

St. Laurence's Church, Scalby

Annual Trustees Report 2024

(Inc. Committee Reports for the year)



Contents

Introduction	3
--------------	---

Part A

Churchwarden's Report	3
-----------------------	---

Financial Review	16
------------------	----

Property Committee	18
--------------------	----

Parish Charities	22
------------------	----

Deanery Synod	23
---------------	----

Part B – Reports on other activities throughout the year.

Safeguarding Report	25
---------------------	----

Pastoral Care

(Inc. Good Neighbour and Visiting Reports)	26
--	----

Children, Family and Youth Worker Report	28
--	----

Mission Team Report	31
---------------------	----

Communications Report	35
-----------------------	----

Social Committee Report	38
-------------------------	----

PART A

Annual Report

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

S.t Laurence's Church reg. Charity No 1131317

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, Sunday 27th April 2025

The annual report covers the year 2024.

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 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: 22nd January, 18th March, 21st April (following the Annual Church Meeting), 20th May, 15th July, 16th September and 18th 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 2024-April 2025

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

From the 2023-2024 PCC the following members finished their term of office: Mrs Lyn Blyth and Mr Mike Pixton. Mrs Blyth stayed on as Deanery representative. Those elected at the Annual Meeting on

Sunday 23rd April 2024 are listed below. Mrs Margaret Lisney and Mr Steve Binns volunteered to serve after the meeting.

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

During 2024 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ministry Team: Revd. Tony Hand Chair

Churchwarden: Mrs Sue Truefitt PCC Secretary and Deanery
Synod rep

 Mrs Gillian Bradley Deputy Chair

Treasurer: Mrs Rana Sharrock (non-voting)

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Joan Fennell (2023-2026)

 Mrs Lin Blyth (2023-2026)

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Elizabeth Anderson (2024-2027)

Lay Members: Mrs Valerie Aston (2024-2027)
 Mrs Julia Bean (term of office to end 2025)
 Mr Paul Bean (term of office to end 2026)
 Mr Steve Binns (term of office to end 2027)
 Mr John Freeman (term of office to end 2027)
 Mrs Christine Grimmett (term of office to end 2026)
 Mrs Margaret Lisney (term of office to end 2026)
 Mr Reg Towse (term of office to end 2027)
 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 Jacqui Hall

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 6 meetings of the Standing Committee this year at which agendas for PCC meetings were prepared and delegated business was actioned: 15th January, 11th March, 13th May, 8th July, 9th September and 11th 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. A group of interested parishioners have come together to promote us as an Eco church and had their first meeting in November.

The Friends of St Laurence

The Friends of St Laurence is a separate charity and aims to support the church both practically and financially. In 2024 they provided funds to replace the portable sound system, and helped us to tidy up the Church Rooms car park. We are very grateful for all their help.

Church Services

At the beginning of 2024 the services were as set out as follows offering a variety of worship for people to participate in.

Sundays: 8.00am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Communion
10.30am Celebrate! on the first Sunday of the month,
occasionally with Baptism
10.30am Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
10.30am Building Together (Morning Worship) 3rd
Sundays
3.00pm Baptism (1st Sunday)

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

Thursdays: 10.30am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Communion
and Prayer in the Parish

Saturdays: 4.00pm Messy Church (monthly)
4.00pm Fun with Faith (monthly)

Sundays: 5.00pm Fun and Food (fortnightly, which is a young
peoples' activity in which they explore their faith rather than a
formal service)

The Thursday Communion and Prayer in the Parish attracts around 15 regular worshippers. The Revd Tony Hand, Revd Stephen Walker, Revd Marion Wright and Tony Shaw provide leadership. Taizé Worship has been offered on some occasions led by Revd Marion and Chris Wright.

Church Services and Average Attendance

Sundays: 8.00am 14 adults
 10.30am 51

Thursday: 10.30am 15

Messy Church: 4.00pm 43 attending

Christmas: Christingle services 269 adults and 86 children
 Midnight Holy Communion 69 Adults
 8.00am 22 Adults
 10.30am Family worship 61 adults and 9 children

Baptisms 15

Weddings 3

Funerals and burial of ashes:

14 funerals in church

3 funerals at the crematorium

14 burials of ashes

In **2024** there were 198 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. We continue to work on it.

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.

Through the year festivals and other celebrations give the opportunity to offer worship that connects to them. Mothers' Day posies had been made and were distributed during the Mothering Sunday service.

Afterwards Simnel cake was served with the coffee in the Church Rooms.

