

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1131575

## Details

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**Other names** GRANTHAM, ST WULFRAM'S PCC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2009-09-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

**Activities:** To promote in the parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church of England, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Lincolnshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £338,884 | £446,232    | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £492,964 | £458,245    | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £349,658 | £485,626    | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £328,487 | £386,858    | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £201,157 | £255,177    | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                           | Role | Appointed  |
|--------------------------------|------|------------|
| Anna James                     |      | 2023-05-14 |
| Caroline Midgley               |      | 2026-05-17 |
| Christine Anne Impey           |      | 2023-07-01 |
| Clare Zena Arthur              |      | 2026-05-17 |
| Daniel Castaneda               |      | 2026-05-17 |
| Dr JOHN BERNARD Manterfield    |      | 2015-04-19 |
| Ese Vivian Oduyoye             |      | 2024-05-12 |
| James Antony Osborn            |      | 2024-07-11 |
| Janet Ruth Burrows             |      | 2024-05-12 |
| Kathryn Jayne Ann Castaneda    |      | 2022-05-08 |
| Mark Amos Bates                |      | 2023-05-23 |
| Melanie Fletcher               |      | 2017-04-23 |
| Neil William Gatland           |      | 2026-05-17 |
| Nicholas KERRY                 |      | 2025-05-18 |
| Paul Charles Christopher Davie |      | 2013-06-19 |
| Rev Stuart Craddock            |      | 2014-04-10 |
| Valerie Doska York             |      | 2024-05-12 |
| Yvette Amanda Caddle           |      | 2025-05-18 |

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# Accounts

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**St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
Parochial Church Council**

**Annual Report & Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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## **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Wulfram's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

The detail of this programme of mission is managed severally by the sub-groups (equivalent of sub-committees) of the PCC on its behalf. Their minutes and resolutions are available. From time to time, ad hoc working groups may be established to report to the PCC.

Full details of the PCC membership and officers are listed under 'Administrative Information' below.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC has the overall responsibility to make available to as many people as possible the ministry offered by the living Church based at St Wulfram's, and to welcome the same people to the church building. We communicate the Christian faith and exercise Christian ministry in the worship of the church through the ministry of word and sacrament. We seek to meet the needs of a variety of people in the wide range of worship and activities offered. Our church building is sufficiently flexible that we can manage occasions sacred and secular on a large or modest scale.

When undertaking their programme of activities, the staff and PCC have taken seriously the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. It is our express aim to be a community of Christians in the town and, according to the Anglican understanding, to be available to every single person in the town and parish. We seek to help the people of the town to live out their Christian faith through:

- Participation in the worship of the church and the practice of their own prayers at home, growing in confidence in their grasp of their faith through preaching, teaching and study together of scripture and Christian writings;
- Provision of pastoral care for the people of the parish and town; and
- Initiatives and ongoing work that express the love of God towards all people and reach those who are not regularly in touch with the life of the church.

To make all this possible the PCC has a prime responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Wulfram's.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Staff**

- Father Stuart Craddock, Rector of Grantham. Fr Stuart served as Rural Dean of Grantham until 12 November, when he completed his five-year term of office.
- Father James Clabern (Clay) Roundtree, Associate Rector of Grantham and Associate Priest of St John's Spitalgate, Grantham. Fr Clay was commissioned as Partnership Dean of South Kesteven for three years on 15 July, and as Assistant Archdeacon in the Boston Archdeaconry on 2 August.

- Mother Hannah Grivell, Assistant Curate.
- Mother Kate Hough, Assistant Curate.
- Father Yuce Kabakci, Assistant Curate (until Easter). On 12 May, Fr Yuce was licensed as Assistant Curate in the parish of Holy Cross, Boultham, Lincoln to develop his priestly ministry for the next phase of his curacy. We were grateful for all that Fr Yuce and his wife Cemre brought to our community and our prayers went with him as he continued to learn in his new parish setting.
- St Wulfram's continues to benefit from the active support of local retired clergy, including the Revd Stuart Hadley and the Revd Canon Geraldine Pond (now Rural Dean of Loveden).
- We benefit also from the active support of:
  - Two Readers: Katy Castañeda and Nick Kerry (who has now served in this capacity for 29 years). At its meeting in September, the PCC resolved to nominate Nick for the Bishop to consider granting him permission to officiate (PTO) as a reader beyond his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; PTO was subsequently granted by the Bishop until 31 October 2025.
  - Five Authorised Lay Ministers: Elaine Chambers, Helen Dawkins, Barbara Kime, Sheila Knight, and Val York. Elaine and Sheila were re-authorised by the diocese this year when their initial three-year certification expired.
- Mrs Melanie Brown, Operations & Development Manager (until 26 July).
- Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator.
- Mr Malcolm Dixon, Grantham House Gardener (from 16 April).
- Ms Lily Hills, Music Department Intern (from 1 October).
- Mr Carl Kettle, Grantham House Gardener (until 31 March).
- Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator; Grantham Deanery Administrator (until 16 November); Administrator to South Kesteven Partnership Dean (from 17 November).
- Mr Steve Prendergast, Church and Grantham House Cleaner.
- Mx Holly Riordan, Music Department Intern (from 1 October).
- Mrs Frances Roundtree, Project Co-ordinator, St John's Spitalgate Community Fridge (from 18 January).
- Mrs Laura van Boven, Choir Administrator (self-employed) (from 17 June).
- Ms Charlotte Whysall, Music Department Intern (from 1 October).
- Dr Tim Williams, Organist and Director of Music.

It was announced in June that the Bishop of Lincoln had awarded Fr Stuart a well-deserved period of sabbatical leave from 1 August to 31 October (inclusive). During this time, Fr Stuart was absent from all duties and additional responsibilities that he leads on. Fr Clay Roundtree was the prime source of pastoral care and leadership at this time, with our churchwardens and the PCC. Upon his return, Fr Stuart thanked everyone for everything they had done to allow him to make the most of his sabbatical. He said it had been a wonderful time of restoration and relaxation in what is a very busy context of ministry. He looked forward to hearing all about what had happened in his absence, how St Wulfram's had grown as a community, and how we continue to work together for the future. We learned during the sabbatical leave that the church is not reliant on Fr Stuart.

In July, we congratulated Fr James Robinson (Assistant Curate of St Wulfram's, 2015-2018) on his appointment as Vicar of Grantchester and St Mark's Newnham Benefices, near Cambridge. Fr James' wife, Arabella continued as Chaplain of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

### **Holders of the Bishop's Licence**

Those licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion in the parish (some within church and others within and outside church) are listed below. The asterisk denotes the persons who did not administer the elements at all in the church during 2024.

Permission to Administer in church: Clare Arthur, Heather Arthur, Shaun Ashley, Daniel Castañeda, Paul Davie, Dorothy Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Trevor Johnston, Philip Joyce, Ese Oduyoye (granted permission during 2024), \*Sue Redmile, Marcin Salachna (granted permission during 2024), \*Matthew Simons, \*Ian Stewart, David West.

Permission to Administer in church and out of church: \*Rachel Davie, Helen Dawkins, Elizabeth Hill, \*Barbara Kime, Sheila Knight, \*Brenda Patten, \*Joanna Swinbourne, Eileen West, Valerie York.

Katy Castañeda and Nick Kerry have authority to administer Communion by virtue of their Reader licence.

### **Guild of Servers**

2024 saw movement in the number of Servers with some stepping away due to health or moving into a shared Team role of Server and Verger. We have also gained a new member, but ended 2024 with fewer in the team than we started. We are keen to keep recruiting so that the team becomes more diverse, and stronger.

The issue of laundering the Altar Linen has been resolved. A member of the congregation has taken over this important responsibility. Mthr Kate and the Head Server will continue to cover in their absence.

C1 Foundation Safeguarding training has continued to be facilitated by our Parish Safeguarding Officer (Di Hale) for all servers. There is still a need to facilitate some bespoke training for any servers who do not have access to IT. Two of our new Servers have received the Bishop's permission to administer the elements of Holy Communion. Training has been conducted to ensure they are competent in this very important role. Role development training continues, with some servers starting to learn other roles such as being a Thurifer, or taking part in different types of services that have different requirements.

The Head Server has proposed to Mthr Kate that a guide for Holy Communion Assistants be drafted – with the blessing of our senior clergy, this will ensure we have some basic guidelines to encourage good practice within our church.

The Guild has retained sufficient members to provide support for regular worship, but we would still welcome more volunteers to enable duties to be more evenly distributed among the members. The Guild is not exclusive and is open to all members of the parish, of any age and experience. Mthr Kate and the Head Server continue to explore opportunities to advertise for new servers, especially the younger members of our congregation. We look forward to welcoming new members.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **St Wulfram's as an SDF Urban Resource Church**

In 2020, St Wulfram's was designated an 'urban resource church', a strategic development, funded in part by the Church Commissioners and in part by the Diocese of Lincoln. We are one of three urban resource churches in the diocese, the other two being St George's, Stamford (which planted into St Anne's New Somerby in Grantham in 2023) and St Swithin's, Lincoln.

As well as continuing to serve the people of Grantham, St Wulfram's has a wider responsibility to the whole diocese. This necessitated a change in the Rector's role. In recognition of this, St Wulfram's was able to appoint a new Associate Rector from May 2021, who works in partnership with the Rector in leading St Wulfram's mission, ministry, and pastoral care. In June 2022, we welcomed three new 'planting curates' to train with us for three years in readiness to 'plant' (revitalise) an urban church elsewhere in the diocese. One of the three (Fr Yuce Kabakci) moved in the spring to the parish of Holy Cross, Boultham, Lincoln to develop his priestly ministry for the next phase of his curacy.

In June, we were able to announce that as part of the SDF planting process Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate had embarked on long-term placements to explore possible planting opportunities. One Sunday per month, Mthr Hannah started attending St Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln; and Mthr Kate started attending St George's Church, Crosby and the Church of the Resurrection, Scunthorpe. The placements were an opportunity for the curates and parishes to discern God's calling and their ability to work together for the mission and growth of the churches. At that stage, there was no timeline on the discernment process.

Along with other resource church leaders, our Rector (or Associate Rector) participates in bi-monthly SDF Board meetings at the diocesan office in Lincoln.

Successes will be measured according to agreed metrics set out at the beginning of the project, being Sunday attendance figures; but the project is about lives and individual stories that cannot be quantified. Progress at our local church plant, as described below, is taken into account by the SDF Board when measuring St Wulfram's successes.

### **St John's Spitalgate – our local church plant**

Our church planting principles continue to be 'piloted' through our local plant, St John's Spitalgate, Grantham to which Fr Clay, our Associate Rector, was additionally licensed in September 2022. St John's Spitalgate is currently part of the Trinity Parish South Grantham. The proposed dissolution of the Trinity Parish is in process through the Diocese of Lincoln and Church Commissioners. We very much hope that the pastoral scheme will be enacted in 2025 to create two separate parishes, styled St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield, and St Anne's New

Somerby (into which St George's Church Stamford planted in August 2023 as part of the SDF Programme). As part of their training, our planting curates support the ministry and mission at St John's Spitalgate, as does our new ordinand on a contextual training placement.

St John's has a new 'A Church Near You' page and updated Google information; a Facebook account that is regularly updated and viewed; an informative website, with a 'Donate Now' button; and an Instagram account.

### *Worship*

The developing pattern of worship at St John's includes services of Holy Communion (weekly at 10.30 a.m. on Thursdays, and monthly at 11.00 a.m. on the third Sunday) and Choral Evensong (monthly at 6.00 p.m. on the first Sunday). High-quality choral music to support the liturgy is an historical strength of St John's; and this was revived by the St John's Winter Singers (a group of singers/musicians previously associated with the church), who support the monthly Choral Evensong and Sunday Holy Communion. Many would like to see a greater number of services taking place at St John's. For example, a weekly Sunday service would help the church to continue growing in the right direction. Fr Clay has invited ideas on what sort of services people would like to see on a Sunday that would be distinctive and complimentary to the other churches in the Local Mission Partnership.

For Lent, there was an Ash Wednesday service at 10.30 a.m. (14 February); and a range of services during Holy Week – a Palm Sunday Passion Play (24 March, 6.00 p.m.), Maundy Thursday (28 March, 7.30 p.m.), and Good Friday (29 March, 6.00 p.m.). We celebrated the risen Christ at 11.00 a.m. on Easter Day (31 March). On Sunday 5 May, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Nicholas of Grantham to a Deanery Choral Evensong (6.00 p.m.), followed by refreshments. This was the final episcopal visit in the deanery series. A Eucharist for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, took place on Sunday 29 June, at 6.00 p.m. when we marked the twentieth anniversary of Fr Clay's Ordination to the Priesthood, followed by refreshments. A Service of the Word was led by Clive Smith, Authorised Lay Minister, on Sunday 4 August while Fr Clay was on holiday. A Harvest Choral Evensong was held on 6 October, the day after a joint Harvest Supper with St Wulfram's Church. The year ended with a Christmas Memorial Service arranged with David Holland Funeral Directors (3 December), Nine Lessons & Carols (15 December), a pop-up Nativity and Christingle (attended by 35 children) (22 December) and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

### *Catholic devotional spirituality*

St John's is also a place where catholic devotional spirituality is being developed: Fr Clay led his six-session Meditation for Beginners at St John's on Mondays (7.00 p.m.) starting on 5 February, 3 June and 14 October. The six sessions can be a great opportunity to invite a friend who might be a bit of a spiritual seeker but isn't a member of a church community. Each one-hour session begins with hot drinks in the hall, followed by a spoken introduction; the group then moves into the church as live ambient music is played, and there is an invitation to light candles and find a comfortable place for the 20 minutes' silence, before a closing prayer of blessing.

### *Funding*

South Kesteven District Council awarded a grant to help pay for improvements to the women's toilet, a new cistern for the central heating system, and a new ceiling in the vestry (damaged by water over many years). In May, St John's received a generous grant from the Church of England's national giving team for a new digital card reader. This has been a valuable development, helping our congregation and visitors to donate in a convenient way. General funds were raised for St John's at special events: a quiz night (with bacon and chip butties) at

the Conservative Club on Castlegate (3 May), organised by the Royal Naval Association; a summer concert (22 June); and a St Nicholas' Day Christmas Concert (6 December). Thanks are due to Helen Winter for putting together a wonderful Summer Music Festival, which took place at 11.00 a.m. on six Saturdays (13 July to 17 August); each Saturday morning of the series had a lovely atmosphere, with tea and cake on offer.

### *The St John's Spitalgate Community Fridge*

The £10K grant awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund in October 2023 enabled the launch of the new St John's Spitalgate Community Fridge in the newly refurbished Jesson Room in the church on Wednesday 24 May. We thank local groups including Rotary, the Freemasons and the Lions for their generous support too.

The Project Co-ordinator, Frances Roundtree, has built a team of 16 volunteers trained in safeguarding and Level 2 Food Safety & Hygiene. Relationships have been forged with several local supermarkets through Caboodle and Neighbourly to enable the collection of surplus food. Two local primary schools (Isaac Newton, and Huntingtower) have teamed up with the Fridge to pass on good food that they would hitherto throw out on Fridays because it could not be kept on their premises over the weekend. On 19 June, the Fridge received an Environmental Health Inspection and achieved the top 5-star rating. On 14 November, a new glass-fronted fridge and freezer were delivered, so we are now able to display chilled and frozen items.

The Community Fridge is for everyone to help reduce food waste: it is not means tested and there is no system of referral or membership. There is no charge, but we accept donations towards electricity. The Community Fridge now opens each week for one hour on Wednesdays (9.30 a.m.), Fridays (2.00 p.m.), and Saturdays (11.30 a.m.). Information about opening times and photos of the variety of food items are posted regularly on our Facebook page, which has over 400 followers. Saturday is the most popular day. On Saturday 16 November (when the new fridge and freezer had been installed), 152kg of food (including chilled and frozen items) was given away to 29 people. In total in 2024, we distributed 5 tonnes of food.

Because it took a considerable time to set up the Fridge before opening, a balance remained in the National Lottery grant account as we approached the end of the initial 12-month funding period. A request was made for an extension of time, and the Lottery kindly agreed to extend the funding period (including the Project Co-ordinator contract) to 30 April 2025.

### *Community Hall*

We offer a 'warm hub' in the hall, with hot drinks and biscuits, plus seasonal homemade soup and cheese toasties or cake on Fridays between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. (Shine Lincolnshire kindly awarded a small grant towards our costs on Fridays.) We enjoy playing chess, Bananagrams and other games on these occasions.

The hall is a warm and welcoming space for meetings, small group work, and learning opportunities. The Women's Bible Reflection and Prayer Group, to which all are welcome, meets monthly at St John's on the second Wednesday (7.15 p.m.). From September, the joint deanery 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course ran in the hall (most Thursdays, 7.00 p.m.). We hosted the meeting of Grantham Deanery Synod in October, when there was an opportunity for members to learn about the Community Fridge. The Hall is also let to a range of community groups and organisations.

### *Volunteers*

We are indebted to all our volunteers for their dedication and time, without which St John's would not have grown in such an amazing way since 2022. We thank the St John's Winter

Singers, our Authorised Lay Minister, our altar servers, all who help in the Community Fridge and warm hub, those who look after our website and social media accounts, and those who work on the trees in the churchyard and undertake other gardening jobs.

## **St Wulfram's: Worship and Prayer**

### *Regular and special services*

- The PCC is committed to offering a range of worship that reflects the breadth of the Anglican tradition.
- The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship, giving opportunity to include good choral and congregational music. Children from the Sunday Club (which includes those aged 0 to 11) are actively included in this service and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions, and assist in the administration of the Sacrament. All are welcome to participate in this service; and welcome stewards are at the door each Sunday. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and contacted in due course at home.
- The service pattern differs on the first Sunday of the month. All-Age Worship, or Parade Services for the scout and guide groups, take place at 9.30 a.m., supported by the St Wulfram's band of instrumentalists. These services continue to attract a cross-section of people young and old in the congregation. The All-Age Worship or Parade Service is followed at 11.00 a.m. by a traditional Choral Eucharist, the style of which attracts regular members of the congregation, as well as worshippers from other churches and newcomers.
- 'Extra Half Hour' is an informal monthly Bible study on the fourth Sunday of the month, led by the preacher after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist.
- A Said Eucharist is held at 8.00 a.m. each Sunday, the liturgy alternating between Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.
- Choral Evensong is sung at 6.30 p.m. most Sundays during school term times. Outside school term and on the first Sunday of each month, Evening Prayer is said at 6.30 p.m.
- In contrast to the Parish Communion and Choral Evensong, the evening and midweek services are quieter and more reflective. Morning Prayer is said daily in the Crypt (Tuesday to Friday). After a trial period of starting at 8.30 a.m., Morning Prayer reverted to 9.00 a.m. from the autumn. Members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. A midweek Eucharist is held on a Tuesday at 12.00 noon in St Michael's Chapel (or at Grantham House if there is a major event in the church). Compline is held at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesdays (Sung Compline on the third Wednesday of the month). A weekly Exposition and Benediction is held at 12.00 noon on Fridays.
- The Sunday Parish Eucharist, and Sunday Evening Prayer / Evensong and special services continue to be livestreamed to reach those who are unable to attend church in person, both locally and further afield. Broadcasting services via Facebook is part of our strategy for offering encouragement and welcome and for sharing the good news of the Christian faith more widely. Livestreaming is here to stay, but how and when services go online continues to change. Due to the sensitive nature of certain acts of worship (such as a Healing Eucharist, or service to mark Suicide Prevention Week), we choose not to livestream. Notwithstanding this, we do on occasion livestream funerals at the specific request of the families concerned.

- The Youth Choir sing Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m. on Fridays during term time.
- We celebrated Epiphany with a Nativity at the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday 7 January. All children and young people from our church family were invited to tell the story, in costumes, of the Wise Men visiting Jesus. The 'bring and share' Epiphany Tea Party celebrating the arrival of the Magi took place on Saturday 6 January from 5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. in the church (following a rehearsal for the Nativity).
- On Tuesday 23 January, BBC Radio 3 recorded Choral Evensong in St Wulfram's Church sung by The Gesualdo Six and our Youth Choir. The service was broadcast at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 7 February.
- On Shrove Tuesday (13 February, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.), we teamed up with the local sports and education charity called Inspire+ to hold the 'Pancake Race & Giveaway' in the church. With pancake races, games and tasty pancakes to devour, this was a free and fun way to spend an afternoon during the school half-term holiday and to learn a little of what Shrove Tuesday and Lent are. More than 350 children and young people attended this popular event.
- Three special services for St Wulfram's, St John's Church Manthorpe and St John's Church Spitalgate marked Ash Wednesday (14 February), the beginning of Lent. Our Lent booklet (available online) detailed all the Lent, Holy Week and Easter services, Lent groups/courses, Confirmation and First Communion preparations.
- Mothering Sunday flowers were prepared on Saturday morning 9 March in the church. Later in the month, in preparation for Palm Sunday, palm crosses were made at Grantham House (Tuesday evening 19 March). Those who gathered for this dextrous task enjoyed some social time together over refreshments.
- Recognising that Mothering Sunday can be a difficult time for many reasons, we invited people to a Lights of Love service of prayer and reflection for Mothering Sunday (Friday 8 March, 5.15 p.m. Choral Evensong), when there was an opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones. The BBC Radio 4 *Sunday* programme interviewed Fr Clay about this service.
- At 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 20 March, we held a Festal Choral Mass to celebrate St Wulfram, on the anniversary of his death.
- Once again on Sunday afternoons in Lent (3 and 17 March) we welcomed people to the tranquil surroundings of the Walled Garden at Grantham House for 'Stations of the Cross', a self-guided prayerful walk recalling the last journey our Lord took on his way to his crucifixion. With the help of a specially prepared booklet, we stopped at each cross to read the story, offer prayer, and meditate on the themes.
- As we approached Easter Day, our Lenten journey included the following:
  - Walk of Witness to church on Palm Sunday (26 March, 9.15 a.m.), beginning at the white bridge in Wyndham Park, when members of the congregation were invited to bring garden greenery to wave along the way and musical instruments/drums.
  - Holy Monday (25 March, 7.00 p.m.) – a simple meal, followed by a time of reflection ending with Compline, at St John's Manthorpe.
  - Holy Tuesday (26 March) and Holy Wednesday (27 March) – the same pattern, this time at St Wulfram's Church.

