

**THE PAROCHIAL PARISH COUNCIL (PCC) of
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY**

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

CONTENTS	Pages
Legal and Administrative Information	3-8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Receipts & Payments Account	10
Statement of Assets & Liabilities	11
Notes to the Accounts	12-16
Vicar's report	17

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNLEY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

St Edward's Church is situated in Racecommon Road, Barnsley. It is part of the Diocese of Leeds, within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Registered Address:

Racecommon Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 6JY

PCC Members:

The following persons served as PCC members from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Revd Canon Stephen Race until October 2022
Rev Phillip Maries

Reader Emeritus: Fred Thompson

Churchwarden: None

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Fred Thompson *

Elected members:

Rhoda Beard *	Deputy Treasurer; Deputy Churchwarden
Margaret Cawthorne	
Margaret Gostelow	PCC Secretary
Dorothy Jenkinson	
John Gostelow *	Treasurer

* Bank Signatories

Bankers:

Barclays Bank
10-18 Queen Street
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2AJ

Independent Examiner:

BCVS Services,
Priory Campus,
Pontefract Road,
Barnsley
S71 5PN

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. St. Edward's PCC members are elected for one year. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for 3 years.

Objectives and activities

St Edward's PCC is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and grounds of St Edward's, Racecommon Road, Kingstone, Barnsley

Review of the year

The church remained open throughout 2022. A Service of the Word was held on the first Sunday of the month and Parish Eucharists on the remaining Sundays. Benefice services were held in months where there were five Sundays, including a well-attended service at St Edward's on 30th October. Refreshments were offered to the congregation after the Sunday service.

On three afternoons in December 2022, church members presented an interactive walk-through nativity for local school children both from primary settings and from our local special school. Carol services/concerts were also held in the final week of term for local schools and were attended by pupils, staff and parents/carers.

There were 17 funerals, including 2 at the crematorium, 26 baptisms and 6 weddings in 2022. Carols Round the Tree took place on 18th December; there was a 9pm service on 24th December and a Christmas Day service. A Commemoration service for Queen Elizabeth 11 took place on 18th September & Covid Memorial Service on 23rd April. There was also a special Remembrance Sunday service.

A fortnightly Bible Study Group, with home-made soup, started meeting in August and has attracted members from other and no churches.

A Lent Lunch was held on Shrove Tuesday and a Harvest Lunch was held in September following the Harvest Festival; a Carols and Mince Pie evening was held in December. Donations of money at these events were given to charity, for example the Foodbank and RNLI. A weekly Coffee Club continued throughout the year and members enjoyed two pub lunches. There was a Concert with the U3A Brass Ensemble and a choir to celebrate Gift Day and our Patronal Festival on October 15th.

A summer fair took place in July and a Christmas fair in December. These events raised money but were also a way of connecting with our parishioners and having an enjoyable time.

Regular contact is maintained with members of the congregation who are no longer able to get to church. The weekly pew sheet was emailed to 41 people and was posted on the church's website.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Benefice PCC met on three occasions. In November we met with the Archdeacon to start the process of appointing a new incumbent to the Benefice to replace Fr Stephen Race, who moved to be Bishop of Beverley at the end of October 2022. Being part of a collaborative and supportive group of churches and PCCs has been hugely helpful to us in the development of our plans for mission in the parish, and more widely; we're currently in discussion with our counterparts in Barnsley's German twin town (Schwäbisch Gmünd) regarding closer links.

The PCC met regularly throughout 2022 to carry out its duties and responsibilities. It has ensured that our Covid-19 risk assessment has been reviewed regularly: social distancing remains in place for Sunday services and the church is kept clean and well-ventilated. Policies and areas of responsibility have been allocated to each member of the PCC to mitigate the impact of having no churchwarden in post and to make sure that monitoring and actions are carried out.

The PCC would like to express our sadness at the death of so many members of the congregation in 2022, in particular David Mokes (previously our independent examiner), Arthur Darren (former PCC member), and two much loved friends with a long connection to St Edward's - Margaret Brailsford (former PCC member and doyenne of the Social and Events Committees as well as a member of the Flower Guild), and Pat Black (sacristan and choir member, tombola expert and rambler). They are much missed.

We should also like to thank clergy within the Benefice for their support and encouragement to us as we embrace the new and do our best to make St Edward's church viable and sustainable.

