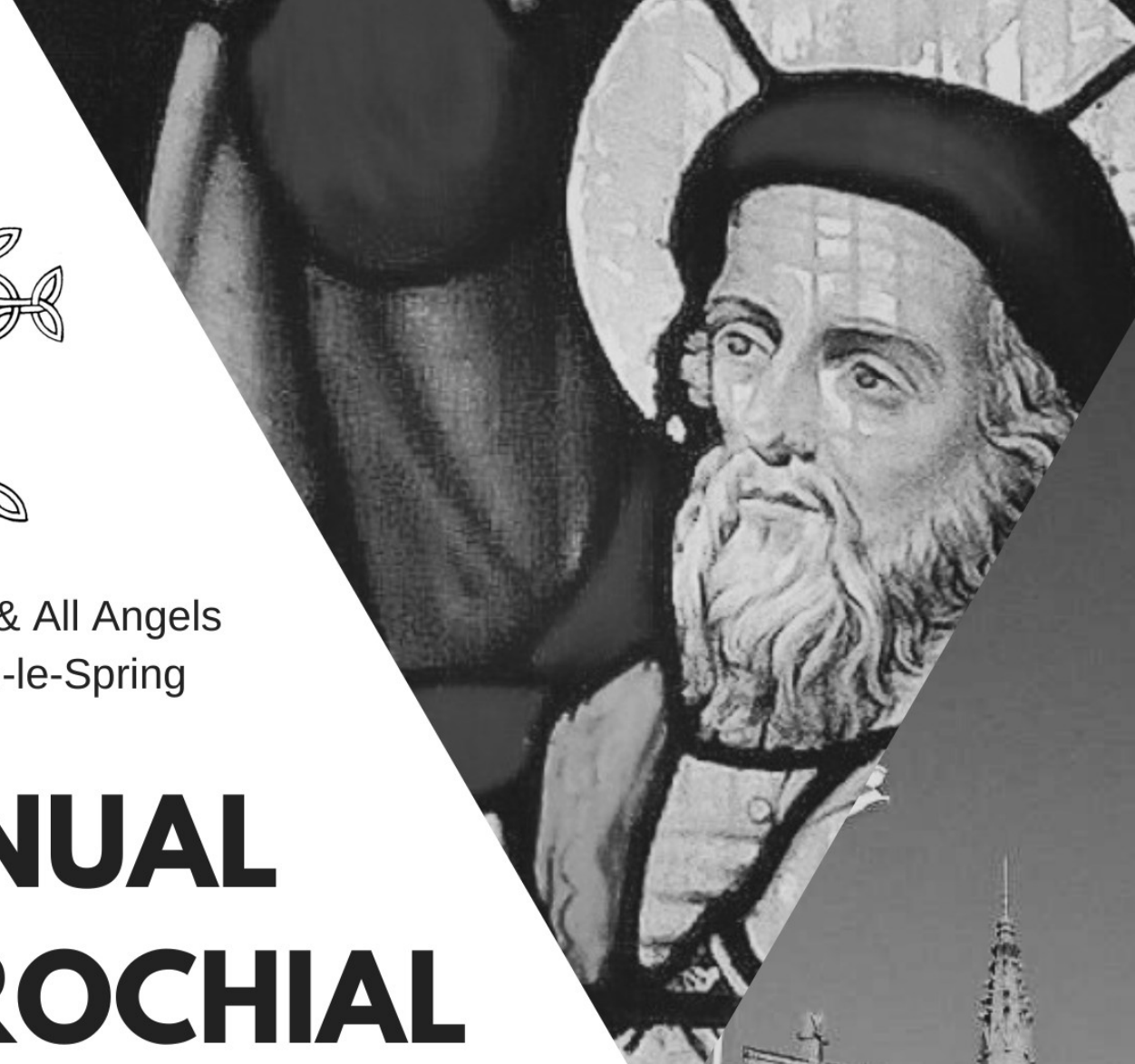
St Michael & All Angels
Houghton-le-Spring

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH REPORT

2025





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1. Introduction

The Church of England parish church of St Michael and All Angels in the ancient town of Houghton-le-Spring has been at the heart of our community for over a thousand years. Our magnificent church building stands as a visible symbol of Christ's presence as do the many ways we reach out to support and serve our local community.

This report celebrates the work of the church in the last year through our church groups, including the activities of our community project 'Space4', as well as the activities of organisations with strong affiliations to St Michael's. A report of our Church finances is given and also a report on the finances of Space4 which are managed separately. A consolidated report of both sets of finances is also provided.

2. Parochial Church Council 2025-26

- The PCC is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.
- Its registered Charity Number is 1135095
- Its principal address is Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4DN

In accordance with its governing document, the PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building.

- The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.
- Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.
- The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	Reverend John Barron
Church Warden	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer	Sue Bradley (Co-opted)
Secretary	Angela Slater (Co-opted)
Safeguarding Officer	Ali Young
Ministry Team Representative	Reverend Margaret Lee (Observer)
Director of Music	George Peebles (Observer)
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Hann, Dian Scott, Sue Elsey Term of Office 2023-26
Elected members	Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott (Asst.Church Warden), Clare Taylor, Jade Turnbull-Mason Term of Office 2023-26
	Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of Office 2024-27
	Sheila Wynn, Simon Hardy (Asst.Church Warden), Kathleen Close Lynn Scott (Observer) Term of Office 2025-8

The following served as Sidespersons:

Joan Beattie	Sheila Gamble	Evelyn Garbutt
Elaine Harkness	Jean Henderson	Brian Scott
Dian Scott	Catherine Moore	David Turnbull
Rita Turnbull	John Wilde	Susan Wilde
Bob Wile	Sheila Wynne	

The Independent Examiner was:

TTR Barnes Limited
Chartered Accountants
3-5 Grange Terrace
Stockton Road
Sunderland
SR2 7DG

3. Changes in membership of the Electoral Roll, 2025

There are currently 103 names on the Electoral Roll, which is an increase from last year which had 77 names on the Roll. Thank you all for your cooperation. As is usually the case we have people leaving the roll for various reasons and new people joining us in this last year – we encourage people to keep us informed of changes in details in the year.

In addition to our lay membership, we have an additional six members of the church who are clergy, four of whom have 'Permission to Officiate' (PTO).

Rita Turnbull is the Electoral Roll Officer.

4. Church Report for 2025: The Year in Review

A Year of Purpose and Presence

Throughout 2025, St Michael and All Angels continued its historic vocation as a civic and spiritual anchor for Houghton-le-Spring. We have continued to be a church that seeks to cherish longstanding traditions but also to embrace new ways of being church: a great example of this during Houghton Feast involved our working with people inviting them to tell stories of why Houghton was so magical, and co-creating the 'Magical Map of Houghton'. In our worship and life together, we have continued to discover the many ways that God continues to work through the people of our church, not just in our successes, but in the challenges of building deep, relational community.

Growing the Worshipping Community

Our core attendance shows signs of steady, organic health. Our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) rose to 82 (from 77), and our wider Worshipping Community grew to 132 members (from 122). While a full revision of the Electoral Roll saw numbers initially dip to 77, we are encouraged to see this figure recovering as the year closed.

The Advent season was a particular highlight of growth. We held 16 special services for schools, uniformed organisations, and the community, reaching 2,374 people—a significant increase from the 1,780 the previous year. Most notably, child attendance nearly doubled to 1,279. This was bolstered by three additional services with Kepier School and a new service for our uniformed organisations. These numbers did mask some important details: attendance at traditional milestones like Christingle, the Crib service, and the Christmas party saw a decline. One potential reason for this is the increased number of local events that are available to families in the community. We are responding by focusing on year-round relational ministry.

Occasional Offices and Pastoral Care

The church continues to serve the community at life's most critical thresholds. This year saw a significant increase in funerals (39), nearly doubling the previous year's total and reflecting our vital civic role in times of grief. We also celebrated 5 weddings (up from 2), though baptisms saw a decrease to 23. In response, we are shifting toward a more relational model of family engagement, trying to encourage longer-term involvement in church life.

Our Ministry Team—including our retired ministers with PTO (Revd Margaret Lee, Revd Judith Howes, and Revd Claire Cullingworth) and our Readers (Sue Elsey, Ros Pickersgill, and Anne Clappison) —remain indispensable. Our Pastoral Care Scheme, the Signpost magazine, and the dedicated members of the Mothers' Union seek to ensure that no one in our parish is forgotten. In March we hosted the very important play 'William Kite has Memory Issues' exploring people living with dementia.

Music and Creative Worship

Music remains the heartbeat of our liturgy. George Peebles (Musical Director) and Nikki Lipinski led our robed choir, while the Gilpin Singers, led by Laura Parkin, continued to bridge the gap between church and community through their concerts. We hosted our Friends weekend including Houghton Brass and Gordon Stuart's Organ Receipt. We had some very talented local youngsters along with our own singers and musicians at our summer concert and the Sunderland Songbirds joined in our concert during Houghton Feast. Contemporary worship continues to flourish in our 'All-age' and 'Engage' and 'Reflective' services, led by Stuart Clappison and Andy Slater, the latter of whom also provides regular organ support. During the year we changed our service pattern and introduced a new 'All-in' service on the third Sunday of the month – this appears to be going well and we continue to develop our worship offering with an aim of being inclusive to all.

Space4 and Community Organising

Our Space4 project, under the leadership of Justine Merton-Scott, continues to be a "space for everyone to flourish." By transforming our foodbank into a Community Foodstore and engaging in Community Organising with Tyne and Wear Citizens, we are not just treating the symptoms of poverty but challenging the injustices that cause it. Our new weekly Family Fun session is a key part of this strategy, building "relational bridges" for families to move from community projects into the life of the church.

Signs of Flourishing

We came to the end of our first year of the national 'Organising for Growth' pilot. We are reminded that meaningful growth often starts slowly as roots go deep. With some new attendees beginning to move into regular Sunday worship, the increased number of children in our worshipping community is a sign of hope. We trust that by being "counter-cultural" and radically vulnerable in our mission, the bridges we are building today will sustain the church for generations to come. We hope to start 'Admission to Communion' courses for a number of children in 2026.

Last year we ran well-attended Lent and 'Nurture' Courses and were delighted that one of our new church members was confirmed by +Frank. In the year good numbers of our people attended formal 'Community Organising' training and Denise Hall and Jade Turnbull-Mason were awarded a Certificate in Community Leadership from the University of Birmingham. We were delighted that Sue Elsey was selected for ordination training and Simon Hardy for training as a Licenced Lay Minister. Both began training with Lindisfarne RTP in September. Sue is likely to join us as an SSM Curate following ordination in June 2026.

