



Parish of All Saints' Kirkby Overblow
with St Peter's Sicklinghall

Annual Report and Accounts of the
Parochial Church Council for the year
ended
31 December 2022.



The Benefice of Lower Wharfedale

The Parish of All Saints' Kirkby Overblow with St. Peter's Sicklinghall

Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 31st December 2022

Aim and Purpose

It is the responsibility of the PCC to maintain the mission of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church of All Saints' in Kirkby Overblow and the Church and Churchyard of St. Peter's in Sicklinghall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 3 times during the year. Business was reported from the DCC meetings and discussed where necessary.

All Saints' Kirkby Overblow

It has been a year where we have returned to some semblance of normality, following two years of extensive lock downs and restrictions.

Worship

It was lovely to be able to meet for worship in person, socialise and sing hymns together. We offer thanks to all the people who have made it possible to keep our worship patterns going.

We have regular 8.30am Book of Common Prayer eucharists through the month and we are grateful to the various people who have led the services over the year.

Our popular Celtic Morning Prayer service on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11.00 has seen a growth in congregation numbers, including some young families, which is very encouraging. As well as our regular leaders in David Leonard and Moira Keith, we have also had some excellent reflections from members of the congregation on a wide and interesting variety of themes. These things all help to bring us together.

The family service on the 4th Sunday of the month has also been well attended, and we have returned to being able to have a Sunday school offering. It's always lovely at the end of the service to see what the young people have been learning and creating.

Craig our Rector brought some welcome innovations. The Pet Service in October was lively, great fun, and the pets well behaved (well, mainly) with a full church of various creatures from the smallest guinea pig to a large horse, with all manner of dog breeds in between.

Moira Keith has led regular family services – both via Zoom and now through a new timetable of family services across the Benefice. Moira has constantly kept things fresh using new worship songs, new prayers, and always relevant messages.

We have enjoyed a return to the many traditional services in church. Easter Sunday was a glorious day and we again decorated the empty cross with fresh flowers to celebrate the resurrection.. We had our usual well attended Remembrance Sunday, with the moving reading of the names on the various war memorials across the villages. On All Saints Day we remembered those who had recently left us – some of them very dear friends of All Saints'.

Happily we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special service, and then tumbled out of church to take part in a street party, which while a little damp was still great fun. Sadly later in the year we also had a very moving service where we said thank you for the outstanding service of the Queen the day after she had died. We also used the facilities of All Saints' to show the funeral live, and many people chose to use this as an opportunity to come together as a community. The Bells were muffled and tolled

We have celebrated with three weddings in church this year and were fortunate that the weather was kind on each occasion.

We have a busy programme of events planned for Christmas and the New Year – see the church website for details – www.allsaintschurchko.org – It includes the traditional Carol Concert in the Courtyard held at Low Hall with the All Saints' Christmas Choir. Christmas Eve family crib service, and Midnight Mass (surely the best way to celebrate the start of Christmas Day.) We will again be collecting Christmas goodie bags for the users of St Peter's of Harrogate's Food Ministry.

Church Attendance

There are 80 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. It is difficult to comment on attendance levels year on year as service patterns have been so disrupted, but church does seem to be thriving, and in particular it is encouraging to see new people joining, and families from school getting so involved in all activities.

School and Church

Links with the village school have grown over the year, with Craig regularly attending school, and lots of families represented at various services.

Harvest Festival was very well attended and there were more generous donations of food parcels for the Caring for Life charity, Cookridge. We know what excellent use this wonderful organisation will put the food to, and they were really grateful for the generosity of school and church donations

A few weeks later we had a Harvest Supper organised by the parents of children at school. It was a huge success, with good food, and great entertainment for the younger ones. It is always lovely to see the different generations coming together under one roof.