St Edward's PCC takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Our policies, reviewed every year, are compliant with legislation and recommendations from the Church of England, and are available at the back of church or via email from secretary@stedwards-barnsley.org.uk. In 2022 PCC members completed on-line training regarding child protection/safeguarding and domestic violence.

Future plans

We feel it is important to hold onto our central, classic Anglican style of worship which provides a contrast to the offer in other churches in the Benefice.

Working in partnership with the Worsbrough Flower Group, we are planning to hold a four day flower festival in June 2023 to celebrate St Edward's and the skills of members of our congregation and others in the community.

Electoral Roll Report

There were 45 people on the electoral roll at the last AGM held on March 2022.

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Fabric Report

During 2022 work was completed to replace the remainder of the internal church lights with energy efficient LEDs. We received a diocese grant for £2,000 towards the cost of this work. We also replaced all the external church floodlights with energy efficient lighting. Our application for a grant for this work was unsuccessful.

Several maintenance issues were also completed:-

- Clock Service
- Boiler service
- Organ tuning
- Fire extinguisher service
- Painting of external doors

We have had major repairs carried out on 2 of our 3 boilers. In one case the fan (£570) had seized and was replaced, in the other case the main circuit board (£539) had failed and had to be replaced.

From the 2021 site tree survey a number of issues were raised including the removal of one tree and thinning of several others. Since the trees in the churchyard are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) the work could not be completed in 2021. We received approval under the TPO this year and the work was completed.

A new architect was appointed in June and a Quinquennial Inspection was completed in September 2022. The work recommended in the Quinquennial Inspection will be discussed early in 2023 and the new architect will discuss with the PCC proposals to decorate the vestry and update the vestry furniture to make a more welcoming and useful space.

John Gostelow

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Deanery Synod Report

The Barnsley Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2022.

9th May 2022 at St Georges Barnsley to discuss the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith course. The meeting opened with prayer and notices. Then there was a video presentation of the overview of the course. Following this the Area Dean Fr Stephen Race hosted a question-and-answer session on the subject. The meeting finished with each church representative being encouraged to host the five week training course in their own church. If that was not an option for their church then a deanery course would be held at St George's Barnsley.

30th May 2022 at St Helen's Athersley to see a presentation on the Coptic Church in Egypt. The meeting opened with prayer and notices. Then Mrs Dalia Hanna gave a power point presentation on the Coptic Church in Egypt. This was followed by Fr Peter Needham talking about the recent reordering work that had just been completed at St Helen's. Fr Peter shared with the group the organisations that they had received grants from to enable them to do the work.

8th November 2022 at All Saints Silkstone. The meeting started with prayer and notices. Then the New Area Dean Fr Tim Stevens was welcomed to the meeting. Fr Stephen Race the previous Area Dean had left the dioceses to take up the post of Bishop of Beverley at the beginning of November 2022. Then Fr David D'Silva parish mission advisor to the Sheffield Diocese spoke about parish mission work from a traditional Anglo-Catholic perspective.

Rev'd Phil Maries

Benefice Mission Group

Early in 2022 each PCC in the Benefice was requested to discuss and list their mission and evangelism. Broadly, the areas covered included, services, events, outreach, schools, community and other links, and Bible study outreach. These would form a framework for future Benefice mission and evangelism.

Benefice Services: Dates and churches for 2022 were agreed.

Outreach: Following the success of the 2021 town centre Christmas trail with videos and QR codes, an Easter town centre trail was produced with each Benefice church producing a 'station'.

A Good Friday event in partnership with Churches Together was held in the square in Barnsley town centre.

The Wakefield Orchestra Wind concert organised as a Benefice event was held St Paul's. The focus was for the event to be a fellowship and outreach event rather than on fundraising.

During the year there was discussion on pastoral services (baptisms, funerals and weddings). Discussion included the development of baptism teams, funeral visits, remembrance services and preparation (summer and autumn fairs) for events and follow up.

Fred Thompson

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Financial Review

Parish Share

The PCC paid 29.9% of our Parish Share in 2022 (cf 27.3% in 2021), this slight increase reflected the increase in income and attendance at services after the pandemic lock down. We have budgeted to increase our share by 7.9% in 2023.

Our Parish Share arrears now stand at £80,996 after 9 years; previous arrears were written off when the new diocese was formed.

