

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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TRUSTEES REPORT

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Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Loise Priestman
Shaw & Jagger Limited
1 Cardale Park
Harrogate
HG3 1RY

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 32 Carr Lane, Acomb, YO26 5HX. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio

Incumbent

The Revd Peter Vivash

Assistant Curate

The Revd Rachael Garland (Associate Priest from 1.8.23)

Churchwardens

Mrs Rachel Parker (*from APCM 2021 – APCM 2022*)

Mr Tim Marvell (*from 2022 APCM*)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (from 2020 APCM for 3 years)

Mrs Anne Barker

Mrs Jennifer Deamer

Mrs Mo Vivash

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council):

Until 22nd May 2022

Mrs Val Atkinson (term ends 2023)

Mr Paul Deamer (term ends 2024)

Mrs Julie Parker (term ends 2023)

Mr Lyndon Parker (term ends 2024)

Mr Ian Sangster (term ends 2023)

Mrs Jill Shaw (term ends 2023)

Mrs Carys Tew (Co-opted for 1 year - term ends 2022)

Mr Tony Tew (term ends 2024)

Mrs Sue Trotter (term ends 2024)

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From 22nd May 2022

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Lyndon Parker	(term ends 2024)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Jill Shaw	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew	(term ends 2025)
Mr Tony Tew	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Sue Trotter	(term ends 2024)

AIMS & PURPOSE

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Pete Vivash, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Stephen's Church, St. Aidan's Church, Acomb Parish Church Hall and the Curate's house (36 Fellbrook Avenue).

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Please see all the individual reports appended below.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work as part of Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

As confidence continues to grow post-Covid, most of our activities are open to the wider community - both to supporting and encourage and to share the Christian faith. Two PCC reps are now liaising with the Scouts executive committee. Both Churches and the Parish Church Hall are well used by the community, the church and numerous other organisations eg: dance groups, flower Guilds, blood banks etc.

Other social cohesion took place this year through 'ACT' (Acomb Churches Together) held both an Acomb community service on Remembrance Sunday at the Acomb green War Memorial and early 2022 a prayer vigil for Ukraine. There was a very popular flower festival to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Church activities such as the monthly Craft & Coffee, Squeals on Wheels and SOS attract a broad cross section of the community and are well supported offering a good place for people to find friendship and support. We provide storage and function space for a community run 'clothes swap' each month. Our annual community carol service and other Christmas services were held in church in 2021 and were well supported services throughout the year.

St. Stephen's churchyard is open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has again been able to work in the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up

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and well attended. The churchyard is full, but we have been able to extend its community use for some years with the recent introduction of a new area for cremated remains.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Stewardship and Cash Collection income was lower than the previous year at £45,884 (2021: £48,918). The Freewill Offering totalled £68,000 and was paid in full. The parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and Fellbrook Avenue, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. In addition to this we used £10,585 from our investments to fund expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2022 by £11,467 from the Gift Aid Scheme (2021: £12,318), without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The amount of money donated by the PCC in 2022 was reduced to £5,500 due to the lower level of income (2021: £6,365). In addition, in 2022 we gave £157 by way of special collections.

The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2022 was £13,160 (2021: £19,161).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported but by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £1,193 to £47,205 at the year-end. We funded one-third of the costs of employing Rev Rachael Garland from this fund. The balance of the cost of employing Rachael in the period 1st August to 31st December were met by donations designated for this purpose.

Lettings income from the Parish Hall increased by £8,265. The Parish Hall cash and bank balances at the end of year increased to £30,541.

The value of investments, both general and restricted, decreased to £160,134. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £56,188 (2021: £60,732).

Only the accrued income from the investments of The William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese is available for use in respect of items of maintenance to the fabric of the churches. During the year the terms of the St Aidan's fund were altered to allow us to use the income for St Stephen's Church. We utilised £6,237 of the St Stephens's balance and £2,263 of the St Aidan's balance. On 31st December 2022, £44,699 was available to St Stephen's Church and £23,885 in the St Aidan's fund.

The St Aidan's Church Fabric Fund balance decreased to £1,856 as we are now paying the insurance from this fund. The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance increased to £136,090.88 due to a £10,000 grant received in the year which will be used for the roof repairs at St Stephen's which are taking place in 2023.

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £43,701 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical*

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Government Measure 1969. Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent is the Chairman. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Office has remained closed since the arrival of covid in March 2020. Long term, when the time is right, it is hoped to reinstate this.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Electoral Roll as at 16th May 2023: The Electoral Roll stood at 108 at the APCM in 2022. There have been three new enrolments and three people have died. The number on the Electoral Roll is therefore unchanged at 108. Jill Shaw Parish Electoral Roll Officer April 2023

Vicar's note: It's worth noting that prior to 2019 there were 153 on the roll! If the number of the roll drops below 100 the number members elected to the PCC will be reduced.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) - Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice - *Peter Vivash Data Protection Officer*

PCC SECRETARYS REPORT - The Parochial Church Council met on 6 occasions during 2022 - 25 Jan, 17 Mar, 22 May, 13 June, 10 Sept (Away Day at Wigginton) & 7 Nov. [This equates to 6 meetings between the APCMs of 22.5.2022 and 14.05.2023: 22 May, 13 June, 10 Sept (Away Day at Wigginton), 7 Nov, 9 Jan 2023 & 27 Mar 2023]

Many items were discussed at these meetings including the worship and outreach of the church, reports from all the sub - committees, as well as ongoing care of the fabric and running of the church buildings. The PCC sub-committees Finance, Outreach, and Property, met between PCC meetings -but less frequently - in order to make recommendations to the Council. The Staffing Committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters. The Standing Committee has met in respect of any urgent matters and there was also an Emergency PCC Meeting following the 9.30am service on 11 December 2022 to expedite the removal of the Parish Hall boiler and fitting of a new boiler.

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The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council were also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its free will offering to the Diocese in 2022 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would remain at £68,000 - *Mo Vivash PCC Secretary*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT - 2022 has been the first in the new three-year cycle of DBS checks and training. From now on all DBS checks will need to be repeated every three years and training also refreshed every three years. As a result, it has been a busy year ensuring we were all up to date. All necessary DBS checks have now been completed and all but two people are up to date with their training.

Diocesan guidance makes it clear that although they have an important role to play DBS checks by themselves are not sufficient to ensure our church is a safe place to 'love God, serve others and grow together'. There are fewer of us who are able to be active and we are keen to say yes to new volunteers. An individual may offer to make coffee at the end of church, then easily move to helping with refreshments at Splurge and because of shortages find themselves helping out with an activity, without any questions asked. It is therefore important to follow Diocesan guidance and put in place a 'safer recruitment and volunteer management process' for those who wish to volunteer. As is recommended by the Church of England safeguarding team.

