



The Brochure
of Kirkheaton Parish



Contents

Introduction	3
Our Vision	4
Our New Rector	6
Church Staff Team	7
Safeguarding	8
Our Congregation	9
Worship	11
Prayer	12
Children and Youth Work	13
Missionary	15
Pastoral	16
Other Activities	17
Buildings	19
Areas for Improvement	21
Kirkheaton Finances	23
Grange Moor Finances	25

Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Rector for the Parish of St John the Baptist here at Kirkheaton in West Yorkshire.

Kirkheaton is a church with a strong, historical, evangelical tradition. Ministers, worship and mission have always been linked to evangelism.

Our Parish is one of the largest in the Diocese of Leeds, and in the Deanery of Almondbury and Kirkburton. It is set in a typical mix of early industrial, urban and highly attractive rural terrain that is characteristic of the historic West Riding of Yorkshire.

Kirkheaton is a parish of 15,000 with three main centres of population.

- Kirkheaton, a former mill village, now mainly dormitory for towns along the M62, with a core of long term village families. It is the location of the Parish Church – St. John the Baptist
- Dalton, outer urban with a mix of owner-occupied and local authority housing;
- Grange Moor, former mining village with a wide social mix; location of daughter Church – St. Bartholomew’s.

The remainder of the parish is mainly farmland with some light industry.

Communications are good with easy access to towns, cities and countryside. Both the East and West coasts are within a two hour drive, and we have excellent road and rail links to other parts of the country.

It is not just the physical aspects that we hope will attract you to our Parish. The congregation at both of our Churches, a significant number of whom live outside the Parish, are very warm and friendly and will welcome you wholeheartedly to lead them on to the next stage of God’s plans for the Parish.

We are confident that God knows who He wants to lead us in the next stage of our journey and we look forward to the appointment of our new Rector.

Our vision: We are a Church on a continuing journey.



'We are looking to discern
the way forward...'



Journey with God:

- Growing into a deeper relationship with Him through worship
- Growing into a deeper relationship with Him through daily prayer and study of the Bible
- Growing through teaching and preaching

Journey with one another:

- Supporting and growing the current collaborative ministry where lay participation has been encouraged and valued.
- Learning together
- Encouraging and affirming one another
- Supporting and equipping one another in more effective mission and evangelism

Journey with the community

- Maintaining and developing the contacts already established with the communities in Kirkheaton Dalton and Grange Moor.

We believe these are some of the steps for the journey. We are looking for someone to lead us in the next stage of the life of the church in Kirkheaton and Grange Moor.

- To continue to adapt services to be more relevant and attractive.
- To further support and encourage the learning, development and spiritual growth of individuals and groups.
- To continue to nurture an environment that encourages the growth of stronger relationships between people.
- To further develop an environment in which everybody has an opportunity to contribute and use their gifts.
- To look for opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus.
- To continue to develop our work with the three schools in the Parish situated in Kirkheaton, Grange Moor and Dalton
- To work with the Children and Youth Pastor to further develop the work with children and young families.

Our new Rector

In order to move us to the next stage of God's plan for the Parish we are looking for someone:

- Whose preaching, teaching and living are biblically and prayerfully based under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Whose aim is to see new people coming to faith in Christ and encouraging and challenging growth and commitment of both new and established Church members.
- Who is committed to collaborative ministry and team building, whilst also having the capacity to challenge us and lead us through change.
- Who has leadership skills to support and encourage the many volunteers who are involved in Church life.
- Who has the skills and ability to manage the employed staff.
- Who possesses sensitivity and pastoral skills to minister to people as the incumbent. Who is also able to support, lead and grow our pastoral teams, whilst recognising his/her own need for support.
- Who is both flexible and dynamic in helping us to maintain the balance between traditional, contemporary and alternative expressions of worship, reflecting the diverse nature of our congregation and Parish and who has the desire to encourage families to worship together.
- Who has a strong commitment to building up the participation of children and young people into the wider life of the church.
- With a commitment to continue to build on the already established links with our local communities. For example – community associations, schools, politicians, police and local media.

Church Staff Team

The Rector

The Parish has had a long history as a training parish. It is hoped that once the new rector is established in post the parish will benefit from the services of a curate.

