

St Matthew's Church Carver Street



**The Annual Report of The Parochial Church Council of
the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sheffield St Matthew
Charity number: 1197801**

REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2024

Objectives of the Charity: The primary objective of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew Carver Street is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

St Matthew's PCC. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is the Sole Member of St Matthew's House Ltd, a charity and company limited by guarantee, which trades as The Art House.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building; St Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield is a Grade II listed building recognised as being of particular architectural and historic significance.

Summary of Purposes of the Charity: The Purposes of the charity are set out in The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

Summary of the main activities: The Trustees lead the charity in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church. The trustees have had regard to the guidance of issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Main Address of the Charity:

The Parish Office
8 Backfields Sheffield
S1 4HJ

Clergy:

Incumbent: The Reverend Grant Lambert Naylor B.A. (Lampeter), M.Th (Oxon), SSC

Hon Assitant Curate: The Rev'd Alan Watson CMP, SSC

Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Richard Parker SSC

Rt'd Assisting Priest: The Rev'd Alun Price

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Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex- officio members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C. Since the AGM 2016 regular members are elected annually. The AGM in 2016 passed a resolution that Wardens could serve for longer than six successive terms if so desired and duly elected.

Ex-officio members

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Grant Lambert Naylor SSC

Hon Curate:

The Rev'd Alan Watson CMP, SSC

Churchwardens:

Dr Stuart Barfield & Mr Stephen Linskill

General Synod Representative:

Mrs Michaela Suckling

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mr Ian Burgess & Mrs Holly Featherstone

Elected PCC Members:

Mrs Carol Taylor

Mrs Minerva Faddoul

Dr Richard Dawidek

Mrs Caroline Fisher

Key Personnel

Chair: The Rev'd Grant Lambert Naylor SSC

Secretary: Mrs Holly Featherstone

Treasurer: Dr Richard Dawidek

Safeguarding Lead: Carol Taylor

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which can be found in "A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors" Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1

Electoral Roll

94 members were on the electoral roll at the last APCM. This year a brand new electoral roll was drawn up as per the rules of the Church of England. The number of parishioners on the new electoral roll stands at 97

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Dr Hey-Long Ching
Electoral Roll Officer

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Review of the Work of the P.C.C. for the year 2024

The PCC consists of four elected members and seven ex-officio members and has received additional support from Patrick Linskill in recent months.

Six PCC meetings took place over the course of the year with an average attendance of seven members.

The Regenerate Project continues to be the matter of much discussion, but other key matters include expansion and changes to the Parish Nursing project, Student Work and the Scriptorium, The Arthouse, the new Children's and Families worker, mission and evangelism, safeguarding, finances, fundraising, Alpha, and growing disciples to support the ever expanding work of the church both within the parish and beyond.

Our PCC is a registered charity with the charities commission which also requires additional work and administration.

I have now held the role of PCC secretary for two years and am grateful to my colleagues on the PCC for all their hard work and support.

Holly Featherstone
PCC Secretary

The Vicar's Review

2024 has been a good year of consolidation and growth in the life of the parish. It has been a joy to see new people of all ages baptised and confirmed and to see people assuming and growing into new roles in the parish. It has also been a year

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where we have commenced new projects. The numbers at Mass have continued to grow by a further 3% this year (145% since 2015).

In the springtime we launched the Sheffield Scriptorium (see the update from Godwin below) that has proven popular with students and home workers alike. In Lent we saw a great response from people to the call of God with bumper numbers of confessions, increased numbers of communions, and we had a higher number of baptisms at Easter and throughout the year.

Our Alpha course proved popular, and our other teaching events and courses continued to draw people further along the road of discipleship. Many people adopted a rule of life for the first time under our "LIGHTS FOR CHRIST" initiative. We instituted quiet days in Lent and Advent at Whirlow Grange, which were well attended.

Antonio Joseph was on placement with us from the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield over August and were blessed by him - an outstanding candidate for the priesthood. I am ever grateful to Fr Watson, Fr Price and Fr Parker for their continued support and ministry. Various people have grown into new lay ministries, taking on or continuing in new roles in the parish, without you we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do. I'd like to pay a particular tribute to Dr Richard Dawidek who has taken on the role of treasurer, Godwin Omuyu who is leading the Scriptorium, Louise Smith who is now Lead parish Nurse, and Minerva Faddoul who is the Children and Families lead.

We had a superb pilgrimage to Walsingham in May, always a highlight of the year. Travelling together enables us to grow together and many new friendships are being formed across the parish. People of different cultures and traditions meeting, becoming friends finding unity in Christ's body.

Regenerate, our project to renew St Matthew's, has raised £490,000 we are now well over half way there. In raising money we have sought to have fun and be missional. The beer festival was a great success and our "Pave the Nave" mini campaign has enabled lots of people to support our cause across the country. Chris Warburton and Minerva Faddoul both "ran for regenerate" and many people supported them generously. Peter Cain delighted us with his classical guitar playing to raise funds. We will start some of the work this year!