However, the recommended procedure from the Church of England has 19 steps. We need more people to help and so we do not wish to deter people by confronting those who volunteer with burdensome and intimidating paperwork and procedures. Additionally, many volunteer for several similar roles. When SOS was started the volunteers already had roles in Squeals and or Splurge. It makes unnecessary work to repeat a recruitment procedure. We therefore needed to develop a safer recruitment protocol that was appropriate for our parish and our circumstances.

Diocesan training (see below) highlighted the central role of the 'volunteer role description'. This document informs volunteers exactly what might be expected and what support will be given to keep themselves and others safe. Therefore, overseen by the PCC the Parish Safeguarding Representative for Acomb parish has developed a volunteer role description for volunteers working with children and young people in the Parish of Acomb. These role descriptions are enhanced by our Parish Safeguarding guidelines approved by PCC at the meeting on 7th November 2022.

In 2023 all existing volunteers working with children and young people will be given a pack consisting of; a welcoming thank-you letter, two copies of the volunteer role description (one to sign and return) the parish safeguarding guidelines and details of where to seek further guidance and information. In addition, for new volunteers a safer recruitment process will be used; they will be provided with a role description prior to completing a brief application, providing references, and attending an informal interview.

In November TM attended several sessions during the Diocesan Safeguarding week including the all-day face to face conference at the Bishops Palace. The session on 'safer recruitment' was particularly helpful. Several others also took the opportunity to attend sessions in this free training. The diocese has made recordings of some of the sessions available on the safeguarding section of the Diocesan website.

In 2023 it is anticipated that we will develop volunteer role descriptions for those working in ancillary roles for our young people's groups (refreshments etc) and those working with vulnerable adults - *Tim Marvel PSR for Acomb Parish PCC*.

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PRAYER

Thursday Morning Prayer meeting - A small group meet on a Thursday morning at 7am for half an hour to pray as the Lord leads us. There number varies between 3 and 6 members of the church, but anyone is welcome to join us. After the closure of St Aidan's we have met in The Ellis Room in the Parish Hall. We start the meeting by reading a psalm and then we have open and quiet prayer for the remainder of the meeting usually finishing with the Church of England's prayer for the day.

Monthly Parish Prayer – If prayer is seen as 'the backbone of the church' it has been disappointing that only a small but faithful group of parishioners attend. This is an opportunity for the whole church just once a month.

THURSDAY MORNING WORSHIP IN THE PARISH HALL - This is regularly attended by between 16 and 25 people, give or take a couple. We often get one or two mums with small children in the congregation as well. These figures include Communion and the MU service. Philip Sangwine plays the piano for us on most Thursday's, and refreshments are served by Geoff and Hilary Waiting, plus helpers. For the monthly MU service, Anne Barker assists Reverend Philip Cousins at Communion and provides refreshments with helpers. This is a very friendly, intimate service, and we all enjoy the social side afterwards. We have recently had at least one newcomer, and one lady said how much she enjoys the friendly atmosphere. These figures have been more or less constant since we reopened after Covid, and I am confident that these figures will remain about the same – *Ian Sangster*

HOMEGROUPS

New group - Several members of St Stephen's expressed interest in forming a new home group in the autumn of 2022. After a false start, a viable group came together and an ideal home was offered for a proper start at the beginning of 2023. Watch this space! *Andrew Bailey*

Fortnightly Wednesday afternoon homegroup - A group of women meet alternate Wednesdays, term time in the Ellis room at the Parish Hall from 13.30 till approx 15.00 / 15.30 hours. We begin our time sharing our prayer requests, joys, concerns and answers to prayers, followed by a time of prayer, praise and thanks. This is a very important part for us in meeting together. We then spend time on a bible study, led by different members of our group. We have delved into 'The fruits of the Spirit', 'Amos', 'Joel' along with church Advent and Lent studies. All are welcome to join us, tea/coffee available alongside our fellowship - *Rachel Parker*

Weekly Tuesday evening homegroup - Our Tuesday Home group meets weekly (mostly) during 'term time' at 7.15 for fellowship, prayer and learning. We have studied various topics during the past year, ably led by some members of the group. There has been much interesting and helpful teaching – sometimes challenging - and the ensuing discussions are often lively, but always rooted in love. Some evenings are spent in worship and prayer, and we also make time for relaxing and socializing. Sadly, three of our group are moving away in the near future. They will be much missed - *Jill Shaw*

Fortnightly Tuesday evening homegroup - Our homegroup meets fortnightly on Tuesday evenings. We previously met by 'zoom' but now meet as a group at Susan's house. We have looked at passages from the Bible chosen by group members and have just finished a Lent course based on 'our hearts were burning within us' (Emmaus Road). Our focus as a homegroup is always to have prayer time each session - to share and be supportive of each other - *Susan Erridge & Nigel Atkinson*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Firstly, I would like to thank the Outreach Committee and every one of our church members who have helped and supported our events, in whatever way, serving our community and demonstrating the good news of Jesus here in Acomb. There are

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many ways to help so please do come forward if you would like to join the Outreach or Craft & Coffee teams.

The Outreach Committee decided last year to limit the number of events we organize as most of the members are involved with other ministries in the church and the remainder work full-time. Having said that, it was wonderful to welcome and share God's love and generosity with huge numbers of people in our community. A very successful Flower Festival to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was held in early June with wonderful flower displays, created by Acomb Flower Guild, representing the Queen's 70 year reign. We served afternoon teas and there were displays about the Queen's life and faith.

The Outreach committee organized the afternoon tea for our final service at St Aidan's in July. It was a wonderful, if poignant, service, the church was full and everyone enjoyed tucking into afternoon tea prepared by Kay Stephenson and her sister Karen. In December, the Outreach committee and church members were involved with the ACT Christmas event at Gateway where we enjoyed making Christmas angels and chatting with the many families who came along. At both Easter and Christmas 5,000 cards were designed, printed and delivered around the parish by church members - *Jennifer Deamer, Outreach Chair*

BAPTISMS (CHRISTENINGS) - 2022 was a busy year for baptisms as we 'caught up' with those who had delayed due to the pandemic. We baptised 18 children, with a bigger proportion of 1-5 years old than usual. We also started giving the family a prayer book at the baptism service and encouraging them to use it to pray with their children, as well as the usual encouragement to stay connected with Acomb parish.

