



ANNUAL REPORTS

St Nicholas' Church

Dunnington, York

'A Christ-like presence with the people of Dunnington'

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens

followed by

the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held on

Sunday 8th May 2022 during 10.30 am Service

AGENDA

- 1 Opening Worship
- 2 The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens
(in accordance with the rules of the Churchwardens Measure 2001)
- 3 The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):
Minutes of APCM: 16th May 2021
- 4 Reports
 - i) Presentation of the Electoral Roll
 - ii) The proceedings of the PCC, parish activities & Deanery Synod
(As presented in the Annual Reports)
 - iii) Treasurer's Report and presentation of the accounts
 - iv) Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory

Any questions for the meeting should be sent in advance please (by Friday 6th May) to the Chairman (revnickbird@gmail.com).

- 5 Elections
 - i) PCC Members
 - ii) Independent Examiner

A brief meeting of the new PCC will follow at the end of the service

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Nicholas' Dunnington

Charity Registration No. 1178934

'A Christ-like presence with the people of Dunnington'

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held via Zoom on Sunday 16th May 2021 at 3.00 pm

- 1) This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

The Chairman, Revd Canon Nick Bird welcomed everyone, thanked them for their presence and opened the meeting with prayers.

He then described the format the meeting would take.

- 2) **Annual meeting for Election of Churchwardens:** Two nominations forms had been received for Carole White and Peter Helm. Carole was eligible for re-election. Peter had recently completed six consecutive years as churchwarden, extended slightly due to Covid-19.

Nick explained that the Churchwardens Measure, Section 3 states that after six successive periods of office a person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden until the annual meeting in the next year but one following the date when they vacated office. However, it is possible for a resolution to be passed at an annual meeting to waive this rule. Nick, therefore proposed that this rule be dispensed with on this occasion, seconded by Eve Scoreby and agreed by show of hands.

There being no other nominations Carole White and Peter Helm were elected unopposed.

Nick thanked Peter for stepping back into the role and Carole for "holding the fort" for the past few months.

This part of the annual meeting then closed.

- 3) **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting: (APCM):** The minutes of last year's meeting held via Zoom on Sunday 22nd November 2020 were agreed as a true record. Acceptance was proposed by Nick, seconded by Judith Hewitt and agreed by a show of hands. The minutes were subsequently signed by the Chairman.
- 4) **Presentation of the Annual Reports:**
 - a) **Presentation of the Electoral Roll:** It was reported that the electoral roll stood at 124 - the same as at the previous APCM. There had been two additions and sadly the names of two deceased had been removed. Especial thanks were conveyed to Alison Gilmour as it was noted that she had decided to retire from the role after more than 10 years.
 - b) **Proceedings of the PCC, Parish activities and Deanery Synod:** The Annual Reports document had been circulated in advance via email and was available on the St Nicholas church website. Printed copies had also been available in church or on request. Nick said he would therefore presume people had read the reports

No questions had been received prior to the meeting.

Nick thanked individuals and groups. Due to Covid-19 some things had been in abeyance and either restarted recently or hoped to restart in due course, others had continued in part and/or in modified form.

Some things particularly mentioned were:

Fabric – Nick said he was very thankful to the project team working to progress replacement of the Tower Room roof and installation of a new heating system.

Safeguarding – Nick thanked Mary Murray for the important work she does as Benefice Safeguarding Officer and drew attention to the section in the Safeguarding report that states that St Nicholas Dunnington, Holy Trinity Stockton on the Forest, St Mary Warthill and Holy Trinity Holtby have complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding the Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Deanery Synod – In addition to thanking Alison Gilmour, Deanery Synod secretary and our three representatives Judith Hewitt, Joan Verrier and Margaret Eldridge, Nick said he will have completed his five years as Area Dean later this year.

Music in Worship – Nick gave especial thanks to David Marles in his role as Director of Music and also to the teams who have worked hard to produce the on-line services that have been appreciated by so many people for over a year now.

Children and Families' Worker – Having started in post only a couple of months before the Covid-19 first lockdown Lisa Horton had found imaginative ways to stay in contact with and engage families and children across the Benefice and also with schools. John Vernon asked about future funding for this post to ensure that this important work continues, Nick responded that the original legacy funding was for three years (to the end of 2022) and agreed we will need to look at how to continue funding this work into the future.

Sacristans – Nick thanked Carole that as well as Churchwarden she continues as Sacristan and said he appreciated all of her help in enabling church services to begin again.

The Grapevine – Thanks to the skills of Victoria Beale the magazine had continued on-line for several months in 2020 until resuming distribution of printed copies just before Christmas. Nick expressed thanks to Dave Safhill for taking over the bookkeeping.

c) **Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for year ending 31 December 2020**

The accounts had been examined by Brian Hopper, Independent Examiner, and a copy of the full Report and Financial Statements had been displayed as the regulations required. Copies of the full accounts were available on request. The Treasurer's Summary Review, Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020 were all included in the Annual Report document.

Helen was unable to attend the meeting but thanks were recorded for her continued excellent work as Treasurer.

Nick said that it was clear to see the hit that finances have taken and this is mirrored around the Diocese.

He went on to say that there is going to be a significant amount of change. The Deanery will be losing one of five stipendiary posts so there will be some re-organisation.

Nick also said that his recent appointment as Acting DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) is taking up to half of his time at the moment.

He then thanked Terry, Judith Hewitt, Mark and the RPAs (Irene Watson and Sue Stigant in our parish).

There were no further questions or comments. Acceptance of the reports, en bloc as presented, was proposed by Nick and agreed without dissent.

- d) **Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory:** Carole said the Terrier and Inventory had been checked. The main change was the addition of the icon of St Nicholas that was bought with part of a monetary gift in memory of Brian Horner. This icon is on display during services. The Terrier and Inventory were usually on display at the annual meetings and can be viewed by request to the churchwardens.

5) Elections:

- a) **PCC Members:** Nick thanked all the members who had completed their elected terms of office - Victoria Beale, Mary Murray, John Vernon and Irene Watson.

