



ST FAITH'S

G R E A T C R O S B Y

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

***The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of
Great Crosby St Faith***

Registered Charity No. 1134518



Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Crosby St Faith is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity Registration number: **1134518**

St Faith's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Kingsway and Crosby Road North, Liverpool, L22 4QQ and its Church Hall is located on Milton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 4RE. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, Milton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 4RE.

Website: <http://www.stfaithsgc.org.uk>

For the period 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved, the following served as members of the PCC:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Vicar | Fr. John Reed (<i>retired 26/11/23</i>) |
| Church Wardens | Mr. Gareth Griffiths (<i>resigned 15/11/23</i>) Mrs Brenda Cottarel (<i>resigned 30/10/23</i>) Mr. Rick Walker (<i>Acting Chairman of the PCC</i>) (<i>elected 12/11/23</i>) |
| Clergy Representative | Fr. Dennis Smith (<i>from 18/1/24</i>) |
| Reader Representative | Mrs. Paula Lampard |
| Deanery Synod Representatives | Mr. Gareth Griffiths (<i>resigned 15/11/23</i>) Mr. David Jones Vacancy |
| Elected Members | Mrs. Eunice Little (<i>to APCM 2023</i>) Mrs. Irene Taylor (<i>to APCM 2023</i>) |
| To retire 2024 | Mr. Harry Huyton Vacancy Mr. Richard Woodley |
| To retire 2025 | Mr. David Jones (<i>Treasurer</i>) Ms. Corinne Hedgecock (<i>Assistant Warden & Electoral Roll Officer</i>) Mrs. Christine Spence (<i>Assistant Warden</i>) |
| To retire 2026 | Mrs. Vivienne Shillitoe (<i>PCC Secretary</i>) Ms. Mari Griffiths Vacancy |

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the Church.

Bankers: TSB plc, PO Box 373, Leeds, LS14 9GQ.

Independent Examiner: Mr Raymond Bissex FCA, St. Mary's Annexe, 32 Brooklands Avenue, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 3XZ.

Architect: Rebecca Grimshaw, Anthony Grimshaw Associates LLP, 6 Bridgeman Terrace, Wigan, WN1 1SX.

Day-to-day management control of the Church is exercised by the Incumbent, Fr. John Reed, until 26/11/23 and by the Churchwarden, Rick Walker, from 27/11/23.

Structure, Management and Governance

The PCC of Great Crosby St Faith is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and *Church Representation Rules (2020)*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The full PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 75%.

From the APCM 2023*, the PCC operated the following sub-committees:

Standing Committee: Fr. John Reed (Chair), Mr Gareth Griffiths (Warden and PCC Lay Vice Chair), Mrs Brenda Cottarel (Warden), Mr David Jones (Parish Treasurer), Mr Richard Woodley.

Finance Committee: Mr David Jones (Treasurer) (Chair), Fr. John Reed, Mr Gareth Griffiths, Mrs Brenda Cottarel, Mr Rick Walker, Mr Peter Garner.

Fabric Committee: The Standing Committee oversee fabric issues.

Social Committee: Fr. John Reed, Mrs Christine Spence, Mrs Irene Taylor, Mrs Eileen Matthews, Ms Corinne Hedgecock.

* *Note: membership of the committees changed following the Vicar's retirement and the resignation of the Wardens in November.*

PCC members receive information on trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk management and safeguarding procedures.

Aims and Purposes

St Faith's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of 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 the Parish Church of St Faith, located on the corner of Kingsway and Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 4QQ and its Church Hall, located on Milton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 4RE.

Objectives and Activities

The general functions of PCCs are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the Parish Church and to become part of the community of faith at St Faith's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship in the Parish and discusses how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish.

Our worship puts faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Statement of Public Benefit

When planning the activities for the year, the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and Prayer; regular public worship that is open to all, and the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Enabling people to learn about the Gospel and develop their knowledge of, and trust in, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and for members of the congregation, including visiting the sick, housebound and bereaved.
- Mission and outreach work
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities that meet the needs of various groups within the Parish.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Faith and the Church Hall.

