



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 23rd April 2023 during 10.30 am Service

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: 8th May 2022
- 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 21st April). If there is an issue of wider interest you want raising at the meeting please let Peter Helm, the Lay Chairman, know.

- 5 Elections
 - i) Derwent Deanery Partnership Delegates (Deanery Synod Representatives)
 - ii) PCC Representatives
 - 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 on Sunday 8th May 2022

- 1) This meeting was held during the 10.30 am service.

The Chairman, Revd Canon Nick Bird welcomed everyone to the meeting and described the format the meetings would take.

- 2) **Annual meeting for Election of Churchwardens:** Two nomination forms had been received for Carole White and Peter Helm. Both were eligible for re-election. There being no other nominations Carole White and Peter Helm were duly elected unopposed.

Nick thanked Peter and Carole.

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 16th May 2021 were agreed as a true record. Acceptance was proposed by John Neale, seconded by Carole White 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 126 an increase of 2 since the previous APCM.

- 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 said there are three important things to do within the role of a rector (1) "love the people" (2) "remember and pray for them" and (3) "thank the people" He said that the annual meeting provided an opportunity to reiterate thanks - especially this year, his last annual meeting as rector at St Nicholas. He went on to thank individuals and groups as follows:

- The Ministry team working tirelessly alongside him - Judith (Hewitt), Mark (Poole), John (Schofield) and Lisa (Horton) Children and Families Worker. He said that with the official closing of the Methodist chapel John Schofield would also be leaving at the end of the summer. He went on to thank the retired clergy who continue to preside at some services -

Peter (Moorhouse) and John (Harrison) – and also John (Trevenna), Methodist Minister who had recently moved into the village and will be leading some non-Eucharist services.

- Peter and Carole, the churchwardens, he thanked again for their hard work and said he was especially grateful because of the upcoming vacancy that they were both continuing; all members of the PCC for their input; Eve (Scoreby) PCC Secretary and Helen (Pomfret) for the incredibly professional job she does as Treasurer.
- Joan (Verrier) and her team for the beautiful floral displays.
- Tower Room Bookings Administrators – Linda Newman, and Jeanette Parkinson who had taken over during the year
- Gift Aid Administrators – Sandra Broadbent, and Robert Woolley who had taken this over recently.
- The Building Projects Group who are working to progress replacement of the Tower Room roof and installation of a new heating system.
- Barry (Hewitt) who had organised the maintenance of the churchyard for many years but had now retired from the role of organiser.
- The new Environment Group who have taken over care of the churchyard with a vision to make the space more environmentally friendly.
- Mary Murray for the important work she does as Benefice Safeguarding Officer. The section in the Safeguarding report to especially note 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).
- David Marles in his role as Director of Music; Lionel Carter for playing the organ and the music group “Laudate”.
- Judith Peeke-Vout for leading the Pastoral Visiting team.
- Diane (Benson), Emma (Poole), Joan (Verrier), Judith (Hewitt) and Eve (Scoreby) for arranging Social Events.
- Victoria Beale for producing the Grapevine magazine and newsletters until she handed this on and the new Communications Officer Lou Dover. Also thanks to Barry Hewitt for looking after subscriptions and Dave Safhill for looking after the accounts.

c) **Treasurer’s Report and presentation of accounts for year ending 31 December 2022**

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 and 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.

There were no further questions or comments. Acceptance of the reports, en bloc as presented, was officially proposed by Robert Woolley seconded by John Neale and agreed without dissent.

- d) **Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory:** These are available for inspection at any time by request to the churchwardens.

5) **Elections:**

- a) **PCC Members:** Nick thanked all the members who had completed their elected terms of office – Eve Scoreby, Robert Woolley, Jenny Brooks (who had all completed elected terms of 2 years). Also

Mary Murray who had completed a year as a co-opted member and Francine Cross who was stepping down having completed 2 of 3 years elected term.

There were four vacancies for three-year terms and one vacancy for one-year term. Nomination forms had been received for:

Mary Murray (three-year vacancy)

Robert Woolley (one-year vacancy)

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

- b) **Independent Examiner:** Brian Hopper was re-appointed as Independent Examiner. Proposed by Jim Gilmour, seconded by Alison Gilmour and agreed by show of hands.

The business of the meeting having been concluded Nick once again thanked everyone for their own particular part in the life of the church and encouraged people to consider further involvement or participation according to their skills and abilities.

Judith Hewitt then stepped up and said that Nick had certainly loved, remembered and thanked us all over the past 13+ years and now, on the occasion of his final APCM at St Nicholas she wanted to officially, for the record, thank Nick and Diane and family and wish them well for the future.

The service then resumed.

REPORTS

List of Reports

- 1.** Electoral Roll
- 2.** Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2022/23
- 3.** Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)
- 4.** Churchwardens
- 5.** Fabric
- 6.** Churchyard
- 7.** Safeguarding
- 8.** Proceedings of the Derwent Deanery
- 9.** Music in Worship
- 10.** Family Worship and Children's Activities
- 11.** Little People Play and Praise
- 12.** Re-ignite Youth Group
- 13.** Pastoral Care
- 14.** Meditation
- 15.** Evening Fellowship
- 16.** Sacristan
- 17.** Social Events
- 18.** Twinam Trust
- 19.** Grapevine Magazine
- 20.** Gift Aid and Planned Giving
- 21.** Treasurer's Financial Review – Year Ended 31 December 2022
Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Charts

1. ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 125 names on the electoral roll at this time, a decrease of one since our last APCM on 8 May 2022. Four names have been added and five people have been removed – three moved away and, sadly, two deaths.