There were four vacancies for three-year terms and nomination forms had been received for:

Colin Beale
Andrew J Pomfret
June Rickell
Steven P Wilson

There being no other nominations they were all elected unopposed and welcomed as members of the PCC.

- b) **Independent Examiner:** Brian Hopper was re-appointed as Independent Examiner. Proposed by Nick, seconded by Robert Woolley and agreed by show of hands.

Lectio Divina

Having concluded the business of the meeting Nick turned everyone's attention to the Bible Passage that had been circulated in advance (with the agenda and papers).

The passage was from Luke 4: 14-21.

Nick asked Mark to read out the passage before splitting the attendees into several small groups and posing some questions for the groups to consider and discuss (for about 15 minutes).

At approximately 4.00 pm everyone was brought back to the main group and the meeting finished with prayers and the blessing.

REPORTS

List of Reports

- 1.** Electoral Roll
- 2.** Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2021/22
- 3.** Rector
- 4.** Churchwardens
- 5.** Fabric
- 6.** Churchyard
- 7.** Safeguarding
- 8.** Proceedings of the Derwent Deanery Synod
- 9.** Music in Worship
- 10.** Children and Families' Worker
- 11.** Re-ignite Youth Group
- 12.** Pastoral Care
- 13.** Meditation Groups
- 14.** Sacristan
- 15.** Evening Fellowship
- 16.** Social Events
- 17.** Twinam Trust
- 18.** Grapevine Magazine
- 19.** Treasurer's Financial Review – Year Ended 31 December 2021
Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Charts

1. ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 126 names on the electoral roll at this time, an increase of two since our last APCM on 16 May 2021. Nine names have been added. Seven people have been removed – three moved away, one ordination and sadly three deaths.

Eve Scoreby, Electoral Roll Officer

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2021/22

The PCC met on 7 occasions during the year with an average attendance of 15 members - 2 of these meetings were held via Zoom (due to Covid-19) and 5 in person. In addition a Joint Benefice PCC meeting was held in July specifically for the 'Living Christ's Story' Consultation.

The actual number of members was 11 elected lay members, 1 lay member co-opted for the year and 8 Ex-officio members. At the meeting held immediately after the 2021 APCM Helen Pomfret was appointed Treasurer and Angie Creswick was appointed Fabric Officer (both non-voting).

At the APCM on Sunday 8th May 2022 Jenny Brooks, Eve Scoreby and Robert Woolley all complete their elected term of office (all two years). Mary Murray completes a year as a co-opted member. In addition Francine Cross is stepping down having completed two of the three years of her elected term.

Vacancies to fill at the meeting therefore are:

- Four vacancies for elected lay members who will serve on the PCC for three years until the APCM in 2025
- One vacancy for an elected lay member who will serve on the PCC for one year until the APCM in 2023.

It is important that we fill all positions at the APCM if possible as a strong representative PCC is essential to ensure that future changes to the structure of Church organisation and services reflect the wishes of our Parish and Benefice. Please take this opportunity to share your vision for the future of our Church and Benefice by nominating for election to one of the vacancies.

In addition to domestic matters relating to worship, fabric and finance, the PCC receives reports from the Deanery Synod as well as relevant points from other meetings.

Some of the topics discussed this year were:

- The Annual Diocesan "Freewill Offering"
- Mission and Charity Giving
- 'Living Christ's Story'
- Re-opening the church and restarting services following Covid-19
- The format of Sunday morning worship at St Nicholas
- Improving the welcome and wider engagement
- Closure of the Methodist Chapel
- Appointment of new Communications Officer/Grapevine Editor
- Appointment of Data Privacy Officer
- Contactless Payments Facility
- Big Build Projects (Tower Room roof replacement and new Heating system)
- Creation Care resulting in the formation of a new Environment sub-group.

Thank you to PCC members for their participation in our deliberations at meetings, in person and via

Zoom, throughout the year as well as via emails. Finally thanks to everyone who has supplied items and reports for meetings and this Annual Report.

Eve Scoreby, PCC Secretary

3. RECTOR'S REPORT

Friends,

2021 has been an extraordinary year, although there are only so many years for which we can keep saying this. Since the coronavirus pandemic closed all our churches and prevented all forms of gathering, we have steadily reopened and returned to a fairly normal schedule of activities. With great generosity and flexibility, our congregations have gathered for worship and social events, with an understandable level of caution and appropriate risk assessments. And whilst we have longed to return, we have also taken the opportunity to review and reflect, and even innovate.

The benefice continues to produce a weekly online service, which is engaged with by those at home, but also in at least two of our local care homes. Morning Prayer is said via zoom twice a week, and a good congregation continues to gather on a Wednesday evening for Compline each week. In Warthill on a Tuesday morning, a congregation of up to ten people gather very faithfully for Morning Prayer each week. This has brought a richer ecology to our worship within the benefice, and in ways that could not have been foreseen before the beginning of the pandemic.

I have been grateful for the support of Churchwarden and ministry colleagues in releasing me for some of the vocations work across our diocese as I have held the Acting Diocesan Director of Ordinands role since around March 2021. This has taken me away from our benefice, and at a significant cost to the time I have been able to serve our parishes, which weighs heavily with me. However, I have continued to take a full part in leading Sunday worship, and have remained on the rotas for Wednesday communion services, school collective worship and a variety of other events and demands across our benefice.

My gratitude to Judith Hewitt, Revd Mark Poole and Revd Dr. John Schofield is deep, and we are blessed with a competent and committed team of Churchwardens, our Children and Families Worker Lisa and our Recognised Parish Assistants, Irene Watson, Sue Stigant and Arnie Tweddle. Those who serve in recognised roles, whether ordained or lay, do so to support the whole church to live out their Christian calling to the whole of their lives. Together, as the people of God (*laos*), we continually seek how to refresh the ways in which we are *Living Christ's Story* together in our parishes, and to the whole of our lives. Change will continue to come our way, as it always has done, but we face the future with trust and confidence because we know that our lives are hidden with Christ in God, who stands surety for our future.