During Passion Week there were several services. On Maundy Thursday there was Holy Communion. 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 were stations of prayer round the church prepared by Celia Hare, and there were activities for children in the church rooms. The children helped to create the Easter Garden which was then placed in the 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. In all these ways we are striving to increase our involvement with families and younger folk.

Two house groups were continued during the year in the daytime, led by Marion Wright and Lyn Blyth. Following a request from members of the house groups, there are now two prayer meetings in church on Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8.30am led by Rev Marion Wright.

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 loves to remember their loved ones took place on 3rd November, with refreshments served afterwards at the back of church. This was well attended as usual, and was a great comfort to the bereaved. As people left the church they were given small packets of crocus corms to plant in memory of their loved ones.

At Easter and Christmas wreaths have been made and are placed on the railings outside the church porch. At Remembrance time poppy wreaths decorate the railings. All these remind people who walk through the churchyard of the meaning of the time of year, and serve as an opportunity for them to reflect on it.

On Good Friday booklets, Pause in the Porch, and palm crosses were placed in the porch for people to sit and reflect on the meaning of Easter.

During Scalby Fair Week Helen Hartley, Lyn Blyth and Sue Truefitt organised a Flower Festival in the church which was well supported and much appreciated by all the visitors to the village. Money raised went to Scalby Fair charities. Teas, cream scones and homemade cakes were served in the church rooms, and the money raised given to two local charities, Westway Open Arms and the Rainbow Centre. In this way we are a part of village life and raising awareness of our outreach.

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. Children from the local secondary school, Scalby, read the names of the men on the war memorial. Children from Newby and Scalby primary school visited the church on the Friday of Remembrance weekend to hold an act of remembrance. They were met by Brian Wilson, an ex-army officer and member of the congregation, who told them of the importance of remembering the fallen and showed them and talked about medals.

The traditional carol service was held twice on the Sunday before Christmas, and the church was full on both occasions, attracting many new people. The handbell ringers played carols before the service, and also went out into the community to play at Scarborough Hall and Combe Hay residential care homes. Both visits were much appreciated

by the residents. We held two Christingle services on Christmas Eve which were organised by Hilary Wallace and Celia Hare. They were very popular, and over £700 was raised for the Children's Society. The midnight mass was also well attended, as was morning worship on Christmas Day, which was led by Celia Hare. All these services showed our commitment to reaching out into the community we serve.

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 meets on the first Tuesday of each month and provides support to anybody who has been bereaved, either recently or in the near past. It is a place where they can have a cup of tea, some cake and a friendly chat. Rosie Coles leads this with help from Sally McIntyre. The numbers attending are growing, and again it is open to all, regular churchgoers or not.

Once a month members of the church meet for coffee at Webb Ellis house, a support facility for people over 50 with medical or other needs for Chat and Chuckle, where we enjoy coffee, cake (provided by one of the residents) and biscuits. 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 parish 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 a pop-up nativity in the Rosette pub with carols. Celia Hare with help from church members all made this possible, and it was much appreciated by the people there.

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. As part of our support for St Peter's Church in Hackness Celia has given time to supporting Hackness CofE Primary School with resources to celebrate festivals and classroom teaching. 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 2025 the Building Together committee and PCC, plus any interested parishioners will focus on exploring the possibilities they offer.

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, and many of the congregation help in many ways to keep the church open and functioning well.

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.

Our vicar, Rev Tony Hand is a warm and friendly presence both in church and round the village, as well as having responsibility for St Peter's, Hackness. We are thankful to Bishop David Wilbourne who regularly takes the 8am communion service and posts his sermons to the congregation. Rev Stephen Walker regularly preaches and takes services, and helps many other churches in the deanery. Kevin Boak (our Licensed Lay Minister) preaches each month and helps in many other ways. Rosie Coles, a methodist minister and parishioner, has joined our ministry team and regularly preaches on Sunday. She also hosts the Barnabas group's monthly meetings and is a volunteer chaplain at Scarborough Hospital. We are always thankful for Rev Marion Wright, who though nominally retired, still helps by leading services, hosting a house group, leading prayers in church on Tuesdays and Thursdays and being a vital part of the regular Monday morning meetings which review work done and plan for the weeks ahead. We are also grateful for the support of Canon Chris Coates and Rev Alan Brown.

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 Rana Sharrock for all her very considerable hard work overseeing the finances of St Laurence, and to John Freeman for continuing to support Rana as she settles into her role. Thank you, Rana and John. Thanks also to our Planned Giving Recorder Martin Williamson, Gift Aid Recorder Mike

Pixton and to Liz Anderson for taking over the management of the Electoral Roll.

