

Parochial Church Council of All Saints Rotherham



Rotherham Minster

and

The Chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge, Rotherham

Annual Reports

For the year ending 31st December 2023

**2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
Rotherham All Saints (Rotherham Minster)**

Aims and purposes

The Parish of Rotherham Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, Pastoral, Evangelical, Social and Ecumenical. It has the responsibility for the fabric of the Minster Church of Rotherham All Saints and the Chapel of Our Lady on Rotherham Bridge.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Rotherham Minster. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups who live within our parish. Our services, and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament alongside our community engagement.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Rotherham Minster and The chapel of our lady on the bridge Rotherham.

Review of the year 2023

2023 has been a year of further development in Rotherham Minster and our partner church of St Paul's journey to becoming a resourcing church. We have also had a few firsts and seen continued work to both maintain the building as well as develop the plans for a major reordering. What follows are some highlights and by no means the whole story.

In February a consultation took place with the amenity societies that are statutory consultees about the planned redevelopment of Rotherham Minster. The decision was made to involve these organisations early in the process in order to collaborate and work towards a mutually acceptable way forward. It would be the first of several such consultations. Also in February the Rotherham Music service installed a light organ in the Minster which was much used throughout the half term break.

In March we hosted the High Sherriff's legal service for what was understood to be the first time. The High Sheriff was very keen to hold the service in the town he considers home. It was a really joyful occasion and he was particularly grateful to whole team for our efforts.

Easter saw the usual events during Holy Week including the churches together walk of witness in the town centre. Later in April we hosted a Rotherham Churches Prayer event which was well attended.

In May we celebrated the licensing of Rev Justine Smith and Rev Louise Castle as Associate Vicar's in our Mission Area. Justine has a specific role to support the music and worshipping life of the church and Louise a focus on healing and wholeness.

Alongside our civic services for the Mayor and supporting Armed Forces and Remembrance events we also conducted a service on Yorkshire day when Rotherham hosted the regional event.

Throughout the year Saturday Gathering continued to grow and develop eventually becoming twice monthly. Rotherham Minster Connections (our community development work including Social Supermarket) positive impact on the life of the town has continued to grow. Alongside this our musical work in local primary schools has continued to grow with us eventually engaged in seven primary schools and hosting regular concerts celebrating the children's achievements. In September we said goodbye to Elliot Walker our Centenary Project Worker who had been at the forefront of our music delivery in schools.

As the year drew to a close in November we hosted Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon and saw over 10,000 people visit the Minster and the life of the town positively impacted. With the moon in situ the Rotherham Minster Development Trust partnered with the PCC in delivering a soft fund-raising launch for the reordering project. It was with deep sadness that we held the funeral of Martyn Taylor our longstanding vergier in the Minster. Martyn had been a faithful servant of the church for over forty years.

Christmas saw further opportunities for engaging with and blessing the local community. There is much more that could be included but we commend the appended reports which shed further light on the life of the church and look forward to the coming year with genuine hope.

Revd Canon Phil Batchford

Churchwardens Report 2023

Dear Members of the Congregation,

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, it is my privilege to present the Churchwarden's report, reflecting on the past year's accomplishments, challenges, and aspirations for the future.

I'm delighted to note that further developments to the planned reordering have been approved by the PCC throughout this last year, indicating our collective commitment to enhancing our church space for the benefit of all. It's encouraging to see progress in this area, reflecting our dedication to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for our congregation and community.

One highlight of the year has been the successful installation of the Museum of the Moon, which has seen an overwhelming response from the community, with thousands coming through our doors. This achievement underscores our dedication to fostering cultural engagement and community outreach.

On a bittersweet note, we bid farewell to Rev. Ali as she embarks on her next chapter. We express our gratitude for the significant developments she has spearheaded during her tenure with us and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

However, this term of office has not been without its challenges. Transitioning from a team of three wardens to one has been a daunting prospect, both practically and emotionally. The resignations of Richard and Sybil, catalysed by challenges arising during Canon Phil's sabbatical, marked a significant turning point for our team. The breakdown in relationships and communication within the team culminated in their resignations some months later, leaving me as the sole warden.

While I am grateful for the support offered by many within our church community, I have also grappled with the weight of unrealistic expectations placed upon me by some individuals in our community. Some members of the congregation understandably yearn for the continuity and breadth of expertise that was once provided by a team of three wardens. This has left me feeling anxious and at times overwhelmed, as I struggle to meet these expectations.