With every blessing

Revd Canon Nick Bird

4. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

As restrictions have gradually lifted over the past year and we all get used to learning to live with Covid 19 a lot of the churchwarden's role has been ensuring that government advice regarding precautions is being followed – thanks to the York Diocese for providing guidance notes as soon as possible after government announcements. Mitigation measures to minimize the effects of infection continue to be employed, such as opening doors and windows during services and meetings to allow efficient ventilation; the ready

availability of hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes; the encouragement to wear face masks and the availability of disposable face masks for those who may have forgotten to bring one with them.

Peter and I make a good churchwarden team, we feel, each having different skills and abilities to bring to the role. We are very grateful for the leadership, support and ongoing encouragement received from Nick and the PCC. We are also blessed to have witnessed the development of Revd. Mark Poole in his curacy here at St Nicholas Church. We are also blessed to have the ministry of Judith Hewitt, our Reader, and of course our retired clergy whose ministry is much appreciated.

We were saddened to hear of the closure of the Methodist Church here in Dunnington, and acknowledge the grief that this must have caused to the long-time members of this congregation. We hope that St Nicholas has provided a sensitive welcome as a local place of worship as they each come to terms with the implications and impact of this event on their spiritual needs. We are grateful to have been blessed with more regular input from the Methodist minister, Revd. Dr John Schofield to our services since the closure.

Opening up our church more regularly and having more people attending services each week has meant a resumption in our reliance on volunteers helping out in various ways. As we had been through a time of not needing any unnecessary people entering the church, there was a concern that people may have decided that now was a time to 'retire'. So, although some people have stepped down, and this is absolutely right and we thank them for their past service, we are pleased that new people have come forward to offer to help out where they can.

The first thing to resume was regular weekly cleaning of the Tower Room, kitchen and toilets. This is done by a team of 3 who take on the task individually on a weekly rota. Then church monthly cleaning has resumed and I am pleased to report that a team of 8 do this in pairs, so each pair is only committed once every 4 months – and they choose when to carry this task out. We have a twice yearly mega clean of the church asking for as many people as possible to turn up on a Saturday – usually once in Advent and once in Lent. Many thanks to all who contribute to this – many hands definitely do make light work!

We acknowledge the continued work of Joan Verrier and her team of people who provide beautiful floral arrangements in the church.

Thanks must be conveyed to those who have offered to take on the tasks of doing the bible readings and leading the intercessions at our services. This now also involves making a recording that can be uploaded onto the Benefice YouTube service which is still being prepared and broadcast weekly. Thanks to those who facilitate this. Thanks to Judith Hewitt for drawing up the rota for those offering to read and do the prayers, which involves finding out which readings are required from the Lectionary. We are hoping to rebuild a team of sidespeople/welcomers to take over from myself and Peter in the task of welcoming people to services, handing out books and directing people up to receive Communion. We have left this until last, as arrangements for the distribution of Communion have been changing, and we wanted to ensure that a regular pattern was established before expecting people to take over. As the practice of intinction (dipping) of wafers into the wine at the administration of Holy Communion has been introduced since Christmas, we are grateful for those people who have volunteered to hold the chalice near to the priest at this point in the service.

Two other tasks carried out, mostly unseen, by volunteers are the administration of Tower Room bookings and the administration of the collection of Gift Aid contributions. Many thanks to Jeanette Parkinson who has taken over from Linda Newman as Tower Room booking administrator and to Robert Woolley who has taken over Gift Aid administration from Sandra Broadbent. Linda and Sandra have both received gifts and thanks from the PCC in recognition of their past services.

Thanks must also go to the people who volunteer to make hot drinks after various services. This welcoming invitation to stay and chat after services is a valued way of extending our outreach to newcomers and as a means of supporting each other through informal conversation.

We were hugely grateful to Eve Scoreby, who, despite her stated intention to step down from the role of PCC secretary last year, when no-one was able to be found agreed to stay on for just one more year. We know that this year she will definitely be stopping and we wanted to say how much we have appreciated her quiet efficiency in this role. She gently reminds us all when reports are required and generally coordinates the whole workings of the PCC so well. I know she's going to be a hard act to follow, but we're all ready to encourage and support her successor.

The church is very dependent on volunteers to do a whole range of things. We will struggle to keep things going without help. If you are able to help during the services or at other times, please do let us know. This will be very much appreciated.

Carole White and Peter Helm

5. FABRIC REPORT

The major issues on the agenda are replacing the Tower Room Roof and installing a new heating system. We are extremely grateful to the small group set up by the PCC who are taking this forward. Just over £46k has been raised and we are investigating whether the funds from the Church Estate Fund can be capitalised to use on this project. This is a tremendous response and goes a long way to our target of £100k. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so generously. Funds are still needed, and any further donations are very welcome.

Planning permission has been obtained for the Architect's plans for the new Tower Room Roof. The Structural Engineer has just confirmed the existing roof structures will support the new roof. Our Architect is now contacting suitable companies who could tender for the project. Building companies are very busy now and the building prices are going up. It is urgent that we get the work done as quickly as possible given the leaks which are appearing.

The Heating options are being developed with Martin Design Building Services, Design and Energy Consultants based in the village. While more expensive upfront, we are keen to develop a good environmental solution. While there is a bit of time to make sure we get the right solution we need to move quickly to make sure we have a very efficient system. The likelihood is that we are going to be faced with very significant increases in our energy bills by some margin when we come off the current very favourable tariffs – the electricity contract goes up to May 2022 and gas goes up to November 2023. We need to do what we can to minimise our future costs.

Inevitably there have been the extensive range of maintenance issues and checks which must be done during the year. Fortunately, as confirmed in our last Quinquennial Review the Building is in a good state thanks to the ongoing priority given by the Churchwardens over the years.

Peter Helm. Carole White and Angie Creswick

6. CHURCHYARD REPORT

A big thank you once again to the Churchyard Grass Cutting Team and the volunteers who cut the grass, maintain the flower beds and control the weeds around the Church. The excellent, peaceful, well maintained and welcoming setting this provides to the church is much appreciated. A particular big

thank you to Barry Hewitt for all his work in organising the work in the churchyard. Barry is retiring from this role, and we are looking for a successor.