- Maundy Thursday (28 March, 7.30 p.m.) – Choral Eucharist with foot-washing and Vigil until midnight.
  - Good Friday (29 March) – The Good Friday Workshop, with a theme of EGGS (10.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.), a morning of creativity and reflection for children aged 3-16 years, concluding with a short act of worship at 12.20 p.m.; The Liturgy (2.00 p.m.).
  - Holy Saturday (30 March, 6.00 p.m.) – The Seder Meal. The Christian observation of this ritual meal celebrates our tradition of Christ's last supper and our own Jewish heritage that provided the context for Jesus' institution at the Last Supper. Service of New Light and Easter Vigil (8.00 p.m.).
- On Easter Day (31 March) we celebrated the risen Christ with a Said Eucharist (8.00 a.m.) and Choral Eucharist with Procession and Easter Egg Hunt for the Sunday Club (9.30 a.m.).
  - On Tuesday 16 April at 12 noon, Mthr Hannah led a Requiem Mass in remembrance of her grandmother, the Revd Jean Page, who was one of the first women to be ordained a priest in the Church of England 30 years ago.
  - A Reflective Eucharist was held at 6.45 p.m. on Wednesday 17 April. This was a simple, meditative Eucharist, where all were welcome to dwell in Christ's presence, with prayerful silence and short readings to guide and focus us in the sacred space.
  - The Grantham Scout and Guide St George's Day Parade through town took place on Sunday 21 April, culminating in a service at St Wulfram's at 3.00 p.m.
  - Our monthly outdoor Muddy Church service continued (on the second Sunday of the month, at 3.00 p.m.), with the focus on drawing closer to God through nature. Usually in the gardens at Grantham House, the service was open to all. In February, we had a fantastic afternoon making campfire pancakes, while thinking about what it means to pray, and what praise looks like. In June, we had a Father's Day Picnic in the walled garden at Grantham House. Muddy Church has taken a break for a few months as we explore its future. Other churches in the deanery are very interested in how this can become a deanery venture.
  - On Thursday 30 May, we held a quiet said Eucharist for the Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi).
  - We marked the twentieth anniversary of Fr Clay's Ordination to the Priesthood, at a Eucharist at St John's Church Spitalgate on Saturday 29 June at 6.00 p.m., followed by refreshments.
  - We remembered in our prayers the Revd Canon Rex Howe (Team Rector of Grantham 1977-1985) who died on 11 August aged 94.
  - Ahead of the start of the new academic year, school and university bags and shoes were blessed at the All-Age Eucharist on Sunday 1 September.
  - In line with our aim to mark certain 'awareness days' in the national calendar, we held a service in church at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10 September, World Suicide Prevention Day. This was an opportunity to remember those who have died by suicide, those who are affected by suicide, and those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide. All were invited to light a candle of hope. Contemplative and thought-provoking music was played through the sound system. Clergy were available after the service for anyone

who wished to talk or to receive a blessing. The Order of Service contained details of resources available to help anyone struggling with mental health issues.

- For Choral Evensong on Sunday 15 September, the choir of St Wulfram's was joined by choir alumni in recognition of the fact that Philip Lank (Organist and Choirmaster at St Wulfram's, 1961 to 1984) would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year. The Philip Lank Trust, set up in his name in 2008 with the aim to promote and support music education in Grantham, supports many projects including organ tuition and choral scholarships. We gave thanks to God for all that Philip brought to the town through the gift of music.
- We marked our Patronal Festival at the Parish Eucharist on Sunday morning 13 October and a Choral Evensong the same day. Also on that day, Fr Clay led a Pet Blessing Service at the church (3.00 p.m.), when we thanked God for the gift of our furred, feathered and scaly companions. Anyone unable to bring their pet along was encouraged to bring a photograph or an item belonging to them for a blessing. About 45 pets and their owners attended.
- The All Souls Mass, including Fauré's *Requiem*, was held in church and broadcast on Facebook from 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 3 November. Email invitations were issued to all our contacts. The names of departed loved ones were included in the prayers (an online form was available to register names beforehand).
- Grantham paid its respects as the annual Remembrance Parade took place through the town centre on Sunday 10 November. Crowds gathered to watch the parade, which made its way to St Wulfram's Church, where the usual Service of Remembrance was held at 10.55 a.m., followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memorial in the churchyard, before the parade made its way back to St Peter's Hill for the salute.
- On Sunday 8 December, we were delighted to welcome Bishop David of Grimsby to celebrate and preach at our Parish Eucharist.
- On Saturday evening, 14 December BBC Radio Lincolnshire recorded their 'Christmas Celebration' at St Wulfram's, for broadcast from Friday 20 December. 600 tickets were taken for this event. Music was provided by the Band of the RAF College Cranwell and the St Wulfram's Church Choir. Fr Stuart gave a short sermon; a nativity was acted by children of Great Ponton Church of England Primary School; and readings were given by young people representing Inspire+ and West Grantham Academy.
- On Thursday 17 December (6.00 p.m.), the Lights of Love Service of carols and prayers was attended by more than 60 people. We stepped away from the busyness of this time of year, pausing to remember those whom we love but see no longer, and to light candles in their memory.
- On the morning of Monday 23 December, hundreds of Christingles were prepared by volunteers for the Christingle Crib service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, where we followed Mary and Joseph's journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Young people were encouraged to come to the service dressed as a character from the nativity story. We thank the volunteers who support this very popular service by lighting Christingles and keeping everyone safe.
- We held the candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of Sunday 22 December. Attendance was very high. Midnight Mass was held at 11.30 p.m. on 24 December. On Christmas Day, there was a Said Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 a.m. (in the Chancel); the Parish Mass was held at 10.00 a.m.,

when congregants were encouraged to bring along an unopened present to open during the service.

- In October/November we ran the 'Church Development Tool' survey designed by the Church of England. We invited everyone in the church, including our young people, to complete the quick anonymous questionnaire (online or on paper) to help us understand ourselves as a church and shape our prayers and planning for the year ahead. The results will help us to see where we are doing well and to discern areas where God might be calling us to do something new or different.

### *Preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and Confirmation*

- Since January 2014 the PCC has allowed children from the age of those in school Year 3 to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, following a period of preparation undertaken in Lent, with the young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time, with their family, on Easter Day. Communion Club (as the period of preparation is known) is led by Fr Stuart and Mrs Laura Craddock.
- Confirmation is an important life event in the church; and we welcome any young people who are in school Year 8 upwards to join the Youth Confirmation Group, which is an intensive programme of preparation for confirmation (led by clergy).

Adult confirmation preparation is open to all who wish to recognise their personal development in faith. The usual format is meetings held on six consecutive Sundays, where we introduce what the Anglican Church believes and explore the essentials of the Christian faith.

Bishop Nicholas confirmed candidates from the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries at a service in St Wulfram's on Trinity Sunday (26 May). There were nine confirmands from St Wulfram's this year. In addition, one candidate from St Wulfram's was received into the Church of England.

### *Occasional Offices*

The occasional offices continue to be an important point of contact and ministry within the wider community.

In 2024 there were 11 marriages. We conducted 21 baptisms: 19 children and 2 adults (10 under one year of age, 6 aged between one and four years old, 1 aged between five and ten years old, 2 aged between 11 and 17 years old, two aged 18+). We have an open baptism policy and do our best to keep in touch with the families involved.

A total of 28 funerals for people in the parish were conducted during the year, of which 18 took place in church. On four occasions, ashes were interred in the churchyard.

### **Mission and Social Responsibility**

St Wulfram's continues to take seriously its calling to be a living witness to the gospel at the heart of the town. In many of the activities detailed in this report there is effective contact with a substantial number of people of all ages beyond the congregation.

The church's work in this area is overseen by a Mission & Social Responsibility committee (a sub-group of the PCC). St Wulfram's supports a range of mission and charitable organisations, giving away 4% of its pledged income to these each year. The sub-group continues to support initiatives at St John's Church Spitalgate, including the new Community

Fridge, for which a grant of £3,000 was allocated in 2023. A grant of £250 was made to the The United Society Partners in the Gospel, commonly known as USPG. A further £100 was made to our Craft, Prayer & Chatter group for materials; and £100 was granted to the Baby Clothes Carousel for another clothes rail and additional boxes. £1,000 was added to The Passage budget.

For many years, St Wulfram's supported Kylie and Bhim Bahadur as mission partners in Asia with the Church Mission Society (CMS). A grant of £250 was made to CMS for Kylie and Bhim's work this year (the first since 2021). Later in the year, we heard that the couple had come to the end of their ministry with CMS. In September, CMS emailed thanks to St Wulfram's for our faithful support and generosity towards the couple; such commitment enabled them to carry out amazing projects bringing hope to countless people, and the impact of our giving was clear in the transformed lives and communities that Kylie and Bhim worked with. The CMS suggested prospective new mission partners and invited the PCC, through the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group, to consider these.

There were various opportunities to donate during Christian Aid Week (12 to 18 May). St Wulfram's collections raised £291 this year, part of the collection for the Grantham Christian Aid Group, which totalled of £5,083.

St Wulfram's was proud to mark the national 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (13 to 19 May) again this year, when the theme was 'Movement for Mental Health'. We offered Chair Yoga in the church with Stefan from Active Balance Yoga (Thursday 16 May, 4.00 p.m.) with tea and coffee afterwards, and a walk from Grantham House, along the River Witham, through Sedgewick Meadows, Wyndham Park and back to Grantham House, where coffee and biscuits were served (Friday 17 May, 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon). Both activities were free of charge.

2024 was a very busy year for The Passage overseen by Grantham Poverty Concern (GPC). The team of St Wulfram's volunteers have been even busier this year with numbers sometimes reaching 32 and mostly over 25. The teams work the first, second, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month serving hot dogs, soup, sandwiches and cakes. We did have some response for soup at the Harvest Festival but are in need of another appeal and Andrew Gregory has kindly offered to carry this out in 2025 in the usual successful manner. Many thanks go to all who are involved with this valuable service. Sheila Knight is now responsible for representing St Wulfram's at the GPC monthly meetings. Sheila also leads two groups and organises the teams for the other three. Watkins Butchers and Bakers are now donating 48 cobs, 24 hot dog rolls, 500g of ham and 20 cakes on a weekly basis saving St Wulfram's at least £20 per week of their usual donation. We thank them for such a generous donation. The landlady of The Recruiting Sargeant in Great Gonerby celebrated volunteers who devote their time to supporting charities including Grantham Passage and Poverty Concern with a free two-course meal on 9 December. Three of our Passage volunteers attended.

We continue to support Grantham Foodbank, striving to restore dignity and revive hope for the vulnerable in the local community. Dorothy Gaughan (a member of our congregation and Guild of Servers) is the part-time Coordinator, and Mthr Hannah Grivell chairs the Trustees. Tins, packets, jars and bottles of food/drink and household toiletries are donated regularly to the Foodbank through collection boxes located in church. From time to time, we issue useful 'shopping lists' encouraging members of our congregation and community to donate the items of food and toiletries that are most needed. We invited members of the congregation and community to consider participating in the '40 for 40' campaign, by setting aside 40p for each of the 40 days of Lent. Food is collected at Harvest-time for the Foodbank.

We collected new toys, toiletries, and other gifts for the Grantham Foodbank at our Advent Sunday Parade and All-Age Eucharist on 'the ice' of the Christmas Tree Festival. These gifts were distributed with food to ease the crisis faced by families this Christmas. During

December, we encouraged members of the congregation to collect tinned and packet goods for the Foodbank through the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme, which ran for a third year.

We held a Macmillan Coffee Morning after the 9.30 a.m. service in the church on Sunday 13 October, which raised almost £400. Also in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, the church hosted a Hawaiian themed Zumba marathon on Saturday 26 October (5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.).

Over and above the charitable giving organised by the church community, approximately £6,250 (excluding monies raised for Grantham Ark) was raised for charity through school services, funerals and other events held within the building. As usual, the collection at the Christingle Crib Service on Christmas Eve was donated to the Children's Society.

Grantham Ark (Registered Charity number 1190668), formed out of an initiative spearheaded by Fr Stuart Craddock through Churches Together in 2019, protects and supports local people who are experiencing homelessness. In 2022, following discussion with Grantham Ark, South Kesteven District Council agreed to set aside one property from its housing stock per year for three years, to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people for up to three weeks each. The first house was released to Grantham Ark in the autumn of 2023. Following significant work on the property, organised by the Ark's Support Worker whom the charity recruited, the first temporary resident was welcomed to the house on 27 December 2023. Grantham Ark is grateful to the volunteers who manage the charity, and/or support its work in various ways.

Working in partnership, Grantham Ark and SKDC plan to use the house as a winter night shelter accommodating larger numbers there during the coldest months in 2025. SKDC will meet the cost of support workers for that enhanced initiative. Grantham Ark plans to organise a Sleep-Out event early in 2025 to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the homeless and to raise funds. They encourage local employers, voluntary groups, scouts, guides, schools, and colleges to bring a group to take part.

In July, our *Community* news carried a message from Vera Quick about the work of the local Prison Fellowship group, and the members who meet monthly for prayer, now at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The message pointed us to the Prison Fellowship website to find out more information. Prayer is at the core of what the group does and being a volunteer does not mean you have to go into a prison: there are options to be a letter writer, to pray for the requests coming into Prayer Line, and Vera welcomes help for the Angel Tree project in which Christmas gifts are sent to the children of men in Lincoln Prison every year.

Lincolnshire County Council continues to use the church Coffee Shop as a pop-up café on the first and third Tuesday of every month (10.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.), for their Grantham Day Opportunities group. Everyone is welcome to come for a drink and meet new people.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC continues to take extremely seriously the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk of harm. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (that is, the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm).

Against the background of the revelations that came to light through the Independent Review into the Church's handling of the John Smyth case (the Makin Report) published in October, and the Presidential Address by the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Lincoln, to Diocesan Synod (16 November), the Rector signalled his intention to propose a new Safeguarding Sub-group of the PCC in the new year, to support the vital work of the Parish

Safeguarding Officer and Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer. Terms of reference will be drafted with the aim of establishing the new sub-group from the new PCC year (starting on 18 May 2025).

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Assistant Safeguarding Officer (ASO – our Parish Administrator) make regular written reports to the PCC; and the PSO attends PCC meetings to report in person as necessary. Each May, when the new PCC is in place, it conducts an annual review of our safeguarding policy statement, which is signed by the Rector (as Chair of the PCC) and displayed in the church.

The ASO continues to process applications for DBS clearance. In line with recruitment practices set out in the Church of England's Guidance *Safer Recruitment* and diocesan policy, our Churchwardens and all PCC members are DBS checked upon appointment/election. All other staff and volunteers (e.g., in the music department and lay pastoral team) are also DBS checked upon taking up roles. We carefully monitor periods for which clearance is granted and apply for renewal, as appropriate. Hitherto, we DBS checked adult choristers, who are not also chaperones; but they no longer qualify for an Enhanced DBS check and thirtyone:eight (the organisation that provides our DBS checks) does not carry out Basic DBS clearance.

The ASO oversees a system to ensure that all individuals with DBS clearance complete online courses relevant to their role within the church (as specified by the Church of England). All PCC members undertake 'Basic Awareness' training (level Co), the 'Foundation Module' (C1) and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. All are available online through the Church of England training portal. When PCC membership changes at the APCM, steps are taken to ensure that new members undertake the necessary training as quickly as possible.

Pastoral assistants, leaders of groups for young people or adults at risk, the Bell Tower Captain, church administrative staff, and servers also undertake Co and C1. Licensed clergy and readers, clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate, PSOs, ASOs, and Authorised Lay Ministers are required to undertake the Leadership Module (C2). Completion certificates are sent to the ASO to update the parish records.

The House of Bishops introduced new and expanded 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' guidance in January 2022. Under this guidance, there is a requirement for all those working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults to have a role description and person specification, to have DBS renewals every 3 years (rather than every 5 years) and for there to be an annual review meeting. The PCC is in the process of implementing these changes, in consultation with the Diocese of Lincoln.

Periodically, the PSO provides the PCC with copies of reports from the Safeguarding Dashboard, our progress on which is monitored by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. All parishes start at Level 1, which contains 18 dashboard lights. To progress to Level 2, at least 12 lights must be turned green. The PSO continues work on the Level 2 actions. From time to time, the PCC reviews the list of church activities, for which mini dashboards are automatically created. The list was reviewed and updated at the PCC meeting on 23 May.

The PSO spent a considerable time in the autumn monitoring and updating the Level 2 mini-dashboards for church activities; and her safeguarding report to the PCC in November included screenshots of all the activity dashboards, some of which contained amber zones (mainly stemming from the 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' section). Detailed work on this is ongoing, with support from the PSO for group leaders to draw up necessary risk assessments.

In line with national safeguarding requirements, the PSO continued to draw up a full register of volunteers (aged 18 and over) attached to church activities and to ensure the names are recorded correctly on the Diocesan Register of Volunteers. Introductory training sessions for volunteers have yet to be arranged.

At the first PCC after the Annual Meeting (when changes to PCC membership have been made), the revised annual Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' is adopted for signature by the Rector and display in the church. At its meeting on 11 July, the PCC reviewed and approved procedures for dealing with and reporting any safeguarding concern or allegation; and relevant documentation was subsequently displayed prominently in the church.

The PCC uses a step-by-step process (adopted in 2018) for approval of all off-site activities (e.g., by the Choir and Youth Group), delegating certain powers to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). At its meeting on 12 March, upon the recommendation of the Children & Youth Sub-group which was following recent information from the church's insurers, the PCC adopted a more streamlined process for approval of off-site visits for insurance purposes. The PCC upheld the current agreement (dating from 19 November 2019) regarding off-site activities up to three miles away during regular activity time; and agreed that venues where parents' own transport is used or where the local venue is within walking distance of St Wulfram's should have general annual consent (subject then to risk assessment and safeguarding procedures being fully complete in line with the flowchart for the approval of off-site activities). A list of such venues will be presented to the PCC each May. The streamlining of the approval process for off-site activities has meant that the Director of Music can respond in a timelier fashion to outreach opportunities and other invitations; so, fewer requests now come to the PCC for approval for insurance purposes.

The training and competency of choir chaperones was put to the test at a visit to Planet Bounce (10 February) when the fire alarm sounded. The PSO was informed that all our young people were evacuated promptly, assembled at the designated fire assembly point, and accounted for with minimal fuss. One evening in early September, the PSO observed a Youth Choir practice, remained for Choral Evensong, and then observed the children's choir practice. She subsequently reported to the PCC that the chaperones were following guidance.

### **Our resource centre at Grantham House**

For many years since the sale of the old Church Hall in the Rectory Garden by the diocesan Properties Department, we have been through a series of option appraisals thinking how best we might equip our ministry and mission. Since December 2020, St Wulfram's has benefitted from a lease arrangement from the National Trust for the Grantham House site (opposite the church, on Castlegate).

This venture has brought about many benefits to our life. As our 'church hall', space there has been utilised on a regular basis for a range of daytime and evening meetings (PCC and several sub-groups; learning opportunities; youth groups; Deanery Chapter, Synod and committees; Friends of St Wulfram's; Almshouses Trustees; Grantham Ark Trustees; flower arrangers; Philip Lank Trustees). The weekly Coffee Morning and monthly Art Group have taken place in the Hall when space in the church has been unavailable. The Hall has been used for choir rehearsals after school three days a week. In 2024, three wakes took place in the Hall and Dining Room, using outside caterers. The garden is also popular for events.

An enthusiastic and dedicated team of community garden volunteers work on site on Tuesday mornings, under the supervision of the full-time Gardener (whose salary was covered by a generous donation). Some garden volunteers continued to be involved in the wider

activities of St Wulfram's (for example, helping at the Artisan Brocante and decorating a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival).

Although the PCC decided in December 2021 to take a new five-year lease offered by the NT, financial considerations (especially the rising cost of utilities) militated against such a lengthy commitment in 2022-23. Since then, the ongoing tenure was based on an extension of the original 12-month lease signed on 4 December 2020.

In the first couple of years on the site, we benefitted significantly from new funding streams to enable people to recover from the social and health impacts of Covid-19. We captured several grants for wellbeing activities at Grantham House under the 'Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing' banner. Post-Covid, the grants landscape and funding priorities changed, and we have not attracted or applied for external funding in the last 18 months.

Gradually, the past arrangement became unsustainable due to the lack of income generated from the site. The future of our use of Grantham House was considered by the PCC at a special meeting in August 2023, following three meetings of the Standing Committee. Then, after much deliberation and heartache, the PCC made the uncomfortable decision in January 2024 to withdraw from the Grantham House site. The NT was made aware of the PCC's decision and agreed that St Wulfram's could remain on site until 31 July.

Discussion of arrangements going forward reverted to the Standing Committee once more, which met four times over February/March. The first committee decision was to commence a redundancy process with the Operations & Development Manager, with a view to the contract ending on 31 July. Using an options appraisal form, soundings were taken from PCC members, staff, and a few key others about alternative provision, in order to draw up a schedule of requirements. The committee worked with Gareth Dawkins, MRICS, who researched the local area and current market to identify any possible opportunities. The research revealed that it would be hard to find the equivalent of a church hall near the church and that the cost of rent, service charge, insurance, utilities and initial fitting out of any commercial premises would be relatively high when compared with the costs at Grantham House.

So began yet further negotiations with the NT about how we might exist at Grantham House.

At the end of March 2024, we said goodbye for our Gardener (Carl Kettle) who, amid the uncertainties, had secured an alternative position. We recruited his successor, Malcolm Dixon, on a temporary basis until 31 July. On 19 July, we said a fond farewell to Mel Brown in her role as Operations & Development Manager of Grantham House. We were deeply grateful for all that she brought to our life and wished her every blessing as she took up the post of Grantham Engagement Manager for South Kesteven District Council.

The NT eventually offered St Wulfram's an additional six months' extension on the site from 1 August, while they developed a new scheme to use Grantham House for the benefit of the community, in line with their five-year development plan. The NT agreed to take over the running costs of the garden (including paying St Wulfram's for the full cost of the Gardener, whose contract with the church was extended to 31 December). With other running costs at a minimum, this offer was accepted by St Wulfram's. In the meantime, Heritage Lincolnshire secured a £10K grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for St Wulfram's for professional fees to prepare for a proposed partnership arrangement with the NT.