Moreover, the pressure to fulfil my role has impacted not only my duties as a Churchwarden but also my personal worship and spiritual well-being. There have been moments when I found it challenging to fully immerse myself in worship, as my mind was preoccupied with concerns about meeting the high demands that some place upon me.

Nevertheless, I am heartened by the resilience and adaptability of our congregation, as we navigate this period of transition together. The support and understanding extended to me during this time have been invaluable, serving as a reminder of the strength of our community bonds. Additionally, I am grateful for the increased involvement of our servers and stewards in pre and post-service tasks. Their dedication ensures a smoother transition for future wardens, empowering them to step into their roles with ease.

Moving forward, it's essential that we reflect on the challenges we've faced and learn from the mistakes that have led to our current position. As a church community, we must strive to foster open communication, cultivate stronger relationships, and most importantly establish clearer expectations to ensure the success of future warden teams. By acknowledging and addressing these areas for improvement, we can pave the way for a more cohesive and effective leadership structure, one that serves our congregation with diligence and grace. In closing, I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Churchwarden over the last couple of years.

Warm regards,

Luke Hanson (Churchwarden)

Deanery Synod report for 2023

In January 2023 Rotherham and Laughton Deaneries had a twin gathering with Bishop Pete, advisors from the Diocese and Clergy from across the deaneries. Workshops and discussions took place both verbal and written feedback was given to the Bishop regarding areas of challenge across deaneries, areas of opportunity and if possible how could/would we deploy additional resources to enable our deaneries to help revitalise our diocese.

February Deanery meeting was at the All Saints Centre Rotherham. The main item was introduced by Rev. Phil Batchford, 'Jesus Teach us to Pray' exploration of prayer resources for the coming year. An opportunity to watch a video of the first session in 'The Prayer Course' which is based on Pete Greigs book 'How to Pray: a simple guide for Normal People.' The video demonstrated a powerful aide to the unlocking of the power of prayer. The second part of this item was presented by John Hibberd, (Mission Development Advisor for Sheffield Diocese). His message to synod was that there is so much to explore he spoke about prayer and in particular the 2025 Diocesan Prayer Community – praying for personal and community growth in our Diocese, This is a key part of the Diocesan 3Rs strategy – Renewed, Released, Rejuvenated in regard to its links to the vision 'to see a generous & flourishing Diocese of Sheffield in 2025. He encouraged us all (if not already part of it) to sign up to the 2025 prayer group via the web site (<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/for-churches/worship-prayer/2025-prayer-community/>)

Our meeting in June was a joint Rotherham and Laughton Deanery Synod meeting at St Simon and St Jude Thurcroft. This meeting provided opportunities to get to know members from other deaneries and to share our challenges and our successes with each other. Simon Chesters-Thompson, DAC Secretary had worked in the National Trust prior to coming to Sheffield Diocese. Simon gave an update on the DAC and the importance of seeking correct permissions and to be aware of keeping within the legal system controlling church matters. Dr Cathy Rhodes gave a presentation on the General Synod and an insight into how it manages the discussions, its voting process, and the wide and varied subjects they debate. November's meeting was at St Andrews Brinsworth. We heard from Toby Hole Director of Mission and Ministry who spoke about the start of a nine year period when the new Triennium funding will be released by the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board. Sheffield Diocese is well ahead in developing strategy and updated version will be important in its support for bids for funds next year. The strategy refresh is the subject of consultation with the deaneries. Rotherham Deanery's consultation day was in October 2023. Bishop Sophie, Ven Malcolm Chamberlain and colleagues from Church House spent the day in the deanery and concluded in the evening with Rotherham Deanery representative in discussion groups and giving feedback.

Rotherham Show took place on the 2nd and 3rd September 2023 the Deanery were involved in a Churches in Rotherham marquee this year.

On December 20th 2023 the joint Licensing took place of Revd Phil Batchford and Revd Lynn Broadhead as Co Area Deans of the deanery of Rotherham the service was taken by the Ven Malcolm Chamberlain Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham.

Anne Asher

Fabric Report 2023

2023 has seen major changes slowly being put in place. After many years of service a change in inspecting architect has taken place. John Bailey from Thomas Ford & Partners has taken on this role along with leading on the re-ordering project. Along with Sophia from the same company they have completed a very thorough Conservation Management Plan and a Statement of Significance as part of this on- going project.

