

## ALMONDBURY WITH FARNLEY TYAS TEAM PARISH

### Our purpose is:

- to grow in faith as the family of God
- to celebrate and share the love of Christ
- to show his love by our witness and service in the community.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Almondbury with Farnley Tyas Parish to be held on Sunday 26th May 2024 at 11am at St Michael & St Helen's Church

## REPORTS

### 4. The Reports

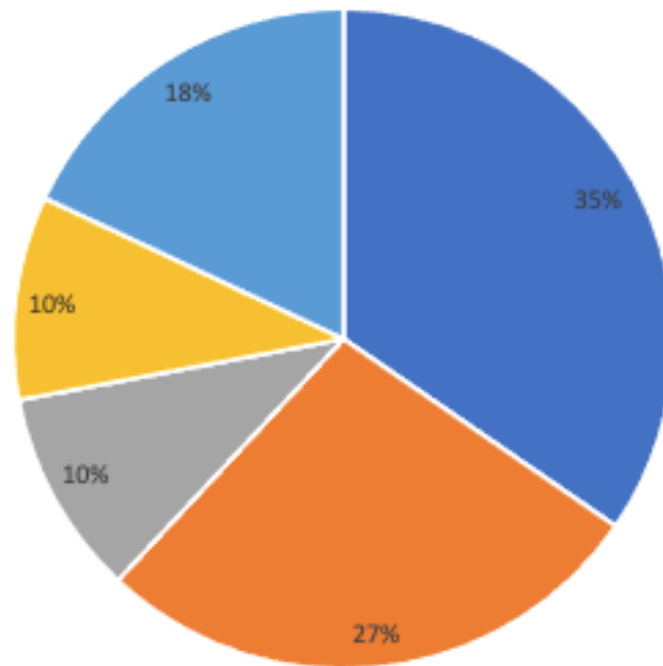
(iv) Supporting information for the Financial Report (Annual Report and Accounts circulated in a separate document)

#### Income & Expenditure Account Summary

##### General Fund for 2023

	All Hallows £	St Lucius £	St M & St H £	Parish Expenses £	Aggregate 2023 £	Aggregate 2022 £
<b>Income</b>						
Contributions from three churches				19,682		
Parish Giving Scheme etc.	29,923	14,926	4,416		49,265	49,854
Cash Collections	7,247	1,830	2,635		11,712	10,870
Donations, legacies & grants	4,596	11,972	4,176		20,744	15,170
Gift Aid tax refunds	12,129	644	1,945		14,718	23,207
Events	995	1,218			2,213	9,878
Fees (weddings & funerals)	5,918	2,180	358		8,456	4,072
Rents - hall hire	9,323		5,557		14,880	13,698
Festival	7,026				7,026	12,360
Interest	1,630	75	113		1,818	394
Mission & Charity	2,012				2,012	1,576
Community Café		1,475			1,475	1,290
Other income		3,800			3,800	1,153
Sundry	125				125	300
	<u>80,924</u>	<u>38,120</u>	<u>19,200</u>	<u>19,682</u>	<u>138,244</u>	<u>143,822</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Parish Share	37,583	15,725	10,110		63,418	59,824
Insurance	7,260	3,518	1,624		12,402	11,158
Utilities	6,640	3,468	1,976		12,084	10,614
Staff, staff expense, others	9,705	3,400	1,590	15,663	30,358	22,264
Maintenance, repairs & renewals	2,521	10,108	1,127		13,756	10,616
Mission & Charity	5,245	300			5,545	6,817
Film night expenditure		4,495			4,495	
Grant paid to churches				4,050	4,050	
Printing & stationery				1,407	1,407	1,416
Website / software / broadband				1,038	1,038	767
Clergy expenses				315	315	694
Church supplies books & liturgy				1,387	1,387	1,420
Sundry	1,730	102	465	365	2,662	6,498
Parish expenses	<u>12,517</u>	<u>2,775</u>	<u>4,390</u>			
	<u>83,201</u>	<u>43,891</u>	<u>21,282</u>	<u>24,225</u>	<u>152,917</u>	<u>132,088</u>
Surplus / Deficit	- 2,277	- 5,771	- 2,082	- 4,543	- 14,673	11,734