Our objectives for 2023 were:

| Aims for 2023 | Whether achieved |
|---|--|
| To welcome the children and families we have | Children and families have always been welcomed and encouraged. Children have recently read the lessons in church and this should be a regular occurrence. Several baptisms have been arranged and the Junior Choir have taken part in the Sunday Eucharist, supported by their parents and friends. |
| Engaging with the uniformed organisations. | 'Rainbows' have recently re-started in the Church Hall. |
| To develop the Waterloo Group | No progress |
| To increase the focus on Lent | No progress |
| To engage with the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' course | No progress |

| | |
|--|--|
| To increase our links with St John's School | Fr John and Paula Lampard are on the Board of Governors of the School and the new Vicar would be invited to join the Board. |
| To consider supporting the 'Messy Church' | Fr John supported a termly Eucharist with Fr Gregor Cuff. |
| To increase support for new prayer initiatives | Thanks to Eileen Matthews who set up a Bible Study/Prayer Group in her home and thanks to Judy Riley and Paula Lampard who are re-building the Walsingham Group. |

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance counted during October 2023 was 55 and the average Sunday attendance during the same period was 46. These figures do not include baptism services, weddings or funerals but the numbers are higher because of the Patronal Festival in October.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a list of those who are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and take part in its proceedings. This includes voting in elections for the Parochial Church Council, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members and eligibility to be elected to these roles.

The Roll is completely renewed every six years (last renewal was in 2019) and is revised each year before the APCM to make sure that it is accurate. For 2024, the revision period was between 24 March and 2 April. Following the revision, corrections may be made, but no names may be added or removed between the time that the revised Roll is completed and the close of the Annual Meeting.

Following the revision for the APCM 2024, there are currently 62 names on the Church Electoral Roll, 19 of whom are resident within the parish and 43 of whom are not resident within the parish. No names were added to the Roll and 3 names were removed under Church Representation Rules 2020 Rule 4.

Pastoral Care

The clergy and ministry team visit, on behalf of the Church, those who are unwell or are unable to leave their houses on their own. Those who wish it will receive regular communion either at home or in hospital and those who are bereaved are visited when it seems appropriate.

Occasional Offices

From January – December 2023, there were:

- 4 baptisms
- 2 weddings, and
- 8 funerals

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We are grateful for donations and fundraising efforts that resulted in £349 being given for missionary work. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be combined with opportunities for fellowship.

The parish website is updated regularly with details of services and social events and is in the process of being re-built. The "Friends of St Faith's Great Crosby" page on Facebook has 230 members and is updated daily. The "St Faith's Crosby Music" page has 257 followers on Facebook and 74 followers on Instagram and posts photographs and videos of musical events in the church. A "NewsLite" leaflet is published occasionally and distributed at the Sunday services with news about our church and articles of general interest.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults;
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults;
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

To this end:

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with the principles of Safer Recruitment. We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and / or isolation.
- We will seek to protect survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of respect and responsibility, where they are trusted by others.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult who is vulnerable.
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Ms. Helen Kibbey.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Other Policies

The PCC affirmed its commitment to holding policies that follow Diocesan and national church guidance on Data Protection, Volunteering, HR, the Environment, Health and Safety and Risk Management. Links to the Diocesan guidance are to be found on the church website. The

PCC Secretary holds copies of this in hard copy and electronic form and they are available on request.

The PCC of Great Crosby St Faith complies with its obligations under the "GDPR" by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

Report of the Parochial Church Council

To date, there have been five meetings of the PCC (nominally every two months with a break for the summer). There was also a short, extraordinary meeting held after the morning service on the 15 October to clarify an insurance matter.

Attendance has been just above 75% (77.6% to be exact). The number of PCC members has been reduced due to the resignation of two church wardens, and the Vicar's retirement. Vacancies remain for a Church Warden, two Synod Representatives, one Clergy Representative, one elected PCC member, and of course, a vicar.

Matters discussed included maintenance, particularly the long-awaited improvements to accessibility in the front porch area, and the new lighting system, installation of which has just begun. Running costs, particularly the alarming increases in fuel costs have been discussed. A comprehensive Fire Risk Assessment for the Hall was completed in October 2023 which raised several areas where improvements need to be made.

