

**The Parochial Church Council of Stainton with Hemlington,  
in the Benefice of Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton,  
in the Deanery of Stokesley, in the Diocese of York**



**St Peter & St Paul**

**“Annual Report” January 2024 to April 2025 and  
Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Parish Church**

St Peter and St Paul, Stainton with Hemlington

**Vicar**

Revd Laura Wild

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
Unit 1, Centre Mall  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2NR

**Independent examiner**

Gresham and Gale LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
14 Fountain St  
Guisborough  
TS14 6PP

**Inspecting Architect**

Mr Chris Cotton  
3 Whinfield Terrace, Dam Lane  
Leavening  
MALTON  
YO17 9SH

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

We begin this Annual Report with our very **grateful thanks to Colin Mason** for all his hard work over very many years **as Churchwarden (since March 1979)** and **as PCC Treasurer (since March 2003)** when he retired from his work with HMRC) now that he has decided to retire from these two roles. Colin – we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude!

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This Report relates to the activities for the period January 2024 to April 2025(\*) of the Parochial Church Council of Stainton with Hemlington.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the Church Commissioners “made” a Pastoral Scheme to re-unite the Parish of St Timothy, Hemlington, with its Mother Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Stainton-in-Cleveland, to create the new Parish of Stainton with Hemlington in the Benefice of Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton (which is held in Plurality with the Benefice of Brookfield); this Pastoral Scheme came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

In addition, the Church Commissioners “made” a Pastoral Scheme to close St Timothy’s Church for public worship and to demolish the Church Building (Church and Church Hall) which had been declared unsafe for use on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019; this Scheme came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The demolition of St Timothy’s Church and Hall was completed in June 2023 and on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 3.00pm on the site of St Timothy’s Church our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, hosted a Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for the service that St Timothy’s provided to the local population; Revd Laura was assisted by the Venerable Dr Amanda Bloor, Archdeacon of Cleveland. At the time of compiling this report (April 2025) the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and our PCC are in the process of disposing of the “St Timothy’s Site” (the DBF for the Church site and the Parsonage house (an offer has been made to purchase the Vicarage, subject to contract); and the PCC for the Church Hall site).

On Palm Sunday 2024 the Diocese completed the recruitment of a second Priest in our Plurality with the Installation and Induction of Revd Vanessa Kirby as Pioneer Priest for the three Parishes in the Plurality (Stainton with Hemlington; Hilton; and Brookfield) in a service at St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Stainton on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

In addition to support from Revd Vanessa our Vicar, Revd Laura, has the support of Revd Marie Edwards (SSM) who has the Archbishop of York’s Permission to Officiate (PTO) across the Diocese.

(\*) Previous Annual Reports to the APCM have covered the previous calendar year, in line with the requirement in the Church Representation Rules 2022 (CRR22) Rule M5 to report on the PCC Accounts for “the year ending on the 31 December preceding the Meeting”. However, in discussion with the Vicar, **the decision has been taken for the “Annual Report” for the 2025 APCM to cover the period January 2024 to April 2025, and for subsequent Annual Reports to cover the activities of the PCC between the last APCM and the current APCM (essentially April to April).**

### AIMS AND PURPOSES

St Peter and St Paul’s, Stainton with Hemlington Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and the Parish Room which is attached to the Church building.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The object of the PCC of Stainton with Hemlington is to further the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stainton with Hemlington. The PCC of Stainton with Hemlington is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure; it is “excepted” by order from registering with the Charity Commission [this “exception” will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031 (cf Statutory Instrument SI 2021:25)].

Clergy and Licenced lay workers living in the Parish are *ex-officio* members of the PCC, as are any members of General, Diocesan or Deanery Synods and the Churchwardens who are elected annually at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. Six other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and all

members of the Church electoral roll of Stainton with Hemlington are entitled to vote and, if they have been on the electoral roll for at least six months, stand for election. One third of the elected members are elected each year and members serve for a period of three years.

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

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community in Hemlington, Maltby, Stainton and Thornton.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. The PA "sound system" in the Church includes a CD-player (we do not have a Church organist) with a set of CDs that accompanies the hymn book, and also a "loop system" for those with impaired hearing. During 2024 we have on occasions used a laptop computer, data projector and moveable screen to project liturgy and worship and other videos for non-Eucharist services and events. We have compiled a "Stainton Songbook" of more contemporary worship songs and hymns which are not included in the hymn book, and we wish to acknowledge with thanks the use of audio recordings of the songs in the Songbook taken (largely) from the St Barnabas, Linthorpe "Song Library" (which was produced during Covid to support services streamed by St Barnabas Church).

The PCC runs a pre-school/toddler drop-in – *Coffee and Kids (C&Ks)* – which continues to be very busy each Wednesday morning in school term time, and which meets in the Parish Room where the children can play and the (grand)parents and carers can enjoy fellowship with each other over a mug of coffee/tea. We are now well accustomed new arrivals most weeks, but also when the time comes for a toddler to attend nursery some parents choose for their little one to attend nursery during the afternoon ensuring they can still attend *C&Ks* on Wednesday mornings.