Although the diocese has reviewed how the Parish Share is paid, the formula still does not reflect our ability to pay; however, it does now reflect that we do not have a full-time priest. The Share for 2023 is £22,106 which is the same as 2022. This is still far more than we can pay with a greatly reduced congregation.

Fabric Fund

Our Fabric Fund now stands at £50,744. This fund is not restricted; it is viewed as part of our reserves. It is still the intention of the PCC to be prudent and save the Fabric Fund for the upkeep of the fabric of the church which will fall into disrepair if this was not the case.

Income

Although there was a slight decrease (£988) in planned giving by the congregation, our total income, ignoring legacies, was up by £2679 this year. This was largely due to the fact that we were able hold two fund raising fairs, a gift day and a concert this year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC of St Edward's Church, Barnsley to hold unrestricted reserves to cover the running costs of the church for a 6-month period (*), plus £5,000 to provide additional support for planned repairs. The PCC estimate this to be a total unrestricted reserve of £17,000.

The actual reserves at the year-end are £6722 (£5917 in 2021) which is below our policy of £17,000.

This is lower than our policy because our income is insufficient to greatly increase the reserve.

With the current energy costs this is unlikely to improve in 2023, however if necessary the PCC can make a transfer from the designated Fabric Fund to meet any unexpected costs.

The PCC believe it is also prudent to hold a designated Fabric Fund as part of its reserves to be used to meet anticipated costs to the building over the next five years as the quinquennial inspection in 2022 has identified possible costs of over £50,000.

* The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers recommend a period of between 2 and 6 months depending on the size and financial standing of the church. The 6-month period for St Edward's is because we are unable to raise funds quickly from donors and because we have a small congregation.

John Gastelow (Hon Treasurer)

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNLEY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:



Date:

16/2/23

Stephanie Tolson
Community Accountant
BCVS Services
Priory Campus,
Pontefract Road,
Barnsley, S71 5PN

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2021	
Note	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts						
Voluntary giving	2a	20020	0	4933	24953	15739
Receipts from activities generating funds	2b	4101	1019	0	5120	2740
Receipts from Investments	2c	780	(2431)	0	(1651)	3147
Receipts from church activities	2d	3562	0	0	3562	1386
Other incoming resources		0	0	0	0	225
Total Receipts		28464	(1412)	4933	31984	23237
Payments						
Fundraising Costs	3a	161	1113	0	1275	253
Cost of church activities	3b	8434	0	4297	12732	6893
Church Expenses	3c	15944	0	0	15944	13220
Major Capital expenditure	3d	6119	0	0	6119	(1841)
Total Payments		30659	1113	4297	36070	18525
Excess of receipts over payments		(2195)	(2526)	635	(4086)	4712
Transfers between funds	14	3000	(3000)	0.00	0	0
Net movement in funds		805	(5526)	635	(4086)	4712
Total funds brought forward		5917	56438	3636	65991	61280
Total funds carried forward		6722	50912	4272	61906	65991

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Monetary Assets

	2022		2021	
Barclays Community Account				
General fund	6259		5382	
Friendship Club	37		37	
Coffee Club	87		209	
Lillian Deighton / Pam Stimpson Fund	800		800	
Mara	0	7184	47	6475
	1006		323	
Barclays Business Premium Account				
CCLA Deposit				
West Window	1885		1885	
Lillian Deighton / Pam Stimpson Fund	581		581	
Fabric Fund	32534	35000	35534	38000
	18223		20655	
CCLA Shares Fabric Fund				
Petty Cash				
General Fund - Cash not banked	223		296	
General Fund - Float for Fairs	240		240	
Coffee Club	30	493	3	538
	61906		65991	
Total	<u>61906</u>		<u>65991</u>	

The PCC declare they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:-

Signed  Date: 16/2/23

John Gostelow (Hon. Treasurer)

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Receipts & Payments Accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context 'cash' includes cash equivalents, for example bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

Funds Structure

Unrestricted funds

Represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the members in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Designated Funds

These are unrestricted funds that have been designated for specific use.