Elizabeth Skilbeck, Electoral Roll Officer

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2022/23

The PCC met on seven occasions during the year with an average attendance of 15.

The actual number of members was nine elected lay members, two lay members co-opted for the year (the maximum permissible) and seven Ex-officio members. There was a vacancy for one lay member. At the meeting held immediately after the 2022 APCM Helen Pomfret was appointed Treasurer and Angie Creswick was appointed Fabric Officer (both non-voting).

At the APCM on Sunday 23rd April 2023 Heather Hogg, John Neale, Elizabeth Skilbeck and Robert Woolley all complete their elected term of office. Eve Scoreby and Patricia Muir complete a year as co-opted members.

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 2026
- Three vacancies for elected lay members who will serve on the PCC for two years until the APCM in 2025.

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.

Revd Canon Nick Bird, Incumbent, left at the end of August to take up the post of Diocesan Advisor for Vocations. Subsequently, some Joint Benefice PCCs meetings have been held in connection with the vacancy and recruitment process. Revd Mark Poole, Curate, also moved away at the beginning of March 2023 to become Priest-in-Charge of the Barmby Moor group of churches.

Since June 2022 PCC meetings have been chaired by either Revd Mark Poole or Peter Helm (Lay Chair).

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

Some of the topics discussed at meetings this year were:

- The Annual Diocesan “Freewill Offering”
- Mission and Charity Giving
- Matters relating to the Vacancy
- The format of Sunday worship at St Nicholas
- Big Build Projects (Tower Room roof replacement and new heating system for the church)

- Maintenance of the Churchyard
- Derwent Deanery Plan 2022-2031

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.

Eve Scoreby, PCC Secretary

3. LICENSED LAY MINISTER (READER)

In a weak moment I said that in the absence of a Rector and a Curate I would write something for the annual report this year.

We began 2022 with a Rector, Methodist Minister, Curate and a Reader and gradually during the year Nick left us to be the Diocesan Adviser for Vocations; John left us as the Methodist partnership, sadly, ceased to exist; and December heard the announcement that Mark had been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Barmby Moor group of churches. We have also said 'Goodbye' to Lou our Communications Officer; Lisa, our Children and Family Worker; and Irene, one of our RPA's (Recognised Parish Assistant).

It has been good to see worship returning in all our parish churches as well as continuing to offer a YouTube service watched by parishioners in their homes and also those resident in local care homes. To reduce the pressure on preaching just for an online service, the service now includes the reflection provided by the Diocese of York.

It has also been good to see various community activities returning to our church buildings, including the Community Café at St Nicholas; Silver Service at Stockton; Parish Lunch; and Fun, Food and Fellowship.

At St Nicholas we tried informal worship before the 10.30 service, but realised this wasn't quite what was needed, so instead there is now informal and invitational worship on a Sunday evening at 7.00pm on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month.

We continue to take Collective Worship in our three primary schools and to welcome the schools to our churches for end of term services. The residents of Grimston Court now have a monthly lay led Communion service.

During the past year our retired clergy David, Peter, John (H) and John (T), have been joined by Tim a recently retired priest who has recently received his PTO (Permission to Officiate). We are grateful for the support they give us and especially as we prepare our service rotas.

The Diocese are currently looking at Lay Ministry and the role of the RPA is likely to change and Readers are now referred to as Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). We are all called to serve and in a variety of roles, for example as church cleaners, flower arrangers, intercessors, worship leaders. During our Vacancy it is perhaps a time to consider where God is calling you to serve.

Thank you to all who offer your time willingly and freely in the service of our Benefice churches, it is very much appreciated. Thank you also to those who support and pray for me.

Judith M. Hewitt (March 2023)

4. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

This year has gone very quickly. This no doubt reflects that we are getting older, having fun and being very busy! It has been a pleasure serving the congregation over the year. Thank you so much for all your support, prayers and encouragement. We really appreciate all the hard work done by many volunteers which enables our church to be a Christ-like presence with the people of Dunnington.

Coming into a vacancy is a new experience for us. We are indebted for the ministry of Revd Canon Nick Bird right up to the end of June when he stopped his parish work. A special thank you goes to Revd Mark Poole our curate for the brilliant way he rose to the challenges until his own departure at the end of February. A special thank you also goes to our Reader – now properly referred to as a Licenced Lay Minister (LLM) - Judith Hewitt for the tremendous work she continues to do over many fronts. Grateful thanks also go to our retired clergy Revd Canon John Harrison and Revd Peter Moorhouse, as well as to Revd John Trevenna, a retired Methodist superintendent minister, for all their help. What would we have done without them! We have been extremely fortunate in all the help we are getting from visiting clergy to cover the services.

The Diocesan team and Area Dean have been very helpful in getting us up to speed with the complex processes for recruiting a new Rector. This has required close working with the churchwardens and others in Stockton on the Forest, Holtby and Warthill. The brochure giving the profile of the Benefice has now been completed. At the time of writing the advert for the post has just gone out. We are praying the right candidates will come forward and that those tasked with interviewing will discern the best person to take on the role.

