

St. Laurence's Church, Scalby

Annual Trustees Report 2023

(Inc. Committee Reports for the year)



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PART A

Annual Report

St. Laurence's Church, Scalby, Scarborough, YO13 0PS

St. Laurence's Church reg. Charity No 1131317

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, Sunday 21st April 2024

The annual report covers the year 2023.

Aims and Purpose of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The aims and purpose of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC (Powers) Measure of 1956 states the PCC is to cooperate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish of Scalby in the Deanery of Scarborough, the whole mission of our church, pastoral, evangelical and social and ecumenical.

It is with this purpose that the PCC usually meets on 6 occasions. During the year the PCC meetings were held on: 16th January, 13th March, 23rd April (following the Annual Church Meeting), 23rd May, 17th July, 18th September and 20th November.

The PCC operates through several committees that further the mission of St. Laurence's Church and the community it serves.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council April 2022-April 2023

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the APCM.

From the 2022-2023 PCC the following members finished their term of office: Tom Hill, Hilary Wallace, Lesley Newton and Val Aston.

In addition, Carolyn Scott (term of office to end 2024) and Sandra Dudley (term of office to end 2024) resigned. Those elected at the Annual Meeting

on Sunday 23rd April 2023 were Christine Grimmett and Yvonne Wilson. Paul Bean was co-opted to the PCC on 23rd April after the meeting.

We thank everyone who left the PCC at this time, for their energy and commitment. Their support has been very much valued.

During 2023 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ministry Team:	Revd. Tony Hand	Chair
Churchwarden:	Mrs Sue Truefitt	PCC Secretary
	Mrs Gillian Bradley	Deputy Chair
Secretary to PCC:	Mrs Sue Truefitt	Deanery synod rep
Joint Treasurers:	Mr John Freeman	(non-voting)
	Mrs Rana Sharrock	(non-voting)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mrs Joan Fennell	
	Mrs Sue Truefitt	
Lay Members:	Mrs Lyn Blyth	(term of office to end 2024)
	Mr Mike Pixton	(term of office to end 2024)
	Mrs Julia Bean	(term of office to end 2025)
	Mr Paul Bean	(term of office to end 2026)
	Mrs Christine Grimmett	(term of office to end 2026)
	Mrs Jenny Wray	(term of office to end 2025)
	Mrs Yvonne Wilson	(term of office to end 2026)

Through the year the PCC had the support of two Deputy Churchwardens:
Mrs Elizabeth Anderson
Mrs Valerie Aston

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Pat Critchlow
Parish Safeguarding Administrator: Mrs Jo Brown

Safeguarding Statement:

The Parochial Church Council of St. Laurence, Scalby, has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A full report on Safeguarding matters through the year is included in the appendix.

The office of Charities Administrator continues to be held by Linda Thompson. A report will be available as part of the appendix.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee that is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directives by the Council. There have been 7 meetings of the Standing Committee this year at which agendas for PCC meetings were prepared and delegated business was actioned: 9th January, 6th March, 3rd April, 15th May, 10th July, 11th September and 13th November.

Committees

The PCC operates through several committees which aim to meet between the PCC meetings when reports of their work are brought to the PCC. These are: Finance, Property, Discipleship and Worship, Missions, Social, Communications, Building Together and Pastoral Care.

The Friends of St. Laurence

The Friends of St. Laurence is a separate charity and aims to support the church both practically and financially.

Church Services

At the beginning of 2023 the services were as set out as follows offering a variety of worship for people to attend.

Sundays:	8.00am	Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Communion
	10.30am	All Age Worship! on the first Sunday of the month
	10.30am	Communion 2 nd and 4 th Sundays
	10.30am	Morning Worship 3 rd Sundays
	3.00pm	Baptism (usually 3 rd Sunday in the afternoon)

Mondays: 10am Toddler Praise (monthly, led by Celia Hare)

Thursdays: 10.30am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Communion and
Prayer in the Parish
7.30pm Café Explore (last Thursday in the month)

Saturdays: 4.00pm Messy Church (monthly)

The Thursday Communion and Prayer in the Parish attracts around 15 regular worshippers. The Revd Tony Hand, Revd Marion Wright, Revd Stephen Walker and Tony Shaw provide leadership.

Café Explore meets in the Church Rooms and offers an opportunity for information and Café Style worship which is prepared for and led by Marie Freeman, with help from a team of people.

On 12th March, 23rd July and 29th October Taize Worship has been offered, led by Revd Marion and Chris Wright.

In 2023 new outreach and worship has been developed and offered by Celia Hare, our Childrens, Families and Youth Worker in the form of Fun with Food (fortnightly on Sunday 5.00pm-6.00pm) a young people's group and Fun with Faith (monthly on Saturday 4.00pm -5.00pm) offering worship focused on young people, families and all those who connect with an informal activity-based offer of worship, with both being based in the Church Rooms.

Developed through the work of the Building Together committee a new Sunday service pattern was introduced from October 2023 in response to the challenge of connecting with families and young people post pandemic, offering a new focus to giving a welcome to new attenders and enabling the whole church to explore the Building Together vision which was agreed by the PCC at its meeting on 17th July 2023.

Sundays: 8 am BCP Communion each Sunday
10.30am Celebrate! 1st Sunday
3pm Baptism 1st Sunday
10.30 am Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
10.30am Building Together (Morning Worship) 3rd Sunday

The Building Together Sunday service on the 3rd Sunday was included in the new pattern for Sunday services to help bring the Vision to the life of the whole church and wider community.

Church Services and Average Attendance

The average attendance at services in **2023** was as follows:

Sundays:	8.00am	17 adults
	10.30am	73 adults 4 children
Thursday:	10.30am	14 adults
Messy Church:	4.00pm	43 attending
Café Explore:	7.30pm	9-16 adults
Christmas:	Christingle services	285 adults and 86 children
	Midnight Holy Communion	58 Adults
	8.00am	20 Adults
	10.30am Family worship	95 adults and children

Baptisms 11

Weddings 2

Funerals 11

Burial of ashes 13

In **2023** there were 192 on the Electoral Roll.

