

Parish of Whitehaven

St James and St Nicholas

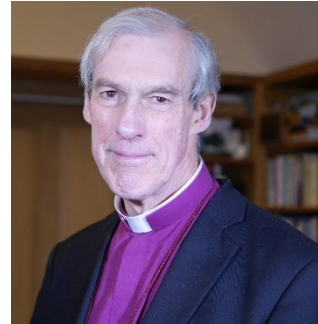


Parish Profile

Prepared By: Parish of Whitehaven PCC

April 2023

The Bishop of Carlisle
The Right Reverend James Newcome
Bishop's House, Ambleside Road,
Keswick CA12 4DD



Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in this Parish Profile. Should you feel called to apply for the post, you will potentially be signing up to an ecumenical 'God for All' vision and strategy which encourages us all to 'Follow Daily; Care Deeply; Speak Boldly and Tread Gently'. You will also be expressing a commitment, like all our clergy, to developing gifts and enabling ministries of every kind.

In this diocese we are looking for strategic leaders who have a passion for Mission and who are able to work well with colleagues across our partner denominations. In order to facilitate growth and enable close community engagement we hope for applicants who have a deep and resilient faith; a heart for pastoral care; and a vision for building up the people of God in whole-life discipleship.

Carlisle Diocese has seen a number of exciting developments in recent years, including the development of ecumenical 'Mission Communities' and a strong emphasis on lay ministry and the distinctive diaconate. Geographically, the diocese is huge. But it is also very beautiful, and has managed to maintain a strong sense of 'family' despite large distances. We are deeply committed to the 'well-being' of our clergy, and are passionate about spreading the Gospel and building God's Kingdom.

If you share that passion, we would love to welcome you here, and very much look forward to receiving your application.

With every blessing in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Newcome
Bishop of Carlisle

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Summary/Introduction

- We are a busy parish located in the centre of an historic coastal town close to the stunning Lake District National Park.
- The historical churches of St. James and St. Nicholas hold a significant place in the hearts of the people of Whitehaven and this is further strengthened by our presence in the heart of the town.
- We have active lay teams who are involved in all aspects of parish life and worship including pastoral care, missional outreach and community activities.
- We are an inclusive church, and everyone is welcome to worship with us.
- We are actively involved with our local Church of England primary schools.
- We are a caring church, aware of issues locally, nationally and worldwide which are detrimental to people lives. We try to help those in need through prayer and giving.
- We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint.

We are looking for a leader who will welcome everyone into the church, will stimulate us to think about our faith and encourage others to join in.

We will support the Incumbent in their ministry through prayer, a supportive and experienced PCC and enthusiastic and talented lay teams.

Town of Whitehaven and the surrounding area

Whitehaven is a coastal town with harbour on the West Cumbrian coast. The town is situated across the sea from the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and the coast of southern Scotland and is on the edge of the Lake District. Keswick is within 40 minutes' drive and other parts of the Lake District are within easy reach. Ennerdale Lake and the western fells are less than half an hour's drive away.



The layout of the streets in the town are of a Georgian plan. The town and harbour have an extensive history, including George Washington's relatives living in the town, and the port at one time being one of the busiest in England. As result of this long heritage, the town has several historic buildings, some of which are listed, and *The Beacon* and *The Rum Story* which are tourist attractions.

The town and surrounding area developed around mining, shipbuilding and other heavy industry. These industries no longer exist and the main industry and source of employment for the area is the Sellafield Nuclear plant which is about ten miles south of the town. This site provides opportunities for highly skilled technical, scientific and business management employment. Many other businesses that supply, support and

are dependent on the nuclear industry exist in West Cumbria and separate to this there are businesses operating in the light industry/manufacturing sector. The West Cumberland Hospital is another significant employer in the area.

The town has rail links along the Cumbrian coast from Carlisle in the north to Barrow in the south, where mainline connections are available. There are bus services throughout the county.