Church Events

We have been able to hold more events than ever in church this year including:

- The Ukrainian Appeal, Afternoon Tea Party. A wonderful event with some amazing cakes that raised over £2,000
- The harvest supper (generously organised by parents from school) was a great success with good food and some quality entertainment
- The ever popular monthly coffee mornings – including another fantastically successful Macmillan event in October that raised in excess of £700.00.
- A performance of Patience by the Harrogate Gilbert & Sullivan Society
- A concert from Harrogate Theatre Choir based around songs from the musicals
- A Christmas concert from Knaresborough choir
- A monthly village choir led by Maestro Will Lewis singing songs old and new, and performing for the ever popular KO Carol Concert before Christmas
- The spectacular, memorable and hilarious performance of "Calendar Girls" by KODS. A highly professional performance by local people, raising some fantastic funds for really good causes

In addition church is now used for a monthly craft group, Crafty Hens and the Parish Council has been able to use the building for their public meetings.

Building Improvements

The on-going upkeep of our beautiful building has continued. A few leaks and cracks have inevitably occurred, but all have been dealt with.

The new front door has been fitted, and is now casting far more light into the building, as well as crucially keeping more of the heat inside – both an important part of commitment to reducing our carbon footprint.

Our 4th bell is now fully operational, and there are regular bell ringing practices most Wednesdays, with a number of new people learning this surprisingly difficult skill. Anyone interested please contact the church wardens.

Finances

While our finances remain healthy, thanks to the close monitoring of our treasurer, there are always demands for monies to be spent. Obviously in recent months the costs of utilities has increased significantly.

Once again we thank all of you who generously make regular gifts and donations which cover our annual costs.

However we do have essential repairs and other important maintenance projects, clock and organ, windows and stonework which do require additional funds and so we have launched a Community Appeal to raise the £70,000 needed to cover these and the cost of the new door, resurfacing gravel paths, and a new sound system.

Looking forward to 2023

While we were sad to hear Craig's announcement that he will be taking up a new Parish in North Cornwall we fully understand the decision he has made, and it is good to think of him so much nearer all his family.

The somewhat drawn out process of recruiting for a new rector has started and your church wardens will be actively involved in the interview process. Sadly, the rules under which we are obliged to operate mean that we are unlikely to be without a new incumbent until at least the Autumn. We are grateful to all the clergy who have agreed to cover for us in the meantime – it says much about their calling and commitment that they are willing to offer us so much time.

Big Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this year a success. To all the ministry team, the team of cleaners, sides people, service managers, lay readers, organist, clock winders, flag putter uppers, tea and coffee makers, event organisers and flower arrangers, and

churchyard working parties – thank you for making All Saints KO such an important part of our lives, and a thriving part of our community.

All Saints' Church Financial Review of 2022

As previously commented on, 2022 was a year of getting back to normality... How did it affect our finances?

We started off the year with an opening balance of £137,520 and ended with £108,794. A reduction of £19,562. This was largely due to the cost of the installation of the porch doors and a reduction in our investments of £8,969.

Income

Our general income is derived from various sources and this year it rose by £15,542 due to:

- Income generated during services from collections, gift aid envelopes and brown envelopes - up by £2,888. Reflecting an increase in the number of services
- Standing order receipts - slightly increase of £340.
- Wedding and funeral fees, with only one funeral and one wedding the income from these was down by £484.
- Income from Church hire was appreciably up as more events took place at £2,216.
- In 2022 Coffee morning income generated £2,787.
- In March we had our Ukrainian Afternoon Tea Party Appeal which generated £3,000
- And in October, Macmillan Cancer Support Big Coffee Morning generated £724.00.
- Investments – these decreased from £76,662 to £70,066. As always these are dependent on market conditions,

Expenditure

Our main annual expenditure is the Parish Share which saw a slight increase of £186.00 to £16,437.00. This is again due to increase in 2023.

As mentioned previously the main expenditure was the installation of the Porch Doors at a cost of £32,000. Part of this cost was covered by our church appeal and we should hopefully be able to reclaim some of the VAT.

Our insurance premiums rose slightly as did our utility costs.

Maintenance and cleaning of the building and the work in the churchyard continued and we thank members of the congregation and our local community for all their help.

Contactless Giving

This year we have introduced contactless giving facilities and the ability to produce electronic QR codes. This has already proved to be beneficial and we are sure that in the future this will also help increase our income.

