contributed to our Harvest and Christmas celebrations with a display of their beautiful seasonal artwork which was much admired and enjoyed by all. We are also grateful to the Village Craft Group for their creative displays within the church grounds to mark Remembrance and Christmas. We look forward to both groups' displays in the future.

Our church remains a place of peace and welcome to all, and it is open every Wednesday during the summer months. Many appreciative comments are recorded in the Visitors' Book.

I would like to express my thanks to our church wardens, treasurer and PCC members for all they contribute to the smooth running and maintenance of the church and grounds.

A huge thank you goes to everyone for all you bring in so many ways, often quietly or behind the scenes, to the life of the church, from cleaning to coffee making, providing flowers, participating in worship, tending the grounds and the biolet(!) to producing and delivering Roundabout.

Most important of all is the love, care and support demonstrated within our church family and wider community.

My personal thanks go to you all for your love and support, it continues to be a real joy and privilege to serve you.

Rev. Sue Chew

Church Wardens' Report

We are two Church Wardens, Catherine Knaggs and Willson Taylor.

Previous APCM reports have set forth our Church's aspirations and its various strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats from time to time. They remain as valid as ever.

Our principal concern is the maintenance of the Church building, Church yard and walls and the Lych Gate. We are also concerned about the proper conduct of Church business. We report to the bishop.

In the year 2023 the following were achieved:

1. Central Heating Boiler implications but yet to be finalised.
2. Durham Diocese Church Heating Survey.
3. Three replacement trees for the mature sycamore planted.
4. Vestry hand rail provided.
5. Chairs from St. Stainton Church received, treated for possible wood worm and stored in Tithe House garage.
6. Church yard seat provided at the top of the bank at ashes burial ground.
7. New candles.
8. Firefighting equipment reviewed.
9. Installation and replacement of security lights.
10. Roofing inspection."
11. The Tower Clock has been repaired and the clock face refurbished and regilded. A "black-box" stops the much-improved chimes overnight.
12. Repairs have been affected to the organ.
13. Early deliberations on Net Zero heating.
14. The Baptismal Roll is being brought up to date by Revd. Robert Cooper.

The Church is maintained by many volunteers.

We would especially mention Edith Lowther and Denise Woods who keep the Church clean and tidy, for services and especially for the Occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage and Death when their invariable attendance is a great comfort to our Priest and Wardens.

Particular mention must be made of Ernie Lowther for his skilled, diligent care of the Church yard and much more and Bob Taylor who is ever to hand when knowledgeable support is suddenly wanted.

We would also mention members of the congregation who provide intersessions, who read, who provide refreshments, who meet-and-greet, who arrange flowers and more. And finally, we would thank the choir and our choir master and Church organist for a year of joyful music, and we would couple this with grateful thanks to our Treasurer for his guidance in many respects and likewise our Rector, our Priest and our faithful Congregation.

Catherine Knaggs and Willson Taylor

Secretary's Report

Attending the regular PCC meetings were Rev. Mark, Rev. Sue, church wardens Willson Taylor and Catherine Knaggs, and seven elected members from the congregation. As well as the APCM, there were six scheduled meetings and one extra, to discuss the guided pledge contribution.

A key topic of business was a new heating system, on which we have consulted with the Diocese and other appropriate experts and organisations; investigations are on-going. Regular services and events were reviewed including Easter, Christmas carols and Harvest to which we invite the community to join us for a bring-and-share lunch at the Village Hall after the service

Once again we welcomed the Thorpe Thewles Ladies Choir to provide two concerts which were very well-attended and much enjoyed by all.

Millie Scaife (Secretary)

Electoral Role Officer's Report

There are 43 persons on the Electoral Role. Of these 27 live within the Village and 16 from further afield.

Denise Woods

Safeguarding Report

Willson Taylor resigned from the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in November 2023. He was succeeded by Vicky Hannigan. The requisite paperwork has been completed and will soon be displayed in the Church.

St. Andrew's Sadberge parish is now signed up to the Safeguarding Dashboard which enjoys Diocese support and provides a useful information and training resources. Members of the PCC will require up to date awareness training and we await further guidance on that from the Diocese of Durham.

There are no past or current Safeguarding concerns.

Vicky Hannigan (Safeguarding Officer)

Darlington Deanery Synod Report for 2023

Deanery Synod Lay Representatives for St Andrew's, Sadberge in this current triennium are:- Willson Taylor and Millie Scaife

Three Deanery Synod meetings were held in 2023: 9th February (at St James' the Great Church), 12th July (at St Mary's) and 23rd November (at St Columba's).

The main topics discussed during the year were:-

Darlington Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre – Cyndi Hughes, the Debt Centre Manager spoke about the great need to respond to rising debt in Darlington since the pandemic and the world's financial situation. She shared some statistics about the local situation and the way in which CAP is able to help.

At present St. Andrew's, Haughton is heavily involved with CAP but there is a need for other churches to get involved. Mark East outlined ways that this could be done: -

- a) PCC's consider giving donations to CAP in order that they can continue their work.
- b) Joining in the monthly prayers which are held on 4th Tuesday of each month (contact Mark for details)
- c) Contact Cyndi about activities going on in your church in order that she may signpost clients i.e. lunch clubs, food banks etc.

Volunteers are needed for Befrienders/Companions – full training given.

Deanery Plan Revision – It was requested that as the last plan was presented in 2019, the Synod should begin a review in preparation for a new plan to begin in 2025.