Like many towns in the UK, Whitehaven has suffered as result of the decline of the high street, the pandemic, and current economic climate. However, the town has two main supermarkets and a number of national retail outlets plus independent shops along with a number of licensed premises and cafes.

St. Nicholas' Church and its gardens are in the centre of the town. Castle Park provides a green space and contains the town war memorial and a play park.

Amenities and services in town

- Health - West Cumbria Hospital and a number of GP surgeries and pharmacies in town.
- Education – two secondary schools and several primary schools, some of which are faith based. A University Technical College, a local college and an apprentice training centre are located at Lillyhall 5 miles north of town. Cumbria University is based at Carlisle and the University of Central Lancaster has a campus on a science park to the south of the town. St. Bees independent school is 4 miles away.
- Sport and leisure - there is a sports centre, swimming pool, sports stadium and golf course plus full range of sports teams covering most team sports. Soft play facilities
- Performing arts -Rosehill theatre, Whitehaven Civic Hall drama and several choirs, dance groups and theatre groups.
- Groups for young people include Scouts, Guides and cadet forces for all 3armed forces
- Charities and organisations – national charities/organisations such as Age UK, Royal British Legion, St John's Ambulance, Food Bank, Citizens Advice and local charities focusing on mental health/wellbeing, young people and drug addiction.

The Parish

Overview

The Parish of Whitehaven encompasses two churches, **St James** and **St Nicholas** and has a **Community Centre**.

St. James' Church is the principal focus for services with regular Sunday worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals held there.

One of our most important links with the community is through St. Nicholas' Centre which is situated right in the heart of the town centre.

The Parish of Whitehaven covers the town centre and surrounding residential estates. There are a number of residential care homes within the parish and three primary schools.

We are part of the Whitehaven Mission Community.

We look to be a community where all are welcome and accepted, we are proud of our place at the centre of the community and civic life of Whitehaven.

The Parish of Whitehaven is **traditional Anglican** and those involved in leading worship wear the appropriate liturgical vestments. We have a strong focus on the eucharist.

We welcome people of all traditions, and we are **all inclusive**.

The Parish of Whitehaven has an enthusiastic, active, and prayerful ministry team comprising of a Reader and an Ordinand to support and assist the Incumbent.

Through the Church Mission Society we support a husband-and-wife missionary team in North Africa.

Our buildings are in a good state of repair.

Further information can be found on our website www.whitehavenparish.org.uk

Governance

PCC

The Parish has an active PCC of 11 members including 2 churchwardens, the reader and the ordinand. The PCC appoints a secretary, treasurer, safeguarding officer, electoral roll officer and vergers. All posts are filled.

The PCC has a number of sub-committees.

- Finance team - oversees the finances, prepares budgets, scrutinises the expenditure and income making recommendations to the PCC for decisions.
- Building team – oversees all maintenance of the parish buildings and makes recommendations to the PCC for decisions.
- St. Nicholas' Centre and St. James' Community Centre – both have teams that oversee their running.

Administrative

The parish employs a parish administrator based in the parish office in St. Nicholas' Centre working two days per week who manages church rotas, bookings for weddings

and baptisms, creates the pew notice sheets and is editor of the parish magazine along with providing other administrative support to the clergy and PCC.

The parish employs a part time cleaner and has a paid organist.

A team of volunteers run St. Nicholas' Café.

The parish has an archivist responsible for storage of parish records and documents which are stored securely in the church.

Policies

We are welcoming of all regardless of sexual/gender orientation, marital status, or social background.

- Baptism - The parish has an open-door baptism policy.
- Marriage – St. James' welcomes couples who would like to be married in Church. The parish has a tradition of marrying divorcees.
- Women's Ministry – The parish is fully supportive of women's ministry within all aspects of church life and is also supportive of women bishops.
- The Parish will be supportive of prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and for God's blessing for same-sex couples.