Our Mission Statement

The PCC adopted our Vision statement which was prepared by the Building Together Committee following the Awayday at Wydale Hall in October 2022.

VISION:

What we hope to see

Building together a community of faith that reaches out with God's love – in Jesus' name.

MISSION:

How we are making it a reality

Growing together as disciples and enabling others to follow Jesus.

VALUES:

How we live to bring the VISION and MISSION to life

Being like Jesus through love that is seen in ...

PRAYER-CREATIVITY-INVITATION-LEARNING-JOY-SERVING

STRATEGY:

Taking our PRIORITIES and turning them into ACTIONS

Building Together...and being seen to be

a church that is ever more like Jesus

a church that is reaching out to and engaging with the wider community and the world around us

a church that is growing younger and in numbers

a church that offers the facilities we need, to be who God is calling us to be today

a church where everyone works well together – in whatever we do

The work of the PCC through the year has focused on bringing the vision to life and the following sections of this report aim to illustrate this.

Worship:

Our 10.30am Sunday services continue to be live streamed via Facebook with this remaining on the Church Facebook page afterwards. This enables us to reach those who are housebound and anyone wanting to access our worship online both locally and from further afield. Use of a projector and screen in place of service sheets and hymn books, helps to enable this provision. A group of singers continue to lead our sung worship at 10.30am led by Chris Wright, our Director of Music and Church organist who also invites musicians to form instrumental groups to lead and support our worship at festivals. He has been helped by Maurice Martinson who plays the organ for some services.

Throughout the year festivals and other celebrations give the opportunity to offer worship that connects to them. Mothers' Day posies were made and given out during the Mothering Sunday service and refreshments afterwards included Simnel cake – a traditional Mothering Sunday offering.

Beginning the Easter events there was Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday. During the evening there was a Seder meal in the Church Rooms, where we remembered the Passover meal shared by Jesus and his

disciples. On Good Friday there was a walk of witness round the church and churchyard led by Celia Hare, followed by soup and activities in the church rooms. The children helped to create the Easter Garden which was then carried into church. On Easter Sunday flowers were placed on a processional cross as people arrived, and it was then carried into church to start the service. After the service the children enjoyed an egg hunt round the churchyard.

A Remembrance Day service took place as usual and a large congregation followed on to the memorial for an act of remembrance, where a list of the fallen was read and wreaths laid, including one by the Town Council.

The traditional carol service was held twice on the Sunday before Christmas, and the church was full on both occasions, attracting many new people. We held two Christingle services on Christmas Eve which were organised by Hilary Wallace and Celia Hare. They were very popular, and over £450 was raised for the Childrens' Society. The midnight mass was also well attended, as was morning worship on Christmas Day, which was led by Celia Hare.

Three house groups were started during the year, two during the day, led by Marion Wright and Lyn Blyth, and one on Wednesday evening led by Sue Truefitt.

Seeing our vision come to life – Building together a church that is reaching out to and engaging with the wider community and the world around us:

On Mothering Sunday Church members sat at the lychgate and in the church porch after the service and offered posies to people coming to visit their mothers' graves.

The memorial service for all families who have been bereaved this year, and anyone who wants to remember their loved ones took place on 5th November, with refreshments served afterwards at the back of church, and was well attended as usual, and was a great comfort to the bereaved.

At Christmas the usual Wassail evening was held, again in the Rugby Club, ensuring that it was open to more people and not only the church community. It was very popular and great fun, plus several new people attended.

The Barnabas Group met on the first Tuesday of each month and provided support to anybody who had been bereaved. It is a place where they can have a cup of tea, a slice of cake and a friendly chat. Rosie Coles took over from Mavis Wild during the year, and is ably helped by Sally McIntyre. The numbers attending are growing.

During the winter, aware of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, we worked in partnership with the Nag's Head pub in Scalby village to offer a Warm Space from January to March. We provided a point of contact and a welcomer and the Nag's Head kindly provided tea, coffee and biscuits. Up to a dozen attended on occasion with those coming along, either as a one off or regularly, enjoying company and warmth together. We were very grateful to the Nag's Head for their welcome.

Once a month members of the church meet for coffee at Webb Ellis house, an elderly support facility in the parish for Chat and Chuckle. Residents come and enjoy meeting and having a chat, whilst Maurice Martinson brings his keyboard and plays light music. It is becoming a very popular occasion.

The Church Rooms are used by several village groups, including Scalby Wives, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Pilates classes and a Morris Dancing group, plus Friends meetings and church group meetings.

At Christmas we held two pop-up nativities with carols, one in Scalby village, and one at the Rosette pub which lots of children and families attended. Chris Wright, Celia Hare, Sue Truefitt and Kate Hill all made these possible, and many church members supported them.

Seeing our vision come to life – Building together a church that is growing younger and in numbers:

We continue to employ a Children and Families Worker (CFYW), Celia Hare, who is supported by a team of helpers in various ways. Messy Church has been offered once a month and is open to all while having a particular focus on families. 'Fun and Food' offers teenagers a space for social activities, learning for life and prayer on Sunday evening twice a month. Young people play in Chris Wright's occasional band. Celia and Sarah Readman host Little Steps, a toddler group for parents and tots every Monday morning in term time, and Celia leads Toddler Praise with them once a

month. Celia has also been renewing links with Newby and Scalby School, our local primary school. There were class visits to the church during the year and we hosted two carol services for the school in church in December. There is a full appendix of her work as our Children, Families and Youth Worker at the end of this report.

Seeing our vision come to life – Building a church that offers the facilities we need to be who God is calling us to be today:

At the moment we are very fortunate to have the use of the Church Rooms for administration and meetings. However, we are conscious that things could be improved and are exploring the development of the church and the facilities it offers to improve people's experience of both church and Church Rooms. Looking ahead to 2024 the Building Together committee will focus on exploring the possibilities they offer.