As we have done since *C&Ks* started in 2015, we have celebrated the birthdays of those attending with a small gift and a cake. At the Christmas party held in December 2024 we had 10 children most of whom were excited by our visit from Father Christmas.

In September 2025 *C&Ks* will have been running for ten years; the *C&Ks* Team are organising a "10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration" during September when we hope to see children and carers past and present.

Prior to the Covid pandemic *C&Ks* had contained little spiritual content so when *C&Ks* was restarted in November 2021 the opportunity was taken to change the format slightly to provide some spiritual content with:

- 30mins playing in the Parish Room;
- 30mins of refreshments in the Chancel with a bible story, short prayers and a worship song or two; and
- 30mins of nursery rhyme singing back in the Parish Room.

We are pleased that the parents/carers who bring their children to *C&Ks* consider St Peter and St Paul's as "their Church" and are happy to join in with the short time of worship; in effect they are a "new worshipping community". We have between eight and twelve children who attend with their carer each week.

Two of the Parents/Carers have been safely recruited as *C&Ks* Helpers and are now part of the Team.

In September 2024 the PCC approved the setting up of a second pre-school/toddler drop-in (Hemlington "Little Fishes" (LFs)) – under the leadership of Revd Vanessa Kirby, our Pioneer Minister. Little Fishes meets each Thursday morning during term-time in a Community Room provided by Habinteg, one of the Social Landlords in Hemlington.

Little Fishes began with two families and now, seven months on, 10 families regularly come along. Sessions consist of an initial time of free play, then snacks are served, and all the children sit down together to eat, there's then a craft activity, and we finish with song time.

The PCC is responsible for:

- The financial management of the church of St Peter & St Paul's Stainton; and
- The care and maintenance of the church fabric of St Peter & St Paul's Stainton including about 10% of the Chancel structure (the Church Commissioners being responsible for the remaining about 90% of the Chancel structure) and its attached Parish Room.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship and Prayer

During the early part of 2024 worship at St Peter and St Paul's centred on **the weekly service of Holy Communion** (Common Worship) at 11.00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month. On **the first Sunday of each month** the Parish joined with members of the sister-Parishes in our Plurality (St Peter, Hilton and St Margaret of Scotland, Brookfield) for a **Joint Service at 10.30am meeting in each Church in turn**.

In the second half of 2024 the usual pattern of services across the three Churches in our Plurality changed, principally with the move of the **Joint Plurality Holy Communion service to 10.30am on the fifth Sunday of the month (a "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Communion Special")**. The other change was the introduction on the **first Sunday of the month of a non-Eucharistic "Café Church" service** of informal worship with family-friendly activities and simple refreshments to replace the previous first-Sunday Holy Communion service.

In addition, there were other services for the major festivals of the Church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter). Our newly appointed Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, also ran short study courses in Advent and Lent for the three Church families in the Plurality.

At the Joint Plurality PCC meeting held at St Margaret's Church, Brookfield on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the then Vicar asked that we **"pray intentionally for growth in our three churches"**. The Stainton with Hemlington PCC agreed to hold a **weekly Plurality Prayer Gathering** in Stainton Church, facilitated by Julia Ardley our Authorised Lay Minister (ALM). The first Prayer Gathering was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and has continued to meet weekly since then with about six people from across the Plurality gathering in the Church to pray on each occasion. The Prayer Gathering is mentioned in the list of events in the weekly e-Newsletter and it is hoped that other Church members will be joining in the prayers at home.

### Deanery Synod

One member of the Stainton with Hemlington PCC is elected to represent the Parish on the Stokesley Deanery Synod (she is also our Authorised Lay Minister). In addition, the PCC Secretary is the Deanery Synod Treasurer and as such is an ex-officio member of the Synod and Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). These two people provide the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Deanery Synod met on three occasions during the period of this Report; the main topics for discussion were:

### 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Christ Church, Great Ayton)

#### Deanery Update

- **Elections to Diocesan Synod:** Revd Jane Robson (Asst Curate, Great Ayton) had moved out of our Deanery to Kirkleatham Parish. The House of Clergy in our Deanery elected our Area Dean, Revd Tessa Stephens (St Maty the Virgin, Nunthorpe) to fill the vacant place on the Diocesan Synod.
- **Treasurer's Update – Bob Ardley (Stainton with Hemlington):** The "examined" Accounts for 2023 and Budget for 2024 were accepted
- **Deanery Financial Advisor (DFA) – Ken Taylor (Great Ayton):** Parishes who has submitted their 2024 FWO to the Diocesan Common Fund were thanked.

- **Arrivals and farewells** – The appointment of Revd Vanessa Kirby as Pioneer Minister in the Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton, and Brookfield Plurality was announced, as was the departure of Revd Robert Opala from the Whorlton Benefice to take up the post of Priest-in-Charge at St Cuthbert's, Ormesby.