Key People

Ordinand – Dave Flitcroft

Reader – Anna Jones

Verger – Dorothy Graham

Church Warden - Richard Last

Church Warden - Paul Cox

Treasurer - Jane Nicolson

PCC Secretary - Carrie Stewart

Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer - Donna Flitcroft

Volunteers and Teams

We have enthusiastic and willing volunteers/members of the congregation who get involved in all aspects of Parish life.

- Social and fundraising team

The team is responsible for organising social/fellowship events. Examples of this are fish and chip suppers, bingo and quizzes held in the Community Centre.

The team also organise fundraising events in St. Nicholas' Centre such as summer and Christmas fetes.





Last December the team helped in the organisation of a “Big Christmas Sing” which was held in the Church. A local rock choir plus St James Junior School choir participated.

The event was a great success. The church was full and over £1600 was raised for the local foodbank and garden of remembrance fund.

- Gardening team- maintain the memorial garden at the rear of St James’ by cutting grass and weeding.
- A number of volunteers from the congregation help with the setting up for services, acting as side persons, reading lessons/intercessions and preparing tea/coffee after Sunday morning service.

Groups

Mothers’ Union

The parish has a Mothers’ Union branch with 30 members which meets every second Tuesday of the month in the Chapel at St. Nicholas’ Centre. It supports the aims of the Mothers’ Union through prayer and fellowship. They also raise funds in order to help families both in this country and overseas through, among other things “Away from it all”, “Summer of Hope Appeals” and the annual “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign”.

Bell ringers

The parish has a group of bellringers who practice on Friday evenings and ring for Sunday morning services, and for weddings and special occasions as requested. The group is currently quite small but works well with ringers from other churches in the area.

Worship

We hold a sung eucharist service at 10am on Sundays at St. James’ church and a said eucharist service with hymns at 9.30am on Thursdays in St. Nicholas’ Chapel. We use Holy Communion Order 1 and usually follow the Common Worship Lectionary. Morning prayer led by our Reader or Ordinand are offered when ordained clergy are unavailable.

There is a Sunday service of evening prayer with hymns held in the Memorial Chapel at St. James’ at 4pm once a month. This is presently lay led by our Ordinand.

The parish has a paid organist who provides the music for Sunday morning and evening services. The organist is also responsible for rehearsals of our robed choir who sing during Sunday morning services and at major festivals. We use Anglican Hymns Old & New.

Attendance

	Average Attendance (2022)
Sunday Services	50
Midweek Services	18
Joint Schools Services (Easter, harvest, Christmas)	260 Children 180 Adults
Christmas Eucharist	70
Christingle/Crib Service	205

	Occasional Services (2022)
Weddings	7
Funerals	30
Baptisms	36

Worshipping Community			130
Under 18	18-69		70+
5	40		85
Electoral Roll			162

St. James' Church

The parish church of St. James is situated in an elevated aspect overlooking the town of Whitehaven and its picturesque harbour. The church building was constructed in 1752 in the Georgian style and is open daily for private prayer between 9am and 4pm.



It is Grade 1 listed.

The church interior has been described as the finest Georgian church interior in the county, housing the beautiful painting “*The Transfiguration*” by Guillo Proccacini above the altar. The church has a ring of 12 bells, an organ which lends itself well to the acoustics of the building and an electric piano.



On the right there is a memorial chapel used for private prayer. On the left there is a baptistry, although baptisms are presently carried out in the main body of the church.

At the back of the church there is a choir vestry, and a sacristy and clergy vestry. There is a public WC in the sacristy and a private WC in the clergy vestry.

There is a disabled access ramp from street level to a disabled access door to the right-hand side of the church.

A memorial garden is situated at the east end of the churchyard. The memorial garden consists of several lawns for interment of ashes, two plaques with names on and an area of flower beds and bushes where memorial flowers can be left. At the time of preparing this profile, groundwork is going to be carried out to improve this area.

St. Nicholas' Centre



St. Nicholas' Centre is literally the church right at the heart of the community and is situated on the busy main high street of Whitehaven. It is the perfect location to explore missional activities within the town centre and reach out to people who perhaps may not otherwise enter church. The main part of the original church building was burnt down in 1971 leaving only the tower area of the building standing. The remaining tower has

been transformed into an inviting space containing a coffee shop, a chapel, and the parish office where the Parish Administrator is based.