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

The property committee oversees these matters on a daily 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. Especial thanks to Maurice Martinson who oversees the church heating, Alan Grundy who programmes the Church Rooms 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. The tower bell ringers won the trophy in the annual striking competition at the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, sharing this with Northallerton, beating all ringers from across Yorkshire. Congratulations to them! Thanks also to Helen Hartley and Lyn Blyth who arrange the flowers and organise the displays at Christmas, Easter and Scalby Fair week. Helen also creates the posters to advertise church events, which are then displayed round the village. Many thanks to them all.

Thankfulness

We are very grateful to the many church members who help in all sorts of ways, from cleaning the church, arranging the flowers, streaming the services, welcoming people as they arrive and providing refreshments after the services. Many thanks to all those who help in any way.

Thank you especially to Sarah Readman for her work in organising the office and to Jo Brown who has taken responsibility for keeping our safeguarding records up to date, and is supporting Jacqui as she grows into her role as PSO.

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.

Many thanks of course to our vicar, Tony, and to Rachel for supporting us all, and organising us so well.

Especially thank you to our congregation, for being a friendly and welcoming church. So many people remark on how welcome they are made to feel when they attend services, and then many come back!

Jill Bradley and Sue Truefitt (Churchwardens)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. LAURENCE`S SCALBY

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR YEAR ENDING 2024

1. Income and Expenditure Outline (Figures are reported in GBP and in thousands).

Before the year started our 2024 budget prediction was 66K deficit. Although we did not receive any major donations, the planned giving donations and gift aid receipts were 74K (2023-81K) which is a 9 % decline of the regular donations and gift aid recovery.

Like many charities, our income is very sensitive to legacies receivable. In 2024, we received 675 in a single legacy payment and this was the major deviation from the budget as 25K was budgeted. Our front team worked very hard to increase the Church room lettings were marginally higher, increasing the income from 5K to 9K this year.

As the interest rates continued to be high, we benefited from an additional income of 13K. The investment portfolio increase was lower in 2024 as we received 8K and 2023 was 20K therefore cancelling the loss it sustained in 2022 which was 18K.

The expenditure was slightly lower than last year by 3K. Below is a condensed summary of main spending for 2024.

Salaries	57,484
Freewill Offer	84,000
Utility Bills	13,324
Mission Grants	16,460
Repairs	12,364
Legal & Prof	9,536
Sundries	18,744
	<hr/>
	211,912
	<hr/> <hr/>

2. Reserves

PCC hold restricted and endowment funds of 113K and designated funds of 298K and unrestricted funds of 81K total of 492K excluding property. Each fund balance is listed on page 11, note 9. In monetary asset terms, the funds were made up of 208K in investments balance of 284K in liquid assets. Both asset and fund categories total to 492K.

PCC 's liquidity reserve, current account balances were 10K and a transfer was made for 20K just after the tear end to cover the expenses for 3 months.

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

3. 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.

4. Helping other causes

During the year various functions, funerals, weddings resulted the generous collection amounts and the PCC passed these collections onto the designated charities. The amount was 7K.

Mrs Rana Sharrock
Honorary Treasurer
for St. Laurences Church Scalby
17 March 2025

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members:

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

Sadly, Tom Pindar died in November 2024. He remained an active member of the committee up until May, meetings being held at his house. He was a fund of information, ideas and practical experience. He is very much missed

Church

(a) The cracks in the chancel walls and arch continue to be monitored and tell-tales will be attached at the time of decorating the inside of the church for which quotes are being obtained.

(b) The altar rail which was loose has been dismantled and re-fixed by Mr. Anderson.

(c) R.D. Attridge, Builders, have been instructed to carry out work round the outside of the church which includes pointing up stonework round the church, some of which was highlighted in the last Quinquennial Inspection. It also includes repairs to the south lower wall and window. Whilst they have scaffolding up they will inspect the roof.

(d) Work is ongoing in adjusting the gulley and fall pipe. Water cascades off the roof down the wall rather than down the fall pipe at present. An adjustment to the hopper head it is hoped will solve this problem.

(e) The organ has been serviced by Woods of York and the piano has been regularly tuned. The fire equipment and the lightening conductor have been serviced, electrical items PAT tested and the boiler serviced by Pickups.

Churchyard

(a) Ken's Gate. Repairs to the latch are being pursued together with plans to strip the paintwork and treat the wood with suitable stain.