Seeing our vision come to life – Building a church where everyone works well together in whatever we do:

We are very fortunate to have a welcoming, active congregation, and know from remarks made by new members how quickly they feel welcome and valued. We are also fortunate that these 'new' people have willingly volunteered to fill various roles to support our life together at St. Laurence's.

Our Ministry Team – everyone at St Laurence's has a part to play in the ministry that is at the heart of our life together. Support for this comes from those in recognised ministries and we are grateful to those who serve and lead through these.

Following changes to the arrangements for the Recognised Parish Assistant (RPA) scheme to Authorised Lay Ministry our RPAs decided to step down from their roles and we can record our thanks to Mrs Sue Brown (Pastoral), Mrs Marie Freeman (Mission), Dr Gordon Hayes and Mrs Sally McIntyre (Pastoral) for their contributions to the life of St. Laurence's while serving as RPAs.

We have been fortunate this year to be joined by two new members of the ministry team. Revd Stephen Walker retired here and has begun to support our ministry having been given permission to officiate (PTO) from our

archbishop. This includes leading worship and teaching and taking funerals and services round the area. Kevin Boak retired here from Scotland and has now been licensed as a Reader by the Archbishop, (now known in our diocese as a Licenced Lay Ministry) and now preaches regularly here. During the year Philip Newell retired from his role as a Reader, but happily he still worships with us. We are thankful to Bishop David Wilbourne who regularly takes the 8am communion service and Rosie Coles who serves locally through the Methodist Church as a methodist minister in the role of volunteer chaplain at Scarborough Hospital, and who, having made St. Laurence's her home, assists in leading worship and preaching. We are always thankful for Revd Marion Wright, who though nominally retired, still helps by leading services. Stephen Cotterell the Most Rev and Rt Hon. the Lord Archbishop of York came to worship with us this year and preached. This was a very memorable occasion and a great encouragement to us all in our worship and discipleship.

Finance – caring for our financial life together

There is a detailed financial report available but we would like to acknowledge and say thank you to our Treasurer John Freeman for all his very considerable hard work overseeing the finances of St. Laurence's, and for helping Rana Sharrock as she has taken over the not inconsiderable task of over-seeing the church's finances. Thank you, Rana. Thanks also to our Planned Giving Recorder Martin Williamson, Gift Aid Recorder Mike Pixton and to John Mills for managing the Electoral Roll. John Mills handed over the Electoral Roll to Liz Anderson at the 2023 APCM. Thank you, Liz for agreeing to help.

Fabric, fixtures and fittings – caring for our Church, the Church Rooms, School House and Churchyard.

The property committee oversees these matters on a day-to-day basis and a full report from them is included in the appendix. The committee is assisted by several volunteers, our administrative team based in the Church office and contractors who work through the year to enable this work to be done as effectively and efficiently as possible. Special thanks to Maurice Martinson who oversees the church heating, and Sally McIntyre and Colin Grimmett for their work in the churchyard.

Other Groups

The tower and hand bell ringers are led by Alan Grundy, Captain of the Bells. In addition to ringing the bells as a call to worship they ring at weddings and funerals when requested, and the handbell ringers perform as part of the annual carol services.

Thankfulness

We have a lot to be thankful for this year. We have many church members who help in all sorts of ways, from cleaning the church, to streaming the services. They are too numerous to name, but it always strikes us what a willing and wonderful team of people we have who are so committed to St. Laurence's church.

Thank you also to Sarah Readman for her work in organising the office and to Jo Brown who has joined her there, and taken on the administration of safeguarding to help our Safeguarding Officer, Jackie Hall.

Thank you to our Deputy Churchwardens Valerie Aston and Liz Anderson for their help over the year, their knowledge, kindness and support.

Thank you to our PCC and especially to Sue Truefitt, who as well as being Churchwarden is also PCC secretary and organises pastoral visiting and social events.

Our thanks go to Revd Tony Hand our vicar and all our clergy and readers and those who have taken or added to our services, and to Rachel, Tony's wife, for both supporting Tony, and becoming an active member of our church community.

Especially thank you to our congregation, for being a friendly and welcoming church. We have lost count of the number who have visited or become members of our congregation who have said how welcome they were made to feel. Thank you all.

Gillian Bradley and Sue Truefitt (Churchwardens)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH SCALBY

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OUTLINE (Figures are reported in GBP and in thousands)

Before the year started our 2023 budget prediction was 71K deficit and it was a very encouraging result to reduce the deficit to 44K during 2023 with the help and contributions from our dedicated volunteers and staff.

Like many charities, our income is very sensitive to legacies receivable. In 2023, the legacy income was considerable less whereas the planned giving, gift aid and other similar donations remained the same year on year. Church room lettings were marginally higher.

As the interest rates started increasing, we benefited from an additional income of 11K. In conjunction with this, our investment portfolio also increased by 20K therefore cancelling the loss it sustained in 2022 which was 18K. This is an unrealised gain resulted in bringing back the portfolio value to 2021 level.

The expenditure was higher than last year's by 28K and main reasons for this were due to increase in Mission grants by 8K, Freewill offering by 6K, CFY worker's salary by 6K (2023 being full year, as 2022 was for nine months, Church expenses by 5K, Church rooms and house expenses by 7K, (mainly repairs and heating costs), Church admin by 2K (mainly printing and stationery costs). Church yard expenses were down by 4K mainly less money spend on repairs and renewals.

The properties continue to be valued at 475K as for 2021. They are governed by restrictions on the use of funds realised on their sale. The buildings need major repair works and we are awaiting for the planning application approval for the windows and the house porch replacement is an on-going issue with our insurers. One of our employees of the Church Yard team, left his employment at the year end due to moving away from Scarborough.