As a closed churchyard, the York Council have responsibilities for maintaining it. With their wider responsibilities they have only managed a small number of cuts this year. However, we were most grateful to them for cutting the hedge at the back of the churchyard at the end of the last season. We had no input from the Community Payback in 2021 and hopefully this can be resumed before too long.

As we look forward about half of our equipment is having to be scrapped as not working and beyond economic repair. While we need to get some replacements, we are, for the time being, looking to manage if we can with a smaller number of lawnmowers and strimmers.

Barry Hewitt (Churchyard volunteer organiser), Peter Helm, Carole White and Colin Beale

7. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

This past year has again been relatively quiet, with just a few helpers for events to check upon as the year went on and we began to get back to normality.

Training is going well and people have found it easier online and quicker to complete than attending at the diocesan office, as it was for some pathways before the pandemic. Training on raising awareness of domestic abuse has been added to some pathways.

I have been aware, when joining the Parish Safeguarding Officers' forums online, that some PSOs are still feeling somewhat isolated and unsure about parts of their role. I have been in touch with Jenny Price, who is in charge of training for the diocese, to discuss this and we are working together on a scheme to offer a proper welcome from the team at the diocesan office to new PSOs, with a note of support in the form of a "buddy" system where they can make contact with other PSOs when they need assistance or encouragement. This will be piloted within the York Archdeaconry in the first instance and hopefully it will go some way to dispel the insecurities that some PSOs feel in their role.

The team at the diocesan office have decided that our DBS checks will be renewed every three years, instead of the existing five years. This means that all those in our benefice with a current DBS will need to re-apply and I have been given a schedule to begin this work.

We are committed to making our churches within the benefice safe for children, young people and vulnerable adults, for leaders and volunteers and for anyone who visits people within these categories. The work of safeguarding is an ongoing process which requires personal commitment, continued study of new information and attention to detail. With this in mind, it is important to state that Dunnington, St Nicholas; Stockton on the Forest, Holy Trinity; Warthill, St Mary and Holtby, Holy Trinity have complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Mary Murray, Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice of Rural East York (April 2022)

8. PROCEEDINGS OF DERWENT DEANERY SYNOD

Members of Derwent Deanery held three meetings throughout the year. Observing Covid-19 regulations in place at the time one of these was virtual, one was held in St Helen's, Escrick and one in St Nicholas', Dunnington. During the year we welcomed Revd Dave Rogers to be house-for-duty at Bubwith and Skipwith, and Revd Jackie Doyle-Brett to be Priest-in-Charge of Derwent Ings (Wheldrake, Elvington,

Sutton-upon Derwent and East Cottingwith). Revd Richard Kirkman left us for a well-earned retirement. By December 2021 we had 7 clergy, and 1 vacancy. There were 18 lay members, 1 co-opted member and 5 vacancies for elected members. We still have a vacancy for a Deanery Financial Adviser.

The online meeting considered the national Clergy Covenant in depth, looking at our parishes' responsibility towards our ordained clergy, their care and well-being, our expectations and assistance we can offer to support them. We also watched the video from Archbishop Stephen introducing "Living Christ's Story".

In June we met in Escrick and elected a new Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). Revd Nick Bird, Paul Botting, and Alison Gilmour were each re-elected (to be Area Dean, Lay Dean and Secretary respectively). Following on from that Revd Dotty Lambeth (by the House of Clergy) and Julie Wainwright (by the House of Clergy) were also re-elected. Caroline Wandless was elected by Synod to complete our membership of 6. Archdeacon Sam led us in a presentation informing us in greater depth about "Living Christ's Story", encouraging us to look at where we are and consider how to move forward.

Our third meeting was held in St Nicholas' Dunnington where Revd Jackie spoke to us of her experience with Forget-Me-Knot services which provide worship for people with neuro-diverse issues including dementia. Three of our number have volunteered to host Bishops from around the world as part of the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality that York Minster is organising.

We have also received regular reports from Diocesan and General Synods, and of course financial reports. We would benefit from having a Financial Adviser. Please do consider whether this is a post you could fulfill.

Revd Canon Nick Bird is retiring from the position of Area Dean, having ably served his term of 5 years. We are happy to say that he will continue as part of the DLT and we will still benefit from his experience.

Alison Gilmour, secretary of Derwent Deanery, February 2022

Our representatives for this past year are Joan Verrier, Margaret Eldridge and Judith Hewitt. The Deanery is currently looking at ways to work post-covid so look out for the discussions that will be taking place.

Judith Hewitt

9. MUSIC IN WORSHIP

This has been another tumultuous and challenging year, as we strove to help God's people worship while the pandemic continued on its unpredictable path. We are continuing to produce online services for the benefice and hope to do so for as long as there are people who benefit from them. This work is now taking place alongside the planning and preparation for the services held in church, as we have gradually been able to restore the place of music in our liturgy.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who is involved in the music for our worship: a list which goes far beyond the musicians at the front of church each week, and includes Lionel, Jocelyn, Judith, Carole, Angie, Anna, Victoria, Sue, Andy, Mark and Nick. Their good humour, generosity, care, kindness and commitment is an enormous blessing to us all.

We hope to be able to have the opportunity, as the year progresses, to explore how God is calling us to serve our church family, as well as our wider community, as we all respond to a changing world.

David Marles, Director of Music

10. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORKER REPORT

It has been a very busy year, with some Covid restrictions in place for most of it but the following events have still taken place:

- Count on Nature
- Big Family Picnic
- Summer Holiday Club
- Teddy Bear's Picnic-Warthill Toddler Group
- Advent in a box
- Christmas Hampers for school staff
- Collective Worships for schools
- Family Services
- Pancake Party-2022
- Monthly Coffee mornings Stockton-on-the-Forest 2022 - with Children's crafts and activities

I am continuing to produce a newsletter for the children, which is distributed around the Benefice families and to all the schools but I have now reduced the frequency to fortnightly. Schools are sending it out to families and I have recently seen examples of newsletters in school where children have engaged with the puzzles and activities, so they are obviously enjoying them.

