

Parish of Alston Moor

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday, 14th May, 2025, 7.30 p.m.

The Chat Room, Alston

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Agendas for The Parish of Alston Moor
Vestry and APCM Meetings
Wednesday 14th May 2025
7.30pm
Chat Room, Alston or Zoom Meeting ID 86476314432

Vestry Meeting

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last Vestry Meeting 08/05/24
4. Election of Churchwardens

APCM

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last APCM 08/05/24
3. Matters Arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Approval of Accounts and Treasurer's Reports
6. Fabric of the Churches Reports
7. Secretary's Report
8. Vicar's Report
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Report on Joan Walton's Legacy

Elections and Appointments

11. Representatives to the PCC
12. Appointment of an Auditor of Accounts

Church Life

13. Deanery Synod
14. Mission Action Plan
15. Green Team
16. Pastoral Visiting Team
17. Faith in the Moor
18. Children and Families in Church
19. Confidentiality

**Minutes for the Parish of Alston Moor
Vestry, APCM and PCC Meetings
Wednesday 8th May 2024
7.30pm
Held at The Chat Room, Alston and online via Zoom**

*All reports available before the meeting were distributed by e-mail to all PCC members.
Paper copies were available at the meeting.*

Meeting opened at 7:40 pm.

Present: Chat Room: Revd. Mark Nash-Williams, Bar Nash-Williams, Kim Boyce, Irene Boyles, Judith Crossley, Simon Crossley, Richard Glover, Sarah Glover, Richard Graham, Carol Grieves, Andy Morsman, Karen Morsman, Gill Rogers, Lizzie Smith.

On Zoom: None

Vestry Meeting

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer: MN-W welcomed everyone and opened the meetings with a prayer of Julian of Norwich, whose day it is.

2. Apologies: Kai, Julie Coonan, Vivienne Cullens, Daryl Hodgson, Willow Northeald, David Pepin.

3. Minutes of the Vestry and PCC Meetings 11/05/22: The Minutes of the two meetings were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising.

4. Election of Churchwardens: The Vicar outlined the ancient nature of the role of Churchwardens in the community.

Nominations received were:

St Augustine's, Alston: Andy Morsman;

Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh: Richard Graham;

St Jude's, Knarsdale: Irene Boyles, Carol Grieves;

St John's, Nenthead: Madeleine Harris, Simon Crossley.

(Nomination forms not already completed are to be filled in and given to the Vicar.)

Karen Morsman proposed accepting all the nominations and Sarah Glover seconded; all were in favour.

St Mary & St Patrick, Lambley and St John's, Garrigill are both vacant.

APCM

1. Apologies: As above.

2. Minutes of APCM Meeting 03/05/23: Carol Grieves proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting be accepted as a true record, with 2 corrections: Richard and Sarah Glover should be included in 'those present' and minute 6.1 should read 'Kirkhaugh' not 'Knarsdale'.

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 Under Item 5 and PCC item 1, the position of Willow Northeald as Treasurer was queried. It appears that Willow is now only available as Treasurer of Nenthead and that the other prospective candidate, Cathy Pester is unable to take on the role of PCC Treasurer.

4. Electoral Roll Report: Julie Coonan's report was received; numbers are: Alston 49, Garrigill 9, Kirkhaugh 15, Knarsdale 12, Lambley 3, and Nenthead 5 (Total 93). It was noted that the Electoral roll will be renewed in 2025 and it was agreed that at that time there should be a single roll and a single Electoral Roll Officer for the entire Parish. The application form would be modified so that applicants can specify to which church congregation they belong for purposes of reporting to the Diocese. Julie Coonan has agreed continue in office for another year to complete the new Roll in 2025.

5. Approval of Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report:

5.1 The PCC accounts and report and Garrigill accounts were scrutinised at the last PCC meeting and there were no questions arising.

5.2 The accounts of individual churches (except Lambley, which are not available) were scrutinized and there were no significant questions, however the accounts of Knarsdale

and Nenthead are still undergoing formal inspection and will be signed off by the PCC in due course, Subject to the foregoing, all the Accounts were accepted.

6. Fabric of the Churches Reports:

6.1 Knaresdale are hoping to find someone else to take on the continuing maintenance of the Churchyard, so only the main part is being maintained and volunteers are helping.

6.2 Andy Morsman apologized for not submitting Alston's report prior to the meeting and read it out. The Quinquennial inspection was done in July 2023 and significant expensive work was identified; this must be done before any re-ordering of the church. The report will be distributed in due course.

6.3 There were no reports for Garrigill, Lambley or Nenthead, though it was noted that work is required regarding water ingress at the east end of Lambley church, and Garrigill's leaking porch remains an issue.

7. Secretary's Report:

7.1 The Vicar briefed the meeting on Daryl Hodgson's need to stand down as PCC Secretary and the meeting sends her best wishes.

7.2 The report, presented and accepted, had been compiled by Richard Graham from Daryl's PCC and Standing Committee minutes. It was agreed that it was still a good idea to try and set up a Maintenance Group and that it's co-ordinator did not need to be involved in the 'life of the church' but might have experience of and interest in, historic buildings.

7.3 The Vicar further thanked Churchwardens, Treasurers and the Lay Vice Chairman for their work and all the above reports.

8. Vicar's Report: The Vicar précised his report and suggested that people read its detail at their leisure. He will add a link to his report, and other APCM papers, on the Parish website. Thanks were extended to the Vicar for all his work in the parish.

9. Safeguarding Report: The Vicar presented the report he had compiled based on a verbal one from Karen Morsman. It was noted that there was an error in paragraph 2, read '2025' instead of '2023'. The Vicar explained the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and noted how well this Diocese was implementing it. The Vicar presented the Safeguarding Policy. It was unanimously agreed to re-affirm our commitment to the policy. Bar Nash-Williams highlighted that something should be included to cover 'diversity' issues. She will look at this with a view to discussion at a future PCC meeting. The meeting thanked Karen for all her work on what can be quite a tedious task.

10. Report on Joan Walton's Legacy:

10.1 Richard Glover reported that we are now dealing with a fourth solicitor working for the Executors! She has highlighted that we have to be careful not to get caught in Capital Gains Tax and Land Registration issues and will deal with it as a Deed of Appropriation so as to avoid these risks in line with Charity rules.

10.2 Land Agent, Alan Sharp is ready to go ahead as soon as the property ownership is transferred. We need to consider if 'For Sale' boards are to be put up

10.3 A tender document for an Architect to manage the re-ordering of St. Augustine's is nearing completion, and a number of architects have expressed interest.

10.4 *Ed. – Note, from the Treasurer's Report that a CCLA account has been set up and 'cash' from the Estate has been paid in; the current total, with interest, stands at £303,493.48*

Elections and Appointments

11. Representatives to the PCC: The following were nominated to be representatives to the PCC:

Alston: Gill Rogers and Lizzie Smith (nominated at DCC)

Kirkhaugh: Pat Henderson and Vivienne Cullens (Nominated at DCC)

Garrigill: Sarah Glover (prop. IB, sec. ES) and Richard Glover (prop. KB, sec. IB)

Knaresdale: Kim Boyce (prop.RGI , sec. IB)

Lambley: vacant (*previously Daryl Hodgson*)

Nenthead: Willow Northeald and Cathy Pester (both prop. KB. sec. IB)

All were in favour of the Vicar's proposal to accept all nominations.

12. Appointment of an Auditor of Accounts: Ann Parkin has agreed to continue as Independent Examiner for the PCC. It is likely, however, that an Auditor will have to be appointed instead, because of the overall value of the organization when Joan Walton's Estate is taken into account. Ann's appointment (pro tempore) was agreed unanimously. Julie Coonan has already given her a plant as thanks of her work in the past year.

Church Life

13. Deanery Synod: The report from Hexham Deanery Secretary, Philip Rutherford was accepted. Andy Morsman, Alston Moor representative, had nothing to add, though he did note that the Deanery Development Group was part of his role and that he was also the Deanery Representative on the Diocesan Synod.

14. Mission Action Plan: Currently we do not have a Mission Action Plan in place. Refer to the Vicar's report for initial proposals.

15. Green Team: This is currently in abeyance

16. Pastoral Visiting Team: This remains active, and its members have been meeting periodically; several PCC members are involved. It is valuable to the wider community and is an area where the parish 'punches above its weight'. The continuing prescription delivery service picks up on people who may be in need of support. The Vicar does all the 'fire-fighting' visiting and lacks the time to do routine visiting as well. Thanks were given to Richard Pattison for his co-ordinating role and to Gill Rogers for keeping notes.