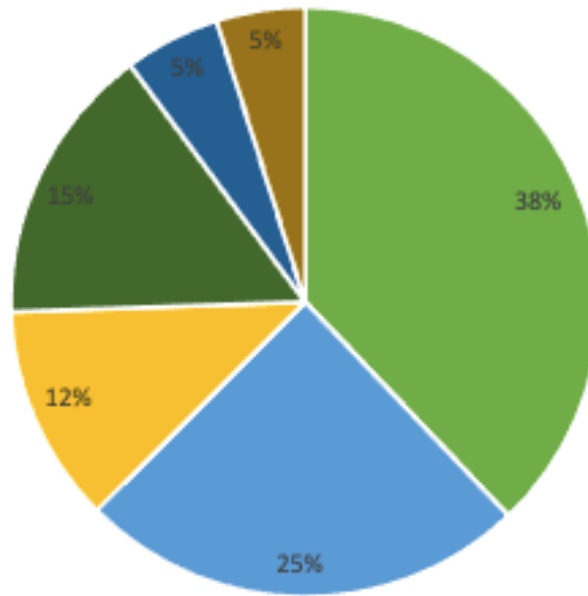
## Almondbury with Farnley Tyas 2023 income by type



■ Gift Aid donations ■ Donations and appeals ■ Rental income ■ Tax recoverable ■ Other

Gift Aid donations	35%	51,095
Donations and appeals	27%	40,433
Rental income	10%	14,881
Tax recoverable	10%	14,718
Other	18%	26,577

## Almondbury with Farnley Tyas 2023 expenditure by type



■ Repairs and maintenance ■ Diocesan parish share ■ Staff ■ Other ■ Heat and light ■ Insurance

Repairs and maintenance	38%	96,377
Diocesan parish share	25%	62,638
Staff	12%	30,358
Other	15%	39,133
Heat and light	5%	13,401
Insurance	5%	12,402

## (v) Annual Churchwardens' & Fabric Reports 2023

### **All Hallows' Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2023**

#### **Routine Annual Works**

Churchwardens' routine visual inspection of the church and grounds.

Maintenance of the church logbook and inventory.

Maintenance of the church lighting.

Maintenance of the church tower and the bells.

Inspection and service of the tower and clock.

Inspection, maintenance and service of the fire and safety equipment, including the first aid box.

Testing of the lightning conductor.

Annual maintenance of the boiler.

Annual gutter clearing, and drone inspection by Pinnacle Construction

#### **Additional work: -**

All Hallows' Fabric Committee, led by Geraint Edwards, continues to focus on major tasks identified in the 2019 Quinquennial Report. The most important of these is the repair and redecoration of the aisle ceilings in the church, undertaken by Pinnacle Construction. We are grateful to the congregation for its long-suffering during the extensive works, particularly Pauline our organist. A repair was made to the stained glass window behind the altar and some minor masonry repairs. New doors with side windows have been installed in the church hall corridor. Maintenance and cleaning of the secondary glazing on the church hall windows by the Caretaker is on-going and a slow task due to the difficult fixings but the decision not to replace the glazing with new has saved over £10,000. An additional railing has been installed at the steps to Northgate and a grab rail added to the steps leading up to the car park. A decayed tree in the grounds was removed.

We would like to thank the team of volunteers who give their time to maintain and clean the church and its artifacts, provide flowers and linen, manage the hall and adjacent rooms and tend to the grounds throughout the year. We receive thanks and appreciation from those who visit the church for major life events or quiet moments of prayer and recognise the importance of All Hallows in our community.

Jenny Hinchliffe and Linda Smith

Churchwardens

Mar 2024

## **(vii) Deanery Synod Report 2023**

*Completed by Revd Felicity Cowling-Green.*

There were two meetings and both were held at Huddersfield Parish church. Unfortunately, a zoom meeting had to be cancelled due to illness. In February a presentation was received from TSL (Third Sector Leaders): a small local charity which helps organisations find and apply for project grants. Warm spaces being one example. An update was received from Diocesan Synod . Members were also reminded of the 'Pray HD' Initiative where every HD postcode is prayed for via Facebook. The October meeting was spent welcoming new members and various issues were discussed in small groups including resources, funding, growth, reaching out to schools, help for asylum seekers and managing church closures.

## **(vii) Almondbury with Farnley Tyas Annual Parish Safeguarding Report 2024**

The PCC follows the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This is laid down by Section 5 of the Safeguarding Clergy and Discipline Measure 2016. The PCC has ratified the 'Parish Statement on Safeguarding' drawn up by Leeds Diocese; some updating is required again on dated copies on church noticeboards and on the website. The fuller national policy, "Promoting a Safer Church," is also available on the Parish website. In addition, a poster emphasising the key points of the House of Bishops' Policy on Safeguarding is displayed in each church.

The Diocese of Leeds has revised its policy on the frequency of DBS checks; they are now required every three years instead of five years. To comply with this DBS certificates of all members of the PCC are now under review. Members of the church committees (formerly DCCs) of the three churches are not required to have a DBS check unless they are also members of the PCC.