On top of all the work with the vacancy, there has been the usual maintenance checks and equipment services to arrange. We are pleased to report everything is in good order! Contracts have been signed for the re-roofing of the Tower Room. A more economic and environmentally friendly heating system is urgently required.

It is great to see that the numbers in our services have been recovering as people become more confident about living with Covid. New ideas are being successfully tried out to widen the appeal and provide more variety. The individual reports show the really good range of activities taking place. It is good to see, for example, how the Community Café has taken off and that the Parish lunches are very popular.

We are pleased that we have been able to appoint a new Communications Officer – Helen Cross. She took up her post at the beginning of February and appears to be settling in well.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Lisa Horton who had done a sterling job as Family and Children's Worker (and had also held the fort with the Communications Officer post until Helen Cross was appointed). We have been advised that, as this is a significant appointment, we need to wait before advertising for a replacement Family and Children's Worker until the new Incumbent is in post as it is important that they are involved in the appointment process.

While we have been through a difficult couple of years, we have much to be thankful for. We have much to look forward to in welcoming our new Rector and the new inspiration they can give us. There will be closer working across the Deanery with the new Deanery plan. Our new Tower Room Roof, after a lot of work planning and fundraising, should be in place by the end of the year.

While our finances are now much stronger, as Helen our Treasurer has concluded finances will come under pressure when our favourable gas price contracts finish at the end of 2023. We note also that

we are not getting as much income from hiring out the Tower Room and the Grapevine operating profits are falling with the loss of advertising. It will be important to address these over the coming year.

With every blessing

Carole White and Peter Helm

5. FABRIC REPORT

The main priority this year has been the Tower Room roofing project. With over £90k currently raised there has been sufficient funds to enable us to sign the contracts with GNR, the company selected to undertake the work. It is hoped that re-roofing can be undertaken in the late summer/autumn of 2023. This is truly a major achievement given the economic climate and strongly rising prices. It reflects a lot of hard work to make this possible. Thank you for all of your continuing generous donations. We have also received significant donations this year from the Aviva Community Fund and the local ward grant from York Council. The Diocese have given us an interest free loan of nearly £20k to be paid back over 5 years.

Less progress has been made on the heating project. It is thought best that we give first priority to updating the Tower Room heating using air sourced pumps. This will help us learn lessons for the church which will be more challenging. It is important that we move as quickly as we can as our energy costs will significantly increase at the end of 2023 when our favourable energy contracts run out.

Apart from the work on these major projects, there have been the numerous routine maintenance checks and servicing to keep on top of!

Peter Helm, Carole White and Angie Creswick (Fabric Officer)

6. CHURCHYARD REPORT

We must say thank you for the hard work of all the volunteers who have helped with the grass cutting and keeping the flower beds so tidy. This is really appreciated by the many visitors to the churchyard.

The PCC are keen to maximise the contribution the churchyard can make to the environment in line with the 5th Mark of Mission. Unfortunately, the plan for the Environment Group to manage the bottom half of the churchyard in 2022 was problematic. While there were some biodiversity improvements there were lots of complaints about the long grass. Visitors reported concerns about tripping up and not being able to find the graves they were looking for. It looked untidy to many. We are deeply sorry for the problems and distress this caused. With the help of Councillor Mark Warters we managed to get the Council to cut the grass back with their big machines. This has enabled the Community Payback teams to keep the grass in order to the same standard the volunteers have been maintaining the top half of the churchyard.

Given the considerable amount of work needed to restore the grass the PCC decided to maintain the short grass across the churchyard for the moment. The Environment Group are considering revised proposals. These will only be implemented after careful consideration by the PCC to ensure there is widespread support and that this can be successfully managed.

At the start of the 2022 season half our machines had to be scrapped. A generous donation of a new

machine was made to add to the fleet. As well as the standard fuel, grasscutters have been able to make use of the more expensive less toxic and cleaner alkylate fuel.

Peter Helm, Carole White and Colin Beale

7. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We have been blessed with some new volunteers for the Little People: Play and Praise group; Messy Church; the Home Communion Team and the Pastoral Visitors. We are so grateful to those who give their time and skills to our groups. However, because of the loss of our Assistant Curate, Mark Poole, we need another leader for the Re-Ignite group for children and young people. We are currently looking for a new leader to do this valuable work.

I am still working on the renewal of all DBS checks, some 35 in total, following the decision of the diocese to change the validity of the certificate from five years to three years. This involves sending out documents to volunteers, making appointments to see them with regard to their identification information, liaising with our DBS agency 31:8, and keeping records up to date. I have also been working on the National Church Institutions document, Safer Recruitment and People Management, as a member of the panel set up by them to evaluate this work.

While we are in an interregnum, we are working towards the swift appointment of a new Rector and hopefully also the appointment of an Assistant Curate soon after this, which will bring us back to a full team of clergy to carry on the brilliant work done by Nick Bird and Mark Poole. We are so grateful to our Reader, Judith Hewitt, all our Churchwardens and our retired clergy who have taken on so much extra work during this time.

There are no new serious safeguarding incidents to report.

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 5 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).