Further meetings were held with the NT. Two of these were attended online by Julian Lomas, Director of Almond Tree Strategic Consulting Limited (whose fee was charged to the Heritage Lottery grant). A Statement of Intent was drawn up by the NT to capture joint plans

for the site; and we are grateful to Julian Lomas for his feedback on the draft. The eventual outcome was that the PCC decided (November 2024) to accept a new lease arrangement leading to a partnership agreement with the NT, sharing the site.

Subject to the necessary planning consents, the NT aims to open a café in the Hall and to let rooms on the first floor for community use. They will also sell second-hand books. An accessible toilet will be added on the ground floor. Grantham Arts CIC will lease the nearby premises at 44 Castlegate as an arts studio, offering workshops to the public in pottery, painting and textiles. The gardens will be open to the public year-round. All these initiatives aim to promote health, wellbeing and creativity.

The exclusive space that St Wulfram's will inhabit will be upstairs in the west wing of the house, which will include four rooms, a WC, and a kitchenette. At no extra cost, we shall have additional use of extra rooms upstairs, and the main hall outside of café opening hours, as required. This will change the way St Wulfram's works on site, but offices, small-scale music work, meetings, small group sessions, committee meetings, youth groups and socials will be able to continue at Grantham House. Under the partnership agreement, St Wulfram's and the NT will run joint fundraising events on site.

Going forward, the benefits in terms of a fixed cost for St Wulfram's and the chance to work in partnership with a significant national body were seen by the PCC as an opportunity not to be missed. The PCC hopes that St Wulfram's Church will benefit from the increased footfall to the area that the NT's developments at Grantham House will bring.

In December, at the request of the NT, the PCC agreed to extend the Gardener's contract by a further two months (to February 2025), with full salary costs continuing to be covered by the NT. If all goes according to plan, the NT hopes to transfer the Gardener to its employment from 1 March 2025.

We look forward to the start of the new partnership agreement with the NT from the Spring of 2025, and all the benefits and opportunities it will bring to St Wulfram's.

## **Music**

### *Introduction*

- Over the past 17 years, Organist and Director of Music Dr Tim Williams, FRCO (DipCHD) has achieved notable success in the recruiting and training of young members of the choir, drawing on relationships with local schools and other music contacts. Choristers are not auditioned, and all members share a remarkable commitment and professionalism in their approach to music. The standard of the children's sections of St Wulfram's Church Choir is one of the success stories of the church music programme. The children's choirs continue to be a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community. Some of our choristers go on to high level careers in music. St Wulfram's is increasingly becoming a centre for the training of church musicians.
- Choir club takes place on Wednesday afternoon after school and on occasional Tuesdays after school. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards. New recruits are given their own introductory sessions. A strength of the choir lies in its diversity and inclusivity, with young people being drawn from many different backgrounds and there being no audition process.

- We held a ‘Come and be a Chorister at St Wulfram’s’ event for children in school years 2 to 8 on Saturday afternoon, 9 November. This offered the chance to experience the excitement of being a chorister with the choir, and the chance to make new friends, to explore the church, to have a go at playing the organ, to dress up in choir robes and to put on a fantastic performance for parents.
- We have steadily continued recruitment to all sections of the choir, and have been delighted to welcome several new families.
- A ‘Come and Sing Evensong’ event for adults who might be interested in joining the choir took place on Sunday 27 October from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
- The youth choir (SATB ensemble), which meets on Monday afternoon, responds to the choristers as they graduate from the boys’ and girls’ choirs. In the 2023-24 school year, there were four ‘choral scholars’ supported by the Philip Lank Trust, and three senior choral scholars supported by St Wulfram’s (through the endowment gifted in 2019 by the Friends of Cathedral Music). Most Fridays during term time, the youth choir sings Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m., supported by our portable box organ; a regular congregation attends.
- After two relatively short-term appointments in 2023, we decided not to seek to recruit once again to the fixed-term post of Assistant Director of Music. Instead, the Director of Music petitioned the Cathedral Music Trust (CMT) to allow St Wulfram’s to use the balance of their grant towards the cost of much-needed administration for the Music Department. Thanks also to the generosity of the Philip Lank Trust, we were able to advertise a two-year Choir Administrator role for 6 hours a week, 42 weeks a year, to support the Director of Music and the team of voluntary helpers and chaperones in managing all of the logistics involved. Advertisement and shortlisting took place in May and the role was filled from June. The role has eased the significant administrative burden on the Director of Music.
- A generous grant had also been pledged by the Diocesan Transformation Fund towards the cost of an Assistant Director of Music. With the agreement of the diocese, this funding too was repurposed; and, at the start of September, we advertised three Music Internships for the academic year 2024-25 to support outreach and assist with the choir. Appointments were made following the safer recruitment process and the three Interns took up their roles from 1 October. Weekly paid hours vary between them, but do not exceed 9 hours. In addition to the paid work, the Interns receive professional training and development for their future careers. The Interns will take on the organisation of the Saturday Morning Recital Series; and in late January 2025 they will restart the Community Choir, which lapsed in the summer of 2023. A String Ensemble is also planned for 2025.
- These two developments mean that the whole set-up for the Music Department is very different from a year ago. The extra support came at the right time, with the choir in such an excellent phase. Not only does it help the Director of Music target his work within the contracted hours at St Wulfram’s (alongside his career in academia and music education), but it has also presented a significant growth opportunity for our way of working.
- Highlights in the early part of the year included a daytrip to sing in Rochester Cathedral, and a chorister trip to Planet Bounce, Nottingham.
- In April, we launched a sustained series of fundraising events for the choristers’ summer residency at York Minster. This followed the regular choir cake sale after the

9.30 a.m. Parade and All-Age Eucharist on Mothering Sunday (10 March) and Saturday Morning Recitals through the year by members of the Music department.

Taking choristers away for a week is a massive organisational challenge and relies heavily on volunteer chaperones, who give freely of their time. It is also a massive financial commitment. To ensure the opportunity is as accessible as possible, St Wulfram's subsidises the contribution families make per chorister. We were delighted to reach the fundraising target through the hard work by our musicians and the generosity of our supporters.

The events included:

- A Spring Concert by St Wulfram's Church Choir (Friday 19 April), when several choristers spoke about aspects of life in the choir.
  - International Organ Day recital by Tim Williams (Saturday 20 April). Alongside performing, Dr Williams spoke about the organ.
  - Grantham House Open Gardens and Summer Fete (Bank Holiday Monday 27 May, 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).
  - Amigo's family Magic Show in the church (Friday 31 May, 6.00 p.m.).
  - An afternoon series of 45-minute vocal recitals by young members of the choir at St Mary and St Peter's Church, Harlaxton: Elizabeth Craddock (Saturday 15 June); Eliyana James and Iona Williams (Saturday 22 June); Tom Fletcher (Sunday 30 June); Charlotte Whysall (Saturday 6 July); Sophie Allain Chapman (Saturday 13 July); and St Wulfram's youth choir (Saturday 20 July).
  - A combined concert in the church by the choristers of St Wulfram's Church Choir and the pupils of three local primary schools – the St Wulfram's National Church of England Primary School, Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England School, and Grantham Preparatory International School (Wednesday 26 June, 6.30 p.m.). The evening culminated in the singing of 'The Rhythm of Life' by all the school choirs and our choristers. A raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, was held in the interval.
  - A Saturday morning Recital by our youth choir (20 July).
- The choristers were excited to have the opportunity to sing Evensong services for a whole week and three Sunday services in York Minster (Monday 29 July to Sunday 4 August). The choristers and youth choir also gave a free lunchtime recital in St Helen's Church, Stonegate (Friday 2 August). Such a residency is an amazing opportunity for our choristers to grow as musicians and develop as a team, with many further activities beyond music – the trip to Scarborough, and the annual talent show were two of the many highlights. Our experiences in 2024 add to the memories of our previous trips.
  - Highlights in the latter part of the year included major services from All Souls (a liturgical offering of Fauré's *Requiem*), through Remembrance, to Advent Carols, An Advent Liturgy including Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with Thea Maund, harp (Sunday 8 December), and the traditional Nine Lessons & Carols (Sunday 22 December). In the two weeks before Christmas, sections of the choir sang at Boundary Mill department store, at Wyville Church, in Kitchen & Coffee, and at the Royal Windsor Care Home (after which choristers enjoyed a meal at KFC).
  - There was a happy moment on 23 December, when several past choristers came back to sing 'Carols in the Courtyard' with the youth choir – singers from many different eras of youth ensembles taught by Dr Williams at St Wulfram's. They had a delightful evening singing together and much hilarity in rehearsal.

- In 2025, we look forward to the youth choir trip to Cambridge and Ely Cathedral (February), a weekend residency for choristers in Stratford-upon-Avon (early summer), as well as several day trips for the whole choir, hopefully including a return visit to Westminster Abbey.
- The ministry and dedication that the choir offers brings beauty to many people's lives and helps change their perceptions and experiences of the world. The choristers (broadly defined, meaning all ages) should never underestimate the lasting value of everything they bring to the choir, day in, day out. This would not be possible without the support of a wonderful team. The Director of Music pays tribute to:
  - The music administrative team of volunteers for the assistance they provide, especially with communication of schedules and paperwork.
  - The dedicated choir chaperoning team, which takes care of the choristers and helps with so many logistical and administrative tasks.
  - The commitment and dedication of choir parents. Despite all the wonderful opportunities the choristers have together, it requires a huge amount of time and care to get the choristers to all the places we require.
  - Everyone who dedicates so much of their life to singing in the choir.
- We are grateful to Assistant Organists Michael Dutton, Peter Davis, Rosemary Field, David Humphreys, Darren Williams, and Andrew Wyatt for their ongoing contributions to the music at St Wulfram's.

#### *Organ teaching school*

- The musical training of young people at St Wulfram's includes a highly active organ teaching school. Currently nine young scholars are learning to play the organ under the tutelage of Dr Tim Williams FRCO, with some supported by the Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars' Trust (YOST), and by the Royal College of Organists. Our portable box organ (housed in the Lady Chapel) is also a valuable resource for the organ scholars. The digital organs gifted to the King's School and KGGS by the Royal College of Organists support the Grantham organ teaching school and enable both practice and teaching provisions in school time. Dr Williams teaches several pupils in KGGS via this resource.
- The organ scholars have achieved notable success in ABRSM examinations this year, and four are now working at or above Grade 5 level.

#### *Wider music programme*

- The recital series continues, on the third Saturday morning of the month. Entry is free and there is a retiring collection for St Wulfram's Church. In 2024, we welcomed organists (Martin Ennis, Rosemary Field) and singers (Elaine Bishop accompanied by Tim Williams, Samuel Davie accompanied by Tim Williams, Hannah Grivell accompanied by Jenny Walker); and performances were given by various choirs (our own choristers, our Youth Choir, The Bridge Singers, the Derby City Singers & Voices girls choir, InVoice Singers). We thank Mel Brown for organising the recitals.

- Among the other musical highlights in the church were:
  - Grantham Choral Society Spring concert – ‘The French Connection’, including Faure’s *Requiem* (27 April).
  - Two staged performances by Grantham Operatic Society of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Pirates of Penzance* (7 September, 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.).
  - Arnhem80 concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund by the Band of the Welsh Guards (25 October), featuring a performance by 1940s singer Melody Flyte.
  - An Evening of Festive Favourites: A concert featuring the Band of the Royal Air Force College (7 December).

## **Church Community**

### **(a) *Children, Young People and Families***

- Children are welcomed at St Wulfram’s and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the ‘Children & Youth Sub-group’ established by the PCC. The sub-group meets regularly and includes in its membership several individuals who do not serve on the PCC. It hears reviews on each aspect of the church’s work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church’s involvement with church schools in the parish. It celebrates achievements and discusses challenges and points for action.
- The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. Participants enjoy a full programme of teaching, prayer, music, and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord’s Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been doing at the end of the service. There is a very dedicated team of volunteers, including a teenager.
- Our Children’s Area continues to be well used during services and throughout the week as a ‘Stay and Play’ resource for families with young children who want a place ‘to be’ with their children.
- Wulfram Wednesdays take place during school holidays when children aged 4 to 11 years and families are invited to participate in craft activities in church (or alternatively at Grantham House). The Wednesday workshops were co-ordinated this year by Laura Cradduck (Chair of the PCC’s Children & Youth Sub-group). The summer themes (24 and 31 July, 7, 14, 21 and 28 August) included Stained glass window art; toilet roll fire breathing dragons; rubbing, sketching and Origami; glass painting; clay gargoyle making; and a treasure hunt and crafts in the gardens at Grantham House. In the October half-term holiday (23 October), there was an autumn craft workshop. Numbers of children and adults attending range from 14 to 35. Positive feedback was received from participants on each of the days.
- Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, their parents/carers, meet at Wulfram Tots, in the church at 9.30 a.m. every Friday in school term-time. The aim is to have fun and share the Christian faith in an informal way through play, singing (with guitar accompaniment), Bible stories and craft activities, hopefully building some new friendships for the adults as well as the children. The sessions are led by members of the clergy. After the sessions, people stay for refreshments and to enjoy the children’s play area. Details are shared on the Wulfram Tots noticeboard and through Facebook. A dozen or more families are accessing Tots on a regular basis; and some return in due course with a second or third child. Through this group, we have seen the baptism of both children and adults, and a few of the adults have been confirmed as well.

- After consultation with volunteers and participants, it was decided to move Wulfram Bear's Baby Clothes Carousel (launched in September 2022) from the second Friday of every month after Wulfram Tots, to the second Saturday morning. The change, which happened from 13 July, has been popular. Parents can go along to donate and pick up baby clothes (ages 0-24 months) completely free of charge. The baby clothes 'swap' is advertised regularly on social media.
- We run three age-related youth groups. Children in school years 5 to 7/8 meet on a Friday evening at Grantham House and this group consists of around 30 members with a normal attendance of around 24 each week. Our two other groups meet once a month on separate Sunday evenings at Grantham House or at the Rectory. The middle age group is aimed at those in years 8 to 10/11. There are around 25 members of this group with session attendance usually being around 15/16. This group represents a 50:50 mixture of choir and non-choir members. Our oldest group is well established, many of whom were confirmed together, and draws upon members of youth choir and beyond. This group consists of around 15 young people in years 11 to 13. The young people in all groups have been instrumental in designing the programme for this year and members enjoy a range of activities. They are encouraged to invite their friends to join, and our older two groups are also encouraged to volunteer for wider church events.
- There are three Scout groups associated with the church. They attend church for their St George's Day Parade. Clergy and other members of the church speak to the groups when invited. The groups also visit the church from time to time as part of their badge work and spiritual development. Fr Stuart is Chaplain to the Scouts and led their Carol Service at ChristChurch in December this year.
- Members of the clergy team lead weekly collective worship for two church schools, Little Gonerby Primary Academy and St Wulfram's National Church of England Primary School.
- Three members of our clergy team are governors of local schools.

In November, the diocesan Board of Education drew our PCC's attention to vacancies for foundation governors at Little Gonerby Church of England Primary Academy. We understood this was not the only school with such vacancies. The PCC was invited to pass to the Board of Education names of people interested in becoming a foundation governor.

- Local schools, especially the church schools and the local state nursery school, make regular visits to learn about the church building, about Christianity and about the church's role in the community. Several schools also use the church for services throughout the year, including during Lent, for carol services, and services to mark the end of the school year. The neighbouring boys grammar school uses the church building for its annual Founder's Day Service and Speech Night.

**(b) *Pastoral Care***

- The clergy and lay pastoral support team (led by Fr Clay) are available to any person in the parish who asks for their support or help. Training and ongoing support is available for team members.

- Those who are new to the congregation are made welcome and visited as soon as convenient, and a welcome card captures contact details as well as requests for prayer. Those who are ill, housebound, or too frail to attend church are visited regularly. Likewise, residential/nursing homes and a local sheltered housing development are visited monthly, and the reserved sacrament is taken by members of the team. Visits to the care homes in the parish are a source of blessing for the team as well as for residents.
- Opportunities to invite bereaved families to memorial services continue to grow. All Souls' Day, Lights of Love services and a Service on World Suicide Prevention Day were well attended.

**(c) *Community groups***

- We have a popular Sunday lunch group for people of any age who would otherwise eat alone and have a connection with St Wulfram's. Members of the group visit a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. The lunches continue to be a valuable opportunity for fellowship for congregation members and those with other links to St Wulfram's. We are most grateful to Jane Sharp who co-ordinates the gatherings.
- Our monthly Art Group, which began as a Lent project in 2019, met on the first Wednesday of each month in church throughout the year. Sadly, the group finished in December due to falling numbers. Members thank Dennis Hobbs, who led the group so ably from the start.
- On the morning of 30 August, we welcomed students and staff from the Grantham College Day Break group for a glass painting workshop.
- The popular weekly Coffee Morning (which began online during the pandemic lockdowns) continues on Wednesdays in the church (or in the Hall at Grantham House if there is a church diary clash). In June, we enjoyed coffee on the lawn at Grantham House on a warm and sunny day. This year, numbers fluctuated between 6 and 27; and average weekly attendance was 14 (the same as in 2023). The gathering provides valuable fellowship for members of the St Wulfram's community. In December, 22 of the Coffee Morning attendees enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Recruiting Sargeant pub in Great Gonerby.
- A simple lunch of homemade soup and bread is served in church (or at Grantham House if the church is unavailable) at 12.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, following the 12 noon Eucharist. The lunch is open to all, irrespective of whether they worship at St Wulfram's. Up to 24 attend each time. The lunch is friendly and the fellowship there can provide a lifeline for newcomers to the local community and those who are lonely and/or feel isolated. We are indebted to those who prepare the soup and bake fresh bread. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.
- For the first part of the year, our Craft and Prayer Group ran in the church (or at Grantham House if the church was unavailable) on the second Tuesday of each month, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Around 20 people usually attended, including some signposted by social prescribers (who sometimes accompanied clients until confidence grew for them to attend alone). Participants brought along their own crafts (e.g., knitting, sewing, card making, embroidery, crochet) or various small crafts are provided. They shared fellowship, conversation, and refreshments, and also used the time for prayer in a relaxed atmosphere. The PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility

Sub-group allocated a grant of £100 to the Craft, Prayer & Fellowship Group towards the cost of supplies this year.

However, it was announced in August that, after much soul searching and discussion, the organisers (Sheila Knight and Helen Dawkins) had decided that they could no longer continue to run the group. They thanked everyone who had supported the group over the last three years.

The group's stunning display of knitted, crocheted, and felt poppies was used once again in the church for Armistice Day.

- The Men's Breakfast meets monthly on Saturdays, at first at the King's Walk Café and more recently at Nightingales. Co-ordinated by Mike Knight (churchwarden), the breakfast continues to be a positive social space for men to come together for a leisurely start to the weekend and connect with each other.
- A new Breakfast Club aimed primarily at Dads, but open to all parents and child caregivers with children aged 0-5 years was trialled on the first and second Saturday mornings in January. Between 8.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m., there was breakfast, play time, sing-alongs and story time in church. The club continued into early February, but sadly halted thereafter due to low numbers.

## **Church and Fabric**

- The past year has again been busy with the completion of one major project, namely, refurbishing the clergy vestry, several smaller projects, routine maintenance work and preparation and planning for another major project, namely the proposal for the installation of solar PV panels on the church roof. The Fabric Fund started 2024 with a balance of some £294,000 largely thanks to a very generous legacy from the estate of the late Mr Alan Geeson from which a total of £135,000 has been received, ending the year with a balance of some £242,000 with a net expenditure of some £52,000.
- *Clergy Vestry.* Work on the clergy vestry to incorporate more storage space began in May 2024 and practical completion by contractors, Midland Stonemasonry Ltd, was achieved on 30 September 2024 at a total cost of £45,453 plus VAT and fees. We are particularly grateful for the generous donation of £15,000 from the Friends of St Wulfram's towards this project.
- *Proposal for Solar PV panels and other electrical work.* The PCC in July 2022 agreed to the introduction of 78 solar PV panels together with battery storage units and inverters, to be located on the south-facing slopes of the nave and north aisle roofs so that panels are not visible from ground level. This will result in substantial savings to our electricity usage at a time of higher electrical prices as well as a major step towards the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target pledge by 2030. Planning approval was initially granted in February 2023 subject to conditions including detailed information about the design of the frame to support the panels and the fixings. These details were agreed with architect Peter Rogan, the structural engineer and ACE Solar and an internal location for a more compact battery storage system close to the clergy vestry and the main distribution board had been identified and the whole scheme (without the need for the external steel cabinets) was respecified and re-priced by ACE Solar. The revised detailed drawings and product information were approved by SKDC in November 2023. Subsequent advice from Ecclesiastical Insurance against an internal location for batteries has led to further revision of the planning approval to omit the storage batteries and the revised drawings and project information were submitted to the DAC and the Faculty was granted by the Chancellor on 18 November

2024. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), administered by SKDC, agreed a grant of £49,500 with the proviso that the work takes place in the financial year commencing 1 April 2024 and £35,153 was received in November 2024, this sum being the lowest tender received when the revised project was formally tendered, and the price accepted by the PCC. The UKSPF subsequently indicated that the leadwork required for the 123 upstands on the roof to support the 78 solar panels also needed a formal tender process which was undertaken and PCC (by correspondence) agreed to accept the lower tender received from HAB Leadworks at £24,220 (plus VAT) and the UKSPF confirmed that the balance of its funding of £13,347 would be paid in early 2025. Additional donations towards the Solar Panels project have also been received in response to the display mounted by the Creation Care sub-group. Installation of the lead upstands, the associated electrical work and installation of the panels, inverter and controls are scheduled for January and February 2025.