**Carousel Conversations:** Synod Members had the opportunity to “visit” three of the following topics:

- **Messy Church:** led by Revd Kate Brown. A chance to hear about the successful “Messy Church” service at Kirklevington, what it is and ... and what it is not.
- **Technology for churches:** led by John Dickinson – Unless we keep up with the current technology it will be increasingly difficult to function effectively, especially with younger people.
- **Let's talk about food:** – led by Revd Geoff Jaques, Deanery Green Dean. Who publicised the new book “Let's talk about food” prepared by the Diocesan Rural Life and Faith Group. This is useful material to raise the complex interactions between Food, farming and the Environment.
- **Prayers of Love and Faith:** – led by Nick Land who explained what is and what is not authorised in relation to the new prayers for same-sex relationships.

#### 4th June 2024 (St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick)

##### Deanery Update

- **Elections to Diocesan Synod:** Revds Tessa Stephens, Brenda Forrester and Laura Wild were elected from the House of Clergy; Davis Yates, David Local, Nick Land and Roy Parsonage were elected from the House of Laity.
- **Finance:** Updates were provided by the Deanery Financial Advisor (Ken Taylor) and the Deanery Treasurer (Bob Ardley).
- **Technology for Churches:** Jonny Hedges, Lead of the Diocesan Digital Transformation Team, spoke about what he and his team can offer to Parishes.
- **Developments at St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick:** Revd Brenda Forrester talked about the SFAIB “Creation Club” project which arose from the remit of bringing new ideas to reach the community and revitalise the Parish.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

**This meeting was cancelled** and Synod members encouraged to attend the “Welcome Service” for our new Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Barry Hill, held at All Saints, Northallerton, at which congregants were given a jigsaw piece of the archdeaconry- a recognition that we all have a part in the mission of God.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (S Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe)

##### Deanery Update

1. **Deanery Treasurer's Update – Bob Ardley (Stainton with Hemlington):** The “examined” Accounts for 2023 and Budget for 2024 were accepted
- **Deanery Financial Advisor (DFA) Update:** In his absence from the meeting the Area Dean read a Statement from Ken Taylor containing the following:
  - Deanery freewill offers (FWO) to the Diocesan Common Fund for 2025 were 2.9% higher than last year (about the same as the Diocese overall)
  - A reminder that the Parish Annual Report and Accounts should be submitted to the Diocese by 28<sup>th</sup> June (or no later than 28 days after APCM)
  - Clergy to encourage treasurers to attend Treasurers meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April – details will be available from Ken after 14<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Parishes are encouraged to maintain reserves of around 3-4 months, and also check whether restricted reserves really are “restricted” – is there clear evidence of donor's intentions?
- **Appointment of an Assistant Area Dean:** The Bishop and Archdeacon have decided to appoint Assistant Area Deans (AADs) in our Archdeaconry; Stokesley is the first Deanery to have an AAD appointed. Our new AAD is Revd Darren Moore from St Mary Magdelene, Yarm, who was commissioned at a service on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Our Area Dean, Revd Tessa Stephens, Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe, will be on sabbatical from 21<sup>st</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> July so Darren's appointment as AAD is timely.

- **Safeguarding in the Church of England:** Synod Members from one Benefice in the Deanery expressed concern about Safeguarding in the Church of England and requested our Synod to agree a motion to submit to the Diocese. The Parishes in the Benefice take Safeguarding very seriously but serious lapses at management levels in the National Church had left their PCCs feeling seriously let down. Representatives of the Benefice presented a draft Motion for submission to the Diocese and then, after much discussion, the Area Dean read out a statement which summarised the concerns raised by the Synod. It was agreed that the Area and Lay Deans would work with the Representatives of the Benefice concerned to prepare a Statement to go out to all Parishes in the Deanery for discussion by the PCCs and then a final version of the Statement would be agreed at the next Deanery Synod meeting (to be held in June 2025) before being sent to the Diocesan Synod in July 2025.
- **Brookfield 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** it was noted that the Parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Brookfield is 65 years old this year and celebrations will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025.  
*Julia Ardley, Deanery Synod Rep and Bob Ardley, Deanery Treasurer*

### **Support from our Parish for Diocesan Vocations Team and National Shared Discernment Process**

Julia Ardley continues to hold a voluntary role within the Diocesan Vocations Team as an 'Assistant DDO'. This entails working at depth with candidates who feel a calling to ordained ministry as they prepare for a 'Stage Two Discernment Panel', where their vocation will be more formally explored. Julia has also been appointed to serve as a Bishops' Adviser (=Advisers are church members, lay and ordained, who conduct conversations with candidates at Discernment Panels and compile reports for the candidates' Sponsoring Bishops). The work is demanding but fascinating and it's a privilege to meet people from all over England who feel called to offer their faith and talents for God's service in this particular way. Julia hopes and believes that she continues to grow in wisdom through working alongside others in two such compassionate and dedicated teams and wishes to thank church members for supporting her in this.

### **Parish Room**

The Parish Room is attached to the Church and was built as a Millennium Project. The planning consents preclude the hire of the Room but a number of groups do use it and make a small donation to Church funds.

The Room is used for tea and coffee after services; for the "Coffee and Kids" pre-school (grand)parent/carer and child drop-in; and for PCC meetings. It is also used by the Stainton Women's Institute (WI) for their monthly committee meetings and by the Hemlington Branch of the Girl Guides (Middlesbrough 52<sup>nd</sup> Guide Company).