On a wet, miserable day John Bailey also did the Quinquennial inspection once again finding significant problems that need to be addressed with our building.

On going works from the last inspection have included a full drains survey to determine exactly where water flowing off our roof goes to and to understand why several drains block so easily. During April two downpipes and their hoppers were upgraded to help water discharge & prevent blockages within the former smaller diameter pipes, the rationale being to reduce the volume of water running down the sides of the building and penetrating through the stonework.

Of major concern has been the regular occurrence of broken windows through break- in's or anti-social behaviour. There is a lot of very significant stained glass within our building and repairs are costly, solutions are being looked into.

The once spectacular floodlighting is also very much on its last legs. Water ingress into the fittings, theft of some of the non-working luminaires etc has led to the deterioration of the system. Sadly only a small number of pinnacles are lit & only two clock faces are now illuminated.

Thanks are once again due to all the people who have been involved in the upkeep and preservation of The Minster Church of All Saints. To John Cunningham our former inspecting architect who has done so much for our building for many years, to our newly appointed team of Architects for all their ongoing hard work & lastly but not least to our Operations Manager and Building Resources Officer for all their hard work.

As was said last year, funding for all the work that constantly needs to be done to keep our "Grand Old Lady" in best possible condition is an on-going problem. There are big plans to take our building into 2024 and make it sustainable for a long time to come. Thankfully there is a good team of both volunteers and paid people steering the vision forward.

Malcolm S Turner (Fabric Officer)

Tower and Ringing Report 2023

During the year regular Friday night practices have been maintained along with Sunday Service ringing even during holiday times. Thursday nights have been used for a tied bell practice being used to teach two new ringers for our band who are now ringing on Sundays, but also new recruits who will eventually ring the bells at nearby Todwick, they will also occasionally come to ring at the Minster on Sunday mornings.

As in previous years, Rotherham's bells, have been rung for all the major Festivals. In this Coronation year, nearly all the people who come to practice nights rang either a quarter peal or full peal to mark the Coronation of the new Monarchy. These are now recorded on an elaborate peal board hung on the west wall of the ringing room.

Following an initiative from the Central Council of Church Bellringers, 'Bell Sunday' was introduced. This was held in May, when during morning service, one of our band of ringers read a lesson, hymns were bell themed, three of the band rang hand bells and a question and answer interview also took place.

New ropes purchased in September have been fitted to replace of the old heavily spliced set that have given excellent service. The two east and west roof access windows, which were in a very poor state of repair, have been replaced making the ringing room considerable less draughty.

Social events are very much part of any ringing community. In January a curry night was organised when about 15 ringers enjoyed a selection of different home -made curries. A mini outing into Derbyshire was organised in April to Belper, Duffield and Little Eaton, where there is a mini ring in a garage, whose heaviest bell at 1cwt is 35 times lighter than the tenor bell at Rotherham.

This year Rotherham hosted the AGM of the Yorkshire Association where following a service, pie and peas were enjoyed before the meeting and evening ringing. We also entered two teams into the Sheffield Branch striking competition and retained one of the trophies we won last year.

During the year, 15 peals and 20 quarter peals have been rung on the ever popular, quality bells of Rotherham. We have continued to welcome everyone who wants to come and enjoy our bells. May they continue to ring out to proclaim to the people of Rotherham the presence of an active worshiping church.

Malcolm S Turner (Ringing Master & Tower Captain)

Rotherham Minster Connections

- **Personnel.** Christine Batchford leads the project assisted by the project worker. Allie Towns had that post and was instrumental in the growth and development of the project, but returned to Australia in June. Rosie Rawden took on the role, however had pregnancy related sickness the first few months, so took some time to learn the role. We were also able to employ Becky Middleton as an admin assistant for 4 hours a week from April, which was invaluable.
- **Volunteers.** About 40 volunteers have been involved during the year. Some are new to volunteering, particularly those who have come in through the social supermarket. They gain confidence and skills within this supportive environment. The strength of the relationships amongst the team, sense of belonging and feeling valued all help us gain and retain this amazing workforce.