Leaders of all groups who use our premises are required to agree to our Safeguarding Policy and those who lead groups involving children or young people are required to hold DBS certificates. All members of the Little Hallows team hold enhanced DBS certificates. Anyone who uses our premises or is in contact with any member of the church may report concerns about the well-being of any person or the practice of any clergy or lay person to the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Concerns may also be reported directly to the Diocese of Leeds Safeguarding Department.

Linda Smith

Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **(viii) PCC Secretary Report to the APCM January to December 2023**

*The PCC Secretary Office is currently vacant. This was completed by Revd Felicity-Cowling-Green.*

The PCC met six times in 2023. PCC Members 2023:

Incumbent:	Revd Felicity Cowling-Green (maternity leave until Oct 2023)
Associate Priest:	The Reverend Jessica Malay
Churchwardens:	Mrs Catherine Ball Mrs Jennifer Hinchliffe Mrs Linda Smith (PCC Lay Chair and Safeguarding Officer) Mrs Monica Wells
Diocesan Synod Member:	Mr Christopher Thompson
Deanery Synod Members:	Mrs Catherine Ball Mrs Marian Beckles Mrs Charlotte Mallinson (until May 2023) Mrs Hilary Pollard
Elected Members:	Mrs Marian Beckles Mrs Jane Dutton Mrs Sue Edwards Mrs Corinne Lord (Parish Electoral Roll Officer) Mr Eric Lord Mr Brian Mallinson (until May 2023) Mrs Helen Marshall Mrs Anadelle Robinson (from May 2023) Mr Chris Thompson (from May 2023) Mr Andrew Wilkinson (PCC Treasurer)

Important items discussed by the PCC since the last APCM have included:

- Team Ministry matters including worship, service planning, life event services, Rector maternity cover and appointment updates.
- Mission planning and opportunities for outreach within the Parish, including the setup of a Food Share at St. Michael & St. Helen and opportunities to engage with children and schools, such as the Children's Christmas party.
- Financial planning, including the apportionment of Parish expenses and the Parish Share, and the difficulties in raising the funds to pay the Parish Share.
- Planning and discussion regarding repairs and building works at each of the three churches, and the application for Faculties for works where necessary. Particular attention was given to All Hallows' Ceiling repair work.
- Reports and updates from schools within the Parish including the appointment of School Governors at the local church schools and the Ofsted and SIAMS Inspection at Farnley Tyas School. In addition significant attention and time was given to our parish's role in enabling Lowerhouses School to convert to Academy Status. Our thanks to Linda Smith who ably led on this matter.
- Reports and updates from the Deanery and Diocesan Synod.
- Ecumenical matters including joint working with the Methodist Church.
- Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health & Safety and HR.

## **(ix) Reports from Church Organisations**

### **All Hallows Bell Ringers' Report – May 23-24**

It's been a year of quiet (!) consolidation for the tower this year – a number of new ringers have been 'learning the ropes' – some ringers at Almondbury, some at other towers. The Open Tower Saturdays (OTS) (10am to 11am) were quite well attended last year, both by visitors and learners who wanted some 'rope time' and attention to technical details of their ringing. OTS has begun again, but visitors are light – must do some more publicity. Aidan, who joined last spring as part of OTS has progressed astonishingly well and completed his first quarter peal (45 minute ringing) just a few weeks ago, on a Monday evening – it was a very well-struck quarter peal and enjoyable for all six ringers. In bell ringing, he is now known in bell ringing circles as 'The Aidan' and can be heard putting other ringers right in the tower. He is 14! Could definitely do with some more people from Almondbury to ring – especially on Sunday mornings when we often depend on visiting ringers.

This year has also seen the first half of my training as a ringing teacher. Ironically, I've been teaching for a few years, but am now qualified through the Association of Ringing Teachers group. It's been a long job, with mentors, assessed lesson, quizzes, and the help of several learners. Also, thank you very much to Linda for her help with the application for a DBS Certificate (which needed to be less than 5 years old, when I've had one for school for 18 years!).

It seems a long time ago now, but the Coronation ringing went very well – towers across the area shared ringers to ensure that all could have a good ring.

Suddenly, in Autumn, we had another influx of the dreaded insects, but by the time we'd spotted them, most were dead. There are still small piles of them in corners, and I've been waiting for the spring hatching, but so far no problems. Interestingly, other towers have reported having the same problem.

Unfortunately, the two most recent peals have not been successful – faltering after around an hour. I've had a chat with the ringing master and suggested that, perhaps, easier methods should be rung. Otherwise, we've had a number of ringing visits and the unanimous comment is that we have a lovely ring of bells 😊 Along with this, we'd like to open up for Heritage Open Weekend – 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 14<sup>th</sup> September- further details to follow.

There have been a few weddings – one notable by being on the hottest day of 2023! It would be useful for our funds to have more weddings – any move on the idea of having the bells as part of the wedding package?

