



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

Sunday 21st April 2024 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: 23rd April 2023
- 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 19th April). 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) 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 23rd April 2023**

This meeting was held during the 10.30 am service.

Judith Hewitt, LLM (Reader), welcomed everyone and described the format the meetings would take.

Annual meeting for Election of Churchwardens

Two nomination forms had been received for Carole White and Peter Helm. Both were eligible for re-election. Judith said she valued all the extra work that Carole and Peter have been doing during the vacancy and was grateful that they were both willing to continue. **There being no other nominations Carole White and Peter Helm were duly elected unopposed.**

This part of the annual meeting then closed and Peter Helm, Lay Chair, took over.

Peter began by thanking both Helen Pomfret, PCC Treasurer, and Eve Scoreby, PCC Secretary, for producing the two documents. He also expressed thanks to the contributors of the numerous reports.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The minutes of last year's meeting held on Sunday 8th May 2022 were agreed as a true record. **Acceptance was proposed by Ken Simey and seconded by Jim Gilmour.** The minutes were subsequently signed by Peter Helm (Lay Chair).

Presentation of the Annual Reports:

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

It was reported that the electoral roll stood at 125, a decrease of one since the previous APCM. Peter thanked Elizabeth Skilbeck, Electoral Roll Officer, and said anyone who would like to be added to the Roll should speak to Elizabeth, Carole or himself.

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.

Peter said it was evident that a lot had happened during the year.

He continued by saying that it has been quite challenging going through the recruitment process and keeping everything going during the vacancy. He thanked everyone involved in helping with the process to fill the vacancy – in particular those people who had worked to develop the Benefice Profile, including

Carole and Eve for pulling the Profile document together, and everyone involved in the recent interview process. It was hoped to be able to announce the appointment of the new Rector fairly soon.

Peter also said an especial thank you to Judith for all her work this year and also to Carole. He said that, among other things, Judith and Carole have made sure that there have been priests for services, not just at St Nicholas but across the Benefice.

Peter continued by thanking everyone who has given their time and talent to keep mission going during this past “different” year including those involved in:

Leading or helping with services

Cleaning, tidying up the church and churchyard and keeping the church open

Flower arranging

Pastoral visiting

Organising or helping with the many children’s and older residents’ activities

Production and distribution of the Grapevine magazine

Doing various offices

Handling the money and finance

Refreshments and social events

Regarding Safeguarding, Peter thanked Mary Murray for the important work she continues to do as Benefice Safeguarding Officer and he read from the Safeguarding report as follows: *“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 and Peter also emphasised the importance of new PCC members completing their DBS checks and doing the required Safeguarding training as early as possible.

Regarding the Fabric Report Peter gave assurance that we are keeping on top of all the necessary routine maintenance checks etc. He was also pleased to report that the work on reroofing of the Tower Room is now scheduled to begin early September.

The Derwent Deanery Report stated that during 2022 most time had been spent on the development of “Living Christ’s Story” including producing the Deanery Plan for future development of mission and ministry. The aim is to work much more closely together in the future. To signal this aim the Derwent Deanery Synod had renamed themselves as the Derwent Deanery Partnership. Alison Gilmour, Deanery secretary, said there has been a lot of involvement from the Diocese in development of the plan with several extra meetings attended by the Bishop and Archdeacons. This is an ongoing fluid process.

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. 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 2022 were all also included in the Annual Reports document.

Peter expressed thanks to Helen for the excellent job she continues to do as PCC Treasurer. He said that financially we were in a fairly good position at the end of 2022. He said we have been protected to some extent from the increase in energy prices by an advantageous fixed-term contract negotiated by Helen,

however this comes to an end later this year.

He also mentioned that the Grapevine magazine lost money last year so this is something that needs to be addressed.

There were no questions.

Judith said she wanted to add special thanks to everyone involved in putting together the online services. Some considerable work is required to continue to produce these. These services are still very much appreciated, clearly evident by the number of views each week.

Acceptance of all the reports, en bloc as presented, including the Treasurer's report and accounts, was officially proposed by John Neale, seconded by Pat Muir and agreed without dissent.

Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory: These were available for inspection by request to the churchwardens.

