



**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
for the election of Churchwardens**
followed by
the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
will be held on

Sunday 11th May, 2025 at 11am in St. Nicholas Church

AGENDA

- 1 Opening Prayer for the Meeting
- 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 Annual Meetings: 21st April, 2024
- 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

If you have any detailed questions, please raise in advance of the meeting with the report contributor, or any member of the PCC (before Friday 9th May). If there is an issue of wider interest you want raising at the meeting, please let the Chairman, Revd Kath McBride know.

- 5 Elections
 - i) PCC Representatives
 - ii) Resolution: That from 2026 the Deanery Representatives and Readers are included *within* the total of 12 representatives of the laity on the PCC at St Nicholas Dunnington.
 - iii) 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 in church at 11:00 am on Sunday 21st April, 2024

- 1) Revd Kath McBride, welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew attention to the slideshow playing in the background, which reflected some of the events of the past year. She then opened proceedings with a prayer.
- 2) **Annual meeting for Election of Churchwardens**
Peter Helm had offered to continue as Churchwarden for a further year. **There being no other nominations Peter Helm was duly elected unopposed.** Kath expressed her thanks to Peter and Carole for all they had done over the preceding year and presented Carole with a gift on behalf of the Church, as an expression of thanks for her years of service as she steps down from the role.

This part of the annual meeting then closed.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

- 1) **Minutes of Last Meeting**
The minutes of last year's meeting held on Sunday 23rd April, 2023 were agreed as a true record. The minutes were subsequently signed by Revd Kath McBride.
- 2) **Presentation of the Annual Reports:**
 - i. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**
It was reported that the electoral roll stood at 124, a decrease of one since the previous APCM. There had been two new additions and, sadly, three deaths.
 - ii **Proceedings of the PCC, Parish activities and Deanery Synod**
The reports document had been circulated in advance via email and was available on the St Nicholas website. Printed copies had also been available in church or on request. It had been requested that any questions on detail be raised with the report contributor or a member of the PCC in advance of the meeting.

Kath started by thanking Alison Gilmour for her report on the activities of the Derwent Deanery Partnership.

On the subject of Safeguarding, it was reported that this year there have been no serious safeguarding incidents, and that, under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCCs of St. Nicholas Church Dunnington, Holy Trinity Holtby, Holy Trinity Stockton-on-the-Forest and St. Mary Warthill have complied with their duty to have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

Kath went on to thank Helen Pomfret for her work as Treasurer, a very important role; Peter Helm for all the work he has carried out with regard to the Tower Room roof, in particular; Elizabeth Skilbeck as Secretary, and all the members of the PCC for giving their time. Steve Wilson was thanked, in his absence, for his time as Derwent Deanery Representative until March this year. Finally, Kath thanked all the retired clergy and Judith Hewitt for all their work and support.

Kath expressed her hope that we feel we are making progress. During the past nine months she has tried to listen to people and see for herself where we think the church is going. She hopes to establish a strategy of actions and tasks via a small group, which would report to the PCCs, focussing on these three priorities:

- To glorify God and enjoy him forever. To always continue to develop in our faith and prayer life;
- To partner more closely and effectively as a benefice in order to support those with shrinking communities, and to try out running joint PCC meetings;
- To welcome and support more younger people in faith and worship, not just children, but also their parents, by introducing all-age services and more contemporary worship; and looking to employ a youth worker.

This all needs to be grounded and rooted in Christ. We need to learn to be more open and welcoming, and to lift our eyes to the bigger picture to discern where He is leading us as a church.

iii Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for year ending 31 December, 2023

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. This document was available to view on the St Nicholas website, with printed copies available in church or on request. The Treasurer's Summary Review, Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet as at 31 December, 2023 were also included in the Annual Reports document.

Helen reported that the accounts reflected the high level of expense relating to the Tower Room roof, but that we have managed to raise almost enough to cover the full cost of the work. There has been a small decrease in free-will offering. We would be needing to apply for grants and raise more funds to cover future projects.

There were no questions.

Acceptance of all the reports, en bloc as presented, including the Treasurer's report and accounts, was agreed without dissent.

iv ***Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory:***

These had been made available for inspection at the front of the nave.