Mary Murray, Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice of Rural East York

8. PROCEEDINGS OF DERWENT DEANERY DURING 2022

Members of Derwent Deanery held four meetings throughout the year. Observing Covid-19 regulations the first meeting of the year in February was virtual, meetings in March and June were in-person, and from choice our November meeting was also virtual. Revd Jackie Doyle-Brett is our new Area Dean and we welcomed Revd Maxine Waller as she became house-for-duty assistant minister for Escrick, and Stillingfleet with Naburn. Revd Canon Nick Bird left to become part of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team as Advisor for Vocations. By December 2022 we had 7 clergy and 1 clergy vacancy. There were 18 lay members, 1 co-opted member and 4 vacancies. Jack Booth, from Osbaldwick, moved away and we welcomed Anne Gray in his place. We now have a Deanery Financial Adviser - Jill Patrick from Thorganby.

Most of our time has been spent on the development of "Living Christ's Story". In early February the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) received an information pack with our Deanery's statistics, financial data and suggestions for re-shaping ministry and in March the Deanery Plan Template was issued to us. This contained the format for submitting our plan for future development of mission and ministry within Derwent Deanery and was to be completed by 31 July for submission to Bishop John, Archdeacon Sam and Acting Archdeacon John Day. In March PCC secretaries were asked for input from PCCs and PCC representatives to be brought to our Deanery meeting, and were notified that we had to put a viable plan forward by the end of July. DLT met with clergy Chapter for an away day to discuss our first responses to all the questions posed by the Template. Two clergy (Revds Graham Horner and Mark Poole) with relevant experience were co-opted to work with DLT on the Template. After circulation of our first draft amongst members amendments were made, written submissions/amendments from PCCs were requested that were mostly included (almost all parishes sent in written submissions), meetings were held with the Bishop and Archdeacons to consider our drafts, and further revisions to the Plan were considered at our June meeting, followed in mid-July by an extra-ordinary meeting with any interested parties from parishes. Requested re-wording was done with the final eighth version submitted on 30 July. Given the time-scale and busy diaries much reliance was placed on all members to read documents and respond online. (Possibly incorrect in a formal report, but thank you to all who made time to communicate with DLT through this process.) One visible change has already happened as we renamed ourselves, becoming Derwent Deanery Partnership, signalling our aim of increasing co-operation and supporting each other, sharing our talents and assets more than we do now.

In addition to all the planning we held our Deanery Candlemas, Ascension Day and St Luke's Day services, our annual Quiet Day at Thorganby in September and a Quiet Time at Aughton in the spring (3hrs on a Saturday morning). Revds Mark Poole and Maxine Waller led us in sessions around "Living in Love and Faith" which looks at identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage alongside the good news of Jesus Christ. Anne Saunders hosted our summer picnic in July where we benefitted from the shade in her orchard. Simple, short Forget-Me-Not services for neuro-diverse, including Alzheimers sufferers, began to be held monthly at Escrick with a simple lunch afterwards. (Escrick church is readily accessible by the whole deanery, and has all the facilities required.)

Reports have come from General Synod and Diocesan Synod and from the Diocesan Office on our financial position. Sadly we have been more self-absorbed this year and hope to pay more attention to church outside our local concerns in future.

Alison Gilmour, secretary of Derwent Deanery, February 2023

Judith Hewitt, Joan Verrier and Margaret Eldridge are currently St Nicholas' delegates but this is election year. We need to elect three delegates to the Derwent Deanery Partnership. If you are interested please speak to Judith or Alison.

Judith Hewitt

9. MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Over the last year, with the encouragement and support of the PCC, we have started to explore less formal services and these are now being held on the second and third Sunday evenings of each month. The second Sunday service is largely composed of hymns and songs, some well-known, and others which are more contemporary. The third Sunday service aims to give space for us to encourage one another in our faith, primarily by chatting over tea and cake.

Our prayer is that these services, of which the existing congregation has been wonderfully supportive, might also be of value to people who would be reluctant to join us at our morning services.

We are blessed to have Lionel and Jocelyn to play for morning services, as well as Laudate (Angie, Anna, Susan, Victoria and Andy) our music group. I'm also grateful to Robert, and other organists who have played during the year, and to Judith, Jocelyn, our wardens and all our ministers and service leaders for helping to select the hymns.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has been involved in the evening services: to Colin, Victoria, Angie, Susan and Anna for the planning and preparation, and to everyone who provides cake, organises and serves the refreshments, and restores the kitchen and Tower Room to their original state, and to all who have supported this endeavour in any way, bringing us joy in our fellowship.

As we seek to appoint a new rector, we can look forward with hope and excitement for where we might be led in our worship and witness over the coming year.

David Marles, Director of Music

10. FAMILY WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

We had Family Worship on our service plan for 2022, but we didn't have many families attending. The families we had contact with before Covid have seen their children 'grow out' of Family Worship and we haven't been able to attract new families.

Lisa organized several Messy Church sessions, again attendance varied greatly. The Light Party in October was very successful and there was a real 'buzz' in the Tower Room.

Once again the Holiday Club, run with the Harton Group, in Stockton Village Hall was a popular event with the children and their parents.

We were sorry to see Lisa leave us, and we thanked her for her work with us, at a Benefice Service in January.

This year we have planned an 'event' each month for families and our prayer will be that God shows us how to attract families to come and share the events with us. Do take a leaflet from the Tower Room and pray for our mission with families.