- We continue to be very grateful to Anthony Fletcher of AF Electrical for his work in undertaking electrical repairs, adjusting settings to optimise lighting and replacing lamps and fittings throughout the year using more energy efficient fittings wherever possible.
- *Monuments.* Conservation work on the remaining three monuments to members of the Leeson family in the Lady Chapel was completed in February 2024. Fundraising for a final phase of work to conserve ten further monuments in the South Aisle (at a total estimated cost of £11,200) has resulted in pledges of donations including the Leche Trust (£3,000), the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation (£2,900), Grantham Civic Society (£500) the Friends of St Wulfram's Church (£1,000 plus up to a further £5,000), the Cleary Fund of the Georgian Society (£500) and a further sum pledged by a family descendent of William Thorold who died in 1816. Conservator Alexandra Carrington, ACR, is scheduled to undertake this work in the early part of 2025.
- *Memorial plaque to commemorate the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment on the North Wall of the church.* In 2023, the Para 2 Club requested a brass plaque be introduced to commemorate the Arnhem landings in 1944. Following Faculty approval, the plaque was made and installed by E. Gill & Sons (Memorials) Ltd at the Club's expense and this was dedicated during the Army Benevolent Fund concert on 25 October 2024.
- *Trigge Library.* In 2022, the PCC agreed proposals for the acquisition of two new glass and metal display cabinets to replace the wooden display cases which are now regarded as unsuitable for the display of books as they do not meet established criteria for the display of rare books in terms of security and environmental standards. The first cabinet was installed in April 2023 and, thanks to generous donations of £3,950 from ChurchCare and £4,000 from The Friends of St Wulfram's, the second cabinet, manufactured by Click Netherfield at the price of £9,135 (plus VAT), was installed in January 2024. The Faculty for the conservation of both volumes of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium* by Bridget Warrington ACR was granted in January 2023. Conservation work on the first Gesner volume began in April 2023 and was completed in March 2024 with funding from ChurchCare, the Friends of St Wulfram's, and the Aurelius Trust. Regarding the second Gesner volume, work is progressing well with funding of £4,500 pledged by the Friends and £7,000 pledged by ChurchCare towards the total estimated cost of up to £12,375, with any balance to come from the Trigge Library fund.
- *Remedial work following the break in on 18 May 2023 and other glazing repairs.* The repairs to the stained glass and steel frame by Derek Hunt, Master Glazier, were

completed and the repaired window and metal frame was installed in the Crypt on 18 January 2024. Whilst on site, Derek Hunt carried out temporary repairs to damage caused by stones thrown at the western-most window on the north aisle where the rose window section had been damaged. Repairs were completed in the summer of 2024 following an insurance claim which partially covered the total cost of £3,650 plus VAT.

- *Repairs to floors* – During the year, minor repairs have been undertaken to re-bed internal stone slabs and to repair cast-iron gratings.
- *New Altar frontal*. One Faculty condition relating to the repairs to the existing green frontal was that the PCC formally considers the advice of the Church Buildings Council to retire that green frontal. The PCC (17.11.22) agreed that a Faculty be sought for a new altar frontal and super-frontal based on a design by Tracy Franklin. During the year, a Working Party of the PCC considered various options including the possibility of seeking alternative designs.
- *External drainage*. Following the digging of test pits and percolation tests in various parts of the churchyard during April 2023, Peter Rogan has proposed an initial design for a modified drainage system around the church which was considered by the Fabric Group in November 2024. Consultations with SKDC and Anglian Water will take place in the spring of 2025.
- *Overhaul of Church Bells*. The overhaul of the church bells including the replacement of bearings and refurbishment of the clappers, etc, was completed by Taylors of Loughborough at a cost of some £15,700 (plus VAT). Repainting of the bell frames was done by Braunton Holmes for £5,860. Grants were obtained from the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (£6,377) and the St Wulfram's Ringers (£2,496).
- *Quinquennial Inspection 2022*. Recommendations in Peter Rogan's report are being implemented as opportunity arises and he has been asked to draw up more detailed proposals for particular items such as drainage.
- The work on repair and maintenance of the fabric of St Wulfram's Church, which has a surface area in excess of one acre, has thus been constant but successful. We should like to thank members of the Fabric Sub-group for their input and attendance. Thanks are also expressed to everyone who helps with routine weekly cleaning and with the arrangement of flowers. Additional volunteers are most welcome. All help to make St Wulfram's a warm and welcoming church. We are again greatly indebted to John Manterfield for his dedication in chairing the PCC's Fabric Sub-group and overseeing all its work.
- Throughout the year, access from Swinegate to the church building (for people with disabilities, contractors and deliveries) has continued to be impeded by a Church Trees neighbour. Despite efforts to resolve the dispute by negotiation, the situation remains unresolved and is now with solicitors acting for the church's insurers.

## **Caring for Creation**

As Christians, we embrace our responsibility as stewards of God's good creation to tend and serve the flourishing of life, now and for future generations. At its meeting in July 2019, the Lincoln Diocesan Synod adopted a new environmental policy entitled 'Cherishing Creation'. This was shared with parishes shortly afterwards; and St Wulfram's PCC carried out sustained work on this through our various sub-groups during the second half of 2019 and into 2020. As a result, the remit of all our PCC committees (sub-groups) includes a requirement to be mindful at all times of the diocesan environmental policy.

Since 2020, the church's work in this area has been overseen by a Creation Care committee (a sub-group of the PCC). This group is responsible for ensuring that St Wulfram's Church and its community embed creation care in everyday faith and activities, in line with the vision and goals of 'Cherishing Creation'. At all times, the sub-group is mindful of the importance of doing all we can to live out all the 'Marks of Mission' (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996), paying particular attention to the mark that speaks of striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.

In February 2020 General Synod set the Church of England an ambitious challenge: to reach net zero carbon across our parish, cathedral, diocesan, and school estates by 2030, asking for a plan of action to reach the 2030 target. In response, the Church of England produced its Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and established a national Net Zero Programme. Church decarbonisation is a key workstream within the programme and funding has been allocated to help the largest emitting church communities undertake energy audits of their buildings. The audits are a first step for PCCs to establish a measured baseline for CO2 emissions to support and promote the NZC objectives in parishes. An energy audit and decarbonisation survey of St Wulfram's Church (including the Vestry, office, kitchen and Crypt) was undertaken on 29 October to provide advice to the church community on how it/they can be more energy efficient, provide a sustainable and comfortable environment, and move towards net zero carbon. The comprehensive report will be considered first by the Fabric Sub-group and PCC in January 2025.

Much of the work carried out by the Creation Care Sub-group involves liaison with the Fabric Sub-group, and there is a degree of overlapping membership. The installation of solar panels on the roof of St Wulfram's has been a long-standing aim of the sub-group and, through the dedicated work of the Chair of Fabric and the Fabric Sub-group itself, this will be achieved in 2025. This project will help us along our path to meet the Church of England's target of Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Moreover, the potential for reducing electricity running costs remains considerable.

St Wulfram's is registered with Eco Church (an A Rocha UK project) and is now on a journey to attain the Silver Award, having achieved the Bronze Award in 2023.

We asked people to let us know if they participated in the RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch 2024' (weekend of 27-28 January): as part of the Eco Church Network, we wanted to record how many of us were taking part.

Through the year members of the sub-group attended online or in-person sessions (Wildlife and Land; Outdoor Worship; Connecting Community) run by the diocesan Churches Environment Network.

The sub-group was keen to use resources available on the 'Caring for God's Acre' website with our local community during the 'Love your Burial Ground Week' (Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 June). On Tuesday 11 June (6.30 p.m.) Dr John Manterfield (Chair of Fabric) offered a free guided tour of St Wulfram's churchyard, looking at memorials from the early 1700s to the mid-1850s, including an early clockmaker, several celebrated gunsmiths and their families, and some of the best slate engravers in Lincolnshire. Wine and cheese were served in the church after the tour. Given the popularity of this event, a second tour was arranged. This eventually took place on Thursday 8 August (2.00 p.m.) after heavy rain forced the cancellation of a tour on 16 July.

## **Church flowers**

Throughout the year and especially at liturgical festivals, we benefit from the dedication of our band of flower arrangers (led by Val York), whose skills enhance the beauty of our church. We express gratitude to all those who contribute towards the costs of flower arrangements throughout the year: many such donations are in memory of loved ones and an 'In Memoriam' list is displayed at the west end of the church at Easter and Christmas.

Instead of fresh flowers at the high altar in ordinary times, we are increasingly using plants or display flowers in a vase. This cuts down on the amount of oasis that our flower arrangers use; this makes what we do more environmentally friendly and reduces costs. At Christmas this year there were many more arrangements and displays without using oasis: something we continue to strive for.

As flowers have become more costly, we have agreed with the Finance Sub-group to increase the cost of flowers for weddings etc to £90 per pedestal.

## **Ringling at St Wulfram's**

This year has seen good progress on the bell ringing front; we have stable numbers on Tuesday practices and Sunday service ringing. We will be looking to recruit more members, ideally in the age range 20-40, to provide the group with long term membership; this in no way means other age ranges are prohibited from starting, but that our efforts will be honed to target this group.

A major overhaul of the bells has been carried out this year. This included new bearings for the old 10 bells, refurbished clappers for all bells, and slightly heavier clappers for bells 1&2. The frame has been painted and areas of rust treated to preserve the frame. This will hopefully maintain the frame for many years to come, painted in colour Ral 6027 ('licht grune').

Over the course of the year there have been nine quarter peals and two successful peals. We have limited successes with the more complicated quarters, but rather more success with the simpler 5-6 bell attempts. The local ringers are improving from the quarter attempts, and we hope that in the next year our Saltby recruits will follow the same pathway.

Our Social Secretary has done a brilliant job with a few different experiences for us all: fish and chip suppers, conker challenges, ten pin bowling and boat rides at Rutland Reservoir to be included in the list. In addition, we have had tower outings to join ringing at Southwell and Oakham this year, with some return trips by their ringers too.

For next year we have plans to refurbish some of the bell wheels as part of the maintenance program and ensure their longevity.

## **Hospitality for Pilgrims and Visitors**

St Wulfram's, a landmark medieval parish church restored by Gilbert Scott (1866-75), is Grade I Listed (1062501) and of nationally recognised significance. Set back from main roads and surrounded by old buildings, the area has the feel of a cathedral close. The chained Trigge Library (established in the church in 1598) is of exceptional significance as the earliest in England for public use, and attracts local, national, and international visitors and scholars. The church plays a dynamic role in attracting visitors to the town and district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Grantham Town Conservation Area. They lie within the 'Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone', which

celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England to restore historic properties and regenerate public realm areas.

Consistent with our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy, we encourage everyone in the community to see St Wulfram's as their parish church. The building is open for private prayer or to sit in quiet reflection, from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sundays.

The Coffee Shop opens for Saturday morning recitals, during the Heritage Open Day; the Beer Festival; and the Christmas Tree Festival; and for interval drinks at concerts (when alcohol and soft drinks are also on sale). We are grateful to Jan Burrows, Di Hale and Eileen West for organising refreshments at recitals, to members of the Licence Management Committee for organising interval drinks, and to Di Hale for the significant work in overseeing the provision of refreshments (including recruitment of volunteers from organisations beyond St Wulfram's) for major festivals.

We have volunteer stewards on hand to offer a generous welcome to visitors on Saturday mornings and on weekdays during the 'visitor season' (from the end of March to the end of September). This is always an important aspect of our ministry at St Wulfram's. There was a positive response to an appeal for more volunteers to join the steward team which Fr Clay launched in January so that, with training and ongoing support, new recruits would be ready for greet visitors from Easter onwards.

We invited all our volunteers (whatever their role) to a gathering with buffet meal on Thursday evening 1 February in the church. This was a long overdue opportunity for the clergy and staff team at St Wulfram's to show our deep appreciation to all the volunteers who enrich our community life in so many ways. Over 80 of the 100+ volunteers were able to attend this special occasion as we celebrated and gave thanks for all the time and talents our volunteers bring to enable St Wulfram's to flourish. The event, which was much appreciated, will be repeated early in 2025.

With fewer stewards since 2017, it has been necessary to leave the church open unattended at certain times (this is in line with advice from the diocese and Ecclesiastical, our insurers). Although this strategy continues to be largely unproblematic, we continued to experience some antisocial behaviour and vandalism in the church this year, about which we are in discussion with relevant authorities. Sadly, this necessitates earlier closure of the church on weekday afternoons.

The number of visitors to St Wulfram's continued to increase this year, after the pandemic lockdowns. Organised visits included groups from Harlaxton, Grantham Sankt Augustin twinning association, and Spalding U3A.

Inscriptions in our Visitors' Book are overwhelmingly favourable. Visitors appreciate the fact that the church building is open, and that well behaved dogs are welcome, for example:

- ❖ Thank you for being open.
- ❖ Beautiful church. Thank you for keeping it open for us.
- ❖ A chance visit and what a find! Beautiful church and fascinating history. Thank you for allowing dogs in too.

They enjoy the history and architecture, for example:

- ❖ A wonderful piece of history. Enjoyed every moment.
- ❖ Lovely! I can feel the history ... magical.
- ❖ How lovely to see the beautiful stained glass, old and new, on a lovely sunny day.
- ❖ No words adequate for me to describe how awestruck by the beauty and history of St Wulfram's.

- ❖ Following Simon Jenkins – our retirement project. This church is absolutely stunning.

Visitors also appreciate the welcome offered by stewards and the hard work of those who keep the building in good order, for example:

- ❖ A great symbol of the faith. Well kept.
- ❖ Many thanks to all who serve here. Thank you, Dr Brian!
- ❖ How lovely ... to receive such a warm welcome from the knowledgeable volunteers. Many thanks!
- ❖ Église magnifique – merci de la visite guidée improvisée.
- ❖ Thank you to everybody for caretaking such a treasure.

There is enjoyment when a visit coincides with organ teaching or practice, for example:

- ❖ Beautiful church. I was fortunate to visit when the organ was played.
- ❖ Beautiful when the sun shines through the stained glass and the organ music fills the church.

And visitors are glad to discover that the building is well used for events, for example:

- ❖ A lovely church. Very impressed that it's used for so many events – well attended – and with a bar!

Visitors are also grateful for the peace and resources they find in our church, for example:

- ❖ Beautiful and peaceful space in which to pray.
- ❖ Me and my daughter came to visit. She needed today to reflect. She is in the process of finding faith and God and has took some prayer cards to support her. Thank you.
- ❖ This church is my favourite church. I used to sing in my school choir here. I came in today to have a quiet time of reflection.

For the Heritage Open Days, the church was open on the morning of Saturday 7 September and visitors were welcomed to enjoy refreshments and look round the building including the Trigge Library and the tower and ringing chamber. The weather was wet and windy, and we had far fewer visitors than in previous years; and we must ensure that, in 2025, we can be open for a full day. On Sunday 8 September, the former parish graveyard on Manthorpe Road was open and visitors there were then able to walk up to Grantham House and gardens where refreshments and cakes were served to a large number of visitors.

Near the west door of the church, we have a sales unit that displays postcards, guides, and souvenirs of the church, together with assorted greetings cards (including the popular Friends of St Wulfram's Christmas cards).

Peregrines first nested at St Wulfram's in 2007 with the last successful fledging in 2012. Surveillance cameras were installed in December 2020, funded by the Lincolnshire Bird Club. The peregrines are sighted around St Wulfram's all year. During the spring of 2024 there was a great deal of activity around the nesting trays on the church tower walkway, with at least 9 different birds seen on the cameras during March and April. Unfortunately, with there being such competition for the nest site, and there not being an already well bonded pairing, we had another unsuccessful year and no eggs were laid. There is, however, hope for 2025. There has been a pair of peregrines around during the autumn and winter months. They have been seen displaying and scraping in the nesting tray.

## Trigge Library

- During the 2024 season from April to the end of September, the Library was open for visitors every Wednesday and Saturday morning. In addition, the Library was also open on the second Saturday of each month during the out-of-season period (January-March and October-December).
- Unfortunately, on the 7 September Heritage Open Day the opening of the Library was confined to the morning to allow for the rehearsal of a musical event in the evening, and due to inclement weather. This reduced the number of visitors (normally in excess of 100) to just 23.
- However, the total of 707 visitors to the Library in 2024 represents an increase of 34% over the number for 2023, and the highest recorded since 2019. The number of visitors from the local area in 2024 increased by 74% over that recorded in 2023 (177 compared to 102); and there was an increased number from elsewhere in England (206 compared to 164). Substantial numbers of additional visitors came as groups, including those from Grantham College, Harlaxton College (University of Evansville), and the publishers Penguin Random House. The latter two consisted of visitors from the USA, which boosted the numbers from 45 in 2023 to 152 in 2024 (70%) and resulted in some generous donations to Library funds.
- A new project that was initiated in 2022, involving the conservation and repair of the first volume of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium*, and the purchase of two replacement display cases to meet current standards, was duly completed thanks to the generosity of The Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, ChurchCare, and the Aurelius Trust. The first display case was supplied, installed and in use for the 2023 visitor season. The second case was installed in January 2024 and the first conserved volume of the *Historia Animalium* was returned in time for the Trigge Library Symposium (see below) in June. Work on the second volume will continue in 2025.
- On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 a successful symposium entitled 'Carnival of the Animals' was held in St Wulfram's Church, focussing on Gessner's *Historia Animalium*. Speakers included Dr Jessica Purdy and Professor Andrew Pettegree from the University of St Andrew's; Ms Emma Milnes from the Zoological Society of London's Library; our Conservator, Ms Bridget Warrington; and Drs Brian Stagg and John Manterfield.
- The possibility of installing an audio-visual presentation of the Library in the south aisle of the church for the benefit of those visitors who are unable to access the room over the south porch is being examined. This could include a walkthrough video of the Library made by students from Grantham College.
- As ever, thanks are due to Dr John Manterfield who kindly undertook the analysis of visitor statistics for 2024.

## Archive

During the late spring of 2024, the clergy vestry was emptied of contents in preparation for its refurbishment. The archives cupboard together with bound volumes of the parish magazine from 1888 to the 1950s, volumes of the Lincoln Record Society, and a large box containing materials from the St Wulfram's Mothers Union were moved out into Corpus Christi Chapel and the cupboard adjacent to the organ. Many of these materials had been stored inappropriately on top of cupboards and were in a dusty condition. The Mothers Union materials have been listed and minute books of meetings, membership records, and a small

quantity of photographs and ephemera relating to the St Wulfram's branch have been retained. Magazines, newsletters, and reports issued by the national Mothers Union have been disposed of and the remaining material (specifically relating to St Wulfram's church) has been re-boxed. The refurbished clergy vestry contains two cupboards for parish archives including bound volumes. The volumes of the printed parish magazines together with other larger items have been inspected, cleaned with a vacuum, and returned to one of the new cupboards as has the Mothers Union archives. The contents of the former Archives cupboard, temporarily in the Corpus Christi Chapel, will be returned during 2025 after inspection and dusting, to the Archives cupboards in the Clergy Vestry.

### **Learning opportunities**

After a fallow year in 2023-24, the fourth joint deanery 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course began in September 2024 and will run until March 2025. The 16-session course is hosted this time by St John's Church Spitalgate. Among the group of tutors from the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries, were six members of the St Wulfram's ministry team. Three members of St Wulfram's studied on the course.

The monthly Women's Bible Reflection and Prayer Group (launched in 2023) continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month at St John's Spitalgate. The group provides space for women to come together to share and reflect through the Scriptures and prayer. All are welcome. We regularly have people attending from different churches, not just St Wulfram's, and people for whom this is their church touch point. The start time has changed from 7.15 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. to allow extra discussion time. Towards the end of the year, there were suggestions that people might like the sessions to become longer or meet with more frequency. This is something that is likely to be actioned in 2025.

Lent groups and courses (advertised in our online and printed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter booklet) included: 'Seeking the Saints' (Wednesdays, 11.00 a.m. at St John's Church, Manthorpe; 'The Daily Prayer Rosary in Lent', based on Fr Clay's 2011 Canterbury Press book (Saturdays, 5.00 p.m., St Wulfram's Church); 'Love & Sacrifice' (Thursdays, 7.00 p.m. at Grantham House); and 'Come and Rest – a service of Wholeness' (three Tuesdays at St Wulfram's Church and a final Friday at St John's Church, Manthorpe, all at 7.00 p.m.).

There was a weekend pilgrimage by coach to The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham (Friday 12 to Sunday 14 April), organised by Mthr Hannah Grivell. This was open to the congregation of St Wulfram's and other deanery churches. At various points during this blessed and fulfilling weekend, in lovely weather, Mthr Hannah and Fr Clay brought the group together to talk more about what pilgrimage means. Afterwards, Mthr Hannah posted a short article and photographs on the church's website.

There was an opportunity to join a Weekend Pilgrimage for Men, led by Fr Clay Roundtree and others, over Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June at Holy Rood House in Thirsk. This was open to spiritual seekers and Christian disciples alike, those who were exploring faith or struggling to make sense of it all. Together the pilgrims explored the spirituality and value of creating a flexible and life-giving rule of life, drawing inspiration from Christians who have engaged in this over the centuries. The weekend included short talks, time for reflection and discussion, guided meditations, a communion service and time to relax.

We were encouraged to use the Church of England resources 'Watch & Pray' for Lent, and the 'Novena: from Ascension to Pentecost' (part of the global ecumenical prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come'), both of which were distributed free in church.

For Advent, Fr Clay ran a course using a new book *The Love that Moves the Sun* published by Paul Dominiak, one of his former curates. Over four weeks beginning on Tuesday evening 26 November and ending on 17 December, we explored the classic Advent themes of Heaven, Hell, Judgement and Death.

Towards the end of the year, Fr Clay began to advertise a diocesan pilgrimage to Taizé (from 3 to 10 August 2025) aimed at young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. The pilgrimage, organised by Fr Clay and Mthr Kate, will be led by Bishop Nicholas. Information about the pilgrimage will be shared via some webcasts in the new year.

### **Ministry training**

On 22 September we welcomed Tom Stockwell, an ordinand on a contextual training course: he is studying part-time at St Wulfram's for two years, under the guidance of Fr Clay.

Members of the congregation continue to take a full part in the licensed ministry of the church and new volunteers are trained and introduced on a regular basis to share in leading worship and exercising pastoral ministry.

As mentioned above, three members of the St Wulfram's congregation studied this year on the diocesan 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course run by the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries at St John's Spitalgate. This course meets several needs: it is appropriate for those who simply wish to learn more about their faith; it provides a discernment process for those exploring a possible call to Authorised Lay Ministry and the initial module for ALM training; and it is also appropriate for existing ALMs who wish to do a refresher course. Following a period of discernment, students may apply for authorisation as a lay minister; if accepted, they study on an ALM Practice Module. The Practice Modules were revised this year by the Diocese of Lincoln; the new course material (accessed through the new diocesan Digital Learning Platform) is more comprehensive and includes mandatory safeguarding training. Modules are available in: Assisting in Public Worship, Mission & Evangelism, Pastoral Care, and Working with Children & Young People. The modules will be open also to existing ALMs who may wish to extend the scope of their ministry.