Going forwards we really need people to volunteer to:

- Answer baptism queries coming into the parish. I have been following these up with an email inviting the family to attend a service with us as the first step towards baptism. I am happy to explain this role to anyone interested and answer questions.
- Continue to welcome families when they join us at a service.
- Arrange preparation for baptism, explaining the service and answering questions after the family have attended the 'welcome service'. In the last few years, I have done the preparation online via Teams (or similar) but previously we met face to face. After this preparation we agree a date for the baptism to be held if parents want to continue.
- Be present in church for the baptism services. They are usually held on the first and third Sunday of the month at 11am, following on from our 9.30 service. Jill Shaw is usually there if you want to ask about what this role entails - *Julie Parker*

'SQUEALS ON WHEELS' (baby & toddler group) - offers a friendly and supportive group for babies and toddlers and their parents or carers and continues to be very popular and well-attended. We currently have 27 families on the register and several on the waiting list. The Parish Hall could perhaps accommodate a few more families but with our small team of helpers we have to be very mindful regarding health and safety and safeguarding. We said a sad goodbye and expressed our gratitude to Daphne for her many years of faithful service at Squeals.

We have been delighted in recent months to welcome a significant baby boom of 7 new babies born to our current families. We have 3 regular childminders who, though they have been attending Squeals for many years, their 'littlies' change from time to time. It's wonderful to see relationships building and growing amongst the team and our families.

The biggest challenge we face at Squeals is having sufficient team members to run the sessions. Our current team do a marvellous job, but we will lose 2 members very soon and potentially face Squeals having to close if we do not get more helpers. There are many ways to help – setting up toys/equipment, welcoming, registering families, taking money on arrival,

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chatting to parents/carers, playing with and talking to the children, running a craft activity, reading a story or singing, preparing drinks and fruit in the kitchen. Please get in touch if you would like to help or come along to a session to see what goes on. Full training and support will be given, and new members will need a DBS check - *Jennifer Deamer, Squeals Team*

CRAFT FAIR AND COFFEE MORNINGS - The numbers of people attending has varied and certainly not been at pre-Covid levels. Nevertheless, we provide a welcoming atmosphere and a warm space for people to meet, chat with us and one another, as well as enjoying delicious home baking and some retail therapy. Relationships with our regular stallholders continue to grow and it's wonderful to welcome new stallholders. There is a wide and varied range of beautifully crafted items and produce and it's great to be able to support local crafters. We have introduced a couple of changes during the year, creating a new family space in the Ellis room and introducing an earlier start time of 10am.

Our Christmas special in November was very successful and well-attended with many families participating in the free Christmas craft activities, Christmas carol treasure hunt and Angel peep board. Alongside the usual craft stalls, we ran our own parish stalls – crafts, Angel Tree and Fair Trade/Eco – plus with the café area. We have recently welcomed a few new team members and are working towards organising a rota each month - *Jennifer Deamer, Outreach Chair*

FROM CURATE TO ASSOCIATE MINISTER - In January 2022 in preparation for my Curacy contract coming to a close in August 2022 I attended a CAP (Curacy Assessment Panel). This panel decided to recommend at that time that I be signed off as fit to take up Associate Minister posts in future ministry. Knowing that my stipendiary contract was coming to its end and that such Associate Posts were few and far between the PCC very generously offered to keep me on as Associate Locally Supported Minister from August 2022. I cannot express how much this has meant to me, it has enabled Jesse and I space to heal, grow and develop in a Church family we both love and feel incredibly blessed to have been placed in. I have therefore since August 2022 been working three days, flexibly spread over the week, but predominantly on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This has enabled me the time and space to pick up Friday funeral ministries and establish SOS, to participate in community outreach events on Saturdays and to assist Pete in leading worship on a Sunday. The flexibility has meant that I have also picked up work and meetings on other days as needed when I could and has enabled me to work evenings on administrative and leadership tasks from home.

In March 2023, I attended CAP again and this time was signed off as fit to take up Incumbent posts in future ministry. I am so grateful for all your prayers and encouragement, for Pete's wise, constructive and caring line management and Mo's very generous and supportive provision of Jesse care which has released me to meet and pray with Pete regularly as a leadership team.

What I am thankful for:

- ALL your support as a Church family, Jesse and I feel so welcome and blessed to know each and every one of you. Your care, prayer and love are incredible.
- Your patience and understanding nature, amidst the demands of balancing leadership and toddler care when conducting services!
- Your encouragement, your constructive critique, your practical, emotional, and spiritual support.

If you could spare a pray for the future about:

- For the right post to come up, at the right time, for us as a family.
- For there to be appropriate childcare available for Jesse when that time to move on to stipendiary ministry happens and for him to adapt well to the changes that will mean for him.
- Creating a new community of support where-ever we may end up, another move seems like a huge prospect right now having done seven moves in five years!

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SPLURGE - Splurge was established as a new service, once monthly, in the Pariah Hall rather than Church, in the September of 2021. It came out of consultation with the PCC on an away day as to how to foster a new pattern of worship post covid. Its aim is to try to re-establish lost links specifically with children and families and provide some degree of classic 'Sunday - schooling' without any paid youth or children's worker (as there had been pre-pandemic). Its timing of 4pm and location in the Hall rather than Church are both intentional decisions so to try to provide a stepping stone for those who had become disengaged (or had never engaged) back into the worshipping community of Church.

We use role play, videos, songs, team and individual games, a trip to the local Green, quizzes, team challenges, Godly play, graffiti walls, crafts, cooking, big questions and private and corporately led prayer to worship over the course of around an hour to teach around a set Biblical theme or passage. However, Splurge always ends with cake and generally a free for all with a football in the Hall as we mingle and share fellowship together. It is a beautiful, noisy, untidy Godly mash-up of ages, backgrounds, spiritual commitment, and life experiences all united in trying to be a better child of God and learn a little about him in a fun, accessible, engaging way.

Splurge has seen a growth in the number of families and younger people engaging with God in a more interactive, practical, physical way. It has a very distinctive once a month congregation. It has enabled those not ready or not able to participate in an 8:30 (or more recently 9:30 service) to access teaching and fellowship. It is always well supported by volunteers who are keen to get stuck in and engage with the activities, fun, and fellowship time, thanks go to them for their commitment and care.

Points to be thankful for:

- New faces alongside those who have attended from the beginning including those who came to Christmas services and baptism families.
- Young leaders; two young people helped plan and lead the Christmas 2022 Splurge-tivity. This is encouraging and thanks be to God for their stepping up and service.
- In 2023 a special Easter Splurge holiday morning was very well attended and fruit for future holiday club ministry.

Points to pray about for the future:

- The need for Splurge to develop into two separate teaching groups with a shared fellowship and worship time. The age range is now so spread and diverse that it is impossible to fully engage and teach all age ranges as one group. We have toddlers up to nearly young adults in attendance as well as parents, carers and other worshippers. More resources are needed to approach this moving forwards.
- The possibility of developing a discipleship group for the Splurge parents and carers.
- More Splurge holiday clubs.