17. Faith in the Moor: Bar Nash-Williams' report was accepted. She noted that, like so much that happens in the parish, the magazine 'punches well above its weight'! The Vicar commented that the magazine is a 'shop window' for the parish and the tone of it shows how churches work together for the wider community. The meeting extended its thanks to the editorial team.

18. Children and Families in Church: Nothing much has happened post-pandemic and this is something that needs reviving.

19: Confidentiality: None of the topics discussed, at the level of detail they were discussed, was considered to be confidential.

PCC

1. Election of Lay Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer: The officers elected for the coming year were:

Lay Vice Chairman – Richard Graham

Treasurer – Vivienne Cullens (pro tempore)

Secretary – Bar Nash-Williams

All were proposed by Gill Rogers and seconded by Irene Boyles. All were appointed unanimously.

Accordingly, Bar Nash-Williams was co-opted to the PCC.

2. AOB: Andy and Karen Morsman have given up their BT Landline so contact is only possible on their mobile numbers.

3. Dates and Venues of next Meetings: The proposed dates of Standing Committee on 12th June and PCC on 10th July both clash with other events outside the parish. The Vicar will put forward alternatives to members, after which venues can be booked. Both meetings will also be on Zoom.

4. Closing Prayer: Andy Morsman closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace was said.

Meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income Resources	Note					
Church Activities	2 (b)	£18,064			£18,064	£16,453
Voluntary Income	2 (a)	£300,968			£300,968	£538
Investment Income	2 (d)	£10,284			£10,284	
Activities for Generating Funds	2 (c)	£171			£171	
Total Incoming Resources		£329,487			£329,487	£16,992

Resources Expended

Church Activities	3 (a)	£20,068			£20,068	£19,355
Net incoming Resources before Transfers		£309,420			£309,420	(£2,363)
Transfer to Restricted	4	(£310,284)	£310,284		£309,420	(£2,363)
Net Movement of Funds		(£865)	£310,284		£309,420	(£2,363)
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 24		£828				£3,191
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 24		(£37)	£310,284		£309,420	£828

Balance Sheet

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8					
Endowment (Restricted)			£300,000		£300,000	
			£300,000		£300,000	
Current Assets						
Debtors	5					£970
Short term Deposits			£10,284		£10,284	
Prepayments	7	£622			£622	£318
Cash at Bank		£1,052			£1,052	£1,567
		£1,673	£10,284		£11,958	£2,856
Current Liabilities						
Creditors	6					£276
						£276
Net Current Assets		£1,673	£10,284		£11,958	£2,580
Total Net Assets		£1,673	£310,284		£311,958	£2,580

Represented by Parish Funds

Unrestricted	£1,673	£2,580
Restricted	£310,284	
	£311,958	£2,580

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for 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 main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 (d)

This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared using the accruals accounting method and this has resulted in the year-on-year variation in the Clergy expenses as prepayments.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

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 expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

There currently no Fixed Assets

2. Incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	2023 £
a) Voluntary Income						
SumUp re St Augustine's	968		968	538		538
J Walton Legacy		300,000	300,000			
	968	300,000	300,968	538		538
b) Church Activities						
Clergy expenses	4,542		4,542	5,603		5,603
Magazine	804		804	863		863
Vision Day	150		150			
Misc	1,782		1,782	123		123
Trinitas Joint Insurance Policy	6,743		6,743	5,124		5,124
Fees	4,043		4,043	4,397		4,397
	18,064		18,064	16,109		16,109
c) Activities for generating funds						
Magazine Advertisement	171		171	344		344
	171		171	344		344
d) Investment Income						
CCLA interest	10,284		10,284			
	10,284		10,284			
Total Income	29,487	300,000	329,487	16,992		16,992

3. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	2023 £
a) Church Activity expenses						
Clergy expenses	352		352			
Council Tax, water - Parsonage	2,554		2,554	2,444		2,444
Telephone	495		495	400		400
Rev M Nash-Williams exps	629		629	1,092		1,092
Magazine	1,078		1,078	947		947
Stationery/printing	543		543	566		566
Visiting Clergy	165		165	108		108
CCLI / Calamus licences	235		235	485		485
Vision Day	469		469			
Misc	2,233		2,233	604		604
Trinitas Joint Insurance Policy	5,983		5,983	5,884		5,884
Fees	4,319		4,319	6,337		6,337
SumUp re St Augustine's	1,014		1,014	488		488
Total	20,068		20,068	19,355		19,355

4. Transfer between Funds

The transfer to the Restricted fund was from ordinary unrestricted funds to move the Joan Walton Legacy into CCLA investments

5. Debtors

No outstanding Debtors in 2024

6. Creditors

No outstanding Creditors in 2024

7. Prepayments

Vicar expenses prepaid for 2025 for Mark Nash Williams - £622

8. Fixed Assets

Joan Walton Restricted legacy - £300000

Summary of PCC Accounts for year 2024

Opening Bank balance 1/1/24	£1,567.44
Income 2024	£320,173.47
Payments 2024	£320,689.09
Balance	£1,051.82
Bank 31/12/2024	

Summary of PCC Accounts for Year 2024

	Income 2024	Expenditure 2024	Income 2023	Expenditure 2023
Clergy expenses	£5,512.00	£352.00	£5,603.00	
Council Tax, water - Parsonage		£2,553.89		£2,444.34
Telephone		£495.16		£400.06
Rev M Nash-Williams exps		£1,250.00		£1,410.00
Magazine	£975.12	£1,078.48	£1,206.66	£947.04
Stationery/printing		£542.53		£566.10
Visiting Clergy		£165.00		£108.33
CCLI / Calamus licences		£234.72		£484.96
Vision Day	£150.00	£468.65		
Misc	£1,781.80	£2,232.66	£122.95	£603.99
Trinitas Joint Insurance Policy	£6,743.15	£5,983.15	£5,123.80	£5,883.80
SumUp re St Augustine's	£968.40	£1,013.85	£538.33	£487.94
Fees	£4,043.00	£4,319.00	£5,455.00	£6,337.00
Total	£20,173.47	£20,689.09	£18,049.74	£19,673.56

Restricted funds

Transfer out to CCLA re JW Fund		£300,000.00
Funds received re JW Fund	£300,000.00	
Total income/ expenditure	£320,173.47	£320,689.09

Bank Balance at 1/1/24	£1,567.44
Total (income plus opening bal)	£321,740.91

Less expenses	£320,689.09
Balance at 31/12/24	£1,051.82
Balance of fees held at 31/12/24	£0.00
Therefore balance of PCC funds	£1,051.82

Notes

Monthly amount paid by churches re Vicar's expenses changed from 1/1/24 to: Garrigill & Lambley £30, Nenthead, Kirkhaugh, Knarsdale £50, Alston £220

Contactless (SumUp) - amt held in PCC 1/1/24 £50.39 - received 2024 £968.40, paid £1013.85 amt held 31/12/24 £4.94

Insurance - amt o/s from 2023 £760, received in 2024

Fees amt held in PCC 1/1/24 £276, received 2024 £4043.00, balance at 31/12/24 £0.00

Misc income: £210 paid, o/s from 2020 vision day, extinguishers received £1481.80 cost £1481.44 o/paid by 36p

Misc payments: candles/wafers £687.49,

Vicar's expenses paid direct to MN-W - paid on a/c 2023 £1375, on a/c 2024 £1250

Actual exps 2023 £931.54 2024 £1071.96 therefore paid on a/c for 2025 £621.50

Joan Walton Fund

	£	
Opening balance 1/1/24	£1,000.00	paid direct by St Augustine DCC
Paid in 2024	£300,000.00	
Interest 2024	£10,089.66	
Additional deposits CCLA	£194.74	due to delay by CCLA in processing deposits
Fund value 31/12/24	£311,284.40	

Treasurer's Report for year ending 31 Dec 2024

The 2024 accounts for the PCC have been checked and reformatted on an accrual basis as required by the Church of England/Charity Commission when income exceeds £250,000 in a financial year. This has been undertaken by Richard Berry (a qualified accountant) on a pro bono basis, which involved a considerable amount of work on his behalf as the 2023 accounts had also to be reformatted as required by C of E regulations. He has intimated that a small donation from the PCC to Alston Food Bank would be appreciated.

Expenditure was in line with 2024 with no significant increases. Please note £210 re Vision Day 2020 and the £760 insurance outstanding from 2023 were received in 2025.

The small loss on the magazine is due to two factors - (1) the invoice from Penrith Posters for the double issue of Dec 23/Jan 24 and Dec 24/Jan 25 were both received and paid in 2024 (2) poor cash collection on my part for some of the ads - this is currently being addressed!