Gratitude for Our Shared Life

A historic building and a busy parish with a large community project do not run on their own. We extend our deepest thanks to our Standing Committee, Project Board and the PCC for their tireless work behind the scenes. We are incredibly grateful to our Churchwardens, Assistant Wardens, Verger, Stewards, and Cleaners who keep our church doors open and our space welcoming. Our thanks also go to our Flower Arrangers for bringing beauty to our worship, and the many volunteers who serve as gardeners, linen and silver washers, brass polishers, and the essential army of tea makers and cake bakers. Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Parish Administrator, whose indispensable support keeps the Rector and the wider community connected and organized.

Key Parish Statistics* : 2025 at a Glance

Metric	2024	2025	Trend
Average Sunday Attendance	**77**	**82**	**+6%**
Worshipping Community	**122**	**132**	**+8%**
Total Advent Attendance	**1,780**	**2,374**	**+33%**
Advent Child Attendance	**677**	**1,279**	**+89%**
Funerals	**22**	**39**	**+77%**
Weddings	**2**	**5**	**+150%**
Baptisms	**41**	**23**	**-44%**
Electoral Roll	**124**	**77***	**Post-Revision**
Total Christmas Attendance	**370**	**335**	**-9%**
Total Easter Attendance	**120**	**122**	**+2%**

*extract from Church of England Parish Statistics

5. ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON LE SPRING:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095

External Examiner
TTR Barnes
Chartered Accountants

6. ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DEC 2025

6.1 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON LE SPRING: CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095

External Examiner
TTR Barnes
Chartered Accountants

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING	1135095	CC17

Annual accounts for the period

Period start date	01/0/1/2025	To	Period end date	31/12/2025

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 3)		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Income and endowments from:						
Voluntary Income	S01	**93,202**	**169,208**	-	262,410	**254,152**
Income from Trading and Activities	S02	**40,350**	**10,229**	-	50,579	**37,100**
Investment Income	S03	**17**	**118**	-	135	**290**
Other	S04	-			-	-
	S06	-		-	-	-
Total	S07	133,569	179,555	-	313,124	291,542
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	**15,243**	**102**	-	15,345	**9,340**
Charitable activities	S09	**53,794**	**152,809**	-	206,603	**231,353**
Facilities Costs	S10	**35,250**	**17,911**	-	53,161	**50,919**
Other	S11	**274**		-	274	1,590
Total	S12	104,561	170,822	-	275,383	293,203
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13	29,008	8,733	-	37,741	- 1,661
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	29,008	8,733	-	37,741	- 1,661
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17	- 33,369	33,369	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 4,361	42,102	-	37,741	- 1,661
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	**81,726**	**59,885**	-	141,611	**143,271**
Total funds carried forward	S22	77,365	101,987	-	179,352	141,611

		funds £	funds £	funds £	year £	year £
ixed assets		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
tangible assets (Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
ıngible assets (Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
eritage assets (Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
vestments (Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05	-	-	-	-	-
urrent assets						
ocks (Note 18)	B06		2,939	-	2,939	12,0
ebtors and Prepayments (Note 19)	B07		2,796	-	2,796	7,2
vestments (Note 17.4)	B08		189	-	189	-
ash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09	80,219	99,262	-	179,481	126,7
Total current assets	B10	80,219	105,186	-	185,405	145,9
reditors: amounts falling due within ne year (Note 20)	B11	2,853	3,199	-	6,052	4,3
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	77,366	101,987	-	179,353	141,6
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	77,366	101,987	-	179,353	141,6
reditors: amounts falling due after ne year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
ovisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
otal net assets or liabilities	B16	77,366	101,987	-	179,353	141,6

unds of the Charity

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 1 **Basis of preparation**

This section should be completed by all charities .

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

• and with*	✓	the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
• and with*	✓	the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

• and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.*	YES

* -Tick as appropriate

1.2 Going concern

If there are material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, please provide the following details or state "Not applicable", if appropriate:

An explanation as to those factors that support the conclusion that the charity is a going concern;	*The final statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. At the time of approving the financial statements, the incumbent have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the incumbent continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.*
Disclosure of any uncertainties that make the going concern assumption doubtful;	
Where accounts are not prepared on a going concern basis, please disclose this fact together with the basis on which the trustees prepared the accounts and the reason why the charity is not regarded as a going concern.	

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

Yes*	☐	* -Tick as appropriate
No*	☐	

Please disclose:

(i) the nature of any changes;	
(ii) the effect of the change on income and expense or assets and liabilities for the current period; and	
(iii) where practicable, the effect of the change in one or more future periods.	

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

Yes*	☐	* -Tick as appropriate
No*	☐	

Please disclose:

(i) the nature of the prior period error;	
(ii) for each prior period presented in the accounts, the amount of the correction for each account line item affected; and	
(iii) the amount of the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented in the accounts.	

Note 2 **Accounting policies**

2.2 INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/a". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

		Yes	No	N/a
Recognition of income	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; · it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.	✓	✓	✓
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.	✓	✓	✓
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).	✓	✓	✓
	In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).	✓	✓	✓
Legacies	Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.	✓	✓	✓
Government grants	The charity has received government grants in the reporting period	✓	✓	✓
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.	✓	✓	✓
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.	✓	✓	✓
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.	✓	✓	✓
	The cost of any stock of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those gifts at the time of their receipt and they are recognised on receipt. In the reporting period in which the stocks are distributed, they are recognised as an expense at the carrying amount of the stocks at distribution.	✓	✓	✓
	Donated goods for resale are measured at fair value on initial recognition, which is the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale, and recognised in 'Income from other trading activities' with the corresponding stock recognised in the balance sheet. On its sale the value of stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds from sale are also recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'.	✓	✓	✓
	Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.	✓	✓	✓
	Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as income from donations when receivable.	✓	✓	✓
Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.	✓	✓	✓
	Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SOFA.	✓	✓	✓
Support costs	The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.	✓	✓	✓

		Yes	No	N/a
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.	✓	✓	✓
Income from membership subscriptions	Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in Donations and Legacies.	✓	✓	✓
	Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.	✓	✓	✓
Settlement of insurance claims	Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.	✓	✓	✓
Investment gains and losses	This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.	✓	✓	✓

2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

		Yes	No	N/a
Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.	✓	✓	✓
Governance and support costs	Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.	✓	✓	✓
	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.	✓	✓	✓
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.	✓	✓	✓
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.	✓	✓	✓
Redundancy cost	The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.	✓	✓	✓
Deferred income	No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.	✓	✓	✓
Creditors	The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts	✓	✓	✓
Provisions for liabilities	A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date	✓	✓	✓
Basic financial instruments	The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.	✓	✓	✓

2.4 ASSETS

		Yes	No	N/a
Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least 1000			
	They are valued at cost.	✓		
	The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.2.			
Intangible fixed assets	The charity has intangible fixed assets, that is, non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the charity through custody or legal rights. The amortisation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.5			✓
	They are valued at cost.			✓
Heritage assets	The charity has heritage assets, that is, non-monetary assets with historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. The depreciation rates and methods used as disclosed in note 9.6.1.4.			✓
	They are valued at cost.			✓
Investments	Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.			✓
	Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments			✓
Stocks and work in progress	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower or cost or net realisable value.			✓
	Goods or services provided as part of a charitable activity are measured at net realisable value based on the service potential provided by items of stock.	✓		
	Work in progress is valued at cost less any foreseeable loss that is likely to occur on the contract.			✓
Debtors	Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.	✓		
Current asset investments	The charity has has investments which it holds for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date less than one year. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short term cash commitments as they fall due.			✓
	They are valued at fair value except where they qualify as basic financial instruments.			✓

POLICIES ADOPTED ADDITIONAL TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ABOVE

2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets
Consecrated land beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held be churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as incurred in the SOFA.

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Voluntary Income	Donations and gifts	60,482	2,402	-	62,883	62,967
	Gift Aid	22,221	1,897	-	24,117	30,562
	Legacies	10,500	-	-	10,500	1,187
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	164,581	-	164,581	159,086
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	93,202	168,879	-	262,081	253,802
Charitable activities:		-	-	-	-	-
	Grants			-	-	
	Sales	28,927	10,129	-	39,056	24,880
	Fundraising	11,423	329	-	11,752	11,565
	Room Hire		100	-	100	1,005
	Other			-	-	-
	Total	40,350	10,558	-	50,909	37,450
Other trading activities:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments:	Interest income	17	118	-	135	290
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	17	118	-	135	290
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		133,570	179,554	-	313,124	291,542

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)	Donations 5148, gift aid 360, grants 159086, sales 10246, room hire 1005, interest 204
Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.	
Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the prior period, please give the reason for the conversion.	
Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)	

Note 4 **Analysis of receipts of government grants**

	Description		This year £
003. Links for Life	Grant from Sunderland City Council to provide extended drop-in, brunch service and slow cooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses		5,685
014. Police & CC	Grant from Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner to provide events to build bridges across community in response to inner city riots of 2024 restricted to salaries, rental, food and expenses.		4,940
015. #2 Links for Life	Grant from Sunderland City Council to provide brunch service and slowcooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses		7,332
017. AFC Affordable Food Club	Grant from Sunderland City Council to further develop provision of sustainable Community Foodstore - restricted to salaries.		4,000
018. SCC - Hol Grant 3	Grant from Sunderland City Council for Holiday club provision - restricted to salaries, accommodation, product costs, expenses.		6,000
019. SCC - Foodstore	Grant from Sunderland City Council for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.		9,900
022. SCC Christmas Lunch 25	Grant from Sunderland City Council for provision of Christmas Lunch for people who are isolated, lonely and on the margins - restricted to food supply & expenses.		953
Other			-
		Total	38,810

	Description		Last year £
SCC Products	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.		7,000
Digital Hub	Provision of an IT Hub - restricted to IT & Office equipment, ongoing IT support costs		9,261
SCC Grant 24	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.		32,000
Links for Life	Provide extended drop-in, brunch service and slowcooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses		17,410
SCC Hol. 2	Holiday club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.		4,917
SCC Grant	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.		4,799
christmas lunch	Provision for Food for Christmas Day Lunch for people who are isolated, lonely and on the margins - restricted to food supply.		1,149
		Total	76,535

	This year	Last year
Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to grants that have been recognised in income.		

	This year	Last year
Please give details of other forms of government assistance from which the charity has directly benefited.		