SOS – 'Schools Out Splurge' or perhaps more aptly Save Our Souls - was born in September 2023. Its aim is to provide a stepping stone into Splurge (or any other Church community events) through providing a welcoming, family - friendly relaxed space after School on a Friday. The premise is twofold. One to have a missional heart in the provision of a warm place in light of the present economic climate and energy crisis. Secondly to pastorally be an available and non-judgemental listening ear to the challenges faced by families and parents, and if appropriate offer the hope of Christ into that. Although still in its infancy SOS has gathered a following of several new families, some have then moved on to attend other Church events such as the Christingle or Craft and Coffee mornings whilst others remain solid SOS attendees alone.

SOS has developed over the last six months from being larger craft and board game based into providing more physical activities so to cater to the needs of the attendees including a basketball and football zone. Participation numerically varies week on week but there is on

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average four families weekly, some who travel significant distance so to come. There is a beautiful blend of carers and children including grandparents and grand-children, cousins and their aunts, and Splurge families too. SOS could not run without its dedicated and committed volunteers who give up their time selflessly so to help with quite significant setting up and packing down duties and offer such a hospitable and caring welcome to those who attend, thanks go to all who have helped in any way.

Points to be thankful for:

- The generosity of many who have gifted resources such as games, crafts and toys to make SOS possible.
- The committed attendance of families and their encouragement and engagement.
- Volunteers, so willing to step up and in at short notice and with such giving hearts and hands.

Points to pray about for the future:

- For the SOS families to come to Splurge or other Church services / outreach.
- Outreach to more locally based families and their children.
- How to best approach SOS over the Summer months when the weather is better and families don't necessarily want or need to be inside.

MEN'S GROUP – Over the last twelve months there have been four socials, all at *The Sun Inn*, Acomb Green. We met (in 2022) on May 23, Sept 4, Nov 9 and (in 2023) on March 8. The aim is to provide opportunities for the men of our church to socialise together and provide support and encouragement to each other as part of our Christian witness - *Lyndon Parker*

MISSION PARTNERS

Yanez (CMS) - Felipe continued at the Malaga Food Bank until September 2022. Sarah was helping at their Church and doing one to one counselling. Sarah was also selling furniture from their home and packing ready to move back to England. Sarah returned with Samuel and Aaron in August having spent 15years in Spain and 22years+ with Church Mission Society. Samuel has received a conditional offer to study Physiotherapy at University, Aaron continues with BTEC in Art and Design and GCSE English. Prayer is appreciated for all the family and especially for jobs for Felipe and Sarah. (It was special to have Sarah and her 89 year old dad with us recently. Her dad enjoyed a bus tour of York – *Grace Hamber*

Ben & Kirsten Nobbs - work for Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Durban, South Africa, with their children Eilidh-Jane (8), Ethan (6) and Caleb (4). In the last 12 months they have worked to support local church partners in sharing the love of Jesus in the area. The YWAM team are building new infrastructure at their base so they can have an even greater impact in Durban and run regular Discipleship Training Schools. Ben also visited USA for 3 weeks to build new partnerships in order to grow and develop the YWAM Durban ministry. Kirsten went to Slovakia for an Authors Training School with YWAM Europe, she plans to write a novel but also to empower and equip artists in South Africa to use their gifts to the glory of God.

The family visited Britain in December for the first time since the pandemic. It was great to hear their news shared with us at Acomb parish the week before Christmas. They asked for continued prayer around their visa renewals - *Julie Parker*

Anna & Chris Hembury (CMS) - 'Sharing life with people on the margins and supporting them to connect with themselves, with each other, with the planet and with God'. Working with the Christian Mission Society, **Anna and Chris Hembury** and their 2 children, Elijah (22) and Kavita (20), continue to live on a large, run-down estate in Hull, as they have done for the last 25+ years. Kavita is busy and happy at University and Elijah is carving out a role for himself through photography and a local gardening job. Anna says that they didn't intend to stay so

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long, but it makes sense to them to continue to build relationships with new generations of families in their area, through activities such as the Orts sewing club, Breakfast club and young people's camps. In the last year, Chris has started a fitness club for men, which includes refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as long-standing residents of the estate, in which they share a short Bible passage and, if they want, their stories and physical and mental health challenges - *Carys Tew*

SAT-7 - broadcasts Christian television programmes 24/7 in Arabic, Turkish and Persian to hundreds of thousands of viewers across the Middle East and North Africa. A few members of St Stephen's are regular supporters of SAT-7; others have valued using special prayer booklets produced for both Lent and Advent in 2022 featuring the lands of the region and recording wonderful stories of lives transformed by God's grace through the programmes. As the parish's SAT-7 'ambassador', I can supply more information - *Andrew Bailey*

ECO CHURCH REPORT - The Eco Team met on Monday 9th May at St Stephen's to develop the EcoChurch project further. Part of this discussion centred around fostering links with local churches as part of Acomb Churches Together. We set up a meeting with eco representatives of the other Acomb Churches in June 2022 at Acomb Methodist Church to discuss how we might work together to run events in the future. Our first event, the ACT Now! Eco Fair at Acomb Parish Church Hall took place on Saturday 12th November and was a resounding success. We are now planning our second event, a conference entitled 'ACT Now for a Greener Future', which is due to take place on 13th May and we will be repeating our Eco Fair in the Autumn.

We repeated our Churches Count on Nature event between the 4th and 12th June 2022, which included a photography competition. The event wasn't as well attended as the previous one, but we still managed to add to our species list. The start of the event coincided with a flower festival at St Stephen's. This year we are planning to work with the Scouts on our Churches Count on Nature event and would appreciate volunteers to help facilitate this.

Churchyard management in 2022 included leaving two areas where the grass is longer to encourage insects and seeding flora; leaving a large patch of nettles in the top corner of the lower churchyard to encourage Peacock Butterflies. A Rowan tree was also planted for the Queen's Jubilee.

Andrew led two services on the environment in 2022:

1) Environment Sunday on 26th June 2022, which had a focus on biodiversity. We distributed a simplified version of the questions under the EcoChurch 'Lifestyle' section.

2) Advent 1 on 27th November 2022 which included Tearfund videos on the effects of climate change and young people's plea. We distributed A Rocha's 12 tips for a Greener Christmas – *Dan Savage*

FAIRTRADE - I am pleased to say we continue to be a Fairtrade church. We serve only Fairtrade tea, coffee and usually sugar at all our church and social events. I also have a large stall around Christmas, Fairtrade fortnight and in November 2022 for the first time at the Eco fair held in our Parish Hall. We source products for the stalls from Fairer World in Gilligate, usually on a 'sale or return' basis.