### **Pastoral Care**

About 65 members of St Peter and St Paul's and Friends of the Church have been kept up-to-date with activities in the Parish by receiving a copy of the weekly e-Newsletter. A small proportion of these people (who "don't do Tech") receive printed hard-copies of the e-News.

Some members of our Parish are unable to attend church due to sickness, poor mobility or age. When notified of serious illness and requested our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, and/or Pioneer Minister, Revd Vanessa Kirby, have visited church members at home or in hospital and are honoured to share communion if requested too. Prayer Requests raised with anyone of the Ministry Team (\*) are - with permission - included faithfully in the weekly Plurality Prayer Gathering.

(\*) *Secretary's Note:* further details of the Vicar's Ministry Team are given in the Vicar's Report at the end of this Annual Report

### **Stainton Mothers' Union (MU)**

We started **2024** in **January**, when we discussed our yearly programme and then we looked at the "Northern Saints" book which Joan's sister has produced.

Because the Lent course was running on Tuesday afternoons during **February and March** we did not have any meetings, but members attended the course.

By **April** we had moved to a Monday evening and we welcomed the Revd Marie Edwards, who told us about her Christian Journey and also told us that it was 30 years since the ordination of women into the Church of England, a lively discussion followed.

The AGM was held in **May** and our Vicar Revd Laura chaired the meeting. All officers were re-elected. All members participated in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer.

Joan Mason spoke about the start of the education system in Stainton School during our **June** meeting, and our programme for the rest of the year was finalised.

**July** was the month of our fund raiser for the Summer of Hope Appeal; although numbers were low, we managed to raise £125 which was duly sent to Mary Sumner House.

As usual there was no meeting during **August**, but Joan and I attended the Deanery Festival held at St Mary Magdalene, Yarm, where our retiring Diocesan President (Hilary Castle) addressed us, and our Banner was also processed.

The **September** meeting started with an update on quite a number of informative notice; this was followed by Julia Ardley telling us about Vocations, which is a calling and a willingness to say yes. Questions and discussion gave us all time to participate, and Julia continued her talk telling us about her role in Discernment for the Church of England.

Revd Vanessa Kirby took us on a journey of her life through hymns at the **October** meeting, a very moving, personal and uplifting talk.

We met on St Hilda's Festival Day in **November** when our vicar Laura told us about her connections with St Hilda's Church and school in Hartlepool.

Our Advent Devotion and afternoon tea was held in **December**, and I also led the prayers at the Sunday service for the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

Both Joan Mason and I have attended Deanery and Diocesan meetings.

In **January 2025** our meeting was held during the Week of Prayer for Christian unity and we discussed the Theme "Do You Believe This".

Marriage through the Ages was the topic for our **February** meeting and was led by Joan Mason.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in **March** where all current officers were re-elected.

Our **April** meeting was held during Holy Week and was led by our Vicar Revd Laura  
*Judith Clare, Branch Leader*

## **Mission and Evangelism**

Our Church is a constant presence in the community and we offer a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join us to worship our Lord. Opportunities to share the Gospel arise from contact with Baptism and Wedding couples and their families; some of these contacts have resulted in regular attendance at Sunday services or at the *Coffee and Kids* drop-in.

The open-plate collection at the annual Christmas Crib service (the service with perhaps the highest attendance each year!) is given to support the work of *The (Church of England) Children's Society*.

Our regular worship liturgy has been revised to mark the Church Seasons faithfully and make significant festivals invitational and accessible to newcomers. The “Carols and Coffee” morning service first introduced in December 2023 was repeated in 2024 to continue the introduction of varied forms of worship, to engage those who don’t necessarily worship regularly. Connections with the Hemlington Guiding Unit have brought the Guides, leaders and parents to services at least twice a year (at Easter and at Remembrance) where they are fully included in the worship.

Since the demolition of St. Timothy’s Church, Hemlington there have been a number of outreach ventures within Hemlington: Angel Making Workshops in the Library/Community Hub in preparation for the Angel Festival held in Stainton Church, outdoor carol singing in Advent 2024 and a “prayer walk” in the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Rev Laura and Rev Vanessa worked to develop a stronger partnership with Hemlington Hall Academy and now lead assemblies every half term. Rev Laura welcomed and prayed for all the families attending the school’s Nativity in the Church itself.

Our weekly e-Newsletter is e-mailed (or printed and delivered) to most Church members and some Friends of the Church, keeping our parishioners and others informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus (printed copies are delivered to six people and e-copies are sent to 62 e-mail addresses).

In June 2024 our Parish joined with other Churches in the Teesside area to hold a free-of-charge Christian Festival in Stewarts Park, Middlesbrough called **Festival Teesside**. As part of the follow-up to the Festival the PCC ran a “Stay Curious? ALPHA Course” from mid-September 2024 to the end of November 2024 on Thursday evenings (the Stainton ALPHA Course was run in parallel with the Brookfield ALPHA Course which was held on Thursday afternoons during the same period).