We will also be ringing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 1.30pm – a mark of respect and love for one of our own – John Foster. He was a bell ringer for over 40 years and only stopped ringing when he simply couldn't get up the stairs anymore! I'm aware that he was always a great support for the Church too, as well as deputy organist for 40 years. He is already missed, but at least passed away two days after his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday which was attended by his whole family. The 'old guard' ringers now only include Eric Lord and Paul Rogers.



Regarding modern technology, over 2,500 people have read messages on the Almondbury Bell Ringing Facebook page, with posting being forwarded to Almondbury Information and Newsome Ward Community Forum groups. However, old technology has been evident in two new stays this year – on bells 1 and 4 – when drilling, hammering and screwing were the activities there.

And speaking of old technology, the Church clock has been causing some issues – losing or gaining time. Engineers have attended, but it is still not running consistently. I am in touch with Geraint about this. My husband, Stuart, is adjusting the pendulum weekly to try to get it telling the right time.

Many thanks to Church members who have, and still do, help with the ringing – from Eric who overcomes physical difficulties to ring, to Geraint, Sue and Linda, to Felicity and Alex and David the caretaker and Hilary for keeping us in touch.

Best wishes to All,

Ruth Elliott



## St. Lucius Church Committee Eco Church Subgroup Report to APCM

### Purpose of the report:

To provide information to the APCM on activity and achievements made by St. Lucius Church Eco-church subgroup in 2023. St. Lucius Church successfully achieved A Rocha's silver Eco-church award in August 2022 and since that time we have been working towards the coveted 'gold' award.

### Key Achievements in 2023

We successfully opened and renovated an old overgrown footpath within the perimeter of the graveyard creating a much safer and visibly accessible route for visitors. Edgings have been recovered and dry-stone walling salvaged from the churchyard providing banking and is on-going to protect the future of the paths.

The workforce undertaking this task consists of church and local community volunteers. In August we welcomed much needed physical help from those serving a probation service community 'pay back' order. As part of our church 'mission' the weekly probation service and monthly community working parties are provided with refreshments including lunch prepared and gifted by volunteers. These volunteers have cleared tons of rubble, plastic and glass from the churchyard filling 3 large skips.

Work commenced using decorative stones and bark to tidy old and neglected graves.

A bug hotel has been set up and a further 1000 bulbs planted were planted bringing the total of 2,000 bulbs planted in the churchyard.

The 'children's grave area has a bench in situ donated by Farnley Tyas WI and has been tidied making the area more attractive and restful for visitors.

Several bird boxes and a hedgehog box are now in situ and 4 bird feeders were installed. A bird count undertaken in 2023 reported more birds than counted in a baseline assessment done in 2022.

In summer we held a successful 'Open Day' to show case our efforts so far in the churchyard and say 'thank you' to all our community volunteers, Eco-based activities were arranged for the young together with refreshments for all.

Several Eco themed services were held including a 'messy Christingle' in December 2023.

### Our plans for 2024 :

To complete rubble clearance and finish the dry-stone walls along all the perimeter of the churchyard.

Plant bee and butterfly loving plants along all the newly formed banks.

Improve signage in the churchyard including the installation of story/ interpretation boards at each entrance to the churchyard.

Provide more seating and develop areas for quiet thought and contemplation and possibly a prayer labyrinth.

Work with our local school on joint Eco-projects and support them in their Eco aspirations.

Further develop our church heating plan and reduce our reliance on fossil fuel for heating, we intend to apply to the LA for planning permission to install solar panels when approved a detailed project plan will be developed which fulfils all C of E local and Diocesan approvals, church architect endorsement, and provides evidence that the project can be funded.

#### In Conclusion

Much progress has been made in 2023 towards ensuring that St. Lucius Church is a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable place for future generations, and we are keen to share our experience and knowledge across the Parish.

Report prepared by: Kath Hinchliff [Chair]

Date of report: May 2024

## **Almondbury Mothers' Union** **Secretary's Report 2023**

We have had yet another year which is still under the influence of the recent pandemic. However, we have met every month, but not always with a speaker.

In August, we celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> (really 126<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of Mothers' Union in this parish and our new bishop, Smitha Prasadam, came to preach and help us celebrate. We had a service in the church, and refreshments later in the hall. It was a lovely celebration enjoyed by all.

*As usual at Remembrance we have hosted schoolchildren who laid wreaths at the War Memorial.*

*We join with the Church in various occasions and also making our emergency bags for the hospital.*

We enjoy our meetings, and although we are not as many as previously, but one month we invited Lepton Mothers' Union to join us and that was appreciated by everyone.

Chris Carpenter  
Hom.Sec