The Music Department has been busy. They have successfully established a Junior Choir (7 to 11 years of age) whose numbers are increasing week by week, a Girls' Choir (11 to 18 years of age) and six Lay Clerks to support and enhance the girls' singing. The resignation of the Assistant Director of Music was a disappointment to all, but we thank him for his contribution, and wish him well in his new position.

We remain committed to the importance of safeguarding, which is discussed at every PCC meeting. All DBS checks are complete and up to date.

The Parish Share is paid in full. This was made possible by an emergency appeal held just before Christmas. We are very grateful to all our generous benefactors.

Being in interregnum, as we are presently, can be an unsettling time. As a PCC we remain dedicated to preserving the spiritual and material traditions of our worship at St. Faith's, and we look forward with faith and positivity to the appointment of a new incumbent.

Vivienne Shillitoe
PCC Secretary

Report of the Sefton South Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met four times during the year 2023. In addition to the usual standing items such as finance, and reports from Diocesan Boards, a number of new initiatives were reported upon as highlighted below.

8 March 2023 at Great Crosby St Faith

Nadine Daniel, a General Synod representative for the Diocese, gave an account of proceedings at the latest eventful General Synod held in London.

25 May 2023 at Litherland St Philip

A presentation was given by Rev Canon Malcolm Rogers MBE, the Diocesan Canon for Reconciliation, on the work of the Triangle of Hope. As a result of this presentation, it was agreed that Sefton South Deanery make a donation of £5000 towards the Triangle of Hope Pilgrimage starting in July 2023.

Karyn Smith had asked to stand down as Synod Secretary. She was thanked for her work. Jonathan Griffin agreed to take up this role.

Nancy Bell retired from the role of Deanery Treasurer which she took up on a temporary basis 38 years previously. Nancy was heartily thanked for her work and service to us all.

28 September 2023 at Bootle Christ Church

A presentation was given by Rev Canon Andrew Stott. Andrew updated us on the good work being done in the first part of the Triangle of Hope pilgrimage.

The Deanery Bank account needs new signatories. It was proposed to add Rev Andrew Stott, George Carter and Barry Gray to the existing signatory of Rev Gregor Cuff. (Gregor confesses: Owing to my recent absence from work, I have not put this into action at the time of writing).

1 November 2023 at Liverpool Seafarers' Centre

A presentation was given by John Wilson about the work of the Liverpool Seafarers' Centre (LSC). Please note that the Mersey Mission to Seafarers, which is one of the partners at LSC, is distinct from the national body 'Mission to Seafarers' and donations sent to the one do not percolate through to the other. Therefore, if you make donations to a seafaring charity, please be sure which charity you are supporting.

*Revd Gregor Cuff
Christ Church with St John, Waterloo*

Report on the Church Fabric

Church and Hall

The maintenance of such a large building as St Faith's is a never-ending task, although the main focus in 2023 was on the "Back of Church Development" (see below) and the lighting system.

On Easter Day, following Evensong, Archdeacon Pete Spiers formally opened and dedicated the "Mackert Room" in the hall. The room was re-decorated and now has a TV, WiFi access to the internet and the music library was extensively overhauled at the beginning of January. As well as the Music Department, the room is used on a regular basis by church and external groups.

The lease for the electricity sub-station off Kingsway became due for renewal in April. Happily, the process was simpler this time and it has been renewed on a rolling rent review basis. The new lease is until April 2048.

A complaint about an overhanging tree was dealt with and the tree was thinned out and the overhang reduced. The Council complained about trees blocking the Kingsway traffic lights and so the trees were pruned back.

The boiler controls had not been working properly and only one of the boilers seemed to be working at any one time. A service was carried out, resolved the problem, and a new "Hive" controller was fitted. This is a 'smart' way of controlling the heating and can now be controlled remotely using a phone app. A number of repairs were carried out in the hall to their heating system and boiler. Several call-outs to the water boiler in the hall did not resolve the problems so it was removed and replaced with a new stand-alone boiler.

The hall floor was completely restored in the summer at a cost of £9,600 which was paid for by the insurance company, less an excess fee of £250. The work has been done to a very high standard and should last for many years.