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Our Parish Nursing project has continued to provide a much needed service and mission to the city. Fr Richard Parker joined the team and Louise was appointed the new lead in succession to Michaela who retired in December. We have a great leader in Louise and we were able to give thanks to Michaela for her hard work, determination and vision. Fr Parker established a new Mass on Wednesdays at 6pm which also offers the healing ministries. Fr Price has devoted a lot of time to the confessional and enabled us to increase the number of confessions heard on a weekly basis (this is in my mind the sure sign of a serious catholic parish).

On St Matthew's festival we had the Bishop of Oswestry deliver the Catholic Evangelism Lecture in the presence of The Rt Rev'd Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield. The following day we had the usual jamboree and celebration with the great, wonderful and joyous procession of witness through the streets.

Our work amongst children has grown significantly. A few years ago we had no children at Mass, being a city centre parish it isn't really our demographics, but we prayed and the Lord did provide. I really do salute our parents who are doing such an amazing job at bringing their children up in The Faith. The saying goes that: 'it takes a village to bring up a child', well in our context that means that: 'it takes us all as a congregation to nurture our kids in The Faith.' Minerva has made an excellent start since her appointment as our lead for Children and Families.

Bishop Stephen visited in October and confirmed ten candidates. He has been a real encouragement to us and we thank him for his dedicated and sacrificial ministry across the northern province.

I am blessed to lead a team of highly committed and faithful people. A particular thanks to the clergy, my churchwardens Stephen and Stuart, Louise and Parish Nursing team, Ian our development worker, Ben the strategic lead at the Art House, Godwin as our Scriptorium/ Student lead, Fiona our Director of Music and the core team who meet with me regularly, the sacristy team, the PCC and everyone who makes St Matthew's tick.

2025 has started well. It is a jubilee year when we will focus on the Nicene Creed. It is a year to remind ourselves of the importance of the faith once delivered unto the saints. We are members of the body of Christ, we have the most profound

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privilege of knowing Jesus. Let us be proud to profess the true faith of the church, let us take great delight in sharing Jesus with the world around us. Thank you for your faithfulness, let's make 2025 a really special jubilee year recalling the goodness of God and his mercy towards us!

My prayers for you all daily,

Fr Naylor
Vicar

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

Over the last year: the statue of St Joseph is now in place.

Numerous plasterers have been contacted to quote to repair the broken plaster around the lady chapel window, to replace the old gypsum repair with lime, but seemingly there is little enthusiasm for this work. We have contacted further tradesmen recently and await replies.

Rats have been once again observed inside the church and Art House. Extensive excavation by them has been seen under the pavement on Backfields around the sacristy, especially where the planter was removed last year. We knew it contained a rats nest, but unfortunately they seem to have re-homed underground resulting in some subsidence to the pavement. We have contacted the council regarding this and the issue of commercial bins left out on Backfields which also encourage vermin. A meeting has taken place this week to try and address these issues, and they have also contacted Pest control. We await a response.

The drain beneath the sacristy is still blocked. Amey Streets Ahead have visited and reported the drain is below the road surface and therefore the responsibility of Yorkshire Water. We have contacted Yorkshire Water to request a survey of the main drain and repair and await a response.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) have recommended we undertake the repair work to the bell as suggested during the inspection last year. They have suggested we consider replacing the bell at the same time. We are subsequently

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in the period of petition (notice in porch) before approval is given by the Chancellor. We hope work will be completed this summer.

The DAC have also provisionally given permission for phase one of Regenerate (repair of the chancel flooring and restoration of the choir pews). This too is currently in the period of petition and after permission is obtained from the Chancellor we also hope to complete these works this year.

The Churchwardens would like to thank Mr Patrick Linskill for his work as deputy churchwarden particularly during Stephen's medical treatment and Stuart's travelling.

Dr Stuart Barfield / Mr Stephen Linskill
Churchwardens

Director of Music's Report

The Church's music department has continued to grow in strength and support the weekly masses plus other events.

The choir numbers have remained fairly steady with members keen to support and be as dedicated as possible.

During last year, I have launched occasional after Mass' rehearsals for anything extra we have coming up as the time before the Mass is usually not long enough to learn new repertoire. I feel we need to attract more experienced voices so as to confidently support the singing and also be able to learn quicker.

Personally I have taken on a challenge at home this year and joined a local choir to improve my voice as I lead my church choir. As I have good sight singing skills I learn new music quickly and have rapidly become one of the stronger singers because of this (higher notes still dodgy). I see how the singers who don't read music struggle and still struggle after weeks of rehearsals.

For the Patronal, we launched a brand new Mass setting by a Lincolnshire composer. This went down well and extra choir and violinists bought in were

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excited to learn this.

Some of my community orchestra from home also supported the Patronal and played their instruments in the procession. Again this went down well and they were honoured to help.

We still have a few musicians in church who play at the Christmas Eve vigil and Palm Sunday.