RESERVES

PCC hold restricted and endowment funds of 121K and designated funds of 310K and unrestricted funds of 129K total of 560K excluding property. Each fund balance is listed on page 11, note 9. In monetary asset terms, the funds were made up of 200K in investments balance of 360K in liquid assets. Both asset and fund categories total to 560K.

PCC 's liquidity reserve, current account balances were 69K and this would cover three to four months of routine payments. The general fund balance excluding debtors and creditors was 125K excluding fixed assets.

In conclusion, total worth of our balance sheet is 1,038K, down by 23K after taking into account the unrealised gain in investments.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC members have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers and duties, in terms of operational and safeguarding aspects.

ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH SCALBY

PARISH CHARITIES 2023

St Laurence's Church has 8 Parish Charities. The charities are administered through the Vicar and Churchwardens of Scalby Church apart from the Christopher Keld Charity which is independently administered by the Vicar of Scalby and 4 Trustees from the Parish and the Town Council. They are:

JOHN JAMES CHARITY (1876)

Income from investments is to be used for the benefit of the poor of Scalby and Newby and to be distributed at Christmas each year.

Overseers - Vicar of Scalby and Churchwardens.

SARAH KNOWSLEY BREAD CHARITY (1714)

Extract from the Will - "Rent to be expended in the purchase of bread, to be distributed week by week on a Sunday at the Church amongst the poorest sort of people, inhabitants within the townships of Scalby, Burniston, and Newby." The rent has long since gone but there is capital invested and the interest from the capital can be used at the discretion of the Overseers.

Overseers - Vicar of Scalby and Churchwardens.

KATE HARGRAVE LONG CHARITY

Income from investments to be distributed at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens of Scalby to the poor and sick of Scalby.

Overseers - Vicar of Scalby and Churchwardens.

SCALBY, NEWBY, BURNISTON COAL CHARITY

Combined Charities of

ADAM FARMSIDE (1700)

Extract from the Will “to distribute to the poor within the town and constabulary of Scalby on Easter, Whit Sunday and Christmas Day.”

EDWARD SEDGEFIELD DONER (1848)

Extract from the Will - “to distribute coal at Christmas amongst the poor inhabitants of Scalby, Newby, Burniston.”

The interest from a small investment can be used at the discretion of the Overseers.

Overseers - Vicar of Scalby and Churchwardens.

CHRISTOPHER KELD CHARITY (1780)

To help 3 beneficiaries (men/women) who are in need and reside in Scalby, Newby or Throxenby. The income for this charity is now investments and the rent from a small grazing field (1.884 acres) at Barmoor. The Trustees are Vicar of Scalby, 2 Councillor’s appointed by the Town Council and 2 Parishioners appointed by the Vicar of Scalby. The Clerk to the Trustees is myself and I visit the beneficiaries up to 4 times a year to distribute the monies. The Trustees meet once a year at the end of November when they decide the allocation of money for the forthcoming year.

HAROLD AND LILIAN NEEDHAM TRUST

The trust originally existed to enable the distribution of sacks of coal to the poor and sick of the Parish of Scalby but if that is not suitable parcels of groceries or other goods. Currently St Laurence’s Good Neighbour Committee distributes plants to the sick, housebound and bereaved twice a year on behalf of the trust.

Sole Trustee - Vicar of Scalby who has now delegated the distribution to the Chairman and members of the Good Neighbour Committee.

HELENA HEWITSON TRUST

Income from investments allows grants to be given to children of 16 years and under on a “per capita” basis. The Trust is for children who attend worship at St Laurence’s Church or St Mark’s Church and are involved with children’s activities. i.e. Choir members, Bell ringers, Sunday School members, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Children and Youth Groups.

Overseers - Vicar of Scalby and Churchwardens.

DEACONESS MOLLIE RICKINSON MEMORIAL TRUST

The Trust’s objective is ‘the advancement of children and young people’s education and in particular religious education within Scalby Parish’. The Trustees are empowered to make gifts or loans with or without interest towards the provision or maintenance of school or other educational institutes within the Parish and can give towards the general and religious education of anyone residing in the Parish or who regularly attends church services at St Laurence or a member of the Sunday School.

The Trust can also contribute towards the provision of lectures and films of an educational religious nature or towards the purchase of musical instruments for the benefit of young person’s residing in the Parish. The Trust can contribute towards the furtherance of all activities promoted by the PCC in connection with general and religious education and religious welfare of the children of the Parish.

Overseers - The Churchwardens of St Laurence’s Church.

There are plaques in Church on the wall behind the Font relating to some of these Charities. There is a plaque on the house next to the paper shop in the High Street , Scalby relating to the benefactor Christopher Keld.

Other than the Christopher Keld Charity our parish charities have been inactive for some time and through the year myself, Sue Truefitt (Churchwarden) Revd Hand and Jo Brown as one of our church administrators, have been working to revitalise these charities. This has required contact and work with the Charities Commission, Barclays Bank regarding arrangements for their current accounts and the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA) who hold funds on deposit. The aim is to review and renew these charities and get them active again.

Linda Thompson – 21st March 2024

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Currently St. Laurence's has two Deanery Representatives, Joan Fennell and Sue Truefitt. There is one vacancy. The Synod has met three times this year in March, June and October. The March meeting was held at the Spring Café at Hunmanby, but unfortunately clashed with St. Laurence's PCC meeting. The Deanery continued to focus on the issues raised through the discussions around "Living Christ's Story". There had been further discussion at the March meeting, following which a questionnaire had been sent out with responses to be returned by the 30th May. The Deanery Leadership Team then proposed to collate the responses and base Deanery support to parishes on these.

In the past there had been a levy on parishes to support St. Martin's school. However, due to issues around Covid, the levy had been changed to a voluntary donation. As this exceeded the results from the levy it was decided to continue on the donation basis. St. Laurence's made a donation of £150, the previous levy having been £60.