In September, it was found that the fire alarm in the hall was not working properly. On closer examination, the system was found to be obsolete and had not been serviced for many years. An independent detailed fire risk assessment was carried out and quotations have been sought for a new fire alarm system. Other recommendations to tidy up several areas have already been carried out.

The regular tuning of the organ continues to be undertaken and, each time, there is a big improvement in the quality of the sound produced. Other running repairs have been carried out during the year but, unfortunately, the grand organ project could not go ahead as hoped due to funding priorities being focused on other issues.

We are very grateful to the churchwardens and many others who care for the buildings by cleaning and maintaining them, providing flowers and generally ensuring that the fabric of the church and hall is in a good state of repair.

Back of Church Development

After several months of meetings, emails, consultations, preparing a "Statement of Significance" and "Statement of Needs", permission and a Faculty was finally received in August. Unfortunately, however, tenders had been invited for the works from three companies and, although the estimate from the Quantity Surveyors had suggested a figure of £87k, the successful tenderer, after careful assessment by our architect, had submitted a price of £135k. This was way beyond our budget and so the PCC, reluctantly, decided to defer the scheme for the time being in the hope that external grant funding could be found.

Instead, priority was given to the installation of a new lighting system to replace the old system which was fitted in the 1970s. Most of the lighting is now complete at time of writing and has made a significant difference already. The scheme was carefully designed to ensure the right levels of lighting throughout the church and the electricians have done an excellent job, leaving everything clean and tidy after their work. All the lights are LED, energy efficient and have a life of over 20,000hrs.

Report of the Director of Music

2023 was without question one of the busiest years for St Faith's Crosby Music in recent history. Thanks to the heroic efforts of all our musicians and volunteers, St Faith's has continued to cement itself as the premier Parish Church for consistent quality music within the Diocese of Liverpool.

Undoubtedly, the biggest achievement of this last year has been the re-introducing of children singing in the church choir for the first time in many years. The Junior Choir, formed in Easter 2023, has gone from strength to strength, with 22 active primary children singing. The Girls' Choir, formed in September 2023, has grown similarly, with 8 secondary aged girls as part of this group. At the end of the year, St Faith's had 30 choristers, which is a fantastic achievement! September 2023 also saw the introduction of 8 professional lay-clerks to sing with the children. The appointment of the lay clerks has undoubtedly raised musical standards to a place that would not have been possible without them. The St Faith's Consort has continued to grow, with 40 members on the emailing list to sing at relevant services. The Parish choir continues to have 5 members. All this combined means that St Faith's has 83 active singers who have participated and elevated our worship and events over the last year. This figure is truly remarkable and represents a huge growth in the choirs' numbers from 2022.

Due to the vast increase in singers, St Faith's Crosby Music was able to support and enhance the liturgy of the biggest ever service schedule since the turn of the millennium at St Faith's. In addition to the Sunday Parish Eucharist, 2023 saw regular monthly Evensongs and Mattins that was well attended by the choir and congregation alike. The now regular weekly Compline series for Lent 2023 returned with other Compline services held throughout the course of the year. In September 2023, the choir begun singing regular weekday masses on a Tuesday, but the announcement of Fr John's retirement put this on hold. It is hoped that 2024 will see the re-introduction of weekday sung masses.

As well as singing the highest number of services, 2023 also saw a vast and varied concert programme. The usual weekly Saturday Lunchtime Concerts ran for eight weeks. Whilst attendance was lower than previous years, this still provided a vital income stream. In addition to this, the Music Department held a Summer and Christmas concert of their own, both filling the church to capacity. A 'Night at the Musicals' fundraising event was held to purchase new choir folders, and Lunchtime concerts were also held in October and November as an expansion of the programme. Whilst 2023 didn't see a big 'Come & Sing' concert (as a 'Messiah' is being planned for 2024), our Come and Sing Evensong attracted many people into the church. All concerts have operated under our 'Free Music for All' scheme, and despite not charging for any of these events, the donations received have continued to ensure that the Music Department is a major contributor to St Faith's church funds thanks to the success of all the events held. The choir also sang at parishes in the Diocese of Liverpool & Blackburn.