Also, a group of outside string players keen to play again. They played at the Patronal and carol service and would like to make it a fairly regular thing.

I hope all these can be built on during 2025 during this exciting time as St Matthews continues to grow.

Fiona Law
Director of Music

St Matthews Children's Ministry

As of September 2024, St Matthew's has a new Children and Families' Worker, mainly available on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The number of children and families in the congregation has continued to increase. We have 27 children (ages 0 to 11) and 17 families registered and regularly attending St Matthew's.

A Families' Lunch was held on 17th November, 2024 for first-time introductions among the families and to prepare for the Christmas season ahead, with Christmas resources provided to take home. This year's Christingle-making and Christmas Eve Mass on 24th December, 2024 welcomed over 15 children and 60 members in the congregation.

The Play and Pray area in the church has been developed as an open invitation for children and babies with their parents and carers as they too are a part of our Church family. Books, small toys, activity sheets and crafts linked to Sunday 11

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AM mass are available and open all days of the week for visitors. Baby changing facilities are available.

Little Prints baby and toddler group was launched on 10th January, 2025 and takes place on Fridays, 10:30 AM to 12 PM, term time only.

The group links to 12 PM Rosary and 12:30 PM Mass with an open invitation to the children and their parents and carers. So far, 4 children (ages 0 and 2) and their parents have attended the group. Fiona, our director of music, leads music and worship songs, and members of our PCC and our Parish Nursing Project assist as group helpers.

The See of Beverley Children and Youth Ministry Development Day was held at St Matthew's on 8th February, 2025 and showcased the children's Play and Pray area with an opportunity to introduce early stages of children and families' work at St Matthew's.

This is an exciting time at St Matthew's and I look forward to welcoming more families and collaborating to grow our team of volunteers as we continue to be of Christian service within our community.

Minerva Faddoul
Children and Families' Worker

Report from the Mission Partnership Development Worker

2024 was another fruitful year in the Lord for St Matthew's Church. In serving this joyful purpose the Development Worker did the following:

- Help manage the launch and leadership transition of the Sheffield Scriptorium
- Onboarded and assisted the Children & Families Worker
 - Tech and systems support
 - Helped write grants
- Provided support for the Parish Pilgrimage, National Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and Adoremus Young Adult's Pilgrimage
- Programming and Promotion of Fundraising events
 - In particular the Beer Festival

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- Produced timely and effective devotional and promotional materials for Church Seasons and Festivals
 - Including paid advertising campaigns
- Procured new high-speed Fibre-Optic internet
- Procured and implemented ChurchSuite
- Worked with the incoming Treasurer to access relevant systems
- Produced fundraising updates for Regenerate
 - Keeping key funders up-to-date with our progress and liaising with them about their funding offers
- Branded and launched the *Pave the Nave* campaign which has seen over £20,000 of donations so far
- Supported the Vicar and other leaders in various initiatives and projects as needed
- Kept up compliance including making a Risk Assessment of the Church and publishing Safeguarding Policies
- Produced and sold new merchandise to raise funds and advance the brand of St Matthew's and Regenerate

In 2025, the Lord helping us, we will receive the permissions we need to begin the work of Regenerate and share the news of our progress, gaining further support towards the full cost of the plan.

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.

Psalm 127:1

Ian Burgess
Development Worker

Parish Nursing Project

The Parish Nursing project has been serving the people of Sheffield for five years and has continued to grow and evolve continuously. We could not have achieved this milestone without your unceasing prayers and support and for which we are ever grateful.

During 2024 we welcomed to our team, Father Parker, as project chaplain, and volunteer nurse and midwife Major Catherine Dodd of the Salvation Army.

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After 5 years of tireless dedication Michaela made the decision to step down as lead nurse to focus on her family. She will be greatly missed by all of us, but she plans to continue her support in a reduced role. Our love and prayers will be with her.

Louise Smith has stepped up to take on the role of lead nurse, and the whole team is excited about where the future may take us.

Due to a reduction in volunteer availability for outreach on the streets, we re-evaluated our outreach service. At the project's inception there was minimal outreach available for those on the streets, but over the years this has been developed and now takes the form of weekly multi-agency outreach with numerous organisations teaming up to offer joined-up support.

For these reasons we are taking a step back from this part of our ministry, but will continue to work closely with the multi-agency team as well as continuing our drop in tea-time after mass each day. We will also continue to work with some existing clients who have now found housing but still require support.

The stall has relocated within the Moor Market and is nearer to the "welcome space" and other healthcare stalls allowing for greater cooperation with them. Stall interactions have increased significantly as we have extended our opening hours due to increased staff numbers. The new location is also more private, and has greater footfall.

We have been able to hold more health promotion events in conjunction with colleagues from; Wicker pharmacy and the local authority, plus volunteers, with Chris and Josie from Diabetes UK, through the Town Hall health fair and even providing blood pressure checks at a Sheffield Steelers game. Due to increased activity around special events and at our stall, health promotion now makes up the highest proportion of our interactions numbering approximately 896 interventions in the year.