Unfortunately, due to closure of their main supplier Traidcraft in early 2023, they now have to order from a number of suppliers to obtain goods which we previously purchased in one delivery from Traidcraft. And because of the need to meet a number of order value thresholds in order to obtain free carriage for the goods which are being ordered from multiple suppliers, sometimes it is tricky to hold the same variety of stock. Mo Vivash and the Outreach committee are vigilant ensuring our cupboards always have tea and coffee available - *Rachel Parker*

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Basic maintenance work has been ongoing at St Stephen's, the Parish Hall and 36 Fellbrook Ave, which has been let.

Parish Hall – The boiler has been replaced as well as a fire door in the Barlow room. The lights have all been replaced with LED. As the PCC decided the new boiler should be prioritised over a kitchen refit some smaller works have been carried out in the kitchen – water heater, new screen to hatch, more plug sockets. There will be some other works needed in the kitchen in the coming year. Clearing out under and behind the stage is ongoing.

St Stephen's – Work to improve the sound, lighting and projection systems is hopefully going to start early in 2023. The roof work should also begin then. Grants to the value of £25,000 have been received towards the cost of this work. The architect continues to help with looking to improving the toilet and kitchen facilities. The new cremation memorial has been installed. The next steps will be taken towards closing the churchyard.

The work identified in the QI, from 2021, is ongoing. After the roof work is finished some interior plastering and decoration will be needed.

St Aidan's – The PCC decided to close the building on 17.03.2022. Since then, work has been done to empty the building of contents, in liaison with the Diocese. Pete Vivash has been working with the solicitors and estate agents to secure the sale of the building.

Fellbrook Ave – After many years use as a private rental the PCC decided that when the current tenants moved out, the building should be offered for housing for a refugee family. York council will help with arranging this and give ongoing support through the tenancy. The Diocese offer a QI inspection of church owned houses and we will take up on this to establish the general condition of the building - *Julie Parker*

MAINTENANCE OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCHYARD FROM MAY 2022 TO MAY 2023

During the past year the Parish has once again relied heavily on the Probation Service and their Community Service Teams for ensuring a good level of churchyard maintenance at St Stephen's.

We have been a substantial beneficiary of this service for a number of years, and the savings to the church both in terms of cost and time have been considerable.

Teams have been in attendance every Thursday right through the summer and early autumn during the grass cutting season, and continued through the winter on a fortnightly basis, maintaining paths, and occasionally scattering seeds. On two occasions recently the teams have extended their activities beyond the church boundary to Fishponds Wood on the other side of Rosedale Avenue, as a result of discussions that have taken place with Friends of Fishponds Wood following Eco-church initiatives, and after consultation with York Council.

Specific work undertaken at St Stephen's during the period has included:

1. Mowing the grass around the upper churchyard with our own mowers.
2. Strimming the grass in the lower churchyard, apart from the areas marked as conservation areas.
3. Hedge trimming and shrub and branch trimming.
4. Tidying of the cremation plaques and surrounding areas.
5. Path weeding and sweeping, and the resetting of path kerbs where necessary.
6. Repairing boundary walls – one team member with bricklaying experience took great pride in this task and did some excellent repair work spread over a number of weeks.
7. Removing excess soil from the inside of the Rosedale Avenue wall in response to advice by an architect in an earlier Quinquennial Inspection.
8. Setting in kerbs to delineate the new area designated for the interment of ashes.
9. Repainting the bollards and handrails at the lychgate and the Parish Hall.

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10. Clearance of vegetation at both sides of the Parish Hall.
11. Cleaning the inside of the church on several wet days, when working outside proved difficult.

It is my observation that the supervisors who have been in attendance at St Stephen's this year have been adept in engendering a positive outlook among Community Service participants to the benefit of all concerned. This is evidenced by members of the team coming to the churchyard in their own time to inspect their work and to show family members what they have been doing - *Don Savage*

ACOMB PARISH CHURCH HALL - 2022 saw the Parish Hall returning to its pre pandemic capacity in terms of bookings. Almost all previous clients returned, and we embedded the Community Clothes Swap as a regular monthly event. In addition, we welcomed many one-off clients such as various band practices and some amateur dramatic groups and charity events. In terms of finance the Parish Hall made a surplus of just over £6,700, that is an excess of receipts over payments. This was due to the hall being fully opened again, and demand for the space being high. This revenue is a valuable asset in supporting the overall Church financial situation. The Parish Hall account holds an average of £25,000 in its general running account.

The Hall is maintained to an excellent standard, a matter on which clients often comment very positively. Work carried out during 2022 includes renewal of the kitchen lighting, a replacement electronic roller shutter in the kitchen and a new water heater. A new door was also put in leading to the outside in the Barlow room.

Early 2023 has seen a new gas boiler being installed which will be much more energy efficient and allows programming of the heating to be more precise. The hall continues to be popular for community events and is busy for most days of the week. There are also 2 wedding receptions booked in for this year.

There are a team of people who help look after and maintain the hall without which it wouldn't run as well as it does, thank you! Thanks must also go particularly to Lynn for her meticulous cleaning and obvious care for the hall, plus Paul and Tony who set the heating every week - *Val Atkinson*

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT (Fabric, goods, and ornaments) - In contrast to the previous two years in which our activities were so severely restricted, we thank the Lord that in 2023 there has been uninterrupted worship throughout. It has been with great joy that once more we have been able to welcome people to regular worship every week of the year.

We are so grateful to the energy and commitment of our ministry team that this important nourishment has been further enriched by variety of forms that services take; from more traditional Morning Prayer and Holy Communion to more relaxed 'cafe church' to the new ways of worshipping provided by the evening services of Splurge and Breathe. Additionally, I know that the return of special services such as; Christingle, Scouts Parade services, the Act of remembrance around the war memorial and the community carol service has been much appreciated. Our worship has been further enhanced with themed services inviting us to focus on the environment, the Bible and prisoners. At the same time many of our other activities properly recommenced; face-to-face house groups and prayer meetings, craft and coffee, squeals. Also, we have been able to host special events such as the very popular flower festival to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Initially not everyone felt confident in mingling with others. Although attendance figures slowly increased the PCC has had to address the thorny issue that numbers attending our church are decreasing, this is particularly true of younger people and families and reflects national trends.

The year also saw the nervously anticipated closure of St Aidan's, marked by a celebratory service and tea party on Sunday 10 July. The Thursday morning service has successfully relocated to the parish hall as have some Sunday services.

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With these issues in mind the PCC gathered for an away day in September and made the decision to consolidate services to a single service each week at 09.30. I personally feel that these two factors are bringing us together as a single united congregation and that we are now in a strong position to move forward into the future. As I write this (now three months into 2023) I see the green shoots of new growth in new faces and new connections and new initiatives.