St. Nicholas' Gardens. The church stands at the centre of St. Nicholas' gardens which hold a significant place in the hearts of the town and are also of historical interest as the burial place of George Washington's paternal grandmother, Mildred Gale. The gardens are also used to host civic events and traders' markets which help boost the profile of the church.



St. Nicholas' Coffee Shop. The building contains a coffee shop which is run by a team of volunteers and provides a steady, modest income to the parish. It is currently open 3 days a week plus occasional Saturdays.

St. Nicholas' Chapel. The chapel is used for services on Thursday mornings and is open for private prayer during times when the Centre is open. The Centre often finds that people call in to the chapel for prayer or seeking a moment of peace in a time of anxiety or distress.

St James Parish Hall and Community Centre



Situated opposite to St. James' Church on High Street, and next door to St. James' Infant and Nursery School, the Community Centre offers modern, clean facilities for Church social activities and after-service fellowship on Sunday mornings as well as being available for hire to the wider community. During the current situation of rising heating costs, the hall is being used for Sunday worship between Christmas and Easter to reduce the costs of heating St James' Church.

The Community Centre comprises a large hall and smaller room as well as modern kitchen facilities and full disabled access and is managed by a small team of

volunteers who handle room bookings and the day to day running of the centre which provides a modest income to the parish. Current community users include dance classes, mother and toddler groups, exercise classes, martial arts clubs, and St. John's Ambulance.

The Rectory

The property is situated in a pleasant residential area a short 5 minutes' drive or 15-20 minutes' walk from St. James' Church.



The Rectory has a forecourt offering off-road parking easily sufficient to accommodate two or three cars with a gate that can be closed to prevent access to the road as required. There is also a double garage to the front of the property.

The Rectory comprises a spacious, modern construction giving ample room for family and work activities. It has gas central heating and double glazing throughout. Upon entry into the large hall there is a study to the left of the front door and a cosy living/dining room with a log burning stove to the right of the front door. There is a downstairs cloakroom & WC that can be accessed from the hall. Continuing through the hall a large kitchen leads through into a spacious family room that is accessed by double doors. The family room has a large fireplace and has French windows leading out to the rear garden. Upstairs the property has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 toilets.

The rear garden and front forecourt are sheltered by conifers which offer privacy.

Mission Community

We have a full complement of denominations in our Mission Community and the leaders are committed to working together. Recently all our churches joined together to pack and send Christmas parcels to a hotel in the town which houses refugees and we have had several joint services.

Moving forward the Reverend Mandy Jones (Mission Community Leader) would like to raise the profile of the Mission Community across our churches and for us to work together on missional activities across the town where we can share resources and gifts to help us connect with people who do not belong to the church and demonstrate God's love for them.

Links to Schools

There are two Church of England schools connected to St James' Church; St James' Infant and Nursery School is located opposite the church and St James' Junior School is located behind the church with a gate between the church and school providing safe access for the Juniors to attend church.

Bransty School is also located within the parish and the Incumbent has maintained contact with the school, including visits for Collective Worship.

The Incumbent's post includes an ex-officio role of Foundation Governor for both the Infant and Junior Schools; this role is currently covered by the Reader at the Infant School.

St James' School ministry is shared between the Incumbent, who leads Collective worship for the Juniors, both in school and in Church, and the Reader who does the same for the Infants.

Shared events are regularly orchestrated by the Incumbent. Reader and helpers from the church family and both Infants and Juniors are invited, involving around 300 children. Most recently, there have been Prayer Stations based on the Christian values taught in the schools, a workshop to make mini-Easter Gardens and listen to the Easter story and Experience Christmas.



The new Head at the Infant School is very keen on continued integration between Church and school. There are 4 volunteers who make weekly visits to school to read through short sections of the Bible to Years 1 and 2. This has been well received.