3) Elections:

- i **PCC Members:** Colin Beale, Andy Pomfret and June Rickell were completing their term of office. Also, Elizabeth Skilbeck who had completed a year as co-opted member. They had all offered to be re-elected, plus nominations had been received for John Neale and Robert Woolley, leaving one vacancy on the PCC, and making an election unnecessary. **All six were appointed unopposed.** Kath once again expressed her thanks to all members of the PCC, and particularly to the four people who were continuing for a further term of office.
- ii **Deanery Synod Representatives (Derwent Deanery Partnership Delegate):** As reported earlier, there was now a vacancy for one Delegate to join the Derwent Deanery Partnership. **Joan Verrier had volunteered and was, therefore, duly elected unopposed.**
- iii **Independent Examiner:** Brian Hopper, who has examined the accounts for the past few years had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner for the coming year. **Re-appointment of Brian Hopper as Independent Examiner was agreed by show of hands.**

The meeting concluded at 11:30 am.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
BALANCE SHEET

1. ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 107 names on the electoral roll at this time, 17 fewer than reported at our last APCM on 21st April 2024. Nine names have been added, 24 people have moved away or decided not to re-enrol, and 2 people have, sadly, passed away.

The six-yearly full revision of the Electoral Roll has taken place this year. In intervening years, recording and reporting of amendments to the roll is not an onerous task. If anyone would be interested in taking over this role, please feel free to speak to me about what is involved.

Elizabeth Skilbeck, Electoral Roll Officer

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2024-25

The PCC met on seven occasions during the year with an average attendance of 12. The number of members was ten elected lay members, one lay member co-opted in May and five Ex-officio members. Throughout the year there was a vacancy for one lay member. At the meeting held immediately after the 2024 APCM, Elizabeth Skilbeck was re-appointed Secretary, Helen Pomfret was re-appointed as Treasurer, and Peter Helm was appointed Lay Chair.

At the APCM on Sunday 11th May, 2025 Pat Muir completes her elected term of office. Mary Murray completes a year as co-opted member. Vacancies to fill at the meeting therefore are:

Three vacancies for elected lay members who will serve on the PCC for three years until the APCM in 2028.

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 the Benefice. Please take this opportunity to share your vision for the future of our Church and Benefice by nominating for election to one of these vacancies.

Two of this year's meetings took the form of Joint PCC meetings, with common topics covered at the start of the meeting, followed by each individual PCC breaking away to discuss items specific to their Parish.

In addition to domestic matters relating to worship, fabric and finance, the PCC receives reports from Derwent Deanery, along with relevant points from other meetings. Some of the topics discussed at meetings this year were:

- The Annual Diocesan "Freewill Offering"
- Mission and Charity Giving
- Safeguarding
- Strategy Group and Vision
- Budget and Finance
- New heating system for the church
- AV System
- Grapevine Magazine
- Trusteeship Training

Thank you to members for their participation in our deliberations at meetings throughout the year. Finally, thanks to everyone who has supplied items and reports for meetings and this Annual Report.

Elizabeth Skilbeck, PCC Secretary

3. RECTOR

Hopefully you have all been able to read the Annual Report that came with the Financial Statements, which gives a very good summary of the church's activities this year, and I'd like to thank Helen Pomfret for putting that together, and to all those who have contributed to our documents with more personal specific information about some of the ministries and groups connected with church. I'm also very grateful to all those who take a lead or

play a supportive role in all of the worship, community and social activities - they are what gives St Nicholas its identity as a church at the heart of its parish, and I'm very aware that I couldn't provide alone all that we are able to provide together.

2024 was my first full calendar year in post, and I wanted to pick out some of the things I see as highlights. We are very fortunate to have such good connections with Dunnington School and that they really value the fact they are a church school. This gives us lots of opportunity to share our faith with the children and younger people of the village, both as some of us go in to lead collective worship and as the school visits the church building. I'm really pleased that the children feel a sense of belonging to St Nicholas - regardless of how often they are able to come to services, the children call it 'their' church and enjoy coming into the building.