### **Major Churches Network**

St Wulfram's is a member of the Major Churches Network; and we are in regular contact with other large churches to benefit from information about good practice in areas of administration, fabric, mission, outreach, and how to best engage in service to the community.

### **Inclusive Church Network**

St Wulfram's continues as a member of the Inclusive Church Network endorsing the statement of belief:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ. |
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### **Ecumenical relationships**

A Churches Together service took place on Thursday evening 18 January at All Saints Church, Barrowby, marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Sadly, after significant reductions in attendance at meetings and lack of volunteers coming forward to serve as officers on the committee, a decision to disband Churches Together in Grantham (CTiG) was taken at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13 March at ChristChurch, Finkin Street.

Over 7 to 12 March, Mthr Kate Hough and Mel Fletcher (churchwarden) joined a party of local councillors and members of the Grantham Twinning Association on a visit to Sankt Augustin, the German town with which Grantham has been twinned for many years. During the trip, Mthr Kate and Mel spent time with schoolchildren and members of a church congregation.

### **Lincoln Diocesan Synod**

St Wulfram's is represented on Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Fr Clay Roundtree, and Paul Davie. Paul also serves on the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees as lay representative of the Archdeaconry of Boston; and from January 2025, he will serve as a representative of the House of Laity on the new Vacancy in See Committee. Fr Stuart continues to serve on General Synod, as a representative of the diocesan House of Clergy. Diocesan Synod meets on three occasions per year (April, July, November). After each Diocesan Synod meeting, the PCC receives a Digest of Proceedings, as published on the diocesan website, and from time-to-time PCC officers and clergy and lay ministers receive communications from the Diocese of Lincoln.

Time continued to be devoted, within the diocese and at Diocesan Synod, to the implementation of 'A Time to Change – Together' (TTCT). This is foundational to the diocesan vision for our shared future, which involves collaborative partnerships, relationships of generosity and growth. The nine Deanery Partnerships (DPs) are roughly mapped to the nine local authorities and follow existing deanery lines for the most part. The diocese is moving towards Deanery restructuring (from 22 to 9), in line with the new DP structure: following consultation, the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees will help the Bishop to discern the way forward. Pastoral orders are expected to be made in 2025.

Diocesan clergy gathered at 'Yours and Mine' at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire over 20-22 February to explore the shared responsibility for oversight, the opportunities for collaborative ministry and ways of building and belonging to mutually supportive local teams. The key purpose was for the attending clergy to understand and inhabit the new ways of expressing oversight that are radically different from traditional incumbency; and retain the inspirational leadership and accountability for the churches under their oversight, while collaborating with oversight colleagues in their LMPs and building effective teams among other ministers (including a new cohort of Focal Ministers who may share responsibility for ministry, leadership, worship and mission in specific churches).

In July, the Bishop commissioned Fr Clay Roundtree as the new Partnership Dean to oversee the South Kesteven Deanery Partnership (DP) comprising the deaneries of Beltisloe, Grantham, Loveden, and Stamford. He meets regularly with the Lay Co-Lead and the four rural deans, to develop short-term plans and formulate long-term strategy. With support from the diocese, Fr Clay and Howard Jones (Lay Co-Lead) are working to appoint a new part-time DP Children, Youth & Families Enabler (a part-time three-year post, to be funded by a grant from the diocesan Transformation Fund). Such posts are typically hosted by a Key Mission Church within a DP; and the St Wulfram's PCC agreed in September to host this new post. One or more new DP Mission Enablers (ordained or lay) will also be identified.

The Bishops and the diocesan safeguarding team are committed to safeguarding and to creating a healthy safeguarding culture across the Diocese of Lincoln. It was announced that the INEQE Safeguarding Group (appointed in 2023 by the Archbishops' Council to carry out the next round of independent external audits of Church of England dioceses and cathedrals), would make site visits in the Lincoln diocese in November 2024. The purpose of

these audits is to make sure that dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. In advance of the Lincoln visits, a series of surveys went live on the INEQE website in July. The link to the survey was circulated widely; and the Bishop strongly encouraged all role-holders to participate.

## **Grantham Deanery**

Through its elected and *ex officio* representatives, St Wulfram's continues to take a leading part in shaping and implementing deanery policy. Our four elected lay representatives on Deanery Synod are Paul Davie, Cherry Edwards, Chris Impey, and John Manterfield (the latter being elected to fill a vacancy at the APCM 2024).

Our Rector, Fr Stuart Cradduck served for five years as Rural Dean until mid-November. The term of office of Judith Muskett as part-time Deanery Administrator came to an end at the same time. The Rural Dean is now Revd Samantha Parsons (Vicar of the Benefice of Harrowby with Londonthorpe).

All deanery PCCs are provided with regular written reports on Synod business; and a summary of Deanery Synod business is provided for Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

A pastoral reorganisation is in progress in the deanery in line with the agreed Deanery Plan. The schemes, which have been with the Church Commissioners for consultation for a considerable period, are set out below. We hope finally to hear the outcome in 2025.

- To establish what is termed the West Grantham Group of Villages, comprising the united benefice of All Saints, Barrowby and St Sebastian's, Great Gonerby and the Harlaxton Group of Parishes (Denton, Harlaxton, Stroxtun, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, and Wyville with Hungerton).
- To dissolve the Trinity Parish, South Grantham and create two separate parishes, styled St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield (where there ceased to be a place of worship several years ago) and St Anne's New Somerby (into which St George's Church Stamford planted in August 2023 as part of the Strategic Development Programme).
- To hold in plurality the benefices of St John's Manthorpe, St Wulfram's Grantham, and the proposed new Parish of St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield, thus forming a central grouping within Grantham Deanery, consistent with the Deanery Plan.

Deanery Synod usually invites a local or diocesan speaker to talk on a chosen subject at each meeting. For different reasons, planned talks for March and July could not go ahead. In October, Synod heard a talk by the Revd Sonia Barron (Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations) and the Revd John Birkett (Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Caistor) about vocations and the Caleb Stream (a shorter training pathway leading to ordination for mature lay leaders, through which John trained). ALMs and others who might be exploring, or interested in exploring, a vocation were invited to attend.

A support group for those who work with children and young people in deanery churches, meets termly under the leadership of the Revd Sam Parsons to share ideas and resources. Any churches that wish to engage in children's work but are unsure where to start are encouraged to attend meetings. The group has recently been widened to include representatives from the Loveden Deanery. Deanery parishes are also supported with a monthly newsletter forwarded by the diocesan Children & Youth Mission Enabler.

Gatherings of churchwardens from the Deaneries of Grantham and Loveden took place at Grantham House on 14 May and 12 November. These were an opportunity for wardens to

meet and chat with others in the same role, to share ideas and concerns, and to support each other. On 12 November, Fr Clay Roundtree, Partnership Dean for South Kesteven, talked about the Deanery Partnership and his role.

A Deanery Evensong was held at St John's Church Spitalgate on Sunday 5 March; and again on Sunday 5 May, when the Bishop of Grantham preached. As usual, we joined fellow Christians from around the deanery for a Deanery Ascension Day service at the Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Road, Grantham at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 9 May. The service was followed by a buffet in the church hall. St Wulfram's Church was the venue for a Deanery Ceilidh on the evening of Saturday 11 May, when the Falling Apple Ceilidh Band performed. The proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Grantham Foodbank.

## Communication

The Parish website<sup>1</sup> is a prime contact point for people wishing to know more about the parish church, its people, and activities. Regular postings of information by the Parish Administrator keep it up to date. The home page offers the opportunity to sign up to our mailing list. Contacts and requests continue to increase in number. We make full use of social media (Facebook, Instagram) to involve members of our church community and of the wider community in the life of the church; social media is especially valuable in attracting visitors and audience members to our special events and engaging them in online conversations at those times. The Church of England 'A Church Near You' website<sup>2</sup> directs those who view, to our own website and social media. Details of services and events along with the *Community News* are also posted to 'A Church Near You'.

The ChurchDesk software is used daily in the Parish Office and enables us to send out fortnightly newsletters and information on forthcoming services and events. Our website and calendar information are also powered by ChurchDesk. Via ChurchDesk we can produce forms and donation projects where we can take bookings and payments for events and collections. By the end of 2024, we had accumulated 4,911 contacts, more than three times the number recorded pre-Covid (i.e., in 2019). This total includes members of the community of St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe, our sister church. ChurchDesk (based in Denmark) offers online and email support. The software package is a great asset to how we work and our outreach to our parish and wider community.

In the spring, Brian Buttery stepped down from the editorship of the full-colour monthly *Magazine*, after 12½ years' dedicated service. His first edition was for October 2011 and, 150 editions later, March 2024 was his final offering. In his farewell article, Brian remarked that he had been helped by a great number of members of the St Wulfram's family, with articles from clergy, readers, choir, bellringers and servers to name but a few, and supportive churchwardens. Over the years, the *Magazine* explored the delights of more than 50 churches within the diocese. We thank Brian for all his hard work and dedication in this role.

The Sunday *Community* sheet updates the congregation, with news of services and activities. It is shared with a weekly Friday email from the Parish Office. Printed copies are available in church on Sundays. When we were unable to find a successor to Brian Buttery as magazine editor, we decided instead to revamp the *Community* news. From Sunday 14 April, we produced a fortnightly publication, including reviews of events and photographs, as well as announcing forthcoming services and events. Comments and suggestions were invited, and feedback was positive.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.stwulframs.org.uk>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14634/>

We issue a quarterly colour 'What's on' guide, listing services, regular groups and events. A special edition was produced in early September for distribution at Heritage Open Days and at the National Trust's Community Festival at the Belton Estate (14-15 September), where the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group took the lead in running a stand to publicise the church's work and forthcoming events.

We have good relations with the *Grantham Journal* and articles about our community life and outreach activities are included in the newspaper on a regular basis. We no longer pay to advertise regular services in the *Journal*, relying instead on our website, the *Community News*, social media, and word-of-mouth etc. We also have good relations with the monthly *Grantham Link* magazine, distributed free to around 10,000 homes in the locality, but estimated to reach 32,000 readers. We are grateful for the free advertising the *Link* provides for church events.

Notice boards outside the church are well used. Our two chalk A-boards display daily information outside the west door and welcome visitors.

The churchwardens encourage members of the congregation to contact them by email or telephone with any comments or questions. The 'churchwardens@stwulframs.com' email address is advertised through the weekly *Community News*.

### **Special Events (including those for fund raising)**

Over recent years, we have enhanced our engagement with people in the town. We strongly believe that the sacred space of St Wulfram's is common ground for all – a place where we can challenge each other, celebrate all that is good in our community, and a place we can call home where we can gather as a community – and God is amid this, in the everyday. Community use of the building is essential to our sustainability and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. Our challenging events (Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals, Beer Festivals, etc.) underpin our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy. Each event attracts significant numbers and at the same time raises useful funds for the church.

With its flexible space and seating, the church is a well-used venue in normal times for large and smaller events and concerts, attracting regular bookings from local groups and schools, and county organisations. The local U3A holds monthly coffee mornings and a Christmas Party in St Wulfram's Church; a Tai-Chi group meets weekly in the church; and this year the local homecare provider 'Right at Home' started to run a free monthly Chair Yoga Group, which regularly attracts more than 20 people.

The St Wulfram's community began a year of social events with our popular annual Quiz Night including fish and chip supper in the church on Saturday 3 February. Teams of up to 8 people gathered for a fun-filled evening with rounds of questions set by the clergy. An equally popular Beetle Drive with pizza supper and live music (including Beatles songs) was held on Saturday evening, 15 June. An enjoyable Harvest Supper, with quiz, took place on Saturday evening, 5 October; this was a joint venture with St John's Church, Spitalgate, where the supper was held. A Parish Brunch was held in church after the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday 17 November to enable members of the congregation to socialise and get to know each other better; along with the food on offer, there was a raffle with some mystery prizes.

The following events also took place during the year:

- In March, Fr Stuart led a short service at the opening of Grantham's Mid-Lent Fair.
- After successes in 2023, we hosted Artisan Brocante Fairs on three occasions this year. The organisers have built up a selection of extremely talented artisan stallholders and professional vintage dealers who select beautiful and interesting items to sell on their stalls.
  - A Spring fair was held in church on Saturday 13 April (10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).
  - A summer fair took place on Saturday 13 July in the grounds of Grantham House, attracting about 400 people. As well as a tea-room in the House run organised by Di Hale and staffed by volunteers, the event was attended by Café Allez, Ellmoo Ice Creams and Chapel House Pizza. Fr Clay ran a popular Pimms bar.
  - The Christmas Fair took place on Saturday 2 November in church (10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.), when the Coffee Shop was open selling mince pies, mulled wine and a selection of homemade cakes.
- Unfortunately, too few tickets were sold in advance for a Lincs Fashions fashion show on Thursday evening 9 May and this was cancelled.
- We hosted 'GRAB', Grantham's own swing band, on Saturday evening, 25 May. With a cabaret-style layout, there was ample space in the church for dancing.
- As a public service, to support the democratic process, and as a contribution to the common good, St Wulfram's organised and hosted a hustings for parliamentary candidates on Monday 24 June at 7.30 p.m. This was a free event. All candidates standing to be the new Grantham and Bourne Member of Parliament were invited to attend, giving an opening statement, answering some pre-submitted questions, fielding fresh questions from the floor and giving a closing statement. Five of the eight candidates were present. Nearly 150 people attended. In an article in the *Grantham Journal*, Fr Stuart (host of the event) said: 'Tonight was a great success with more attendees than last time. Everyone behaved well and it was good for people to ask questions with honest answers from candidates in a neutral space.'
- At 'Three Free Fridays' in the courtyard at Grantham House from 7.30 p.m. (21 June, 5 July, 19 July), we embraced some of the French 'je ne sais quoi' with live music, a bar, and a picnic. Up to 500 people attended over the three evenings, with the highest attendance on the third evening when the sun shone.
- On Tuesday 2 July, St Wulfram's was one of the UK venues to host 'Create Day': a free day of singing, dancing and design celebrating the UN Rights of the Child, run by the Royal Opera House in collaboration with UNICEF. Inspire+ helped to lead the fabulous day for hundreds of local schoolchildren.
- MJH Productions announced that they would stage *The Wizard of Oz* in St Wulfram's Church over 8 to 12 April 2025. The production launch event was held in St Wulfram's Church on Tuesday 25 June, when key information was shared about auditions and rehearsals. In an article in the *Grantham Journal*, Director Matthew Hewitt remarked that it is a challenge to put on a show at St Wulfram's, but that the church is incredibly supportive.
- Folksy Theatre performed 'As you Like It' in the church on Friday evening, 30 August. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by adults and children alike.

- The Beer Festival ‘Land of Hops and Glory’ (run jointly with the Grantham branch of CAMRA) opened on Thursday 26 September and ran until Saturday 28 September, with the bars open from 12.00 noon to 11.00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 12.00 noon to 10.00 p.m. on Saturday. Real ales, ciders, perries, mead and Fr Clay’s cocktail bar were on offer. The alcohol-free ‘sober bar’ was well received. Live evening entertainment was offered on Folksy Thursday, Friday and Saturday. More than 2,000 people visited from the town and from far and wide for the community event, which is now a permanent feature in the Grantham calendar. We extend thanks to all who helped to make the festival such a wonderful and safe event. It is a great opportunity to share the church with people who wouldn’t normally visit, and to raise much needed funds.
- We arranged a five-mile Parish Walk on the August Bank Holiday Monday (26 August) from the village of Orston, along field boundaries to the village of Aslockton (birthplace of Thomas Cranmer) and back via fields near the River Smite, with lunch afterwards at the Durham Ox in Orston. We are grateful to Di and Doug Hale for organising the parish walks.
- The ‘Home Grown and Blooming Local’ festival took place in the church from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October, championing produce and flowers grown at home or in the local area.
- As part of the town’s celebrations for Lincolnshire Day (Tuesday 1 October), Dr John Manterfield gave two talks in the church about ‘the magnificent seven’ monuments commemorating individuals with connections to Grantham and Lincolnshire
- A pop-up disco party, produced by the company ‘Discos for Grown Ups’, took place in the church on Friday evening 7 June and on Saturday evening 16 November. Staging these events (with a bar provided by our own Licence Committee) is hard work; but they are enjoyed by those who attend and are good fundraisers for the church. Two further events are booked for 2025, when we shall pay for some additional helpers rather than simply relying on the goodwill of our regular volunteers.
- The Christmas Tree Festival with skating rink ran from Wednesday 27 November to Advent Sunday, 1 December. Wednesday’s opening ceremony began with a torchlit procession from the Market Place at 6.00 p.m. and the formal switching on of the lights in the church followed. The festival opened from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Advent Sunday (last entry 3.30 p.m.). This was the biggest festival ever. Like in 2023, a record number of trees (185) was entered. As a celebration of the wonderful work and talents in the town, the Christmas Tree Festival is the best annual event that we hold at St Wulfram’s.

Refreshments were served daily by a large band of volunteers organised by Di Hale, who calculated that we sold more than 20 dozen mince pies, 16 stollen, 154 sausage rolls, 78 pork pies, 48 portions of quiche, 60 filled rolls, and used 45 bottles of mulled wine, 44 pints of milk and made over 300 cups of hot chocolate!

When our own 23ft exhibition Christmas tree, positioned at the west end of the church, toppled over after a gust of wind blew through the church, Fr Stuart appealed through social media and on BBC News for help to get it upright again. He was grateful to those who responded and brought specialist equipment on Thursday evening 5 December to raise the stricken tree.

As usual, a large Prayer Tree was set up beneath the Lady Chapel steps, to remain in position until Candlemas. As in previous years, hundreds of prayers were hung during the festival.

- Following successes in 2022 and 2023, two Christmas wreath-making workshops were held at Grantham House for members of the public, on Saturday 7 December (10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Materials were provided, and participants brought their own decorations to personalise their wreath. Coffee, mince pies and mulled wine were served. A total of 40 tickets were available, and most were sold. We express grateful thanks to Lynn Ferguson, the tutor on these occasions, and to Val York who supported Lynn.
- On Thursday evening, 1 February, there was a long overdue opportunity for the clergy and staff team to show our deep appreciation to all the volunteers (numbering more than 120) who enrich our community life in so many ways. At this special 'Volunteers Thank You evening', we celebrated and gave thanks for all the time and talents our volunteers bring to enable St Wulfram's to flourish. A delicious array of food was on the supper menu, prepared and served by our clergy. Many of those present were astonished at the numbers representing so many aspects of our church life.
- With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Heritage Lincolnshire were commissioned to conduct two community audits for St Wulfram's to gain an insight into what events are viewed as valuable, to generate ideas about new events that would be beneficial for the community, and to gain an understanding of the personal benefits of volunteering at St Wulfram's. The first of the two audits ran during our Christmas Tree Festival, when visitors were invited to write tags to hang on a special tree; two staff members from Heritage Lincolnshire attended for 8 hours on Thursday 28 November to interact with attendees. The second audit will be conducted early in the new year. We hope to use data gathered in the audits to evidence need in future grant applications.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Summary**

The General Fund budget was set at a deficit of £30,479 for 2024, with an actual outturn for 2024 was a net deficit of £13,957 before gains on sale of investment property, a significant improvement on budget. However, it needs to be noted that with a General Fund deficit balance of £17,184 at the start of 2024, this means that the General Fund would have been in deficit by £31,141 at 31 December 2024 before investment gains & transfers but after these the increase in deficit was limited and the final year end deficit was £19,111.

Taking into account all designated and restricted funds, the overall balance sheet commenced the year at £474,341 and stood at £361,239 at 31 December 2024, a decrease of £113,102 in the year.

### **Commentary**

Heating and lighting costs remain a significant burden. The amounts attributed to Grantham House (designated funds) and the church (General Fund and restricted funds (Fabric)) can clearly be seen in Note 3a, where half of the gas bill has been covered by the Fabric Fund. Fabric Fund has continued to cover half of the cost of insurance of the church building, in line with previous years' practice.

St Wulframs Church encourages giving to support not only the church, but also the wider community, and will continue to make local, nation and international donations via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group for as long as it is financially able to do so. The Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group donations for 2024 are outlined in the section beginning on p. 10 of the Annual Report. In addition, donations for, and expenses incurred by, St Wulfram's Passage, which provides meals for the homeless and others in need, were also managed by the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group. Details of collections for other charities can be seen in Note 13.

Income for the church continues to depend heavily on Planned Giving, with income of £61,319 to compare to £62,506 in 2023. This has remained static, but is less than the budget of £66,000 for the year. It is planned to hold a Stewardship campaign during Lent 2025, with the intent to significantly reduce the General Fund deficit.

Fundraising income totalled £99,092 in 2024, a significant increase on the budgeted performance. This is a welcome boost to the church's finances, but shows that limited reliance can be placed on fundraising events to achieve a surplus.

Having previously decided to remain at Grantham House it became increasingly clear during the year that the income generation potential of the property could not sustain the costs involved with the current lease from the National Trust. At the same time the National Trust decided it wished to reopen the property to the public in 2025 and the church is therefore in the process of entering into a new arrangement for exclusive use of part of the building at a significantly reduced fixed cost and use of other areas when not open to the public. It is also envisaged that the church and National Trust will work in partnership to open the property for fund raising events to benefit both organisations in coming years. In anticipation of this change the gain on the sale of the Investment Property has been largely utilised to cancel out the accumulated Designated Fund deficit on the Grantham House operation of £57,461. The rental cost of office space at Grantham House will in future be treated as a General Fund cost.

Total incoming resources to General Fund amounted to £186,474 (2023: £183,952), and total resources expended amounted to £202,446 (2023: £210,274), resulting in a deficit for the year before transfers of £15,972 (2023: £26,322 deficit). Following the gain on the sale of the investment property & transfer from restricted grant funding have been made, and General Fund is now in deficit by £19,111.

The sale of the investment property, which has reapportioned the designated fund for the revaluation of the investment property, halted the General Fund decline during 2024 & significant budget tightening in 2025 will allow PCC to develop fuller plans to rebalance income and expenditure to a level that will restore General Fund to St Wulframs policy, in line with Charity Commission guidance, of being in surplus with 3 months of predicted expenditure.