Collective worships in schools have now moved from video to 'in person'. I am continuing with delivering fortnightly Collective Worships at Stockton on the Forest School and a team from St Nicholas's are also now going into Dunnington Primary School, on a weekly basis to deliver Collective Worship in person. It's great to be able to see all the children face-to-face again.

I have continued to attend relevant on-line training sessions for my role and bi-monthly York Children's Leaders Network Meetings. I also completed Pediatric First Aid Training last year.

Little People Play & Praise

We were officially back on a regular weekly basis from 9th November 2021. We are slowly growing in numbers and we have had a few new mums joining the group. Numbers tend to vary due to illness some weeks but we are consistently having around 8 children attending on a weekly basis, which is great. The Christmas Party was well attended and we had a surprise visit from Father Christmas, which the children all enjoyed. The WhatsApp group is used a lot and is a good way for us all to stay in contact and advertise future events.

Family Worship

Family Worship has been back on a face to face basis since last May and the services are creative and interactive. Numbers of families attending are low but the same families do return each month and we have an enjoyable time of chat over refreshments at the end of each service. The services are well advertised to try and reach the local community and hopefully the upcoming Messy Church session may encourage more to attend the Family Services.

Plans for the future

- We are having our first Messy Church at the Reading Rooms in Dunnington on Tuesday 12th April, which is the first Tuesday of the Easter Holidays. A further 5 sessions are booked in throughout the year up to October but these will be usually on a Saturday morning. Sessions will alternate

between Dunnington and Stockton so that the whole Benefice can come together. I have had a good response to my request for volunteer helpers, which is great and plans are now coming together.

- Setting up an Easter trail for Stockton on the Forest's Easter Coffee Morning. Hopefully also to be set up in Dunnington and Warthill.
- Possible Easter egg competition? (Launch at Messy Church event)
- Treasure Trail in collaboration with Stockton Village residents for the Queen's Jubilee weekend.
- Summer 2022 - Holiday Club to be arranged with Harton Benefice.

Lisa Horton

11. RE-IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

Re-Ignite meets on the last Sunday of each month between 7pm and 9pm, usually in the Tower Room at St Nicholas Church unless it is an off-site activity. Eight youngsters between the ages of 11 and 14 attend regularly each month.

Over this last year they have enjoyed a variety of activities that have included games nights; cinema nights; Christmas Party; a night walk; a presentation with interactive activities on the Muslim faith given by two Muslim women who are members of an Inter-Faith Group and most recently Ten Pin Bowling.

I am assisted by Lisa Horton, Children & Families Worker and this year have recruited two younger leaders, Grace Wilson and Thom Hammond, to take more of a leading role and provide some fresh young blood!

Moving forward I am hoping to provide confirmation classes.

Revd Mark Poole

12. PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Visiting Teams

Although the Covid situation has eased over this last year, Home Visiting and Communion to the Housebound has not recommenced to the same level pre-covid.

We no longer have anyone who receives Communion at home, and we have just two persons on the Home Visiting side. One of these receives regular visits and the other receives regular telephone contact. The numbers have declined due to people moving or passing away. Should the situation change, we do have a ready and willing group of volunteers standing by.

Regarding Home Visits, it may be that those within the scope of the team receive telephone calls rather than actual visits. The vulnerability of visitors and their families are also important to consider.

Judith Peeke-Vout, Pastoral Team Co-ordinator

Light A Candle Café

The Light a Candle Café, (Bereavement Café) is held on the last Wednesday of the month from 9.45 until 11.15 at St Nicholas Church. Anyone who has suffered a bereavement of any kind, the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or the change of circumstances at home, is welcome to come when they will find a listening

ear and refreshments. Many who come, go into the Lady Chapel to light a candle as an act of remembrance. We have some people who come regularly each month and some occasional 'visitors', but all are welcome.

Do feel you can invite or bring someone to the Café.

Revd Mark Poole

13. MEDITATION

The Christian Meditation Group is now in its ninth year, having started in the spring of 2014. Since that time the group has had a stable, faithful, membership of about 10 to 12 people. In 2021 the group met in every month, once on Zoom and the rest in church.

Over the year the monthly attendance averaged 9 people.

The group continues to practise silent contemplative prayer. Meetings include a short introduction using a reading and/or a reflection, usually with a short time of music to lead into a 30 minute time of silent prayer. Various group members take it in turns to lead the evening. The time of prayer is followed by refreshments and discussion in the Tower Room.

Pre pandemic the group held an away day at a monastery or convent. The last such day was in 2019 with a visit to the Anglican Order of the Holy Paraclete, Whitby. At present the away day is on hold until such time as it is deemed safe to visit a community again.

In February of this year we held our first **Secular Meditation Course** led by myself and Carole White. This course is an introduction to the basic principles of meditation, together with exercises in relaxation given by Carole. There is no religious input or teaching. Its aim is to provide a service to the local community whereby people are taught to meditate either because they have a previous interest, or wish to use the benefits of meditation as a help in their lives.

In the event 15 people applied for the course which went ahead with 8 members (4 churchgoers) leaving potentially 7 people in reserve (2 churchgoers) for a second course. Feedback from participants was very positive. Two members of the course have since attended the Christian Meditation Group, one of whom is a non churchgoer.

Revd Peter Moorhouse

14. SACRISTAN

In preparing this report I usually look back at last year's report to see what, if anything, has changed. I am reminded that this time last year we were still only providing the very minimum necessary – at that time we had not even resumed offering Holy Communion! I am pleased to report that the very gradual resumption of a simplified Eucharistic service has been more straightforward to manage than I feared!

Doing Sacristy duties, I find to be a delight. Knowing that you are maintaining the ancient practices of the church in ensuring everything is ready and correct for the services the following day and week. Including the ordering of the elements (wine, wafers and candles) and displaying the correct coloured altar hangings according to the Church's season. This is a quiet, unobtrusive service which ensures the smooth running of services which is much appreciated by the clergy and churchwardens (who would be responsible for this in the absence of a Sacristan).