Another highlight connected with this is the young people returning for weddings and baptisms, and I've been especially blessed by re-connecting with former pupils and their parents. Again, we may not see them very often in Sunday services, but people who grew up in this village, going to the local school, want to come back for the special times in their lives, and to introduce their own children to 'their' church. Which leads me to some of the challenges....

I believe that a church congregation should include all generations and a variety of people with different backgrounds, cultures, abilities and disabilities to reflect the diversity of God's creation. Of course that's more difficult in smaller village churches than in city centres that draw from further afield, but it should be our aim to include everyone and to try to show the breadth of the kingdom of God. I would love us to regularly see more younger people joining with our existing congregation in worship and discipleship, being encouraged to share and develop their gifts, being loved and supported. But with new people (of any age) inevitably comes change and compromise as they become part of the family.

Another big challenge is our financial situation. It's important to remember that God is very generous, and we do have substantial funds for which to be thankful: we have an investment fund as seed money for the heating project, and the funding to employ a children and families worker. But we are spending more on our day-to-day activities than we have coming in from our donors; inflation has meant that energy costs are very high and our other regular expenses have gone up, and giving has not matched this. If we want to continue and grow our ministry and mission, we need to support it financially - and to see this not just as keeping the lights on, but as part of our self-giving to God.

The final challenge I'm noticing personally is in a similar vein - some of the tasks of ministry and mission that were previously done by volunteers from the congregation are falling to me, and, very understandably, some people are not able to offer the time and energy they once could. Last year I gave the analogy of a cake with slices being cut ever more thinly and we are in a similar situation now - although I have lots of enthusiasm and ideas, there are only so many hours in a day, and I'm often faced with a dilemma about what there is and isn't time for.

So what is the answer? Well, there's no one simple answer, except of course to pray. The Holy Spirit is our guide and helper, and Jesus promised that when we pray in his name, we will receive an answer. So I invite you to join with me in asking God where He is leading His church in Dunnington, but also what He is saying to each one of us. What is He asking *you* to offer or to sacrifice? How can we be 'growing together in community and faith in Jesus' through 2025?

Revd Kath McBride

4. LICENSED LAY MINISTER (READER)

As I reflect back over the last twelve months, or so, I think about those people I have met and the conversations we have had, at a Sunday Service, as I walk about our communities, at social events, when I take Collective worship

at Dunnington school, and in many other places. It continues to be a privilege to 'walk' with people as they prepare for a loved one's funeral.

We try to organize a monthly meal for the older members of the community, it may be a Sunday roast dinner, (I now have a new team working with me, as Kath Bridgford felt it had become too much for her), or Fun, Food and Fellowship, when we now serve soup and a pudding followed by an activity, which may include a quiz, puzzles, or a craft.

We, as Christians, are all called to serve Our Lord in a variety of ways and I see my service in the role of a Lay Minister, and I thank you for your prayers and support as I serve you.

I am also, along with Joan Verrier and Eve Scoreby, on the social group with the aim of providing a warm welcome and an opportunity to meet socially at a range of events while at the same time raising funds to support the work of the church and towards the replacement heating system. Among the events we have organised are a Beer 'n' Hymns 'n' Pimms evening, a Thai evening with a fascinating talk by Tim Eady about his time in Thailand as we enjoyed a taste of delicious Thai food and a Ladies Cheese & Wine Evening. Stamford Bridge Singers led Evensong in November and the Good Company Early Music Choir entertained us with a concert in December. On a very rainy Sunday in October spectators of the York Marathon were hugely appreciative of the opportunity for refreshments in the dry of the Tower Room. More than 70 pancakes were consumed by both young and old on Shrove Tuesday.

Keep an eye on the Grapevine and weekly newsletter for social events for this coming year and, if you have any suggestions or would like to help, do speak to one of us.

Judith M Hewitt

5. CHURCH WARDEN

Once again this has been a busy year, particularly so with there being only one churchwarden since July. There is always something to do and challenges to meet! I have been most grateful for the continuing help from Carole along with all the many volunteers who enable the church to operate. Thanks also go to the Rector and the clergy team for their leadership and support.