Note 6 **Analysis of expenditure**

Analysis	This year Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Expenditure on raising funds:				£				£
Incurred seeking donations		-	-	-	7,960	-	-	7,960
Incurred seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incurred seeking grants	-	-	-	-				-
Operating membership schemes and social lotteries	-	-	-	-				-
Staging fundraising events	-	-	-	-				-
Fudraising agents	-	-	-	-				-
Operating charity shops	-	-	-	-				-
Operating a trading company undertaking non-charitable trading activity	-	-	-	-				-
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-				-
Investment management costs:	-	102	-	102				-
Portfolio management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of obtaining investment advice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment administration costs			-	-	-	102	-	102
Intellectual property licencing costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	102	-	102	7,960	102	-	8,062
Expenditure on charitable activities:								
Staff salaries	10,684	103,634	-	114,317	9,824	102,872	-	112,696
Sessional Workers	2,331	1,148	-	3,479	-	3,613	-	3,613
Accommodation	34,125	17,911	-	52,036	32,300	16,645	-	48,945
Product Costs		20,980		20,980	5,169	38,098		43,267
Expenses	1,001	7,798		8,800	6,867	4,536		11,402
Office Costs & Training		1,457		1,457		1,670		1,670
Equipment		5,064		5,064		8,582		8,582
Professional fees		12,554		12,554		9,097		9,097
Cost of sales	16,011			16,011	1,278			1,278
Parish Share	42,000			42,000	43,000			43,000
Reversal of Accruals	- 1,590			- 1,590				-
				-				-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on charitable activities	104,561	170,547	-	275,108	98,438	185,112	-	283,550

Separate material item of expense

	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other

	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	104,561	170,649	-	275,210	106,398	185,214	-	291,612

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	This year				Last year			
Activity or programme	**Activities undertaken directly**	**Grant funding of activities**	**Support Costs**	**Total this year**	**Activities undertaken directly**	**Grant funding of activities**	**Support Costs**	**Total last year**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Space 4	23,545	134,881	3,500	161,927		162,883	-	162,883
Church	79,864		13,975	93,839	102		-	102
Other		-	-	-		-	-	-
Total	103,409	134,881	17,476	255,766	102	162,883	-	162,985

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 9 Support Costs

Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories and has support costs.

This year

Support cost (examples)	Raising funds £	Space 4 £	Church £	Activity 3 £	Grand total £	Basis of allocation (Describe method)
Accounting and professional fees	-	3,500	-	-	3,500	Directly attributable costs
Insurance and office costs	-	-	13,975	-	13,975	Directly attributable costs
	-	-	-	-	-	Directly attributable costs
Parish Share	-	-	42,000	-	42,000	Directly attributable costs
Other	-	-	-	-	-	Directly attributable costs
Total	-	3,500	55,975	-	59,476	

Last year

Support cost (examples)	Raising funds £	Activity 1 £	Activity 2 £	Activity 3 £	Grand total £	Basis of allocation (Describe method)
Staff Salaries	-	99,332	10,118	-	109,449	Directly attributable costs
Expenses	-	425	1,368	-	1,793	Directly attributable costs
Office Costs		1,051	5,141	-	6,192	Directly attributable costs
Accomodation costs	-		19,179	-	19,179	Directly attributable costs
Professional Fees	-	9,097	9,081		18,178	Directly attributable costs
Parish Share	-	-	43,000	-	43,000	Directly attributable costs
Total	-	109,905	87,886	-	197,791	

Please provide details of the accounting policy adopted for the apportionment of costs between activities and any estimation techniques used to calculate their apportionment.

no estimation. All support costs are directly attributable to the above activities

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 10 Details of certain items of expenditure

10.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner. If nothing was paid please enter '0' in the appropriate box(es).

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees	1,710	1,590
Assurance services other than audit or independent examination	-	-
Tax advisory fees	-	-
Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	-	-

Note 11 Paid employees

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	110,890	104,309
Social security costs	229	1,923
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,198	6,464
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	114,317	112,696

This year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party N/A

Last year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party N/A

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

Band	Number of employees	
	This year	Last year
£60,000 to £69,999	-	-
£70,000 to £79,999	-	-
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-
£90,000 to £99,999	-	-
£100,000 to £109,999	-	-

	This year £	Last year £
Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity. For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 28.	55,535	44,291

11.2 Average head count in the year

	This year Number	Last year Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work		
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	10	10
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	10	10

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)
Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment		
	This year	
	Last year	

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment		
	This year	
	Last year	

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)	**This year**	**Last year**
	£	**£**
	-	-

11.4 Redundancy payments
Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

	This year	**Last year**
	£	**£**
Total amount of payment	-	-

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)		

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date	**This year**	**Last year**
	£	**£**
	-	-

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments		

Note 12 Defined contribution pension scheme or defined benefit scheme accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

12.1 Please complete this note if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	3,198	6,464

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.	**2958.33 Contribution is made for staff who are conducting charitable activity within the space 4 project which is grant funded. So this is restricted funds. 240 is pension for church staff**	**4885 Contribution is made for staff who are conducting charitable activity within the space 4 project which is grant funded. So this is restricted funds.**

12.2 Please complete this section where the charity participates in a defined benefit pension plan but is unable to ascertain its share of the underlying assets and liabilities.

Please confirm that although the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution plan, it is a defined benefit plan.	
Please provide such information as is available about the plan's surplus or deficit and the implications, if any, for the reporting charity for this year and last year, if different	

12.3 Please complete this section where the charity participates in a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan that is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

Describe the extent to which the charity can be liable to the plan for other entities' obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan. If this is different for last year, provide details	
Provide an explanation of how any liability arising from an agreement with a multi-employer plan to fund a deficit has been determined. If this is different for last year, provide details	

Note 18 Stocks

Please complete this note if the charity holds any stock items

18.1 Please state the carrying amount of stock and work in progress analysed between activities.

	Stock		Donated goods		Work in progress
	For distribution	For resale	For distribution	For resale	
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Opening	-	12,017	-	-	-
Added in period	-		-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	9,078	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	**-**	**2,939**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other trading activities:					
Opening	-	-	-	-	-
Added in period	-	-	-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	-	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other:					
Opening	-	-	-	-	-
Added in period	-	-	-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	-	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total this year	-	2,939	-	-	-
Total previous year	-	1,432	-	-	-

	This year	Last year
	£	£
18.2 Please specify the carrying amount of any stocks pledged as security for liabilities		

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

	This year £	Last year £
	-	-
Trade debtors	2,796.2	6,808.5
Prepayments and accrued income		416.7
Other debtors	2,796.2	7,225.1
Total		

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

	This year £	Last year £
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

Note 20 Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

20.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	6,052	2,797	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	6,052	2,797	-	-

20.2 Deferred income

Please complete this note if the charity has deferred income.

Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.

This year	Last year

Movement in deferred income account

	This year £	Last year £
Balance at the start of the reporting period	-	-
Amounts added in current period	-	-
Amounts released to income from previous periods	-	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	-	-

Note 24 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	179,670	126,755
Other	-	-
Total	179,670	126,755

Note 27 **Charity funds**

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the blanace sheet.

**** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds***

Fund names	Type PE, EE R	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Mackem	R	Manager salaries, product and expenses	2,250		- 2,250	-	-	0
Digital Hub	R	IT Equipment	1,454		- 1,205	-	-	249
P&G	R	product costs	26		- 26	-	-	0
Karbon Homes	R	TBD	1,000		- 1,000	-	-	-
Sir J. Knott	R	Salaries	4,980		6	-	-	4,986
SCC Hol. 2	R	Manager salaries, product and expenses	3,396		- 3,396	-	-	- 0
Transport	R	Community transport	1,125		- 1,125	-	-	-
SCC Grant	R	TBD	4,799		- 4,189	-	-	610
cake and chat	R	cake and chat sessions	500		- 500	-	-	-
christmas lunch	R	christmas lunch sessions	925		- 925	-	-	- 0
014. Police & CC	R	Grant from Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner to provide events to build bridges across community in response to inner city riots of 2024 restricted to salaries, rental, food and expenses.		4,940	- 2,477			2,463
015. #2 Links for Life	R	Grant from Sunderland City Council to provide brunch service and slowcooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses		7,332	- 9,090			- 1,758
016. T&W Community Foundation	R			9,970	- 3,309			6,661
017. AFC Affordable Food Club	R	Grant from Sunderland City Council to further develop provision of sustainable Community Foodstore - restricted to salaries.		4,000	- 3,836			164
018. SCC - Hol Grant 3	R	Grant from Sunderland City Council for Holiday club provision - restricted to salaries, accommodation, product costs, expenses.		6,000	- 3,102			2,898
019. SCC - Foodstore	R	Grant from Sunderland City Council for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.		9,900				9,900
020. Gentoo Aspire - Children		Grant from Gentoo Housing to support delivery of Toddler Group - restricted to equipment & consumables.		500	- 500			-
021. Asda Foundation Grant	R	Grant from Asda for provision of food for Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs, expenses.		600				600
022. SCC Christmas Lunch 25	R	Grant from Sunderland City Council for provision of Christmas Lunch for people who are isolated, lonely and on the margins - restricted to food supply & expenses.		953	- 890			63
023. Neighbourly 2	R	Grant from Lidl for provision a Community Craft Group- restricted to Consumables & Expenses.		250				250
024. CTD - Do something	R	Grant from Communities Together Durham for provision of Recipe Boxes for Community Foodstore – restricted to Product Costs.		200				200
025. CTD	R	Grant from Communities Together Durham for provision of Community Foodstore in response to food poverty – restricted to salaries.		5,000				5,000
026. Cake & Chat	R	Grant from Pargiter Trust to support elderly care group - restricted to food, expenses, salaries.		7,126	90			7,216
027. CRT	R	Space 4 operations		500				500
The National Lottery Community Fund: RC North East and Cumbria Region.	R	Grant for provision of a Community Hub, Community Foodstore, Children's Project work and Community Organising - restricted to salaries, accommodation, product costs, expenses, equipment.	-	90,000	- 84,138	-	-	5,862
Other donations and project contribution match funding or fundraising	R	Space 4 Project	16,507	31,908	- 47,871	18,926		19,470
Fundraising for Parish Share	R	Restricted "Close the gap" fundraising	8,400					8,400
Music Fund	R	Childrens Choir	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Donation for Bellringing	R	Bellringing	5,308					5,308
Legacy A jackson	R	Records board church tech	1,500					1,500

Donation for church tect	R	Church Tech	625					625
Legacy Marion Toy	R					10,000		10,000
Legay C M Addison	R					500		500
Donation for church building	R	Reordering of church	4,909	360	- 105			5,164
Church deposit	R	remaining from previous project TBD	181	8				189
All other funds	U	All other unrestricted funds	81,725	133,577	- 105,544	- 29,426		80,332
								-
								-
								-
Other funds	N/a	N/a						-
		Total Funds	141,611	313,124	- 275,383	-	-	179,352

Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the blanace sheet.

**** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds***

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
T&W Community Foundation	R	Salaries	1,717		- 1,717			- 0
SCC Grant	R	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	141		- 141			- 0
SCC Holiday	R	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	1,939		- 1,939			0
SCC Products	R	Food bank stock	-	7,000	- 7,000			-
Mackem	R	Manager salaries, product and expenses	-	4,675	- 2,425	-	-	2,250
Digital Hub	R	IT Equpiment	-	9,261	- 7,806	-	-	1,454
SCC Grant 24	R	product costs	-	32,000	- 32,000	-	-	-
Links for Life	R	Manager salaries, product and expenses	-	17,410	- 17,410	-	-	- 0
P&G	R	product costs	-	5,000	- 4,974	-	-	26
Karbon Homes	R	Space 4 Project	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sir J. Knott	R	Salaries	-	10,000	- 5,020	-	-	4,980
SCC Hol. 2	R	Manager salaries, product and expenses	-	4,917	- 1,521	-	-	3,396
Transport	R	Community transport	-	1,125	-	-	-	1,125
CTD Grant	R	expenses	-	500	- 500	-	-	-
SCC Grant	R	Space 4 Project	-	4,799	-	-	-	4,799
cake and chat	R	cake and chat sessions	-	500	-	-	-	500
christmas lunch	R	christmas lunch sessions	-	1,149	- 224	-	-	925
The National Lottery Community Fund: RC North East and Cumbria Region.	R	For provision of a Community Hub, Community Foodstore, Children's Project work and Community Organising - restricted to salaries, accommodation, product costs, expenses, equipment.	29,539	53,420	- 82,959	-	-	-
Music Fund	R	Childrens Choir	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Legacy	R	New Rectors Board	770			- 770		-
Donation for Bellringing	R	Bellringing	5,308					5,308
Legacy	R	IT Equpiment	1,000			- 1,000		-
Legacy A jackson	R	Records board church tech				1,500		1,500
Donation for church tect	R	Church Tech				625		625
Donation for church building	R	Reordering of church	4,651	360	- 102			4,909
Fundraising for Parish Share	R	Restricted "Close the gap" fundraising	12,000			- 3,600		8,400
Church deposit	R	remaining from previous project	-	181	.			181
Other donations and project contribution match fundin	R	Space 4 Project	13,230	22,753	- 19,476			16,507
All other funds	U	Unrestricted funds	70,976	115,493	- 106,398	3,245		83,316
								-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds	**N/a**	**N/a**	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total Funds	143,271	291,542	- 291,612	-	-	143,201

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

This year

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	Movement of funds from unrestricted account to restricted account. (10500). Movement of unrestricted church funds to space 4 project (8846)	-33369
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

Last year

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	Restriction removed by doner and passed to unrestricted donation at project end	33369
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

27.4 Designated funds

This year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount

Last year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount

Note 28 Transactions with trustees and related parties

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (other than the trustee expenses explained in guidance notes) details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box or "False" if there are transactions to report.

28.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

This year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False) **FALSE**

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy (including loss of office)/ex gratia	Other	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£	£
Jade T Mason	Governing Document	16,597	457	-	-	**17,054**
Margaret Lee	Governing Document	992				**992**
George Peebles	Governing Document	1,480	-	-	-	**1,480**
David Turnbull	Governing Document	3,729	-	-	-	**3,729**
Philippa Elsey	Governing Document	7,369	240			**7,609**
		-	-	-	-	**-**

Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.

Where an ex gratia payment has been made to a trustee, provide an explanation of the nature of the payment.

Last year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False) **FALSE**

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy (including loss of office)/ex gratia	Other	TOTAL
		£	£		£	£
Jade T Mason	Governing Document	11,462	625	-	-	**12,087**
Margaret Lee	Governing Document	705				**705**
George Peebles	Governing Document	2,240				**2,240**
David Turnbull	Governing Document	2,738				**2,738**

Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.	**Jade T Mason receives a salary for work provided to the charity completey distinct from her role as trustee, Margaret Lee receives payment for occasional services to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from her role as trustee, David Turnbull and George Peebles receive payment for occasional serives to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from their role as trustee.**
Where an ex gratia payment has been made to a trustee, provide an explanation of the nature of the payment.	

28.2 Trustees' expenses

If the charity has paid trustees expenses for fulfilling their duties, details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box below. If there are transactions to report, please enter "False".

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)	***FALSE***

Type of expenses reimbursed	This year	Last year
	£	£
Direct Costs expenses recharged	2,773	-
Subsistence	-	-
Accommodation	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Other (please specify):	-	-
	-	-
TOTAL	2,773	-

Please provide the number of trustees reimbursed for expenses or who had expenses paid by the charity		

28.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or on behalf of) the charity in which a related party has a material interest, including where funds have been held as agent for related parties. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

This year

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)	

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	Amount	Balance at period end	Provision for bad debts at period end	Amounts written off during reporting period
			£	£	£	£

In relation to the transactions above, please provide the terms and conditions, including any security and the nature of any payment (consideration) to be provided in settlement.	

ere have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)

ame of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	Amount	Balance at period end	Provision for bad debts at period end	Amounts written off during reporting period
			£	£	£	£

elation to the transactions above, please provide the ms and conditions, including any security and the nature any payment (consideration) to be provided in tlement.

any related party, please provide details of any arantees given or received.

6.2 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON LE SPRING: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095

PCC Treasurer
Mrs Sue Bradley

External Examiner
TTR Barnes
Chartered Accountants

St Michael & All Angels Church
Church Street
Houghton le Spring
DH4 4DN

St Michael and All Angels – Houghton le Spring
Treasurer's Annual Report
Year 01 January – 31 December 2025

The end of year PCC and Next 900 Bank Accounts balance as at 31 December 2025 breakdown and comparison to previous two years detailed below:-

	2023	2024	**2025**
PCC - Unrestricted	£23,995.19	£31,893.70	£45,811.94
PCC – Restricted	£21,078.00	£17,833.00	£28,356.99
Next 900 - Restricted	£ 4,324.61	£ 4,650.61	£ 5,166.61
Overall Total	**£49,723.80**	**£54,635,31**	**£79,335.54**
CBF Legacies	£ 171.60	£ 180.70	**£ 188.88**

Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

Creditor and Debitor

Debitor as at 31 December 2025 - £0

Creditor as at 31 December 2025 - £2853.40

Receipts and Payments 2025 in comparison to previous two years.

	2023	2024	**2025**
Receipts	£97,299	£107,857	£131,776
Payments	£105,173	£103,204	£117,858

A breakdown of the main headings of Receipts and Payments as a comparison to previous two years is detailed below:-

Receipts	2023	2024	**2025**
Planned Giving	£43,458	£45,889	£48,171
Gift Aid Recovered	£11,570	£13,089	£12,293
Collections	£ 9,296	£ 9,644	£ 9,428
Donations	£ 4,954	£10,031	£ 8,861
Other Giving	£ 470	£ 2,829	£ 1,757
Legacies	£ 0	£ 1,187	£10,500
Parish Magazine Sales	£ 1,713	£ 1,661	£ 1.378
Parish Magazine Adverts	£ 810	£ 518	£ 405
Other Income	£ 1,627	£ 763	£ 4,627
PCC Fees	£ 7,074	£ 5,405	£10,318
Assigned Fees	£10,665	£ 7,244	£13,003
Fundraising	£ 5,535	£10,698	£11,018
Bank Interest	£ 125	£ 86	£ 17
Transfer from Restricted	£ 0	£ 5,370	£ 0

Planned Giving – (*PGS / Standing Orders / Stewardship Envelopes*) has increased by £2,282 from previous year. This is mainly due to Givers increasing their giving amounts rather than new givers joining the scheme.

Regular Planned Givers	2023	2024	**2025**
Parish Giving Scheme	37	36	**36**
Standing Order	27	26	**24**
Stewardship Envelope	25	25	**20**
Total Regular Givers	89	87	**80**

Collections from our Church Services, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms and Other Events has had small decrease of **£216** from previous year.

Overall Giving / Donations for 2025 - **£91,009** *(£78,597 in 2024*). The 2025 figure includes £10,500 legacies, balance increase £1,912.

Parish Magazine Sales a reduction in income of **£283**. Our pricing structure for 2025 remained at (£6 per annum for an email version and £1 per copy for the printed version or £10 instead of £12 for a full year). Thank you to all involved in the production of the Magazine especially Editor Malcolm Foster, Philippa Elsey and the magazine distributors.

Parish Magazine Advertising – **£113** decrease, we currently have 7 advertisers in the Signpost Magazine going forward in 2026.

PCC Fees – **£10,318** increase of £4,913 on previous year - 39 Funerals (33 Church, 6 Crematorium) 4 Burial of Ashes, 5 Memorial Service and 5 Weddings. This was a significant increase compared to 2024 - (22 Funerals – 18 Church, 4 Crematorium) and 1 Wedding.

Fundraising had a very successful Year **£11,018.**

Events held throughout the year - Parish Party, Coffee Mornings, William Kite play, Shanty & Shenanigans, Gilpin Singers and Summer Concerts. Houghton Feast celebrations included Feast Saturday coffee morning and lunches, Feast Sunday Civic Service followed by Community Lunch. Concerts held in church by Houghton Brass Band and Gilpin Singers and a Ceilidh evening ended a very successful Houghton Feast. At the end of November, we held the annual Christmas Fayre.

Thank you to all involved in arranging and making these events happen and to those who contributed and participated.

The Church Celebration Jigsaw now completed raised **£2,750** many thanks to Angela Slater and her team for organising this great fundraiser.

The Bonus Ball raised **£1472** during 2025 and continues to run smoothly. Thank you to Brian Scott for organising and to all who take part.

Payments	2023	2024	**2025**
Parish Share	£47,000	£43,000	£42,000
Clergy & Staffing	£11,637	£12,071	£12,351
Repairs & Redecoration	£ 1,593	£ 2,575	£ 7,520
Church Running	£27,452	£31,700	£26,295
Donations to Other Orgs	£ 4,473	£ 4,354	£ 4,409
Parish Magazine Costs	£ 1,020	£ 1,020	£ 1,020
Hall Lettings	£ 585	£ 258	£ 120
Costs of Generating Funds	£11,280	£ 7,960	£13,642
Transfer to Restricted	£ 0	£ 2,215	£10.500

Parish Share - we paid £42,000 for our Parish Share in 2025, we had pledged to pay £30,000, but agreed at PCC to pay an additional £1,000 per month if funds permitted to come closer to the diocesan guided pledge figure of £45,150.

Clergy and Staffing costs are higher this year due to increase in Salary and Retained payments in line with the Real Living wage. Although the increase was less than budget due to retained payment sacrifice during the year.

Church Running – (*Utilities, Insurance, Maintenance and Servicing, Organ/Choir, Photocopying, Technology, Stationery, Upkeep of Services and HRDept Services*). a decrease of **£5405** on previous year.

Donations to Other Organisations - this heading includes the **£4,200** – Church transfer to Space4 for Children's Work.

Repairs and Redecoration – repairs carried out in 2025 – completion of the stained glass windows polycarbon outer covers and renewal of broken grilles; many thanks to the Friends of Houghton Church for donating monies to cover these repairs £5346 (in 2025). Repair of broken door lock and stained glass window after break-in (covered by insurance claim

and excess paid for by a generous donation). In line with urgent work identified in the Quinquennial Report a survey of the drains around the North & South side of Church took place, an estimate of the work required was received and we have made a Faculty application to enable us to carry out the works. Roof repairs and cleaning and repair of guttering – grant received towards this work from Durham Diocese Minor Repairs Grant of £1652 also Vestry flat roof was repaired - The Friends of Houghton Church have agreed to donate monies to cover these costs. Vestry lights electrical repairs.