Elections:

Deanery Synod Representatives (Derwent Deanery Partnership Delegates): Elections for Deanery Representatives take place every three years. Three nomination forms had been received for **Judith Hewitt, Margaret Eldridge and Steven Wilson who were therefore duly elected unopposed.**

PCC Members: Peter thanked the members who had completed their elected terms of office – Heather Hogg, John Neale, Elizabeth Skilbeck and Robert Woolley. Also Pat Muir and Eve Scoreby who had completed a year as co-opted members.

Vacancies to fill were four for 3-year term, three for 2-year term and also one vacancy for a 1-year term (due to Steve Wilson becoming an ex-officio member of the PCC as a Derwent Deanery Partnership Delegate).

Five nomination forms had been received for:

Jennifer Brooks (3-year vacancy)

Angela Creswick (3-year vacancy)

Joan Verrier (3-year vacancy)

Pamela White (3-year vacancy)

Patricia Muir (2-year vacancy)

Peter asked if there was anyone else willing to be nominated. **There being no other nominations the above named were all elected unopposed and welcomed as members of the PCC.**

A list of PCC members will be displayed on the noticeboard alongside the minutes of PCC meetings. Minutes of PCC meetings are now displayed following approval by members via email (previously the minutes were displayed after agreement at the next PCC meeting).

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. **Peter therefore proposed re-appointment of Brian Hopper as Independent Examiner. This was seconded by Barry Hewitt and agreed by show of hands.**

As Eve was stepping down from the role of PCC Secretary after 8 years Carole presented her with a thank you gift.

The business of the meeting having been concluded the service resumed.

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1. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

There are 124 names on the electoral roll at this time, one less than reported at our last APCM on 23rd April 2023. Two names have been added and three people have, sadly, passed away.

Elizabeth Skilbeck, Electoral Roll Officer

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2023-24

The PCC met on seven occasions during the year with an average attendance of 13. The number of members throughout most of the year was eight elected lay members, one lay member co-opted for the year and six Ex-officio members. In the latter part of the year, there was a vacancy for three lay members (one elected member having stepped down in August). At the meeting held immediately after the 2023 APCM, Elizabeth Skilbeck was appointed Secretary, Helen Pomfret was re-appointed as Treasurer, and Peter Helm was appointed Lay Chair.

Revd Kath McBride, Incumbent, took up her post on 4th July, 2023. The April and June PCC meetings were, therefore, chaired by Peter Helm (Lay Chair).

At the APCM on Sunday 21st April 2024 Colin Beale, Andrew Pomfret and June Rickell all complete their elected term of office. Elizabeth Skilbeck completes a year as co-opted member. 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 2027
- Three vacancies for elected lay members who will serve on the PCC for one year 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.

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
- The format of Sunday worship at St Nicholas
- Big Build Projects (Tower Room roof replacement and new heating system for the church)

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'S REPORT

I've been in the benefice now for almost nine months, and this report is a good opportunity to both reflect on that time and to look forward to the coming church year. Thank you so much to everyone at St Nicholas for your warm welcome: Phil, Ben, Sam and I feel very at home in the Rectory and have enjoyed getting to know you and joining with you in worship and mission. Thank you also to the church wardens, PCC members, and all those involved in leading worship (both lay and ordained) for looking after everything so well during the interregnum and for continuing to work with me and support me in my ministry here.

St Nicholas' Church continues to provide regular services for three distinct congregations through our traditional early Book Of Common Prayer services, our Sunday mid-morning services and our Wednesday morning communions, and there's also our fortnightly Sunday@7 worship. We provide communion services for the local care homes, or in individual homes, as well as in conjunction with the parish lunches and Fun, Food and Fellowship. We have a steady flow of weddings, baptisms and funerals, which give powerful opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those not usually in our church community. Other sections in this report give more detail about other ministries and activities based at St Nicholas' Church, and I'd like to thank all those involved for the time and energy given to serving in these different ways, which are all part of a thriving church which serves its local community.

As well as parish ministry, I'm a governor for all three of our benefice primary schools, I'm a clergy representative for our deanery on Diocesan Synod and a chaplain at York Minster. I'm also a new trustee for the Bus Stop, a youth outreach charity based in York Diocese, and I have long standing connections with York Schools and Youth Trust (Yoyo). I think it's important to have a wider outlook on faith and the church through being involved in projects outside the benefice, and I know that these roles enrich my ministry here.