Licensed Lay Ministers

Three, plus Two Emeritus and one in training

Lay Pastoral Ministers

Five

Churchwardens

Eight positions (historical legacy)
Two currently vacant

Lay Staff

Children and Youth Pastor 35hr (currently vacant)

Parish Administrator 20hr

Three part- time cleaners - two at St John's and one at St Bartholomew's.

Safeguarding

We have two safeguarding officers who ensure that reports are made to all PCC meetings. Kirkheaton adopts the Church of England safeguarding policy annually. Safeguarding is incorporated into all aspects of our ministry for example at planning meetings for provision for the elderly and vulnerable people, and the promotion of Mothers Union campaigns regarding domestic violence.

All volunteers involved in regulated activity have an enhanced DBS check. We currently have around 40 people in church with enhanced DBS checks that are updated every 3 years.



Our Parish Administrator



There are currently 138 members on our electoral roll.



Our average attendance at services are:

Kirkheaton

Weekly
9.00 am 20 -30 adults
10.45 am 55 – 65 adults 5 children

Monthly Mid-Week Tuesday Service 15 – 20 adults



Grange Moor

Weekly
10.45 am 10 – 15 adults

Worship

At Kirkheaton, worship has long been evangelical and provides for varying preferences. The Church has two differing services on Sunday mornings.

A more traditional service is held at 9am and has a congregation between 20 and 30. That service finishes around 10am with coffee and time for prayer & chat afterwards.

The second service starts at 10.45am. This gives time for those attending to have a coffee prior to the start of the second service and have contact and to talk with those attending the earlier service. This helps to pastorally connect the two congregations. Refreshments are available again after the second service.

The second service uses a mixture of traditional and contemporary approaches in worship and music. Communion takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

A number of our congregation participate in leading services, Bible readings and prayers. We have a number of musicians who play at our services. The majority of the 10:45 service is displayed on large monitors which are visible from various positions throughout the Church. In recent years some services have been via Zoom, but this is not used at present.

Grange Moor has a more traditional approach to its worship.

There is a weekly 10:45 service attended by a small but faithful congregation, some of whom come from outside the village. The services are mainly supported by members of Kirkheaton congregation. Refreshments are served after every service.



Prayer

The importance of prayer is recognised in all our services, and daily aspects of the life of the church. For example, prayer is encouraged through House group membership and through WhatsApp groups.

After both morning services at St. Johns there is an opportunity for individual prayer with a member of the "Listen and Pray" team in the Beaumont Chapel. The team consists of 11 lay members of the congregation.

POWER- Prayer on Weekdays Enabling Revival. This was an initiative to encourage prayer for growth with an emphasis on coming into church during the mornings Monday to Thursday each week. There is a small well-established group of church members who continue this each week.

The Diocesan Prayer for Growth is used in most services.



'The importance of prayer is recognised in all our services...'

Children's and Youth Work

We believe that children and young people should be an integral part of the church today and the potential leaders of tomorrow. We provide a range of opportunities for them to develop their faith and discipleship. This commitment has been demonstrated by increasing the funding from part time to full time for the Children and Youth Pastor post as from December 2024.

Over the past few years, we have seen a change in the pattern of attendance for families. We would like Sunday mornings to be a central part of our provision. However, we have developed other opportunities for engagement with families, children and young people at other times. During the vacancy of the Children and Youth Pastor post, this work is led by a small but dedicated team of leaders who are very skilled and committed to this ministry.

The first Sunday service of each month is an All-age service and worship leaders endeavour to involve children and young people in these as appropriate. On the second and fourth Sundays we have a Bible Understanding Group (BUG) for our older (11+) group of young people, with an average attendance of 5.

'We believe that children and young people are an integral part of the church today and the potential leaders of tomorrow.'

There is also provision for children under 11 years at each of the other Sundays in the Sunday Club, although due to the very small numbers in this group it does not necessarily take place each week. There is opportunity for parents with younger children to access toys during the services.

Kingdom Tots is our weekly Wednesday group for young children and their families and carers. We have regular average attendance of 30. The session always includes a Bible teaching and worship time, in addition to snacks, play and crafts.

Toy Library – this is established in the Portakabin next to the Parish Centre.

On a Friday evening there are two groups running for young people. Krash Kids caters for children aged 5-11 and meets in the Parish Centre. There are currently 10 - 15 children who regularly attend. These meetings include games, crafts, Christian input and discussion. Our older group, Regeneration (ReGen) meet slightly later in the Parish Centre and have around 6-8 young people aged 11-18 attending, with a similar age-appropriate programme.