We continue to support the Anderson Green project and wellbeing cafe. This initiative provides a free hot, homemade meal and an Art or Pottery Class for anyone on a Recovery Journey. The project currently has an exhibition of clients' artwork in the Arthouse.

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In 2024, we provided 700 Mental health interventions, to put that in perspective, last year the previous number was 299 mental health interventions.

We also enabled 218 spiritual interventions because whole person wellness, taking account of the health of mind, body and spirit, is the very core of what we offer. We were even able to take a client with us on pilgrimage to Walsingham, which was greatly enjoyed.

We saw 589 brand new clients during the year and of all our clients 925 are not regular worshipers at any church.

We continue to receive financial support from both local and national funders, as well as through the continued generosity of our loyal, individual donors.

This year we have received:

- From our wonderful personal donors a total of £3561.50 we even had a personal donation to fund new blood pressure equipment.
- Safer Sheffield Group have generously donated to us £3437 which helped to fund the stall rental, mobile phones for volunteers and resources for our vulnerable clients group.
- The Diocese have gifted us £5000 towards Louise's post.
- The Church Burgesses have kindly given £6000 also to fund Louise's role.
- Wesleyan have provided £7493.62 towards salaries and volunteer costs.
- Sheffield Town Trust have awarded us a grant for £3000 to cover the work of volunteer nurse, Catherine.
- We continue to receive support from The Fellowship of St John the Evangelist

We will continue to apply for funding in the year ahead to secure our services into the future.

In November we were re-accredited by our overseeing national body, Parish Nursing Ministries UK to whom we are always grateful for their kind support and encouragement.

The team have undertaken various training opportunities this year including:

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- Mental Health First Aid First Aid at Work Louise and Michaela completed Trauma Informed Training
- Louise undertook Modern Slavery and Domestic Abuse training.
- Cancer Awareness Day
- Michaela and Louise took Alcohol Change Training
- Michaela supported Guild of All Souls Childhood Grief Conference
- Louise took part in training on Cuckooing
- All three nurses attended the Parish Nursing UK Symposium Safeguarding training
- Basic Life Support Instructor course
- The City's Dementia Strategy Launch
- Blood pressure training through the NHS

We have so much to look forward to in the future, and so many possible paths and opportunities are consistently opened to us by God for which we try always to give thanks.

Provision of Basic Life Support Training to partners and volunteers provides a real opportunity to form a fresh revenue stream to support our work.

We will continue to build on the links we have established with our partners and to support multi-agency outreach where we can, there are also plans to develop the Wellbeing Cafe further, and Catherine is working on establishing a "Mindful Music" Dementia group within church, to run once a month on Wednesday afternoons. We are also working with children and families worker, Minerva, to provide health input to weekly the toddler and carer's group, Little Prints.

Louise Smith
Lead Parish Nurse

Safeguarding Report

At St Matthew's Church, Safeguarding is taken extremely seriously. I have continued to be Parish Safeguarding Officer, but safeguarding is seen as the responsibility of us all. We have Safeguarding Policies in place for Children and Vulnerable Adults, as well as for issues relating to Domestic Abuse. These can be viewed in the church porch, and are updated and ratified by the PCC on at least an

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annual basis. Relevant local contact numbers are also on display. Diocesan updates and newsletters are shared with Father Naylor and the PCC and are also displayed in the porch.

All current PCC members have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in place at the appropriate level, and this also applies to any church employees or volunteers who are working with children and/or vulnerable adults. This includes those involved with the Parish Nursing Service, and the more recently formed Children and Families group. These checks are undertaken every 3 years and are all up to date or currently in process at St Matthew's. There is a training requirement for all members noted above to complete Basic and Foundation level training courses about safeguarding in the life of the church. Those in positions of additional responsibility, including Father Naylor, other officiating priests, church wardens, Parish Nurses, relevant volunteers, those involved in recruitment, home visitors, children's group leaders, choir leader/organist, and myself, have to complete further safeguarding training in the appropriate areas. All training is to be repeated every three years and we have a personal responsibility to keep up with this if our position is to be maintained.

A Safeguarding Team, currently made up of Father Naylor, Ian Burgess (Development Worker), Stuart Barfield (Church Warden), Louise Smith (Lead Parish Nurse), Minerva Fadoul (Children and Families worker), Holly Featherstone (Administrative Support) and myself as Safeguarding Officer meet regularly to ensure that all matters have been considered and everything is up to date. We have taken on board the Parish Safeguarding Digital Dashboard which will allow further accountability and awareness of required actions needing completion, along with a digital Parish Safeguarding Action Plan. This is again ratified by the PCC, and Safeguarding is a standing item at all PCC meetings.

Safeguarding issues have, rightly, had a high national profile, and we would want to offer reassurance that we are both aware of and contributing to, consultations relating to future developments which will aim to make church life at all levels, a safer place for all.

