

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Incumbent: The Reverend Sarah Feaster
The Vicarage
Main Street
Great Ouseburn
York
YO26 9RQ

Bank: HSBC plc
7 Prospect Crescent
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 1RN

Independent examiner: Mr Brian Watson
Retired Actuary
103 Main Street
Great Ouseburn
York
North Yorkshire,
YO26 9RQ

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS

	Pages
Introduction by the Rev'd Sarah Feaster	1
Annual Report of the Trustees	2 – 4
Financial Statements	5 – 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Report of the Churchwardens on the fabric of the Church	11
Safeguarding Report	12
Deanery Synod report	13

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

Reverend Sarah Feaster

During 2024 our thoughts and prayers were continually going out to those caught up in the events around Israel and Palestine, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and the unreported but devastating civil conflicts especially in Sudan and Myanmar. There has been an increase in the persecution of Christians across the world. According to Open Doors, 70 countries are now deemed unsafe for Christians. In terms of climate, global average temperatures rose again meaning 2024 was the hottest year on record and again devastating effects of this have been seen for wildlife, habitats and people.

Within the Church of England serious safeguarding issues came to light leading to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. These are very difficult and sad times for all those who have been abused. Steps are being taken nationally to deal with the shortfalls. Within the Diocese of Leeds, our safeguarding history, systems and structures had already been under the scrutiny of a new Director of Safeguarding, Juliette McLellan, and some changes have already taken place. In our benefice we continue to make safeguarding a priority.

As Christians, we are called in all circumstances to live with hope and to care deeply for all creation and humanity. Hope can feel quite difficult in the face of such suffering across our world, but it is not a hope in our own abilities, but a hope in the power of love and renewal through the Spirit of God. Whatever suffering we face ourselves or we encounter in others we are called to continue to ask God to show us his way of love and enable us to follow it. When we can learn the humility of relying upon God to guide us then God's love will be made known.

I am again deeply grateful to all those in our village and church community who continue to give of their time, money, talents and prayerfulness to enhance our worship, to care for people in our community and those further afield and to look after our building and churchyards.

A huge thank you to the clergy, licensed lay ministers, wardens and all who have helped with church services, ministry and mission. It is a deep privilege to serve alongside such dedicated and caring people.

I am again very grateful to Doctor Alasdair and Mrs Rosy Jamieson for their dedication, encouragement and ministry through music.

The benefice Youth Group continues to meet twice monthly, run by four volunteers. We continue to meet in Great Ouseburn Village Hall and we are very grateful to the Parish Council who have continued to sponsor the hire of the hall during 2024, and to the Beer Festival committee who donated £200 to the Youth Group funds.

Great Ouseburn school held Easter and Christmas performances in the church.

Peacock Manor Nursing Home continued to be supported with short monthly and festival services with singing, led by Local Lay Minister, George Rowden.

A new Contemporary Worship Service began in December. This benefice service is being offered twice a month on Monday evenings during term time and is led by two volunteers and supported by the ministry team.

We hold the world and the church before God in prayer as we continue to be aware that so many people suffer.

I pray that we will be guided by God throughout this coming year, that we may be good stewards of all that God has given us, and that we may be continually inspired by the Holy Spirit so that, living in God's hope, we are faithfully **sharing God's love in our communities**.

God bless you all,

Rev'd Sarah

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Background

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated on Main Street, Great Ouseburn and is within the Church of England. It is in the Diocese of Leeds, the Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven and the Deanery of Ripon.

The Parish is one of four Parishes in the United Benefice of Great Ouseburn, Little Ouseburn, Marton-cum-Grafton, and Whitley with Green Hammerton. The Vicar of the United Benefice lives at The Vicarage, Main Street, Great Ouseburn, which is situated next to the Church.

Each of the four Parishes in the Benefice has its own Parochial Church Council (PCC). Work in the Parish and throughout the Benefice is co-ordinated by regular meetings between the Vicar, the Wardens of each Parish and Members of the Ministry team. Great Ouseburn PCC has a Standing Committee of the Council Officers. Work, where appropriate, is delegated to ad hoc subcommittees.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Ministry Team

The Vicar is the only Stipendiary Priest resident within the Benefice. The Vicar has been helped during the year by the Revd Wilf Gowing, an assistant priest, by the Revd Olivia Lambert, a visiting priest, and by two Licensed Lay Ministers, Miss Nancy Clark and Mr George Rowden. In addition, the Revd Michelle Lepine spent two months in the benefice on a curacy placement, during which time she did valuable work with us. Michelle has since moved on to become vicar at St Edmund's in Roundhay, and we all wish her well.