We hold a monthly Bible Breakfast Club on a Saturday morning. This has a particular emphasis on engaging families who have brought children for Baptism as well as those on the periphery of the church. We have around 30 children and adults regularly attending. We start by serving cereal and toast and then share a Bible story followed by craft activities. Although we advertise this event to run from 9.30-10.30 families will often stay much longer.

At Grange Moor there is no regular group for children but toys are available during the Sunday services.

Each summer St. John's usually hosts a Holiday Club which regularly has between 30- 40 children attending. This usually runs for 3 mornings and then culminates with a Sunday service.

We have recently partnered with another church who have provided a bus as a venue for ministry. This has been jointly staffed and used for a well-attended term time after school ministry in Dalton. An initial Sunday afternoon service has also been held with plans for this to continue monthly.

Several congregation members help with Christian Summer Camps and a small number of children from church attend.

The parish has had good links with Kirkheaton, Dalton and Grange Moor schools for many years. The Rector's and Youth Pastor's involvement has mainly been through assemblies and welcoming the schools to both churches for special events and services.



Missionary

The Parish has a long tradition of supporting financially and prayerfully and encouraging full time ministry and mission, both in this country and abroad.

We tithe our Church income and 10% is divided between:

- Tim and Kate Lee via CMS
- Paul and Petra Clarkson in Berlin
- CAP – Christians Against Poverty
- Destination 3.2.11 Bus Ministry
- ICFEM
- CPAS
- SAT – 7
- Street Angels
- Hand to Mouth – educational work
- Tree of Life - counselling service 1.



Pastoral

Our Parish Administrator plays a key role as the first point of contact for many. The church and office are open Monday to Thursday from 9am until 12 noon.

We have a pastoral team who discuss the needs of individuals and review the weekly prayer list.

The team's work includes visiting the bereaved, lonely and housebound on a short or long term basis as appropriate. Home Communion is provided as requested.

A monthly service takes place at Tolson Grange, a local care home, which is well received.

Further pastoral support is provided through a number of other activities including transport, telephone contact, "Young at Heart", monthly bereavement drop-in support group and the monthly mid-week service.

We have also begun offering mental wellbeing courses through an organisation called Kintsugi Hope. Several congregation members have been trained to offer a 12-week support group.



Other Activities

In addition to regular Sunday and monthly Midweek services and young people's groups there are a range of other spiritual and social activities.

These are listed below:

- House groups – 9
- Welcoming team
- Marriage preparation team
- Baptism preparation team
- Monthly Lunch club
- Mothers Union
- Ladies Breakfast
- Monthly Firm Roots
- Weekly Walking group
- Men's Fellowship
- Tea at 2:30
- Monthly Bereavement Support Group
- Kintsugi Hope
- Bus Ministry
- Weekly Table Tennis group
- Eco group
- Monthly Young at Heart
- Church magazine
- Music team
- Bell Ringers