Restricted funds

Those funds that have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and which may only be spent for the purposes for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on the fund, unless permission is given by the funder to remove the restriction on the balance outstanding.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised when they are received and are accounted for gross.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. Analysis of Receipts

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2021 £
Receipts					
2a	Voluntary Giving				
	Planned Giving	0	0	6995	7983
	Collections at Services	0	0	4322	2983
	Other giving and voluntary receipts (Excl. Gift Day)	0	1483	3745	2052
	Gift Day	0	0	635	0
	Tax Recovered	0	0	2655	2720
	Legacies	0	0	0	0
	Fuel Grant / LED Grant	0	3450	6600	0
	Total	0	4933	24953	15739
2b	Receipts from Activities Generating Funds				
	Coffee Club	1019	0	1019	237
	Special Events	0	0	4101	2503
	Total	1019	0	5120	2740
2c	Receipts from Investments				
	Bank Interest	0	0	0	0
	CCLA Dividends	0	0	542	524
	CCLA Interest	0	0	238	38
	CCL change in share value	(2431)	0	(2431)	2585
	Total	(2431)	0	(1651)	3147
2d	Receipts from Church Activities				
	PCC Fees	0	0	3192	1012
	Vestry Bookings	0	0	370	374
	Total	0	0	3562	1386
	Other Income				
	Barclays Compensation	0	0	0	225
	Total	0	0	0	225
	Total Receipts	(1412)	4933	31984	23237

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3. Analysis of Payments

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2021 £
3a Fundraising Costs					
General fundraising costs	161	1113	0	1275	253
Total Receipts	161	1113	0	1275	253
3b Cost of Church Activities					
Mission giving & donations	119	0	847	966	246
Diocesan Parish Share	6600	0	0	6600	6100
Honoraria	1500	0	0	1500	425
Expenses of Clergy	216	0	0	216	123
Fuel Grant	0	0	3450	3450	0
Total	8434	0	4297	12732	6893
3c Church Expenses					
Mission and Evangelism	26	0	0	26	0
Running Expenses					
Insurance	5072	0	0	5072	4979
Subscriptions	71	0	0	71	142
Worship resources	420	0	0	420	365
Churchyard	1463	0	0	1463	0
Repairs	889	0	0	889	100
Administration	152	0	0	152	173
Maintenance	2032	0	0	2032	2189
Support	1054	0	0	1054	546
Telephone and Internet	239	0	0	239	244
Website costs	96	0	0	96	78
	11515	0	0	11515	8816
Utility Bills					
Gas	2979	0	0	2979	3443
Electricity	899	0	0	899	789
Water	226	0	0	226	172
	4104	0	0	4104	4404
Governance costs	325	0	0	325	0
Cost of trading	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15944	0	0	15645	13220
3d Major Capital expenditure					
Major repairs	7413	0	0	7413	0
New building work	(1294)	0	0	(1294)	(1841)
Total	6119	0	0	6119	(1841)
Total Expenditure	30659	1113	4297	35771	18525

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Other tangible assets:

- Printer
- 4 Laptop computers
- Cooker
- Dishwasher
- Fridge/Freezer
- Lawn Mowers & Strimmer
- Crockery & other Kitchen equipment
- Candlesticks and other movable furnishings (a list is held in church)

5. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

Clergy expenses were paid to Fr. Stephen Race (£159) and Revd Phillip Maries (£38) during the financial year. Other than reimbursement for items purchased on behalf of the charity, there were no further payments or remuneration made to members of the PCC.

6. Related party transactions

No payments were made to any persons connected to the members of the PCC or to any related parties.

All gardening, cleaning, fund raising, community activities, support for services, secretarial support, financial support and minor maintenance is undertaken by volunteers from within the church community.

7. Wedding and Funeral fees

The fees for vicar, organist & vergers for weddings and funerals are not part of the PCC's income. For one wedding the organist was paid from the PCC's income to reduce the cost of the wedding. There is a carryover of £4.50 for travel expenses for one funeral.

8. Children's Society Boxes

In addition to the restricted payments and receipts listed, the Children's Society boxes collected in the parish raised £510 (cf £430 in 2021). This does not form part of the PCC's income. There was no door to door collection for Christian Aid in 2022.

9. Investment Income

The PCC agreed to transfer the interest and dividends from the Fabric Fund to the General Fund in order to keep the Parish Share shortfall to a minimum. The capital is designated for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10. Cash reserves

The PCC keeps £240 of the General Fund as a cash reserve in a safe to be used as cash floats for events such as fairs.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

11. Business Premium Account

The PCC use the Business Premium Account for restricted Flower Guild payments and receipts.