Restricted Funds Breakdown carried forward:-

Organ / Music Fund	£ 2,000
Legacy	£ 770
Parish Share Contingency	£ 12,000
Bellringing Donation	£ 5,308
Legacy	£ 1,000
Balance carried forward from 2024	**£ 17,833**
Fund Transfer 2025	**£ 10,500**
Income Bank Account Interest	**£ 24**
Payment Transfer 2025	**£ 0**
Total as at 31 Dec 2025	**£ 28,357**

Next 900 Account

Balance carried forward from 2024	£4,650.61
Income in 2025	£ 360.00
Charges in 2025	£ -102.00
Total Balance as at Dec 2025	**£ 5,166.61**

(Please see below detailed Accruals Accounts for Year ended 31 December 2025)

End of Year Summary

Overall, for the year 2025 we ended with a excess of receipts over payments of **£13,918.** We have been able to achieve a good level of Unrestricted funds of **£45,812** to start 2026. We will continue to carefully manage budgets and review at monthly PCC meetings.

Regular Giving – although planned giving had increased in 2025 we must highlight that overall by the end of 2025 the number of regular givers has decreased by 7.

Our Guided Pledge from the Diocese for 2026 is £40,023. At September 2025 PCC we agreed and submitted our pledge to pay the full Parish Share amount in 2026.

Building repair works ongoing in 2026 (following guidance in the Quinquennial Report) - to complete the issues identified with the drains on North side of Church and to improve condition of walls in North Transept and other locations. Further Electrical repair work is also required.

An assessment of the Church Organ by Harrison and Harrison has identified a number of required repairs and in 2026 we will be working to produce a timetable and looking at what funding sources are available.

Thank you to all for your help, support and generosity throughout the year.

Thank you to TTR Barnes Chartered Accountants, for Examining our Accounts for 2025.

Sue Bradley
PCC Treasurer

St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts:							
Planned giving		48,171	-	360	-	48,531	46,249
Collections		9,428	-	-	-	9,428	9,644
Gift Aid recovered		12,293	-	-	-	12,293	13,089
All other giving/voluntary	2	21,118	-	-	-	21,118	12,860
		91,009	-	360	-	91,369	81,842
Activities for generating funds	3	11,423	-	-	-	11,423	11,216
Investment income	4	17	-	24	-	41	86
Church activities:							
Income from trading	5	6,005	-	-	-	6,005	2,424
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	23,321	-	-	-	23,321	12,649
		29,326	-	-	-	29,326	15,073
Total receipts		131,776	-	384	-	132,160	108,217
Payments							
Church activities:							
Parish share		42,000	-	-	-	42,000	43,000
Clergy and staffing costs	8	12,351	-	-	-	12,351	12,071
Church running expenses	9	26,295	-	-	-	26,295	31,700
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	4,409	-	-	-	4,409	4,620
Costs of trading	12	1,140	-	-	-	1,140	1,278
Repairs and redecorations	13	7,520	-	-	-	7,520	2,575
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		93,715	-	-	-	93,715	95,244
Cost of generating funds	15	13,642	-	102	-	13,744	8,062
Governance costs	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Outgoing Resources costs	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		107,358	-	102	-	107,460	103,306
Excess of receipts over payments		24,418	-	282	-	24,700	4,912
Transfers between funds	17	(10,500)	-	10,500	-	-	1,770
		13,918	-	10,782	-	24,700	6,682
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		31,894	-	22,742	-	54,635	49,724
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		45,812	-	33,524	-	79,336	56,405

St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December
Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds							
Bank current account		45,812	-	33,524	-	79,336	54,635
CBF deposit fund						189	181
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
Other cash funds						-	-
		45,812		33,524	-	79,525	54,816
Other monetary assets							
Income tax recoverable						-	
						-	
						-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets							
Investment Fund Shares at market value						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets retained for Church use						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
All other giving/voluntary receipts:	2						
Other regular gifts		**1,757**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,757**	**1,641**
Donations, appeals, etc		**8,861**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**8,861**	**10,031**
Legacies		**10,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,500**	**1,187**
Recurring grants		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Non-recurring one-off grants		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other funds generated		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		21,118	**-**	**-**	**-**	**21,118**	**12,859**
Activities for generating funds:	3						
Bookstall sales - fund raising		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Magazine income - advertising		**405**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**405**	**518**
Fundraising Activities & Events		**11,018**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11,018**	**10,698**
		11,423	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11,423**	**11,216**
Investment Income:	4						
Dividends		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Trust fund interest		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Bank and building society interest		**17**	**-**	**24**	**-**	**41**	**86**
Rent from lands or buildings		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Rent from Masts and other property		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		17	**-**	**24**	**-**	**41**	**86**
Income from Trading:	5						
Bookstall sales - trading		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Church hall lettings - trading		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Parish magazine sales		**1,378**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,378**	**1,661**
Use of photocopier		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other income		**4,627**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,627**	**763**
		6,005	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,005**	**2,424**
Asset sales:	6						
Sales of fixed assets		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other receipts:	7						
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals		**10,318**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,318**	**5,405**
Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals		**13,003**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**13,003**	**7,244**
Insurance claims		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Surplus - sales of fixed assets		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Sundry income for Mission		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Sundry income		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		23,321	**-**	**-**	**-**	**23,321**	**12,649**

Payments							
Church activities:							
Missionary giving and donations	11	**4,409**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,409**	**4,620**
Clergy and Staffing costs	8	**12,351**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,351**	**12,071**
Church running costs	9	**16,186**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16,186**	**18,032**
Church utility costs	9	**10,109**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,109**	**13,667**
Hall running costs	10	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Costs of trading	12	**1,140**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,140**	**1,278**
		44,196	**-**	**-**	**-**	**44,196**	**49,668**
Major repairs and building works:	13						
Church major repairs		**7,520**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7,520**	**2,575**
Hall + major repairs		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
New building costs		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		7,520	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7,520**	**2,575**
Asset purchases:	14						
Purchase of fixed assets		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Cost of generating voluntary income:	15						
Costs of Church Activities & Events		**1,070**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,070**	**741**
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		**11,957**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11,957**	**6,606**
Investment management costs		**615**	**-**	**102**	**-**	**717**	**715**
Bookstall costs		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		13,642	**-**	**102**	**-**	**13,744**	**8,062**
Governance costs:	16						
Examination/audit fee		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
		-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other Outgoing Resources:							
Other Outgoing Resources:		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	
		-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

6.3 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON LE SPRING: SPACE4 HOUGHTON LE SPRING - ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095

Accounts Prepared by
Social Enterprise Acumen

External Examiner
TTR Barnes
Chartered Accountants

Space4 Community Project
76 Newbottle Street
Houghton le Spring
DH4 4GB

St Michael and All Angels', Houghton-le-Spring - Space4 Project:
Financial Commentary - 31 December 2025

Our Space 4 project has had a successful year, seeking to bring about transformation in our community by creatively addressing food poverty, responding to isolation & anxiety among the most vulnerable and working with our community to respond to inequalities, particularly those affecting children & young people.

Funding was secured to support the transition from a Foodbank to a Community Foodstore enabling us to invest in a more sustainable model to support those struggling with food poverty. Funding was also secured to support local community projects including for the elderly and for children during school holidays.

Overall Receipts of £184,151 compared to £183,584 last year. A total of £181,958 of receipts was restricted and £2,193 unrestricted.

1. Grant funding of £164,581 was received which was made up of:
    a. £90,000 – The National Lottery Community Fund:
    RC North East and Cumbria Region.
    b. £74,581 - Grants Other

    A breakdown of other grants is provided in Note 27 of Consolidated Accounts.
2. Donations of £3,174 were received, fundraising produced £329 with a further £1,537 of income from Gift Aid.
3. Sales of produce and contributions for services generated income of £10,129, with an additional £100 from building lettings.
4. A further £4,200 came from PCC main funds.

Overall Payments of £170,748 compared to £188,849 last year.

5. Staff salaries totaled £103,634 with sessional worker fees totaling £1,148.
6. Staff and volunteer expenses were £5,352 with a further £2,447 spent on travel expenses.
7. Professional fees of £12,554 were spent for bookkeeping, accountancy, payroll, HR, marketing, banking and auditing.
8. Product costs for food distributed were £20,980.
9. A total of £5,064 was spent on equipment and £1,457 on office costs and training.
10. Building rents were £13,279 with £4,632 costs for utilities and overheads.

We had a surplus of £13,403 compared to a deficit of £5,266 last year.

At the end of the year we held total funds of £102,937, this compared to the beginning of the year when we had funds of £89,535. Of the funds held at the end of the year, £68,530 were restricted with £34,407 unrestricted.

St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring - Space4 Project

Annual accounts for the period

Period start date	F01	01/0/1/2025	F02 To	F03 Period end date	F04 31/12/2025	F05

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources						
Income and endowments from:						
Voluntary income	1,2	2,193	167,426	-	169,619	172,309
Income from Trading and Activities	3		10,229	-	10,229	11,251
Investment Income			102	-	102	23
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Church to Space 4 transfer	4	-	4,200	-	4,200	-
Total		2,193	181,957	-	184,150	183,584
Resources expended						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds				-	-	-
Charitable activities	5,6,7,8,9		152,836	-	152,836	170,104
Facilities Costs	10		17,911	-	17,911	18,745
Recharge from Church to Space 4					-	
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	170,748	-	170,748	188,849
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		2,193	11,210	-	13,403	- 5,266
Net gains/(losses) on investments					-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		2,193	11,210	-	13,403	- 5,266
Extraordinary items		-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds		- 18,926	18,926	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		- 16,733	30,136	-	13,403	- 5,266
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		51,140	38,394	-	89,534	94,801
Total funds carried forward		34,407	68,530	-	102,937	89,535

Endowment funds	-		-	-
Restricted income funds		68,530	68,530	
Unrestricted funds	34,407		-	34,407	
Revaluation reserve				-	
Total funds	34,407	68,530	-	102,937	

7. Report on Church buildings and fabric

In 2023, we commissioned Iona Glass to carry out a survey of the Stained Glass windows and external coverings. The report of their findings was received in early 2024. Various issues were highlighted as requiring remedial work. The work involved removing and restoring some of the external metal window guards and replacing some of the external plex-glass guards on others. The work was carried out on an ad hoc basis as and when their staff were available and was satisfactorily completed in June 2025. The Friends of Houghton Church very kindly paid for these repairs.

In January 2025, the Church suffered a break-in resulting in damage to a Stained Glass window and the vestry door. Iona Glass very skilfully rebuilt the window and this work was completed in July 2025.These repairs were covered by Ecclesiastical Insurance and a generous donation.

The Quinquennial Survey was carried out in the Autumn of 2024 and the report was received in May 2025.