- **Oversight and Vision.** A number of volunteers offered to meet every couple of months to help with planning, oversight and direction for Rotherham Minster Connections. This empowers the volunteers in taking on leadership and ownership rather than it all being led by paid staff.
- **Partner Organisations** offer additional support with advice, savings, money skills, employment and more. These include Citizens Advice, Laser Credit Union, Rotherfed, Health Watch, Good Work, Families First and the Hygiene bank.

Groups and Activities:

- **Social Supermarket** continues to run each Wednesday and Thursday. 180 households have been supported over the year with a weekly shop, social activities and support.
- **Catch up Cafe** continues to run on Tuesdays, overseen by Sue Armstrong supported by a regular group of volunteers. The number attending means we struggle to fit into the cafe area and have to spill out onto pews. Work experience has been offered to students from Rotherham College (Digital inclusion and performing arts) and links with the college and ROAR continue to be developed. The Samaritans attend monthly.
- **Tuesday Singers** is run by Ian Wilcock and follows Catch up Cafe. It is thriving and appreciated by the members for its positive effect on physical and mental health as well as the social aspect. They have held occasional performances which culminated in singing at the launch of 'The museum of the moon'.
- **Little Minstrels** toddler group started on a Monday then moved to run on Thursday alongside the social supermarket, overseen by Rev Ali. Getting reliable volunteers was initially challenging, however improved as the year progressed. Typically 3 or 4 families attend each week and enjoy a story, song and snack.
- **A Men's Coffee Morning** launched in January in response to requests from some of the men attending Social Supermarket. It meets on Wednesdays at 10am in the cafe area and welcomes men attending the social supermarket and others. Numbers have fluctuated throughout the year, peaking at 14, but is kept going by several committed volunteers and members.
- **A Craft Table** operates alongside the social supermarket, overseen by Rev Louise and a volunteer. This provides a welcoming and supportive environment for social supermarket members, graduates and others. Rev Louise is a promoter of wellbeing spaces and this group has definitely found its home as one! More and more volunteers, members and graduates have shown interest in joining the craft table so they are facing the need to expand beyond the available space.
- **Allotment:** Some of our volunteers continue to grow produce at the Clifton Learning Partnership allotment and have built new raised beds, play equipment and more.

- **Pilates** is mainly attended by staff team members and helps keep us healthy!
- **Funding:** We received a grant from the national lottery ‘Reaching Communities’ fund which ran from 1st October 2023. It is for £52,472.00 over 2 years and will pay the project worker salary, volunteer expenses and some overheads. This is really good news!

We also received £5,000 from Rotherham Borough Council for Christmas hampers, enabling us to provide high quality hampers to 50 households.

Some smaller grants from Boston Castle ward pot have also been received and we get occasional and regular donations from individuals and groups.

- **Spirituality** is a core tenant for Rotherham Minster Connections with our sessions starting and ending with prayer. Regular prayer times now punctuate the day in the Jesus Chapel which all are welcome to attend, and has gained a steady attendance. A simple liturgy makes these prayers easy to lead and we are introducing volunteers to help take on these. We are convinced that God must be central to all we do for our mission to bear lasting fruit.
- **The Thursday bible study** continues to be full of laughter, tears and the presence of God. Led by Rev Ali and Rev Louise.

Saturday Gathering led by Rev Ali, is mostly attended by Rotherham Minster Connections folk and many of their children. They now meet twice a month for a service and a lunch. This community hosted a Christmas buffet at St Paul’s in early December to great success.

Social Committee

2023 proved to be a very busy one more on the provision of hospitality for outside events such as concerts than social events. We continue to provide alcoholic and soft drinks in addition to our normal refreshments at these events. It is proving to be a real moneymaker raising much needed funds towards the running of the building on a day to day basis.

We organised three main events, the first being a Fish n’ Chip evening themed round St George’s Day as it was held around that time. It was very well attended and a really good evening. The Harvest Supper was held in St Cuthbert’s Church Hall (Herringthorpe) and had a Spanish theme – a three course meal the main course being Paella cooked at the premises. This was a lot of fun and some people dressed to suit the theme. We managed to fill the premises and was definitely a great success. The final event was a bring n’ share lunch to celebrate our Patronal Festival at the beginning of November and this was the first time since lockdown.