(b) The loose pavements on the long steps continue to be a problem and consideration is being given as to the best long term solution. Part of the problem is the original construction of the steps and the type of stone used.

(c) The problem of water gathering at the Glebe Field side of the bridge over the stream has been addressed. Brian Wilson has been very helpful in suggesting a solution for this and it is in hand.

(d) Grass Cutting. Following the departure of John Charlesworth from Scarborough, grass cutting in the Glebe Field has been taken on by John Gilpin, a self-employed contractor. Colin Grimmett has continued to cut the main churchyard and to carry out maintenance work for which we are very grateful.

(e) Further work in weed-killing the paths and Himalayan Balsam in the Glebe Field has been undertaken by Brett Richardson who is also an independent contractor.

(f) Following further advice from the plumber consulted and consideration of the issues involved, the plans for taking a water supply to the Glebe Field have been abandoned. Thanks have been expressed to the Friends of St. Laurence's as they had agreed to consider funding this.

A group of church members are working towards St. Laurence's becoming an Eco Church with a A Roche Eco award. This has been endorsed by the PCC and the churchyard may be in line for a bronze award. Part of this is the installation of bird boxes.

Church Rooms

(a) The Car Park outhouses have been cleared of rubbish and tidied up. The car park was cleared by a working party from The Friends of St. Laurence's and their help in this is greatly appreciated.

(b) Interior redecoration is planned, initially of the entrance hall and kitchen. Quotes have been obtained but further quotes required.

(c) Work is in hand to replace the strip lighting in the main hall with LED lights and starters. The cost of this is being covered by the Friends of St. Laurence's to whom we are very grateful.

(d) Storage is a problem. Shelves have been fitted in the office for the use of Celia Hare, the Children Families and Youth worker. Further shelves are planned for the use of Sarah Readman in her work as administrator.

(e) The replacement of the office, playroom and kitchen windows. After three years of negotiations with the planning department which has included the employment of a planning consultant and re-submission of the plans with a full supporting report from him, the use of UPVC windows is still opposed. Consideration of the options available is ongoing.

(f) The issue of the stability of the chimney raised by the insurers was dealt with to their satisfaction with a report from Ken Ferrie of KFB Builders.

(g) One of the boilers has had to be replaced.

(h) All PAT testing and testing of fire equipment is up to date.

School House

The work under the insurance claim has been completed. The porch has now been replaced with the church paying 10% of the cost representing betterment. The boiler has been replaced following the old boiler breaking down completely.

Work has been carried out on the roof of the whole building to replace loose slates as and when this problem occurs. The gas certificate has been issued following inspection.

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. Thanks also to The Friends of St. Laurence's who have physically helped on the ground and have paid for other work to be carried out. They have also provided a new portable PA system for the use of the church and at their own church events.

Maurice Martinson

(Chair)

PARISH CHARITIES REPORT

St. Laurence's Church has 8 Parish Charities of which 5 are historic charities. These Charities are to benefit the poor or those in need of the Parish.

The other 3 charities are to help the sick and the children of the Parish.

7 of the Charities are administered by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Scalby Church.

The 8th, The Christopher Keld Charity, is administered independently by 2 Trustees representing the Parish and the other 2 Trustees are Parish Councillors appointed by the Parish Council. The Vicar of Scalby is an ex officio trustee. I am the Clerk to the Trustees and my role is to visit the beneficiaries and administer the monies as well as any secretarial duties.

The historical charities (John James, Sarah Knowsley Bread Charity, Kate Hargrave Long, SNB Coal Charity and the Harold and Lillian Needham Trust) have been dormant for several years. Rev Hand and Jo Brown are continuing to work with the Charities Commission and CCLA to revitalise these charities so that they can once again become working charities. A process which is very long and drawn out. Some progress has been made and it is hoped that common objects for most of the charities can be agreed by the Trustees and approved by the Charity Commissioners. This would mean that the funds could be amalgamated and could be used for the general relief of hardship within the parish. The accounts for all of the charities are currently frozen, this having been done by Barclays Bank on their own initiative. The funds held by the charities are small, and the Bank has decided to close many accounts of this nature. The process to re-open them and release such funds as there are is taking time but is proceeding.

Linda Thompson

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

St. Laurence's currently has three Deanery Synod Representatives, Joan Fennell, Sue Truefitt and Lin Blyth, which is its full quota. Synod has met three times during the year in March, June and October with a Deanery Conference at Holy Trinity, Eastfield, on the 14th September. Living Christ's Story has continued to be the overarching theme of the work of Synod. The Leadership Team have acted on the responses to the questionnaires sent out the previous years and during the year have endeavoured to ensure that training has been available on a Deanery basis and that relevant issues have been covered at each meeting.