The St Faith's Music Staff has seen an expansion in 2023, notably with the appointment of an Assistant Director of Music and Organist, Peter Kwater. This position was vital to enable the growth that has been achieved. In addition to this, 2 volunteer choir chaperones and librarians have been appointed, and St Faith's is very grateful for all the hard work they have done. January 2023 saw the complete re-organisation and cataloguing of the St Faith's Music Library after years of neglect. All music was re-ordered, illegal photocopies disposed of, and a digital catalogue of all St Faith's music created. This has greatly improved efficiency whilst making sure all music is held legally.

St Faith's Crosby Music's social media and online presence has continued to expand in 2023. The St Faith's Crosby Music Facebook page attracted 18k site visits, with an additional 13k external interactions, and 5k content interactions. This means the total reach for Facebook

was just over 36k people. The Instagram & Twitter pages have continued to grow in similar ways. The Music Department has also been sending out monthly newsletters using *Mailchimp* and now maintains a growing list of 370+ members. Purple Fox Design have continued to assist with graphic design where this can't be done in house. Our professional branding, online presence and excellent physical marketing have resulted in thousands of people coming into St Faith's who never would have been before.

A significant amount of work was done to secure the future of the pipe organ at St Faith's, with Harrison and Harrison doing a grand job to keep the organ sounding as best as it can. A tremendous deal from Skrabl Organ builders was secured to restore the organ, but lack of funds meant this project did not progress any further. The pipe organ remains the church's single highest value asset but is in a critical condition.

2023 has seen significant growth in all areas of music at St Faith's, and I should like to thank each and every person who has made this possible! 2024 will only see the same growth continue.

Joe Watson
Director of Music

Financial Review

Each year, we seem to face new financial challenges and 2023 was no different. Reduced attendances, deaths and removals have inevitably affected our levels of giving and the numbers of people able to carry out tasks in the church.

There are now only two local banks for the church, in Bootle and Maghull, but we have managed to switch to most giving through direct bank transfers. Some income is still received in cash (and welcome!) but we are trying to move away from it. A small card reader bought in the autumn has already been used for about £200 in payments. We have registered with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) for all planned giving that reduces the administrative burden on the parish. Only a few have registered so far but letters will be sent out to the congregation to encourage everyone to join.

The figure of £29,336 for the year in planned giving is still very good but it has fallen steadily over the past few years and is below £30,000 for the first time. We need to arrest that decline as a priority. We are very grateful to all those who give regularly and generously and especially those who contributed to the Christmas Appeal that enabled us to pay off our Parish Share as requested by the Diocese.

The payment of Parish Share continues to be a real financial challenge, even though the figure was reduced in 2022 but it is still £2,841.46 every month.

The recovery of Gift Aid tax remains an important source of income and thanks are due to our Gift Aid Officer, Rick Walker, for processing the claims so efficiently. We were also able to claim back £2,323 in VAT under the "Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme" for repairs and consultancy fees.

Utilities costs have risen sharply due to the new gas contract that started in August 2022. Happily, negotiations are currently under way for the contract renewal that indicates a significant reduction in the cost of gas from August 2024.

Expenditure for the year has, happily and despite the surge in gas prices, fallen slightly and should fall further in 2024. A new heading “salaries and support costs” covers three members of staff as well as the associated on-costs. We ended the year with a positive balance again.

Two further payments were received from the estate of the late Liz Mackert that totalled £16,394. There are strict limitations on its use for the “maintenance, upkeep, repair and provision of additional facilities to benefit the structure, hall, car park and gardens of the Church” and this is continuing to make a significant difference to the church fabric.

We continue to be grateful to all those who give so much of their time and talents in raising much-needed funds for the church. The musical events have proved to be very popular, both in terms of financial benefit and by introducing hundreds of new visitors to St Faith’s.

The PCC continues to act responsibly and prudently in the management of the charity’s financial affairs.