Anne Hicks

Music and Worship Report

Music development activities continued throughout 2023 and focused on two key areas: **Music in Worship** and **Music Outreach**. Both aspects have at their heart an intention to support the aims that Rotherham Minster has outlined in its mission statement: as a church, we are ‘responding to God’s love’ by offering praise and thanksgiving through the music in our acts of worship, we are ‘learning to become more like Jesus’ in the ways we relate to each other and to the wider community of Rotherham during our music activities, and, through our music outreach & links with the people and groups in the local community, we are ‘working with others to see Rotherham flourish’.

Music in Worship

Hymns and songs play a major part in many of our acts of worship and members of the clergy and the Senior Musical Director work collaboratively to select a variety of congregational music, based on the type of service and its content. During 2023 congregational music covered a range of styles and included texts and tunes in different styles and from different periods of time. The Minster choir, which comprises two sections, the adult choir and the Minster choristers, continue the long-established tradition of Anglican Choral worship at the Minster, dating back to the six boy choristers of the College of Jesus who sang in the Minster in the late 15th century.

Minster Adult Choir

The adult singers of the Minster choir rehearsed weekly throughout 2023 to prepare for regular and special services.

On the first Sunday of each month (January and August excepted) the choir sang a service of Choral Evensong. Each service included an introit, a psalm sung to Anglican chant, sung preces and responses, a choral setting of the Evening canticles and an anthem. Evensongs continued to include a homily, often by a visiting preacher, and were followed by refreshments and a discussion group.

At the 10:30 Sunday services, the choir sang an anthem or communion hymn each Sunday. In addition, the choir were involved in a number of special services over the year. These included the South Yorkshire Legal Service in March, a special evensong to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and the Civic Mayor’s service in May, and in December, the Advent Carol Service and two Carols by Candlelight services.

Over the year, in addition to performing choral pieces currently in its repertoire, the choir added a number of pieces to the repertoire which were either new to the Minster or had not been sung for some time, including some Anglican choral standards in the repertoires of most cathedral and minster choirs. These included: If ye love me - Thomas Tallis (1505-1585); This is the day which the Lord has made - Osbert Parsley (1511 - 1585); Ave verum corpus - William Byrd (1540-1623); O sing joyfully - Adrian Batten (1591-1637); Wash me thoroughly - S S Wesley (1810-1876); Panis Angelicus - César Franck (1822-1890); a setting of the Evening canticles by Herbert Brewer (1865 - 1928); O thou the central orb - Charles Wood (1866 - 1926). In addition, a number of pieces by contemporary composers were added to the repertoire, which included an arrangement of Brother James air arranged by Mack

Willberg (b.1955); The Lord is my Shepherd - Howard Goodall (b.1958); Blest are the pure in heart - Antony Baldwin (b. 1957); Christ has no body now but yours - David Ogden (B.1966).

During 2023, 4 new singers joined the Minster choir the Minster Choir, and one chorister began to sing regularly with the adult choir. We also have a number of additional singers, all experienced musicians, who sing on an occasional basis.

Links with St Paul's

Taize style worship took place on the fourth Sunday of each month in St Paul's church. The music group which led the worship included a number of singers from the Minster Choir. The choirs of St Paul's and the Minster joined at St Paul's for the Ash Wednesday service in February. The Minster also joined with St Paul's choir for the licensing service of Rev Louise and Rev Justine at St Paul's in May. Some members of St Paul's choir sang with the Minster choir at the Carols by Candlelight services in December. St Paul's team of servers also joined the Minster team for some special services.

Minster Choristers

The Minster choristers continued to rehearse weekly throughout 2023, and joined the adult choir for the first Sunday of each month. Choristers included children also associated with Saturday Gathering, Rotherham Minster Connections activities and choral outreach in schools. Rehearsals included vocal warm ups, learning new pieces, practising previously sung pieces and whilst rehearsing, focused on key skills which the children will need as they develop as church musicians, including how to sing from a vocal score, note names and values, musical terms and other skills. They had opportunities to work on RSCM Voice for Life activities, supported by music team members and volunteers.

The choristers also had the opportunity to sing at some special services, including the South Yorkshire Legal Service in March, the Mayor's service in May and the two Carols by Candlelight services. These provided memorable experiences and opportunity for the choristers to make a real contribution to the work of the Minster in connecting with the local and wider community. In November, the choristers were invited to sing at the Bishop's Badge presentation service in the Minster, and performed 'Morning has Broken' to a congregation of children and families from all over the diocese.