Joan Walton Fund - to date £301,000 (inc £1000 paid direct by St Augustine's and effectively a loan from St Augustine's) has been paid into the deposit account held with the CCLA, the value of the account on 8 May 2025 was £312,127.72 after payment of £6356 legal fees in April 25.

Current balance in the PCC account as of 8 May 2025 is £922.40 which includes £219 held in fees (£180 due to DBF 1/7/25 and £39 for a memorial for D Poole? Church unknown). Funeral fees not yet received: Alston on 10/4 and Knarsdale on 29/4. £676.80 is due from Nenthead and Lambley for recent tree surveys.

Garrigill Accounts year ending 2024

The accounts have been audited and signed off by Anne Parkin. It's pleasing to see that Garrigill is now on a much firmer financial footing than in the previous few years. Regular donations for the year have increased from £431 to more than £2000, and fundraising mainly driven by Angela Drane has brought in £2059 for the building fund.

Garrigill has also been able to pay a small contribution of £250 to Parish Share and has contributed £202 of the collections to charity. Despite paying an additional £814 in repairs and maintenance compared to 2023 it has still finished the year with a balance of £1232 in the current account, so good news all round.

Summary of Garrigill Accounts for year 2024

Opening Bank balance 1/1/24	£1,015.08
Income 2024	£5,780.00
Payments 2024	£5,562.75
Balance	£1,232.33
Bank 31/12/2024	
Savings account	
Opening balance 1/1/24	£5,502.36
Closing Balance 31/12/24	£7,547.09

Summary of Garrigill Accounts for Year 2024

Unrestricted funds	Income 2024	Expenditure 2024	Income 2023	Expenditure 2023
Fees	£0.00		£235.00	
Collections	£253.82		£402.20	
Misc	£251.43		£150.00	
Friends/Regular donations	£2,198.71		£431.00	
Legacies			£0.00	
Fund raising				
Giftaid	£515.48		£167.32	
Heat, light and organ		£539.39		£689.44
Insurance		£775.00		£760.00
Vicar's expenses		£360.00		£360.00
Parish Share		£250.00		£0.00
Misc (repairs and maintenance)		£858.20		£54.64
Bank charges		£61.60		£60.00
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED	£3,219.44	£2,844.19	£1,385.52	£1,924.08
Restricted funds	£2,560.56	£2,718.56	£477.01	£319.01
(£158 Xmas Fair, rec'd 12/23)				
TOTAL RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED	£5,780.00	£5,562.75	£1,862.53	£2,243.09

Savings account

Balance 1/1/2024	£5,502.36
Interest received 2024	£127.73
Transfer in re Porch Fund	£257.00
Transfer in re Building Fund	£1,960.00
Transfer out re Building Fund	£300.00
Balance 31/12/2024	£7,547.09

Church Porch Fund in savings account (restricted)

1/1/24 £3345.89	£3,345.89
Transferred in	£257.00
Interest	£61.95
	£3,664.84

General funds in savings account (unrestricted)

1/1/24 £2156.47	£2,156.47
Interest	£37.04
	£2,193.51

Building Fund (restricted)

01/01/2024	£0.00
Transferred in	£1,960.00
Transferred out	-£300.00
Interest	£28.74
	£1,688.74

Total in savings account	£7,547.09
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Nenthead, St John the Evangelist

Balance Sheet (detailed)

		Current	As at 1/1/24
Fixed assets			
	400 Vacant	-	-
	Total fixed assets	-	-
Current assets			
	501 HMRC Tax Recoverable	-	-
	502 HSBC current account	7,030.11	8,930.07
	503 Cash	1,233.93	10.57
	504 HSBC BMM account	2,987.48	2,929.51
	505 Intermediaries	-	-
	506 Vacant	-	-
	Total current assets	11,251.52	11,870.15
Liabilities			
	Z04 Vacant	-	-
	Total liabilities	-	-
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	11,251.52	11,870.15
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	(618.63)	4,997.56
	Z01 Starting balances	11,870.15	6,872.59
	Total reserves	11,251.52	11,870.15
Represented by Funds			
	General (Unrestricted funds)	11,193.55	11,870.15
	Designated funds	-	-
	Restricted funds	57.97	-
	Total	11,251.52	11,870.15

Nenthead, St John the Evangelist
Analysis of receipts and payments
For the period 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		Designa	Restric	Endowm	Total	
	General	ted	ted	ent	This year	Last year
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources to General Fund						
100 Collections	1,320.56				1,320.56	1,030.70
101 Planned giving	1,691.00				1,691.00	1,736.00
102 Donations	820.00				820.00	18.02
103 Fees	171.00				171.00	284.00
104 HMRC Charities	-				-	-
105 Fundraising	-				-	-
106 Other	347.00				347.00	747.16
107 Interest	57.97				57.97	-
Incoming resources to GF totals	4,407.53	-	-	-	4,407.53	3,815.88
Incoming resources to Education Trust Fund						
110 CBF investment	-				-	434.52
111 Interest	-				-	-
Incoming resources to BMM totals	-	-	-	-	-	434.52
Incoming Resources to Fabric Fund						
120 Interest	-				-	-
Incoming Resources to FF Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources Grand totals	4,407.53	-	-	-	4,407.53	4,250.40
Resources used						
Outgoing resources from General Fund						
200 Parish Share	-				-	-
201 Clergy expenses	(700.02)				(700.02)	(696.00)
202 Admin expenses	(25.92)				(25.92)	-
203 Bank charges	(61.60)				(61.60)	(64.46)
204 Electricity	(2,086.42)				(2,086.42)	(586.83)
205 Building maintenance (repairs & renewals)	(329.20)				(329.20)	-
206 Insurance	(1,535.00)				(1,535.00)	-
207 Parish events	-				-	(29.24)
208 Charitable Donations	(288.00)				(288.00)	-
Outgoing resources from GF totals	(5,026.16)	-	-	-	(5,026.16)	(1,376.53)
Outgoing resources from Educational Trust Fund						
210 Vacant	-				-	-
Charitable activities Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outgoing resources from Fabric Fund						
220 General fund (repairs & renewals)	-				-	-
Governance costs Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used						
300 Depreciation	-				-	-
Other resources used Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resources used Grand totals	(5,026.16)	-	-	-	(5,026.16)	(1,376.53)

Church of The Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS. Year Ending 31 . 12 . 2024

INCOME

Collections	556.00
F.W.O. Box	251.44
Donations	9.00
Gift Aid & Planned Giving	3,026.00
Tax Returned	833.60
Fees	-
Sundries - Magazines, etc.	72.75
Fundraising Events	-
Clergy Expenses Refund	96.00
NHCT Grant	5,862.22
Interest	8.17
	<u>£ 10,715.18</u>

EXPENDITURE

Quota	2,927.00
Clergy Expenses	696.00
Church Magazine	49.50
Insurance	775.00
Organ Tuning	-
Heating & Lighting	243.36
Repairs & Sundries	2,548.18
Subscriptions	15.00
Charitable Giving	160.00
Transfers to Friends A/C	2,255.65
Bank Charges	74.45
	<u>£ 9,744.14</u>

Statement of Accounts at bank 1 . 1 . 2024

Current Account	3,798.95
Income 2024	10,715.18
	14,514.13
Less Expenditure 2024	9,744.14
	4,769.99
	-
	<u>£ 4,769.99</u>

Statement of Accounts at bank 31.12.2024

Current Account	4,769.99
	<u>£ 4,769.99</u>

Annual Profit and Loss Comparisons

	2022		2023		2024	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	£ 5,643.14	£ 5,317.02	£ 4,812.18	£ 10,677.84	£ 10,715.18	£ 9,744.14
Profit/Loss	£326.12		-£5,865.66		£971.04	
Bal. At Bank	£9,664.61		£3,798.95		£4,769.99	

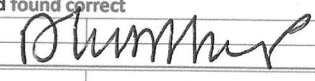
Friends Account

Statement of Accounts at bank 1 . 1 . 2024

Current Account	2,776.44
Savings Account	0.95
Income 2024	2,880.46
	5,657.85
Less Expenditure 2024	2,208.60
Transfer from deposit	-
	<u>£ 3,449.25</u>