The Quinquennial survey recommended investigation work to the below ground drainage surrounding the North Transept. This work was carried out in August 2025 with drains being cleared with high pressure water jet. Although this has improved dampness to some extent the survey identified a collapsed drain. The work requires a Faculty from Diocesan Advisory Committee and this process is almost complete. A revised estimate has been received and the PCC has agreed that the work can go ahead. The work will begin in Spring 2026.

Also following a recommendation in the Quinquennial report in June 2025 an approved roofing company attended and the lower level gutters were cleared and an inspection of the roof and condition of the guttering was carried out. As a result of this inspection in November the roofing contractors returned to Church grounds with a hydraulic platform to clear the higher level gutters, seal the leaking joints and carry out roof repairs. We received a Minor Repairs Grant from Durham Diocesan towards the cost of this work and the Friends of Houghton Church kindly funded the balance.

The roofers also reaffixed the substitute lead flashing on Vestry roof that had been damaged by an attempted theft.

Routine maintenance works - in February both the fire alarm and the burglar alarm were serviced. In July the boilers were serviced as part of their annual maintenance by the original installers. In August the Fire Extinguishers were serviced. In September the burglar alarm was updated to allow the alarm to be set and monitored remotely via a phone app.

In March the Church Clock was serviced and found to be in good order. This is paid for by Sunderland City Council.

A.Bradley, Church Warden.

8. Report on Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings since the last APCM.

The first meeting was at Holy Trinity Church, Washington on the 8th.July 2025. Following opening prayers from Revd Teresa Walton a talk was given by the Revd Clair Gibbs, Diocesan Creation Care Officer. She stated that Creation Care is one of the four missional priorities and was more than just reducing our carbon footprint but also fulfilling the mission to steward the earth. (Genesis ch1). It aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth. Wherever households are on their creation journey, Creation Care want to provide ideas for their next steps, recognising the progress that has been made. The scheme covers seven areas of household life:

Worship and prayer, Home, Garden, Travel, Food, Possessions, Community and global engagement.

The Revd Clair also informed the meeting about A Rocha, a charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and Churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Parish reports

Both Holy Trinity Church Washington and Hope Family Church Washington gave positive reports with Holy Trinity reporting a new curate, new musical director with 30+ in the choir, three young people on the PCC, lots of weddings and funerals. Hope Family Church reported a regular congregation of about 50, being ready to appoint a Minister and a youth programme reaching 50 to 80 young people.

St. Matthew's Newbottle still vacant, vacancy audit was positive. Archdeacon was looking for an interim incumbent, part-time one year post. Appreciate support of priests for services.

Safeguarding - Still awaiting final safeguarding review, audit team to feedback to Bishop's Senior Team and Safeguarding Team. Parish Safeguarding Officers need to have done Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. Diocesan website Safeguarding Section has information on what training is needed for whom.

The second Deanery Synod meeting was held at Hope Family Church, Oxclose, Washington on the 15th.October 2025. The meeting was primarily to meet the new Archdeacon of Sunderland, the Ven. Katherine Bagnall. The Ven. Bagnall celebrated Eucharist which was followed by a short time to reflect on the two readings from Romans 2:1-11 and Luke 11:42-46. The Church divided into two groups with each part discussing one reading. Following feedback the service continued with prayers, a hymn and final blessing.

Update on Deanery staffing.
St. George's, Fatfield have started their vacancy process. St. Michael and All Angels, Lyons Parish Church, Easington Lane is also in vacancy. The Rev. John Estall is leaving Christchurch Lumley, St. Mary's West Rainton, St. Cuthbert's East Rainton, St. Andrew's Chiltern Moor and moving to St. Mary Magdalene, Belmont. St. Matthew's, Newbottle now has a half-time incumbent for one year, the Rev. Tim Wall, who will do this while continuing in his current post as Director of Foundational Learning and Elizabeth Pathway Tutor at Lindisfarne Theological College.

The Parish Share deadlines were met by all parishes.

The third meeting was held at Christchurch Lumley. Unfortunately, none of the church representatives were able to attend this meeting.

Deanery Synod representatives

David Hann, Sue Elsey, Dian Scott

9. Safeguarding Report

We continue to operate to the values and principles set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy which was readopted by the PCC in February 2026. Consideration and assessment of any actual or perceived safeguarding risks is given to all activities across the Church to ensure all staff, volunteers and participants are safe and protected.

DBS checks are up to date for salaried staff and church officers, and a programme of renewal is in place for all existing volunteers and staff.

Safeguarding training is recorded, monitored and reviewed for compliance, and is completed in line with the Church of England safeguarding requirements.

Using the online Safeguarding Dashboard, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) continues to review safeguarding practices and procedures, and areas for development are identified in the Dashboard safeguarding action plan. Within the last year the parish has successfully completed the Level 2 Safeguarding Dashboard requirements and is working towards completing Level 3. The focus for 2025 – 2026 has been on ensuring all church related activity is delivered in line with the parish safeguarding policy.

Several safeguarding issues / incidents have been reported in the last year. In line with the parish safeguarding policy, all incidents are securely recorded and reviewed by officers and monitored accordingly by the church and the Diocese. Several referrals relating to vulnerable children and adults have been made to partner agencies, and where appropriate actions have been put in place to support those involved.

All incidents, policies and provision are reviewed at the monthly safeguarding meeting held between the Rector, PSO and Community Project Manager.

Ali Young,
Parish Safeguarding Office

10. REPORTS ON ACTIVITY DURING 2025

10.1 REPORTS FROM THE CHURCH

Churchwardens' Report

Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley are the Churchwardens, ably assisted by Simon Hardy and Brian Scott who are our Deputy Churchwardens. "Churchwardens are the Bishop's lay officers, responsible directly to him/her for the life and work of the church in the parish. Their office is therefore both a privilege and a responsibility ." This is their report:

This past year, 2025, as usual has been a busy year!

Very sadly the Church was broken into in the early morning of 8th January by people searching for cash! Entry was made by smashing a stained glass window. Unknown amounts of cash were stolen (probably less than £50). However, the damage cost exceeded that amount. The window was boarded up by the locksmith's team and the lock, broken during their attempted entry, was repaired.

The stained glass window repairers came out and collected the broken pieces of window which were mainly outside. The window was duly repaired and replaced and the costs settled by the insurance company. The stained glass window people were already involved in making small repairs and installing new plastic window covers elsewhere in church, and continued finishing that task before installing the repaired window and fixing new protective plastic.

Lent was upon us, followed by Easter. As usual we are a very busy Church with our first coffee morning on 1st March, which led us into Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

One of our duties is to initiate a quinquennial (5 yearly) survey by an approved architect. Whilst this was carried out in late October early November 2024, the report was not received until May 2025!

In May we began Church Open Days and once again a big thank you goes to all our volunteers who help keep the building open and welcome visitors during these times.

As our year rolled on, there was the "Friends" week, when other events were enjoyed in Church, but there will be a full report elsewhere. We held a Shanties and Shenanigans evening which shed light on music that is not heard these days, and sea shanties.

July and August are traditionally quiet times socially in our Church when we enjoy our holidays.

Activities resumed in September when Heritage Open Days occur. Sadly over the many years this has run, its appeal has declined, although there were more visitors than usual.

In October we enjoy the whirlwind of Houghton Feast! We had a coffee morning with stalls on the Saturday, which was the first full day, and on the Sunday we hosted the Civic Service followed by the Civic Lunch in the Kepier Hall. At 6 pm we have the Community Hymn Singing. During the week there was a concert by Houghton Brass Band on Thursday and on Friday we had a Ceilidh in Church with a licensed bar. The Feast ended on Saturday night with a concert by the Gilpin Singers.

In November we held our Remembrance Day Service which was attended by the local Scout Group and Civic Leaders. In the week before, the young people from the Army Cadets came to Church to help put the small wooden crosses into the Field of Remembrance. The weather stayed dry and a large crowd marked the occasion in The Broadway.

Churches require permission to carry out certain works and after receiving an Archdeacon's Certificate we authorised work on the gutters. They were cleared out and the leaking joints were sealed. Alas the heavy lift they used chewed up the grass around Church.

Next came our very successful Christmas Fayre, with coffee, cakes and pastries, stalls and a visit from Santa! When everything was tidied away our Christmas tree was put up, welcoming visitors during Advent. There were many Carol services with local schools and uniformed organisations held in the weeks up to Christmas.

Leading up to Christmas we had our Children's Nativity, then our Carol Concert followed by Midnight Mass and then Eucharist the next day at 10 o'clock!

THANK YOU…

To the dedicated people who act as Sidespeople throughout the year, for turning up on time and welcoming worshippers with a smile and helping the smooth running of our services. We always need more people to act in this important role. If you feel you can help please let any of the wardens know and we can tell you what the job entails and fit you in with an experienced sidesperson - "many hands make light work".

We all owe a great deal of appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the events of the past year and our report would not be complete without a list of thanks: George Peebles our Director of Music, Andy Slater our quiet and much appreciated deputy organist and Stuart Clappison who provides music on the guitar. To Angela Slater our PCC Secretary, much of whose excellent work goes unseen as does that of our Treasurer, Sue Bradley. To Philippa Elsey who runs our Church Office and performs many other tasks to keep things running smoothly. To David Turnbull our Verger. To the excellent teams of willing helpers who keep the church clean, arrange the flowers and provide coffee and refreshments week by week; the teams working with the Crèche and Young Church; the Welcomers, Lay Readers, Pastoral Assistants; the stalwarts of our Church Choir. The list goes on. Apologies if we've missed anyone … but to all, many thanks.

Sincerely, we could not have managed without you.

Thank you.

Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley, Simon Hardy and Brian Scott

Light

The bereavement group has continued to meet monthly throughout the year. After an introductory lighting of tea lights and a prayer for lost loved ones , the session generally follows a pattern of recent issues in coping with life and sharing of experiences. Our membership has waxed and waned over the many years we have operated but our current trend is one of decline. Members have expressed their thanks for the group in assisting with their bereavement and now feel they have moved into a new journey in life. Some members have also gained grandchildren responsibilities which has given them a renewed sense of purpose but which conflicts with our meetings as regards time.

The group has only ever served a small cohort of bereaved people; those retired but with access to transport and wishing to be part of a group. We are therefore feeling that for the time being 'Light' may have run its course; we can offer the remaining (two) members the Cake and Chat session at Space4 on Friday afternoons.

Margaret Lee & Judith Howes

Liturgical Choir Report

The choir continues to support our worship at St Michael's at our regular and special services throughout the year. Our Special Lenten service on Palm Sunday was well supported by our congregation. The Advent and Christmas Carol Services were two special events, as was the 'Feast' Civic Service.

Our Summer Concert with the liturgical choir, the Gilpin Singers and other soloists was excellent again this year. We are grateful for the support of Graham Brown, a gifted musician, who accompanied the choirs and soloists. We had wonderfully talented singers and musicians taking part.