After 10 years in the role, it is time for me to take a break. I have really appreciated the help, encouragement and friendship over the years and look back with pleasure on all the things I have managed to achieve. I, of course, wish the new churchwardens every success and pleasure in taking on this important and rewarding role.

Peter Helm

Rev Kath and all at St Nicholas would like to thank Peter for his service as Church Warden, we are so grateful for all the time, care and thought put into looking after our building and assisting at services, and particular thanks are due for all of the work on the Tower Room Roof Project. We know that Peter will still be around, and hope that he can enjoy more leisure time and being part of the church community with a bit less stress!

6. FABRIC

Work on the fabric has slowed down after the very successful completion of the major Tower Room re-roofing project. It is not surprising there are issues to keep on top of with a grade 2 Star listed building. Repairs were completed to the church roof in the early part of the year. The church wall damaged by the car accident was rebuilt. Some loose stones on top of the Tower identified in the latest gutter clean and inspection have been re-bedded in. Numerous required checks and servicing have also been carried out.

The formal 5-year Review by the Church Architect (the Quinquennial Review) is due in June 2025 which will help to identify and prioritise future work. A new architect will need to be appointed given our previous long-standing architect retired at the end of December 2024.

The Heating Group are still considering the right heating system the church needs for the future. This is quite complex to ensure we get the right system which is both cost effective and environmentally friendly. Fortunately, our existing elderly boilers are holding out although they are inefficient by modern standards and not cheap to run.

7. CHURCHYARD

Regular grass cutting and maintenance of the flower beds has been ensured with the grateful help of many volunteers. The Community Payback have not been able to do as many visits during the year, given their shortage of supervisors, although thankfully this has now been resolved. We, of course, have appreciated what help they were able to provide. York Council cut the hedge at the back of the church and kept a check on the gravestones, making repairs, as necessary. Extra work was put in this year by the volunteers to ensure the churchyard was ready for the Remembrance Day Service. The general reaction from the many visitors to the churchyard has been extremely positive. We are most grateful for Barry's help in keeping the lawn mowers going between the regular servicing. I am now working closely with two volunteers, Graham Bailey and John Pemberton, in managing the grass cutting. This is making it much easier and enabling us to develop what we do much more than has been possible in the past. Two new lawn mowers have been added to our fleet for the coming season, funded by kind specific donations and a donation from the York Council Ward Grants.

Peter Helm

8. SAFEGUARDING

Compliance : We are committed to making our churches within the benefice safe for children, young people and vulnerable adults, leaders and volunteers. 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 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Appropriate person(s) : The appropriate people for the Benefice of Rural East York comprises:

- ⇒ Jo Muller is responsible for the administration of policies for the benefice, the majority of which include safeguarding issues. Jo has produced an Excel sheet which shows how our policies will be brought to PCC meetings spread over each year for review, in the event of any amendments and for the agreement and adoption by PCCs of these policies. Jo also has responsibility for the Dashboard system and with particular reference to the Safeguarding Action Plan for the benefice.
- ⇒ Eve Scoreby is responsible for all DBS checks and training within the benefice. Eve regularly sits with those who need to train and who are unsure of their skills with the internet to ensure completion.
- ⇒ The Reverend Kath McBride has responsibility for job descriptions, person specifications, references and follow up interviews and appointments.
- ⇒ Mary Murray has the role of safeguarding adviser to the team.

Relevant Information : Relevant and important Information is displayed on church noticeboards and in the case of IDAS, also on the back of toilet doors. Where there is no room on church noticeboards, churchwardens have been asked to place a notice on their noticeboards asking people to contact them in order for them to see safeguarding documents. The 'Promoting A Safer Church' poster is on display in all churches. The website, which is currently under review, also displays important and relevant safeguarding information.

Safer Recruitment : All guidance is being followed. DBS checks, confidential declarations and references are performed, as appropriate.

Training : Training plans are in progress. A particular highlight is the work of Eve Scoreby who supports those who are technically unsure.

Conclusion : Overall, the PCCs have succeeded in creating a safe and respectful environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised.