Election of Officers: Secretary – Joyce Barber

Lay Chair – Andrew Maxwell

Treasurer – Michael Shepherd

Elections to Deanery Mission and Standing Committee – the following were elected: Willson Taylor, Sarah McTimoney, Hilda Hopper, Pam Davison, Nick Auty, The Rev'd Damon Bage, The Rev'd Mary Yasini. Ex-Officio members – Andrew Maxwell (Lay Chair), Michael Shepherd (Deanery Treasurer), Joyce Barber (Secretary) and The Rev'd Mark East (Area Dean)

Presentation from All Saints' Green Action Group by John Thorley and David Smith

John Thorley explained how All Saints became involved with A Rocha UK which is a network of Christian Organisations concerned with become greener and more environmentally friendly. They are part of A Rocha UK Project which has 3 levels of achievement Bronze, Silver and Gold. Currently All Saints' have reached the silver standard. He went on to encourage the members of Synod to urge their churches to explore the criteria to reach the bronze standard as the Eco Church website has a huge range of resources which can be used even if your church does not enter the scheme.

The Deanery is keen to find someone to act as a champion to encourage the churches within the Deanery to get involved as the scheme covers all ages of buildings. John suggested that a team approach as the one at All Saints' may be the best approach.

Interregna in the Deanery - There were four vacancies at the beginning of the year, but Riverside Parishes have now been filled with the Rev'd Anthony Smith being appointed in August. St John's Church has now been formally closed and a new parish of St Herbert's with St John's has now been formed. The parish church will be St Herbert's and the vicarage will be adjacent to the church. It is hoped that the Vacancy Audit Process (VAP) will be completed soon so that the post can be advertised. St Columba's is planning to be a 'house for duty post' and St Mark's is still in vacancy.

Deanery and Diocesan Finances: Parish, Guided Pledge and Diocesan Finances are still tight. The Diocese has been very active in seeking additional national funding for strategic growth. This has enabled several new personnel to be appointed to help parishes look at how they can grow spiritually and financially. One such appointment is the Rev'd Paul Childs whose role is to work with parishes to help them look at financial growth.

Deanery Enabling Teams: Enriching Discipleship, Children & Young People, Tackling Poverty & Care for the Environment - Deanery Synod is encouraging passionate synod members and others from the churches to get involved in these four areas to help us tackle the challenges of growth for the future. Tackling Poverty has been well established under the chair of Nick Auty. Lissa Scott has been focussing most of the Children's energy in the Christmas Journey – see below. We still need to get the Enriching Discipleship and the Caring for the Environment Teams established.

The Christmas Journey - This was promoted to the Deanery throughout the year because it's a Deanery Wide project to present the Christmas story for year 2 (6 & 7 year old) junior aged children. Every primary school was invited and nearly all the schools in Darlington took part and it was well received by the children and the Staff. The volunteers to enable this to happen came mainly from St. Matthew's & St Luke's (host church), St. Michael's and All Saints', but it proved to be very successful. Several of the new curates have been involved this year.

Church Music Report

Our enthusiastic choir continues to make sizeable contributions to worship in St Andrew's. We continue to learn new repertoire in order to provide variety for choir members and for congregations each Sunday, singing varied anthems as often as possible. An interesting development in 2023, appreciated by choristers and congregation alike, has been the singing of hymns unaccompanied during the administration of Communion – always sensitive, always in tune.

In 2023 on Palm Sunday evening a large group of singers, both visiting and local, sang Faure's *Requiem Mass* interspersed with readings. We celebrated Advent and Christmas with Carol Services of traditional and less familiar seasonal music.

Friday choir practice is always an enjoyable and well attended occasion, despite the chilly surroundings in the winter, and I am enormously grateful for the support of all our singers. As ever, new members in any voice part will be welcomed with open arms.

Richard Bloodworth (Organist)

Health and Safety Report

All three fire extinguishers were serviced last Spring and were deemed to be in good working order.

The First Aid box and the Accident Book are being checked regularly, although they were not used in 2023.

A handrail has been installed on the steps outside the vestry door. It certainly improves emergency access and is very much appreciated. It looks good and its style is in keeping with the building.

The addition of extra lighting outside the main door and leading round the church to the path on the North side of the church is much appreciated, especially by the choir on a Friday evening, and by others walking through the churchyard in the hours of darkness.

There are concerns about safe access to the cross below the East window and the secure fixing of the processional cross in the choir stalls. These safety issues will be considered by the PCC in the near future.

All other aspects of Health and Safety seem to be in order.

Ian Whitfield (Health and Safety Officer)

Administrative Information

St. Andrew's Church is situated on Darlington Road, Sadberge.

The correspondence address is:

Revd. Mark East (Rector)
7 St. Andrew's Close,
Haughton-le-Skerne,
DARLINGTON,
DL1 2EB.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 3011) and a Charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

- Incumbent, The Revd. Mark East
- Associate Minister, The Revd. Sue Chew.
- Wardens, Mrs Catherine Knaggs and Dr Willson Taylor,

Elected Members:

- Mrs Millie Scaife, Secretary
- Mrs Edith Lowther
- Mrs Kath Hillary
- Mrs Denise Woods
- Mr Ian Whitfield, Health and Safety Officer
- Mrs Vicky Hannigan, Safeguarding Officer
- Mrs Cath Swann
- Mrs Wendy Kirkbride

Treasurer:

- Mr Richard Bloodworth