There have been a number of projects in development; repairs to the transept roofs, installation of screens with a new sound system and an area of the graveyard for the interment of ashes. With some hiccups faculties have now been obtained and we eagerly anticipate the start and completion of these works in 2023. Using a few items from St Aidan's the vestry area has been much improved without the need of a faculty. Leaving lighting on the main path and changes to the toilet and kitchen area to be addressed in the future.

I am greatly indebted to Don Savage who has continued his work with 'the payback team' to maintain the church yard, most noticeably improving the pathways, restoring the lichgate, planting a tree in honour of the Queen, and making safe a few wobbly gravestones.

The winter saw a steep rise in fuel prices. Attempts to mitigate the cost of heating have led to a few chilly services, I apologise.

St Aidan's, though closed remains in our possession. Thank-you to John and Rachel Parker who still keep an eye on the building - *Tim Marvell 2022 Church Warden*

YORK DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS - This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church in York Diocese and the wider Church of England through General Synod Updates etc. Meetings provide a forum for discussion on topics such as 'Live Christ's Story, the Racial Justice Charter, the West Area Deanery Plan giving direction for prayer and worship together.

The Vicar plus Anne Barker, Jennifer Deamer and Mo Vivash represent the parish at meetings. Only two meetings took place in the year, one on 10.2.22 by Zoom and the other on 26.7.22 at Heslington Church. Revd Luke Tillet remains Area Dean. Whereas the previous Archbishop of York acted as Bishop of York itself, Bishop John (Selby) now provides episcopal oversight of York Deanery and care of the churches within it. The new Dean of York Minster (The Very Revd Dominic Barrington) provides for the civic roles.

In June 2022 in conjunction with local Anglican churches in West York we ran a course exploring the Church of England Report - 'Living in Love & Faith. The take up was small. You will no doubt be aware of the recent General Synod vote (Feb 2023) to offer prayers and blessings for those in same-sex relationships/marriages. Some were delighted with this step forward while others feel that this is a step too far. The fallout across the church of England and the global Anglican communion is causing fragmentation with the fear of a major schism. We now await the Bishops guidelines promised for July 2023 as to what can or cannot be acted upon within local churches to see how this develops. General Synod upheld the Biblical view of marriage as being only between a woman and a man.

VICAR'S REPORT

February 2022 saw the 70th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II, the same month that the Russo-Ukrainian War commenced. We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June with the planting of a tree in St Stephen's Churchyard to commemorate this, and with a Flower Festival at St Stephen's in conjunction with the skills of Acomb Flower Guild. In September the nation mourned the death her majesty and with her funeral. Charles III became King and Camilla, Queen Consort.

Rev Rachel Garland's curacy here (sponsored by Liverpool Diocese) concluded at the end of July 2022. Unfortunately, she then fell between two stools – Liverpool Diocese could not offer

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her a suitable parish with stipend and York were not in a position to assist either which would have meant her leaving ministry and finding secular employment after all her training. A number of people asked the PCC to consider if as a parish we could employ her direct so she could remain and work in the parish. We explored the viability of this with both the Bishop of Selby and York Diocese. With generosity from a number of parishioners we were able to employ her as a half time Associate Priest from 1st August 2022 for a maximum of 2 years to end no later than 31st July 2024. She was licensed as Associate Priest by Bishop of Selby via Zoom on 25th July 2022.

With Covid abating we began increasing our 'in church services' and ceasing our 'online services' from Easter. The new pattern of worship introduced after last year's PCC Away Day in Haxby included the two new services of 'Splurge' and 'Breathe' which have continued to become established. 'Splurge' has continued to grow month on month and though largely held in the church hall, for example one of them being a particularly well attended Nativity, some also took place on the Green and at St Stephen's. We now have an attendance, which consistently has around 12-19 children including some attending secondary school plus a similar number of parents. We also held a Riding Lights drama 'Nearly the Goat' before Christmas which included puppets and was attended by around 130 adults and children. The 'Breathe' services were initially well attended but the numbers dropped a little across the year and we realise that long term it might be better to hold this across the Spring/Summer period in future. Those attending, hugely value the quieter, gentle and varied approach to worship, such as in June we held a Taizé service led by Louisa Taylor from Acomb Methodist Church who had lived in their community for a number of years. We have also used prayer stations at some services.

During our services we spent some months reflecting on 'Superheroes of the Old Testament' and unpacked our mission statement: 'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'. The latter shares our purpose with the wider community as well as keeping us focused on *our* Mission as a church family. We have maintained both Sunday and Thursday worship, prayer, fellowship, and administrative and management tasks easing away from Zoom meetings and back to face-to-face gatherings. As confidence grew in what was becoming a post covid world we gradual recommenced Squeals on Wheels (Mothers & Toddlers), Monthly Coffee Mornings & Craft Fair & etc across the year. We also restarted services with the residents of Vyner House Services and the community led monthly clothes swap. We marked Generosity Week and Harvest, Bible Sunday and held the annual memorial service in St Stephen's. John Goodrich again organised Carol singing at York Station for Christian Aid. Attendance at some of our Christmas services was somewhat patchy but the Family Crib Service was well-attended as was the Community Carol Service.

A huge thank you to all who have helped maintain much in the parish through these changing times, no matter how large or small your support has been. Thanks to all who continued to assist with the delivery of Parish Update letters, and to those who helped deliver 5000 Easter and Christmas cards across the parish, and to Jill Shaw who ably coordinated this. Jill also shared with us about her ongoing prison ministry (inc. Angel Tree, the Sycamore course, Prison Week and 'In2Out' bringing a speaker for this latter one. Julie Parker shared about Compassion UK. The parish also provided each church member with a Lent booklet: 'Live Lent: Embracing Justice'. An Easter prayer trail took place in the churchyards and a spring-cleaning day was held at St Stephen's in May being joined by 'Good Gym' for part of this.

After much detailed investigations of the structural integrity and condition of St Aidan's Church, an open public meeting was held there on 6th March 2022 at which a number of options were considered and hopes, concerns, memories and stories shared. The meeting concluded that it was time to close the church. The PCC then formally agreed to close the church and look to sell the site. A formal press statement was released, and the Bishop of Selby attended a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's on Sunday 10th July 2022 which was followed by a 'bring and share' tea. St Aidan's Licence for Public Worship was revoked by the Archbishop of York and furniture is gradually being moved on.

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To compensate for the loss of services at St Aidan's Church a Licence for Public Worship was granted Hall by the Archbishop of York for Acomb Parish Church (this also includes for baptisms and funerals but not weddings). We are now beginning to see this as not just a church hall but as a parish worship centre too. We have moved our growing Thursday congregation to the parish hall as there is good access and some parking for those with disability. These services continue to be very well supported and always followed by coffee with the first of each month held as a Mothers' Union corporate communion followed by a snack lunch.