## Ecumenical Relationships

One aspect of our Mission Action Plan developed in 2016-17 and revised in 2018-19 was to (continue to) “develop our relationship with the Stainton Methodist Chapel”. In previous years we have joined with the Methodists: in an outdoor “Big Sing” event in Meldyke Square in the centre of Stainton village, an event supported by a local silver band; and in a Village Carol service held in the Stainton Memorial Hall. Both events were held in 2024. The Act of Remembrance at the Stainton Memorial Hall was prepared in conjunction with our local Methodist Minister, with whom our Vicar has met for mutual encouragement and prayer support.

Further information about our links with Stainton Methodists and the recent announcement of the closure of the Chapel can be found in the Vicar’s Report later on in this document.

## PARISH FINANCES

### Financial Review 2024

[PCC Secretary’s comment: At the time of the 2025 APCM the full balanced Accounts for 2024 were still be to finalised for submission for Independent Examination].

### SUMMARY OF DAY TO DAY TRANSACTIONS DURING 2024 compared to those of 2023

#### Income

Planned giving was £11,518, up £ 726.

[Income] Tax recoverable was £3,689 up by nearly one-third.

Open Plate collections were £1,489, down by £298. The annual Gift Day donations were £1,151, almost doubled compared to last year.

Sundry Donations were £1,191, an increase of £463, mostly due to a diversion from Open Plate donations to digital donations following the purchase of the contactless card reader.

Payments via “SumUp” were £277, an increase from £44 last year.

Fund raising income was £285, down from £568 last year.

Interest received on the Bank accounts was £3,038, up about £300

We received various grants amounting to £1,500 for our *Little Fishes* Toddler Group in Hemlington, and a Fuel Grant from the Diocese of £625.



## Expenditure

Our share of the Administrator's wages has crept up in line with inflation (about £200 more).

Our utilities cost, surprisingly, have reduced by £789

Upkeep of Churchyard was £3,050, nearly three-times as much as in 2023, mostly due to the extensive tree work.

Hilton PCC owes us £942.13 (fee plus travel expenses) for the cost of their Quinquennial Inspection in August 2022.

We owe Brookfield PCC £1,083.28 for our share of the Plurality costs for the last quarter of 2024.

The PCC received two Legacies in 2024, both unrestricted as to use:

- from the Estate of Joyce Dixon - £5,000.00; and
- from the Estate of Elizabeth Revett - £65,678.66

In the light of these legacies, we made an extra payment of £1,200 to York Diocese for our Freewill Offering (FWO) for 2024 and increased the promise of payment for 2025 from £14,400 to £15,120.

We have several areas of potentially high expense waiting for our action. I have warned the PCC at least twice about necessary repairs to the church and churchyard wall; indeed, our last Architect said that the churchyard wall was in a worse state than the church, and our present Architect told us after a period of bad weather, to check the wall opposite to the Bishop's house for signs that it was getting worse .

The felling of the huge tree by the road side was highlighted as a priority in the Quinquennial Inspection, and the Church boiler, which hasn't been serviced yet this year, is one year more ancient and may be condemned. The Church Room also needs some redecoration.

In 2024 there were 17 planned givers of whom 11 Gift-aided, compared with 22 planned givers and 25 Gift-aiders in 2023.

*Colin Mason, PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary*

## Reserves Policy

At the time of compiling this final draft of the Annual Report for Jan 2024 to April 2025 the PCC Treasurer did not have all the information necessary to propose a Parish Reserves Policy. It was expected that the Reserves Policy will be available in time for presentation to the APCM on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 but this was not the case.

*Colin Mason, Treasurer, and Bob Ardley, PCC Secretary*

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## OPTIONAL INFORMATION

### Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular, we want to mention:

- Our churchwardens Mr Colin Mason and Mr Vernon Clare who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf;
- Our PCC Treasurer Mr Colin Mason who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances;
- Our Lay Reader *Emerita* Mrs Joan Mason for all her hard work in the Parish over many years - now that she has retired from Licensed Readership we are grateful to her for the practical ways she supports the work in the Parish as a member of the congregation. We are also pleased that Joan has joined the Stainton Memorial Hall Committee (SMHC) as a Trustee representing the Parish Church;
- Our Authorised Lay Minister Dr Julia Ardley for her support with worship at Stainton and also at or sister parish of St Peter's Hilton; and
- Our Verger Mrs Glynis Millward for assisting with weddings and funerals and ensuring that the Church is kept clean and tidy.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the **Church Representation Rules 2025 (CRR2025)**. At St Peter and St Paul's the membership of the PCC consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), and other Clergy in the Parish (our Pioneer Minister), the two churchwardens, the elected lay member of the Deanery Synod; and lay members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. 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. New Electoral Rolls for the period 2019-2025 for Stainton Parish and Hemlington Parish were established in March 2019 and merged on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 on the creation of the new Parish of Stainton with Hemlington.

The 2029-2025 Electoral Roll is revised each year in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) as required by the CRR2025.