Charity Fund raising

The Children's Society, Christingle	£375
Ukrainian Afternoon Tea part appeal	£3,000
Macmillan 'Big Coffee Morning'	£724
British Legion Poppy appeal	£35
Village Christmas Card and Carol singing for Martin House	£554

St. Peter's Sicklinghall

Worship

We aim to make St Peter's a welcoming, friendly place of worship. It was good to revive normal patterns of worship as we left Covid restrictions behind us. We now hold one Communion Service each month on the first Sunday, a Family Worship on the third Sunday and Celtic Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday. We hope to build the numbers of children attending our church. Craig was on the Governing Body of Sicklinghall school and we hope the new Rector will be able to take over this role eventually.

Attendance by our regular congregation dwindled during Covid and has not yet recovered. Numbers at our regular services continue to reach double figures, with greater numbers at Easter and Christmas. There were four funeral services, one wedding and one baptism during the year.

We are very grateful to our retired clergy for continuing their ministry during the interregnum by supporting our Eucharist services. Our lay Reader, Moira Keith took over leadership of the family services during the year. She plans to lead worship in School regularly..

We were disappointed that several events at St Peter's organised by Sicklinghall School had to be cancelled because of staff shortages, owing to sickness. These included Easter, harvest festival services and the school carol service.

There were several notable events including:

- An Ecumenical Service to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 was held at St Peter's jointly with our Catholic Community in June. It was a dignified and joyful occasion. This was followed by a picnic lunch in the village hall, which was packed. This was a roaring success despite the dreadful weather. Members of our congregation contributed to the planning, organisation and decorating the village hall and at the clearing up afterwards!
- Sadly, a short time later we mourned the death of our dear Queen with quiet commemoration..
- We had a successful Harvest Celebration with our regular congregation at St Peter's with donations of goods being taken to Caring for Life.
- Remembrance Day. There was a Commemoration at the War Memorial in the cemetery led this year by members of the Roman Catholic community . It was very moving to see so many people laying crosses commemorating individual family members who served in the two world wars. For the first time, some of the senior pupils from Sicklinghall School attended the ceremony. They laid some small decorated stones at the foot of the War Memorial next to the wreaths.
- Ecumenical Carol Service. For the first time in three years this service was able to take

place. It was a joyful occasion. It started off at St Peter's then continued at the Catholic Church. Lois Plows led the service and we were delighted that Rev William Stuart Lewis was able to join us to provide organ accompaniment. The congregation then met up in the village hall for mulled wine and mince pies.

- The annual Quiz Night in the village hall took place in November. This was very well attended and raised a substantial sum.

Thank you to all the team who led the above events (John, Mike, Liz, Catherine and Ann) and also to the teams of people who prepare the chalice, organise flowers, clean the church, readers and sidespersons and take Celtic Morning Prayer (Lois, Peter O, Pam, Judy, Liz, Lou, Judith, Jane, Steph and many others). Sincere gratitude too goes to our treasurer, Peter Catton.

Fabric

There have been more entries in the Book of Remembrance which is housed in a hardwood cabinet at the back of the church.

The Quinquennial review, much delayed by Covid will now take place in spring 2023. The architects Richard Crooks and Associates will undertake the work, as Tom Crooks has been accredited by the Diocese to continue his late father's work.

Church Attendance

There were 40 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. Attendance by our regular congregation dwindled during Covid and has not yet recovered to 2019 levels. Numbers at our regular services continue to reach double figures, with greater numbers at Easter and Christmas. There were four funeral services, one wedding and one baptism during the year.

St. Peter's, Sicklinghall, Financial Review

St Peters' had a deficit of £937 in 2022, excluding non-cash movements and the 100 Club. However, there are some worrying underlying trends. The major problem is the size of the Parish Share which at £15,959 represents 89% of our General Fund Revenue. As a result, the loss in the General Fund was £2,538. The Share was so high because one of the elements of its calculation is the normal attendance figures used was based upon church attendance in 2013/14/15 – 9/8/7 years ago! These have been updated for 2023, to 2017/18/19 meaning that our Share will decrease slightly to £15,810, i.e. 88% of the 2022 General Fund income (but 78.7% of the 2019 income), even though we shall be without a Rector for at least 9 months. The other difficulty is that compared to 2019, planned giving and collections have fallen by £2,200. Obviously if Parish Share continues to increase in coming years without an equivalent increase in revenue, then it can only be paid using reserves, i.e. selling investments.

