

***We have been unable to hold general meetings since October 2025. However, it does seem apt to keep track of the spiritual and social life of the parish***

### **Safeguarding/volunteering**

According to my calculations (Jo Shepherd, Parish Safeguarding Representative)

- 172 voluntary roles carried out within the parish
- 5730 volunteer hours worked within the parish per annum (estimated number)
- 122 Volunteers
- 60 volunteers have DBS checks

These figures exceed the Diocesan Survey. They include people who have volunteered since the survey was conducted and those who did not fill in the survey.

The Safeguarding Dashboard has been rolled out across the Diocese. We were part of the trial group.

### **Thanks are owed to**

- The Faith In Action group from St. Oswald's who led Remembrance Day prayers in the cemetery
- The team who led the Bereavement Service
- The group who organised the Prayer Service for Aid to the Church in Need and illuminated the exterior of the church as a sign of our solidarity with those who are persecuted.
- Michael Ratliff, VoiceMale and Robson's Choice – for a very enjoyable Winter Concert
- Those who took part in the Parish's Candlelight Carol Service – especially the young people
- St. Oswald's School for sharing their Christmas Production with the parish and their choir for coming to sing Christmas carols in the hall after Mass
- Those who co-ordinated and donated to the Toy Appeal to provide Christmas gifts for a range of people who would otherwise have nothing. The parish has been carrying out this outreach work in conjunction with women's refuges and social workers for over 40 years
- Parishioners who support collections for the food banks and the Diocesan refugee Service.
- The parish gardeners who work all year in all weathers. The current major project is the development of a memorial garden
- Those who worked to provide us with mulled wine and mince pies on a Sunday morning before Christmas
- Elizabeth Mallett and her team for the Advent and Lent prayer aids.
- The catechists who continue to prepare children for First Communion
- All those who work on pastoral and catechetical programmes
- Those who have volunteered to take part in the fund raising activities needed to maintain the church building

### **Future events**

- Egg jarping (and other Easter activities) - Easter Sunday after Mass
- Victims and Survivors' Service - after Easter
- St. Oswald's Easter Production - Holy Week
- Feast of Sacred Heart - 12.06.26
- Wine Tasting

Please keep an eye on the bulletin for dates of these events.

We aren't able to run the concert to celebrate the Parish Feast Day as we have done in the past. New ideas are welcome. So, please let us know if you think that you could organise something. It would be a shame if the day were to pass without celebrations.

We also need volunteers to help with the wine tasting.

For both events contact [jo.a.shepherd@googlemail.com](mailto:jo.a.shepherd@googlemail.com)

## Finances

<u>Sacred Heart North Gosforth</u>	<u>Financial Position as at 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026</u>
	£
1. Funds available for day to day running of the Parish	<u>14,910</u>
2. Typical monthly cash / card offertory	1,800
Monthly Standing Orders	<u>2,900</u>
Total average monthly donations	<u>4,700</u>
<b>The average monthly running expenses exceed the monthly donations.</b> To assist in breaking even the Parish relies on the funds from the Diocese for presbytery rental (£500) and utility costs (£230) plus income from hall rental. There are months when total expenditure exceeds total income - this is evidenced by the reducing balance on the current account. (The balance on the account of £14,910 is of concern).	
3. Funds for specific purposes held in current account:	
Church Building Fund	17,633
West Window Appeal	455
Toy Appeal	<u>491</u>
Total specific purpose funds	<u>18,579</u>
4. Balance on the Deposit account	249,888 * see notes 1 and 2 below.
5. Balance on the Centenary Fund Account	5,208

### Notes:

- Estimates for repair works to be carried out on the church and car park (work being handled through the Diocese).
  - Church approx £215,000
  - West Window £18,000- £20,000
  - Car Park?
- The Diocese will advise on obtaining of heritage grants towards the church/window costs. These will be bid for when the work gets towards contract stage. Irrespective of any grants that may be received there is still likely to be a significant charge made against the deposit account.