The Reader provides pastoral support to both the staff and children. Recently, our outreach through the schools has included provision of emergency bags of food for families in Junior and Infants Schools.

Messy Church



Messy Church was successfully run in the Community Centre for nearly 4 years but was suspended due to the pandemic. It has since restarted and is now run as an after-school club in the Infant School and there is a regular attendance of 20 children.

The sessions run for 6 weeks, 3 times in the year and this format is now into its second year.

Parish Finance

The Parish has a good level of reserves but for a number of years has been running at a deficit on its current accounts which it is subsidising from its reserves. The PCC is committed to reducing the size of the deficit but the impact of the pandemic and the current economic climate especially the rise in utility costs has impacted this especially for 2023. An example of the commitment to this policy by the PCC, in order to reduce energy costs we have suspended some services and moved our Sunday morning services from the church to the Community Centre from 1st January to Easter.

Having reduced our Parish Offer in 2021, the PCC is committed to increasing this over a 3-5 year period so we meet at least 90% of the cost of stipendiary clergy.

Unrestricted/designated accounts

	2023 budget £	2022 £	2021 £	2020 £	2019 £
Voluntary Receipts	58,300	63,700	62,200	60,400	67,300
Other Income	48,000	43,200	30,600	47,300	55,800
Total Receipts	106,300	106,900	92,800	107,700	123,100
Parish Offer	55,000	50,000	46,800	59,300	57,900
Other expenditure	77,800	59,800	50,800	69,000	82,400
Total ordinary costs	132,800	109,800	97,600	128,300	140,300
Operational Deficit	(26,500)	(2,900)	(4,800)	(20,600)	(17,200)
Repairs/improvements	5,000	3,500	13,800	9,600	5,000
Total Deficit	(31,500)	(6,400)	(18,600)	(30,200)	(22,200)

Closing Reserves at 31st December 2022

	£
Unrestricted/designated	195,000
Restricted	134,000

A summary of the financial accounts is found in appendix A. A full copy of the accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website.

The Parish holds an annual gift day as part of our patronal celebrations. In 2021 the gift day raised £20,000 in aid of our east end repairs project. We have an annual stewardship review.

The Parish supports a number of National Charities including The Children's Society and Christian Aid. Our harvest appeals support the bishop's appeal. The congregation also respond to major national disaster appeals.

Mission and Vision

The PCC seeks in all it does to fulfil the mission and vision statements of the Parish.

Mission Statement: By God's grace, to grow God's Kingdom in Whitehaven

Vision Statement: To grow disciples of all ages

Our current mission action plan priorities are;

Outreach to schools/young people
Pastoral Care
Outreach through St Nicholas Centre Finances
Eco Church/Net Zero Carbon by 2030

Actions for 2023

- start a parish pantry.
- restart home communions which were suspended during the pandemic.
- continue with a programme of changing all our lights to LED.

Future actions

- introduce a healing service alternating with evening prayer.
- explore Network Youth activities.
- explore alternative green technologies as replacement for our gas boilers.

The Parish embraces the Dioceses God for All refreshed vision.



Follow Daily **Care Deeply**
Speak Boldly **Tread Gently**

Appendix 1 Financial Statements

Parochial Church Council - Parish of Whitehaven (Charity Number 1130849)