Mary Murray, Safeguarding Advisor for the Benefice of Rural East York April 2025

9. PROCEEDINGS OF DERWENT DEANERY DURING 2024

Revd Jackie Doyle-Brett and Paul Botting remain our Area Dean and Lay Dean respectively. We have welcomed Revd Debbie Long and Revd Darius Traves as curates (to the Rivers Partnership and Osbaldwick with Murton), also Revd Robert Owen as an assistant minister with the Rivers Partnership.

Revd Maxine Waller has moved away to a parish with improved air quality for health reasons. Mrs Terri Martin, a long-standing lay member and one of our Diocesan Synod representatives has resigned. By December 2024 we were composed of 7 clergy and there were 16 lay members, 1 co-opted member and 7 vacancies. Mr Phil McBride (Diocesan Generous Giving Officer) is our new Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA) and therefore also a member of our Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). The DLT is composed of the Area Dean, Lay Dean, DFA, secretary (Alison Gilmour), 1 elected clergy member (Revd Jan Nobel) and 1 elected lay member (Caroline Wandless).

Our Deanery Partnership has met three times during the year in Holy Trinity, Stockton-on-Forest and St Helen's Skipwith and an online (Zoom) meeting in November. The Generous Giving Team (Phil McBride and Jan Grey) explained how they aim to give practical support to help all parishes look at their requirements and grow their work and mission. They are available to support in whatever way a parish requests. In the summer we reviewed and updated the Deanery Plan that had been submitted in July 2022 - we have included the LLMs and ALMs and noted progress with aims and actions we planned to make. In response to Revd Darius' enquiry at that meeting we will look at and include accessibility in the Plan. Also in the summer we held a choral evensong in Hemingbrough Minster to mark Bishop John and Sue's (his wife) time with us - an enjoyable afternoon with a generous presentation, enabling them to effect change in the garden of their new home for their retirement.

The Zoom meeting in November heard a presentation from Revd Darius and Shirley (a powered chair user) as we considered physical access to our buildings, toilets, noticeboards etc and the provision of large print books, specialist ramps, hearing loops and other aids.

And, of course, we have continued our practice of three annual Deanery-wide services for Candlemas, Ascension Day and St Luke's Day. These have all taken place in Wheldrake, in order that they can be live-streamed for those unable to attend, or watched later via the Derwent Ings website. We still continue the practice of involving each of our parishes by having different teams from the benefices leading the worship from St Helen's. In April Revd Jan Nobel led a 'Quiet Time' session at Stillingfleet church and in September our Quiet Day at Thicket Priory, Thorganby was led by Revd Julie Bacon from Sheffield. The Deanery Prayer Calendar is in circulation, encouraging us each to support our local parishes, learning of their areas of concern and supporting them with prayer. We repeated the afternoon tea session first tried last year with the LLMs (Readers) and clergy, and the monthly Deanery Evening Prayer sessions are ongoing.

Reports have come to us from General Synod and Diocesan Synod and from our DFA on our financial position. Derwent Deanery has covered its financial costs in this calendar year with a small surplus contributed to the common pot, but we must be aware that this is a fluid situation.

Alison Gilmour, secretary of Derwent Deanery, February 2025

10. MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Music continues to be a vital part of our worship at St Nicholas' church. I'm grateful for the faithful work of Lionel, our organist; Laudate, our music group; and everyone who has led the music from the keyboard over the year. It's a great joy and privilege to be able to contribute to our services in this way.

Laudate now meets regularly in the Tower Room, on each Thursday before the first and third Sunday in the month. We usually play at the Contemporary Communion, as well as the evening Sunday@7 services and the All Age Worship service at Warthill.

If you would like to be involved in the music in any way please speak to me, Kath, or any member of the music group, or come along to a rehearsal. Whatever you would like to offer would be enthusiastically welcomed.

David Marles, Director of Music

11. CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES

The format of our sessions for children and families has been evolving over the past few years. Starting in January 2024 these sessions were changed from Messy Church to 'DISCOVER'. We hope that when children and families come along, they will discover more of Jesus. We are very grateful to a dedicated team of about 10 adults and a youth helper who are involved with planning and running the sessions. We aim to run two-hour sessions, 6 times a year in school holidays. The sessions are based around a Biblical theme and children of all ages are welcome, accompanied by an adult. There is no need to book a place or pay. Sessions are advertised through our churches' newsletter, posters, local primary schools and social media. We have a circulation list of families who we contact directly. The number of people who come along varies. We held 6 sessions between January 2024 and December 2024; and were delighted with the numbers of adults and children attending sessions which ranged from 10 to 40 (excluding helpers). The team pray that who God wants to be there will come and that all of us discover more of Jesus in our time together. We combined our Christmas Discover session this year with the Christingle service and this was well attended. People said that having Christingle worship in church together after the crafts and activities was a very special time.