If anyone has safeguarding concerns, they can speak with Father Naylor or myself, the Parish Nurses or any PCC member. Any urgent issues should be referred to the emergency services as appropriate, or the relevant local agencies -

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local 24 hour council numbers for Sheffield and Rotherham are displayed in the porch. Urgent, out of hours safeguarding advice can also be obtained from 'thirtyone;eight' on 0303 003 11 11. The Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator, based at Church House in Rotherham is Debs Corker-Vaughan, and the local Safeguarding Advisor is Sian Checkley. Contact details are also on display in the latest newsletter, and they are happy to advise on any relevant matters. There is a clear safeguarding link on the church website.

Thirtyone;eight is an independent Christian Safeguarding Charity, which supports us with the administration of DBS checks and more general advice. Their website has a wealth of advice and resources, available to all. The name refers to Proverbs 31:8, which implores us to speak up for those people who cannot speak for themselves. We all share the common aim of "Creating safer places. Together".

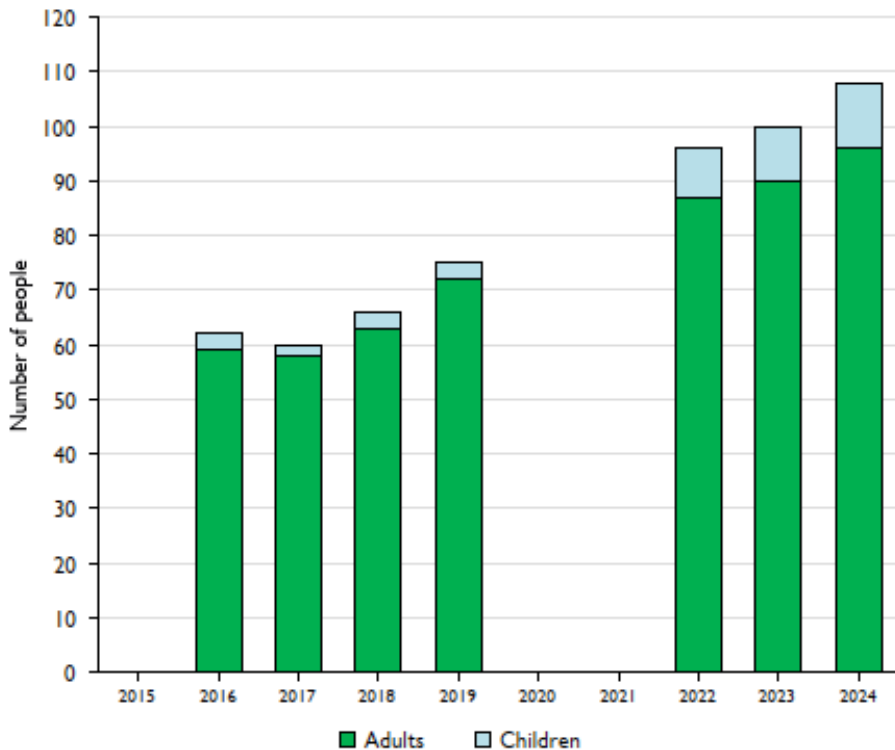
Carol Taylor
Safeguarding Officer

Parish statistics for 2024

Congregation size increased slightly this year, with 108 across the two Sunday Masses being the average in the year. You can see the growth of the congregation not just in the number of people around you each weekend but also in the returns to the Diocese from the past 8 years. The ministry towards children that Minerva has been leading has clearly brought returns as you can see in the increase in number of children in the graph below. We are blessed with our location to have a rich pool of Christians and those interested in the faith to join us and the welcoming atmosphere everyone contributes to has been vital for this success. Thank you to our team of welcomers, readers and those on the coffee and tea as well as those who organise all volunteers and run our outreach activities for the time you have contributed to achieve this success and increase the Kingdom of God in our city.

Dr Richard Dawidek & Joyce Linskill

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Moor Market Chapel

In 2024 we were again given the use of a stall for use as an outreach chapel during Lent and Advent. Every season we modify the decoration to make the area attractive and slightly different, with a display of accessible Christian information, 2 chairs for people to sit and rest and a facility for leaving prayers which are collected regularly and offered at a daily mass in church.

Shane and Chelsea helped Patrick and me to set up the stall for Advent, which was a great help. They are also willing to help with setting up the chapel for Lent this year if we are allocated a stall and the time is right. As in the previous 2 years

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the stall was facing the café area. This location has less footfall than the central area, so fewer prayers were left and we presume that the chapel was less well used, but some people have told us how much they appreciate the chapel being there, so it is definitely serving a purpose.

The Good Friday service was very well attended, as was the Christmas carol service.

I can't stress enough how fortunate we are to have this facility in a secular environment at no cost and with the goodwill of the staff. The ever - helpful market staff always support us; they are unfailingly pleasant and helpful and make us feel welcome. We are thankful for their co-operation and support. St Matthew's is really blessed in this enterprise but I think that many of our congregation don't know about it and I (we) need to promote it and support both our outreach there and the market traders in these difficult times. There is a real need for our presence in the market and hopefully we can rise to the challenge!