David Jones MBE
Parish Treasurer

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) that equates to at least three months’ unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £20,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £26,503 held on unrestricted (including designated) funds at 31 December 2023 exceeded this target.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are being reviewed and a Risk Management Plan had been prepared and updated during the Covid pandemic. Risk can be defined as ‘the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organization’s ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies’. The risks may be categorized as follows:

- Financial risk – the most common category of risk and many non-financial risks can be measured in terms of financial impact. The PCC approved a “Financial Controls and Purchasing Policy” to manage financial risk.
- Reputational risk – can have an impact if unwelcome publicity hinders the mission of the church. Media releases are issued to local newspapers and the Diocesan Bulletin.
- Statutory and legal requirements – such as health and safety, employment law, Charities Act, and child protection. The PCC has policies in place and these will be publicly available on the new church website.
- Operational risk – relates to threats to the Church’s ability to deliver its objectives owing, for example, to damage to the church building.

Plans for 2024

| <i>Aims and objectives for 2024</i> | <i>How we plan to achieve this</i> | <i>Timescale</i> |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| To appoint a new Vicar for the United Benefice | The Parish Profile has been agreed by the PCCs of St Faith’s and St Mary’s and the Section 12 meeting with the Archdeacon and Patrons to agree the Role Description and | By Summer 2024 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| | advertising of the vacancy should be held soon. The Diocese have supported our wish to have a new incumbent in place as quickly as possible. | |
| To complete the new lighting system and the accessible entrance to the church | The new lighting system is almost complete and is expected to be finished by the end of April 2024. Work on the accessible entrance will start towards the end of April. | By May 2024 |
| To strengthen the Parish Choir | The building of the Junior Choir and the Girls' Choir has been a great success and this now needs to be taken further by developing the adults' choir and integrating the three together on more occasions. | From April 2024 |
| To re-build the congregation | Weekly attendances have fallen over the past few years and need to be re-built as a priority. More volunteers are needed for many church tasks. Some members of the congregation are still isolating at home and we need to support them. Parents of new choir members should be encouraged to become active members of the church. Ties with our local schools, especially Waterloo Primary and Merchant Taylors' should be re-established. | Ongoing |
| To develop our online presence and visibility in the parish | Progress has been slow on developing the new church website and this needs to be completed and extended to provide for improved communication for church members, with a regular online newsletter and online giving. Regular marketing and raising the church's profile is necessary. | Ongoing |

Volunteers

We should like to thank all those who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we thank our past Churchwardens, Mr Gareth Griffiths and Mrs Brenda Cottarel, who gave so much of their time to the care of the church and its people, and Mr David Jones, our Treasurer, who manages the church finances so carefully, all the members of the PCC, Assistant Wardens, sidespeople, our Director of Music and the Music Department, the catering team and those who clean and tidy the church. A special "thank you" this year to our Ministry Team who are working harder than ever during the interregnum to ensure St Faith's continues to flourish.

God of Mission
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers
in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer from "Leading Your Church Into Growth"

Approved by the PCC on 7 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rick Walker', written over a horizontal line.

**Mr. Rick Walker
Acting Chairman of the PCC**

The Parish of St Faith, Great Crosby

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2023

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2(a) | 54,799 | 199 | 16,743 | 71,741 | 224,014 |
| Fundraising activities | 2(b) | 10,639 | 4,149 | 3,665 | 18,453 | 14,750 |
| Church activities | 2(c) | 20,636 | - | - | 20,636 | 15,407 |
| Investments | 2(d) | 1,275 | - | - | 1,275 | 355 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 87,349 | 4,348 | 20,408 | 112,105 | 254,526 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 3(a) | 1,916 | 128 | 1,265 | 3,309 | 4,172 |
| Church activities | 3(b) | 100,342 | 2,423 | 24,746 | 127,511 | 127,557 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 102,258 | 2,551 | 26,011 | 130,820 | 131,729 |
| NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAIN/ (LOSS) | | (14,909) | 1,797 | (5,603) | (18,715) | 122,797 |
| Gain/(loss) on investment | | 257 | | | 257 | 1,004 |
| Transfer of funds | | 18,930 | (5,990) | (12,940) | 0 | 0 |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | 4,278 | (4,193) | (18,543) | (18,458) | 123,801 |
| BALANCE B/FWD 1 JANUARY 2023 | | 21,905 | 4,513 | 106,384 | 132,802 | 9,001 |
| BALANCE C/FWD 31 DECEMBER 2023 | | 26,183 | 320 | 87,841 | 114,344 | 132,803 |