My annual plea now goes out, that if there is anyone who would like to learn what's involved in being a Sacristan, I would be SO pleased to hear from you. When I first helped out, there were three of us who took it in turns to set up each week and clear away after the services on a Sunday. This meant that the overall burden was considerably reduced and there was plenty of cover for having the odd weekend away. I am immensely grateful that Judith Hewitt helps out at present when I am away – but we all know how much else she does, so it would be fantastic if someone else could volunteer to help out.

Carole White

15. EVENING FELLOWSHIP

After a long gap due to Covid restrictions, Evening Fellowship Group members were delighted to be reunited at a meeting in October 2021. We shared our experiences of the previous 18 months in the context of verses from Psalm 27. The group met again in November and in January 2022. The latter meeting was our first study using the Doxecology resource book, which combines themes of worship, creation and environmental responsibility.

The group is joining with the Benefice Lent Course in March and April, and will commence group meetings again in May, continuing with a few more studies from the Doxecology series.

About twelve people are currently involved with the group, and new members are always welcome. For the summer term, the group will meet in the Tower Room, usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Meeting venues for later in the year are yet to be decided.

Pamela White

16. SOCIAL EVENTS

Social Events Planning Group

We are pleased to report that a number of events have taken place this year where we were able to provide a warm welcome and an opportunity for people to meet socially.

- Our first offering was a lockdown craft event which took place over the harvest weekend. It was great to see our church bustling again and an opportunity to view a fantastic range of crafts which people had worked on over lockdown, and enjoy home made cakes.
- We provided refreshments for spectators on marathon Sunday which was appreciated by many and a great way of supporting this local event.
- The return of the Burns supper was a fabulous evening with a 3 course meal served alongside fun entertainment.
- It was good to see young and old come along to our pancake party for Shrove Tuesday.
- We were delighted to host the fabulous Stamford Bridge Singers as they performed a concert followed by evensong.

There are more events planned for the coming year as we continue to provide ways for our community to gather together and offer hospitality as a church.

Diane Benson, on behalf of the Social Events Planning Group

Community Café

We are pleased to welcome the Community Café to St Nicholas Church. A chance for people to meet together over a warm drink and 'put the world to right'.

The Café is open every Saturday, unless there is a Charity Coffee Morning in Dunnington, from 10.00 until 11.15ish. Everyone can be assured of a warm welcome so do come and join us.

17. TWINAM TRUST

Your PCC manages this historic trust which was set up to help the poor and needy of Dunnington. This was switched during the Year to a more Ethical Fund managed by the CCLA.

The PCC agreed at its meeting on the 25 January 2022 that the £213.66 dividends received in 2021 should be given to the Dunnington Primary School to better support pupils on "Pupil Premium".

Peter Helm and Carole White

18. GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE

After seven years as the Communications Officer for St Nicholas Church, Victoria Beale moved to new employment. She has done so much to develop Grapevine and to build strong communications, both in Dunnington and across the Benefice. I want to thank Victoria on behalf of all our churches for the excellent and professional work she has done.

In November 2021, Lou Dover was appointed as the new Communications Officer, and hopefully she is getting known across our Benefice. She has made a strong start, and we are grateful for her good humour and responsiveness. There should also be a special mention of Elizabeth Skilbeck who kept things going, producing a fantastic edition in the gap between editors.

Grapevine continues to cover its costs, although we shall be reviewing subscription and advertising costs in the coming months as printing prices are taking a sharp increase. We are very grateful for the accounting work and financial guidance of Dave Safhill, with the assistance of Margaret Safhill. His oversight helps us to plan confidently for the future, and to make wise decisions.

It was decided by the Dunnington PCC to make a substantial donation from the Grapevine accounts in support of the Big Build fund, toward the cost of re-roofing the Tower Room and the church's heating.

We would also want to extend our gratitude to Barry Hewitt who has continued to manage the subscriptions and distribution, and the whole team of deliverers across the benefice.

We welcome submissions of articles, news stories, photos and other copy for Grapevine. It is there to be used as a lively forum for our villages and is very much the product of our local communities.

Revd Canon Nick Bird, Grapevine General Manager

19. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW- YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2021 has seen church activities return to nearer-normal levels (as the COVID-19 restrictions have eased) and the financial situation is much more stable than it was. Income from collections and parish fees are almost back to pre-COVID levels. However, income from magazine advertising and Tower Room bookings

have not yet recovered completely. The 'Big Build' campaign to replace the Tower Room roof and heating has raised approximately £40,000 through a combination of donations, grants and fundraising events (all allocated to the Fabric fund).

The final outturn for the year on all funds, before accounting for net investment gains, was total income £143,558 (2020, £99,214) and total expenditure £119,210 (2020, £108,532) resulting in net income (a surplus) of £24,348 (2020, -£9,318). The General Fund realised a surplus of £6,085 (2020, -£6,861).

Planned giving by standing order or envelopes remained stable at £55,944 in 2021 (2020, £54,388) and Free Will Offerings (open plate collections and the church's share of collections at funerals) increased from £2,028 in 2020 to £7,672 in 2021 (compared to 2019, pre-pandemic, levels of £7,530). Online donations increased to £1,939 (2020, £190). In addition, in September we started leasing a contactless donations device which has yielded £219 so far. Donations received by cash or cheque increased to £25,106 (2020, £4,696), this large increase being the result of the Big Build campaign.

Since the Tower Room was only available for lettings from September, income from bookings was £420 (compared to £645 in 2020 and pre-pandemic levels of £4,226 in 2019).

There were no notable large expenditures on maintenance and repairs, only routine costs this year.

Our freewill offering to the diocese remained unchanged from 2020 to 2021 but our Mission and Charity giving increased.

The General Fund balance (reserves) at the year-end have increased to £14,792 (in 2020 the General Fund balance was £8,581). Restricted Funds have seen a substantial increase due to the Big Build fundraising.