The balance sheet position had decreased by £113,102 as at 31 December 2024. A major contributor to this decrease in the balance sheet was the sale of the Investment Property valued at £142,500. There was an unrealised loss in the overall value of financial investment assets of £1,513 (2023: £13,873 gains). No investment securities were sold during the year. Overall, our financial investment portfolio made a capital loss of 0.75% (i.e. excluding income received) in 2023 (2023: 8.7% gain), and the overall value decreased by 0.5% to £200,004 (2023: 16.0% decrease to £201,516). Cash on deposit and with the bank increased by £25,565 (2023: £99,241 increase during the year).

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

### *The Parochial Church Council (PCC)*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the *Church Representation Rules 2020* (as amended). At St Wulfram's the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Associate Rector, Assistant Curates, retired clergy with permission to officiate, a Reader, lay Deanery Synod representatives, churchwardens, and lay members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. The numbers of elected lay representatives serving on the PCC and annual co-options are governed by the number on the Electoral Roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including decisions on how PCC funds will be spent.

The full PCC conducted business on eight occasions during the year. The *Church Representation Rules 2020* (M29) allow for business to be conducted by correspondence; and the PCC conducted business in this manner on six occasions in 2024. The average level of attendance for the eight in-person meetings in 2024 was 78% (as compared with an average of 77% in 2022).

### *Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)*

The APCM was conducted in the church on Sunday 12 May.

### *Electoral Roll*

The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote in Church of England elections. Those entitled to have their names on this roll must be 16 years of age or more and reside in the parish or be regular worshippers in the church whose Roll they wish to join. The Roll is renewed every six years (the next time will be 2025). Joining the Roll opens the way for greater involvement in the life of our church, at deanery, diocesan and national levels, as well as being entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Regular invitations to join the Electoral Roll are included in the weekly *Community News*. At least six months before our annual meeting, we encourage members of our community to register on the Roll, so they can play a full part in our governance and are eligible to stand for election to the PCC, as a churchwarden, or to Deanery Synod.

At the APCM 2024, it was announced that the number on the Electoral Roll was 225.

### *PCC Standing Committee*

The rules governing the PCC Standing Committee changed with the introduction of the revised *Church Representation Rules 2020*. Although the Standing Committee has power to transact the PCC's business between meetings, it may not discharge a duty of the PCC, nor exercise a power of the PCC which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the PCC. The committee comprises the Rector, Associate Rector, and Churchwardens (*ex officio*) and two further members (elected by the PCC). John Manterfield and Paul Davie served on the committee throughout 2024. The Treasurer and PCC Secretary are attendees. Written reports from the committee are submitted to the PCC at the subsequent meeting.

The Standing Committee met seven times this year. Its business concerned the future of Grantham House. The committee is grateful to Gareth Dawkins, MRICS, for his research and professional advice on several occasions.

### *PCC Sub-groups (committees)*

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has several sub-groups (Children & Youth, Creation Care, Fabric, Finance, Licence Management [to meet obligations under the Premises Licence granted from 2018], Mission & Social Responsibility, and Social), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. Roles and responsibilities are set out in the Terms of Reference adopted first in 2020.

PCC members are expected to sit on at least one sub-group. Members of the congregation are also invited to join sub-groups. Each sub-group includes at least one member of the clergy team and either one or both Churchwardens. Currently, all clergy serve on all sub-groups. Minutes or written reports of sub-group deliberations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

We are immensely grateful to those who chair our sub-groups for the time they devote to their role and for the dedication and knowledge that they bring to our governance. The chairs in 2024 were: Laura Craddock (Children & Youth); Frances Roundtree (Creation Care); John Manterfield (Fabric); Paul Davie (Finance; Licence Management until 12 May); Mel Fletcher (Licence Management from 12 May); Mike Knight (Mission & Social Responsibility until 12 May); Cherry Edwards (Social). A new chair of Mission & Social Responsibility remains to be appointed.

At the November PCC meeting, the Rector signalled his intention to propose that a new Safeguarding Sub-group be established in 2025 to support the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer in their work. New terms of reference will be drafted for approval by the PCC; and the sub-group members will be appointed after the 2025 APCM.

### *‘All Aboard’, Saturday 16 March 2024*

From time to time, the Rector may gather Sub-group Chairs and Heads of Department (Director of Music, Head Server, Verger, Parish Administrator, PCC Officers) to discuss strategy concerning St Wulfram’s mission. Such a ‘Greater Team Day’ was held at Harlaxton Manor on 16 March under the title ‘All Aboard’. Over 20 people attended this away day (the first since February 2020). Working in groups, the team considered transitions from the welcome at the door; and looked at what we do well and not so well.

### *PCC Officers: Churchwardens, Treasurer, and Secretary*

Grateful thanks are expressed to Michael Knight and Mel Fletcher who serve as churchwardens. Mike has indicated his wish to stand down at the APCM 2025, after three years’ service. Succession planning is underway.

The Bishop invites all churchwardens to attend the annual Visitation Service at which they are legally admitted to office. This year, the service was held at Lincoln Cathedral (Thursday 13 June).

Jide Oduyoye, who was appointed Treasurer by the PCC after the APCM 2023, stood down on 31 December of the same year. After a hiatus of several months, Rachel (Ray) Davie, a former PCC Treasurer, stepped in as Interim Treasurer. We are immensely grateful to Ray for the expertise she has brought to the role, especially to prepare the 2023 financial statements, which were finally signed off by the Independent Examiner in October, in time to meet the deadline for submission to the Charity Commission. We are grateful also to Anna James, a PCC member, for her service as Assistant Treasurer to support the Treasurer with day-to-day book-keeping.

We also thank our Secretary (Judith Muskett) for the time she devotes to this role and for the knowledge she brings to the governance of St Wulfram's Church.

#### *Governance Review, August to November 2024*

With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and support from Heritage Lincolnshire, St Wulfram's commissioned Almond Tree Strategic Consulting Limited to conduct a light-touch review of its governance in 2024. The aim of the review (carried out between August and November 2024) was to ensure that the church's governance is fit for purpose, given the scale and scope of its charitable activities and in the context of the emerging partnership with NT. The approach included:

- Review of documentation, including policy, procedure and training documentation; committee terms of reference; agenda papers and minutes of PCC and committee meetings; budget and financial reporting documentation, and annual reports.
- A skills audit of PCC members conducted by online survey.
- One-to-one video conference interviews with the Rector, Associate Rector, churchwardens, and Chair of Finance.
- A group discussion with four other PCC members (following an open invitation to all 18 members not included in the one-to-one interviews).
- Ad hoc liaison with PCC Secretary as required.
- Preparation of a draft report, which was discussed with the PCC Standing Committee at an online meeting (14 November 2024).
- Finalisation of the report, including findings and recommendations for improvement, prior to inclusion in the papers for the 21 November PCC meeting.

The PCC gave initial consideration to the review report at its meeting on 21 November 2024 and will give further consideration to the report in January 2025 when it will set up an ad hoc task group to move forward on the recommendations.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- St Wulfram's Church is situated in Grantham, Lincolnshire and is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rectory, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR.
- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, charity registration number 1131575, as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham".
- The PCC Treasurer is Rachel (Ray) Davie. The PCC Secretary is Judith Muskett (who currently undertakes this role on a voluntary basis alongside the salaried post of Mission Facilitator). Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is an elected member of the PCC.

- PCC members who served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are set out below. Four vacancies for elected members were unfilled at the APCM on 12 May 2024.

| Name                      | Post                                                                             | Date if part year |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ex officio members</b> |                                                                                  |                   |
| Father Stuart Craddock    | Incumbent, PCC Chair, Rural Dean (until 12.11.24), Diocesan Synod, General Synod |                   |
| Father Clay Roundtree     | Associate Rector, Diocesan Synod                                                 |                   |
| Mother Geraldine Pond     | Bishop's Permission to Officiate                                                 | (until 10.7.24)   |
| Mother Hannah Grivell     | Assistant Curate                                                                 |                   |
| Mother Kate Hough         | Assistant Curate                                                                 |                   |
| Father Yuce Kabakci       | Assistant Curate                                                                 | (until 11.5.24)   |
| Katy Castañeda            | Reader                                                                           |                   |
| Melanie Fletcher          | Warden and (from 12.5.24) Vice Chair                                             |                   |
| Mike Knight               | Warden                                                                           |                   |
| Paul Davie                | Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod                                                    |                   |
| Cherry Edwards            | Deanery Synod                                                                    |                   |
| Chris Impey               | Deanery Synod                                                                    |                   |
| <b>Elected members</b>    |                                                                                  |                   |
| Jan Burrows               |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Helen Dawkins             |                                                                                  |                   |
| Tom Fletcher              |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Anna James                |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Philip Joyce              |                                                                                  |                   |
| Sheila Knight             |                                                                                  | (until 12.5.24)   |
| John Manterfield          | Deanery Synod (from 12.5.24)                                                     |                   |
| Ese Oduyoye               |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Lucille Pritchard         |                                                                                  |                   |
| Lucy Scott                |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                                  | (until 12.5.24)   |
| David Wst                 |                                                                                  | (until 12.5.24)   |
| Eileen West               |                                                                                  |                   |
| Val York                  |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24))   |
| <b>Co-opted members</b>   |                                                                                  |                   |
| Mark Bates                |                                                                                  | (from 12.5.24)    |
| Anna James                |                                                                                  | (until 12.5.24)   |
| James Osborn              |                                                                                  | (from 11.7.24)    |
| Bankers                   | The Co-operative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M4 4BE.                      |                   |
| Investment Managers       | CCLA Investment Management Limited,<br>84 Queen Victoria Street, London.         |                   |
| Insurers                  | Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.                                      |                   |
| Independent Examiners     | Streets LLP, Windsor House, A1 Business Park,<br>Long Bennington.                |                   |

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf,



Father Stuart Craddock

6 April 2025

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2024

|                                                                                                       | Note | Unrestricted Funds<br>General<br>£ | Designated      | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | TOTAL FUNDS<br>2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                             |      |                                    |                 |                          |                         |                          |                |
| Voluntary income                                                                                      | 2(a) | 84,751                             | 13,481          | 106,003                  | -                       | 204,235                  | 364,792        |
| Activities for generating funds                                                                       | 2(b) | 85,359                             | 907             | 12,826                   | -                       | 99,092                   | 96,282         |
| Income from investments                                                                               | 2(c) | 57                                 | 90              | 6,646                    | -                       | 6,793                    | 10,750         |
| Church activities                                                                                     | 2(d) | 16,307                             | -               | 12,457                   | -                       | 28,764                   | 21,140         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                       |      | <b>186,474</b>                     | <b>14,478</b>   | <b>137,932</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>338,884</b>           | <b>492,964</b> |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                             |      |                                    |                 |                          |                         |                          |                |
| Church activities                                                                                     | 3(a) | 165,511                            | 54,627          | 188,073                  | -                       | 408,211                  | 423,392        |
| Fund-raising costs                                                                                    | 3(b) | 35,015                             | -               | 1,086                    | -                       | 36,101                   | 31,572         |
| Investment management costs                                                                           | 3(c) | -                                  | -               | -                        | -                       | -                        | 1,481          |
| Governance costs                                                                                      | 3(d) | 1,920                              | -               | -                        | -                       | 1,920                    | 1,800          |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                       |      | <b>202,446</b>                     | <b>54,627</b>   | <b>189,159</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>446,232</b>           | <b>458,245</b> |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING)<br/>RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>                               |      | <b>(15,972)</b>                    | <b>(40,149)</b> | <b>(51,227)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>(107,348)</b>         | <b>34,719</b>  |
| Transfers between funds                                                                               | 11   | 2,015                              | (1,843)         | (172)                    | -                       | -                        | -              |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING<br/>RESOURCES) BEFORE OTHER<br/>RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b> |      | <b>(13,957)</b>                    | <b>(41,992)</b> | <b>(51,399)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>(107,348)</b>         | <b>34,719</b>  |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets:                                                                  | 6(b) |                                    |                 |                          |                         |                          |                |
| on sale                                                                                               |      | 12,030                             | (16,271)        |                          |                         | (4,241)                  | -              |
| on revaluation                                                                                        |      | -                                  | 79              | 4,339                    | (5,931)                 | (1,513)                  | 14,519         |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                                                                          |      | <b>(1,927)</b>                     | <b>(58,184)</b> | <b>(47,060)</b>          | <b>(5,931)</b>          | <b>(113,102)</b>         | <b>49,238</b>  |
| <b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JANUARY</b>                                                           |      | <b>(17,184)</b>                    | <b>69,404</b>   | <b>349,325</b>           | <b>72,796</b>           | <b>474,341</b>           | <b>425,103</b> |
| <b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31st DECEMBER</b>                                                         |      | <b>(19,111)</b>                    | <b>11,220</b>   | <b>302,265</b>           | <b>66,865</b>           | <b>361,239</b>           | <b>474,341</b> |

The notes on pages 49 to 56 form part of these accounts

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2024

|                                                | Notes | 2024<br>£             | 2023<br>£             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| Tangible assets                                | 6(a)  | 684                   | 2,295                 |
| Investments                                    | 6(b)  | <u>200,004</u>        | <u>344,018</u>        |
|                                                |       | <b>200,688</b>        | <b>346,313</b>        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |       |                       |                       |
| Debtors                                        | 7     | 42,401                | 53,475                |
| Short term deposits & cash at bank and in hand | 8     | <u>149,406</u>        | <u>112,767</u>        |
|                                                |       | 191,807               | 166,242               |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |       |                       |                       |
| Creditors - amounts falling due in one year    | 9     | 31,256                | 38,214                |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |       | <u>160,551</u>        | <u>128,028</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                        |       | <u><u>361,239</u></u> | <u><u>474,341</u></u> |
| <b>PARISH FUNDS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| General Fund                                   |       | (19,111)              | (17,184)              |
| Designated Funds                               | 10    | <u>11,220</u>         | <u>69,404</u>         |
|                                                |       | (7,891)               | 52,220                |
| <b>Restricted</b>                              |       |                       |                       |
| Endowment                                      | 10    | 302,265               | 349,325               |
|                                                | 10    | 66,865                | 72,796                |
|                                                |       | <u><u>361,239</u></u> | <u><u>474,341</u></u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Father Stuart Craddock

(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 49 to 56 form part of these accounts

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| 2 INCOMING RESOURCES                        | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                             | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2024           | 2023           |
|                                             | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>                |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Planned giving:                             |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Gift Aid donations                          | 44,476             |               | 1,200            |                 | 45,676         | 47,517         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 11,359             |               | 300              |                 | 11,659         | 11,879         |
| Other                                       | 3,984              |               |                  |                 | 3,984          | 6,110          |
| Collections (open plate)                    | 10,812             | 214           |                  |                 | 11,026         | 10,245         |
| Grants                                      | -                  |               | 81,930           |                 | 81,930         | 65,374         |
| Other donations and appeals                 |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 1,377            |                 | 1,377          | 5,503          |
| Donations box                               | 4,934              |               |                  |                 | 4,934          | 6,112          |
| Other donations, appeals, etc.              | 6,719              | 13,267        | 20,776           |                 | 40,762         | 70,338         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 2,467              |               | 420              |                 | 2,887          | 6,714          |
| Legacy income                               |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 135,000        |
|                                             | <b>84,751</b>      | <b>13,481</b> | <b>106,003</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>204,235</b> | <b>364,792</b> |
| <b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b> |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee shop                                 | 7,053              |               | 42               |                 | 7,095          | 5,215          |
| Hire of church /Grantham House              | 14,276             | 776           |                  |                 | 15,052         | 25,350         |
| Sales Unit                                  | 568                |               |                  |                 | 568            | 1,270          |
| Lottery                                     | 1,040              |               |                  |                 | 1,040          | 977            |
| Events Bar                                  | 20,182             |               |                  |                 | 20,182         | 5,082          |
| Beer Festival                               | 17,603             |               |                  |                 | 17,603         | 15,924         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                     | 19,535             |               |                  |                 | 19,535         | 14,951         |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 11,105           |                 | 11,105         | 10,160         |
| Other fund-raising                          | 5,102              | 131           | 1,679            |                 | 6,912          | 17,353         |
|                                             | <b>85,359</b>      | <b>907</b>    | <b>12,826</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>99,092</b>  | <b>96,282</b>  |
| <b>2(c) Income from investments</b>         |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Rent from land & buildings                  |                    |               |                  | -               | -              | 4,893          |
| Dividends and interest                      | 57                 | 90            | 6,646            |                 | 6,793          | 5,857          |
|                                             | <b>57</b>          | <b>90</b>     | <b>6,646</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>6,793</b>   | <b>10,750</b>  |
| <b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>   |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Parish Magazine                             |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 210            |
| Pilgrimage trip                             | 3,788              |               |                  |                 | 3,788          | -              |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 9,198            |                 | 9,198          | 7,545          |
| Other income from church activities         | 5,148              |               | 879              |                 | 6,027          | 7,737          |
| Fees paid to PCC for weddings & funerals    | 7,371              |               |                  | -               | 7,371          | 5,648          |
| Insurance claim                             |                    |               | 2,380            |                 | 2,380          | -              |
|                                             | <b>16,307</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>12,457</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>28,764</b>  | <b>21,140</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>             | <b>186,474</b>     | <b>14,478</b> | <b>137,932</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>338,884</b> | <b>492,964</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED                                | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                     | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2024           | 2023           |
|                                                     | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>3(a) Church activities</b>                       |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Missionary and charitable giving (note 13)          | 2,750              |               |                  |                 | 2,750          | 3,130          |
| Ministry                                            |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Diocesan parish share                               | 36,667             |               |                  |                 | 36,667         | 36,667         |
| Other ministry costs                                | 11,502             |               | 285              |                 | 11,787         | 14,156         |
| Church/Grantham House running & maintenance         |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Heating, lighting & water                           | 15,332             | 7,352         | 8,745            |                 | 31,429         | 43,795         |
| Insurance                                           | 10,366             | 3,750         | 10,366           |                 | 24,482         | 20,670         |
| Rates                                               |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | -              |
| Maintenance and other costs                         | 5,687              | 16,734        | 108,846          |                 | 131,267        | 96,126         |
| Upkeep of services                                  | 5,976              |               |                  |                 | 5,976          | 5,988          |
| Music & choir                                       | 26,240             |               | 3,274            |                 | 29,514         | 49,182         |
| Choir Trips                                         |                    |               | 21,077           |                 | 21,077         | 23,339         |
| Children and young people                           | 864                |               |                  |                 | 864            | 20,525         |
| Printing, stationery & other office costs           | 7,069              | 2,785         | 143              |                 | 9,997          | 9,667          |
| Parish magazine costs                               | 280                |               |                  |                 | 280            | 975            |
| Legal & professional fees                           | 883                |               | 10,443           |                 | 11,326         | 9,096          |
| Bank charges                                        | 376                |               | 287              |                 | 663            | 849            |
| Training & Development                              | 1,154              |               |                  |                 | 1,154          | 1,544          |
| Other sundry expenses                               | 5,554              | 680           | 1,995            |                 | 8,229          | 6,713          |
| Pilgrimage trip                                     | 4,504              |               |                  |                 | 4,504          | -              |
| Other church activities costs                       | 6,120              | 4,681         | 705              |                 | 11,506         | 2,270          |
| Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing activities |                    |               | 150              |                 | 150            | 2,207          |
| Administration and support costs                    | 24,187             | 18,645        | 21,757           |                 | 64,589         | 76,493         |
|                                                     | <u>165,511</u>     | <u>54,627</u> | <u>188,073</u>   | <u>-</u>        | <u>408,211</u> | <u>423,392</u> |
| <b>3(b) Fund-raising costs</b>                      |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee Shop                                         | 2,590              |               |                  |                 | 2,590          | 1,834          |
| Sales Unit stock                                    | 4                  |               |                  |                 | 4              | 194            |
| Events Bar                                          | 9,920              |               |                  |                 | 9,920          | 5,668          |
| Beer Festival                                       | 10,260             |               |                  |                 | 10,260         | 9,570          |
| Christmas Tree Festival                             | 10,372             |               |                  |                 | 10,372         | 9,508          |
| Choir Trips                                         |                    |               | 847              |                 | 847            | 38             |
| Other fund-raising                                  | 1,869              |               | 239              |                 | 2,108          | 4,760          |
|                                                     | <u>35,015</u>      | <u>-</u>      | <u>1,086</u>     | <u>-</u>        | <u>36,101</u>  | <u>31,572</u>  |
| <b>3(c) Investment management costs</b>             |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Investment property insurance and repairs           |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 773            |
| Investment property management fees                 |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 708            |
|                                                     | <u>-</u>           | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>         | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>       | <u>1,481</u>   |
| <b>3(d) Governance costs</b>                        | <u>1,920</u>       | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>         | <u>-</u>        | <u>1,920</u>   | <u>1,800</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                     | <u>202,446</u>     | <u>54,627</u> | <u>189,159</u>   | <u>-</u>        | <u>446,232</u> | <u>458,245</u> |

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
As at 31st December 2024

| 4    | STAFF COSTS & EXPENSE PAYMENTS          | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 4(a) | Staff costs                             |                |                |
|      | Wages and salaries:                     |                |                |
|      | Gross pay                               | 104,283        | 142,460        |
|      | Employer's NI and Pension Contributions | 12,456         | 12,625         |
|      |                                         | <u>116,739</u> | <u>155,085</u> |

The full-time equivalent number of staff was 3.7 (2023 - 4.2) and no employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000. No wages or salaries were paid to PCC members during the year.

**Grantham St Wulfram PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

- CWPF has two sections:
- 1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
  - 2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
    - a. , a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
    - b. , a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

**Pension Builder Scheme**

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on the investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme’s assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year are the contributions payable (**2024: £3,814; 2023: £6,282**).

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Grantham St Wulfram PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer’s pension liabilities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

### 4(b) Payments to PCC members

4 members of the PCC were reimbursed a total of £4,728 expenses in relation to their work at St Wulfram's that was unrelated to their additional duties as PCC members. These were for travel/mileage (£3,894), phone costs (£525), meals/subsistence (£189) & other charitable expenses (£120). A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the Rector may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

AF Electrical Installations was paid a total of £1,032 during 2024 for repair work done. Melanie Fletcher is married to the owner of the firm, but although a member of the PCC Fabric sub-group does not play a part the selection of contractors to undertake repair & maintenance work.