In 2025 a New 2025-2031 Electoral Roll was prepared as required by the CRR2025. Notice of this was given on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 with applications to join the New Roll accepted during the **period 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April. At the closing date for applications to join the New Roll there were **XX** members on the Roll.**

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

**During the period of this Report the full PCC met: five times during 2024 (in Feb, Apr, May, Aug and Nov); and twice in 2025 (Feb and Apr). In addition, there was one extraordinary PCC meeting in Jan 2024.**

The PCC also has a Standing Committee comprised: the Vicar, the two Churchwardens, the Secretary and one elected lay member.

### Financial Interests

Members of the PCC are, from time to time, reimbursed minor expenses for Church activities by the Treasurer; none of these reimbursements were significant during 2024. No member of the PCC has declared any conflicts of interest.

### Trustee Declarations

PCC members have supplied Trustee Eligibility Declarations and HMRC Fit and Proper Person Declarations.

### Parish Safeguarding Officer's (PSO's) Report

There has been much in the news recently about child abuse, including within the Church of England; I hardly need to remind you that **Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults** is everybody's business, and that we need to ensure that our Church is a safe place for children and vulnerable people to be.

**Stainton with Hemlington PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 [which says....]**

#### The PCC shall:

- 1) Adopt The House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'.
- 2) Appoint at least one appropriately experienced parish safeguarding officer.
- 3) Safely Recruit, Support and Train all church officers who work with children and vulnerable adults.
- 4) Display the appropriate information.
- 5) Review and report progress regularly.
- 6) Respond by creating a respectful environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised.

1. **Compliance:** the PCC adopted the House of Bishops “Promoting a Safer Church: safeguarding policy statement on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. The Statement is reviewed and signed off by the Incumbent and Churchwardens every year, the last such review was on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Along with other Parishes in the Diocese Stainton with Hemlington Parish has signed up to **the Parish (Safeguarding) Dashboard process** which operates a “traffic-light” display to show how well the PCC is complying with various aspects of Safeguarding and also helps with the production of a Safeguarding Action Plan. At the time of compiling this Report the PCC was 98% compliant with the Mandatory requirements covered by the Dashboard. The main outstanding actions are:

- Review and updating of the C&Ks Risk Assessment
- Creating Role Descriptions for Leaders and Helpers at LFs
- Confirming that LFs Leaders and Helpers are aware of and following the Code of Safer Working Practice.

The PCC confirmed at the meeting on 28/8/2024 that “Coffee and Kids” and “Little Fishes” are the only Church Activities, and the Hemlington Guide Company use of the Church “Parish Room” is the only non-Church activity that, needs to be listed on the Safeguarding Dashboard.

The PCC has a written procedure for Responding to Safeguarding Concerns, based on the flow chart in the CofE Parish Safeguarding Handbook

2. **Appropriate person:** Bob Ardley was appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) by the PCC at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014. At the request of Revd Vivienne Hatton Bob also accepted the role of PSO to our sister Parishes of Hilton and of Brookfield following Vivienne’s Collation as Vicar of our two Benefices held in Plurality on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014. During the period of this Report the PSO has:
  - attended four of the online “Zoom” sessions run by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in the 2024 Diocesan Safeguarding Week;
  - been a regular attendee at the recently established Deanery PSOs Forum; and
  - attended the Cleveland Archdeaconry Safeguarding Day at the Trinity Centre in North Ormesby on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
3. **Relevant information:** Information on how to contact the PSO or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) is displayed prominently at the top of the home page and all other pages of the Plurality website with links to a hyperlink to Safeguarding in Stainton. The contact details for the PSO are also printed on each edition of the weekly pewsheets used for Sunday services in our Church.

Safeguarding information is displayed in the Church, principally in the Church Porch, and in the Parish Room, and if appropriate also in the toilets. The Parish Safeguarding File is kept in the Parish Room.

The following are on display:

- The current version of the signed-off Parish Safeguarding Statement
- A Safeguarding “Who’s who” with roles, names and phone numbers (updated on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025)
- An “Easy Read” poster with a photo of the PSO and his landline and mobile phone numbers and e-mail address, and also contact phone numbers for the York DSA, Childline and “My Sister’s Place”.
- The NSPCC “Pantasauros” posters and relevant “Safe Spaces” posters (in the toilets)

4. **Safer recruitment:** guidance on Safer Recruitment is being followed including:
  - Obtaining an Application Form for the post from the “applicant” (even when the role is not out for competitive selection), asking for two referees; the PSO takes up and checks the references provided.
  - the use of confidential declarations, either the National CofE Form for those eligible for a DBS Check, or the York Diocese Form for those not eligible for a DBS Check,
  - requesting Enhanced DBS checks (without or with Barring list checks as appropriate) via the DBS “Umbrella” Organisation Thirtyone:Eight for which the PSO acts a Lead Recruiter. Applications for DBS Checks are made online via the 31:8 E-Bulk process and snapshots of the Disclosure results are obtained and kept with the individual’s personal records.
  - Using the Safeguarding Hub to manage individuals’ DBS Check records and status

At the time of compiling this report **all people in positions of trust within the Parish who are eligible for an Enhanced DBS Check have applied for and been issued with a “clear” Check within the last three years.** Those who have applied for a DBS Check recently have been encouraged to sign-up

to the DBS Update Service to facilitate checking their DBS status near the three-year anniversary of their Check.