Judith M. Hewitt

11. LITTLE PEOPLE PLAY AND PRAISE

Little People continues to be enjoyed by children, mums/carers and leaders Tuesday afternoons during term-time.

We have welcomed new families and hope they feel it is a happy environment for children to explore play, enjoy crafts, singing and Bible Stories. We hope mums/carers feel valued and supported. There are currently 18 families registered with us with 5-8 families at any one session.

Father Christmas managed to fit us into his very busy schedule again this year. Thank you to him. The party was enjoyed by all.

In the summer we said 'goodbye' to those children starting school in September and wished them a happy time. We also said 'goodbye' and 'thank you' to Sarah Ronaldson for her leadership over several years; to Nick as he started a new ministry; to Lisa Horton for her valued input and support of the group and the many Story Sacks to accompany our Storytime; and finally to Mark as he takes up his new Parishes. We are grateful to them all for their skills, support and prayers.

The shared Leadership is working well and we have welcomed two new volunteers onto the rota. A larger team would be even better as it takes the pressure off, especially when leaders have to pull out at short notice - usually due to illness which is inevitable with young children. Eileen and Carole are the stalwarts of the kitchen providing simple refreshments. Thank you to them for their willingness and happy smiles. Susan Wilson and I take a turn in the kitchen when other leaders are running the session but again we would welcome a few extra hands.

Susan Stigant (on behalf of the team)

12. RE-IGNITE GROUP

Re-Ignite is the youth group attached to St. Nicholas Church, it focuses on providing a safe space for young people to be themselves. We meet on the last Sunday of each month from 7pm and currently have just under 10 participants, this number will usually fluctuate throughout the year as the young people have other commitments.

The group activities focus on the young people, we consult them on what they would like to do and, where possible, we facilitate these. Usually sessions have a creative or adventurous theme, in 2022 we had a bake off, night walk, laser tag and music sessions to name a few.

I have really enjoyed my time supporting the group since joining the team in 2022. Sadly, at the start of 2023, we said farewell to Mark Poole as he left to support his own parishes in the Barmby Moor group. However, with support from the PCC and the Church we have kept the group running. The staff team is currently made up of myself, Grace Wilson, Mary Murray and Carole White - we are a strong group with a diverse skill set. We have been passed details of others within the wider parish who have expressed an interest in joining the team and we are in the process of reaching out to them.

Should you want any further information regarding Re-Ignite please contact myself.

Thom Hammond, Youth Leader @ Re-Ignite

13. PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Visiting Teams

At St Nicholas we have a Visiting team and a Communion for the Housebound team. The purpose of the teams is to ensure communion and home visits are offered to those unable to attend church services, whether on a temporary or permanent basis. This enables people to remain within the family of the church when they find getting to church is difficult.

Visits are carried out monthly and are confidential. We currently have twelve people on these two teams.

I am very grateful to the members of the teams for the work they do and thank them for volunteering their time in this way!

Judith Peeke-Vout, Pastoral Team Co-ordinator

Light a Candle Café

The Light a Candle Café, (Bereavement Café) has continued to be held 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 you feel you could invite or bring someone?

Judith M. Hewitt

14. MEDITATION

The Christian Meditation Group celebrates its 10th year in 2023. Since its formation the group has had a stable, faithful, membership of 10 to 12 people which has recently increased to 15. In 2022 the group met every month on the fourth Wednesday with an average attendance of 9 people.

The group practises silent contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel. 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 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. This year we have arranged a visit in June to a Coptic Orthodox monastery near Scarborough. The Coptic Church is an ancient branch of Christianity dating back to Alexandria in New Testament times and is said to have been established by St Mark. The church was one of the earliest to establish a monastic tradition of hermits and communities in the mountainous desert of Egypt, and to practise silent, contemplative prayer.

In 2022 we held two **Secular Meditation Courses** led by Peter Moorhouse and Carole White. The 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. The 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 total 14 people attended the courses, 3 of whom were church members. Feedback from participants was very positive and 3 people have joined the Christian Meditation Group, one of whom is a non-churchgoer.

Revd Peter Moorhouse

15. EVENING FELLOWSHIP

The Evening Fellowship Group meets once a month, usually on the third Wednesday at 7:30pm. We meet to study Scripture, pray together and enjoy conversation about a wide range of topics including the challenges of Christian discipleship in the 21st century.

During the summer term we followed chapters from Resound Worship's Doxecology study guide, on

themes of worshipping with creation and being responsible tenants of God's Kingdom and the environment. This included a lovely summer's evening enjoying God's creation within St Nicholas' churchyard.

Since July we have returned to our pre-lockdown practice of meeting in members' homes, and are grateful for the welcoming and relaxing hospitality provided. We shared a meal of homemade soup, bread and puddings for our December meeting. In recent months we have been studying the exciting story of Daniel, together with brief passages on linked themes from the Gospels. Group members have taken turns to lead the evenings.

Ten to twelve people have been involved with the group this year. New members are always welcome.

Pamela White

16. SACRISTAN

As services have gradually returned to a more predictable and regular pattern it has been my task to ensure that everything is ready and correct for the services on Sundays and during the 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 thanks goes in particular to Judith Hewitt who covers for me whenever I am away (not that often!) and to others who help out occasionally with doing a colour change.