The movements in Designated and Restricted Funds were as follows:

| | Balance B/fwd | Income | Expenditure | Transfers | Balance C/fwd |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| DESIGNATED | | | | | |
| Events Fund | 2,265 | 4,348 | 393 | (5,900) | 320 |
| Catering Fund | 125 | - | 35 | (90) | - |
| Boiler Fund | 2,123 | - | 2,123 | - | - |
| | 4,513 | 4,348 | 2,551 | (5,990) | 320 |
| RESTRICTED | | | | | |
| Building & Repairs Fund | 105,064 | 16,394 | 24,396 | (12,000) | 85,062 |
| 100 CLUB | 1,320 | 3,665 | 1,266 | (940) | 2,779 |
| Mission | - | 349 | 349 | - | - |
| | 106,384 | 20,408 | 26,011 | (2,740) | 87,841 |

The Parish of St Faith, Great Crosby

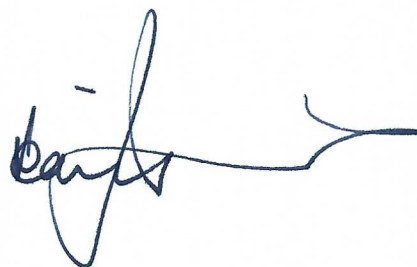
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

| | | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | TOTAL 2023 £ | TOTAL 2022 £ |
|---|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Note | | | | | |
| Fixed assets | 5 | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | | 4,411 | - | - | 4,411 | 8,822 |
| Investment | | 3,846 | - | - | 3,846 | 3,589 |
| | | <u>8,257</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>8,257</u> | <u>12,411</u> |
| Current assets | | | | | | |
| Debtors | 6 | 5,219 | - | - | 5,219 | 12,471 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 19,626 | 320 | 87,841 | 107,787 | 124,971 |
| | | <u>24,845</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>87,841</u> | <u>113,006</u> | <u>137,442</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 7 | | | | | |
| | | <u>6,919</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>6,919</u> | <u>17,051</u> |
| Net current assets | | 17,926 | 320 | 87,841 | 106,087 | 120,391 |
| Total net assets | | <u>26,183</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>87,841</u> | <u>114,344</u> | <u>132,802</u> |
| PARISH FUNDS | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 26,183 | | | 26,183 | 21,905 |
| Designated funds | | | 320 | | 320 | 4,513 |
| Restricted income funds | | | | 87,841 | 87,841 | 106,384 |
| | | <u>26,183</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>87,841</u> | <u>114,344</u> | <u>132,802</u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Mr Rick Walker
Acting Chairman of the PCC



David Jones MBE
Parish Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General fund represents the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.

Designated funds are general funds for which the PCC has designated that they should be used for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Income

Donations, legacies and other voluntary income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is receivable, incoming resources are accounted for gross

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993.

The Parish of St Faith, Great Crosby

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Fixed assets (continued)

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2005 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

| 2 INCOME | Unrestricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | TOTAL 2023 £ | TOTAL 2022 £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2(a) Voluntary income | | | | | |
| Planned giving | 29,336 | | | 29,336 | 31,832 |
| Gift aid donations | 2,328 | | | 2,328 | 1,732 |
| Tax recoverable | 9,327 | | | 9,327 | 9,370 |
| Collections | 1,184 | | | 1,184 | 2,371 |
| Donations | 5,050 | 199 | 349 | 5,598 | 40,959 |
| Legacies | - | | 16,394 | 16,394 | 128,194 |
| Grants | 7,574 | | | 7,574 | 9,556 |
| | <u>54,799</u> | <u>199</u> | <u>16,743</u> | <u>71,741</u> | <u>224,014</u> |
| 2(b) Fundraising activities | | | | | |
| 100 Club | - | | 3,665 | 3,665 | 4,335 |
| Appeals | 9,405 | | | 9,405 | 1,461 |
| Events | 1,234 | 4,149 | | 5,383 | 8,954 |
| | <u>10,639</u> | <u>4,149</u> | <u>3,665</u> | <u>18,453</u> | <u>14,750</u> |
| 2(c) Church activities | | | | | |
| Fees | 2,702 | | | 2,702 | 1,117 |
| Church hall | 16,333 | | | 16,333 | 13,387 |
| Land rent | 578 | | | 578 | 310 |
| Candles, cards and books | 334 | | | 334 | 436 |
| Other | 689 | | | 689 | 157 |
| | <u>20,636</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>20,636</u> | <u>15,407</u> |
| 2(d) Investment | | | | | |
| Dividends | 93 | | | 93 | 61 |
| Bank interest | 1,182 | | | 1,182 | 294 |
| | <u>1,275</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1,275</u> | <u>355</u> |
| Total income | <u>87,349</u> | <u>4,348</u> | <u>20,408</u> | <u>112,105</u> | <u>254,526</u> |