At the March meeting a team from Mustard Seed had shared their stories covering in particular the highlight of Mustard Seed for them; what learning impacted their faith and how the role of Community Minister worked.

In June it had been hoped that Jake and Hannah Madin would be able to attend and share the "Journey of Multiply Ministry" but owing to a family bereavement they were not present. The Revd Phillip Maudsley shared some thoughts on the coming General Election and the Christian Aid material "Breaking Bread" with your newly elected MP. Discussion around this followed.

On September 14th the Deanery Conference took place at Holy Trinity and Westway Open Arms at Eastfield. This was a continuation of Living Christ's Story with Bishop Eleanor as the keynote speaker. Seminars followed giving attendees the opportunity to attend two out of the six. They covered matters such as Communication, Children's Ministries, Building for Mission, Finance and Generosity, Children's Collective Worship and Pastoral Visiting. These were effectively taster sessions and following the conference where there had been a particular interest the Leadership Team were arranging follow up sessions to go into greater depth. The conference finished with worship. The event was very well attended and very well received.

In October the Revd Jan Nobel, Diocesan Environment Ambassador, attended and spoke to the meeting about Caring for Creation in a time of Climate Crises. His talk was very informative. There was an opportunity for questions and there was considerable interest from parishes as to how they could meet the needs of their communities and still minimise their carbon footprint.

The Leadership Team are moving into the new year with plans for follow up from the Deanery Conference on the training front.

PART B

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Since beginning as PSO, I am pleased to report that although there have been some concerns brought forward, there have been no safeguarding incidents occurring in 2024.

PSO Jacqui Hall has one piece of training to complete, delayed due to ill health. Jo Brown remains as PSA.

The DBS provider remains as thirtyoneeight.org and renewals remain as every three years. Seven DBS checks have been applied for and completed since 1st April 2024. One member of the PCC is still to submit their details for DBS renewal. Records are kept digitally of certificate numbers and 12 DBSs will need renewing this coming year. People will be reminded when they are due.

Some training needs completing. Please can this be done ASAP as all members of the PCC need Basic and Foundation and training. This could be subject to change in the near future. Those involved in the selection and interview process also need Safer Recruitment. Training is available online and needs renewing every three years and again you will be informed when this is due.

If there are any problems, please contact the PSO Jacqui Hall, or PSA Jo Brown, who will be able to help you get going.

The Safeguarding Development plan will be updated as needed. 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.

Finally, if anyone hasn't seen the recent decision re safeguarding at the Synod, details can be found at:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/14-february/news/uk/synod-stops-short-of-full-independent-nationalsafeguarding>

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 subcommittee meetings and reporting to the Pastoral Care Committee, to give accountability for the work being done.

The Pastoral Visiting Team Report 2024

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. It is hoped that this can be implemented once the new Roll has been prepared. At one of the meetings we aim to have some form of training. The team met twice last year in February and July. Following the February meeting the team took part in "Grave Talk". It had been hoped that other members of the congregation would join in as it had been advertised in the Sunday Sheet, but this did not happen. However those taking part found it useful and enjoyable. It is hoped to repeat this with more people attending.

Jacqui Hall, Safeguarding Officer, and Jo Brown, Safeguarding Administrator, attended the July meeting to talk through safeguarding issues relevant to the team including the safer recruiting pathway for volunteers.

Good Neighbour Committee Report 2024

Our small committee met at Easter and Harvest to arrange for posies and plants to be taken out to the sick, housebound and bereaved in our parish.

At Easter approximately 35 primula were purchased with the help of the Lilian Needham Trust and taken to church on Palm Sunday, March 24th, to be delivered by members of the congregation.

At Harvest, Oct 13th, approximately 40 small jars were given out to members of the congregation for them to put flowers in and deliver. The larger arrangements were taken to The Rambler Nursing home, Orchard House and Danes Dyke Community Centre. The produce was shared between the Rainbow Centre and Westway Open Arms at Eastfield.

Again, very many thanks to all who helped deliver all the above. If anyone would like to join our committee they would be very welcome.

Yvette Drabble
Linda Thompson
Sandra Dudley

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER REPORT

Little Steps takes place weekly in term time. Numbers have been fairly consistent over the year although numbers did dwindle towards the end of the year as several long-standing families left because their children started either school or nursery. **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 hot cross buns and drinks. 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. Some months it has been hard to gather a team.