No other expenses, except those listed above, were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

|                                                                     | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Net incoming resources for the year are after charging:</b>      |           |           |
| Depreciation of computers & gardening equipment (lawnmowers)        | 1,611     | 1,839     |
| Independent Examination of the Annual Report & Financial Statements | 1920      | 1800      |

### 6 FIXED ASSETS

#### a) Tangible assets

|                            | GENERAL<br>FUNDS            |                            | DESIGNATED<br>FUNDS      | TOTAL<br>FUNDS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                            | Gardening<br>Equipment<br>£ | Office<br>Photocopier<br>£ | Office<br>Computers<br>£ | £              |
| <b>Cost or deemed cost</b> |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2024        | 1,950                       | 3,990                      | 7,245                    | 13,185         |
| Additions                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2024      | <u>1,950</u>                | <u>3,990</u>               | <u>7,245</u>             | <u>13,185</u>  |
| <b>Depreciation</b>        |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2024        | 1,788                       | 3,990                      | 5,112                    | 10,890         |
| Charge for the year        | 162                         | -                          | 1,449                    | 1,611          |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2024      | <u>1,950</u>                | <u>3,990</u>               | <u>6,561</u>             | <u>12,501</u>  |
| <b>Net book value</b>      |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 31st December 2024      | <u>-</u>                    | <u>-</u>                   | <u>684</u>               | <u>684</u>     |
| At 31st December 2023      | <u>162</u>                  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>2,133</u>             | <u>2,295</u>   |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| <b>6 b) Investments</b>                | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Market value 1 January 2024</b>     | <b>142,500</b>              | <b>201,518</b>                | <b>344,018</b>                     |
| Additions                              | -                           | -                             | -                                  |
| Disposals                              | (142,500)                   | -                             | (142,500)                          |
| Revaluation (loss)/gain                | -                           | (1,514)                       | (1,514)                            |
| <b>At 31 December 2024</b>             | <b>-</b>                    | <b>200,004</b>                | <b>200,004</b>                     |
| Historic cost as at 31st December 2024 | 68,768                      |                               |                                    |
| <b>Sale of Investment property</b>     |                             |                               |                                    |
| Sale price                             | 142,500                     |                               |                                    |
| Transaction costs                      | (4,240)                     |                               |                                    |
| Net proceeds received                  | <u>138,260</u>              |                               |                                    |
| Proceeds                               | 138,260                     |                               |                                    |
| Historic cost                          | (68,768)                    |                               |                                    |
| <b>Net gain on sale</b>                | <u>69,492</u>               |                               |                                    |

The gain on sale was allocated to meet the shortfall on the running costs of Grantham House & the General Fund.

**The market value at 31st December 2024 represents investments for:**

|                  | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General funds    | -                           | -                             | -                                  |
| Designated funds | -                           | -                             | -                                  |
| Restricted funds | -                           | 133,139                       | <b>133,139</b>                     |
| Endowment funds  | -                           | 66,865                        | <b>66,865</b>                      |
|                  | <u>-</u>                    | <u>200,004</u>                | <u><b>200,004</b></u>              |

The allocation of the assets to the funds above reflects how the income is currently apportioned, the asset actually used by a particular fund is ultimately dictated by liquidity needs. Total fixed asset investment securities are within the United Kingdom and are all unlisted. They are intended to be held for longer than one year although can be sold at short notice, thereby ensuring sufficient liquidity.

| <b>7 DEBTORS</b>                  | <b>2024<br/>£</b>     | <b>2023<br/>£</b>     |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Prepayments:                      |                       |                       |
| Less than 1 year                  | 7,442                 | 8,521                 |
| More than 1 year                  | 558                   | -                     |
| Tax recoverable                   | 869                   | 72                    |
| Other debtors                     | <u>33,532</u>         | <u>44,882</u>         |
|                                   | <u><b>42,401</b></u>  | <u><b>53,475</b></u>  |
| <b>8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b> | <b>2024<br/>£</b>     | <b>2023<br/>£</b>     |
| Short term deposits               | 30,080                | 30,080                |
| Cash at bank and on hand          | 119,326               | 82,687                |
| Other                             | -                     | -                     |
|                                   | <u><b>149,406</b></u> | <u><b>112,767</b></u> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| <b>9 LIABILITIES</b>                            | <b>2024<br/>£</b>    | <b>2023<br/>£</b>    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Amounts falling due in one year                 |                      |                      |
| Accruals for utility costs                      | 8,871                | 6,987                |
| Accruals for other costs                        | 15,261               | 24,165               |
| Deferred income*                                | 7,124                | 3,960                |
| Grantham Ark (Registered Charity No. 1190668)** | -                    | 3,102                |
|                                                 | <b><u>31,256</u></b> | <b><u>38,214</u></b> |

\*Deferred income includes fundraising & sponship for fututre choir trips (£7,105) & ticket sales for the 2025 Fish & Chip Quiz Night (£19).

The movement in deferred income is analysed below:

|                                                  | <b>2024<br/>£</b>   | <b>2023<br/>£</b>   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>                 | <b>3,960</b>        | <b>8,536</b>        |
| Amounts added in current period                  | 7,124               | 690                 |
| Amounts released to income from previous periods | (3,960)             | (5,266)             |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>               | <b><u>7,124</u></b> | <b><u>3,960</u></b> |

\*\*St Wulfram's Church has in the past receives income on behalf of Grantham Ark, which is registered with The Charity Commission (number 1190668). This is largely due to difficulty the charity experienced in operating a bank account. The remaining portion of this was paid over to Grantham Ark in 2024.

## 9b OPERATING LEASE

The charity has future liabilities under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

|                                | <b>&lt; 1yr</b>   | <b>1-5 yrs</b>    | <b>&gt; 5 yrs</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Office Equipment (photocopier) | <b><u>850</u></b> | <b><u>388</u></b> | <b><u>-</u></b>   |

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| 10 FUNDS                                                 | As at<br>1st Jan 24                                                                                                                                                 | Incoming<br>Resources         | Resources<br>Expended         | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses)         | Transfers        | As at<br>31st Dec 24         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                                  | <b>£</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| Funeral collections "in memoriam"                        | 5,160                                                                                                                                                               | 90                            | (225)                         | 78                                   |                  | 5,103                        |
| Mission & Social Responsibility                          | 9,919                                                                                                                                                               | 3,064                         | (5,024)                       |                                      | (1,843)          | 6,116                        |
| Development (Grantham House)                             | (19,407)                                                                                                                                                            | 20,990                        | (59,044)                      | 57,461                               |                  | -                            |
| Revaluation of investment property                       | 73,732                                                                                                                                                              |                               | (73,732)                      |                                      |                  | -                            |
|                                                          | <u>69,404</u>                                                                                                                                                       | <u>24,144</u>                 | <u>(138,025)</u>              | <u>57,539</u>                        | <u>(1,843)</u>   | <u>11,219</u>                |
| Funeral collections "in memoriam"                        | Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram designated for use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items 'in memoriam'.                      |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)               | Accumulated income from restricted income fund of same name, plus interest.                                                                                         |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Revaluation of investment property                       | Revaluation reserve for the investment property at 8 Lytham Close.                                                                                                  |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| <b>Restricted Income Funds</b>                           | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 24</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 24</b> |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| 5050 booklet appeal                                      | 1,108                                                                                                                                                               | 20                            |                               | 18                                   |                  | 1,146                        |
| A Pinchbeck fund                                         | 2,065                                                                                                                                                               | 56                            |                               | 33                                   |                  | 2,154                        |
| AG Hardy fund books for lay readers                      | 2,616                                                                                                                                                               | 97                            |                               | 43                                   |                  | 2,756                        |
| Book of Remembrance                                      | 291                                                                                                                                                                 | 5                             |                               | 5                                    |                  | 301                          |
| Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music        | 23,967                                                                                                                                                              |                               | (7,291)                       |                                      | (2,015)          | 14,661                       |
| Chained (Trigge) library                                 | 3,091                                                                                                                                                               | 12,529                        | (14,182)                      | 22                                   |                  | 1,460                        |
| Choir Fund                                               | 336                                                                                                                                                                 | 27,124                        | (23,993)                      | 54                                   |                  | 3,521                        |
| Clarkes Charity                                          | 1,058                                                                                                                                                               | 68                            |                               | 17                                   |                  | 1,143                        |
| Downton bequest                                          | 10,174                                                                                                                                                              | 181                           | (182)                         | 160                                  |                  | 10,333                       |
| Grantham House Grant Fund                                | -                                                                                                                                                                   | 10,000                        | (7,280)                       |                                      |                  | 2,720                        |
| Fabric fund                                              | 293,946                                                                                                                                                             | 84,480                        | (135,387)                     | 3,815                                |                  | 246,854                      |
| Flowers                                                  | 1,582                                                                                                                                                               | 1,302                         | (1,128)                       | 27                                   |                  | 1,783                        |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Grant                         | 1,612                                                                                                                                                               | 877                           | (750)                         | 27                                   |                  | 1,766                        |
| Langwith Charity                                         | 3,966                                                                                                                                                               | 336                           |                               | 97                                   | 1,843            | 6,242                        |
| Mental Health First Aid Training - The Benefact Trust    | 2,233                                                                                                                                                               |                               | (150)                         |                                      |                  | 2,083                        |
| Organ Fund                                               | 115                                                                                                                                                                 | 2                             |                               | 2                                    |                  | 119                          |
| P Burdett bequest                                        | 945                                                                                                                                                                 | 17                            |                               | 15                                   |                  | 977                          |
| South Porch & Garden of Remembrance                      | 220                                                                                                                                                                 | 4                             |                               | 4                                    |                  | 228                          |
| Strategic Development Funding (SDF) / LDT&BoF            | -                                                                                                                                                                   | 20,749                        | (20,749)                      |                                      |                  | -                            |
|                                                          | <u>349,325</u>                                                                                                                                                      | <u>157,847</u>                | <u>(211,092)</u>              | <u>4,339</u>                         | <u>(172)</u>     | <u>300,247</u>               |
| 5050 booklet appeal                                      | Funds for the colour guide to the church.                                                                                                                           |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| A Pinchbeck fund                                         | Income to be applied for use by the servers.                                                                                                                        |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| AG Hardy fund books for lay readers                      | Income to be applied to reader ministry.                                                                                                                            |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Book of Remembrance                                      | Donation from the Machine Gun Corp for preservation of the Book of Remembrance.                                                                                     |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music grants | Grants from CMT and Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance for additional staffing of the music department, repurposed in 2024 with the agreement of the donors. |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Chained (Trigge) library                                 | Book restoration and upkeep of Trigge Library funded by donations for the purpose.                                                                                  |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Choir Fund                                               | Donations & fund raising for choir and music expenditure.                                                                                                           |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Clarkes Charity                                          | Beautifying the church.                                                                                                                                             |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Downton bequest                                          | Rector & churchwardens discretionary fund.                                                                                                                          |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Grantham House Grant Funding                             | Grants relating to the formation of the National Trust partnership on Grantham House                                                                                |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Fabric fund                                              | Income from bequests, legacies and other donations for preservation of the church fabric.                                                                           |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Flowers                                                  | Purchase of flowers funded by donations for the purpose.                                                                                                            |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Grant                         | Income from endowment for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships.                                                                                               |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Langwith Charity                                         | Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.                                                                                                                        |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Mental Health First Aid Training - The Benefact Trust    | Benefact Trust grant for Mental Health First Aid training                                                                                                           |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Organ Fund                                               | Saturday Morning music and other donations to meet the running costs of the organ and expenses of visiting organists.                                               |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| P Burdett bequest                                        | Vestments for servers and clergy.                                                                                                                                   |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| South Porch & Garden of Remembrance                      | Donations for upkeep of the South Porch and Garden of Remembrance.                                                                                                  |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Strategic Development Funding (SDF)                      | Strategic Development Funding from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance.                                                                                       |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2024

| <b>10 FUNDS (continued)</b>                | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 24</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 24</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Endowment Funds</b>                     | <b>£</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| A Pinchbeck fund                           | 997                                                                                                                                                     | -                             | -                             | 16                                   | -                | 1,013                        |
| A G Hardy fund                             | 2,718                                                                                                                                                   | -                             | -                             | 42                                   | -                | 2,760                        |
| Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | 2,695                                                                                                                                                   | -                             | -                             | 42                                   | -                | 2,737                        |
| Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | 132                                                                                                                                                     | -                             | -                             | 2                                    | -                | 134                          |
| Fabric fund                                | 26,696                                                                                                                                                  | -                             | -                             | (6,811)                              | -                | 19,885                       |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | 28,271                                                                                                                                                  | -                             | -                             | 544                                  | -                | 28,815                       |
| Hodds bequest                              | 2,382                                                                                                                                                   | -                             | -                             | 37                                   | -                | 2,419                        |
| Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | 8,275                                                                                                                                                   | -                             | -                             | 187                                  | -                | 8,462                        |
| Miss Harrison bequest                      | 454                                                                                                                                                     | -                             | -                             | 7                                    | -                | 461                          |
| P Barnes Fund                              | 176                                                                                                                                                     | -                             | -                             | 3                                    | -                | 179                          |
|                                            | <b>72,796</b>                                                                                                                                           | <b>-</b>                      | <b>-</b>                      | <b>(5,931)</b>                       | <b>-</b>         | <b>66,865</b>                |
| A Pinchbeck fund                           | Income to be applied for use by the servers.                                                                                                            |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| A G Hardy fund                             | Income to be applied to reader ministry.                                                                                                                |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | Income to be applied one third to orphans and two thirds to beautifying the church.                                                                     |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | Discretionary fund for distribution to the poor - income transferred to the general fund.                                                               |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Fabric fund                                | Income to be applied for church fabric - income transferred to the fabric restricted income fund.                                                       |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | Income for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships allocated to restricted income fund of same name.                                                 |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Hodds bequest                              | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of verger, bellringers, servers and choir.                                                      |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.                                                                                                            |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| Miss Harrison bequest                      | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of choir, music etc                                                                             |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |
| P Barnes Fund                              | Income to be applied for the children of parish - transferred to general funds to set against cost of Sunday Club & other children's ministry expenses. |                               |                               |                                      |                  |                              |

### 11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

Transfers between general and restricted funds normally represent a one-off transfer of incoming resources applied to restricted funds where resources expended for the same purpose have previously been met from general funds. Within year ermission was given for a grant previously given for the employent of an Assistant Director of Music to be used to meet the cost of occassional organists totalling £2,015. Amounts of £1843 donated for providing support to the poor & previously allocated to the designated Mission Fund were decided to be better kept within the Langwith Fund until needed.

| <b>12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund</b> | <b>Fixed<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Current<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Liabilities</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                          | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
| General funds                            | -                       | (3,158)                   | (13,934)           | (17,092)       |
| Designated funds                         | 684                     | 13,114                    | (2,579)            | 11,219         |
| Restricted funds                         | 133,139                 | 181,851                   | (14,743)           | 300,247        |
| Endowment funds                          | 66,865                  | -                         | -                  | 66,865         |
|                                          | <b>200,688</b>          | <b>191,807</b>            | <b>(31,256)</b>    | <b>361,239</b> |

### 13 MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING

|                                 | <b>Unrestricted Funds<br/>General</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Endowment<br/>Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                                 | <b>£</b>                              | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                   | <b>2024<br/>£</b>  | <b>2023<br/>£</b> |
| Mission & Social Responsibility | 2,750                                 | -                           | -                          | 2,750              | 3,130             |
| Other charitable giving         |                                       |                             |                            |                    |                   |
| The Children's Society          | -                                     | 581                         | -                          | 581                | 1,141             |
| McMillan                        | -                                     | 374                         | -                          | 374                | -                 |
| DEC (Various appeals)           | -                                     | -                           | -                          | -                  | 235               |
| Christian Aid                   | -                                     | 150                         | -                          | 150                | 353               |
| Samaritans                      | -                                     | 84                          | -                          | 84                 | -                 |
| Grantham Foodbank               | -                                     | 34                          | -                          | 34                 | -                 |
| Vouchers for families           | -                                     | -                           | -                          | -                  | -                 |
|                                 | <b>2,750</b>                          | <b>20</b>                   | <b>-</b>                   | <b>3,993</b>       | <b>4,960</b>      |

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****To the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham (the Trust), for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 47 to 48.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



13 May 2025

Chris Hubbard, FCA

Streets LLP  
Windsor House  
A1 Business Park at Long Bennington  
Nottingham  
NG23 5JR

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
Saint Wulfram,  
Grantham

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report for the  
Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Annual Report & Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023  
St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
Parochial Church Council**

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## **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Wulfram's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

The detail of this programme of mission is managed severally by the sub-groups (sub committees) of the PCC on its behalf. Their minutes and resolutions are available. From time to time, ad hoc working groups may be established to report to the PCC.

Full details of the PCC membership and officers are listed under 'Administrative Information' below.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC has the overall responsibility to make available to as many people as possible the ministry offered by the living Church based at St Wulfram's, and to welcome the same people to the church building. We communicate the Christian faith and exercise Christian ministry in the worship of the church through the ministry of word and sacrament. We seek to meet the needs of a variety of people in the wide range of worship and activities offered. Our church building is sufficiently flexible that we can manage occasions sacred and secular on a large or modest scale.

When undertaking their programme of activities, the staff and PCC have taken seriously the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. It is our express aim to be a community of Christians in the town and, according to the Anglican understanding, to be available to every single person in the town and parish. We seek to help the people of the town to live out their Christian faith through:

- Participation in the worship of the church and the practice of their own prayers at home, growing in confidence in their grasp of their faith through preaching, teaching and study together of scripture and Christian writings;
- Provision of pastoral care for the people of the parish and town; and
- Initiatives and ongoing work that express the love of God towards all people and reach those who are not regularly in touch with the life of the church.

To make all this possible the PCC has a prime responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Wulfram's.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Staff**

- Father Stuart Craddock, Rector and Rural Dean of Grantham.
- Father James Clabern (Clay) Roundtree, Associate Rector of Grantham and Associate Priest of St John's Spitalgate, Grantham.
- Mother Hannah Grivell, Assistant Curate.
- Mother Kate Hough, Assistant Curate.

- Father Yuce Kabakci, Assistant Curate.
- St Wulfram's continues to benefit from the active support of local retired clergy, including Mother Geraldine Pond.
- We benefit also from the active support of two Readers (Nick Kerry and Katy Castañeda) and several Authorised Lay Ministers.
- Mrs Anna Bolton, Vocal Coach to St Wulfram's Choir (until 21 July) and Musical Director of 'Singing for All' (until 21 March).
- Mrs Melanie Brown, Operations & Development Manager.
- Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator<sup>1</sup>.
- Mr Carl Kettle, Grantham House Gardener.
- Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator and Deanery Administrator.
- Mr Steve Prendergast, Church and Grantham House Cleaner.
- Mr Clayton Stiff, Children, Youth & Families Worker (until 31 August).
- Dr Tim Williams, Organist and Director of Music.
- Mr Tim Selman, Assistant Director of Music (1 January to 31 August).
- Mr James Lloyd Thomas, Assistant Director of Music (22 September to 1 November).

### **Holders of the Bishop's Licence**

Those licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion in the parish (some within church and others within and outside church) are listed below. The asterisk denotes the persons who did not administer the elements at all in the church during 2023.

Permission to Administer in church: Clare Arthur, Heather Arthur, Shaun Ashley, Daniel Castañeda, Paul Davie, Dorothy Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Trevor Johnston, Philip Joyce, \*Sue Redmile, Matthew Simons, Ian Stewart, David West.

Permission to Administer in church and out of church: \*Rachel Davie, Helen Dawkins (granted permission during 2023), Elizabeth Hill, \*Barbara Kime, Sheila Knight, \*Brenda Patten, \*Joanna Swinbourne, Eileen West, Valerie York.

Katy Castañeda and Nick Kerry have authority to administer Communion by virtue of their Reader licence.

### **Guild of Servers**

- 2023 saw the number of servers increase over the last year – we now have 15 active servers.

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<sup>1</sup> Elaine is a member of the UK Church Administrators' Network (UCAN).

- The much-welcomed revised Guild Handbook has now been printed and issued to all servers with working copies available in the vestry. Servers receive ongoing training and support on Sundays, but this year they were invited to two formal sessions based on the new Guild Handbook. The servers were presented with their handbooks, pendants and re-inducted into the Guild of Servers in October during our Sunday Eucharist.
- In 2023, we continued to see a reduction in the number of laity responsible for the Altar Linen. Mthr Kate has taken on the interim responsibility for this role, with the Head Server covering in her absence. This is still an ongoing concern, which will require additional volunteers as soon as possible to enable sufficient linen for services. This said, following a full audit of linen last year and with approval of the Rector, we now have additional new linen, which will accommodate some two weeks of all services.
- C1 Foundation Safeguarding training has continued to be facilitated by our Parish Safeguarding Officer (Di Hale) for all servers under the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework, using the Church of England's online portal.
- The Guild has retained sufficient members to provide support for regular worship, but we would still welcome more volunteers to enable duties to be more evenly distributed amongst the members. The Guild is not exclusive and is open to all members of the parish, of any age and experience. During the recent Christmas Tree Festival, Mthr Kate took the opportunity to advertise for new servers, providing full contact details for interested parties - we look forward to welcoming new members.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **St Wulfram's as an SDF Urban Resource Church**

In 2020, St Wulfram's was designated an 'urban resource church', a strategic development, funded in part by the Church Commissioners and in part by the Diocese of Lincoln. We are one of three urban resource churches in the diocese, the other two being St George's, Stamford (which planted into St Anne's New Somerby in Grantham in August) and St Swithin's, Lincoln.

As well as continuing to serve the people of Grantham, St Wulfram's has a wider responsibility to the whole diocese. This necessitated a change in the Rector's role. In recognition of this, St Wulfram's was able to appoint a new Associate Rector from May 2021, who works in partnership with the Rector in leading St Wulfram's mission, ministry, and pastoral care. In June 2022, we welcomed three new 'planting curates'. Each is training at St Wulfram's for three years in readiness to 'plant' (revitalise) an urban church elsewhere in the diocese.