As ever, it would be really good if someone was willing to volunteer to learn what's involved. All the things that need attending to are written down, but it takes a bit of time to become familiar with it. If there is someone who could commit to doing it once a month, I would find this really helpful. (And it would mean that if ever I was wanting a bit of time off it wouldn't all fall on Judith!)

Carole White

17. SOCIAL EVENTS PLANNING GROUP

We are happy to be able to report that a number of events have taken place this year where we were able to offer a warm welcome and opportunity for people of the Benefice and the wider communities to come together socially.

- In June a special "Cake and Cuppa" event was held on the Saturday morning as part of the weekend celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.
- The Beer & Hymns & Pimms evening in July was, again, an extremely popular and successful social event that will definitely be repeated in future!
- Also in July a "Bee Friendly Trail" created a bit of a buzz around the village – this was a joint venture with the Dunnington Green Initiatives Group – encouraging people to choose pollinator-friendly plants. Plants and crafts were sold and refreshments served in the Tower Room. Proceeds were split between the church and the DEC Ukraine appeal.
- For Harvest weekend we held a Home Grown Entertainment Evening when good food was enjoyed interspersed with some amusing entertainment. Proceeds from this event were split between the local Carecent charity and a Local Foodbank.

- Once again, we provided refreshments for spectators on York marathon Sunday in October which was appreciated by many and a great way of supporting this local event.
- We were delighted to host the York City Gospel Choir who entertained us with a concert in October and also the Stamford Bridge Singers for an Evensong service in November.
- The Annual Christmas Fayre/Coffee Morning was again one of our main fundraisers.
- Recently a great many pancakes were enjoyed by young and old at our Shrove Tuesday pancake party.

The money raised from these activities has helped to boost the Tower Room re-roofing appeal as well as enabling us to support several charities.

More events are planned for the coming year as we continue to provide ways for our community to gather together and offer hospitality as a church. We would love to hear your suggestions for different events.

We have recently had to say goodbye to two members of the planning group - Diane and Emma (Nick and Mark took them with them!) - so volunteers to be part of the group would be especially welcome now – or would you be willing to help out at some of the events? If you are interested please speak to Judith, Joan or myself.

Eve Scoreby, on behalf of the Social Events Planning Group

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 24 January 2023 that the £224.74 dividends received in 2022 should be given to the Dunnington Primary School to better support pupils on “Pupil Premium “.

Peter Helm, Carole White and Robert Woolley

19. GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE

The financial year 2022 was a challenging one for the Grapevine Magazine. Like most operational trading units nationally, we have been affected by users reviewing their regular expenditure, and have lost quite a few of the advertisers who had made a commitment to us in September 2021, but declined to do so in 2022.

We have been able to partially negate this effect by our decision to increase our advertising charges by 6% and to increase the magazine copy cost from 40p to 50p.

As a consequence of the reduced revenue we recorded a loss for the year, and a reduction of £2,200 in our funds. Obviously we cannot afford this to be an ongoing trend and we will seek to attract more advertisers.

Barry Hewitt continues to manage the subscriptions and distributions and my wife, Margaret, and I continue in our joint role of recording and controlling the finances. Lou Dover relinquished her role as Communications Officer in the autumn, as she had undertaken a full time employment position and started on a course of study that meant she could no longer provide the commitment needed for the role. Lisa Horton offered to step in and covered the role for the rest of the year, and into 2023, until we were able to appoint a new Communications Officer. Our thanks go to both Lou and Lisa and we

wish them well for the future.

The new Communications Officer, Helen Cross, is now in place. Please welcome her as she makes herself known around the Benefice churches.

A special thanks too for Barry and all of the magazine distributors – the Grapevine Magazine is very much a team effort.

Articles, news stories, and other suitable items are welcome. We trust that parishioners will continue to read and appreciate our magazine.

Dave Safhill, Grapevine Treasurer

20. GIFT AID AND PLANNED GIVING

First of all, a **“Massive Thank You”** to everyone who gives their time, talents and money to the work of St Nicholas’ Church here in Dunnington.

At the end of the church’s financial year there were 68 individuals/giving units making their free-will offerings in a planned way (63 giving by standing order and 5 through the weekly envelope scheme), of these 49 were gift aiding their offerings and 3 contributing by various other giving schemes.

The Gift Aid Scheme and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme are very important components of the church’s general income, accounting for over £19,000 of total general income (17%), in addition many gift aided their donations to our building projects’ appeal. So, another “thank you” to those who gift aid their offerings and donations.

Furthermore, Gift Aid recovery is a totally free gift, a present, from the Government.....now who doesn’t like a free gift/present???

I am sure that we can improve on the amount received through Gift Aid and that many more of our congregation could gift aid their offerings and donations. The church receives 25p for every £1 you give with Gift Aid – **at no cost to you!!**

There are a number of myths surrounding Gift Aid so don’t let them get in the way of signing up! Here are my **“Gift Aid Myth Busters”**

1. ***I’M A PENSIONER, GIFT AID DOESN’T APPLY TO ME***

Not true. Many pensioners have income streams which are taxable, or pay capital gains taxes on investments – these tax payments qualify for Gift Aid, up to the amount of tax paid.

2. ***THE TAXMAN (HMRC) WILL SELECT ME FOR AN AUDIT OR REVIEW PAST TAX RETURNS***

No. Gift Aid filings do not trigger anything in HMRC’s database, but are solely to ascertain if you’re a taxpayer on record. No connection to your past tax returns or an audit will result.