Joyce Linskill

Student Report and Scriptorium

Overview

The Scriptorium project has experienced remarkable growth over the past year, evolving into a vibrant community that bridges university students and young adults with the broader church family. This growth reflects both deepening spiritual engagement and strengthening community bonds.

Community Development

Starting with an initial group of 6 members, weekly attendance has now grown to consistently over 15 participants. This growth necessitated practical adaptations, including the addition of extra seating to accommodate our expanding community. The project's success stems largely from its welcoming atmosphere, fostered through shared meals, camaraderie and fellowship.

Leadership & Service

A dedicated team has emerged to support the Scriptorium's operations:

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- Some students – namely: Tomas, Brett, Meredith, and Jayden have taken on key responsibilities including lighting candles, ringing the bell, catering, and leading prayers.
- Several members have extended their service into broader church life, with Brett joining as an altar server and Meredith contributing to the choir.
- The establishment of the Sheffield Anglican Society at the University of Sheffield represents a significant student-led initiative, creating new pathways for faith exploration and service.

Spiritual Growth & Fellowship

The community's spiritual journey has been marked by several significant developments:

- A pilgrimage to Walsingham provided some participants with their first experience of this traditional spiritual practice.
- Regular social activities, including group hikes and coffee meetups, have strengthened bonds between members.
- Members actively support one another's endeavours, exemplified by attendance at various personal events and performances.

Future Vision

Looking ahead, our goals include:

- Growing participation 2x, with plans to utilize more of the lower gallery space in The Art House.
- Encourage participation on pilgrimages and spiritual journeys to deepen faith experiences.
- Continuing to nurture the welcoming, supportive environment that has been crucial to our success.

Godwin Omuya

Deanery Synod Report

This year in Deanery Synod we have heard discussions on many topics including Clergy Wellbeing, Energy efficiency and Net Zero, and getting to meet the new Diocesan Synod members.

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There is an enthusiasm for evangelism amongst the members and a collegiality amongst members. The Deanery was also consulted for the current round of Triennium funding.

It is a joy to be able to share with the Deanery joyful news of growth from St Matthew's and share our unique perspective in our diverse family of churches.

Ian has now completed his two years on Deanery Synod and Holly has completed five years. Elections for Deanery Synod members will take place next year.

News from around the Diocese...

- Vicky Vidler of St Chad's Woodseats will be Deanery Lay Chair.
- Angie Lauener at Holy Trinity Millhouses retired in June.
- Ben Shires was licensed at St James and St Peter's on 24th June.
- Prayers have been requested for St Oswald's, still in interregnum

Ian Burgess and Holly Featherstone
Deanery Synod Reps

St Matthew's House Ltd (The Art House at St Matthew's)

The focus for 2024 was on 'growth', having established a working cash-flow and a dedicated and enthusiastic team the charity created new courses and workshops within a more manageable timetable. The objective was to make (for the first time) an operational profit, this was achieved, with depreciation we will lodge a small loss.

Our aim to put in the steps required to be financially independent with public funding only to support our charitable projects and the preservation of the building is ongoing, but we can safely say we have achieved this with operational income and outgoings being positive.

We continued our Monday Morning Pottery Wellbeing Class with a new lead tutor, as no grants had been awarded, we supported the programme ourselves for a second year. It has returned to full capacity this year and have worked with participants' families to fund one to one supervision where needed.

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The Anderson Green Project on a Friday evening gained new funding from Sheffield City Council which enables it to run until March 2025. There were changes in the management of the project and closer ties developed with The Carver Street Parish Nurse Project.

Part of developing growth was considering the space within the building and how it can be used more effectively, this will be an ongoing schedule due to costs. The first stage was reconfiguring the Pottery Studios to provide more space, better flow and ability to house more equipment in the future.

The Cafe area was promoted as a space to book for events and meeting, this resulted in regular

bookings from The Yard Gallery for their dining experiences, a national government scheme to teach young people to cook and several meetings for the council, along with our regular use by Sheffield Young Carers as well as bookings from St Matthew's church.

A reception area in the main entrance was installed and Carver Street established as the main entrance. The Lower Gallery has been in conjunction with Open Up Sheffield as part of our sponsorship deal, this has resulted in engagement with new audiences and a varied and interesting exhibition programme.

The Brand has continued to be developed with its colour pallet used with the building as well as on the website and social media platforms.

The steps put in place this year will enable the charity to build on its external networks and relationships and ensure better efficiencies in its back-office processes and operational delivery.

Another very busy year which was supported by an excellent team has resulted in The Art House achieving its objective of making a solid base to develop further in 2025.