Statement of Financial Activities

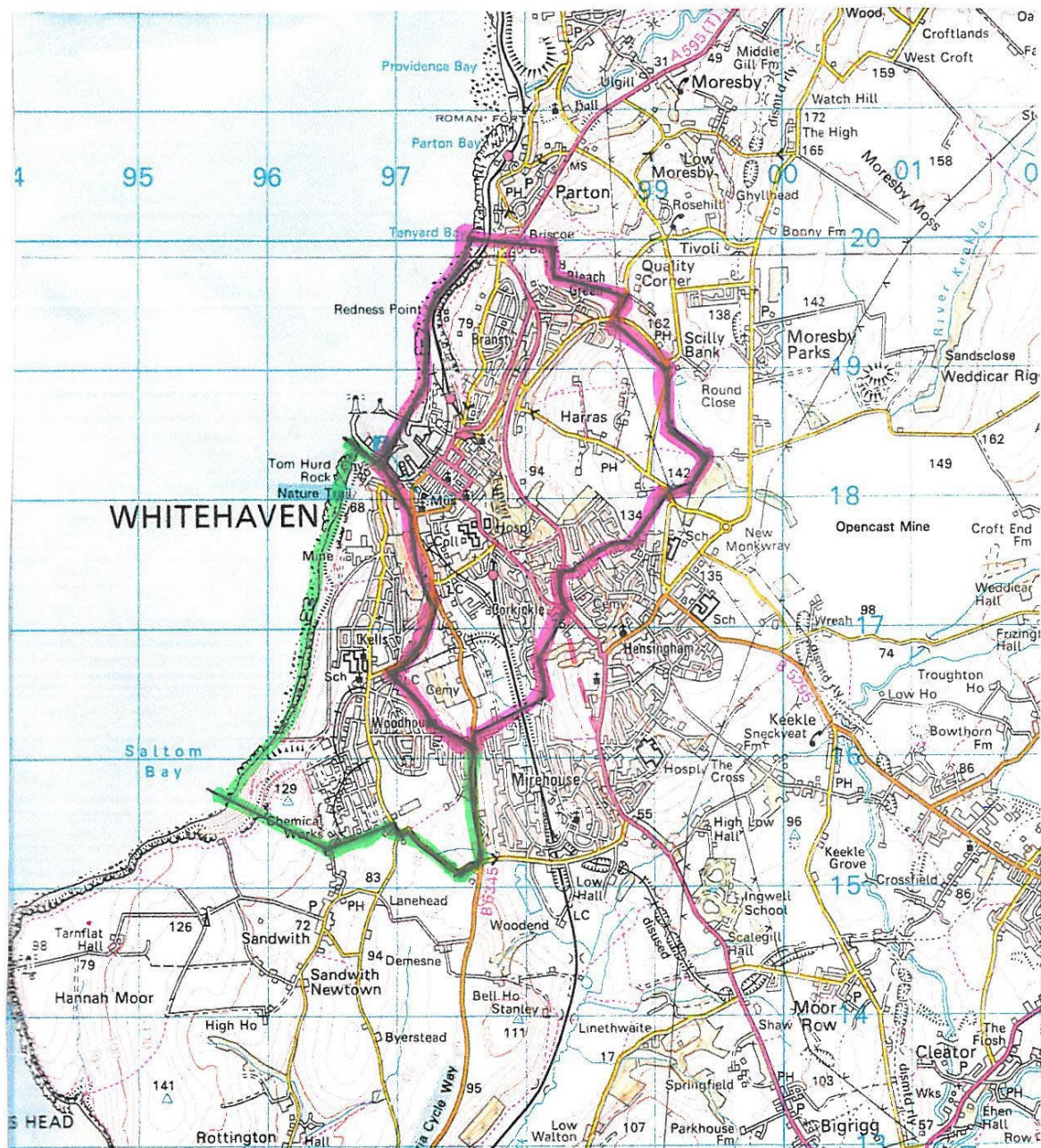
For the year ending 31 December 2022



	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Receipts	2a.	62,487	1,223	787	64,497	63,838
Legacies	2b.	110,162	-	-	110,162	-
Grants	2c.	-	-	20,161	20,161	10,690
Investments/Dividends	2d.	3,035	19	47	3,101	2,594
Church Activities	2e.	6,707	29,388	-	36,095	15,795
Fund Raising		2,024	1,196	1,503	4,723	23,420
Other Income		-	-	-	-	51,569
Charitable Giving	2f.	834			834	345
			-	-		
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		185,249	31,826	22,498	239,573	168,251
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Utilities		5,528	11,780	-	17,308	9,268
Payments to Diocese	3a.	50,000	-	-	50,000	46,800
Salaries	3b.	8,396	2,799	-	11,195	13,272
Expenses to Clergy		809	-	-	809	718
Church Activities	3c.	-	4,743	-	4,743	2,742
Church Running Costs	3d.	17,617	7,296	107	25,020	24,941
Major Repairs	3e.	-	3,500	57,812	61,312	20,206
Charitable Giving		836	-	-	836	345
Other		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		83,186	30,118	57,919	171,223	162,428
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS, LOSSES AND TRANSFERS		102,063	1,708	(35,421)	68,350	5,823
Transfers	4.	(28,242)	4,000	24,242	-	-
Gains on Investments on revaluation		-	-	(11,944)	(11,944)	7,946
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		73,821	5,708	(23,123)	56,406	13,769
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		100,957	14,568	157,123	272,648	258,879
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		174,778	20,276	134,000	329,054	272,648

Parochial Church Council
Parish of Whitehaven
(Charity Number 1130849)
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible		-	-	-	-	-
Investments						
Endowment Funds	5a.	-	-	89,641	89,641	101,601
Trust Funds	5b.	-	-	1,246	1,246	1,230
		-	-	90,887	90,887	102,831
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors (Tax Recoverable)		1,215	981	10	2,206	2,508
Cash		-	20	-	20	-
Bank/Building Society		29,468	20,765	43,103	93,336	63,197
Deposits		145,637	-	-	145,637	100,440
		176,320	21,766	43,113	241,199	171,002
LIABILITIES						
Creditors falling due within one year						
Accruals for utilities and other costs		1,542	1,490	-	3,032	1,185
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		174,778	20,276	134,000	329,054	272,648
<i>Distributable Earnings</i>		73,821	5,708	(11,179)	68,350	5,823
Prior Year Retained Earnings		100,957	14,568	54,292	169,817	163,994