The PCC is currently engaged in safely recruiting a Helper for the Hemlington “*Little Fishes*” Toddler Group – she is the mother of one of the children who attend “*Littles Fishes*”.

5. **Training and Supporting:** Those in positions of trust working for the PCC (including PCC Members/Trustees) are required to undertake the online *Basic Awareness* and *Foundations* Core Pathways as provided by the CofE National Safeguarding Team (NST). In addition, PCC Members are required to undertake the *Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse* Additional Pathway. These training Pathways are refreshed at the highest level undertaken every three years. For those people who are not “IT Confident” the PSO and Incumbent have provided support with the training by facilitating online training sessions using NST Training accounts set up in the standard NST format.

In addition to the *Basic Awareness*, *Foundations* and *Domestic Abuse* Pathways the PSO is required to undertake the: *PSO Induction Pathway* and the *Leadership* Core Pathway (facilitated face-to face via “Zoom” by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team) and the online *Safer Recruitment and People Management* (SR&PM) Additional Pathway.

The PSO uses the Safeguarding Hub to manage individuals’ Safeguarding Training records and status.

At the time of compiling this report **all people in positions of trust within the Parish have completed all the required safeguarding training within the last three years**. The PSO refreshed the *Leadership* Pathway in Jan/Feb 2025 and will refresh the *Domestic Abuse* and *SR&PM* Additional Pathways before the end of May 2025.

6. **Conclusion:** Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC meetings and the PSO gives regular reports. The PSO also reports on Safeguarding to the APCM.

It is the PSO’s impression that the PCC has succeeded in creating a respectful environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised.

*Bob Ardley, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)*

### **Churchwardens’ Report, including a report on the “Fabric, Goods and Ornaments”**

The church and the fabric, goods and ornaments are generally in good order,

The parish room has had two new lights fitted, there is one light fitting to remove and the wiring capped off. Access to the ceiling panel where we sometimes have water ingress is being arranged, then we can see from the inside how to resolve the water problem, then redecoration of the parish room can take place.

The removal of the large evergreen tree nearest the main door at the Southwest corner of the Church, as required by the Inspecting Architect in his last Quinquennial Inspection, has been completed and the ground reseeded; it certainly makes a difference, but mainly it has stopped any further damage to the corner of the tower.

We currently are undertaking roof and gutter repairs to the chancel roof which has been caused by the prevailing wind and the inclement weather.

The church heating system has been serviced and is still running efficiently for its age and is still in good order. Also, the organ has had the usual visits from the Organ tuner and that also is in good order.

The kitchen “expel air” fan has become very noisy and needs replacing; it also has a timer auto off function we need to make sure that any new fan has the same specification.

The emergency lighting in the kitchen, lobby, toilets and the Parish Room continue to be checked on a regular basis as is the fire alarm that covers these areas.

As ever it has been a challenging year.

*Colin Mason and Vernon Clare: Churchwardens*

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Stainton is situated at the western end of Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS8 9AJ, and is the Parish Church for the Parish of Stainton with Hemlington; in the Benefice of Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton (held in Plurality with the Benefice of Brookfield); in the Stokesley Deanery; in the Diocese of York; within the Church of England.

The correspondence addresses are:

- PCC Secretary: 26 Meldyke Lane, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS8 9AU;
- Vicar: The Vicarage, 89 Low Lane, Brookfield, Middlesbrough TS5 9EF;
- Pioneer Minister: 31 Grange Wood, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough TS8 0RT; and
- Treasurer: 3 Fawcett Avenue, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS8 9AN.

The Stainton with Hemlington PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2025. The PCC is a Charity which is "excepted" by order from registering with the Charity Commission [this "exception" will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031 (cf Statutory Instrument SI 2021:25)].

The following served on the PCC as Trustees during the period of this Report (Jan 2024 to the date of the 2025 APCM):

Revd L Wild ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Vicar (from 27/6/2023)
Revd V Kirby ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Pioneer Minister (from 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2024)
Mr C. Mason ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Churchwarden (2023-2024, and 2024-2025) and PCC Treasurer
Mr V. Clare ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Churchwarden (2023-2024, and 2024-2025) and PCC Vice-Chairman
Dr J. Ardley ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Deanery Synod Representative (2023-2026) and Authorised Lay Minister (ALM)
Mr R. Ardley	Electoral Roll Officer, PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), and Parochial Representative (2023-2026)
Mrs J Mason	Lay Reader Emerita (co-opted 2022m09-2023m04) and Parochial Representative (2023-2026)
Mrs J. Clare	Parochial Representative (2024-2027)
Mr D. Gatenby	Parochial Representative (2024-2027)
Dr J. Gedney	Parochial Representative (2024-2025)
Vacancy	Parochial Representative (2024-2025)

## VICAR'S REPORT

As ever I am thankful and humbled by the faithful service Church Officers and Congregation members bring to the life of St Peter and St Paul's. There are so many individuals who give graciously of their time to perform essential functions of the parish so excellently. There is a real desire within the church to see God move mightily and see many people been draw in to know the love of Jesus for themselves. Our times of study together show an honesty, curiosity and depth of Christian faith. Well done, good and faithful servants!