PCC Members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Revd Sarah Feaster	Chairman
<i>Ex-officio members:</i>	Miss N Clark	Licensed Lay Minister, Electoral Roll Officer and Deanery Synod Representative
	Mrs S Hunter Smart	Churchwarden
	Mrs R Jamieson	Churchwarden
	Mrs I Robinson	Deanery Synod Representative
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mr C Brown	Lay Chairman
	Dr A Jamieson	Secretary
	Mrs P Mitchell	
	Mr A Thewlis	
	Mrs A Thewlis	Health & Safety Officer
	Mrs S Webster	
	Mrs L Wilson	Joint Treasurer
	Mr M Wilson	Joint Treasurer

Mrs Ann Allen, who is not a member of the PCC, took up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in August 2021.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Electoral Roll

It remains the policy of the PCC to encourage regular members of the congregation to join the electoral roll of the Church. As at the Annual Meeting for 2024, there were thirty-nine people on the roll. Three were from another parish within the Benefice and five from parishes outside the Benefice.

Programme of Services

Our usual programme of services is summarised below, with all services starting at 10.30 am.

First Sunday:	Holy Communion (Common Worship)	Great Ouseburn
Second Sunday:	Holy Communion (Common Worship)	Little Ouseburn
Third Sunday:	Parish Praise	Great or Little Ouseburn
Fourth Sunday:	Holy Communion (Common Worship)	Great or Little Ouseburn
Fifth Sunday:	United Benefice Service rotating between the five Churches in the Benefice.	

Additional services are held on Festival days and special occasions.

Parochial Church Council Meetings

Four meetings of the Council were held in addition to the annual meeting. The Vicar attended all these meetings. Lay attendance was as follows:

1 February 2024	(11)	29 February 2024	(10)	5 September 2024	(11)
7 November 2024	(11)				

Financial Report

2023 had been a year of fundraising and seeking grants towards the cost of rebuilding the graveyard boundary wall which was completed at a cost £35,492. Income for that year included just over £21,000 raised to rebuild the wall and a most generous donation of almost £50,000 to our restricted fabric fund. As a consequence we began 2024 in a healthy financial position.

In contrast, 2024 was a quiet year in that we had no major projects to finance. We continued to benefit from the generous support of our congregation who once again established a record high of £14,810 for planned giving. Many of the same people gave of their time and energy to organise our three major fundraising events in 2024; January's bridge afternoon, a quiz night in February and our Christmas brunch held in church with carol singing led by the excellent Ouseburns choir. Altogether these three events raised £5,437 net of expenses, and the PCC is grateful for both the efforts of the organisers and the support of our fellow villagers.

Once again our parishioners joined other villagers to put on the annual village garden festival in June and the beer festival in October and were rewarded with donations to the PCC amounting to £4,120 from the organisers of these two events.

Adjusting for the cost of rebuilding the graveyard wall in 2023, expenditure in 2024 was broadly in line with the previous year and the increase in planned giving and fundraising activities allowed us to record a healthy surplus on our unrestricted general fund of £8,846. There was little activity on our three restricted funds, chief of which is the fabric fund, but that will not be the case in 2025. The quinquennial review of the church and its grounds was completed in October 2024 and the PCC will meet in the near future to consider the architect's report and to prepare a schedule of maintenance and repair work to be completed during 2025 and beyond.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Review of the Year