There's an analogy I used at our Vision Day which I'd like to share again here to explain the position I find myself in. Imagine a beautiful, round cake, made for sharing. As you begin cutting, the slices might be quite generous, but more people come along and the slices have to get thinner. But you can only go so far - cut too thin and the slices become crumbs hardly worth having, and of course the cake doesn't get any bigger - it's the same size it was to begin with. This is a metaphor for my time and energy: there's only a certain amount of it and I have to decide how to apportion it. There are certain things that are non-negotiable and need to be done, like Sunday services, weddings and PCC meetings, but I'm finding that the time for other things I think are important is becoming squeezed. I need help in working out what my priorities need to be, and what things might be delegated, altered or dropped to create space for these priorities. I'm soon going to be forming a strategy group to work on our benefice vision and priorities, and how we effectively put these into practice.

Since I arrived I've been trying to manage a healthy balance in leaving some things as they are and introducing some changes. There are many riches in our Christian heritage, and I value tradition and familiarity, but there must also be room for experiment and new ways of worshipping the God who is 'doing a new thing'. (Isaiah 43:19) As a new Rector, new to being an incumbent, I will inevitably do things differently from my predecessors, but I hope that you will trust me to be seeking God as I lead the church. Those of us who are already disciples need to continue to deepen our faith, to 'be found in him' (Philippians 3:9) and to discern together his vision for our ministry and mission in Dunnington and the benefice.

But it is on my heart (and the recruitment process showed it to be a benefice vision too) to reach out to those younger generations who are often missing from our Sunday worship, to reveal the love that Jesus has for each of them and to make faith in God possible in their day to day lives. At the Vision Day in February, I introduced everyone to a quotation I find really helpful in mission:

'We do not draw people to Christ by boldly discrediting what they believe... but by showing them a light so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.'

We each need to be people who demonstrate the light of Christ in our lives and illuminate the way for others to find him for themselves. We each need to *live out* Christ's story of love and service, but also to *tell out* the good news of Christ's story: that in love he came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10) Please join me in praying for the people of our community to come to know Jesus, for more opportunities to share our faith and for new and experienced pilgrims to travel together the way of discipleship.

Revd Kath McBride

4. SACRISTAN'S REPORT

The Sacristan is a person who ensures that the services of Holy Communion can run smoothly, by setting up everything prior to the services and then clearing away afterwards.

I am pleased to report that Pat Muir and Eve Scoreby have joined me in performing this valuable ministry at St Nicholas, so that when I am occasionally away, they can set up for the 8am and 10.30am communion services. Their assistance in preparing for the major festivals is much appreciated.

Carole White

5. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

It has been once again a very busy year. The first half was managing things without a Rector and Curate and selecting the new Rector. The second half was supporting the new Rector and minimising the impact of work on the new Tower Room Roof. There is a strong base from which to continue to develop and grow.

Our thanks go to the Rector and the Clergy team and staff for all the leadership and support they give. 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. However, we do need more people to help and lead activities to share the work out and to enable the church to fully function. Please do consider if you can help in any way. This can be a very rewarding experience, with volunteers getting a high level of satisfaction from what they are able to contribute.

With every blessing

Carole White and Peter Helm

6. FABRIC

The main priority this year has been ensuring the successful installation of the Tower Room Roof, a culmination of 3 years of hard work in planning and fund raising. Plans, approvals, and insurance money are in place for rebuilding the damaged church wall – the builders are just waiting for the right weather to do the work. The leak in the church showed the importance of the high-level gutter cleaning, which has been completed and the ongoing church roof maintenance. With Barry Hewitt's help the broken church boiler was fixed. Given that the boilers have a limited life and are very inefficient, reinforces the important work of the heating group in developing and implementing a new heating system. While funds are building up, more fund raising is going to be needed.

As usual there have been numerous checks and servicing to keep on top of.

The church wardens have ensured the grass has been regularly cut by the volunteers and the Community Payback Team. With being a closed churchyard, York Council have cut the hedge at the back of the churchyard and helped with a few grass cuts. The general reaction has been very positive with far fewer complaints than last year. We still need to recruit a church yard manager to better ensure the upkeep of the churchyard and ensure we are doing what we can to enhance the environment.

Peter Helm, Carole White and Angie Creswick

7. 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 13th March 2024 that the £226.59 dividends received in 2023 should be given to the Dunnington Primary School to better support pupils on "Pupil Premium".