The June meeting was held at Holy Nativity Church, Eastfield. There was a presentation by Julia Robertson, Diocesan Lay Ministry Adviser and Revd Canon Nick Bird, Diocesan Adviser for Vocations on the New Ministry Opportunities – Lay and Ordained. Following on from the questionnaire and the collation of the responses, the Deanery Plan was presented.

The final meeting of the year was in October and was held at St. Martin's School. It opened with a presentation about the school from the head, Mrs. Clare Barber, and some of the staff. Appreciation was expressed for the donations received from the Deanery and information given as to how this was helping the school in its literacy journey in particular.

Again, the meeting took up the progress with "Living Christ's Story". A need for resourcing training and a better network to enhance and enable those working in parish roles. An event had been arranged for the 27th October for churchwardens, secretaries and treasurers with the Venerable

John Day, and it was proposed to hold another Deanery conference on the 14th September 2024 which would include workshops.

The need for a Deanery Synod Governor was highlighted.

There is still a vacancy for another Deanery representative from the Parish. It is interesting to be part of the wider picture and to share experiences with other parishes. It give a different insight into the workings of the Church!

Sue Truefitt

FABRIC AND PROPERTY REPORT 2023

Committee Members:

Maurice Martinson (Chair), Sally McIntyre (Minutes) Tom Pindar, Jenny Stainthorpe, Revd. Tony Hand, Valerie Aston Paul Bean, Brian Wilson and Sue Truefitt.

1. Church

Cracks have been noticed to the left of the main altar and above the chancel arch. The church architect, Ian Hayton, has visited the church during the year and has seen both. Dynorod have been to inspect the drains to see if there is an issue with these, but have confirmed that we have soakaways which are functioning. The roof is in good repair and all gutters are cleared regularly.

Electrical work has been carried out to provide additional sockets to allow the installation of a sum-up machine for contactless giving.

Yorkshire Water have visited the church and cleared the supply to the church giving a much better flow to the church and churchyard. The annual servicing of the heating system and the organ and all PAT testing has been carried out.

2. Churchyard

The repair and replacement of the floodlights has been completed. The Community Service Team, together with Sally and George McIntyre, carried out the maintenance work in the closed part of the churchyard, during the year, and the team will return to do the same work again this year.

John Charlesworth, one of our two sextons, left as he was moving away from the area. He completed the full year. Arrangements are in hand to cover his work and assist Colin Grimmett, who is continuing. We are very grateful to both of them.

There are now two permanent grit bins in the churchyard. The water supply to the Glebe Field is still under consideration. Estimates are awaited from K. Holt and Son as to the cost of taking a supply down there now that the flow of water has improved substantially. Quotes were obtained for

the provision of a shelter with barrels to catch rain water, but the cost was such that it was felt appropriate to explore the cost of an actual supply.

Paul Bean very kindly undertook work to the soakaway at the flower shed as this was backing up badly. He has resolved the problem and is hoping to replace the gutters to the shed.

A faculty was obtained to sanction the removal of two dead elm trees and the partial removal of a hawthorn. The lighting posts, gibbet posts and wooden structure at the entrance to the Glebe Field have all been treated and the Sexton's Hut painted. Ken's Gate has been painted and the adjacent notice board repaired. Loose pavements on the long steps had been secured.

There had been a problem with puddling in heavy rain near the Lych Gate. Pea gravel has been laid to try to resolve this.

3. Church Rooms

It is hoped that the renewal of the windows in the office, playroom and ladies' toilet will go ahead this year. The application for planning permission was submitted last year and was delayed by the issues surrounding North Yorkshire County Council taking over. The PCC was then advised that the application was likely to be refused and advised to withdraw at this stage and re-submit with a comprehensive report by a planning consultant to justify the proposed replacement. This is now in hand and it is hoped that the revised application will go in shortly.

General maintenance and some electrical work has been carried out over the year. There is an ongoing issue with some chimney maintenance which is required by the insurers following the survey report commissioned by the church. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved shortly.

4. School House.

A full drain survey was carried out by Auger on behalf of the insurers. The contractors then employed by the insurers have now completed the work to stitch the cracks in the walls, repaired the drains, re-decorate where work has been carried out and replace the bathroom window. The porch had to be removed to allow scaffolding to go up, and negotiations are in hand with the insurers for the replacement of this. Work was also carried

out by Rentokil to treat wood work in the property. Electrodec have upgraded the electricity supply.

My thanks once again to fellow members of the Property committee who have worked together through what has been another busy year. Particular thanks to Sally McIntyre who has overseen the work in the churchyard and carried out a substantial amount of work herself.

Maurice Martinson
(Chair)

PART B

Reports on Other Activities Throughout the Year

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Jacqui Hall was appointed as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in January 2024, following safer recruitment guidelines.

From Jacqui: “ **As the new PSO I am currently completing training and getting myself up to speed with the role and will have a clearer picture of safeguarding within St Laurence’s for future reports.**”

Jo Brown remains as the Parish Safeguarding Administrator

DBS

The service provider for DBS remains “thirtyoneeight.org”. Seven DBS checks have been applied for and completed since March 2023. DBS checks are renewed every 3 years. Individuals are invited to start the application process online then identity and documentation checks are completed in person. A record is kept, digitally, of the certificate numbers and renewal dates.

Safeguarding Training

The Church of England House of Bishops have precise training requirements for all church members involved in Leadership roles, e.g. Clergy, Church Wardens, Readers, Authorised Lay Ministry and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

All members of the PCC are required to complete Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse training. There remains only 1 member to complete their Domestic Abuse training. Safer Recruitment training will be required if involved in a selection and/or an interview process.

Training courses are online and there is a record held of everyone who has completed Safeguarding training and when renewal is due. Training needs to be renewed every 3 years.

Providing access to a laptop, in the church office, for church members who lack confidence in their IT skills is now available and dates need to be arranged for a few members to update their training.

Safeguarding Development Plan

This is currently being updated in preparation for adoption by the PCC at their meeting in May. It is based on the requirements of the Model Safeguarding Parish Check List, designed by the Church of England. It is our guide for progress, developing new procedures and checking those already in place, to ensure that our church is a safe place for all.