Moving forwards –

We now aim to have a 15 minute child-centred worship time at the end of each Discover session.

Our Discover sessions are just one way we share Jesus with children and families. Encouraging, nurturing and including young families within our worshipping community is crucial to the growth of our churches and the job of sharing our faith with children is given to all of us. We hope for the support and the prayers of the whole Benefice church family, as together we explore new and different ways of reaching out to younger people.

Joel 1:3

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

Julia

We are in the excellent position of having sufficient funds to employ a children and family worker for two years and the role was advertised in September 2024. Despite some interest and some personal approaches, no one applied for the position, and this seems to be a situation common to other churches in York Diocese. Rev Kath intends to re-advertise soon for a September start.

12. LITTLE PEOPLE PLAY AND PRAISE

Little People continues to meet from 1.45 to 3pm on Tuesday afternoons in term time. We have a happy friendly atmosphere where parents/ carers enjoy chatting while the children play or do simple Bible related craft activities, a Bible story followed by singing of action songs many chosen by the children themselves and finishing with a prayer. We currently have 11 children on the books with a weekly attendance of between 5 and 8 families. Majority of our children are under 3 years of age due to the increase in nursery places offered now. Some Mothers and babies have come for a few months this year and then had to return to work, but we maintain contact with sending Birthday cards until the children start school. Several of our families now come to the Discover events at St Nicholas.

In December we said a big Thank You to Sue Stigant who retired from her role as leader with little people for many years. We still see Sue when she comes to help serve drinks on the rota shared with one other volunteer. We currently only have 3 DBS checked leaders but 2 of these are mothers with their own young Toddlers to watch so are limited in their availability but without their help the group would not be able to exist. We are looking for more people to help with leadership so the group can continue meeting every week. We are very grateful to all who help in any way.

Susan Wilson

13. PASTORAL CARE

Rev Kath oversees our pastoral support network, which includes a regular visit team, a home communion team, a team that visit Grimston Court Care Home and other visits by Kath and Judith. Some of our parishioners who are ill or less mobile can become isolated, particularly if they find it difficult to come to church, but it's important to support them in keeping contact through both friendship and spiritual care. Thank you to all those who take part in this often unseen ministry, and of course we would appreciate offers to join the teams and suggestions for those who need help. Please ask Kath or Judith for more information.

14. CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP REPORT

The Christian Meditation Group meets every fourth Wednesday of the month. The group currently has a membership of 16 people, with an average attendance of 11. Sadly, one of our members, Margy Vernon, died earlier this year. Margy had been a faithful member since the group's formation in 2014.

The group practises silent contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel following a tradition of silent prayer that goes back to the Desert Fathers in early Christian times. Meetings include a short introduction using a reading and/or a reflection, usually with a short piece of music leading 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 in the Tower Room.

Our annual away day in 2024 was to Ripon Cathedral, followed by a meal in a local restaurant. Ripon Cathedral is dedicated to St Peter and St Wilfrid and is one of our oldest foundations having been established in 672 by St Wilfrid, the Abbot of Ripon. Some 1350 years later, the Anglo-Saxon Crypt remains intact. Plans for this year's away day are currently under discussion.

Interestingly meditation is becoming increasingly popular. The app 'Headspace' is number 14 in the Apple App Store category 'Health and Fitness'. It is described as a 'lifelong guide to mental health, mindfulness and meditation.' It's good to know that the Church is almost 2,000 years in advance, and Christian Meditation is much cheaper!