These past 16 months have been a time of transition and change not only for the churches of the Plurality but for the wider Church of England also; we have sought to be consistent in response. The local highlights have been the developing of the Ministry Team with Vanessa's arrival and the new worship patterns (beginning with June's Vicarage BBQ following our plurality service). We see God's goodness in the internal changes in our worship. The move from monthly rotating plurality services to 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday special plurality services was to invest in consistent worship times in each of the three churches, to more readily welcome newcomers into our worshipping life. We give thanks to God that there are individuals who have found a warm welcome and nurturing Christian community to belong to within this past year. Café Church has opened up greater conversation within our worshipping life and given people confidence to articulate their thoughts and faith.

Revitalise continues as a venture we are undertaking but also blessing we are seeking from God. The times of shared learning have been encouraging for the Revitalise representatives, the times of Revitalise Plurality evenings have been rich in reflection and discernment. Whilst we still are on a journey to engage younger families in worship, there have been many gains with community connections. Renewed connection with Cleveland Police has come about with Vanessa leading a Remembrance Service and a Christmas Carol Service at Cleveland Police HQ on Stainton Way in Hemlington, where Hemlington Hall Academy Choir

attended as well. Sections of the community are being brought together in the name of the Church which is encouragement indeed.

Whilst news has broken of the imminent closure of the Methodist Chapel in Stainton, ecumenism still remains an essential aspect of God's Kingdom and connections have strengthened with the Methodist Homes Association particularly with Montpellier Manor in the parish. The Big Sing and Community Carol Service remain fixtures in village life and the church's offering is much appreciated by the wider community. One of the newest residents in the parish, Bishop Barry Hill, Bishop of Whitby brings much encouragement through his focus on 'growing younger and more diverse', a Diocesan strand and our local desire. Bishop Barry spoke at the closing of the Angel Festival and showed his passion and down-to-earth nature.

I am praying for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury and a season of good news to enrich the Church of England at every level. In our parish I anticipate continuing and increasing connections with sections of our community, in Jesus' name. I look forward to us collectively offering inter-generational worship, enriching our common life through Bible study and always keeping an open expectancy for the Lord to "do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19)!

*Revd Laura Wild, Vicar*

### **PIONEER MINISTER'S REPORT**

I was licenced as Pioneer Minister for the Plurality in March 2024 and received such a warm welcome at my licensing service, with a wonderful reception in Stainton Memorial Hall afterwards. The lovely welcome has continued over this past year as I've found my feet, got to know people and listened to how God would have me serve Him and His Church. My call is to develop a stronger bridge between the Church and the community and to explore ways to creatively share the gospel. This has included launching a new Toddler Group in Hemlington, volunteering with the charity Tees Valley Together in Hemlington one morning each week, helping lead assemblies at Hemlington Hall Academy, launching a monthly service at Montpellier Care Home and organising the Angel Festival which opened on the first weekend of Advent and saw the Church filled with 1,000 angels, all created in workshops that brought people from the Church and the community together. Over 400 visitors came to see the angels over 3 days and the festival helped form new partnerships with local people.

I feel so privileged to serve God and His Church and I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead people from our local communities to faith. I pray that as followers of Christ we would be always ready to give an answer for the hope that we have within us and that would be evident in our worship week by week.

*Revd Vanessa Kirby, Pioneer Minister*

This spreadsheet shows the day-to-day income and expenditure for the Financial Year 2024

St Peter and St Paul's Church Stainton - Simplified Day-to-day accounts 2024					
Income	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Expenditure	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving	11,518	11,250	Unrestricted charitable giving	0	0
Tax recoverable & top up	3,689	2,529	Parish share	15,600	14,400
Open Plate collections	1,489	1,787	Ministry expenses including Vicarage	885	549
Gift Day	1,151	555	Utilities	6,951	7,740
Sundry donations	1,191	723	Cleaning	0	85
Fees ( PCC) only	1,122	3,036	Insurance	2,386	2,273
Fund raising	285	568	Minor repairs and maintenance		
Interest (excl Mayman)	3,038	2,735	Including Organ tuning	389	834
Donations, flowers, candles	0	10	Flowers and candles	187	316
			Altar costs	271	460
Sub total	23,483	23,193	Books and publications	0	0
			Licenses	194	183
Deficit - From fund raising			Upkeep of churchyard	3,050	1,200
or from reserves	10,840	8,903	Organist	200	440
			Training	0	0
LEFT OFF			Office supplies	12	36
Giving appeals			Printing and stationery	816	729
Wedding etc fees (ex PCC's)			Deanery	50	40
Mayman Trust income			Postage and delivery	89	0
Major building repairs			Telephone and broadband	267	270
Legacies and exceptional donations			Bk charges and accountancy	600	450
Fuel grant from Diocese			Children's work	71	0
			Administrator's wages	2,305	2,091
Total income	34,323	32,096	Total expenditure	34,323	32,096