Statement of Accounts at bank 31.12.2024

Current Account	3,448.30
Savings Account	0.95
	<u>£ 3,449.25</u>

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	St Jude's Church, Knaresdale																	
2	Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024																	
3																		
4	Receipts				2023	2023	2024	2024		Payments				2023	2023	2024	2024	
5	Balance Brought Forward																	
6	Cumberland Current				£ 15,459.06		£ 14,093.09	(as per balance sheet)		Parish Share				£ 2,612.00		£ 2,612.00		
7										Vicar expenses				£ 731.00		£ 600.00		
8					£ 15,459.06		£ 14,093.09			Insurance renewal				£ 760.00		£ 775.00		
9										Energy				£ 1,095.15		£ 241.10		
10	Church Collections				£ 448.61		£ 420.80			Grass cutting & grounds maintenance (restricted funds)				£ 760.00		£ 1,453.00		
11	Donations & Covenants				£ 797.00		£ 1,550.65			Lightbown - organ service & repairs				-		-		
12	Legacies				-		-			Crusader Fire - Extinguisher service				-		£ 87.00		
13	Grants				£ 500.00		£ 500.00			Gutters Cleaned				£ 300.00		£ 120.00		
14										Maintenance related				£ 183.85		£ 330.23		
15	Fundraising Events									J5 Electrical (EICR and remedial work and floodlights)				£ 1,370.21		£ 276.00		
16	Coffee Stop				£ 2,289.80		£ 3,081.30			Reports/plans				-		£ 485.00		
17	Coffee Stop MacMillan Cancer Support				-		£ 501.77			Other Fundraising Events Expenses				-		£ 34.54		
18	Plant Sales				£ 916.00		£ 557.26			Special Events eg jazz choir				£ 57.50		£ 161.25		
19	Harvest Festival collection				£ 90.00		£ 108.00			Hall(s) Hire				£ 225.00		£ 240.00		
20	Event Nights eg Jazz, Choir				£ 161.00		£ 581.51			British Legion Donation and remembrance wreath				£ 196.40		£ 226.00		
21	Christmas Fair				£ 476.42		£ 215.12			Pennine Wildlife Rescue (Pet Service)				£ 69.00		£ 40.00		
22	Domino Evenings				£ 109.60		-			Christian Aid (2024)				£ 120.00		£ 39.00		
23	Christmas Party				-		-			MacMillan Cancer Support				-		£ 501.77		
24					-		-			RABI (2024)				£ 176.00		£ 188.00		
25	Harvest Auction				-		£ 183.55			Organist Fees				£ 250.00		£ 250.00		
26	Pet Service (Pennines Wildlife Rescue)				£ 69.00		£ 40.00			Other Expenses				£ 136.99		£ 85.38		
27	Easy Fundraising				£ 119.77		£ 29.91			Stationery				£ 6.00		-		
28	Lambing Service				£ 86.00		£ 80.00			Miscellaneous				-		£ 815.00		
29	Remembrance Sunday				£ 161.40		£ 191.00								£ 9,049.10		£ 9,560.27	
30	Prayers for Peace				£ 120.00		£ 39.00											
31	Collections at Funerals				-		£ 273.50											
32	Misc				£ 172.78		£ 20.00											
33	Refunds and returned chqs				-		£ 815.00											
34																		
35	Sundry Income																	
36	Baptism collection				£ 102.50		-											
37	Christening fees				-		-			Balance carried forward								
38	Wedding fees				-		-			Cumberland current	as per month 12 statement			£ 15,325.79		£ 14,873.19		
39	Gift Aid and GASDS				-		-			Less Cumberland cheques not yet presented				-£ 1,232.70		-£ 25.00		
40	Wall Safe				£ 131.25		-			Plus late receipts				£ -		0		
41	Funeral fees/Headstones				£ 932.00	£ 7,683.13	£ 1,127.00	£ 10,315.37						£ 14,093.09		£ 14,848.19	C/F to 2025	
42						£ 23,142.19		£ 24,408.46						£ 23,142.19		£ 24,408.46		
43																		
44					Y/E 31 Dec 2024		Income £10,315.37		Expenditure £9,560.27		In-year balance £755.10							
45																		
46	£20 cash (not included in above figures), retained from income of January Coffee Stop 2022, to be used as a float for future fund raising events - see signed declaration by Treasurer and Church Warden																	
47																		
48	Restricted Funds	(included in final balance above)																
49	B/F from 2023		plus	Receipts		less	Payments		C/F 2025	Audited and found correct								
50	Grounds	£1,085.15		£ 816.27			£ 1,473.00		£ 428.42	Signed:  ALAN SHARP								
51	Christmas Party	£ 288.82							£ 288.82									
52	Building Project	£1,041.60							£ 1,041.60									
53	Contingency	£2,539.56							£ 2,539.56									
54							Total Restricted		£ 4,298.40	Date: 2 nd March 2025								

Lambley, St Mary and St Patrick Balance Sheet (detailed)

		Current	As at 1/1/24
Fixed assets			
	400 Vacant	-	-
	Total fixed assets	-	-
Current assets			
	501 HMRC Tax Recoverable	-	-
	502 Barclays current account	2,478.30	155.39
	503 Cash	124.58	20.00
	504 Barclays savings account	4,431.47	7,931.47
	505 Intermediaries	-	-
	506 Vacant	-	-
	Total current assets	7,034.35	8,106.86
Liabilities			
	Z04 Vacant	-	-
	Total liabilities	-	-
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	7,034.35	8,106.86
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	(1,072.51)	-
	Z01 Starting balances	8,106.86	8,106.86
	Total reserves	7,034.35	8,106.86
Represented by Funds			
	General (Unrestricted funds)	7,034.35	8,106.86
	Designated funds	-	-
	Restricted funds	-	-
	Total	7,034.35	8,106.86

Lambley, St Mary and St Patrick
Analysis of receipts and payments
For the period 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		Designa	Restric	Endowm	Total	
	General	ted	ted	ent	This year	Last year
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources to General Fund						
100 Collections	148.06				148.06	-
101 Planned giving	136.00				136.00	-
102 Donations	32.62				32.62	-
103 Fees	300.00				300.00	-
104 HMRC Charities	-				-	-
105 Fundraising	-				-	-
106 Other	770.00				770.00	-
107 Interest	-				-	-
Incoming resources to GF totals	1,386.68	-	-	-	1,386.68	-
Incoming resources to Savings Account						
110 CBF investment	-				-	-
111 Interest	-				-	-
Incoming resources to savings totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming Resources to Fabric Fund						
120 Interest	-				-	-
Incoming Resources to FF Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources Grand totals	1,386.68	-	-	-	1,386.68	-
Resources used						
Outgoing resources from General Fund						
200 Parish Share	(675.00)				(675.00)	-
201 Clergy expenses	(360.00)				(360.00)	-
202 Admin expenses	(280.63)				(280.63)	-
203 Bank charges	-				-	-
204 Electricity	(38.96)				(38.96)	-
205 Building maintenance (repairs & renewals)	(329.60)				(329.60)	-
206 Insurance	(775.00)				(775.00)	-
207 Parish events	-				-	-
208 Charitable Donations	-				-	-
Outgoing resources from GF totals	(2,459.19)	-	-	-	(2,459.19)	-
Outgoing resources from Savings account						
210 Vacant	-				-	-
Charitable activities Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outgoing resources from Fabric Fund						
220 General fund (repairs & renewals)	-				-	-
Governance costs Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used						
300 Depreciation	-				-	-
Other resources used Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resources used Grand totals	(2,459.19)	-	-	-	(2,459.19)	-

St Aug Final A/Cs Page 2024

ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH COUNCIL			
RECEIPTS		2023	2024
Collections		3697.60	2729.18
Gift Aid		10502.64	11210.25
Envelopes (Other Gift Aid)		728.23	781.91
Donations		511.70	1472.05
Fees		1856.00	597
Donations Box		102.32	195.75
Disbursements		2224.05	1224.58
Refunds		2557.93	125
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Education Fund			1933.19
Table Tennis Club		0.00	0.00
Sundries (Carillon Bells)		89.00	0.00
Broadband/Tech		0.00	0.00
Aspire donations		655.31	331.17
Aspire + Terracycle Fundraising		1901.52	1380.83
Transfer out of Maintenance A/c.		0.00	0.00
Bank Interest - Savings - Maintenance A/C		223.58	357.08
bank refund (unpaid cheque)			
		25049.88	22337.99
Balance as at 1st Jan - Current A/c.		16714.36	17875.96
Balance as at 1st Jan - Maintenance A/c.		23485.51	23738.09
TOTAL		65249.75	63952.04
PAYMENTS		2023	2024
Church Requisites		379.84	0.00
Parish Share		5000.00	5320.00
Clergy Expenses		3208.07	3130.84
Water Rate		91.19	61.77
Electricity		4346.27	1729.91
Insurance		2083.80	2108.15
Disbursements		2274.05	1270.44
Sundries		148.50	543.30
Maintenance & Repair		3123.10	324.00
Donation to Charity		236.00	5.00
Organists		1100.00	960.00
Aspire Fundraising Expenses		96.00	429.33
Education Fund			210.00
Table Tennis Club		0.00	0.00
Broadband		548.88	1114.25
Transfer of Aspire Funds to CBF CofE deposit (via PCC)		1000.00	0.00
Joan Walton legacy			
		23635.70	17206.99
Balance as at 31st Dec - Current A/c.		17875.96	22625.88
Balance as at 31st Dec - Maintenance A/c.		23738.09	24119.17
		65249.75	63952.04
bank refund (unpaid cheque)			
Uncleared cheques as at 31st Dec			
Cheques presented from 2023			
TOTAL			

Garrigill and Lambley annual reports

Brief comments from Mark Nash-Williams in the absence of Churchwardens

Garrigill

Following the open meeting early in 2024, interest in and support for St John's Garrigill has picked up dramatically. Services have been held at least monthly since Easter, with attendances ranging between about 4 and 20.