3. ***MY INFORMATION WILL BE SOLD OR USED BY OTHER CHARITIES***

No. Your details are protected by law, only to be used by the charity to which you donate.

4. ***I’M A HIGHER RATE TAXPAYER; I’M NOT ELIGIBLE***

Yes, you are! If you Gift Aid your donations, the church can claim an extra 25p for every £1 that you give, and you can reclaim the difference between the basic and higher rate of tax for yourself when you complete your tax return.

5. *I'LL HAVE TO KEEP TRACK & DO MORE PAPERWORK*

All you need to do is complete **one** Gift Aid Declaration form, which can cover all your donations to the church – and that's it! We can provide you with a statement of all your donations annually if you wish.

6. MY TAXES WILL GO UP IF I CLAIM GIFT AID

No. Gift Aid is retrospective and has nothing to do with future taxes; it's for tax already paid.

So.....if you do not already gift aid your offerings or donations and think that you may be eligible, then please prayerfully consider your position and complete a Gift Aid Declaration form, which can be found on the table by the Tower Room door entrance to the main church. Please pass the completed form to me. If you are still unsure about your position then I shall be happy to have a confidential chat with you to assess your situation.

Robert Woolley, Gift Aid and Planned Giving Officer

21. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW- YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2022 has seen a continuation in financial stability, with income and expenditure levels back to pre-COVID levels. However, the full effects of the cost of living crisis are yet to be seen. The PCC needs to prepare for substantial increases in utility costs (from November when the 3-year fixed term gas contract ends) and likely reductions in giving.

The final outturn for the year on all funds, before accounting for net investment losses, was total income £147,842 (2021, £143,558) and total expenditure £118,130 (2021, £119,210) resulting in net income (a surplus) of £29,712 (2021, £24,348). The General Fund realised a surplus of £12,252 (2021, £6,085).

Planned giving by standing order slightly increased to £56,610 in 2022 (2021, £52,930). Free Will Offerings (open plate collections and the church's share of collections at funerals) increased from £7,672 in 2021 to £10,739 in 2022. This was driven by some very generous 'one-off' donations at funeral collections. Envelope giving has decreased to £1,720 (2021, £3,014). As church activities have returned to normal levels, online donations decreased to £833 (2021, £1,939). Use of the contactless card machine has grown to £1,057 (£219 collected Sept-Dec 2021). Donations received by cash or cheque were £19,951 (compared to £19,106 in 2021 and £4,696 in 2020); a direct result of the Big Build campaign which began in 2021.

The 'Big Build' campaign to replace the Tower Room roof and heating has raised approximately £30,000 through a combination of donations, grants and fundraising events (all allocated to the Fabric fund). Notably, we received a £2,500 Ward Council Grant and £5,248 from a Crowdfunding initiative organised by Aviva. The total raised is over £70,000 (excluding a £19,500 loan from the Diocese of York).

Income from Tower Room bookings has not recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels. In 2022, £800 was received in lettings compared to £420 in 2021 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 increased by 4% to £57,396 in 2022 following a 0% increase in 2020 to 2021. Due to significant increases in giving this year (notably, open plate collections,

contactless giving and giving via standing order), the Mission and Giving donations will be £4,250 each to an overseas charity and a 'home' charity (2021, £3,850 each).

The General Fund balance (reserves) at the year-end have increased to £26,808 (in 2021 the General Fund balance was £14,792). Restricted Funds have seen a substantial increase due to the ongoing Big Build fundraising.

There was a downturn of the stock markets in 2022, which saw the market value of The Church Estate Fund investment decrease by £5,040 (11.5%) and the James Twinam Fund investment decrease by £1,021 (12.5%). 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 £11,381 (2021, £12,638). There is £10,308 remaining in the fund which will be used (alongside a donation from Stockton on the Forest PCC) to finance a further two years employment of this role.

Reductions in advertising income have resulted in a reduction in operating profits from the parish magazine (Grapevine). This was partially offset by increased subscription and advertising rates but 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 losses on investments, amounted to £23,651 surplus (2021 £30,770 surplus), which when added to the funds brought forward at the beginning of the year, resulted in fund balances to carry forward at 31 December 2022 of £168,522 (2021, £144,871).

Helen Pomfret, PCC Treasurer (March 2023)

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

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds		
	General	Designated		2022	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	91,774	22	22,352	114,148	116,919
Charitable activities	2(b)	4,725	180	12,857	17,762	13,095
Other trading activities	2(c)	2,195	-	11,434	13,629	12,164
Investments	2(d)	-	112	2,191	2,303	1,380
Total income		98,694	314	48,834	147,842	143,558
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3(a)	451	51	176	678	224
Charitable activities	3(b)	85,991	11,381	8,774	106,146	100,666
Other trading activities	3(c)	-	-	11,306	11,306	18,320
Total expenditure		86,442	11,432	20,256	118,130	119,210
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		12,252	(11,118)	28,578	29,712	24,348
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	-	-	(6,061)	(6,061)	6,422
Net income/(expenditure)		12,252	(11,118)	22,517	23,651	30,770
Transfers between funds		(236)	-	236	-	-
Net movement in Funds		12,016	(11,118)	22,753	23,651	30,770
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		14,792	21,685	108,394	144,871	114,101
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		£ 26,808	£ 10,567	£ 131,147	£ 168,522	£ 144,871