The Parish of St Faith, Great Crosby

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted Funds | TOTAL 2023 | TOTAL 2022 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 3 EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| 3(a) Raising funds | | | | | |
| Events | 1,604 | 35 | | 1,639 | 1,344 |
| 100 Club | - | | 1,200 | 1,200 | 2,400 |
| Bank charges | 312 | 93 | 65 | 470 | 428 |
| | <u>1,916</u> | <u>128</u> | <u>1,265</u> | <u>3,309</u> | <u>4,172</u> |
| 3(b) Church activities | | | | | |
| Missionary and charitable giving | | | 349 | 349 | 951 |
| Ministry: Diocesan parish share | 34,091 | | | 34,091 | 35,419 |
| Clergy expenses | 1,285 | | | 1,285 | 902 |
| Vicarage expenses | (699) | | 963 | 264 | 2,775 |
| Ministry team expenses | 392 | | | 392 | 100 |
| Salaries and support | 19,235 | | | 19,235 | - |
| Church running expenses | | | | | |
| Utilities | 7,497 | | 7,993 | 15,490 | 8,242 |
| Building insurance | 5,142 | | | 5,142 | 4,766 |
| Building maintenance | 961 | | 8,778 | 9,739 | 19,311 |
| Professional fees | 297 | | 6,093 | 6,390 | 11,021 |
| Upkeep of services | 2,353 | | | 2,353 | 1,521 |
| Music department | 7,006 | 300 | | 7,306 | 19,766 |
| Depreciation | 2,288 | 2,123 | | 4,411 | 4,411 |
| Hall expenditure | 13,847 | | 570 | 14,417 | 11,293 |
| Printing and stationery | 5,248 | | | 5,248 | 4,681 |
| Parochial council expenses | 1,307 | | | 1,307 | 1,748 |
| Sundries | 92 | | | 92 | 650 |
| | <u>100,342</u> | <u>2,423</u> | <u>24,746</u> | <u>127,511</u> | <u>127,557</u> |
| Total expenditure | <u>102,258</u> | <u>2,551</u> | <u>26,011</u> | <u>130,820</u> | <u>131,729</u> |

No payments were made to the Independent Examiner.

The Parish of St Faith, Great Crosby

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

4 PAID EMPLOYEES

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Salaries | 15,762 | - |
| Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | <u>15,762</u> | <u>-</u> |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 2 and none for 2022.

Some expenses were reimbursed to trustees for services other than as trustees during the year.

5 FIXED ASSETS

5(a) Tangible

| | | Church equipment £ |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost | At beginning of the year | 17,645 |
| | Addition | - |
| | At end of the year | <u>17,645</u> |
| Depreciation | At beginning of the year | 8,823 |
| | Charge for the year | 4,411 |
| | At end of the year | <u>13,234</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | At beginning of the year | 8,822 |
| | At end of the year | <u>4,411</u> |

5(b) Investment

| | | Standard Chartered Plc |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Market value | At 1 st January 2023 | 3,589 |
| | Revaluation gain | 257 |
| | At 31 st December 2023 | <u>3,846</u> |

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| 6 DEBTORS | | |
| Tax recoverable | 2,895 | 2,265 |
| Other | 2,324 | 10,206 |
| | <u>5,219</u> | <u>12,471</u> |
| 7 LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Other | <u>6,919</u> | <u>17,051</u> |

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Faith, Great Crosby on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, which comprise Trustees' Report, Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related Notes.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent Examiner's statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Raymond Bissex F C A

32 Brooklands Avenue, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 3XZ

Date: 23 February 2024