After a sustained period of receiving communion in 'one kind' (bread only), initially forced by covid restrictions, we reintroduced communion in both kinds from our Harvest Festival onwards. The Bishop of Selby re-licensed a number of folk to assist with distribution of the Eucharist (Communion) for both Thursday and Sunday services and to assist with home communions. Previous licenses had elapsed during covid.

Thanks to all who have assisted in leading worship in any way, especially our readers, intercessors, musicians along with Julie Parker, Anne Barker and Mo Vivash, Revds Rachel Garland, Andrew Bailey, Philip Cousin, Jane Speck and Bishop John. I am grateful to Tim Marvell for all he does as churchwarden, to Nigel Atkinson as PCC treasurer, Mo Vivash as PCC Secretary. I remain grateful to those in the PCC Sub committees and various forums for their ongoing work across the year and to Val Atkinson for coordinating bookings at the Parish Hall. The PCC attended an annual Away Day at Wigginton in September, where it was agreed to continue with the present pattern of services and events but also begin building on and extending our contacts with families (given the rise in cost of living and to provide a warm space) by starting a new weekly term time space called 'SOS' (Schools out Splurge) each Friday late afternoon for children and parents. We introduced 'Grapevine' a monthly newsletter available at all services in church and the hall.

In 2022 there were 18 Baptisms, 8 Weddings. We took 24 Funerals - 11 at St Stephens, 1 at St Aidan's and 12 at York crematorium with a total of 16 burials - 3 at Fulford Cemetery and 13 interments of cremated remains in St Stephen's churchyard. From our fellowship this year we saw the deaths of Penny Smith, Geoffrey Bailey, Anne (Margaret Atkinson, Doreen Park, Deborah Ormiston, Dot Gell, John Ramsden and Anna Lewis. John Elwick's delayed memorial took place at St Stephen's with his ashes being interred in the churchyard.

We have been delighted to welcome new folk among us as the year progressed as well as two church families welcoming refugees from Ukraine into their homes. We were delighted to celebrate Vanda and Gareth's wedding during the course of the year. Others have connected with the church through worship or other activities, some connecting as a result of watching our earlier online services during covid or connecting through social media or prompted by the Easter and Christmas cards. We have a Parish Website: www.acombparish.org and Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/acombparish which continue to be our main way of communications and church enquiries. There are numerous hits on these each week.

As part of ACT (Acomb Churches Together) we run assemblies at Westfield School, held a Prayer Vigil for Ukraine at the Acomb War Memorial, we ran an extremely well attended and poignant (ACT) 'Act of Remembrance' at Acomb War Memorial and ran a successful Christmas Event at the Gateway Centre. The Eco-Church group has continued, ably led by Dan Savage, with several activities - Count of Nature, assisting with services for Environment Sunday (26/6) and Climate Sunday (27/11) and running a highly successful and well attended Eco Day in Acomb Church Hall. We still hope to obtain a bronze EcoChurch award from A Rocha and consider the possibility of installing solar panel on St Stephen's Church roof. All were hugely concerned for Dan through his life threatening illness and give thanks for his progress.

As 2023 began we held a very well supported Christingle and a celebration of 90 years of the 2nd Acomb (St Stephen's) Scout Group with a huge gathering in St Stephen's at which they sealed a large time capsule. They have asked that this be held by in the church as the troop

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was initially started by the then Vicar all those years ago. We have just delivered 5000 Easter Cards again, been through Lent and Holy Week using a lent book 'From Glory to Glory' by Tom Parsons. We also ran 'Splurge: Easter' which attracted a few regular families as well as a number of non-church attendees. The Easter Day service was very well attended. As part of ACT (Acomb Churches Together) along with other churches we all displayed Holy Week and Easter Poster's around the parish designed by Dan Savage. By the time you will have received this report the King & Queen's Coronation will have just taken place on Saturday 6th May 2023. The church house in Fellbrook Avenue is now about to be let to a Ukrainian family through York council initiative. We have just enjoyed a BCP Choral Evensong with the chamber choir 'The Clerkes of All Saints' as a Breathe service which was well supported. Sadly, we heard of the recent death of Mrs Pat Marvel, a member of our congregation.

Having received the required faculty we have just erected a single memorial stone to which individual names can be carved in a new area for cremated in the churchyard. You will be aware that the churchyard is almost full. The above is a way of us trying to continue to inter ashes as long as possible. We will now, as planned, formally apply for the churchyard to be closed. The churchyard will remain accessible to all, but long term, this will transfer the responsibility of its general maintenance to the local authority - something which many churches do. We are also moving forward with plans to upgrade the kitchen/toilet area at St Stephen's to include the installation of a toilet for disabled people as well as some lighting upgrades both inside and outside the church.

I recently announced, that after more than a year's reflection, I would be retiring from full time church leadership at the end of August 2023 after nearly 7 years here in Acomb and just over 31 years in ordained ministry. Mo and I have loved our time here amongst you. 'Retirement' is of course a strange concept for all God's people - as disciples of Christ, we all continue throughout our lives as fulltime Christian workers. All disciples are called by God to exercise ministry. If we are to continue growing as a church, not only do we need to continue with our various activities, but we also need to encourage those regulars back who have never returned post-covid. Additionally, may I encourage all to consider the frequency of their church attendance. It is hard to see how we can grow together with just an occasional service and sermon. If you only attend occasionally, how are you being fed spiritually the rest of the time?

I would love to see every church member attached to a home group and connecting with one of the prayer groups too. It is in these groups that we will see growth in our Christian walk as we seek to become more Christlike. As members of the Body of Christ we need to spend time listening to God together, praying for and caring for one another, and encouraging one another with the Word. Consider Paul's words, 'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' (*Galatians 2:20*). If you are not part of a group, please consider joining one or more of them.

There is an oft used analogy of a church as being like a cruise ship, where only some of those on board do the work while others relax. The other is of the church as a battleship on which the entire company are trained and ready to work together for the same purpose. I leave you with this question; Which of these two models should we, as God's church here in Acomb, ascribe to?