Peter Helm, Carole White and Robert Woolley

8. PROCEEDINGS OF DERWENT DEANERY DURING 2023

Revd Jackie Doyle-Brett is our Area Dean and we welcomed Revd Kath McBride as Rector of the benefice of Rural East York and Revd Nick Garside to the parishes of Riccall, Barlby and Hemingbrough (after the retirement of Revd Graham Horner). By December 2023 we had 6 clergy and there were 16 lay members, 1 co-opted member and 6 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 (Paul Botting), 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 Osbaldwick, Elvington and Wheldrake, resuming our pre-Covid practice of moving around the Deanery. We first heard from Sammi Tooze (Discipleship Adviser & Strategy Enabler) on developing "Living Christ's Story" with the new material "Rhythm of Life" which focusses on growing in discipleship, following a teacher, living and sharing, and enabling us to grow in faith. We were all encouraged to develop patterns of regular prayer and bible reading, become involved in regular worship and adopt patterns of rest.

In June we were led by David and Tina Powell who spoke to us of developing our Deanery Plan as we work towards our aim of being a welcoming and inclusive Deanery. Being inclusive enables church to grow, develop youth work, support people later in life, provide a safe space for all, welcome people wherever they are in their personal journey and ensure safety for all, both in a practical sense and in safeguarding. We were reminded to welcome positively— it is not the building that welcomes, it is us — the people.

And in November, again relating to our Deanery Plan and Living Christ's Story, we welcomed Prof Colin Beale (an ecology professor from York University and speaking on behalf of A Rocha) to a conversation between himself and Revd Jan Nobel (Diocesan Green Ambassador) as we encourage our parishes to treasure (one of the Five Marks of Mission) the integrity of creation, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth. We heard of Eco-Church; a programme specifically for churches to consider eco concerns, our land use, lightening our carbon footprints, fostering recycling, sharing the use of our buildings in our communities.

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. To maintain our habit of involving all parishes each service has been led by a team from a different benefice/group of parishes operating in St Helen's Church. We had a well-attended 3 hours of Quiet Time in Dunnington in the Spring led by Revd John Trevenna and an equally well-attended Quiet Day in September at Thicket Priory led by Revd Canon Sue Sheriff. As a new venture we hosted an afternoon to which all Licensed and Authorised Lay Ministers were invited - they reported that meeting together as a group was valuable fellowship and we will repeat this in the Summer. A Deanery Prayer Calendar was proposed and the first one was distributed in December for the first four months of 2024 to give prayer support where it has been requested, and enable us each to be aware of the concerns, thanksgivings and work in all our parishes. A training session for all existing intercessors was held in September with a welcome extended to those who might like to know more. Monthly Deanery Compline was changed to become Deanery Evening Prayer on the fourth Monday evening of each month, led by our clergy.

Reports have come to us from General Synod and Diocesan Synod, and from the Diocesan Office on our financial position. We were informed that each Ministry Unit has to be financially viable. Finances can be aggregated over a benefice. and contributions in kind or money may be given to other benefices to free up money for FreeWill Offering Share to be paid to the Diocese.

Alison Gilmour, Secretary of Derwent Deanery (March 2024)

9. CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Little People continues to offer play, crafts, singing, Bible stories, refreshments and friendship for children and carers. We try to link our crafts to Christian and Seasonal events. Santa Claus kindly manages to fit us in to his busy schedule.

The number of attendees varies from week to week, ranging from 4-5 families mainly (three of those children being brought by Grandmas) to 6-8 families on occasions. We have fewer older 3 and 4 year olds as more parents are taking up the nursery extra hours offered. Some of our mothers come for a few months after giving birth but then cannot attend on returning to work. We try to keep in touch with all the families who have registered with us through our WhatsApp group, and by sending the child a birthday card until they start school. We hope they know they are still valued and are welcome to come anytime they are able.

Thank you to our three 'tea ladies' who serve refreshments freeing up the two DBS leaders to run the sessions. The Leadership team consists of four DBS members, two with young babies and who are currently unable to set up and run sessions. So it falls to the remaining two to be there each week. This is becoming harder to sustain.

We ask for your prayers to encourage others to consider how they can add to the team in order to keep Little People going.