Revd Peter Moorhouse

15. EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Monthly House Group

The House Group meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in peoples' homes as advertised in the Weekly Newsletter. We have up to 14 people attending. Members of the group take it in turn to lead each meeting. Since September we have been studying Rev Tim Eady's book 'Jesus under the Microscope' which has led us into much sharing and discussion followed by a time of open prayer together. We wish to thank Pamela White for organising and coordinating the House Group for many Years and Colin and Victoria Beale for hosting. Andrew Wilson has coordinated the group from September 2024.

Benefice Prayer Meeting

The Benefice prayer meeting meets monthly at 7pm at Fair View, Warthill as advertised in the Weekly Newsletter to pray for the needs of the Churches in the Benefice, the communities and the world. We currently have up to 11 people meeting for prayer.

Andrew and Susan Wilson

16. SACRISTAN

The team of Sacristans have continued to ensure that all the elements required for the services of Holy Communion are in place prior to a service. We also change the colours of the 'hangings' in church to reflect the season we're in, as well as laying out the appropriate priest's vestments and setting up the candlesticks. This is all done before services start, so you probably only see us washing up the silver vessels used and returning them and

the candlesticks to the safe after a service.

There is in fact a lot that needs to be sorted beforehand so that services run smoothly and the priest and congregation can focus on the spiritual aspects. We are a small team of three – myself, Pat Muir and Eve Scoreby. Pat and Eve are becoming more familiar with the requirements. I would also like to record my thanks here to Alison Gilmour (former Sacristan) who helps out with laundering the large altar cloths around the Christmas and Easter Festivals.

If anyone else is interested in learning what is required and would like to join our team, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Carole White

17. DATA PRIVACY REPORT

We ensure personal information provided is kept secure, remains confidential and only used for permitted purposes. Our procedures in this area continue to be reviewed. The newly completed Data Privacy Forms (returned along with Electoral Roll forms over the last couple of months) are enabling us to build a more comprehensive database of people's preferences with regards to the means by which they should be contacted and kept informed of church news and events.

Elizabeth Skilbeck, PCC Secretary

18. TWINAM TRUST

Your PCC Manages this historic Trust which was set up to help the poor and needy of Dunnington. The PCC agreed at its meeting on the 14 January 2025 that the dividends of £231 received in 2024 should be given to the Dunnington Primary School to better support pupils on the "Pupil Premium".

Peter Helm, Carole White and Robert Woolley

19. GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE REPORT

The Grapevine Magazine is popular, well-presented and professional. We have again experienced difficulties in generating sufficient income to make it profitable, rather than a potential drain on church funds.

Even with the significant improvements already made by the Magazine Editor/Secretary since she has taken up the post—to generate more regular advertising income and to reduce printing costs—we will still see a reduction of funds in the region of £3k this year. For the financial year ended 31st December, 2024 we recorded a loss of almost £2k. We still have a further five months ahead of us and funds would be exceeded were it not for the fact that we start receiving income for the next financial year sooner than that. An uncomfortable situation for us.

As the reserves held in the bank by Grapevine have now been used up, this has put pressure on the main church finances. We are discussing things we can do/options to address this issue and generate more income.

Once again our thanks go to all the volunteers involved in the production and distribution of the magazine. Barry Hewitt continues to manage the subscriptions and distribution, my wife and I continue in our joint role of recording and controlling the finances, and Elizabeth has done an excellent job in improving the quality of the magazine content.

Please continue to support and enjoy the magazine.

Dave Safhill, Grapevine Treasurer

20. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW—YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2024

2024 has seen a worrying decline in planned giving. This coupled with rising energy costs (the PCC's three-year, fixed price energy deal ended in November 2023) and rising inflation has depleted our General Fund reserves significantly. The 'Generous Living' campaign was launched in September 2024 and initial results show that planned giving in 2025 should return to 2023 levels as result of this campaign; however, the real value of this income will be much lower. Additional cost savings will need to be made in order to ensure that the reserves are not further depleted in 2025.

The final outturn for the year on all funds, before accounting for net investment losses, was total income £111,588 (2023, £149,172) and total expenditure £137,271 (2023, £213,657) resulting in net expenditure (a deficit) of £25,683 (2023, £64,485 deficit). The General Fund realised a deficit of £11,340 (2023, £1,268 deficit).