12. Fuel Grant

The PCC received a Fuel Grant for the benefice of £4600 from the diocese paid into the St Edward's community account. This was allocated evenly between the 4 parishes in the benefice, £3450 being reserved for the other 3 parishes.

13. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	5917	28464	(30659)	3000	6722
	<u>5917</u>	<u>28464</u>	<u>(30659)</u>	<u>3000</u>	<u>6722</u>
Designated Funds					
Fabric Fund	56189	(2431)	0	(3000)	50758
Friendship Club	37	0	0	0	37
Coffee Club	212	1019	(1113)	0	117
	<u>56438</u>	<u>(1412)</u>	<u>(1113)</u>	<u>(3000)</u>	<u>50912</u>
Restricted Funds					
West Window	1885	0	0	0	1885
Lillian Deighton plus	1381	0	0	0	1381
Flower Guild	323	683	0	0	1006
Children's Society (Christingle)	0	0	0	0	0
Christian Aid week	0	135	(135)	0	0
Christian Aid Appeals	0	336	(336)	0	0
Lifeboats RNLI	0	40	(40)	0	0
Woodland Drive Appeal	0	239	(239)	0	0
Fr. Stephen - leaving	0	50	(50)	0	0
Mara jar and evening	47	0	(47)	0	0
Fuel Grant	0	3450	(3450)	0	0
	<u>3636</u>	<u>4933</u>	<u>(4297)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4272</u>
Total funds	<u>65991</u>	<u>31984</u>	<u>(36070)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>61906</u>

14. Funds Transfer

The sum of £3000 was transferred from our Fabric Fund to the General fund to pay for the upgrade to LED lighting that was not covered by the £2000 grant from the diocese.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, BARNSELY
VICAR'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

As I sit and write this report, I am reflecting on whether 2022 was a year that we could get back to normal after all the disruption of the past couple of covid affected years. I asked myself is St Edwards the same church that it was when it went it to locked down on the 26th March 2020.

My conclusion is no St Edwards is different now to the church it was. For a start Bishop Tony asked me at the end of 2021 if I would take over pastoral care of St Edwards. I agreed and a pattern for Sunday morning worship was worked out that could facilitate my involvement with St Georges as well.

I have enjoyed working here at St Edwards over the last year. St Edwards is not my tradition but there are aspects of the Sunday morning worship that are growing on me.

2022 has been a year of change for St Edwards in the fact that you have lost so many long-time members of our congregation. Also, there are still a number of people who have not returned after covid, but that is the same for most churches. Numbers are down on a Sunday morning and on an average week we are about a 50% smaller congregation to what we were pre covid.

This does not mean it is all doom and gloom, we have seen new people join our church. We have seen growth in numbers at the Coffee Morning on a Tuesday. A real fellowship of friendship is developing with that group. Numbers are growing at the new bible study group held on a Tuesday lunch time. The walking group is still attracting people from across the benefice and again provides friendship along with some gentle exercise to the members of that group. Why not make it your mission this year to attend one of these events to sample the company and friendship. Better still why not make it your mission this year to bring somebody new to St Edwards.

2023 will hold challenges for St Edwards. We have started the year with the reality of a vast increase in fuel prices. A 400% increase in what it takes to light and heat the church will have a big impact on our budget this year. As I write this, I have just seen the January Gas bill which is now into four figures. Last year an amount of money that size would have covered four months gas bills.

I would like to thank all who do anything that keeps St Edwards running day to day. The cleaning team, refreshment team and all the other jobs around church that get done that we don't think about until they are not done. Thank you one and all.

I must say a big thank you to the members of the PCC for their time and commitment to this church. They work tirelessly to keep St Edwards running each month.

A special thank you must go to Fred and John for the extra work they have taken on this last year. To Fred as Lay Minister for making sure we can still have a service on the Sundays that I am not here, and John as treasurer for keeping our finances in order.

Will 2023 be the year we get back to normal? No, we already know that the future will be different. Fr Stephen left us at the end of 2022 to become the new Bishop of Beverley. We wait for the appointment of a new incumbent towards the end of this year or early next year. We need to be praying now that the right person will be appointed to lead the Benefice and that the new incumbent will help St Edwards grow while still keeping its identity within the benefice.

I pray that 2023 will be a year of joy and growth at St Edwards.

Yours in Christ Rev'd Phil Maries.