Children, Family and Youth Worker Report January – December 2023

Little Steps takes place weekly in term time. Numbers have been fairly consistent over the year and we have had to put a waiting list in place. While we are reluctant to have a waiting list we are aware of fire regulations and need to ensure that there is room for all of the children to play safely. 19 families come to Little Steps although we don't get every family every week. **Toddler Praise** took place every month except August.

Messy Church has continued to meet monthly. Numbers have settled at about 30 – 40. We had a Mini Messy Easter on Good Friday. We met in the morning rather than the afternoon and finished at 12pm with soup, hot cross buns and drinks. We had 52 people join us. We also had a Messy Picnic in August. This was a low-key Messy Church; we met at the usual time but families brought a picnic and we had some craft activities and games. It was an opportunity to meet with any of the families that were in Scarborough that week. People no longer have to book places but are asked to let us know if they are planning to come; this helps with planning for catering and the activities that we do. Some families book and some just turn up on the day. While the system makes it more accessible for the families it does make it difficult for those doing the catering.

The **All Age** team continued to plan, prepare and lead the services on the first Sunday of the month. In the autumn it was decided to try a different pattern of worship on the first and third Sundays of the month. The first Sunday became a **Celebrate!** service and on the third Sunday there is a service that focuses on the 'Building Together' values that were identified in the vision. The Celebrate! services are designed to be more informal than some of the other services and accessible to anyone who comes. These services continue to be planned, prepared and led by the All Age team and we have been joined by Kevin Boak.

In October we began **Fun with Faith** which is a very informal gathering in the Church Rooms. It happens on the first Saturday of the month at 4pm. It got off to a slow start but appears to be enjoyed by the families that come.

Baptisms normally take place on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon with a limited number during the All Age service. There were six baptisms in 2023. We invite families who want their children baptised to come to an All Age service, Celebrate! service or Fun with Faith before the baptism. We meet with the family to help them think about what baptism is.

Newby and Scalby Primary School have had several visits to St Laurence's. Year 2 classes came to visit church in March; Year 1 classes also visited in March. Year 1 visited again in May to meet some of Barnabas Group and some church members to talk about the coronation of King Charles and the coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth. Year 6 classes visited in November to mark Remembrance. The school held two carol services at St Laurence's. The CFY Worker was involved in several events in Newby School throughout the year.

The PCC said that the CFY Worker could spend some time supporting **Hackness School**. We gave every child at the school an activity bag at Easter and Christmas.

The **Sunday Youth Group** decided on a name and it is now known as **Fun and Food**. It is for those in Year 6 and above. The group continues to meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in term time from 5.00 – 6.30pm.

We continue to develop our relationship with **Rainbows, Brownies and Guides** and their families. The CFY worker spends an evening with all three

groups once a month. Some of the children and young people who go to Rainbows, Brownies and Guides come to other activities at St Laurence's, and this has strengthened the relationship with some of these families.

Scalby School were unable to be involved in the Remembrance Service at St Laurence's but said that they are hoping to be involved next year.

At Easter and Christmas we were able to put a basket of craft activities and puzzle sheets, some seasonal and some secular, in **The Plough** and at Christmas we were also able to put a basket in **The Rosette**.

At **Christmas** we arranged for Mary and Joseph to travel round the parish in Advent; all went well and they did not get lost once! We had two pop-up nativities: one in Scalby village and one in the Rosette. We had two Christingle services on Christmas Eve and a family celebration on Christmas Day. All of the different events were well-attended.

Many of the activities described above are only possible because of the support of other people. Their support, hard work and commitment to the children, young people and their families was demonstrated by their willingness to give up time to pray for all that happened, to plan the activities, to prepare craft and do an immense amount of cutting out! Thank you.

Celia Hare

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Committee (Umbrella Committee for Good Neighbour, Barnabas and Pastoral Visiting)

The aims are to:

Ensure there is a structure in place to offer pastoral care and social contact for every church member and the wider community. Put training in place each year to support and inform the work of pastoral visitors and the Barnabas Group. Maintain a system of regular sub-committee meetings and reporting to the Pastoral Care Committee, to give accountability for the work being done.

Good Neighbour and Barnabas are the subject of separate reports.

The Pastoral Visiting Team Report 2023

The Pastoral Visiting Team has approximately 12 members at present. The visitors aim to bring the love of Christ into a person's life at what may be a very difficult or vulnerable time, and to help them know that the Church is there for them and cares for them.

All those on the visiting list are visited regularly by visitors who keep in touch with them and offer prayer and home communion if this is appropriate. These are people who are unable to come to church for whatever reason but who wish to keep in touch with the church family. The list is updated regularly and any information about anyone who would like a visitor is always welcome.

The team usually meets twice a year to share any issues and review what is being done. We are trying to expand our activities to ensure that everyone on the Electoral Roll has some contact with the church, but are having to explore exactly what that would mean in safeguarding terms. At one of the meetings we aim to have some form of training. Last year a session with someone from the drugs and alcohol team was planned in the Autumn but in the event had to be cancelled. The team met twice in 2023 in February and April.

Barnabas Group

The Barnabas Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 2.30 until 4pm in St. Laurence's Church rooms. The aim is to provide a safe and welcoming space for people who are bereaved to meet together.

In the last year we have welcomed several new people, and we are grateful for the support we receive from St. Laurence's (for the space to meet), from members of the congregation who generously provide transport, cakes, refreshments and practical help, and from Tony our vicar who attends most meetings.

The gatherings are varied and always aim to include time for informal conversation. During the last year we have had quizzes and seasonal activities, and several interesting talks by visiting speakers. Last July we enjoyed an afternoon tea provided by Evelyn Laidlaw, and at Christmas we had a delicious Christmas lunch at Plaxton Court in very comfortable surroundings.