It is unlikely that the General Fund income will increase in 2023, as fees for 2022 were relatively high (with 4 funerals and a wedding) and the income from Quiz Night continued, although slightly lower than 2021.

Also of note is that our banker, HSBC, has started charging bank charges, which totalled £63 in 2022. To add insult to injury they are now closing the branch at which we bank. We are investigating moving our account to Lloyds Bank.

The Restricted Fund had a relatively positive year, with a surplus, excluding non cash movements of £1,601. However, this was primarily due to a donation of £2,000; a donation which is unlikely to be renewed in 2023. Relatively little maintenance has been needed during 2022, but this may increase significantly if any major faults are found by the Quinquennial report due this year

Transfer of money in the Restricted Fund from the building society account to buying cumulative CCLA investment fund shares continued and overall a total of £16,500 has been moved. The reason for this transfer is that this money is in reserve for major costs (e.g. repairing the roof or replacing the boiler which is now 20 years old) and thus does not need to be readily available and share growth was likely to outweigh interest rates.

The non cash movements referred to above are the fall in the value of our CCLA investments, which resulted in a paper loss of £12,233 (compared to a gain in 2021 of £12,431). Current share prices increases (February 2023) reduce this loss by £5,700. Such fluctuations are inevitable when investing in the stock market.

Thus the bottom line figure incorporating non cash movements is a deficit of £13,170 compared to 2021 surplus of £12,486.

The PCC has agreed that the financial figures for the 100 club should not be included in these statements, even though their purpose is to support the maintenance of St Peter's, as their finances are not controlled by the PCC.

PGC
13/2/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of All Saints Kirkby Overblow with St Peter's Sicklinghall

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parish (comprising the Receipts and Payments Accounts, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and the Notes to the Financial Statements) ("the Accounts") for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Accounts are set out on the pages immediately following this Report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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 of the 2011 Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

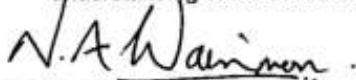
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity 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 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 connexion 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
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. 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



N A Wainman FCA FACIE
Ashbridge, Crabtree Green
Collingham, Wetherby
LS22 5AB

3 March 2023

Administrative Information

Incumbent: Currently vacant

Administrator: Mrs Julie Clegg
office.beneficelowerwharfedale@gmail.com

Banks:

All Saints' Church Kirkby Overblow

The Royal Bank of Scotland
7, Cambridge Crescent
Harrogate HG1 1PH

St.Peter's Church Sicklinghall

HSBC
11, North Street
Wetherby LS22 6NT

Independent Examiner:

NA Wainman
Ashbridge, Crabtree Green
Collingham LS22 5AB

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC may co-opt two further members. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Deanery Synod (Ex Officio)

Mr John Peters
Mrs Bridget Bennett

Elected Members:

St Peter's Church

All Saints' Church

Churchwardens

Mrs Ann Wroe

Mrs Liz Boyd

Mr James Bennett

Mr Jeremy Cross

PCC Members

Mr Peter Catton

Mrs Catherine Catton

Mrs Lou Graham

Mr Mike Thomson

Mrs Ruth Wilkinson

Mrs Eve Ripley

Mr Robert Henderson

Mr Guy Townsend

Treasurers

Mr Peter Catton

Mr Robert Henderson

Reader Emeritus

Mrs Lois Plows

Invited Member

Mrs Amber Andrews

Headteacher, All Saints' C of E Primary School

Secretary

Mrs Julie Clegg

Committees

In addition to the full PCC, the following committees have been in existence during the year:

- **Standing Committee:** This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, only when action is required before it is possible to convene a full PCC meeting.
- **All Saints' DCC:** To consider matters concerning All Saints' Church and to prepare recommendations on these matters, if appropriate to the full PCC.
- **St Peter's DCC:** To consider matters concerning St. Peter's Church and to prepare recommendations on these matters, if appropriate to the full PCC.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....