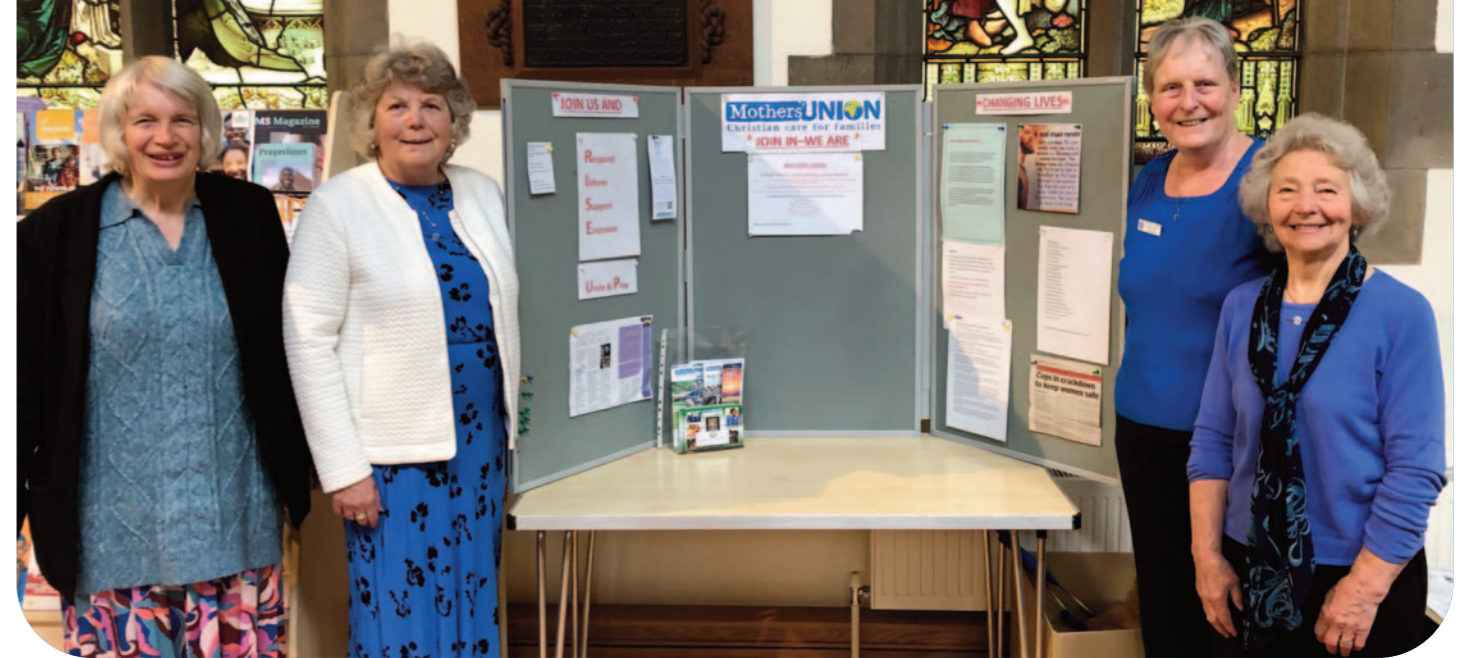
Most of these groups also involve non church members.

In addition to the above there are some established annual events which include:

- Parish Bonfire
- Memorial Service for those who have died
- Shoebox appeal for Samaritans Purse
- Angel Tree appeal (Prison Fellowship),
- Christmas Tree Festival
- Christingle Service
- Harvest Services,
- Children's Holiday Club
- Carol singing in the Beaumont Arms

There are also some other social events such as faith lunches, Quiz nights and 'Meals on the Move'. There is an established pattern of separate weekends away for both men and ladies every eighteen months.

The last whole parish weekend was in 2023.



Other links

The church also has strong links with other local organisations covering a range of activities.

These include:

- Street Angels
- Local Hospice
- New Hall prison
- CART (Christian African Relief Trust)
- Local library
- Local care home for the elderly
- Local community organisations which include Grange Moor, Grange Moor Brass Band, Kirkheaton Pop Choir, Yetton Together and Dalton Together.



Buildings



Kirkheaton Church is situated ¾ mile from the village centre. Part of St. John's dates back to the 11th Century and is a Grade II* listed building. In December 2013 we completed reordering of the building to allow wider and more flexible use. The result has been enthusiastically welcomed by church members, community groups and visitors and widely acknowledged to be a successful blending of old and new.

The re-ordering in summary achieved the following – improved worship space, restoration and reinstatement of the Beaumont Chapel as a permanent sacred space, Parish office in the vestry, introduction of toilets into the building, a fully equipped catering kitchen, a new heating system, double glazing to control draughts on two of the larger west windows, repositioning of the font, provision of roof lights in the North aisle, new lighting and audio visual system together with video screens and full redecoration of the building. Further improvements to the entrance area and changes to the organ vestry are possible future projects.

The churchyard has been closed for well over 100 years. Part of the grounds are the responsibility of Kirklees Council but the majority of the grounds are the responsibility of Kirkburton Parish Council. There is also a small team of volunteers who work in the grounds weekly.

Across from the Church is the Parish Centre. This is a concrete panel building erected in the 1960's, with a medium sized hall, lounge and kitchen. This building is in regular use by the Church, community groups and private individuals.

In the village of Kirkheaton is a former Infants School, now leased to "Yetton Together", a local community group with strong links to the Church. There is a legal document in place regarding the operation of the lease.

St. Bartholomew's, Grange Moor is a daughter \ mission Church opened in 1898 able to accommodate 80 people. In addition to the main Church area there is a large kitchen and a hall, which can accommodate up to 100 people. Overall, the Church is in reasonable condition. The Church was redecorated in 2023 and the kitchen renovated to incorporate a seating area. The churchyard is open and maintained by a local firm funded by the Church.