Ben Clowes

Strategic Director, The Art House / St Matthew's House Ltd.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2024

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

The accounts for the second year have been prepared on an accrual basis. This year, new accounting software (ExpensePlus) was implemented to aid with management of the church accounts and to assist staff in logging expenses and invoices directly. You'll notice a difference in the format of the annual report as a result, as well as some new information that seems useful and is automatically collated. Please let me know what you think and if there's anything you think isn't represented here that you would like to see. Reading directly between last year's accounts and this year's might be difficult as a result, but will be straightforward for the 2025 accounts onwards.

Financial Report

It has been a good year for St Matthews in terms of overall financial health, but total income from all activities is reduced year-on-year again, particularly relating to grant income. This reflects a priority shift in 2024 from external funding sources (i.e. large grants) to internal campaigns such as Pave the Nave, which has been a great success. Looking to 2025, as the chancel work begins and we can ask for the release of pledged income, we should see a much stronger grant funding figure next year. The Parish Nursing project ends the year at a relatively low level but this reflects now that the project is up and running that operational expenditure is closely tied to incoming grant funding levels. We will look to some of the larger funding sources that assist with oncosts (i.e. salaries) to assist the financial position of the project towards the end of 2025.

Total receipts were £ 229,201 against a total expenditure of £ 204,002 broken down across funds as follows.

Unrestricted Funds

This is represented by the church General fund which took in £ 101,599 against expenditure of £ 103,083 leaving an operational deficit for the year of £ (1,483). This is minor and compares to £ 115,642 in unrestricted reserves with £ 30,003 in the General fund. Total donations to the church (all categories) increased to £ 67,797 and we have £ 20,103 of gift aid income (including some from December 2023 still to claim). This comprises £ 56,567 of regular donations with 66 named donors at year end. This compares to £ 49,200 with 56 standing orders last year

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so I thank all of our donors, by all means, for their increase in giving in 2024 to support the mission of the parish and allowing us to continue to grow.

Large expenditures include insurance for the church (£5,541), altar and church supplies to keep us outfitted to the highest standard (£5,896), utilities (£4,108), works to PCC buildings (£8,677), printing (£3,613). The Art House team and Ian have worked to install higher speed and cheaper broadband as well as negotiate favourable rates for printing going forwards. The supplier of electricity and gas was also changed to reduce our energy costs. Our biggest expenditures are the Common Fund payment to the Diocese at £25,395 and the Mission Development worker salary at £10,788. The latter increased in 2024 as the funding arrangement for the role changed to St Matthews PCC fully supporting the role 5 days a week. Ian is currently seconded to the Bishop of Beverley for 2 days a week which offsets some of the cost of these going into 2025.

For 2025, a budget has been set using Q4 2024 as business-as-usual in terms of donation income versus operational expenditure. Large outlays that have been built into this include a Mission Development worker at 0.6FTE (with +Beverley contributions assumed) and a restoration of the church bell. Otherwise, a roughly 4% uplift in some of the identified expenditures above along with a 10% uplift in planned giving are generally used in balancing the books.

Designated Funds

These include the **Regenerate** fund, which did not take in any grant income for the first time, but is having great success with the Pave the Nave campaign - £ 23,442 in donations (not including up to 25% additional from those eligible for Gift Aid). There was £ 33,010 in generous donations over the year and £ 6,720 in Gift Aid claimed in the year. Regenerate events across the year also took in over £ 4,000. This is a great effort to continue ticking along, demonstrating to grant funding organisations that we are not solely reliant on them as we move towards the first stage of works in 2025.

In July the PCC resolved to explore moving away from the Lloyds 95 day notice account (holding the bulk of Regenerate funds) due to adverse changes in the interest rate far below competitors, and also to reduce the risk of having over £ 250,000 of funds designated for the restoration in a single account. Notice was given in October with the account maturing in 2025, where higher interest rate

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notice accounts will be opened and up to £ 85,000 (the financial services compensation scheme limit) invested in each. For a modest outlay in administrative effort this should increase the amount of money Regenerate gets by >£ 1,000 compared to leaving the money with Lloyds. Around £ 6,720 of interest was earned by the notice account in 2024.

The designated **Mission** fund has been drawn down for the first time in a while to support outgoings that fell under a 'mission and evangelism' heading in day-to-day spending, with £ 1,952 spent this year. This covers a wide range of activities - books for new congregants, food for Alpha courses, mince pies at the carols service among others. Broadly, anything that helps the church put on a welcoming atmosphere for new people and visitors, and allows them to go deeper into the faith fits the remit.

The **Scriptorium** and **Children's Worker** funds were opened this year as designated funds. These started off with grant funding - Scriptorium received funding from the Diocese (£ 5,518) and Hollowford Trust (£ 500) towards activities aimed at young people. The CW is funded by money from the Church Burgesses Educational Foundation (£ 5,000) and the Diocese's Centenary Project (£ 6,000 paid in January 2025) These have had great success in 2024 and will form a core component of mission and evangelism in 2025. Funding will allow these to continue into at least Q2 2025 at which point we will have to look for other grant funding initiatives or other funding strategies to maintain their operation.