The post-rehearsal faith group continued in 2023 with most choristers attending the sessions. These have been led by Revd Phil, Elliott Walker and then by Rev Justine since September 2023, and have covered a number of different aspects of the Christian faith.

Feedback from choristers and their parents taken in 2023 indicates the value which choristership brings to the children involved:

(Being a chorister has) helped my child with her anxiety and confidence, also helped to make new friends. Just brought her along a lot with her reading and writing and learning about music, tempos" (Parent)

"It's a great opportunity for my child to learn more about music and being part of a group to sing together" (Parent)

"She is learning the technical side of singing and warming up. She is learning how to be part of a team. Her confidence is growing. She is developing an amazing singing voice."

(Parent)“She has become much more confident, both in her singing, music theory and in her social interactions. She has benefited from taking part in events she otherwise wouldn’t have access to. She has also become a better public speaker thanks to the skills learned here”

(Parent)

“Choristers has helped my daughter’s confidence. She has always been very shy, but now she is reading out in church and making new friends easily.”(Parent)

“(Being a chorister) has made me more familiar with God and it has also made my singing better” (chorister)

(Being a chorister has) made me more confident, made me sing better, pronounce my words better, made me listen better.“ (Chorister)

Music Outreach

Choral Outreach

The Choral Outreach programme reached into seven Rotherham Schools in 2023. Music team members worked in schools to deliver singing sessions as part of the schools music curriculum, and in some cases, after-school choirs. A concert took place each term so that the children had the opportunity to perform their songs in the Minster. During the Spring and Summer terms, individual schools worked on a range of different songs, and in the Autumn Term, in a change of approach, the work in schools focused on songs with a particular theme: Space. The autumn term concert took place whilst the Moon installation was in the Minster and included more opportunities for children from different schools to sing together than previously. Choristers read linking passages as well as performing with the schools and on their own. Feedback from schools was good for work in all terms, and schools felt the children really benefited from their experiences.

In August, Elliott Walker, our Centenary Project Worker music specialist, whose principal role had been to work on music activities in schools, left the team to embark on a career in primary teaching. Although, because of this, it was not possible to undertake as much work in school as in the previous two terms, approximately 120 children still had the opportunity to benefit from choral outreach. In December, it was decided to use the services of a freelance music worker from the Spring term to carry out some work in schools as part of the music team on a temporary basis until a longer-term substantive appointment of someone to be part of the music team with a focus on schools’ work could be made. Thanks to Elliott for his significant contribution to musical life and outreach in our mission area.

In March, children from the schools we had been working in were invited to sing with the choristers as part of a choir to sing a song at the Mothering Sunday service, which gave us the opportunity to welcome families who had not been to the Minster before.

Tuesday Singers

The Tuesday singers, an informal choir of singers from a range of different backgrounds, met each Tuesday after Catch up cafe to sing a variety of songs. Themes for selections of songs over the year included Sea Shanties, Songs of Summer and Moon related songs in the Autumn term. The singers performed a short informal concert towards the end of each term, and contributed to the launch event for the Museum of the Moon exhibition in the Minster in November, supplemented by members of the Minster choir.

The focus of this choir is to support the well-being of those who come together to sing, and really positive relationships have developed between members over time. Many members report how coming to choir helps them by giving them an opportunity to sing together with a group of welcoming and friendly people.

Rotherham Music Hub

Rotherham Minster is a partner in the Rotherham Music Education Hub, with representation on the hub's board of governors. Through its work in schools and the opportunity for children to develop their skills through its choristership programme, the Minster music team supports the hub in its aim of providing a rich and varied music education offer to children in Rotherham. The Minster has also provided a venue for a number of Music Hub and Children's Capital of Culture events, including a joint Spring Term concert for young instrumentalists associated with Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley music services, a Summer Term concert for Rotherham Music Service instrumental groups and a number of Christmas concerts for school singing groups and instrumental groups. In addition, in February, the Minster hosted the Light Organ installation as part of the Music Hub Signals Festival, and a number of activities were delivered by a variety of professional musicians and music educators and involved a wide range of children, young people and adults from the local community.

Thank you to all those who support the music work at the Minster, especially those who sing in the choir, act as chorister volunteers, steward at events and provide refreshments after services and at events.