1. The PCC members would like to express their gratitude for the huge amount of work that Revd. Sarah and the rest of our ministry team do for the benefit of all four parishes of our benefice.
2. Throughout 2024 Liz Haw again served as the benefice administrator. She plays a vital role for the whole benefice and we are very grateful for Liz's support.
3. We received £1,554 in the year from our 2024 bridge afternoon held on 8 January and having taken £1,160 in advance ticket sales in 2023 it means the event raised the amazing total of £2,714. We offer sincere thanks to organisers Jenny Prosser and Susie Hunter Smart and their team of willing volunteers without whom none of this would be possible. At 31 December 2024 we had received £1,200 in advance ticket sales for the 2025 bridge afternoon to be held on 6 January 2025.
4. Our second fund-raising event of the year was a quiz night on 8 February which raised £1,772 net of expenses, while our Christmas Brunch, held in the church on 14 December, raised £931. Sincere thanks to all those involved in organising these popular events and to villagers who support us every year.
5. In September 2023 the youth group was relaunched with volunteer helpers and has continued to serve young people across the benefice. The Youth Group, aimed at young people from year six in primary and high school age, continues to meet in Great Ouseburn village hall and attendance at regular meetings in 2024 has been most encouraging.
6. After performing our independent examination for seven years Ian Ballard stepped down in 2023 owing to pressures on his time following his appointment as Treasurer for the Knaresborough benefice, with overall responsibility for the finances of all five parishes in that benefice. We offer sincere thanks to Ian and wish him well and are most pleased to welcome Brian Watson who has kindly agreed to become the independent examiner of our accounts.
7. We are grateful to Alasdair and Rosy Jamieson for the music that continues to enhance our church services.
8. On 29 October 2024 the church's architect performed his quinquennial review of the church building and surrounds. The report recognises the caring attention the church receives but nevertheless includes several recommendations to deal with various issues that have arisen over time. We shall meet shortly to examine these recommendations and their estimated cost in order to prepare a schedule of maintenance work for the coming year and beyond.
9. Finally but not least the Council again thanks Mrs Hunter Smart and Mrs Jamieson, our Church wardens, for all they do for the Parish. Their expertise and workloads are enormous. The rest of us are lucky indeed to have so much done so well for us.

The annual report and accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Sarah Feaster (PCC chairman) and Linda Wilson (Joint Treasurer).

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving		14,810	-	14,810	12,971
Collections at services		3,605	-	3,605	3,169
Grants and all other giving	5a	5,352	100	5,452	76,409
Gift Aid recovered		4,734	-	4,734	4,308
		28,501	100	28,601	96,857
Activities for generating funds	5b	6,080	480	6,560	3,679
Investment income	5c	2,616	256	2,872	2,318
Church activities	5d	2,071	-	2,071	3,338
Other receipts: Insurance claim		-	-	-	4,883
Total receipts		39,268	836	40,104	111,075
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities					
Diocesan parish contribution		18,910	-	18,910	17,191
Clergy and staffing costs		943	-	943	1,313
Church running expenses	5e	9,946	603	10,549	45,253
Mission giving and donations	5f	-	-	-	88
		29,799	603	30,402	63,845
Costs of generating funds		623	-	623	-
Purchase of investments	2	-	-	-	45,000
Total payments		30,422	603	31,025	108,845
Excess of (payments)/receipts		8,846	233	9,079	2,230
Bank accounts at 1 January		14,294	10,210	24,504	22,274
Bank accounts at 31 December		23,140	10,443	33,583	24,504

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Cash funds				
Bank current accounts	7,892	5,115	13,007	14,578
Deposit funds	15,248	5,328	20,576	9,926
Total operating bank accounts	23,140	10,443	33,583	24,504
Investment assets				
CBF C of E Investment Fund				
Income shares	28,658	-	28,658	28,017
Accumulation shares	-	57,627	57,627	54,828
	28,658	57,627	86,285	82,845
Assets retained for church use	51,798	68,070	119,868	107,349

At 31 December 2024 the PCC had no liabilities (2023 : £nil).

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- Investments in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.**

	Income shares	Accumulation shares		
Units purchased 9 Aug 2018	1,006.64	582.34		
Units sold 28 Jan 2021	-	(379.16)		
Units purchased 26 Sep 2023	232.75	715.00		
Units held 31 Dec 2024	1,239.39	918.18		
	£	£	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cost of units purchased	22,500	62,750	85,250	85,250
Proceeds of units sold	-	(19,000)	(19,000)	(19,000)
Realised gain on units sold	-	4,187	4,187	4,187
Unrealised gain on units retained	6,158	9,690	15,848	12,408
At bid market value 31 Dec	28,658	57,627	86,285	82,845
		Income shares	Accumulation shares	
Bid market price 31 December 2024 (pence)		2,312.27	6,276.22	
Bid market price 31 December 2023 (pence)		2,260.53	5,971.38	

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes (continued)

3. The movements in the PCC's bank accounts during the year ended 31 December 2024 were:

	1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec
Restricted:				
Fabric fund	9,165	256	-	9,421
Flower and Kneeler fund	659	-	-	659
Choir fund	386	580	(603)	363
	10,210	836	(603)	10,443
Unrestricted:				
General fund	14,294	39,268	(30,422)	23,140
Total bank accounts	24,504	40,104	(31,025)	33,583

The Fabric fund is controlled by three Trustees who are also members of the Great Ouseburn Parochial Church Council, and its use is restricted to the payments of grants for specific Parish projects approved by the Trustees. Grants cannot be made from this fund towards the costs of general Parish expenses or of Parish share.