Sue Stigant

Children and Youth

As with many churches across York Diocese and nationally, we have few young people regularly attending our church services, though two young people were confirmed last March, and we do have lots of contact and opportunities to share the gospel with young people elsewhere. Revd Kath, Revd Tim Eady and Judith Hewitt alternate in leading Collective Worship at Dunnington Primary, and once a term the school lead services in church. Revd Kath has also been into some lessons and is a foundation governor, and there is a strong relationship between church and school.

Our Messy Church gatherings continued over summer 2023 and were popular with local families. We noticed that many families didn't arrive for the start time though, and that there were lots of pre-school age children present, so the format has been adapted and renamed 'Discover' and families can explore the activities at their own pace. Discover Pancakes was particularly well supported by all ages, and from both our church and local community.

Reignite youth group ran fortnightly between September and Christmas with several new members; but many regulars had other commitments and we struggled to find leaders who were able to give the time needed for planning and preparing sessions. We hope to find another way forward for the group soon.

We still have funds available for a children and families worker, though we perhaps need to review the job description - please could a few people step forward to work on recruitment with Revd Kath, and can we pray for direction in this area and for the right candidate?

The Contemporary Communion services at St Nicholas are intended to be accessible for all ages by including more visual and interactive elements, and we are beginning to see some families regularly joining the congregation. We've also had several baptism services this year, though these tend to be outside our regular worship times so that we can comfortably accommodate the visitors - Revd Kath hopes that our congregation members will sometimes come along to these services to really welcome the children into the family of God. Our Christmas services also proved popular with families, in particular the Christingle service, and it was great to welcome back children and young people who have visited in previous years.

Many different people from our congregation have been involved in planning, preparing and staffing our events for younger people, for which we are very grateful - thank you for the time and effort you have given to help our youngest members grow in faith. Others have supported practically, in prayer or financially, so thank you also to those people. Please continue to pray that as a church we might strengthen the connections between church, home and school, and that we might find the best ways to help the children in our community to build a relationship with Jesus for themselves.

10. MUSIC IN WORSHIP

It has been a great joy to work with so many different musicians in our church during 2023, as we seek to praise God together. I'm very grateful to Lionel, Jocelyn and everyone who has led our music from the organ, and to everyone who has been a part of Laudate in the last year.

The Sunday@7 evening services are filled with music and it has been wonderful to have the opportunity to be able to join together to worship in a less formal setting. The Easter services and the Christmas carol service stand out as times when we praised with music old and new.

Most of all, singing God's praises week by week, as an expression of our love for God and for one another, is such a delight. I'm deeply thankful for everyone who has been a part of that at St Nicholas' over the last year: organists, music group and congregation alike.

David Marles, Director of Music

11. EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP REPORT

The Evening Fellowship Group meets once a month on a Wednesday evening, in members' homes. During the summer term 2023 the group finished our series of Bible studies from the book of Daniel. We gained valuable insights from Daniel's faithful life of prayer.

This academic year we have been studying Paul's missionary journeys and his encounters with the Roman authorities. It has been helpful to become more familiar with the second half of the book of Acts, since we hear more frequently from the first half in our church services.

Members have particularly valued the time towards the end of each evening when we have prayed for world concerns, the changing life of our Benefice and the needs of friends and colleagues.

There is room for new members to join the group and we would be delighted to welcome you.

Pamela White

12. CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP REPORT

The Christian Meditation Group enters its 11th year in 2024. The group currently has a membership of 16 people, with an average attendance of 11. In 2023 the group met every month on the fourth Wednesday. The group practices 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 in the Tower Room.

Our annual away day in 2023 was to a Coptic Orthodox monastery near Scarborough, followed by a meal in a local restaurant. The Coptic Church is an ancient branch of Christianity dating back to Alexandria in New Testament times and is said to have been founded by St Mark. The church was one of the earliest to develop a monastic tradition of hermits and communities in the mountainous desert of Egypt, and to practice silent, contemplative prayer.

Our away day in June this year will be to Ripon Cathedral. Ripon Cathedral is one of our oldest foundations having been established in 672 by St Wilfrid, the Abbot of Ripon. Some 1,350 years later the Anglo-Saxon Crypt remains intact.

Revd Peter Moorhouse

13. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Following the 2023 APCM, the Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Mary Murray, decided to step down from the role, but not before working extremely hard for several months to ensure that clear records and guidance were in place for her successor. The Rector and St Nicholas PCC would like to thank her again for her energetic service in this role for a number of years - we are in a strong position with regards to safeguarding because of the careful thought and diligent tracking that Mary undertook.