Thanks to new and/or increased giving by a number of people and the remarkable fundraising efforts of Angela Drane the church's finances are much healthier than last year, and reserves are increasing slightly rather than falling.

The building is in good shape, apart from the porch which still awaits a new roof and other work; and the interior of the vestry which needs replastering and the inside of the roof completed. The churchyard is now being maintained by volunteers; the path is still uneven and needs levelling as part of the larger project for the church. The gates were taken away for sandblasting and powder coating in November and returned completed this month.

Plans are moving ahead to develop the vestry into a toilet and kitchen area, to introduce a permanent exhibition in the nave and trails in the churchyard. A small informal working group has this project in hand.

Lambley

Since almost all the regular congregation have moved away, attendances have been very low this year, and as there is no heating, no services were held in January-February.

In the absence of a regular congregation income has dropped, so funds are very tight.

No work has been done to the building; urgent items include sorting out a damp issue at the East end, which will require scaffolding; and removing the redundant oil tank and contents.

We're grateful to the Parish Council who have been maintaining the churchyard at their expense; earlier this year I met the PC to discuss the church and its finances; they have requested that we meet some of the costs of mowing the churchyard in future, and that we consider allowing them to lock the church overnight. This will be discussed by the PCC shortly.

Nenthead Churchwarden's Annual Report 2025

Terrier and Inventory

- There have been no alterations to the fabric
- Inventory - Community Art installation by the Alston Guides and brownies guided by Lionel Playford artist at Garrigill and Nenthead Woodland Project lead

Fabric of the church

- Regular cleaning of church inside plus occasional deep cleans.
- Four new cleaning volunteers have met with Madeleine Harris churchwarden and taken responsibility for an area of the church - The vestry [churchwarden] - The high altar chancel and choir stalls – The main area of the church [2 volunteers] – the rear area of the church -cleaning to be maintained at their discretion.
- Aisle carpet cleaned and refurbished.
- All stone flooring cleaned.
- Deteriorated overing to base of pulpit replaced.
- Liturgical décor refreshed boxed and used in seasonal sequence.
- Regular maintenance of the churchyard continues - grass cutting, leaf clearance, gutter clearance
- Tree Survey undertaken 28th March and report provided April. Six trees identified with Ash Die Back (either clearly or likely present) - five of which recommended for felling within next 12-18 months and one of which to be monitored
- Main entrance door oiled
- Bi-annual headstone inspections undertaken - one headstone laid down.
- Main entrance and lower side gates refurbished - sand blasted and powder coated via Dave the Blacksmith.
- Outside Bench revamped.
- The memorial stone for Gwenda Wood is now in position along the church pathway laid February 16th 2025.

Alastair McGregor carried out the Quinquennial Inspection on 27th August and we received his report and invoice in December. 12 items of work identified as urgent or for attention within the next year. Richard Elliot invited to assess and provide quotations in April. Further quotes sort ahead of seeking funding assistance to

progress from Northumberland Churches Trust. Serious north aspect and vestry damp ingress addressed as serious - advice obtained cost estimates awaited.

- A number of visitors have noted in the Visitors Book how much they appreciate the sense of peace they find in the church ... The children's art work ... the tea lights at the peace area are frequently lit ... a 'Thank you' is registered to all those who help to keep everything looking 'cared for' and welcoming.

Summary of Funding:.

- Service Collection total is £1,222.36 for 2024 plus £368.50 for 2025 so far which gives £1591.86.
- Payment to Dave for the Gates for £855.29 has been made leaving £736.57 to transfer to our Nenthead church bank account.
- Loose plate donations: 2024 £17.00 2025 £10.03
- 2025 Campaign contributions: not known
- An extra gift: £250.00 to Nenthead St John from former shareholders from the winding up of the Miners Arms Community Pub.

APCM/PCC Approvals

In addition to above report we need to ensure we get approval from PCC for:

- purchase of vacuum and routine internal cleaning materials
- purchase and installation of new outside noticeboard to replace existing old rotten wooden one - new one to be aluminium, similar size, colour Moss Green. Purchase achieved via specified donation (plus associated Gift Aid).

Kirkhaugh Churchwarden's Annual Report 2025

Terrier and Inventory

There have been no alterations to the fabric apart from the repairs to the old boiler house. Three updates have been made to the Inventory:

On Page 28, 9 (20) Schedule of Furnishings and Fittings - Miscellanea; entries added to include the Wooden Stepladder and the new Werner Aluminium Stepladder.

A recently discovered photograph of Kirkhaugh old Church (pre 1869), has been included at the back of the Inventory; a laminated copy has been posted in church.

Fabric of the church

By the summer of 2024, the repair work on the old Boiler House was complete and a claim of grant amounting to £5,862.22 was made to the Northumbrian Historic Churches Trust. Work to repair the door frame and door will be done in the spring/summer of 2025.



Regular maintenance of the churchyard continues, though the wet summer and failure of my strimmer meant that the grass pathways that are normally kept clear did not get done. This neglect was mitigated in August, when 7 of us had a day tidying up: strimming, weeding, pruning and cutting back trees and bushes overhanging the path. About the same time, all the doors got a thorough cleaning were treated externally with linseed oil.

The gravestones have had their bi-annual stability checks. Nothing has changed since the previous year.

We still haven't managed to get the gate and fence at the Glebe Field refurbished, though we still use the field for parking when there are services and the owner of the Old Rectory keeps a parking area clear, whilst trying to allow the meadow flowers to re-establish on the rest of the field.

We purchased a new, higher, safer stepladder with handrails for routine maintenance, including easier access to the light fittings.

Alastair McGregor carried out the Quinquennial Inspection on 6th November and we received his report and invoice in December. Sixteen items of work identified in his last report have been completed and six items remain outstanding, though they are relatively minor. Work identified in the latest report as being 'Urgent' are the replacement of a cracked cast iron downpipe, removal of vegetation round the base of the church walls and the infilling with gravel of the remaining drainage trench. The repair and reinstatement of the old Boiler House door is in hand.

A number of visitors have noted in the Visitors Book how much they appreciate the tea and coffee that we provide and the peace they find in the church. Thank you to all those who help to keep everything looking 'cared for' and welcoming.

Summary of Funding Campaign 2025.

Much of what we achieve is down to the generosity of our supporters, either Parishioners and/or 'Friends' from further afield.

To date, regular donations have increased by £990 per annum (incl. Gift Aid), to a total of £3,720 per annum, and 'one-off' donations totalling £1,500 (incl. Gift Aid) have also been received.

Richard Graham
Churchwarden

Annual Report from Saint Jude's for the APCM.

During 2024 we had a firm of glaziers out to look at repairing the Chancel windows
hoppers, they reported that the entire windows were in a poor state of repair.
The heating system was in constant need of attention
Then reading the Quinquennial report received later in 2024 brought home to us the
very poor condition of the entire church.

It was decided we would go public and have a presentation to show exactly what
was needed

There was a large attendance at this presentation which was held towards the end of
February. At this presentation we had forms requesting help in various forms, there
was a very positive reaction and a number of people promised help at the time. Then
over the weeks more offers of help have been received.

But it's grants that are needed, this is however very time consuming, while the
Architect sorts out tenders to builders and builders reply.
So letters are to be sent thanking everyone for their promised help and keeping
them informed of our progress.

In the mean time two small grant applications have been applied for. The first one
from the Haltwhistle grants, we will hear from within the next few week the second
The Smith Trust result in July.