There was an upturn of the stock markets in 2021, which saw the market value of The Church Estate Fund investment increase by £5,406 (14%) and the James Twinam Fund investment increase by £1,016 (14%). The dividends from the James Twinam Fund will be donated to Dunnington Church of England Primary School to support the Pupil Premium.

Salary costs and working expenses for the Children and Families Worker are allocated to the Families Worker designated fund. Total expenditure in this fund was £12,638 (2020, £12,072).

The reduction in the Parish Magazine Fund reflected a conscious decision to transfer £7,000 towards the Big Build Campaign. The current levels of income from subscriptions and magazine sales, and from advertisers, are only just covering the magazine costs. We have been advised that the printing costs are to be increased by a fairly significant percentage, and inflation on other items will also have an effect on the profitability. To redress this we will need to increase both the subscription charges and advertising rates when the new operational year starts on 1st September 2022.

The net movement on all funds, after taking into account the net market value gain on investments, amounted to £30,770 surplus (2020 -£6,592 deficit), which when added to the funds brought forward at the beginning of the year, resulted in fund balances to carry forward at 31 December 2021 of £144,871 (2020, £114,101).

Helen Pomfret (March 2022)

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Nicholas, Dunnington**

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	General	Designated		2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	81,586	-	35,333	116,919	87,261
Charitable activities	5,289	81	7,937	13,307	5,962
Other trading activities	818	-	11,134	11,952	4,400
Investments	-	33	1,347	1,380	1,591
Total income	87,693	114	55,751	143,558	99,214
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	127	31	66	224	220
Charitable activities	81,481	12,638	6,547	100,666	98,777
Other trading activities	-	-	18,320	18,320	9,535
Total expenditure	81,608	12,669	24,933	119,210	108,532
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments	6,085	(12,555)	30,818	24,348	(9,318)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	6,422	6,422	2,726
Net income/(expenditure)	6,085	(12,555)	37,240	30,770	(6,592)
Transfers between funds	126	(700)	574	-	-
Net movement in Funds	6,211	(13,255)	37,814	30,770	(6,592)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2021	8,581	34,940	70,580	114,101	120,693
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2021	£ 14,792	£ 21,685	£ 108,394	£ 144,871	£ 114,101

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Nicholas, Dunnington**

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total	
	General	Designated		2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	1,240
Investments	-	-	51,577	51,577	45,155
	-	-	51,577	51,577	46,395
Current Assets					
Debtors	10,832	-	-	10,832	8,083
Cash at bank and in hand	16,240	21,685	66,847	104,772	79,572
Total Current Assets	27,072	21,685	66,847	115,604	87,655
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12,280	-	10,030	22,310	19,949
Total current liabilities	12,280	-	10,030	22,310	19,949
Net Current Assets	14,792	21,685	56,817	93,294	67,706
Total assets less current liabilities	14,792	21,685	108,394	144,871	114,101
Net Assets	£ 14,792	£ 21,685	£ 108,394	£ 144,871	£ 114,101
Parish Funds					
Unrestricted General Funds	14,792	-	-	14,792	8,581
Unrestricted Designated Funds	-	21,685	-	21,685	34,940
Restricted Funds	-	-	108,394	108,394	70,580
	£ 14,792	£ 21,685	£ 108,394	£ 144,871	£ 114,101

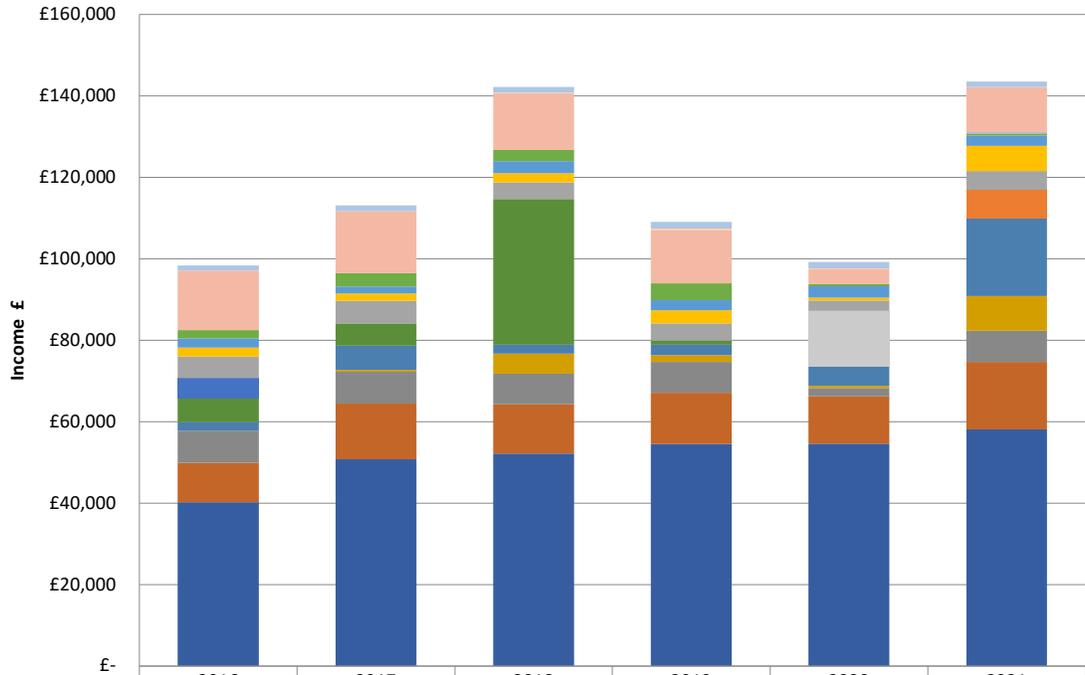
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev Canon N W R Bird
Chairman