Following the decision by the diocese to require DBS certificates and training to be completed every three years rather than every five years, we are now up to date with all group leaders and church officers having the required levels of training and recent DBS certificates. This was assisted by an in-person benefice safeguarding training event organised by Mary in August.

After a period in which the Rector acted as Safeguarding Officer, we now have three people willing to share the responsibilities while having defined roles, and they are now in the process of training and completing DBS checks in order to take up their roles soon.

The online Safeguarding dashboard is an extremely helpful tool to help us keep track of the necessary local safeguarding measures, and Revd Kath has been keeping this up to date. We are therefore able to report that the necessary policies have been accepted by the PCC and are in place, the appropriate information is displayed and our activities are managed appropriately with risk assessments and record keeping.

We are pleased to report 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.

14. DATA PRIVACY REPORT

We ensure personal information provided is kept secure, remains confidential and only used for permitted purposes. Our procedures in this are continue to be reviewed.

Peter Helm, Church Warden

15. PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

At St Nicholas we have two teams – the Pastoral Visiting Team and the 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.

Currently we have nine visitors and three Communion Administrants, and there are ten people in total accommodated by the teams. Visits are conducted monthly, and all are confidential. I am grateful to the members of the teams for the work they do and thank them for volunteering their time in this way. Their work is very much appreciated by those visited.

I have been the co-ordinator for these two teams for around thirteen years and have now stepped down. I hope the next person who takes on this role finds the task as rewarding as I have done.

Thank you.

Judith Peeke-Vout

16. SOCIAL GROUP REPORT

We have again been able to provide a warm welcome and an opportunity for people to meet socially at a range of events.

In May we held our Scarecrow Festival. There were some impressive "Royal-themed" exhibits around the village and refreshments were served in the Tower Room.

The always popular Beer & Hymns & Pimms took place in June; a Ladies Cheese & Wine in October and Burns night supper in January. These were all thoroughly enjoyable and lively evenings.

Musical events have included a recital by Jake, a young organist; a concert by York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir and a concert by the Stamford Bridge Singers.

Once again, the church was open on York Marathon Sunday in October to provide refreshments for spectators. This was hugely appreciated by many and a great way of supporting this local event.

The Annual Christmas Fayre/Coffee Morning in November was again one of our main fundraisers for church funds.

This year the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party was held in conjunction with a Discover (Pancakes) event that brought together people of all ages including about 40 children with their parents/carers.

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.

Would you be willing to help out at some of the events? We would also love to hear your suggestions for different events. Please speak to Judith, Joan or myself.

Eve Scoreby, on behalf of the Social Events Planning Group

17. GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE REPORT

The Grapevine Magazine is well presented and professional. Though the number of subscribers and advertisers are lower than they used to be, a reflection of the poor national economic climate, we remain optimistic that things will improve in the future. We have reappraised our costs and reduced them as best we can. Though 2023 again saw a reduction in our funds we still have a reasonable sum to see us through these difficult times that everyone is currently experiencing.

The magazine is a significant team effort. The Communications Officer, Helen Cross, has now been in post for a year and has made a valuable contribution to presentation and content. Barry Hewitt continues to manage the subscriptions and distributions, my wife and I continue in our joint role of recording and controlling the finances, and there is a team of dedicated people who distribute the copies each month and collect the annual subscriptions. Thanks again to you all.

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

Dave Safhill, Grapevine Treasurer

18. TREASURER'S REPORT

2023 has seen a large amount of expenditure on church maintenance following the completion of the new Tower Room roof (the first phase of the 'Big Build' project). Further funds are needed in order to begin the second phase (the replacement of the heating system). Fund raising may be hampered as the cost-of-living crisis continues. The PCC needs to prepare for substantial increases in utility costs in 2024 (since our 3-year fixed term gas contract ended in November 2023).

The final outturn for the year on all funds, before accounting for net investment losses, was total income £148,285 (2022, £147,842) and total expenditure £213,037 (2022, £118,130) resulting in net income (a deficit) of £64,752 (2022, £29,712 surplus). The General Fund realised a deficit of £1,535 (2022, 12,252 surplus).