We look forward to getting started, a Thermometer to mark our progress has been
suggested, where we can monitor every donation large and small, it all helps to bring
the people and the church together for a great cause.

Any help from members of the PCC would be greatly appreciated. The two
Churchwardens are in poor health; it's going to be a struggle.
Irene Boyles

PCC 14th May 2025
Saint Augustine's church wardens report

The major event for the year was the completion and issuing of the tender document for the reordering of the church and now subsequent progress by the by the selected architect - many thanks to Richard Graham Who completed the draught document for the working party to agree and finalise. The specification document included the major items from the 2023 quinquennial report as detailed in last year's ADCM report as well as the multiple improvements previously discussed and agreed. In a moment of rash optimism, the vicar has booked the Bishop to attend a grand opening to occur on the Patronal day in May 2027.

This year has been particularly kind on Saint Augustine's, with no additional major work surfacing, although damp still penetrates the church in the vestry and also by the entrance. There are ongoing problems with the floodlighting controls but the renewal of the electrical controls completed this year appear to be working very well.

Quotations have been received for the repair/ renovations of the altar frontals and Gill Rogers has been in contact with Dee Monk from the repair cafe to investigate whether somebody local can perform the renovations; the quotations received by the vicar were quite varied in scope and costs. The intention is to have these renovations completed whilst the church is vacant during 2026.

Alston WI have offered to place a bench outside the church the full details of which are still to be confirmed so that we can get The Archdeacons permission, a faculty should not be required.

The wind damaged entrance ramp has now been repaired and securely fastened to the ground.

The memorial plaque on the stone bench by the church entrance which became loose is still to be refixed.

Thank you to everybody, largely unseen, who keep the church clean, decorated with flowers and who make St Augustine's such a welcoming church.

Andy Morsman, Churchwarden.

Secretary's report

As I took over in the second half of '24, some of this is gleaned from minutes of meetings before I attended.

PCC met three times, the Standing Committee three times, and the APCM, and the PCC was able to confirm or resolve urgent things by email from time to time. Records of those interactions and votes have been kept alongside minutes.

The meetings have been well-attended, PCCs with never less than 11 members, and between 3 and 5 apologies given, Standing Committees never less than 7, and up to 4 apologies.

Daryl Hodgson was co-opted as Lambley rep, but had to step down due to ill health and the family have since moved away.

Simon Crossley joined as Nenthead Church Warden, for which we are all thankful.

Likewise for Madeleine's safe return after major op and long recovery.

An enormous amount of time was spent on dealing with Joan Walton's legacy, and all the legal ramifications of handling it, let alone using it to develop St Augustine. Members are very grateful for the work put in by the small team working with architects, registrar etc. It is very complex so there is a full report elsewhere.

All the churches have regular issues of damp or leaks, electrics and heating, health and safety, insurance, tree-care and graveyard maintenance. Care is taken over finances and fundraising, and we are grateful for treasurers keeping the books clearly.

It takes so much time just to change names on a bank account, let alone to change banks, but we have made progress this year.

Garrigill and Knaresdale have had major community engagement and fundraising drives. PCC recommends and authorises work with other community businesses. Time has been spent on grant applications, quinquennials, gravestones, and refurbishment of Nenthead War Memorial.

Other main topics have been a review of worship styles and regular pattern, and a very positive response to the 'Prayers of Love and Faith' inclusivity recommendations, safeguarding and confidential pastoral care of the congregation and community beyond, official approval of various lay ministers' invaluable contribution to parish life, keeping in touch with our deanery colleagues, Parish Share and Charitable Giving, faculties for Art Installation in Nenthead, negotiations with Alston Art Group ready for the next exhibition, and planning/authorising other social events.

Members find it helpful to share experience and sometimes items, so individual churches don't feel overburdened or isolated. Members of the PCC planned the Away Day at Lovelady shield to help draw us together across the parish, and focus our mission plans for the future: a regular very informal get-together on fifth Sundays, involving community friends in more church activities without asking them to attend worship first, making links with other friends within the churches, and celebrating what we are all involved in outside the church building but as church people in the community.

The meetings are extraordinarily good-natured affairs with much humour, mutual support and kindness.

BNW May 25

Parish of Alston Moor – Vicar's Report for 2024 (11th May, 2025)

As I read my report from last year, I'm struck by how much of what I wrote then, I could repeat this year – I could almost copy and paste most of the report! This is no bad thing: it's not because we're stagnating, but because so much of what we do is the ongoing, faithful work of being part of God's church here on the Moor. It's always wise to keep asking ourselves if what we do and how we do it – and why we do it – are still appropriate or relevant; but often the answer will be yes! By and large we are good at what we do, and respected in the community; and that comes from faithfulness in worship, welcome and hospitality as much as from seeking to innovate.

So as I look back over 2024, I feel immensely thankful for richness of our church life here on the Moor, and want to celebrate it. I wrote last year, *"For all the challenges we face, the Holy Spirit is doing exciting things here, and it's a joy to be a part of the life of the Church on Alston Moor"*: I haven't changed my mind!

Worship

The life of the church is necessarily rooted in prayer and worship – coming together in the presence of our Creator to be strengthened, nourished, reorientated and sent out to serve our communities. We have a wonderful team of worship leaders – Bar, Andy, Richard, Richard and Lizzie, as well as Churchwardens Richard, Madeleine and James; and our retired clergy friends Stephen and Philip – unlike most of my clergy colleagues, I enjoy the privilege of an occasional Sunday sitting in the pews! And I love that in practically any service in the parish, multiple members of the congregation are actively involved, whether in welcoming, reading, leading prayers or providing refreshments. We own our worship! And visitors tell us how much they feel welcomed as part of our worshipping family.

One highlight of the year was the Confirmation on the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, 29th September. Bishop Mark presided and preached on this joyous occasion, and confirmed 8 candidates – four from our own parish and four from Beltingham.

This year we resumed monthly services in St John's Garrigill, which means that we now offer services at least monthly in every church in the parish; and there is at least one Eucharist every Sunday. Daily offices are still said in Alston and Nenthead, as well as Friday Night Prayer online; and most services from St Augustine's are livestreamed. We have a couple of regular online worshippers on weekdays; we rarely have 'live' online participants on Sundays, but our services are quite often watched on YouTube after the event.

On Sundays St Augustine, Alston has three Sung Eucharists and a 'Prayer and Praise' each month; Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh maintains its tradition of fortnightly BCP services, sometimes with Taizé music; and the quarterly 'Come & Sing Evensong' is much appreciated. St John, Nenthead has a regular pattern of Eucharists and Morning Prayer three weeks a month. St Jude, Knaresdale and St John, Garrigill have a variety of special services on a monthly basis. Monthly Services in Lambley continue, but as almost all the members of the congregation have moved away the 'Messy' services have come to an end – it will be a challenge to rebuild a congregation there.

Ecumenically, the Thursday Holy Communion at the Chat Room has become an important part of the week. The new monthly service at Grisedale Croft is greatly appreciated, and has opened a door for us to offer more care to the residents and staff – something to build on.

We concluded that our fifth Sunday online services no longer met a need, so in 2025 we will be exploring alternatives – starting with a lovely gathering at the Hive on Mothering Sunday. The parish prayer group has also come to a natural end; but we continue to pray for the parish's mission at Saturday Evening Prayer.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals

We had fewer occasional offices than usual in 2024. Our churches held nine funerals, including the unforgettable service for Trevor Wright (oh no it wasn't), a farewell to Dorothy Gilder soon after her 100th birthday, and the funerals of both Mary and Roger Rutter in Knaresdale. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

There were just three baptisms this year – including, wonderfully, the first two in Nenthead for more than a decade – and, for the first time in since I was ordained over 20 years ago, not a single wedding. The national

trend of fewer baptisms, church weddings and church funerals has reached us, accelerated in the wake of Covid 19 – a pity, because I believe that what we offer has vastly more depth and substance than the secular alternatives.

Church and Community Life

Structures and meetings

Our PCC and Standing Committee meet regularly, as do the DCCs in Alston and Kirkhaugh. The Leadership Team meets from time to time, socially as well as for business, but the open meetings we hold 3-4 times a year are not attracting much interest beyond the team. The Churchwardens also meet to support each other and share experience and wisdom. Dissolving the DCCs in Knaresdale, Lambley, Nenthead and Garrigill simplified our structures but left something of a void in those churches; so we'll be experimenting with occasional open meetings there in 2025.

The Pastoral Visitors continue to meet, to co-ordinate the pastoral care which we offer, and are looking at training as 'Anna Chaplains', which should help us to increase our effectiveness and reach, and possibly to work with the local doctors' surgeries. For some years we also had a thriving 'Green Team'; I would like to see us pick up our environmental engagement again in the near future.