Celebrate! Services have continued on the first Sunday of the month. They are planned, prepared and led by a team. The Celebrate! services are designed to be more informal than some of the other services and accessible to anyone who comes.

Fun with Faith continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month at 4pm. It is a very informal gathering involving tea, coffee and cakes. It is for people of all ages and is attended by families and adults who come alone. It is an opportunity to explore different Bible stories, what they tell us about God and what our response could be.

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 fifteen baptisms in 2024. We invite families who want their children baptised to come to a Sunday 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 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 CFY Worker has spent some time supporting Hackness School. Previously we had given every child at the school an activity bag at Easter and Christmas but at Easter we were able to put the bags together as part of their Easter Experience.

Fun and Food, a group for those in Year 6 and above at school, continues to meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in term time from 5.00 – 6.30pm. It is a small group but has a committed core.

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 able to be involved in the Remembrance Service at St. Laurence's and provided 2 students to read the names on the War Memorial.

At Easter, during the summer holidays and at Christmas we were able to put a basket of craft activities and puzzle sheets, some seasonal and some secular, 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! They stayed with people of all ages. We had one pop-up nativity at 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

MISSION REPORT

The committee members are Valerie Aston, Julia Bean, Lin Blyth, Yvette Drabble, Christine Grimmett,

Revd Tony Hand, Chris Wright and Hilary Wallace.

The Church continues to support the Bible Society, Children in Distress, Children's Society, Church Army, Church Missionary Society, Sidewalk and Westway Open Arms. In addition, the church supports 2 children, Sabitri Marandi, 15 and Surja Adibasi approx.9, through the Stepping Stones Ministries Charity.

Whilst Christian Aid and the Rainbow Centre don't receive annual mission grants, St. Laurence's supports these in other ways on a regular basis.

The church's Facebook page, the website, noticeboard displays, articles in Connect as well as the Church Notice Sheet/email are all used to raise awareness of the work of the charities, their initiatives and campaigns.

Church Mission Society (Julia Bean) Julia is regular contact with Azaria and David. Their blog and newsletters are shared regularly with the congregation. In response to the couples' request for churches to increase their giving to support David as well as Azaria £1000 was sent to CMS and the PCC have accepted the Teams recommendation to increase the percentage of the annual mission giving to 20% whilst reducing the Bible Society/ Church Army giving to 15%.

The Percentages are now:

CMS	20%
Bible Society	15%
Church Army	13%
Children in Distress	13%
Children's Society	13%

Sidewalk	13%
Westway Arms	13%
	100%

The Team suggested an increase from 17½% to 20% for CMS and a reduction of the Bible Society from 17½% to 15%. The 15% would continue to alternate annually between the Church Army and the Bible Society. The other 4 charities receive other money from us via the Christingle Service, Shoe Box appeal and, very often, a proportion of the annual £3000 emergency fund that remains unspent at the end of the year.

Bible Society (Christine Grimmett) Celebrating 220 years in 2024. Their focus now is interpreting, teaching and enabling knowledge. 'Open the Book' continues working with children and has now been extended to working with prisoners and abroad with considerable success; around 300 street children in Guatemala attended. Revision of the Youth bible now includes a Dyslexia bible and a graphic version.

The visit Osoba Otaigbe (BS rep) was postponed from November and will now take place in September 2025

Children's Society (Hilary Wallace)

The charities main fundraising is through the Christingle Service. A team of 15 willing volunteers spent a morning preparing 300 Christingles for the two Christmas Eve services which were very well attended.

Thanks must go to Val Aston for getting the oranges and Anne and Patrick Stewart for sourcing and donating the sweets. This year's donations totalled £701.10

CS now provide Christingle envelopes which were given out in all services during the weeks leading up to Christmas, allowing those who do not attend the Christingle Services to support the work of the charity. This proved very successful although the envelopes did not allow for gift aiding.

CS also now have a QR code which proved difficult to set up. Feedback has been given to the Charity.

Children in Distress (Yvette Drabble)

Yvette met with the CiD rep, Tracey, and handed over 26 shoeboxes along with a £25 (cheque) donation. Donations totalling £157.50 were received enabling online gifts to be purchased. Some of the shoeboxes would go to Ukrainian refugees.

Next year, need to encourage cash donations for online purchases to be gift aided.

Westway Open Arms

Several members of the congregation volunteer at Westway. Their work with the community continues and their current projects, the development of an allotment and a sensory garden as well as outreach activities, are going well. They were very grateful for the harvest gifts with a focus on their request for toiletries. Other appeals are supported by individuals as they arise.