Planned giving by standing order remained stable at £55,507 in 2023 (2022, £56,610). Free Will Offerings (open plate collections and the church's share of collections at funerals) decreased from £10,739 in 2022 to £6,066 in 2023. Envelope giving has decreased slightly to £1,337 (2022, £1,720). Use of the contactless card machine has grown to £1,235 (£1,057, 2022). Donations received by cash or cheque were £4,878 (compared to £19,018 in 2022 when there were many generous donations to the Big Build campaign).

The 'Big Build' campaign to replace the Tower Room roof and heating has raised a total of approximately £92,000 (£15,000 raised in 2023) through a combination of donations, grants and fundraising events (all allocated to the Fabric fund). Notably, this year, we received a £600 Grant from the Benefact Trust to pay for the new roof alarm sensors and £18,416 from the Listed Places of Worship VAT reclaim scheme.

Income from Tower Room bookings has not recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels. In 2023, £1,140 was received in lettings compared to £800 in 2022 and pre-pandemic levels of £4,160 in 2019.

Expenditure on church maintenance and repairs was £105,095, of which £102,155 related to the costs of the new Tower Room roof.

Our freewill offering to the diocese increased by 4% to £59,692 in 2023 (2022, £57,396). The 2023 Mission and Giving donations will be £3,900 each to an overseas charity and a 'home' charity (2022, £4,250 each).

The General Fund balance (reserves) at the year-end have decreased to £23,604 (in 2022 the General Fund balance was £26,808). Restricted Funds have seen a substantial decrease of £57,961 due to the Big Build project.

There was an upturn of the stock markets in 2023, which saw the market value of The Church Estate Fund investment increase by £3,580 (9.3%) and the James Twinam Fund investment increase by £719 (10%). The dividends from the James Twinam Fund (£227) will be donated to Dunnington Church of England Primary School to support the Pupil Premium.

Reductions in subscriptions and advertising income, coupled with increased printing costs, have resulted in an in-year loss from the parish magazine (Grapevine). New advertisers and a cheaper printing supplier 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 £60,453 deficit (2022 £23,651 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 2023 of £108,069 (2022, £168,522).

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 2023


Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds		
	General	Designated		2023	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	79,702	100	23,206	103,008	114,148
Charitable activities	2(b)	5,518	1,682	7,390	14,590	17,762
Other trading activities	2(c)	2,605	-	10,346	12,951	13,629
Investments	2(d)	-	344	4,093	4,437	2,303
Other income	2(e)	-	-	13,299	13,299	-
Total income		87,825	2,126	58,334	148,285	147,842
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3(a)	861	698	58	1,617	678
Charitable activities	3(b)	88,499	6	109,098	197,603	106,146
Other trading activities	3(c)	-	-	13,817	13,817	11,306
Total expenditure		89,360	704	122,973	213,037	118,130
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments		(1,535)	1,422	(64,639)	(64,752)	29,712
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	-	-	4,299	4,299	(6,061)
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,535)	1,422	(60,340)	(60,453)	23,651
Transfers between funds		(1,669)	(710)	2,379	-	-
Net movement in Funds		(3,204)	712	(57,961)	(60,453)	23,651
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		26,808	10,567	131,147	168,522	144,871
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		£ 23,604	£ 11,279	£ 73,186	£ 108,069	£ 168,522

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	
		General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	-	49,815	49,815	45,516
		-	-	49,815	49,815	45,516
Current Assets						
Debtors	7	10,382	-	8,058	18,440	11,177
Cash at bank and in hand		24,955	11,279	42,747	78,981	150,004
Total Current Assets		35,337	11,279	50,805	97,421	161,181
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	11,733	-	7,934	19,667	18,675
Total Current Liabilities		11,733	-	7,934	19,667	18,675
Net Current Assets		23,604	11,279	42,871	77,754	142,506
Total assets less current liabilities		23,604	11,279	92,686	127,569	188,022
Non-Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due to be paid beyond one year	9	-	-	19,500	19,500	19,500
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-	19,500	19,500	19,500
Net Assets		£ 23,604	£ 11,279	£ 73,186	£ 108,069	£ 168,522
Parish Funds						
Unrestricted General Funds		23,604	-	-	23,604	26,808
Unrestricted Designated Funds	10	-	11,279	-	11,279	10,567
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	73,186	73,186	131,147
		£ 23,604	£ 11,279	£ 73,186	£ 108,069	£ 168,522