We have gained a few new members of the choir. I would like to thank the choir for their loyal commitment and support to me and the other choir members. We are always looking and hoping for new members to continue the role of the choir here at St Michael's.

Again, I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement in maintaining our great music tradition at St Michael's. Finally, I would like to thank our other musicians here at St Michael's who help with the music - Andy and Stuart. A special thank you to Nikki for her support, and for training and conducting the choir.

George Peebles, Director of Music

Young Church

We are continuing to run sessions alongside the main Eucharist at 10am in the meeting room which allows us to share our activities with the congregation at the end of the service. We still have a regular group of 4 or 5 children taking part each Sunday.

Currently, we follow the Gospel stories in church planning from Sermons 4 kids and other useful resources that support the children's faith journey each week. Alongside this, each week worksheets, word searches and colouring materials are available for any children who may want to take part. These activities follow the Gospel story theme in church.

As well as completing tasks/activities each session the children have also taken a role in the 'all age' worship in church each month where the children help with the sermon, take part in the offertory procession, choose the music and the older children support in giving communion. This continues to be an inclusive service and has proved very successful with children of all ages through to the adult congregation!

Philippa, Jade and Sheila (newly recruited this year!) are continuing to run and support sessions and sessions are covered on the monthly rota.

We are very excited this year to have 2 children receiving their Holy Communion before confirmation. This has involved them following a set weekly scheme which prepares them for this special event. The children have really enjoyed the programme and have enjoyed sharing the sessions with the congregation at the end of the service. It has involved parents making a commitment to ensure the children are in church regularly and support them in completing little activity tasks at home. As part of the course the children were given their own activity book and were presented with a bible to further support their understanding of the activities and tasks in the sessions. The children are due to receive their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

If anyone knows of any primary aged school children who would enjoy hearing a bible story and then making a craft, please feel free to invite them along.

Clare Taylor, Young Church Leader

St Michaels 'Stay & Play' (previously 'Toddlers')

The last year saw us recruit two new volunteers, Christine and Michael. Both have settled well into their roles, and have been a great addition to the team. Joan recently had to step down suddenly after over 16 years of volunteering. We are planning to organise something for her to say goodbye and thank her! She really will be a big miss.

In the past year we reduced sessions to once a week, this was due to having no volunteers on Tuesdays and also to allow space/time for our new Family Fun Session. Numbers have been steady, we have some regular children who attend every week and meet new families every month.

We were fortunate to be awarded a grant from Gentoo, this allowed us to purchase a baby sensory tent, new craft supplies and some props for songtime. Having the props has massively enhanced our songtime at the end of the session and due to the repetition of the songs I find the longer the children come, the more they recognise the songs, or ask for certain ones.

The ages of the children are still younger than preschool/ nursery age due to more funding being available for parents, however we are still listening to the group and adapting the session for the needs of the families. We took some feedback on the price and I continue to report to the project board to reach the best outcome. It also has been helpful this last year to have our own card machine: some people commented a barrier was something as simple as having to take cash out to come!

We still try to do seasonal crafts, such as Mother's day and Easter, but tailor this to the age of the younger children. I have also recently created some signs that are around the room to mark off areas and brighten up the environment for the children.

We still hear so many people say how they never knew the group was here (I do tell them it's been there nearly 60 years in some form!) I do continue to promote the group and have met with someone to discuss what we could do for a promotional video.

When exploring feedback from carers and parents I reached out to the staff at the family hubs. Through this connection they hosted a glow party for Stay & Play in January and agreed to do more events in future (Watch this Space!)

Jade Turbull-Mason, Children & Community Coordinator

Flower Guild

Philippa and I continue arranging the flowers, made possible by the many generous donations received. We are also grateful to helpers who come to help at Christmas and Easter with our efforts to make the Church look extra special!

If you would like to sponsor a pedestal arrangement during the year (apart from Lent or Advent when we do not have flowers in Church) please sign up on the list on the notice board at the back of Church or contact Philippa or myself.

Carole Cunningham

Hand-Bells

The group met up in October in readiness to play at Advent and Christmas services, practising on Monday evenings at 5pm for an hour. We are always on the lookout for new members - if you are interested please get in touch. You will be warmly welcomed!

Carole Cunningham

The Gilpin Singers

It has been an extremely busy year for The Gilpin Singers. Our summer concert was held in July and we participated in the Church's Summer Concert in August. In September we held a concert at St Michael's RC Church in aid of St Benedict's Hospice, raising £1,162 in honour of Anne Thompson, a much loved member of our choir who sadly passed way.

In October we sang at a concert for Houghton Feast. In December we had our Christmas concert in Church, followed two days later by performing at Lambton Castle, by invitation.

Our grateful thanks to Laura Fildes (and congratulations too, as she managed to fit in marrying Gary amongst all these concerts!) for her expertise and good humoured leading of the choir. Our thanks also to Graham Brown for his fantastic playing accompanying the choir, and to all who work hard and contribute to the choir's success.

Carole Cunningham

Signpost

Signpost is for me the mirror from which we can all view where we are at St Michae'ls. I regularly get copy from our church family which reflects the issues which are currently in our thoughts and minds. It is a pleasure to receive these for inclusion in our magazine. Please continue to send your contributions. They all demonstrate that we continue as an outward looking church, looking at our wider community with care and, hopefully, understanding. I thank my team members Steve, Philippa, the Rector and the many members of our delivery group who bring our magazine to the people of Houghton. I look forward to continue to bring Signpost to our congregation, church family and wider groups. Thank you for your support.

Malcolm Foster (Editor)

10.2 REPORTS FROM CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Kepier Trust and Management Committee

The trustees of the Kepier are very pleased to report that in 2025, thanks to much hard work on behalf of our Caretaker/Co-ordinator Mr. Darren Snaith and the dedication of Mrs Ali Young my colleague (who oversees all things), the Kepier Hall is thriving and very much a venue which people want to hire for their particular group, as well as for parties, funeral wakes, and birthday celebrations.

Alongside all of this, there has been a programme of restoration and refurbishment, initially to make the building energy efficient (having secured a grant with the help of Sunderland City Voluntary Sector Alliance). We have been extremely successful with other grants which have enabled other works to take place. Our users are delighted at the amazing transformation of the space: the entrance has been transformed and decoration throughout is still on going. However, as with all ancient property, one area is fixed and something else falls apart. The next major job is to seek funding for a new kitchen where dampness has seeped in from the downstairs office and has caused major damage. This must be a priority in order to keep our reputation as a viable venue intact. I am sure you all will have seen the transformation at the Kepier, and that we will have your support over the coming months/years.

I would also like to mention that our trustee, Councillor Juliana Heron, is retiring from her role as Councillor but intends to keep her role as Trustee of the Kepier. We wish her well in her retirement.

Jean Henderson, Vice-chair of Trustees.

The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery

The committee resumed our meetings earlier in the year and reviewed commitments for the year ahead. Our Website is being updated and is not available at present.

Once again, we are grateful to members of our local community who have kept the place tidy.

Regrettably the committee has not been able to keep a distant watch upon events.

For Remembrance Day, we laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at Church and later one against the monument in the Cemetery. The War Graves commission had cleaned the headstones in the cemetery prior to this, and people have laid poppies and crosses on the graves.

We are looking forward to 2026!

Alastair Bradley, Chair.

The Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust

During 2025 the Friends have been able to support the P.C.C. in paying for urgent work to the exterior, replacing the polycarbonate protection and grilles to our stained glass windows.(including the repair to one of the stained glass windows that had been vandalised). This is the purpose of the Friends Trust and through our members' generosity we hope to continue to support the P.C.C. with any major works which are an ongoing concern to those who care about St. Michael and All Angels.

The number of members is diminishing as very dear friends and supporters of the Trust are no longer with us. We miss them hugely, and sadly we are not replacing them with new members. There are, we are convinced, people who have moved into the area who would be willing to support the Friends, if we could reach them. Unfortunately, the Trustees feel unable to take on this daunting task. We are, however, very aware that Rector John and the ministry team are doing their utmost to encourage young people to come to Church and things are looking promising.

George Peebles and myself are founder members of the Trust, appointed by our dearly departed the Rev'd Peter Fisher. Sadly, we are no longer able to do what we could with regard to keeping the Trust alive with enthusiasm and energy. We have decided to pull back this year from our responsibilities for the Trust but will gladly help anyone who would be interested in taking on this important position in order to keep the Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust alive.

Jean Henderson, Trustee

2nd Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

At the moment we have full units, with 27 Rainbows, 39 Brownies. 20 Guides and 5 Rangers.

The units took part in the Houghton Feast parade and Remembrance Sunday parades. We also took part in the Harvest Festival Service.

We held a well-attended Girlguiding carol service at church in December. Each section sang a Christmas song for the parents.

34 Brownies and Guides attended a great weekend at PGL in May 2025. It was a three-night stay, so a lot of very tired girls went home on the Monday.

The Rangers had a day out at the Trafford Centre in Manchester. They travelled down by train.

The Rainbows had a lovely sleepover in the Kepier Hall in February with 10 girls attending.

We held a Valentines disco in the Kepier Hall for all the girls. 69 girls attended.

We had a Thinking Day craft day which was attended by 45 girls. The theme for this year was friendship. This is a celebration that Girlguiding hold every year to encourage us to think about Guiding around the world. It was a special event this year as it celebrated 100 years.

Sheila Wynn & Rebecca Wynn, Unit Leaders

Houghton Mothers' Union

We have 44 members. 33 attend regular meetings and 11 are indoor members. Olive Gibson, who transferred from Newbottle when the branch closed, sadly passed away.

We have welcomed 4 new members and 1 lady has rejoined. 2 of the members have been admitted, the other 3 members will be admitted in our Thursday Morning service as soon as possible.

Mothers Union community projects

The branch was able to buy St Michael's toddler group a box of chocolate buttons for each child at Christmas, also a Easter egg for each child. The refuge in Houghton received a bag with a knitted snowman and a box of chocolate buttons inside for each child.

We continue to support the church with baptism, sending annual baptism anniversary cards for 5 years after baptism. Each child who is baptised also receives a knitted Teddy.

M.U bought soft toys for the younger children attending church. These will be put on a mat at the back of the church.

Mothers' Union

£247.84 was sent for the Summer of Hope project.

The Summer of Hope is a fantastic opportunity to build on years of wonderful work that's transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa.

Literacy and numeracy are vital life skills for all of us. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), our faithful support is already empowering women to release themselves from the cycle of poverty.

Branch programme 2025

January	-	Our AGM
February	-	Meal at the mill
March	-	Easter readings in church
April	-	Rev Norma Clee, Durham Diocese MU Chaplain
May	-	Rev John Barron
June	-	Summer trip to Northallerton
July	-	Deanery branches joined us for the Summer of Hope tea.
August	-	We don't meet in August
September	-	Harvest lunch, money raised for Afia.
October	-	Stuart and Susan from Chowedene Church in Gateshead came to talk about their travels and work in South Africa.
November	-	We were due to hear about the work of 'Red Sky', but unfortunately the speaker did not arrive.
December	-	Advent service in church. We also had Christmas lunch one day at the Bistro in Cherry Trees.