Church Army

At present, there the Mission Team doesn't have a rep specifically for the Church Army but has proposed the church's annual donation should go to supporting the Missional Youth Church (Andy Milne). Andy addressed the congregation at a St. Laurence's lead NSMG Service in 2024.

Sidewalk (Val Aston)

Val is now liaising with Sidewalk and has had a meeting with the charity, but since then they have undergone a change of personnel.

Stepping Stones Ministry (Lin Blyth)

St. Laurence's continues to sponsor 2 Sabitri Marandi, now 16 years old, has been supported by us for 9 years and Surjo Adibasi, about 9 years old, supported now for just over 4 years. The Mission Team put forward a proposal to increase the funding for these children from £40 to £50 each per month. It was accepted by the PCC.

Lin continues to correspond with the children and to receive letters and cards from them.

It has been arranged for Richard Pashby, one of the founding members of the charity, to speak to the congregation at the 10.30am service on 15th March 2025

Christian Aid (Chris Wright)

The 2024 Christian Aid appeal raised a total of £5110 through various activities over Christian Aid week in May.

- Proudfoot collection
- Alder View coffee event
- Group sponsored walk (with Scarb churches)
- Individual sponsored walking
- Church/friends donation envelopes
- June plants/coffee morning
- Raven Concert

The Gaza Appeal was additionally supported by PCC (£1000) and envelopes (£400).

Christian Aid week 2025 is on May 11-17 and the focus will be support for Guatamala.

Christian Aid now has a new Chair - the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally.

Emphasis this year (2025) will be on the 80th birthday of Christian Aid.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

The main change in 2004 was that we started to receive regular contributions from the pupils at Hackness School which I hope people find as interesting as I do! I’m grateful to Revd Tony Hand for his encouragement of the young contributors and the articles which he sends me to include in Connect.

270 copies of Connect magazine are printed for each bi-monthly issue. The price of the magazine for 20224/25 remains at £1. The balance of costs is covered by the income from advertisers. Over the year, new businesses have been advertising with us. Casual sales via the church fluctuate and, despite a publicity campaign, very few new members have joined the annual subscription scheme. St Peter's, Hackness receives 27 magazines per issue, 6 members of St Luke's church still receive copies and 2 of our members, who are now in residential homes, receive a copy by post.

After discussions with Basics Plus, it was decided that the magazine would be printed on slightly more expensive recycled paper than that which we trialled in 2024.

We continue to be grateful to all our contributors; regular and occasional. Anyone is invited to submit an article for publication. Because the deadline for these is always the first Sunday in the month preceding the two months for which it relates it does require a lot of planning and thinking ahead (i.e. the deadline for the issue covering April and May 2025 was 2 March, but a monthly issue was not sustainable).

Thanks are due to our faithful team who distribute the magazine and especially to Helen Hartley who has the thankless task of setting what I send her into Publisher and liaising with the printers, and to Hilary Wallace who looks after the magazine’s advertisers, distribution and finances.

Notice Boards and Posters

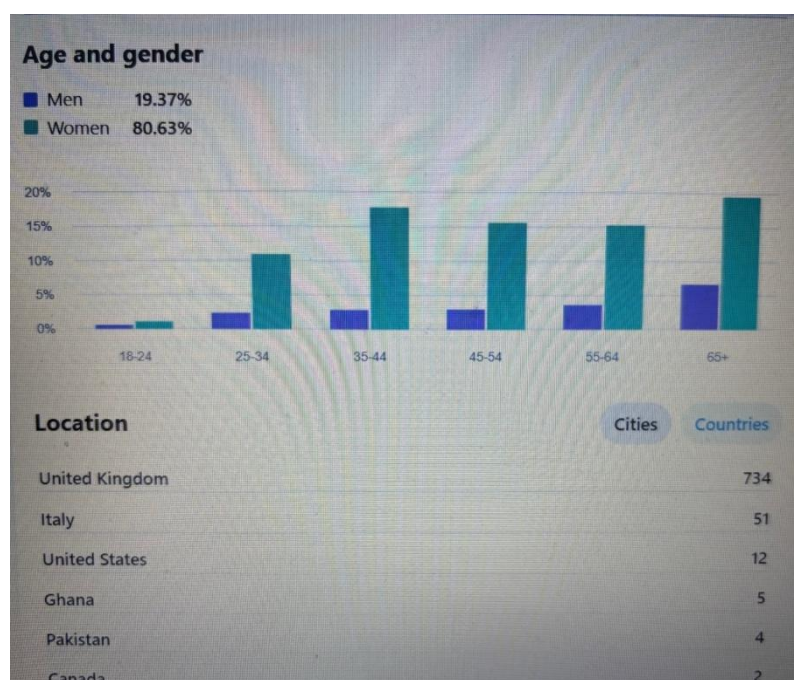
Once again Hilary Wallace has created some attractive and informative displays on the work of our church in the porch. Helen Hartley's posters have been extremely eye-catching and helpful and whilst she has felt the need to relinquish this onerous task early in 2025, her forward thinking continues to keep the team on its toes!