Ian Wilcock (Senior Musical Director)

Safeguarding Report 2023

Over the last 12 months we have processed 8DBS applications. We continue to encourage people to attend refresher training courses every 3years.

A course has been arranged face to face for those who cannot do online for 27.4.24 at the All Saints Centre.

Last year I attended a Parish Safeguarding Officer celebration day at New York stadium. It was a very interesting day with guest speakers from Rebecca Pool (DBS Regional outreach advisor for Yorkshire and Humber).

A question and answer session with the Safeguarding Management Group.

It was also nice to meet fellow safeguarding officers from the diocese.

Jayne Rogan (Parish Safeguarding Officer and Safe-Church rep.)

Financial Review of the year ending 31st December 2023

The Income and Expenditure for the year 2023 highlights are detailed below.

Unrestricted Income

Regular giving amounted to £49,828 (2022 £49,436) which is stable in today's economic climate.

The total unrestricted income for the year was £220,254 (2022 £756,194, or £138,600 excluding one off legacy receipt), i.e. up 58% on 2022 excluding legacy.

Unrestricted Expenditure

The total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £272,700 (2022 £162,360). The increase was due to rising utility and maintenance costs plus repairs to both properties owned by the PCC to comply with legislation.

Contribution of £44,500 (£40,000 in 2022) to the Diocesan Common Fund, which completed our pledge for 2023.

Restricted and Endowment Funds

Social Supermarket is a restricted fund. The income in 2023 was £66,532, expenses £28,745. The social supermarket were awarded grants during 2023 including from the National Lottery Community Fund of £52,472.

West Window Restoration Project

A Retention fee of £9,244 was the final payment in June 2023.

Minster Re-Ordering Project – PCC have allocated funds to take this project through RIBA Stage 3 design Phase.

Gains/Losses on Investments

Unrealised gain on the value of Investments during the year amounted to £76,978 (loss of £41,928 in 2022).

Balances at 31 December 2023.

The unrestricted funds were £902,412. Restricted funds were £88,561. The endowment funds were £251,502. The total of funds at 31 December 2023 were £1,242,475 (2022 £1,205,501).

Independently Examined Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

The independent examined accounts are provided in the Annual Financial Report.

Treasurer

Anne Asher

Independent Examiner

Les Tsang, LT Professional Services

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Rotherham Minster the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our vicar), 1 Associate Vicar plus 2 more from 17th May 2023 to present, a Curate, 3 Churchwardens (1 resigned 1st November and 1 resigned 13th November 2023), the Treasurer, the Fabric Officer, the Deanery Synod Representatives and members elected by those members of the Congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the Church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The PCC meets monthly and the Standing Committee only when required. There are also sub-groups for Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety.

The full PCC met 11 times during the year. There was 1 Standing Committee meeting and 1 PCC E-mail vote.

The Chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge has a Friends Group which helps to raise funds and opens the Chapel to the public.

Administrative information

Rotherham Minster is situated in the centre of Rotherham Borough at Church Street, Rotherham, S60 1PD. The Chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge is situated on the Chantry Bridge, Bridge Street, Rotherham, S60 1RB. Together they are part of the Diocese of Sheffield in the Church of England.

The administrative office for both buildings is housed in the All Saints Centre at Vicarage Lane, Rotherham, S65 1AA this being the address for correspondence.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Registered Charity 1129752

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Vicar	Revd Canon Phil Batchford
Associate Vicar	Rev Ali Middleton
Associate Vicar	Rev Louise Castle (From 17th May 2023)
Associate Vicar	Rev Justine Smith (From 17th May 2023)
Curate	Rev Sue Armstrong
Church Wardens	Luke Hanson
	Richard Crow (To 13th Nov 2023)
	Sybil Roach-Tennant (To 1st Nov 2023)
Deanery Synod Representative	Anne Asher
Elected Members	Mark Middleton
	Doreen Clifford
	Anne Hicks
	Shirley Jones
	Edward Roddis
	Debbie Stephenson
	Malcolm Turner
	David Castle(From 17th Oct 2023)
	Pat Naylor (From 20th June 2023)
	Sam Newton (1st Jan to 23rd May 2023)
Secretary	Marjorie Russell
Treasurer	Anne Asher

Approved by the PCC on _____ and signed on their behalf by

Rev Canon Phil Batchford (PCC chairman)