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

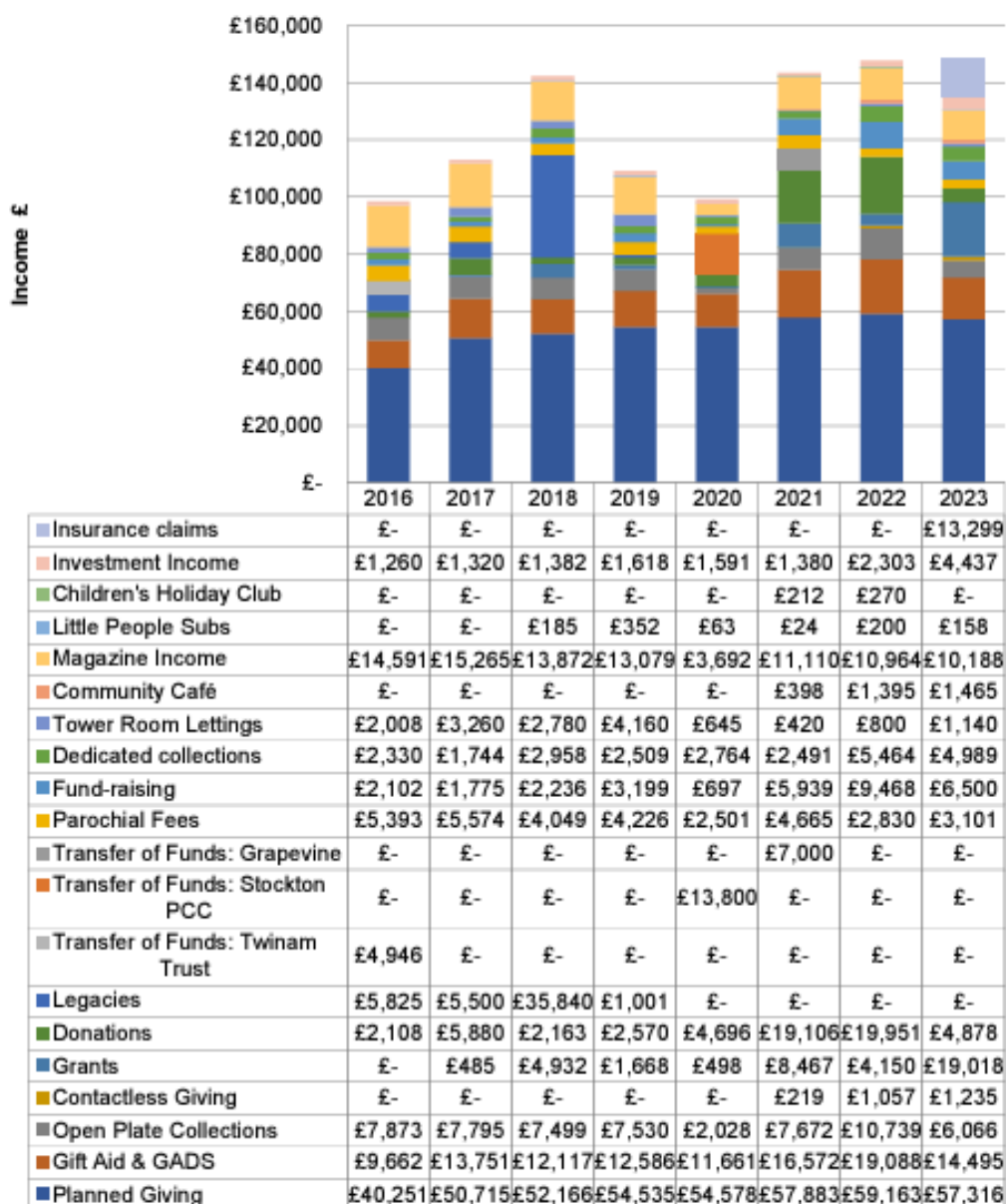

Rev K McBride
PCC Chair


H L Pomfret
Treasurer

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

Notes to the Financial Statement - 31 December 2023 (continued)

Income 2016 to 2023 (all funds)



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

Notes to the Financial Statement - 31 December 2023 (continued)

Expenditure (all funds) 2016 to 2023