.....
H L Pomfret
Treasurer

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Nicholas, Dunnington**

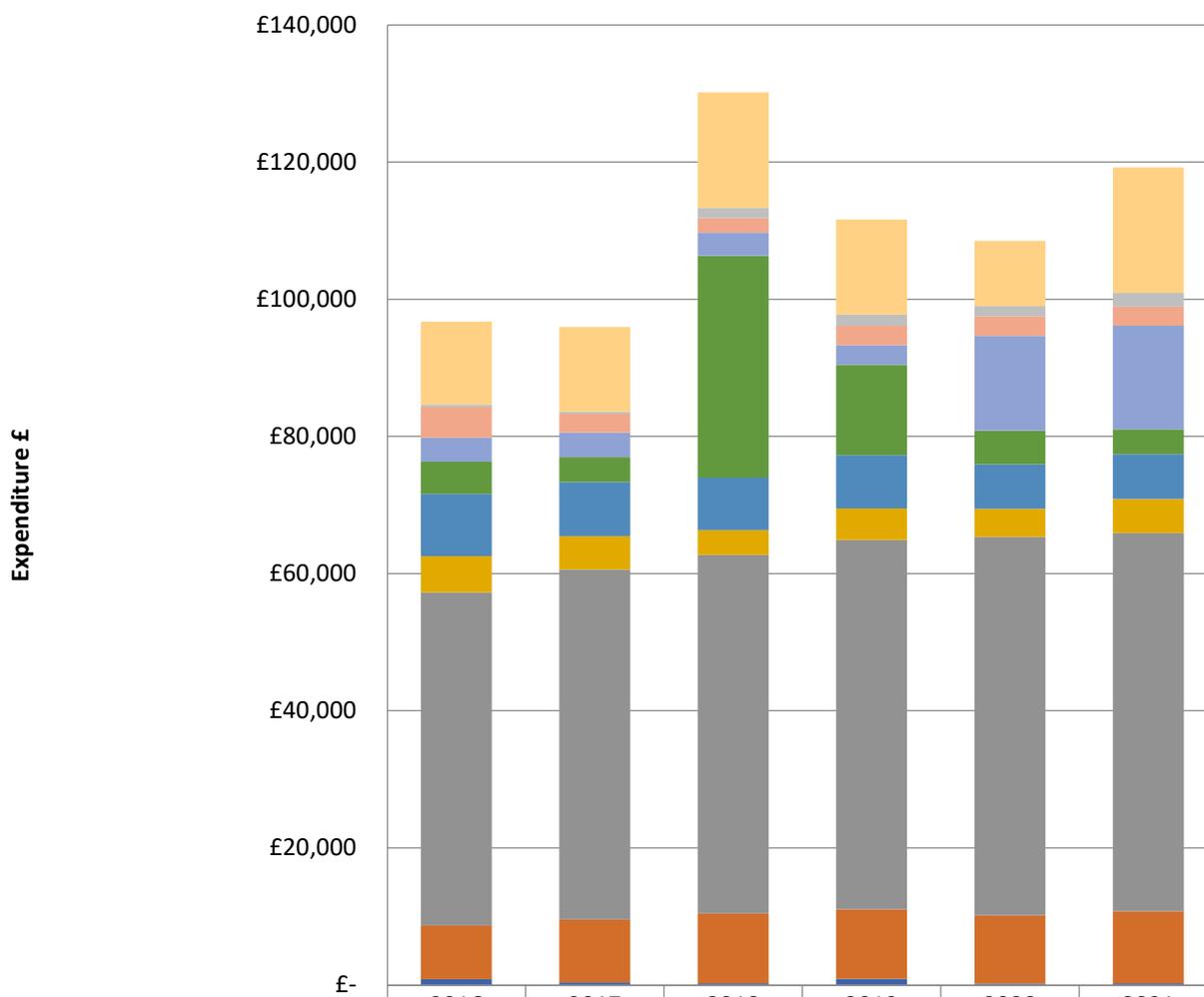
Income 2016 to 2021 (all funds)



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Investment Income	£1,260	£1,320	£1,382	£1,618	£1,591	£1,380
Little People Subs	£-	£-	£185	£352	£63	£24
Magazine Income	£14,591	£15,265	£13,872	£13,079	£3,692	£11,110
Community Café	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-	£398
Tower Room Lettings	£2,008	£3,260	£2,780	£4,160	£645	£420
Dedicated collections	£2,330	£1,744	£2,958	£2,509	£2,764	£2,491
Fund-raising	£2,102	£1,775	£2,236	£3,199	£697	£6,151
Parochial Fees	£5,393	£5,574	£4,049	£4,226	£2,501	£4,665
Transfer of Funds: Grapevine	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-	£7,000
Transfer of Funds: Stockton PCC	£-	£-	£-	£-	£13,800	£-
Transfer of Funds: Twinam Trust	£4,946	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-
Legacies	£5,825	£5,500	£35,840	£1,001	£-	£-
Donations	£2,108	£5,880	£2,163	£2,570	£4,696	£19,106
Grants	£-	£485	£4,932	£1,668	£498	£8,467
Open Plate Collections	£7,873	£7,795	£7,499	£7,530	£2,028	£7,672
Gift Aid & GADS	£9,662	£13,751	£12,117	£12,586	£11,661	£16,572
Planned Giving	£40,251	£50,715	£52,166	£54,535	£54,578	£58,102

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Dunnington

Expenditure (all funds) 2016 to 2021



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Trading Costs (Grapevine)	£12,076	£12,370	£16,848	£13,854	£9,535	£18,320
Other expenditure	£366	£313	£1,488	£1,617	£1,465	£1,975
Office & Administration	£4,445	£2,667	£2,102	£2,847	£2,885	£2,783
Salaries & Honoraria	£3,550	£3,584	£3,398	£2,874	£13,809	£15,099
Church Maintenance & Repairs	£4,678	£3,665	£32,363	£13,154	£4,915	£3,623
Church Utilities & Insurance	£9,095	£7,873	£7,625	£7,785	£6,471	£6,547
Ministry Costs	£5,242	£4,890	£3,618	£4,601	£4,097	£4,925
Diocesan Freewill Offering	£48,600	£51,000	£52,275	£53,844	£55,188	£55,188
Missions & Charities	£7,830	£9,190	£10,198	£10,163	£9,947	£10,526
Fund-raising	£842	£384	£252	£890	£220	£224