The Flower and Kneeler fund is used principally to purchase wool and other materials used in the embroidery of kneelers.

The income of the Choir fund comprises fees for participation in weddings, funerals and other musical events and is used principally for the purchase of sheet music and the payment of the fees of visiting organists.

4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion that relates to the function of PCC member. No other payments were made to PCC members.

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5a) Grants and all other giving				
Donation from Village Garden Festival	3,120	-	3,120	1,500
Donation from Village Beer Festival	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Donation from Village Golf Day	-	-	-	1,039
Donation from Parish News	502	-	502	895
Gift of quoted shares	-	-	-	49,268
Grants towards Tommy Lane project	-	-	-	19,000
Donations towards Tommy Lane project	-	-	-	1,180
Listed places of worship scheme - VAT	-	-	-	222
Other donations	730	100	830	2,305
	5,352	100	5,452	76,409
5b) Activities for generating funds:				
Christmas Brunch	931	-	931	933
Bridge afternoon: receipts on the day	1,554	-	1,554	1,497
Advance ticket sales for following year	1,200	-	1,200	1,160
Quiz night	2,395	-	2,395	-
Christmas concerts	-	480	480	-
Coffee Drop-in	-	-	-	89
	6,080	480	6,560	3,679

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes (continued)

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5c) Investment income;				
Dividends received	778	-	778	658
Interest received and similar	488	256	744	310
Broadband rentals	1,350	-	1,350	1,350
	2,616	256	2,872	2,318
5d) Church activities:				
Fees for weddings and funerals	998	-	998	2,422
Parish magazine sales income	1,073	-	1,073	916
	2,071	-	2,071	3,338

Payments

5e) Church running expenses:				
Insurance	2,701	-	2,701	2,563
Buildings maintenance	1,506	-	1,506	36,339
Printing the parish magazine	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Churchyard mowing & maintenance	1,222	-	1,222	1,355
Heating oil	657	-	657	781
Cost of Church services	408	-	408	574
Electricity	777	-	777	621
Printing & stationery	661	-	661	335
Organ repair & maintenance	177	-	177	189
Bank charges	83	-	83	93
Subscriptions	97	-	97	94
Sheet music	-	382	382	59
Hymn Books	-	185	185	-
Wool for kneelers	-	-	-	32
Flowers for coronation	-	-	-	60
Christmas lunch 2022 & 2023	-	-	-	301
Sundry expenses	157	36	193	357
	9,946	603	10,549	45,253
5f) Mission giving and donations:				
Core Youth Group	-	-	-	88
	-	-	-	88

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes (continued)

6. Reserves Policy

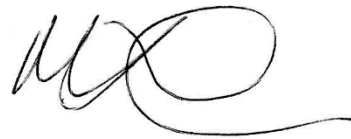
In the last four years the PCC has spent a total of £73,008 on repairs and maintenance of the church property. This was possible partly thanks to the generosity of local businesses and villagers plus grants from several charitable organisations, but also to money held in the PCC's restricted fabric fund. That fund was boosted in 2023 by a most generous donation of quoted shares that realised close to £50,000 on sale, leaving us in a strong position to deal with the issues raised in the report that followed the quinquennial review carried out in October 2024.

We believe that money should be kept in reserve as part of prudent planning for future events, to enable the Church to fulfil its mission and to preserve the building for the benefit of future generations. Ideally, we should wish to hold reserves to cover urgent work on the fabric of the building and also as a contingency to cover the possibility that fundraising is curtailed by circumstances beyond our control – usually inclement weather rather than global pandemic. The amounts to be held will be determined by the particular circumstances of each year.

The Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Revd Sarah Feaster – Chairman



.....
Linda Wilson – Joint Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN,
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the financial statements of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

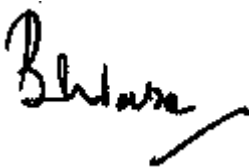
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as 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 matters have come to my attention;

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Watson, Retired Actuary
103 Main Street
Great Ouseburn, York
North Yorkshire,
YO26 9RQ

6 February 2025

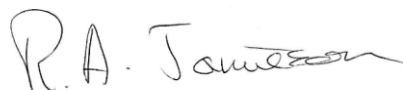
THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024 OF THE CHURCHWARDENS ON
THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,
GREAT OUSEBURN, PURSUANT TO THE CARE OF CHURCHES
AND ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

1. This report has been prepared for presentation to the meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 6 February, 2025 and the Annual Meeting on 20th March.
2. The Quinquennial inspection was carried out by our architect, Christopher Cotton, in October. We were very pleased to be told that the church is being maintained to a very high standard. There are some things to be addressed next year and we hope to repair the vestry roof and do some mortar repointing.
3. The removal of ivy from the churchyard walls is ongoing.
4. The fire extinguishers were five years old and were replaced.
5. Some work had to be done to the church clock as it had been overwound. The clock was serviced.
6. The guttering was cleaned out.
7. The churchyard wall was once again hit by a lorry causing some damage.

Signed



Susan Hunter Smart
Churchwarden



Rosemary Jamieson
Churchwarden

6 February 2025.

**Benefice of Great Ouseburn, Little Ouseburn, Marton-Cum-Grafton,
Whixley with Green Hammerton**

**Benefice Safeguarding Report 2024
“How we care for one another”**

1. Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO)

The Parish Safeguarding Officers for each parish are:

- Great and Little Ouseburn : Ann Allen
- Marton-Cum-Grafton : Gill Treharne
- Whixley with Green Hammerton : George Rowden

All the PSOs meet on a regular basis (quarterly or as required) to discuss safeguarding issues and agree any changes to the benefice's processes and procedures.

2. Parish Safeguarding Policy

Each parish within the benefice has an agreed safeguarding policy, which is displayed in the church and reviewed on an annual basis. All other relevant documents required by the Diocese are on display also.

3. Disclosure and Barring Service

New C of E guidance from 2022 states that DBS certificates are to be renewed every 3 years instead of 5 years. DBS status is being checked on an ongoing basis for all volunteers working in the Parish with the view to ensuring all volunteers have a valid DBS certificate. Since October 2024 the Diocese is no longer using the DBS update service and will instead expect DBS certificates to be renewed every 3 years. This will affect Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers and PCC trustees.

A Parish can continue to use the update service for Parish volunteers if it so wishes. During 2024 Gill Treharne was DBS Administrator for the Benefice with Ann Allen as Deputy Administrator.

All PCC members are required to complete a confidential self-declaration form on an annual basis and require up to date DBS checks and up to date safeguarding training.

4. Safe Recruitment Process

All new recruitment within the benefice is carried out in accordance with the safe recruitment guidelines. Each role being filled requires a written job description. These are being produced as and when needed.

5. PSO Dashboards.

All PSO's are using the Safeguarding Dashboards provided by the Diocese which drives an action plan for each PCC ensuring that the safeguarding processes and procedures are in place and fit for purpose. PSO's should provide latest version of their Parish Safeguarding Dashboard prior to each PCC meeting to monitor progress.

6. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

GDPR is reviewed annually in line with each APCM.
No data breaches were reported during the year.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT OUSEBURN
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod Report for 2024

There were 3 meetings held during the year.

March Meeting

Cancelled.

June Meeting

Bishop Anna Eltringham presented her reflections since arriving as Bishop from a Diocesan, Ripon Episcopal Area and Deanery perspective.

This was followed by a time of question and discussion around encouragement and hope for the Church.

September Meeting

Rev'd Paul Harford introduced and outlined the opportunity that we have as a Deanery to make a funding application through the Rural Change Fund. Synod members worked on SWOT analyses for their parishes and key overlapping areas noted for further discussion.

November Meeting

Rev'd Paul Harford reminded Synod of the Rural Change Fund opportunity and current application process.

Synod broke into four groups to consider various options.

Synod agreed that we would focus on learning more and working up the detail on applying for funding for either the Professional Fundraiser or the Deanery Communications Officer.