St Augustine's now has an active project management group, and there are informal groups in Knaresdale and Garrigill working to take forward the projects there. More generally, we have discussed the desirability of a parish building maintenance group; I think such a group would be immensely valuable, and hope we will be able to set one up.

This sounds like an awful lot of meetings! And in a sense it is; but this reflects just how much is going on in our parish – and I'm always thankful that we work together with great love and respect. Business meetings they may be, but they feel rather like gatherings of friends.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

In August we held a 'Vision Day' at Lovelady Shield, to listen to what God has in mind for us, and establish our priorities for the coming year or two. We agreed on three priorities: 1) to bring our church family closer together, possibly by means of a parish directory; 2) a 'fresh expression' – new, accessible way of worshipping on Fifth Sundays; 3) training/discipleship – encourage us all to identify, celebrate and use our gifts. Interestingly, shortly after the Bishop launched a 'Year of Seeking' for the diocese to look out for what God has in mind for us – as so often, we were ahead of the game!

Andy and Richard

After a number of years exploring their vocations, what a joy that both Andy and Richard have been moving forward. Andy was recommended in 2024 for training for ordination, and is due to be ordained Deacon in June 2025; Richard has taken further steps in the discernment process, and we look forward to a recommendation being made in the coming weeks.

Ecumenical

One of the things which makes church life on Alston Moor so special is the strength of our relationships with the other churches: we have several people worshipping in more than one congregation, musicians playing for multiple congregations, and warm relationships among laity and clergy alike. The ecumenical Fraternal group (a gathering of both clergy and lay leaders from the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist churches) meets regularly; and we have shared a number of events – the Lent and Advent groups and Christian Aid lunch; the Covenant Service and Harvest Festival; the Good Friday Prayers at the Cross and Last Hour at St Wulstan's; services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer; the Remembrance Sunday and All Souls services. Our Harvest Supper at the Cumberland Inn was a new venture this year, much enjoyed and to be repeated. In 2024 we bade farewell to the Revd Keith Speck, and welcomed Dean Lawson, the new Methodist lay pastoral worker. And it was a joy to attend Fr John's silver jubilee Mass in Penrith in the summer.

Community engagement

Josephine's masterful playing of the carillon on Sunday mornings and other occasions is a special feature of

life in Alston, which the community, and visitors to Alston, treasure, and which is often commented on in social media.

The Alston Essentials prescription deliveries and *Faith in the Moor*, which never ceases to amaze me with its quality, are the most visible faces of our community engagement. Less visible but equally valuable, the church is represented on the Alston Moor Emergency Response Group and the newly formed Alston Moor & Fellside Place Action Group. It says a great deal for our standing in the community that we are welcomed without question as partners in these groups.

We have begun to strengthen our engagement with the schools of the Alston Moor Federation, and are delighted that the Principal, Rob Dawson is keen to develop this. We host services for the schools, in Alston and Nenthead, at key moments during the year, and love receiving works of art from Nenthead School at the high points of the Christian year. In recent months Andy and I have resumed leading assemblies in the schools, and we are exploring the possibility of offering regular pastoral care to students and staff.

Likewise, I'm delighted that we have begun to rebuild links with the St Augustine's Guide Company, who have come to St Augustine's church a couple of times during the year, and will again I'm sure.

Knaresdale's Coffee Stop has become such a core part of the life of the community, drawing people from far and wide; we're immensely grateful both to the ladies who give so generously of their time and baking, and to the Kirkstyle Inn for their delicious monthly contributions! In Garrigill, Angela Drane's monthly Coffee Shop is equally appreciated, and a wonderful source of income to the church there: it's fair to say that Angela's events – Coffee Shop, Jumble Sale, Spanish Evening – have turned St John's finances around – thank you! Thank you too to Veronica and Chris, the *Brief Encounter Duo*, for donating half the proceeds from their brilliant musical performance to the silent film *Piccadilly*.

As part of our vision for our church buildings at the heart of their communities we've continued to hold events in Alston and Knaresdale churches – and, in 2024 for the first time, in Nenthead church. A wide range of musical events – including part of the Alston Live festival – as well as Alston Art Group's annual exhibition, and talks in Knaresdale and Alston by Chrissie Griffiths and Alastair Robertson respectively, about the churchyards and their 'residents'. A particular highlight was Kenneth Wilson's moving sequence of poems and Bach Cello Suites in Holy Week. All this activity has attracted interest beyond the Moor – Steve Chaplin devoted an episode of his *3 Tynes Podcast* to our musical endeavours (<https://3tynespodcast.substack.com/p/secular-music-in-churches>)

I was also thrilled that Cath Graham hosted a 'Brew with the Crew' in St Augustine's to support our Great North Air Ambulance – great that the community is beginning to feel able to use their churches like this!

Buildings and more

All six churches have had their obligatory Quinquennial Inspections ('QIs') this year, and Alastair our architect has produced very detailed and comprehensive reports which highlight the work which needs to be completed immediately and in the short, medium and long term.

Rejuvenating St John's Garrigill

It's lovely to have a good news story to tell! By the end of 2023 St John's had no congregation, a declining bank balance and little apparent future. But a well-attended open meeting uncovered a real love for the church in the community, and a desire to help it to thrive. Generous giving by a number of people, Angela's amazing fundraising efforts, and help with churchyard maintenance, cleaning and decorating the church, flower arranging and more, have transformed the church's prospects. I'm immensely grateful to David Hymers who has put a great deal of time into researching grant funding, to Alice Bondi for her work on developing a permanent exhibition for the church, to a generous benefactor who has pledged a substantial sum in match funding. We are well on the way to being able to restore the porch and vestry, and install toilets and servery facilities – making Garrigill the best-equipped church in the parish – for now!

The future of St Jude's Knaresdale

At last the covenant on the Old Rectory has been lifted, in return for a substantial payment from the Knarsdale Estate, which will go a fair way towards paying for the increasingly urgent repairs that the church needs. Though it strictly belongs in next year's report, it's worth mentioning that an open meeting early in

2025 has raised a lot of interest in the community, and potentially some practical and financial support. Watch this space!

Rekindling St Augustine's

More good news! After many meetings and an immense amount of work by Richard Gr, Andy and Richard Gl, tender documents were drawn up and circulated, and Doonan Architects of Hexham have been appointed to oversee the Rekindling project. Joan's estate has been settled and the properties should be sold soon. The aim is for the detailed planning and obtaining of permissions to be completed in 2025, the bulk of the work done in 2026 and the whole project completed before St Augustine's Day 2027. The Bishop has been booked to come and rededicate the church on Sunday 23rd May 2027 – reserve the date now!

The Wider Church

Deanery

The deanery has a full complement of clergy – no vacancies at present, since we welcomed the Revd Ollie Dempsey as the new vicar of the Churches on the Wall (East). We were pleased to welcome both the Deanery Chapter (clergy gathering) and Deanery Synod to meetings in Alston this year. Along with other parishes in the deanery, we were committed to a Generous Giving campaign in 2024, though in the event we found it necessary to postpone it until early 2025.

Readers

We were pleased to welcome the West Northumberland Readers group to Alston for an afternoon, finishing with Evening Prayer.

Hexham Abbey flower festival

It's worth noting that some of the finest flower arrangements at Hexham Abbey's flower festival in July were by our arrangers – it made me very proud to see them!

What else does a vicar do?

It might be of interest to list some of the other things which have come my way over the past year:

- Visiting parishioners who were experiencing poltergeist activity
- Diocesan Environment Working Group
- Annual reviews with our Readers and Lay Minister
- Blessing a home
- Supporting the partner of someone with alcohol and mental health issues
- Going on retreat
- Diocesan emergency response group training
- Visiting parishioners in hospital
- Conversations with parishioners (churchgoers and non-churchgoers) in distress
- Charring meetings of local charities
- Supper with the Bishop and other clergy
- Attending the Bishop's garden party(!)
- Clergy conference in Hexham Abbey
- Jury service (clergy are no longer exempt)
- Baptism and Confirmation preparation
- Pre- and post-funeral visits
- Attending Nenthead School's Big Breakfast
- Training for clergy preparing to supervise curates
- Training in making church accessible to neurodiverse people
- Ministerial Development Review ('work assessment')
- Supervision sessions with ordinand in training
- Home communions
- Clergy study day
- Talking to blacksmith about refurbishing church gates

Looking to the Future

We are at an exciting, if challenging point in the life of our various churches: the Rekindling project in Alston is moving forward apace; Garrigill has new life and hope; Knaresdale has the beginnings of a way forward. Nenthead and Kirkhaugh continue in good heart. The future for Lambley will require serious thought and prayer in the months to come. And the regular, faithful life of our six churches – worshipping, loving, serving – continues to bring hope to our communities. All of this will require significant time and effort, but we are blessed with wonderfully gifted and committed people to do it!