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	-	45,516	45,516	51,577
		-	-	45,516	45,516	51,577
Current Assets						
Debtors	7	11,058	-	119	11,177	10,832
Cash at bank and in hand		26,218	10,567	113,219	150,004	104,772
Total Current Assets		37,276	10,567	113,338	161,181	115,604
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	10,468	-	8,207	18,675	22,310
Total Current Liabilities		10,468	-	8,207	18,675	22,310
Net Current Assets		26,808	10,567	105,131	142,506	93,294
Total assets less current liabilities		26,808	10,567	150,647	188,022	144,871
Non-Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due to be paid beyond one year	9	-	-	19,500	19,500	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-	19,500	19,500	-
Net Assets		£ 26,808	£ 10,567	£ 131,147	£ 168,522	£ 144,871
Parish Funds						
Unrestricted General Funds		26,808	-	-	26,808	14,792
Unrestricted Designated Funds	10	-	10,567	-	10,567	21,685
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	131,147	131,147	108,394
		£ 26,808	£ 10,567	£ 131,147	£ 168,522	£ 144,871

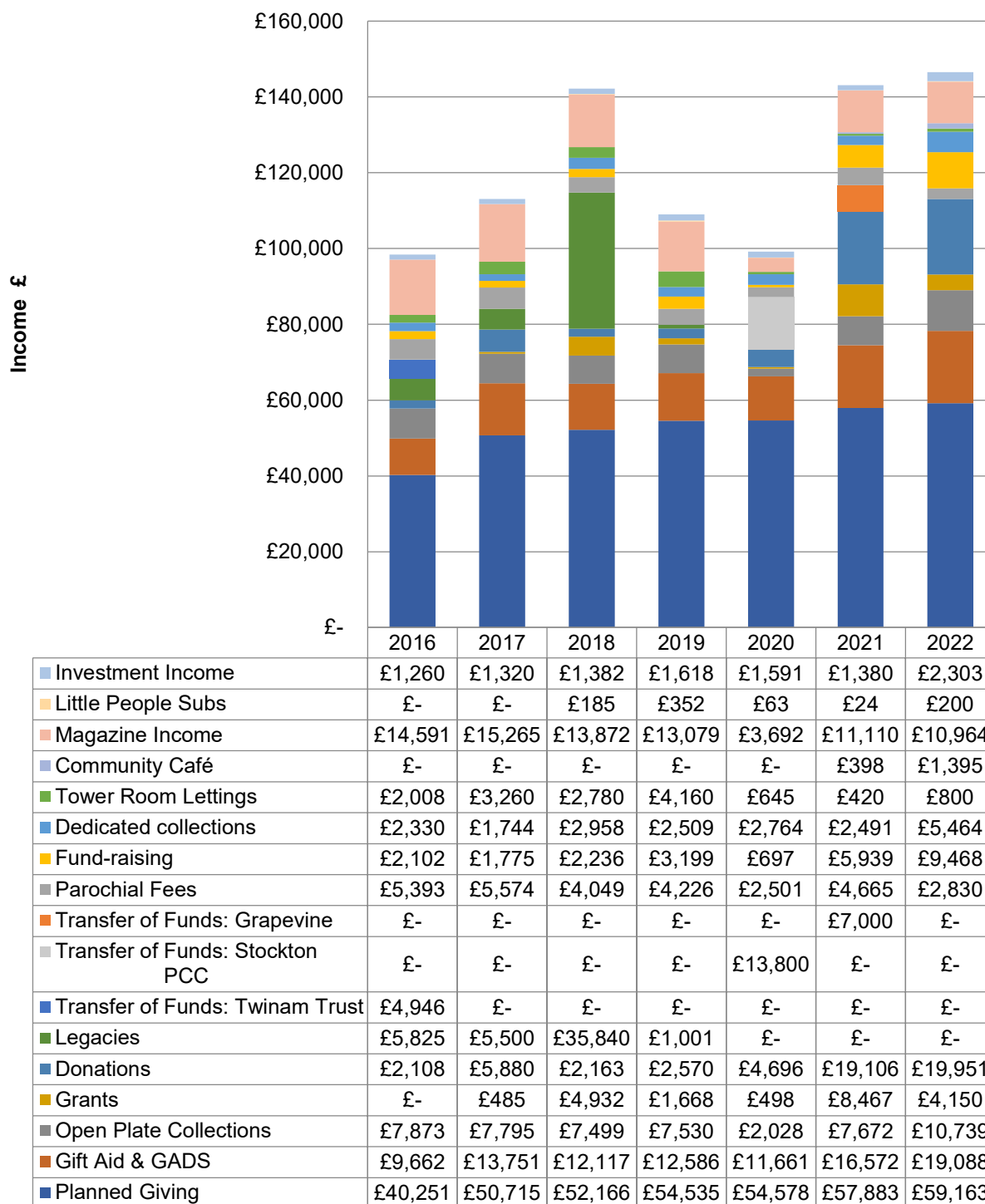
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 15th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr P F Helm
PCC Lay Chair

.....
H L Pomfret
Treasurer

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

Income 2016 to 2022 (all funds)



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

Expenditure (all funds) 2016 to 2022