	6.	174,778	20,276	43,113	238,167	169,817
Undistributable Earnings						
Share Revaluation		-	-	90,887	90,887	102,831
PARISH FUNDS		174,778	20,276	134,000	329,054	272,648

Appendix 2 Parish Boundary



-  Parish Boundary - Whitehaven
-  Parish Boundary - Kells

Appendix 3 Person Profile

The PCC would welcome an application from any ordained priest of the Church of England. We are looking for someone who shows the following qualities:

Team player

- confident enough in self to get others doing things
- clear delegation
- fit in well with our church family
- willing to listen – and open to alternative views

Vocations

- discern gifts in others and bring out talents of everyone
- an encourager
- supportive of Reader and Ordinand; discern more vocations to licensed ministry

Pastoral Ministry

- sensitive to needs of existing congregation (especially older generation)
- see weddings, christenings, funerals, as opportunities for outreach

Growing Younger and Schools

- ex-officio governor
- imaginative collective worship
- young families: support existing and extend.

Worship

- lead confidently, with attention to liturgy and our tradition

Discipleship

- able to challenge us
- help us carry our faith into everyday life
- prayerful leader able to discern direction God is leading the church

Inclusive

- ecumenical: other denominations
- people of all faiths and none
- all people, regardless of gender or sexuality

Needs and Wants of Town

- embrace the wider community whether they attend church or not
- carry out role of Rector in the town

Wider Church

- operate within and support Mission Community: Anglican, Methodist, URC, Salvation Army, Woodhouse Community Church

- recognise and nurture partnership with the Diocese; support the Diocesan/County vision and strategy

Recognise responsibility for all aspects of life of church

- including financial, safeguarding, growing younger,
- willing to get involved everyday tasks : lead from front
- encourage rich life of church across whole year

In summary –

We are looking for someone who will welcome everyone into the church and will stimulate us to think about our faith and encourage others to join in.

As a parish we are welcoming of all regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, creed or social background. We have broad policies on baptism and marriage of divorcees. We are welcoming of all Anglicans, whatever their churchmanship.

Our new incumbent must be sympathetic to our view in this regard.