The Rectory

This is a detached stone property set in its own grounds overlooking the Parish Centre. There are four bedrooms and a family bathroom on the first floor, with two reception rooms, a study and a shower room on the ground floor. There is also an integral garage.

The property is situated in the Priority Admission Area for the village primary school, Kirkheaton Primary School (3-11yrs). Transfer at the age of 11 to secondary school is normally King James' School in the neighbouring village of Almondbury.



Areas where we see improvement and action necessary

- Grange Moor – The attendance level at St Bartholomew's has become critical in the last few years as a result of the age profile of the congregation. There are links with the Grange Moor Community Association, the primary school and the brass band but these need to be strengthened.
- Building on the positive response and learning gained from the recent Bus Ministry in Dalton.
- There are several new large housing developments in the Parish. This presents an exciting new challenge.
- The age profile of the congregation of Kirkheaton with the increasing average age.
- The need for an Introductory Course – A more structured approach to introducing people to the gospel is needed.
- Reappointment to the Children and Youth Pastor post.

'New housing will represent an exciting new challenge and opportunity for the whole church family.'

One of our more recent congregation members has said...

Having grown up in the Waterloo area of Kirkheaton, I knew of St John's Church but didn't set foot in it until my late 50s.

I had long since moved away from the area, but my widowed mum remained in Waterloo attending church in a different parish where she sang in the choir and was a long-standing member. Sadly, when she developed dementia a few years ago she became dependent on lifts to get to church and so her attendance became less frequent. So about three years ago, I set about trying to find a different church where I hoped she would be made to feel welcome and where she could receive the support, I believe a healthy thriving church should provide.

Through a google search, St John's stood out by a mile. It wasn't a generic uninspiring website unlike most rather it was obvious that the Rector and the team had worked hard to promote the church as a vibrant, friendly and I would say as one that is evangelical in its ministry.

Because it wasn't far from her home nor mine in Cleckheaton, I decided I would, with her agreement, take her the following Sunday just to see what it was like. Oh, my word to say the website hadn't embellished its virtues was an understatement. The welcome we received was unlike any I had experienced in any other church. People were interested in us and made a real effort to get to know us and to make us feel included. A process that in my experience of other C of E churches can take a very long time indeed.

Ian, the rector at the time was equally warm and welcoming and we felt an instant connection with him as well as other members of the clergy and the congregation. I am a big believer in 'God incidences' and I truly believe my mum and I were meant to be part of St John's exactly at this time in our lives.



The practicalities of attending every week became more difficult and I explained to Ian that we would only be able to come once a month and would be attending a church in Cleckheaton on the other Sundays. This went on for about a year when after suffering a stroke, mum sadly passed away.

It was in time between her passing and her funeral when I was distraught and overwhelmed that my wife Helen asked me which church I felt most comfortable attending. Without hesitation I said St John's and sure enough when I went there the comfort and love I felt from Ian and everyone else was special and sincere.

There was barely an empty seat at her funeral and Ian conducted it with his usual professionalism, warmth and with a powerful sense that the Holy Spirit was working through him. Her ashes are interred in the church grounds.

Since then, I'm pleased to say Helen and I have been regular attenders together as well as members. Despite the interregnum St Johns has continued with its mission to provide both traditional worship with its early service and a more contemporary evangelical service later in the morning.

I am so grateful to St Johns, and I can honestly say I have found a church which is helping me to grow spiritually and where I feel I am a valued member.