Specific Donations operated mostly on a money in - money out basis, taking kind donations for the new lectionary set and for a new Gold vestment. There is a balance of £ 948.15 awaiting expenditure on a new rose coloured frontal.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that the PCC has an obligation to spend for their given purposes and include Parish Nursing, Pilgrimage, Student Ministry, Agency Collections, the Richard Buckley fund and the Building Capacity grant (see 'Other Financial Reports'), Flowers.

Student Ministry did not see as much activity this year as the Scriptorium project (and fund) became the focus of student mission and evangelism. However we

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were able to support student pilgrims travelling to Walsingham for Adoremus as well as some of the traditional student events at the start of new terms. The closing balance of £ 2,636 is the result of an in-year surplus that can be used to support the growing student congregation, particularly widening engagement from Scriptorium towards pilgrimages and other events.

Agency Collections is our balance owed to the Sea Cadets for the Carol Service collection and to the Additional Curates Society for Lent 2024. I will send these onwards in 2025.

Pilgrimage ends the year in a slight deficit, which as I read it is owing either to the difficulty in forecasting places vs. the Holy House's Byzantine system for taking deposits (thus losing some cash) or as I have not transacted some of the assistance we offer for parishioners to make the Pilgrimage to Walsingham. As this fits with the specifications of the **Richard Buckley** fund, I will ask PCC if we will make a fund transfer from this in 2025 to clear the deficit.

Parish Nursing had another successful year and was supported during the year by four grants - the Fellowship of St John and Joseph Rank Trust gave additional installments to grants won in previous years (£ 15,000 and £ 10,000); Michaela won a grant for £ 3,347 from the council towards the Safer Sheffield initiative focussed at providing support and outreach to the vulnerable to reduce anti-social behaviour in the city as well as to provide structured interventions aimed at reducing violence against women and girls; and the Town Trust have helped our new volunteer nurse Catherine with starting Musical Memories aimed at providing dementia friendly singing and music sessions for those in the parish who are affected. The fund ends the year with quite a low closing balance of £ 7,898 relative to its ongoing expenditure (£60,307) . However the 1st of January 2025 will see a grant funding boost meaning operationally the project will be ok for the coming year (particularly as in the short term expenditure on salaries is reduced). I have plans to work with Louise and any other willing volunteers for getting Parish Nursing grant income up in 2025, to secure operations into 2026. Please reach out if you'd like to get involved in this.

Flowers I have cleared a deficit by fund transfer from General. We've been angling to move away from using this fund for this purpose. If I understand the history I think a previous PCC voted to roll it into General. I'll investigate the original

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purpose in 2025 and check if a resolution has been passed. In 2024, we missed a few opportunities to offer flowers in memory of the departed, leading to an overspend in this fund.

Other Financial Reports

In June this year the PCC resolved to move CCLA investments away from the Deposit fund, which the (designated) Reserves; and Mission Development funds were invested in, and into the likely higher return, higher risk profile, 'Investment' fund. This contains more investments, equities etc. rather than bonds and cash, and poor performance in the former two funds were seen compared to the third over the past two years. Therefore these funds were consolidated into the Legacy fund (and all into the Church of England Investment fund with CCLA). The Mission Development fund and Reserves fund were closed at year end following a resolution from the PCC in November, with the character of Reserves to be maintained as the Legacy fund now forms part of our reserves (with unrestricted cash). 980

The Restricted 'Building Capacity Grant' fund has been empty for another year since being spent in 2023 and given its purpose has run its course (it was previously used to pay for an organist and the mission development worker) it has been closed following PCC resolution. The fund performed modestly in 2024 - with gains in the year of £ 4,117.

Kingfisher Accountants provided the independent examination accompanying these accounts for us again this year, giving governance costs of £416.67 + VAT.

The church opened an account with Equals Money to provide virtual purchasing cards to staff. This is topped up from the Lloyds Treasurers Account when required but otherwise operates as a standard bank account. Our accounts at end of year therefore comprise: the Treasurers account (for day-to-day activities), the 95 day notice account which matures in January and a Commercial Instant Access saver (1.00% APR) all with Lloyds; a virtual purchasing account with Equals money; and the CCLA Investment Fund account.

I have created a budget for day-to-day spending for 2025. simplified and distributed with these reports. Scriptorium, Parish Nursing and Children's Worker

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funds will also have a budget set early in the new year as these also form part of the operational activities of the church.

It was a surprise to find myself as the treasurer in May last year, financial matters being a passing interest rather than something I thought of vocationally. I take inspiration from our patron saint that *even* bean counters such as tax collectors could find favour with Our Lord and thus have quite enjoyed the role.

As we move into 2025 and the restoration begins with the chancel, I hope to continue with approval in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It would certainly make the time spent moving and automating the financial systems worthwhile!
“Hi ChatGPT - can you define ‘sunk cost fallacy’ for me?”

Dr Richard Dawidek
Treasurer