Revd Pete Vivash

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

Dated: 8 May 2023

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	2	61,972	100	17,630	-	79,702	74,943
Charitable activities	3	46,752	-	5,294	-	52,046	49,718
Investments	4	3,333	-	3,301	6,727	13,361	11,334
Total income		112,057	100	26,225	6,727	145,109	135,995
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	5	122,102	550	24,564	8,501	155,717	130,956
Net gains on investments	9	(17,242)	-	(4,544)	-	(21,786)	13,731
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(27,287)	(450)	(2,883)	(1,774)	(32,394)	18,770
Other recognised gains and losses							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	335,000	-	-	335,000	85,000
Net movement in funds		(27,287)	334,550	(2,883)	(1,774)	302,606	103,770
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		175,917	1,826,652	241,587	119,475	2,363,631	2,259,863
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		148,630	2,161,202	238,704	117,701	2,666,237	2,363,633

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	2,157,983		1,823,157	
Investments	11	209,252		241,623	
		<u>2,367,235</u>		<u>2,064,780</u>	
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		299,644		299,247	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(642)</u>		<u>(394)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>299,002</u>		<u>298,853</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>2,666,237</u></u>		<u><u>2,363,633</u></u>
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	14	117,701		119,476	
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15	238,704		241,588	
Designated funds	16	2,161,202		1,826,652	
General unrestricted funds		148,630		175,917	
		<u>2,666,237</u>		<u>2,363,633</u>	

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27 March 2023

Rev P Vivash

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	44,023	-	6,895	50,918	49,774
Donations and legacies	5,222	100	221	5,543	5,231
Gift aid tax relief	11,447	-	514	11,961	13,101
Other income	1,280	-	10,000	11,280	6,837
	<u>61,972</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>17,630</u>	<u>79,702</u>	<u>74,943</u>
For the year ended 31 December 2021	<u>70,520</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>3,703</u>		<u>74,943</u>
Donations and legacies					
Donations	<u>5,222</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>5,543</u>	<u>5,231</u>
	<u>5,222</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>5,543</u>	<u>5,231</u>

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Service fees	6,145	5,316
Lettings	26,410	18,145
Rent	12,053	15,869
Special efforts	2,292	213
Diocese of Liverpool	5,146	10,175
	<u>52,046</u>	<u>49,718</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	46,752	
Restricted funds	<u>5,294</u>	
	<u>52,046</u>	
For the year ended 31 December 2021		
Unrestricted funds		39,543
Restricted funds		<u>10,175</u>
		<u>49,718</u>

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Investments	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Endowment funds general		Total Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Endowment funds general		Total	
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	3,307	2,344	5,820	11,471	3,110	2,136	5,533	10,779						
Interest received	26	957	907	1,890	10	508	37	555						
	<u>3,333</u>	<u>3,301</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,361</u>	<u>3,120</u>	<u>2,644</u>	<u>5,570</u>	<u>11,334</u>						

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs	13,407	12,351
Depreciation and impairment	174	204
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	17,240	11,978
Church running expenses	11,397	7,288
Church yard expenses	353	124
Bank charges	329	195
Freewill offering	68,000	68,000
Parish expenses	5,171	3,720
Donations to charities	5,857	6,784
Church major repairs	8,700	-
Church maintenance	8,259	9,075
Professional fees	4,947	2,202
Gifts	251	403
Clergy expenses	467	466
Clergy housing	10,735	7,741
	<u>155,287</u>	<u>130,531</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	430	425
	<u>155,717</u>	<u>130,956</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	122,102	
Designated funds	550	
Restricted funds	24,564	
Endowment funds - general	8,501	
	<u>155,717</u>	
For the year ended 31 December 2021		
Unrestricted funds		109,739
Restricted funds		16,509
Endowment funds - general		4,708
		<u>130,956</u>

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	2021 £
Costs of independent examination	-	430	430	425
	-	430	430	425
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	430	430	425

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	4	4
Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	13,407	12,351

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Revaluation of investments	(17,242)	(4,544)	(21,786)	7,045	6,686	13,731

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	1,822,000	6,314	1,828,314
Additions	300,000	-	300,000
Revaluation	35,000	-	35,000
At 31 December 2022	2,157,000	6,314	2,163,314
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2022	-	5,157	5,157
Depreciation charged in the year	-	174	174
At 31 December 2022	-	5,331	5,331
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	2,157,000	983	2,157,983
At 31 December 2021	1,822,000	1,157	1,823,157

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	236,623	5,000	241,623
Valuation changes	(21,786)	-	(21,786)
Disposals	(10,585)	-	(10,585)
At 31 December 2022	204,252	5,000	209,252
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	204,252	5,000	209,252
At 31 December 2021	236,623	5,000	241,623

12 Financial instruments

	2022 £	2021 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	209,252	241,623
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	642	394

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	642	394

14 Endowment funds

The movements in endowment funds during the year were as follows:

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 December 2022 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
Permanent endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	29,471
Expendable endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	48,107	2,829	(6,237)	44,699
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	22,250	3,898	(2,263)	23,885
	<u>119,475</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>117,701</u>

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2022 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Investments gains/losses £		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Investments gains/losses £	
Young People's fund	46,041	3,159	(4,635)	-	44,565	1,932	(3,125)	-	43,372
St Stephen's Fabric fund	185,084	2,627	(5,168)	6,686	189,228	13,161	(5,565)	(4,544)	192,280
St Aidan's Fabric fund	3,189	237	-	-	3,426	187	(1,757)	-	1,856
AV Sound system	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	500
Gifts	75	193	(268)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angel Tree fund	-	30	-	-	30	369	(251)	-	148
Hardship fund	-	100	(100)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diocese of Liverpool fund	-	10,175	(6,337)	-	3,838	5,146	(8,848)	-	136
Contribution to R Garland Costs	-	-	-	-	-	5,430	(5,018)	-	412
	234,889	16,521	(16,508)	6,686	241,587	26,225	(24,564)	(4,544)	238,704

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2022 £
		Incoming resources £	Investments gains/losses £	Resources expended £		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Investments gains/losses £	
St Stephen's Churchyard fund	-	720	-	-	720	-	(350)	-	370
Property fund	1,737,000	-	85,000	-	1,822,000	-	-	335,000	2,157,000
Squeals on wheels fund	100	-	-	-	100	100	(200)	-	-
Young People's fund	3,832	-	-	-	3,832	-	-	-	3,832
	1,740,932	720	85,000	-	1,826,652	100	(550)	335,000	2,161,202

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £		Designated funds 2022 £		Restricted funds 2022 £		Endowment funds 2022 £		Total 2022 £		Unrestricted funds 2021 £		Designated funds 2021 £		Restricted funds 2021 £		Endowment funds 2021 £		Total 2021 £	
	983	2,157,000	-	-	56,188	182,516	49,119	68,582	2,157,983	209,252	131,771	1,157	1,822,000	4,652	60,733	180,855	49,119	70,357	1,823,157	241,623
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:																				
Tangible assets																				
Investments	103,945	-	-	-					2,157,983	209,252	131,771	1,157	1,822,000	-	60,733	180,855	49,119	70,357	1,823,157	241,623
Current assets/(liabilities)	43,702	4,202							299,002	299,002	42,989	42,989	4,652	4,652	180,855	180,855	70,357	70,357	298,853	298,853
	148,630	2,161,202			238,704	117,701	117,701	117,701	2,666,237	2,666,237	175,917	175,917	1,826,652	1,826,652	241,588	119,476	119,476	119,476	2,363,633	2,363,633