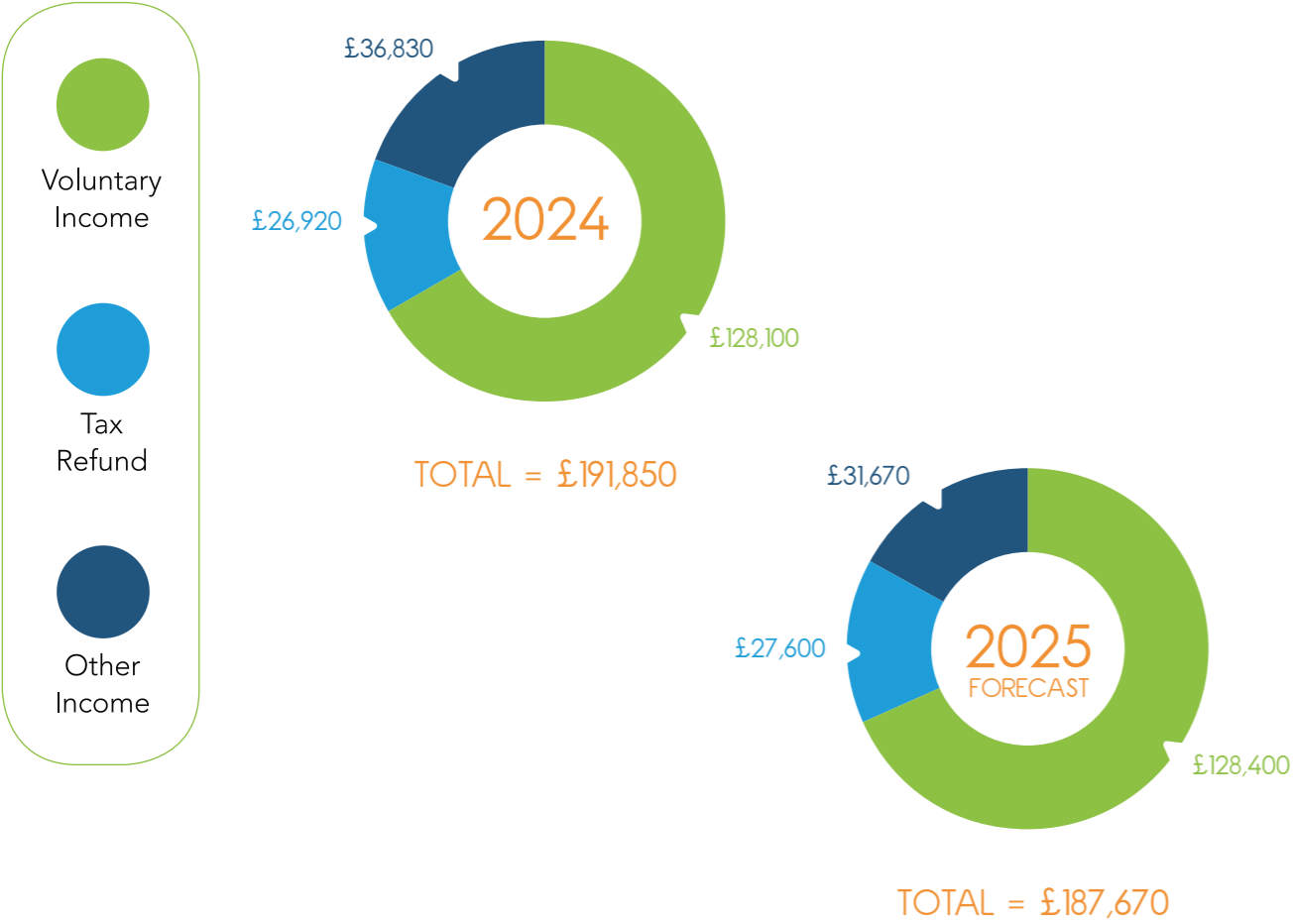
Richard Whittaker

Kirkheaton Finances

The primary outgoings of the church are the parish share and staff costs. We also support a number of external missions.



Our total income into our general fund is shown below:



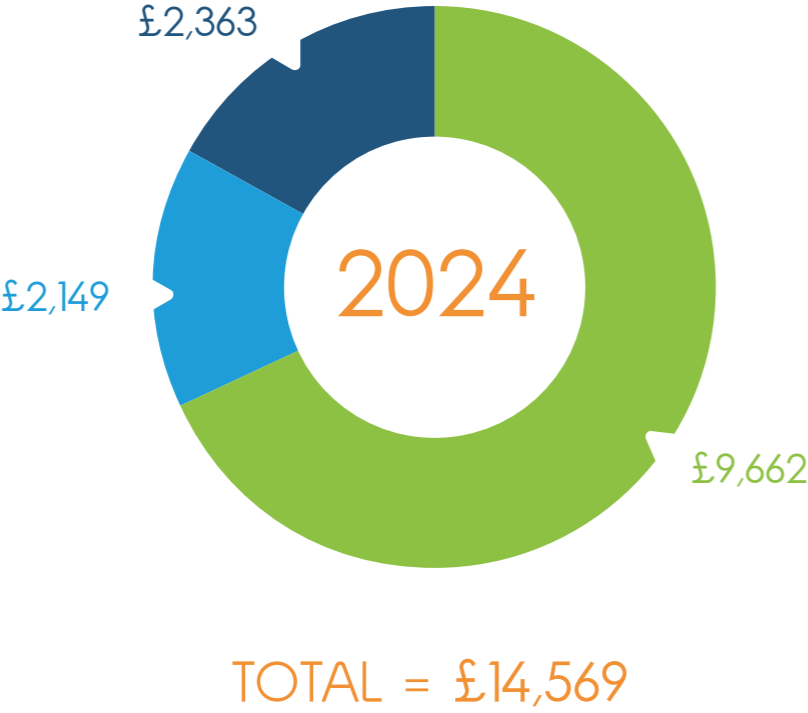
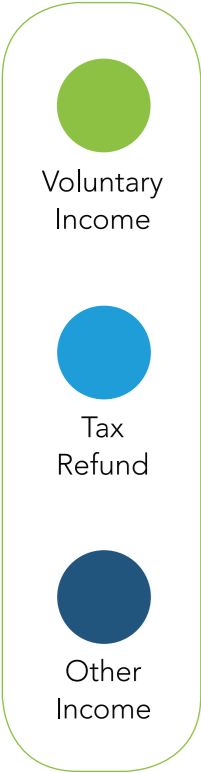
Our outgoings from our general fund are shown below:



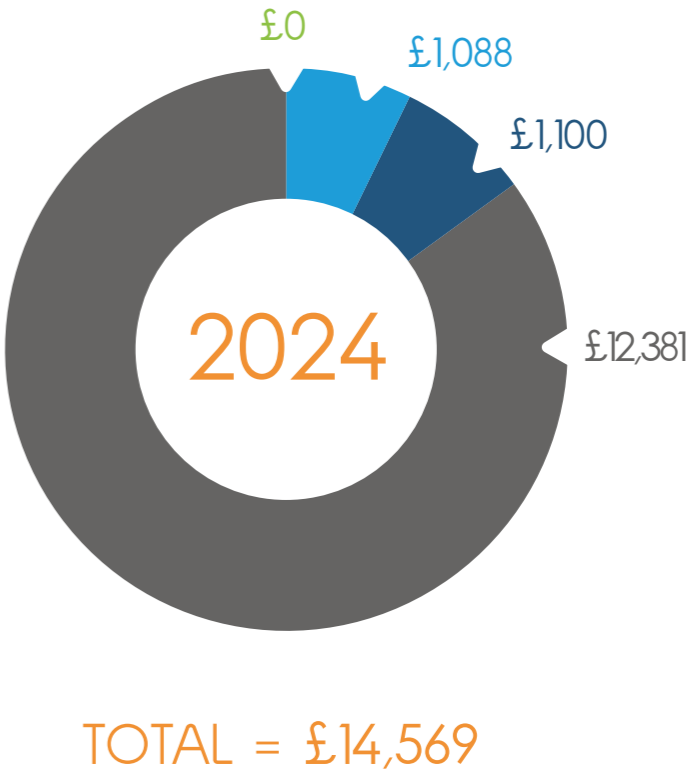
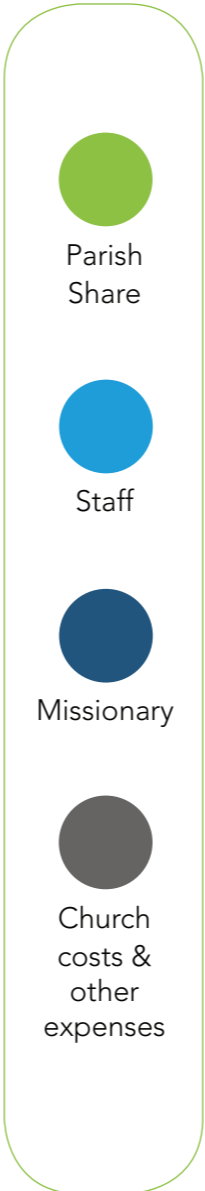
Grange Moor Finances



Our total income into our general fund is shown below:



Our outgoings from our general fund are shown below:







Kirkheaton Parish Church

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Huddersfield, HD5 0BH

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