In addition to the longstanding devotion of so many of you – practically everyone in our congregations is committed in one way or another – the prospect of several new Churchwardens this year fills me with great joy! We are, God willing, about to have a Deacon, when Andy is ordained; and all being well, he will be ordained Priest in 2026.

I would like us also to consider further how we can become ever more inclusive and welcoming to all. I was delighted when our PCC agreed this year that ‘Prayers of Love and Faith’ – prayers of thanksgiving for those living in same sex and other relationships – could be used in the parish. It would be good to consider whether we can take further steps towards inclusivity, sharing the radical love and acceptance of Christ.

Personal

Much though I love being vicar here – and I do! I love the people, the churches, the place – it will come as no surprise that after nearly 11 years I’m increasingly sensing that the time may be right for a change; both for me and for the parish which, I think, needs new ideas and new direction which I can’t give. So over the coming months I will be actively seeking what God may have in mind for me next – confident in the knowledge that if and when I do move, the parish will be in excellent hands.

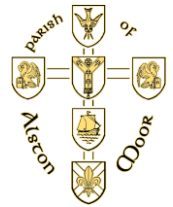
People

My report wouldn’t be complete without warm and heartfelt thanks to all of you who make up our church families and, by your loving faithfulness and commitment make them the wonderful, welcoming communities they are. Not only those of you with official roles: the Leadership Team, Churchwardens and sidespeople, organists, bell ringers, magazine editors; the PCC and DCC members, lay vice chairs, secretaries and treasurers; the safeguarding officer, pastoral visitors and prescription deliverers; those who tidy, clean and polish, arrange flowers, tend churchyards; those who prepare All Age worship, read lessons, lead intercessions and serve as web hosts; those who fulfil all the other tasks which I may overlook. But also every single one of you who, by your presence, your faithfulness, your prayers enrich the life of the church on Alston Moor.

Thank you – and God bless you all.

Your friend and vicar,
Mark Nash-Williams
11th May 2025

The Parish of Alston Moor **SAFEGUARDING POLICY** **PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**



The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 16th March 2022

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy the churches of the Parish of Alston Moor are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We agree that all people have the right to:

- live in a safe secure, stable and loving environment
- be protected from all forms of harm, including abuse and exploitation
- have a voice, and to be heard
- be valued and respected
- be treated as a unique individual with particular needs and particular gifts.

We will:

- Actively work to create a welcoming, safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This PCC appoints Mrs Karen Morsman as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent

Churchwardens

..... ..

..... ..

..... ..

Date:

Safeguarding report 2024/2025.

Thankfully there has been no safeguarding incidents to report.

The safeguarding team within the diocese has changed as of the 28th April 2025.

4 DBS checks have been applied for.

Training is up to date, with myself updating leadership training at the moment.

The safeguarding dashboard has been updated regarding safe storage of information with all sensitive information being stored under password protection.

In view of the change of personnel at diocesan level, information regarding the case worker may need to be changed on the church safeguarding page on the website.

Thank you to all for undertaking the training and taking safeguarding seriously.

This helps to create a safe space for all of us within our parish.

KM

ANNUAL HEXHAM DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

APRIL 2024/MARCH 2025

Seeking, Sharing, Sending

The Deanery welcomed in May the Revd Ollie Dempsey to minister within the new Benefice of St. Cuthbert Haydon Bridge, Warden with Newbrough and Saint John Lee.

Sadly, in December due to ill-health, the Revd Dr Martin Naylor has had to step down as Area Dean of Hexham but continues as Rector of Allendale, Whitfield and Ninebanks.

I am pleased to report that Revd Canon Steve Wright has agreed to be the interim Area Dean.

I would like to thank our Deanery Finance Officer Patricia Arnold for her support in the last year. Trish has now completed her time as Finance Officer, so the position is vacant.

I would also like to thank Philip Rutherford for his time as Secretary to the Deanery. Philip stepped down from the role March. An interim arrangement to cover part of the role is in place with the Revd Mark Nash-Williams making notes at meetings.

Deanery Synod send representatives to Diocesan Synod. The Deanery has 3 clergy representatives and 4 lay representatives. Currently there are two lay representative places untaken.

Volunteers welcome for both the finance and the secretary roles and as representatives on Diocesan Synod!

Parish Share pledges are at time of writing 94per cent met. Overall Diocesan finances are poor. Deanery action to address the financial shortfall has been to review their stewardship campaigns and to have invite the Diocesan Generous Giving Team to help facilitate.

The Deanery Synod and Deanery Development Group have met 3 times each. The venues of the meetings alternate between the benefices across the Deanery. The Deanery Development Group is an extension of Synod and to facilitate engagement these meetings have been open to all synod members and held during the daytime. The Diocese has encouraged us to prioritise prayer and discernment this year, a "Year of Seeking". As individuals, small groups, parishes, chaplaincies and deaneries to pay attention to where God is at work in our communities and contexts.

Deanery Pilgrimage CAMINO DE SAN CUTHBERT Haydon Bridge St. Cuthbert's to Beltingham St. Cuthbert's in August was a delight. Blessed with dry weather, splendid views, thought provoking prayer and reflections, and good company.

John Mitchell

Lay Chair, Hexham Deanery

12 March 2025

Finances secure thanks to wonderful treasurer Vivienne, who also looks after the advertising for us. Accounts may look less favourable than is the case because the double issue falls across two years, and the timing in '24 means we paid for 12 in that year, and will pay for only 10 this year. Gone down to 11 issues per year to avoid rush over Christmas ('24 was the last year we could keep the old price; printing costs have gone up this year so we just cover them). We are grateful for a reliable and inexpensive printer. Although we print only 184 copies, they get passed on and read more widely, and some read only the online version. They sell well from the Nook and the Cobbles.

Themes and ecumenical team still working well, keeping it fresh.

We were delighted to have Madeleine back into her interviewing role by the end of the year, after a slow recovery. Having a big team makes it so much easier to cover when one is ill or away. Kathy Reeds has become an occasional contributor from the RC side, and in '25 we gained a Free Church member. We have regulars, but we have kept to our promise to feature new writers and contributors every issue. We even had some expert advice from a local journalist and total atheist!

Covering all the church areas

Nent, Knaresdale and Alston still get more contributors than others, but Garrigill is catching up. Kirkhaugh is represented when there are special services or music events, likewise Lambley. St Wulstan's worship and social events are covered, plus occasional trips down the hill for big events in Methodist Circuit or Roman Catholic group; eg Fr John's 25th. Quakers contribute from time to time, and appreciate the magazine. We have featured Deanery and Diocesan events and the new Bishop of Newcastle. We celebrated the Anglican Confirmation and a Roman Catholic First Communion, Introduced new members of the community and said goodbye to others. We were asked to do more obituaries, but we can't unless someone who knew the person sends us one – we are not omniscient! When they fit the theme we use overseas writers and articles on how Christianity is celebrated elsewhere, with local connections where possible, plus WDOP insights.

Moor and More

We continue to highlight local businesses and enterprises, and local characters. The second half includes what's happened and what's coming up, highlighting so many times and events that bring the Church family together, and enhance community life here. We dip into theology and bible study, book reviews, sometimes hymns, poetry and art. Saints pop up sometimes, eg we responded to request from a reader for an article on St John Boste. We share testimony to moments of importance in people's faith, pilgrimages far and near, and other spiritual experiences in harmony with our Christian faith. The first half often features articles of less 'churchy' interest - tourism, history and science articles, occasionally healthcare – but all with a topical and/or local element. We try not to be political but have covered Palestine through local Minister who spends a lot of time there, and explored how attitudes to slavery, war and political change are reflected in our church buildings. We occasionally feature commentary on society issues that ask similar questions to faith – what matters, where are we going, how should we treat others? Safeguarding is sometimes a feature in itself, always part of how we treat anyone in or associated with the magazine, especially children, who we try to feature whenever we can, with appropriate permission. The environment and charities crop up often, amid regulars like Puzzles and occasional competitions, and some terrible jokes.

Feedback is rare but welcome; a new computer-confident editor would be lovely! Lizzie does a wonderful job when I'm away but we can't leave it all to her when we move on.

BNW May '25