During the year I have been very grateful for Sally McIntyre's support with running the Barnabas Group, and for Mavis Wild's wisdom and experience, and we are always delighted when she is able to attend our meetings.

There is an open invitation to anyone who might find this group helpful.

Rosie Coles

Good Neighbour Committee

We are a small committee who meet twice a year at Easter and Harvest to update the lists of the sick, housebound and bereaved in our parish and to arrange delivery of plants and flowers.

At Easter, with the help of the Lilian Needham Trust, we purchase approximately 40 small plants to deliver on Palm Sunday.

At Harvest the flowers and produce are divided up and approximately 40 small posies are delivered, the larger arrangements to the Rambler Nursing Home, Orchard House and Danes Dyke Community Centre. The produce being shared between the Rainbow Centre and Westway House in Eastfield.

At Christmas Lin Blyth and the flower ladies arrange for small posies to be taken out.

All the deliveries are made with help of the congregation to whom we are extremely grateful and could not manage without. Very many thanks. If anyone would like to join our committee they would be very welcome.

Yvette Drabble.

Linda Thompson.

Sandra Dudley.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

Social Committee members are Sue Truefitt, Val Aston, Jenny Wray, Helen Arnold, Kirsten Mac, Joan Fennell, Carol Brewer, Liz Anderson, Claire Dodd-Storey Julia Bean and Hilary Wallace. We are a team, and everyone is involved in the planning of each event and in the work to put the plans into effect.

Our terms of reference are: “To foster friendship and communication within the church and the wider community through:

1. Facilitating the social aspect of church events such as carol services
2. Organising social events for church members and members of the community during the year

Our year opened with a Beetle Drive in February. This is always a fun event; very hectic and full of excitement. At the end, everyone was also very full of pancakes!

There was a variation to Good Friday this year. Celia Hare, CFYW, provided hot cross buns at the start of family event, and although soup was provided at lunch time by the social committee, not many people stayed on for that as well. However, the previous evening, the committee were involved with the Seder Meal. This was very well attended and a meaningful and enjoyable evening.

The Coronation was celebrated with a bring and share lunch after a special service in church. The committee directed this and provided some of the substantial items including prosecco for the toast. The hall was suitably decorated and everyone enjoyed the event.

In July we held a BBQ at the home of Liz Anderson. The weather was absolutely glorious and the garden beautiful. Liz was most generous making her garden available and in providing appropriate facilities to enable us to hold the event. She has invited us to hold this event there again this year.

Harvest was celebrated with a traditional supper in the Church Rooms. David and Rosemary Oliver very kindly provided entertainment.

Mulled wine and mince pies were provided for both Carol Services on the 17th December and our year culminated with the Wassail Evening, again held at the Rugby Club. Our thanks go to the club for the use of the room and for the mince pies. We would also like to thank Sharon and Graham for their help with the arrangements and the staff on the night.

Scalby Tours, organised by Val Aston, Helen Arnold and Linda Thompson, have run two tours this year, both fully sold out. This first was to the Yorkshire Show in July and the second to Castle Howard in November for the Christmas decorations.

Last year was busy! We always welcome any help from outside the committee and fortunately people are ready to offer it. Many thanks to Heather Bird and Jill Bradley and others who step in where needed.

We are well underway with this year's planning. There is to be a concert in church on the 18th May 2024 at which Raven will perform and we hope that as many people as possible will come. We usually run events on a non profit making basis, but when we do find we have funds we make charitable donations. On this occasion, if when we have cleared overheads we have a surplus, we would like to make a donation to Christian Aid.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

1. CONNECT – THE MAGAZINE FOR ST. LAURENCE’S, SCALBY, ST. PETER’S, HACKNESS AND ST. MARGARET’S, HARWOOD DALE

It has been a real pleasure to work with Helen Hartley to produce the magazine during the past year. I just send her the articles and she does the difficult bit, setting them on the page and finding suitable artwork. The cost of the magazine for 2023 has remained at £1 although printing costs have risen. To offset this we agreed with the suggestion made by its printers, Basics Plus, to have it printed on recycled paper. It doesn't look quite as good as white paper but is cheaper and helps to save the planet! During the year we lost two full-page advertisers who both said they didn't feel they got many customers via the magazine. This underlines the importance of telling a business if you contact them because of an advert you saw in Connect. We also gained new advertisers U3A, Companionship with Care (Kirsty Cole), Tipple Underwood Estate Agents and Wrea Head. 270 copies are printed every other month but this will drop to 250 from April 2024 owing to subscribers going into care, moving away or dying, and having a surplus that can be reduced.

I continue to be grateful to all our contributors; regular and occasional. Anyone is invited to submit an article for publication. As we are a bi-monthly production some thinking ahead is often required and it is not always easy to, for example, have plans for Pentecost at the end of May ready for magazine printing at the start of March, so thanks to all who do! There are plans to have regular news from different classes at Hackness School, which is an exciting development. It would be good if this leads to more subscribers.

Our printers, Basics Plus, provide sheltered work for adults with learning disabilities through community programmes and it was good to know that its popular café recently reopened following a major fire, and the premises has been improved.

Thanks are due to our faithful team who distribute the magazine and especially to Hilary Wallace who looks after the magazine's advertisers, distribution and finances, and to Helen Hartley.

2. NOTICE BOARDS AND POSTERS

Hilary Wallace has created some attractive and informative displays on the work of our church in its porch and Helen Hartley's posters are extremely eye-catching and helpful. Her forward thinking keeps the team on its toes!

3. NOTICE SHEETS AND EMAILED NEWS

Sarah and Jo in the office produce informative notice sheets each Sunday which they email to anyone who asks for one. I also send out Church Family News from time to time to a list of subscribers created during lockdown. If you know of anyone who would like to join this list please let me know.

4. FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

We continue to stream the 10.30am Sunday service live on Facebook and it is watched by members of our church family who can't be with us for a variety of reasons. Jean Bogie, a faithful member of the church who died aged 96, was able to watch and worship with us via her iPad until a few months before her death. A typical Sunday service receives 175 'post reaches' and a glance at the page overview for the 28 days before 19 March 2024 shows 977 post reaches, which is the number of people who saw any of the posts on the page at least once. This does not include multiple views of a post by the same people. 468 of these people engaged with the posts and 11 new followers were added. The page has 757 regular followers, made up as follows -



Perhaps the age imbalance is not as bad as might have been expected! Facebook remains a very good way of letting people know what is going on and what we are doing in the community. NB it will be seen by many who are not regular 'followers'.

The website is operated by John Freeman and is a vital tool for sharing documents that give a lot of information, as well as being accessible to people who don't 'do' Facebook.

5. CHRISTMAS SERVICES LEAFLET

Once again a leaflet detailing Christmas services for our 3 churches plus Scalby Methodist Church was delivered in the run-up to Christmas. Just over 3,000 were printed. Organising this important part of our community outreach is a mammoth task for Helen and her 56 deliverers at a busy time of year so many thanks to all.

6. UPDATED GUIDEBOOK FOR ST LAURENCE'S NEW LEAFLET ABOUT THE CWGC GRAVES IN THE CHURCHYARD

Thanks to the Friends of St. Laurence's for funding a print run of 500 updated guide books to the church which are now on sale at £2 each. Helen and I have also created a new leaflet about the 5 Commonwealth War Graves in the churchyard that is available inside the church for visitors to take. A donation is suggested.

Lesley Newton

MISSION REPORT 2023

The Mission Team continues with its work supporting the 7 charities ~ **Bible Society, Children in Distress, Children's Society, Church Army, Church Missionary Society, Sidewalk and Westway Open Arms** ~ sponsored by St. Laurence's.

The Church weekly news sheet, Facebook, website, noticeboard displays, articles in Connect as well as on the Church News email are all used to raise awareness of the work of the charities, their initiatives and campaigns.

Whilst **Christian Aid** and the **Rainbow Centre** are not designated charities, St. Laurence's is fully supportive of their work.

Christian Aid (Chris Wright)

Christian Aid Week 2023 featured the needs of Malawian pea farmers, suffering through the severity of the current climate. Nationally £5 million was raised, impacting 350 associations, 544 households and 1077 new diverse businesses started by women.

We were pleased to welcome Michael Faulkner from W Yorkshire to speak to us in our Christian Aid service. He was able to highlight the importance of CA's campaigning work alongside its funding of partner projects to bring long-term solutions for the world's poorest.

Through our efforts across May and June, £3000 was raised. Over 30 people joined in the various tasks involving promoting the week, baking, counting and banking, envelope delivery, donating plants and collecting at Proudfoots. It was great that Yvonne and Joan organised such successful social events to invite others to. Chris and Marion joined the annual sponsored inter-church 5 mile walk on the Sunday afternoon. Many folk responded by making generous donations.

Christian Aid has of course been highly active in bringing relief for stricken people in both Ukraine and the Middle East, both in the fallout from the Turkey and Syrian earthquake and with the terrible Gaza conflict of recent months. A PCC emergency donation was sent before Christmas to support the earthquake response.

Church Mission Society (Julia Bean) Julia took over the role of CMS link during 2023 and is regular contact with Azaria. Her blog and newsletters are shared with the congregation. Rev Marion Wright organised a collection for a wedding gift for Azaria's wedding to David on 12th Nov 2023 and along with Julia and both their husbands attended the blessing of the marriage in Bramcote, Nottinghamshire on 12th February this year.

Annual donation £2946

Bible Society (Christine Grimmett) Supported by an annual donation.

Annual donation £2964

Children's Society (Hilary Wallace) A team of willing volunteers spent a morning preparing some 300 Christingles for the two Christmas Eve services which were very well attended. The collection raised £492.43

Annual donation £2189

Children in Distress (Yvette Drabble) This year several members of the congregation found it easier to donate money instead of making up the shoeboxes for the Christmas Appeal. In all, £140 was donated allowing us to purchase winter coats and shoes for one adult and one child and a medium sized Christmas Hamper. 28 boxes were sent to Romania for the Love in a Box Appeal.

Annual donation £2189

Westway Open Arms Whilst we support the charity with an annual donation, St. Laurence's main support is given by individual members of the congregation as volunteers. Many of the congregation also support their food bank and other appeals.

Annual donation £2189

Church Army At the present time, we are not supporting a particular project. Our annual donation goes into their general funds

Annual donation £2189

Sidewalk Supported by an annual donation.

Annual donation £2189

Stepping Stones Ministry (Lin Blyth)

St. Laurence's continues to sponsor 2 children at a cost of £40 per child per month. Sabitri Marandi, now 15 years old, has been supported by us for 8 years and Surjo Adibasi, about 9 years old, supported now for just over 3 years.

May 18th, 2023, St. Laurence's held a **coffee morning** to welcome Richard Pashby, founder of the charity, and Pastor Sanjoy Mondal, who runs both Homes for the Charity. Pastor Sanjoy had finally obtained a visa enabling him to meet with the churches and individuals who support the children. The coffee morning was quite well attended for a midweek event and we all found Sanjoy's work with the charity both in the homes and the wider community both inspiring and humbling. Their most pressing need is to raise the money to purchase a plot of land adjacent to the girls' home to provide more outdoor space and to also become a barrier to nearby activities run by mafia type gangs.

Other donations recommended by the Mission Team were:

Stepping Stones Ministry towards the purchase of the land.	£1000
Christian Aid Turkey/Syria earthquake Appeal	£500
Christian Aid Lybia Floods Appeal	£500
Westway Toddler Group for children with diverse needs, supported by Senses	£500
Rainbow Centre General Funds	£500

Mission Team: Julia Bean, Lin Blyth, Yvette Drabble, Christine Grimmett, Hilary Wallace, Chris Wright