Joan Beattie, Branch Leader.

10.3 REPORT FROM SPACE4: THE COMMUNITY PROJECT OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS'

Summary

Over the past year, Space4 has continued to deliver on our objectives of responding to isolation, creatively addressing food poverty and challenging inequalities in a dignified and empowering way for the people of our region. We've made great progress in helping to raise the voices of local people to move 'upstream' in addressing some of the challenges they face in their day to day lives: we do that drawing on 'Community Organising' methods, seeking to build capacity and capability in our communities. As is the nature of projects such as ours we have faced challenges in this period and have sought to remain agile and to adapt our approaches while developing our systems and processes to support our work.

Responding to Isolation

Our daily drop ins remain at the core of our service offer with a mix of regular service users and those new to the project. We started a mindful craft group on Thursdays which is now well established. It has engaged people who have been reluctant to join in craft activities in the past as the emphasis is on having fun rather than an end product. Two of our volunteers who were regularly attending the sessions have been given responsibility for the group.

We also introduced a quiz during our Tuesday drop in which, again, has proved popular with people coming along just to join in. On occasion, a service user has acted in the role of quiz master which has been great for building confidence. Having a focus during the session has helped those who are new or less confident be able to join in and feel part of the group, creating a more welcoming environment.

Our Cake & Chat group was the recipient of a small match funding grant from a local company. We left it to the group to decide how they wanted to spend the money. They decided to use the grant to go to Seaham and have a meal out together which they thoroughly enjoyed. Several members of the group seldom get to go out other than coming to the Cake & Chat group so being able to go out for a meal was a real treat.

After several months of discussion, Friends of the Drop In (FODI) [an asylum seeker and refugee support group] started a satellite drop in session from our Hub. This takes place on Thursdays alongside the regular drop in and the mindful craft group. Some of those who come to the FODI sessions have started popping in during other sessions for a cuppa and to use the WiFi and one lady now regularly comes along to the mindful craft group.

We have had several organisations come along to our drop ins to share information and advice including SHARP (Shiney Advice and Resource Project), Healthwatch, Cancer Awareness, Banking Hub, Money Matters team and the Carers Centre.

We have also held several special events throughout the past 12 months including celebrating VE Day and hosting a range of activities during Houghton Feast week. Our week of activities culminated in a Pie & Peas afternoon where over 50 slices of homemade pie were served. There were lots of compliments about the food and the whole vibe of the day was lovely with service users being involved in running the bingo games and providing an opportunity for service users who come in on different days, including cake and chat, to mix and enjoy Space4 together.

We held a similar event just before Christmas but with turkey sandwiches and all the trimmings. We served 60 sandwiches in total and held a Christmas themed quiz as well as bingo games.

Our drop in has seen a total footfall of 5928 people over the year, 193 of whom were new to Space4.

Children's Work

Having been successful in our application for holiday grant match funding, we ran sessions throughout school holidays including a trip to Tweddle Farm at Easter, a trip to South Shields in the summer and, of course, our annual Christmas party. Working in partnership with Sunderland Culture and Durham Wildlife Trust, we were able to offer a wide range of different activities including nature walks, jewellery making, puppet making, graffiti art, film making. animation and outdoor games. We had several new children access these activities and feedback was very positive, especially about the sessions run with Sunderland Culture. Many of our children can struggle to engage but were enthralled and enthusiastic about the activities.

Following a very busy summer, we made some changes to our term time children's activities and took the decision to reduce our Stay & Play sessions to one per week from September due to falling numbers. Having spoken to the local Family Hub, they are also struggling with low numbers which may be due in part to the extension of free childcare places.

We also took some time to review our Tuesday Treat family sessions as we felt that, whilst numbers were good, the sessions weren't achieving what we wanted. We therefore took a break from delivery and spent some time reflecting on our aims and objectives for these sessions, drawing on what we learned from our community listening. We launched our new Family Fun sessions at Kepier Hall following October half-term – the larger venue allows us to have space for younger siblings to play safely and gives us more space for other activities.

Whilst it has been a learning curve and we have had to change and adapt as we have gone along, overall the new sessions have worked really well. Each session has a theme and includes a story based on that theme. Importantly, parents/carers are now much more engaged in the sessions, reflecting our aim of strengthening family relationships through the provision of a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for connection & quality time together.

Our children's activities have seen a combined footfall of 1739 children.

Creatively Addressing Food Poverty

We faced a number of challenges over the past year with our foodstore coordinator going on maternity leave, moving into a different location within Kepier Hall, changes to stock management systems and, most significantly, transitioning from being seen primarily as a foodbank to becoming an affordable food store. Whilst this has been difficult at times, we have made huge progress towards becoming more sustainable, with sales increasing over this period. We still retain the ability to give free shops to those who are in crisis and have a system in place for this.

Over the summer we trialled having a later opening from 4-6pm to allow those who are in work to access the store. We found that people tended to come at the start of the session and the last hour was very quiet. We changed back to an afternoon slot following the end of British Summer Time, which also ensures the safety of staff and volunteers; we will review whether to go back to later opening in spring time.

One of our aims for this year was to have more robust stock management systems and to diversify sources of stock. This has taken a great deal of time and effort to get right but we do now have a much more robust system in place for monitoring incoming and outgoing stock. We now also regularly pick up surplus collections from Aldi and Lidl on store days which brings added value to our offer.

In the run up to Christmas, we were given the opportunity to work with a volunteer to produce a film to highlight our store and how it works. To date the video has had over 1.8k views! Our Christmas meal packs proved almost as popular as the video - they contained a chicken or gammon joint, gravy granules, stuffing, cranberry sauce, box of cheese crackers, mince pies, biscuits and Christmas pudding. A bargain at £5!

Our Foodstore served cumulative total of 1246 households in 2025.

We also had staffing issues with our food service in our main Hub which resulted in us pausing this for a few months at the start of this year. We were successfully able to recruit a new food hub worker in April and now have a lunch service 3 days per week plus breakfast sandwiches on Tuesdays which are very popular. Our Hub Coordinator and Foodhub lead have worked together to offer an attractive and affordable menu each week and, although some days are quieter than others, sales have increased over the past 6 months.

Following on from last year's successful slow cooker courses, we have delivered three 5-week social kitchen courses and 4 family cookery sessions. Everyone who attended said they had enjoyed the sessions and many of them have asked if there will be more in future. A lot of feedback and discussion during sessions was about how meals can be adapted. We spoke a lot about the cost of meat and rising costs of food and people were surprised at how much they enjoyed the mushroom stroganoff recipe, which was meat free.

We served a total of 1360 meals in 2025.

Challenging Inequalities

Over the past year, we have been focused on developing our community organising approach to ensure the voices of our local community are heard and amplified at all levels, local, regional and national.

We started the year with listening event in Space4 in February which was attended by 23 members of the community. The main issues identified were around housing, transport and cost of living whilst, at a more local level, families spoke about issues with Kirklea. We did some more in depth listening to families about the park both at an initial meeting at the school and then in the park itself which was attended by 50 people, showing the strength of feeling about the issue. Jade, our Community Coordinator, continued to work with local families about their concerns over the year. This was a slow process as many of the families have difficulties in their personal lives which has made it hard for them to attend meetings. However, with the leadership of a couple of local mums, they identified 3 specific asks around the park which they presented to the local ward councillor in a meeting at the end of January and won a commitment from her for £30 000 investment into the park which is amazing!

Community cohesion has also been a major focus over the past year, following last summer's riots. We secured funding to run a 12 month pilot to deliver 6 events based on this model to bring people together and have conversations with one another. The initial event was held at St Michael's in May and was attended by 20 people, including representatives from a range of organisations as well as members of the local community. People were asked to give a one-word evaluation at the end of the event; comments included: hopeful; inspired; warm; enlightened; challenged; connected & part of the group. We have run a further 3 events since then as well as holding a mini–Weaving Trust event with 10 students from Cranmer Hall, a theological college in Durham, who spent the day at St Michael's and Space4 learning about how we use community organising approaches to tackle injustice.

Our work around community cohesion led to Space4 hosting civil servants from the Community Cohesion team in the Department of Housing and Local Communities when they visited Tyne & Wear Citizens in March. We were one of only two local organisations they spent time with, and it was fantastic to see people using the drop in speaking with them and sharing their concerns.

We have also had a focus on listening to children and young people in the area in preparation for a meeting with Bridget Phillipson, constituency MP and Minister for Education. Alongside a member of the Tyne & Wear Citizens team, one of our volunteers went into a couple of local primary schools (Gillas Lane and Eppleton) to listen to children. They also attended a local youth group to listen to young people there. In total 70 young people contributed and all were keen to have their voices heard. This work culminated on Friday 4th July when a meeting was held with Bridget Philipson. The delegates (all children) were seeking to gain her commitment to working with them to address some of the issues impacting children locally and nationally. The delegates did extremely well – they were a huge credit to their schools, the town of Houghton and the North East Region. Everyone agreed that the Assembly was a great experience (including Bridget!). She made a number if commitments to the children including to meet with them again.

October saw Space4 host ‘Introduction to Community Organising’ training which included 6 people from the local area, 4 of whom were Space4 staff and volunteers. On the back of this, we invited leaders of local organisations to come along to an initial meeting with the aim of setting up a Houghton Hub to listen to the wider community, identify their concerns and who might want to take action on them. The initial meeting was attended by 4 organisations who all seemed really keen to get involved. This listening was also fed into Tyne & Wear Citizens listening campaign to identify common issues across the region. Three staff attended the first Issues Workshop held in November and were able to feed in the concerns of our local community. We continue to be involved in this process, joining action groups and attending the Delegates Assembly in March to vote for the priority issues Tyne & Wear Citizens will take forward over the next couple of years.

Justine Merton-Scott, Space4 Manager



Assembly with Bridget Phillipson



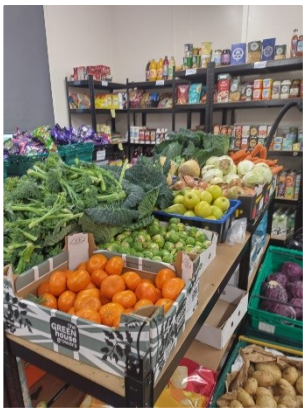
Community Conversations



Out and about with Cake & Chat



Getting Crafty

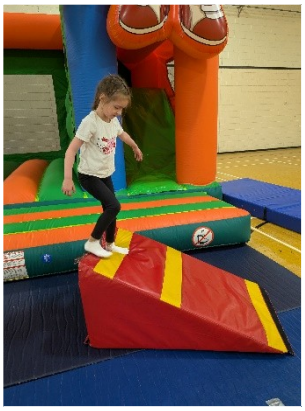


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