Planned giving by standing order has decreased significantly from £55,507 in 2023 to £50,551 in 2024. Free Will Offerings (open plate collections and the church's share of collections at funerals) increased slightly to £6,953 (2023, £6,066). Envelope remained stable at £1,263 (2023, £1,337). Use of the contactless card machine has grown again to £2,024 (2023, £1,235). One-off donations increased from £4,878 in 2023 to £7,044 in 2024.

We received grants of £1,271 from the Listed Places of Worship VAT reclaim scheme.

Income from Tower Room bookings remained stable at £1,100 (2023, £1,140).

Expenditure on church maintenance and repairs was £31,361, of which £23,710 related to the costs of the new Tower Room roof (now complete) and the repair of the churchyard wall (the latter covered by an insurance claim).

Our freewill offering to the diocese increased by 4% to £62,076 (2023, £59,692). The 2024 Mission and Giving donations will be £3,700 each to an overseas charity and a 'home' charity (2023, £3,900 each).

The General Fund balance (reserves) at the year-end have decreased substantially to £10,304 (in 2023 the General Fund balance was £23,871). Restricted Funds have seen a decrease of £13,639.

There was an upturn of the stock markets in 2024, which saw the market value of The Church Estate Fund investment increase by £946 (2.3%) and the James Twinam Fund investment increase by £217 (2.7%). The dividends from the James Twinam Fund (£231) will be donated to Dunnington Church of England Primary School to support the Pupil Premium.

For the benefice magazine (Grapevine), subscription income has remained stable, but income from advertising has reduced again resulting in another in-year loss. New advertisers will need to be sought in order for the magazine to remain financially stable.

The net movement on all funds, after taking into account the net market value gains on investments, amounted to £24,520 deficit (2023 £60,186 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 2024 of £83,816 (2023, £108,336).

Helen Pomfret, PCC Treasurer (March 2024)

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

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
		General	Designated		2024	2023 Restated
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	76,901	951	6,021	83,873	103,008
Charitable activities	2(b)	6,306	1,663	3,193	11,162	15,477
Other trading activities	2(c)	2,937	-	9,537	12,474	12,951
Investments	2(d)	-	426	3,653	4,079	4,437
Other income	2(e)	-	-	-	-	13,299
Total income		86,144	3,040	22,404	111,588	149,172
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3(a)	814	354	-	1,168	1,617
Charitable activities	3(b)	96,670	-	27,952	124,622	197,603
Other trading activities	3(c)	-	-	11,481	11,481	14,437
Total expenditure		97,484	354	39,433	137,271	213,657
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments		(11,340)	2,686	(17,029)	(25,683)	(64,485)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	-	-	1,163	1,163	4,299
Net income/(expenditure)		(11,340)	2,686	(15,866)	(24,520)	(60,186)
Transfers between funds		(2,227)	-	2,227	-	-
Net movement in Funds		(13,567)	2,686	(13,639)	(24,520)	(60,186)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		23,871	11,279	73,186	108,336	168,522
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336

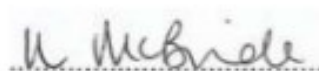
The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.


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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total	
		General	Designated		2024	2023 Restated
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	-	50,978	50,978	49,815
		-	-	50,978	50,978	49,815
Current Assets						
Debtors	7	9,457	-	109	9,566	19,327
Cash at bank and in hand		10,574	13,965	32,485	57,024	78,981
Total Current Assets		20,031	13,965	32,594	66,590	98,308
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	9,727	-	8,425	18,152	20,287
Total Current Liabilities		9,727	-	8,425	18,152	20,287
Net Current Assets		10,304	13,965	24,169	48,438	78,021
Total assets less current liabilities		10,304	13,965	75,147	99,416	127,836
Non-Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due to be paid beyond one year	9	-	-	15,600	15,600	19,500
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-	15,600	15,600	19,500
Net Assets		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336
Parish Funds						
Unrestricted General Funds		10,304	-	-	10,304	23,871
Unrestricted Designated Funds	10	-	13,965	-	13,965	11,279
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	59,547	59,547	73,186
		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Rev K McBride
PCC Chair


H L Pomfret
Treasurer