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 email 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.

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. The page overview for the 11 weeks before 9 March 2025 shows a total of 1,029 post reaches, which is the number of individual people who saw any of the posts on the page at least once. This has risen from 977 last year while an average of 93 post views means someone watched at least once but may have gone away and returned to it. The page has 803 regular followers, up 46 from last year, made up as follows -



Slightly more of these are men (19.3% as opposed to 18.7% last year) but once again the overwhelming majority are women (80.63% as opposed to 81.3%). Their age distribution is much the same but this year we do seem to have attracted a lot of viewers from Italy! Facebook remains a very good way of letting people know what's going on and what we're doing in the community. NB it will be seen by many who aren't 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. An increasing amount of information is available by this method and I'm aware that John must have spent a great deal of time uploading it.

Our church's entry on 'A Church Near You' gives enquirers using this national website clear information about our regular services, opening times, etc.

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. 3,142 leaflets were delivered by 61 people over 51 rounds. Organising this important part of our community outreach is a mammoth task for Helen Hartley and her team of deliverers at a busy time of year so many thanks to all.

Other Methods of Communication

The church guidebook was updated in November 2023 and is available at the back of church for £2. There is also a guide to the location of the 5 CWGC graves in the churchyard. This is free but a donation is suggested. A guide on the windows and memorials in the church is in the planning stage. Many visitors write in our visitors' book and it is interesting to see how many visit because of important life events that took place at St. Laurence's in past years. Many remark on the peace and beauty of our church. Last, but definitely not least, Sarah and Jo in the office receive many enquiries which they answer with their customary good humour, grace and expertise.

Lesley Newton

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Committee members are Sue Truefitt, Val Aston, Jenny Wray, Helen Arnold, Kirsten Mac, Joan Fennell, Carol Brewer, Liz Anderson, Claire Dodd-Storey, Linda Thompson (Treasurer) 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

The first event of 2024 was the Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday which had been well attended and much appreciated. Thanks are due to Chris Wright for the provision of music and to Marion Wright for leading the event on the night. The cost of the event was slightly subsidised by profit from previous events.

The committee organised a concert in the Church at which Raven performed on the 18th May. This was at the end of Christian Aid week. The church was full for the event at which wine and nibbles were served. It was agreed that the profit from the concert would be donated to Christian Aid. A sum of £600 was given to Chris Wright to pass on to Christian Aid.

The next event was the annual BBQ which was held on the 14th July. The venue was Liz Anderson’s garden at Seymour Cottage, Hay Lane. However, it became apparent that this would not be possible due to the weather conditions and so everything was moved to the Church Rooms and the BBQ held there. It was not the same, of course, as we missed being in Liz’s beautiful garden, but we still managed to have a great time. Many thanks to the chefs who cooked outside in dripping gazebos!

Harvest 2024 was on the 13th October. Another challenge to provide an appropriate celebration but in the end, it was decided to have a Harvest Lunch. The committee provided the main course using funds in hand and

the desert course was apple crumble, with members of the congregation providing these, and custard and ice cream.

Time for the Wassail and carol services seemed to come round very quickly! The Wassail was held at the Rugby Club on the 17th December. It is always difficult to provide a new take on this to provide variety and fun whilst bringing out the true meaning. We took a new approach with an advent calendar using power point. Kate Hill provided this with each item being preceded by an appropriate window opening. The live performers provided the varied programme. Our thanks once again go to the Rugby Club for providing the venue free of charge together with the mince pies and to Sharon and Graham and the staff for their help.

The year ended with the provision of mulled wine and mince pies for the two carol services on the 22nd December.

As in previous years I would say that we are happy to welcome new members to the committee and are very grateful when non committee members step in to help with events. We do need extra help and as we all become less active with age unless we have this we may have to reduce the commitment. I am very appreciative indeed of all the work of the committee and how they work together to produce enjoyable and successful events.