The diocese will soon announce planting locations and the curates' gradual transition to the new locations will begin, culminating in permanent moves in late 2024 or the first half of 2025. In their new locations, the three will continue to be supported and resourced by clergy, staff, and relevant PCC members at St Wulfram's.

Along with other resource church leaders, our Rector (or Associate Rector) participates in bi-monthly SDF Board meetings at the diocesan office in Lincoln.

Several members of our staff team travelled to St George's, Stamford on Tuesday 31 January to share in one of the series of networking meetings for the three churches (an initiative that started in 2022). St Wulfram's hosted a full-day networking meeting on Tuesday 13 June 2023, at Grantham House, featuring a Zoom talk in the morning on 'Fresh Expressions in a Catholic Model' by Fr Simon Rundell from the Diocese of Exeter, and an inspiring afternoon talk by the

Very Revd Joe Hawes (Dean of Edmundsbury) entitled 'A Sacramental Future in a Mixed Economy'. After each talk, we reflected in small groups. The day concluded with gatherings of staff in similar roles to discuss solutions to the challenges we face in our everyday life. This was followed by Choral Evensong in the church. We returned to St George's, Stamford for the afternoon on 16 November. The next networking day will take place at St Swithin's, Lincoln on Thursday 7 March 2024; and St Wulfram's looks forward to hosting again on Tuesday 4 June 2024.

### *St John's Spitalgate – our local church plant*

Our church planting principles are currently being 'piloted' through our local plant, St John's Spitalgate, Grantham<sup>2</sup> to which Fr Clay, our Associate Rector, was additionally licensed in September 2022. As part of their training, our planting curates are supporting the ministry and mission there.

Public consultation was vital to developing the vision for the St John's community church to reach new people in new ways and also for the recruitment of an initial core team of community volunteers (some of whom were drawn from a group with a previous connection to St John's). The outcome of local surveys and the public consultations evidenced the need for grant applications to support the work of hospitality around a five-morning-a-week (Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon) 'warm hub' in the hall, with hot drinks and biscuits, plus seasonal homemade soup or cake on Fridays at 12 noon. The provision is registered with 'Warm Welcome Spaces', whose website includes a searchable map enabling people to access warm places to connect with others, make new friends and feel part of the community. Funding for the St John's 'warm hub' initiative was obtained from the ASDA Foundation, Shine Lincolnshire, the National Grid Electricity Distribution Community Matters Fund, and the Freemasons of the Sir Isaac Newton Lodge. St John's expresses gratitude to the nearby B&Q store for donating paint to refurbish the Parish Room. An appeal was made in February for volunteers to join an afternoon of gardening to improve the landscape in the church grounds; this followed the pollarding of branches of the poplar and lime trees on the site.

General funds were raised for St John's at special events: a pub songs singalong (23 September) and concerts (31 May, 1 July, 19 November, and 3 December). St John's expressed thanks to its team of volunteers with afternoon tea (12 March).

A £10K grant awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund in October will enable the launch of the new St John's Spitalgate Community Fridge early in 2024. Interviews were held at the end of the year for a Community Fridge Project Co-ordinator (a part-time, fixed-term post). The Community Fridge will bring people together to connect, share food (including supermarket and garden surpluses), reduce food waste, and learn new skills from cookery demonstrations.

High-quality choral music to support the liturgy is an historical strength of St John's; and this has been revived by the St John's Winter Singers (a group of singers/musicians previously associated with the church), who support the monthly Choral Evensong. Midweek encounters are fundamental to the developing pattern of worship at St John's: Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m. and the Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. on Thursdays. A monthly Sunday morning service of Holy Communion (11.00 am) was introduced in October. St John's is also a place where catholic devotional spirituality is being developed: Fr Clay led his six-session

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<sup>2</sup> St John's Spitalgate is currently part of the Trinity Parish South Grantham. It closed for the pandemic lockdown in March 2020 and did not re-open. St John's was initially categorised as a Type 5 church exploring closure. It re-opened in September 2022 under Fr Clay's leadership, and now aspires to be a Type 2 Local Mission Church within five years. The proposed dissolution of the Trinity Parish South Grantham is in process through the Diocese of Lincoln and Church Commissioners.

Introduction to Christian Meditation at St John's in Lent (Mondays, 7.00 p.m.), and also in October/November. Also in Lent, St John's hosted a four-session 'Introduction to Christian Prayer' (Saturdays at 11.00 a.m.). Choral Evensong on 7 May was a service of thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III. A Harvest Choral Evensong was held on 1 October, followed by a harvest supper. The year ended with a Service of Memories (12 December), Nine Lessons & Carols (17 December) and a 'No rehearsal Nativity' and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

## **Worship and Prayer**

### *Regular and special services*

- The PCC is committed to offering a range of worship that reflects the breadth of the Anglican tradition.
- The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship, giving opportunity to include good choral and congregational music. Children from the Sunday Club (which includes those aged 0 to 11) are actively included in this service and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions, and assist in the administration of the Sacrament. All are welcome to participate in this service; and welcome stewards are at the door each Sunday. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and contacted in due course at home.
- The service pattern differs on the first Sunday of the month. All-Age Worship, or Parade Services for the scout and guide groups, take place at 9.30 a.m., supported by the St Wulfram's band of instrumentalists. These services continue to attract a cross-section of people young and old in the congregation. The All-Age Worship or Parade Service is followed at 11.00 a.m. by a traditional Choral Eucharist, the style of which attracts regular members of the congregation, as well as worshippers from other churches and newcomers.
- 'Extra Half Hour' is an informal monthly Bible study on the fourth Sunday of the month, led by the preacher after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist.
- A Said Eucharist is held at 8.00 a.m. each Sunday, the liturgy alternating between Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.
- Choral Evensong is sung at 6.30 p.m. most Sundays during school term times. Outside school term and on the first Sunday of each month, Evening Prayer is said at 6.30 p.m.
- In contrast to the Parish Communion and Choral Evensong, the evening and midweek services are quieter and more reflective. Morning Prayer is said daily in the Crypt (Tuesday to Friday), now at 8.30 rather than 9.00 a.m. (to allow clergy to attend meetings from 9.00 a.m. without missing the opportunity to pray together first with colleagues and parishioners). Members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. A midweek Eucharist is held on a Tuesday at 12.00 noon in St Michael's Chapel. Compline is held at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesdays (Sung Compline on the third Wednesday of the month). A weekly Exposition and Benediction is held at 12.00 noon on Fridays.
- The Sunday Parish Eucharist, and Sunday Evening Prayer / Evensong and special services continue to be livestreamed to reach those who are unable to attend church in person. Broadcasting services via Facebook is part of our strategy for offering encouragement and welcome and for sharing the good news of the Christian faith more widely. Livestreaming is here to stay, but how and when services go online continues to change. Due to the sensitive nature of certain acts of worship (such as a Healing Eucharist, or service to mark Suicide Prevention Week), we choose not to livestream.

Notwithstanding this, we do on occasion livestream funerals at the specific request of the families concerned.

This year, a change was made in respect of Morning Prayer – part of the daily offering and service of clergy and part of their ongoing spiritual maintenance – which we had started to livestream during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Rector and Associate Rector felt that livestreaming had changed the character of the offering. So, as a ministry team, they did not livestream Morning Prayer as often, and livestreaming became the exception rather than the rule from 1 August. Clergy were sorry if those who had come to share regularly in Morning Prayer were disappointed by this news, but hoped they would be sympathetic to the reasons for the changes. Attention was drawn to the Church of England's daily prayer via the audio player.

- The Youth Choir sing Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m. on Fridays during term time.
- We celebrated Epiphany with a Nativity at the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday 8 January. Our young people told the story of the Wise Men visiting Jesus.
- We marked Racial Justice Sunday (12 February) with a special Order of Service for the Parish Eucharist.
- On Shrove Tuesday (21 February), we had a pancake giveaway between 3.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. (to coincide with when children were leaving the National School next door). This was an opportunity to explain a little of what Shrove Tuesday and Lent are, as well as enjoying some pancakes!
- On Sunday 5 March, we were delighted to welcome Bishop David of Grimsby to celebrate and preach at our All-Age Eucharist, and to preach at the Choral Eucharist. Members of the congregation were encouraged to meet the Bishop and let him know the joys and challenges we face at St Wulfram's.
- We remembered in our prayers the Revd Canon Dr Robert Reiss (Rector of Grantham 1986-1996 and Rural Dean of Grantham 1992-1996; Archdeacon of Surrey from 1996; and Canon Treasurer of Westminster Abbey from 2005, and later Sub-Dean), who died suddenly on 26 January aged 80. Canon Reiss was mourned by his wife Dixie, his daughter the playwright Anya Reiss, an extensive array of friends, and the wider community of Westminster Abbey.
- Three special services for St Wulfram's, St John's Church Manthorpe and St John's Church Spitalgate marked Ash Wednesday (22 February), the beginning of Lent. Our Lent booklet (available online) detailed all the Lent, Holy Week and Easter services, Lent groups/courses, Confirmation and First Communion preparations.
- We were invited to attend a service, written by Christian women of Taiwan, at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 3 March at St John's Church Manthorpe to mark the World Day of Prayer 2023.
- Through the innovative Lent Video Project, we posted 30 to 90-second videos day-by-day on Facebook. These were made by members of our congregation and those of St John's Manthorpe, who talked about their personal faith and how this has been nurtured by the church. Judging by the scale of the videos' 'reach' and level of 'engagement' recorded by Facebook analytics, the project was a great success.

- Mothering Sunday flowers were prepared on Saturday morning 18 March in the church. Later in the month, in preparation for Palm Sunday, palm crosses were made at Grantham House (Wednesday evening 22 March). Those who gathered for this dextrous task enjoyed some social time together over refreshments.
- Bishop Stephen extended an invitation to all congregational members to attend the Chrism Eucharist at Lincoln Cathedral (4 April), when the oils for Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing are blessed. Refreshments were served afterwards.
- As we approached Easter Day, our Lenten journey included the following:
  - A service of readings and music for Passiontide, including Bach's Cantata *Ich habe genug* (26 March, 6.30 p.m.)
  - Walk of Witness on Palm Sunday (2 April, 9.15 a.m.), beginning at the white bridge in Wyndham Park; followed by a devotional performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* (6.30 p.m.).
  - Holy Monday (3 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Eucharist with Stations of the Cross.
  - Holy Tuesday (4 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Healing Eucharist.
  - Holy Wednesday (5 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Tenebrae Service
  - Maundy Thursday (6 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Choral Eucharist with foot-washing and Vigil until midnight.
  - Good Friday (7 April) – The Good Friday Workshop (10.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.), a morning of creativity and reflection for our young people; The Liturgy (2.00 p.m.).
  - Holy Saturday (8 April, 6.00 p.m.) – The Seder Meal. The Christian observation of this ritual meal celebrates our tradition of Christ's last supper and our own Jewish heritage that provided the context for Jesus' institution at the Last Supper. Service of New Light and Easter Vigil (8.00 p.m.).
- On Easter Day (9 April) we celebrated the risen Christ with a Said Eucharist (8.00 a.m.) and Choral Eucharist with Procession and Children's Easter Egg Hunt (9.30 a.m.).
- The Grantham Scout and Guide St George's Day Parade through town took place on Sunday 23 April, culminating in a service at St Wulfram's at 3.00 p.m.
- On Sunday 7 May at 11.00 a.m., we held a Civic Service of Thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III, following a parade through the town involving the Mayor of Grantham, Charter Trustees, and civic and community groups. At the service a collection was taken for the Grantham Ark charity.
- Our monthly outdoor Muddy Church service (on the second Sunday of the month, at 3.00 p.m.) began in June, with the focus on drawing closer to God through nature. This usually takes place in the gardens at Grantham House and is open to all. In July, Muddy Church featured a Bear Trail through the Woodland Walk, ending in a Teddy Bear's Picnic on the lawn to which participants were invited to bring their favourite teddy. In October, Muddy Church involved planting some bulbs to make the churchyard bright for the Spring.
- On Thursday 8 June, we held a Eucharist for the Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi).

- We prayed for our three curates as they prepared for their Ordination to the Priesthood at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 24 June. Afterwards, each offered their first Mass for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit:
  - Mthr Hannah Grivell: Parish Mass, Sunday 25 June, 9.30 a.m. (Preacher: Fr Jonathan Page, Vicar of Christ Church Belper, and Acting Area Dean of Dove & Derwent Deanery, Diocese of Derby)
  - Fr Yuce Kabakci: Parish Mass, Sunday 25 June, 6.30 p.m. (Preacher: Clemency Flitter, Hornsey Parish Church, Diocese of London)
  - Mthr Kate Hough: An All-Age Votive Mass, Sunday 2 July, 9.30 a.m. (Preacher: Fr Stuart).

Refreshments followed the morning services. Then, after Fr Yuce's Mass, we had the opportunity to celebrate with all three curates, their families and guests over a bring-and-share supper. It is traditional for the parish to give their curates a gift upon being ordained, and each was presented with a stole on this occasion.

- A special Choral Service was held (Sunday evening 9 July) in thanksgiving for the dedicated and challenging work of the NHS Trusts across Lincolnshire as the NHS celebrated 75 years.
- We like to hold an outdoor service (Parish Eucharist) on the lawn at Grantham House once a month through the summer, weather permitting.
- The 9.30 a.m. All-Age Eucharist on 3 September included a 'Blessing of Backpacks', for anyone changing schools or jobs, or moving on for fresh adventures in the new academic year.
- In line with our aim to mark certain 'awareness days' in the national calendar, we held a service in church at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 10 September, World Suicide Prevention Day, the theme of which was 'Creating Hope Through Action'. This was an opportunity to remember a loved one, to show support for suicide prevention and for the survivors of suicide and the families and friends affected. Fr Yuce gave the homily and Mthr Kate led the intercessions. All were invited to light a candle of hope during the anthem sung by the choir. Clergy were available after the service for anyone who wished to talk or to receive a blessing. The Order of Service contained details of resources available to help anyone struggling with mental health issues.
- We held a Civic Service for the Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Mark Whittington (Sunday 8 October, 11.00 a.m.).
- We marked our Patronal Festival at the Parish Eucharist on Sunday morning 15 October and a Choral Evensong and Benediction the same day.
- The All Souls Mass, including Fauré's *Requiem*, was held in church and broadcast on Facebook from 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 2 November. Email invitations were issued to all our contacts. The names of departed loved ones were included in the prayers (an online form was available to register names beforehand).
- Grantham paid its respects as the annual Remembrance Parade took place through the town centre on Sunday 12 November. Crowds gathered to watch the parade, which made its way to St Wulfram's Church, where the usual Service of Remembrance was held at 10.55 a.m., followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memorial in the churchyard, before the parade made its way back to St Peter's Hill for the salute.

- Following the success of the Lent Video Project, contributions were sought for Advent and Christmas to share what Christmas means to us, memories of attending church at Christmas, and how the message of this season feeds us as Christians.
- For one hour from 7.15 p.m. on three Wednesdays in December, Fr Clay led 'Merry Mindfulness' sessions in the Great Hall of Grantham House. The series aimed to give people peace and quietness in a time that can be busy and stressful. The evenings explored the themes of Advent, with silence, live ambient guitar music and an opportunity to light a candle. The series ended (20 December) with a session entitled 'Mary Mindfulness', when Fr Clay introduced the spirit of Advent expectancy through a conversation on the person of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Simple refreshments were offered from 6.45 p.m. each time. Anyone was welcome to come along and give time for reflection and stillness.
- At 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 14 December, the Lights of Love Service of carols and prayers was attended by more than 65 people. We stepped away from the busyness of this time of year, pausing to remember those whom we love but see no longer, and to light candles in their memory.
- On the morning of Saturday 23 December, hundreds of Christingles were prepared by volunteers for the Christingle Crib service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, where we followed Mary and Joseph's journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Young people were encouraged to come to the service dressed as a character from the nativity story. We thank the volunteers who support this very popular service by lighting Christingles and keeping everyone safe.
- We held the candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of Friday 22 December. Attendance was high, and people appreciated the proximity of this service to Christmas. Midnight Mass was held at 11.30 p.m. on 24 December. On Christmas Day, there was a Said Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 a.m. (in the Chancel); the Parish Mass was held at 10.00 a.m., when congregants were encouraged to bring along an unopened present to open during the service.
- In May/June we ran the 'Church Development Tool' survey designed by the Church of England. We invited everyone in the church to complete the quick anonymous questionnaire (online or on paper) to help us understand ourselves as a church and shape our prayers and planning for the year ahead. The survey helped us to answer three questions: What should our focus be? How do we like to express our faith and grown our faith in this church? and What groups of people do we have in our church? The results will help us to see where we're doing well and discern areas where God might be calling us to do something new or different. We shall analyse the findings over the next few months.
- We look forward to a weekend pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady at Walsingham, Friday 12 to Sunday 14 April 2024, organised by Mthr Hannah, and open to the congregation of St Wulfram's and other deanery churches.
- In 2024, we also look forward with excitement to the first recording by BBC Radio 3 of Choral Evensong from St Wulfram's Church, featuring the Gesualdo Six and members of our Youth Choir.

### *Preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and Confirmation*

- Since January 2014 the PCC has allowed children from the age of those in school Year 3 to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, following a period of preparation. This takes the form of a five-week period of preparation undertaken in Lent, with the young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time, with their family, on Easter Day. Communion Club (as the period of preparation is known) is led by Fr Stuart and Mrs Laura Craddock.
- The Youth Confirmation Group is aimed at young people in school Year 8 upwards. Its usual format is a six-month programme, with monthly meetings, with the Confirmation service in the centre, and a confirmation retreat over three days where a significant amount of the pre-confirmation course content is covered (led by clergy).

Adult confirmation preparation is open to all who wish to recognise their personal development in faith. The usual format is meetings held on six consecutive Sundays, where we introduce what the Anglican Church believes and explore the essentials of the Christian faith.

Bishop Nicholas confirmed candidates at a service for the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries on Trinity Sunday (4 June, 4.00 p.m.). There were no confirmands from St Wulfram's this year.

### *Occasional Offices*

- The occasional offices continue to be an important point of contact and ministry within the wider community.

In 2023 there were 7 marriages, 1 renewal of marriage vows and 1 marriage blessing. We conducted 21 baptisms: 19 children and 2 adults (10 under one year of age, 3 aged between one and four years old, 5 aged between five and ten years old, one aged between 11 and 17 years old, two aged 18+). We have an open baptism policy and do our best to keep in touch with the families involved.

A total of 33 funerals for people in the parish were conducted during the year, of which 12 took place in church. On three occasions, ashes were interred in the churchyard.

### **Mission and Social Responsibility**

- St Wulfram's continues to take seriously its calling to be a living witness to the gospel at the heart of the town. In many of the activities detailed in this report there is effective contact with a substantial number of people of all ages beyond the congregation.
- The church's work in this area is overseen by a Mission & Social Responsibility committee (a sub-group of the PCC). St Wulfram's supports a range of mission and charitable organisations, giving away 5% of its pledged income to these each year. In addition to a grant of £600 allocated in 2022, £2,400 was set aside in 2023 for initiatives at St John's Church Spitalgate. A grant of £100 was made to our Craft, Prayer & Chatter group for materials; and £500 was added to The Passage budget.
- In 2022, the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group set aside a grant of £1,260 towards the cost of Mental Health First Aid training for additional church staff and volunteers. A grant of £2,100 was subsequently secured from the Benefact Trust under its 'Brighter Lives' programme. The total sum available enabled 13 extra people to be trained on Saturdays 22 and 29 April by Ian Tomlinson from Shine Lincolnshire

(which has funded wellbeing activities at our resource centre). The trainees included four from St John's Church Spitalgate (our local plant church).

- A total of 21 staff and volunteers have now been trained in Mental Health First Aid, although two of the staff members have subsequently moved to roles elsewhere. As part of the Benefact Trust funded project, 13 of the MHFAiders® gathered at Grantham House on Saturday morning 4 November to reflect on the challenges faced by the people we support; the impact of the training; how we move forward; and next steps. We are most grateful to Ian Tomlinson for continuing to support our learning and leading the discussions, which the MHFAiders® found most useful.
- On 28 January, Carys Davie's long hair was cut and donated to the Little Princess Trust who make the hair into wigs for children with cancer. Thanks were expressed to all who donated. Including GiftAid, over £850 was raised.
- We donated to a collection for relief work following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and north-west Syria (February/March); and we supported the British Red Cross / Oxfam appeals following the earthquake in Morocco and flooding in Libya (September).
- We ran a 'Parable of the Talents' challenge in the season of Easter. Our Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group aimed to hand out 100 envelopes, each containing £10, on Easter Day. Members of the congregation were challenged to multiply that £10, returning the money not later than Pentecost and telling their story about how they used the £10.
- There were various opportunities to donate during Christian Aid Week (14 to 20 May). Envelopes were available in the church on Sunday 21 May for cash donations. £521.97 was collected in cash including Gift Aid claimed.
- Together with Living Health and The Garden Yard, St Wulfram's was one of three sites in town to participate in a 'Big Bake' for The Brain Tumour Charity, which provides life-changing support services and funding for ground-breaking research. The fundraising events were organised by Caroline Midgley, a member of our congregation diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2021. Donated cakes were sold in aid of the charity after our Parish Eucharist on Sunday 10 September.
- 2023 was an active year for The Passage overseen by Grantham Poverty Concern (GPC). The St Wulfram's Passage team of volunteers works hard on the first, second, third and occasional fifth Thursdays of each month to produce a meal of soup, sandwiches, and the ever-popular hotdogs. Numbers attending The Passage vary between 17 and 23. A soup appeal in Church at Harvest was very successful and our cupboards are well stocked. Many thanks to all who contribute in so many ways, including our clergy who now pop in at least once a month; to Jo Counsell who stood down from the role of co-ordinator in the summer and to Sheila Knight who subsequently took on the role; and to Stephen Howe who attends the monthly GPC meetings to represent St Wulfram's.
- This year, Mthr Hannah took over as Chair of the Grantham Foodbank Trustees from the Revd Samantha Parsons; and we were delighted to learn of the appointment from 17 July of Dorothy Gaughan (a member of our congregation and Guild of Servers) as part-time Coordinator of the Grantham Foodbank, replacing Brian Hanbury who established the Foodbank in 2011 and retired in May. Dorothy was interviewed for an article in the *Grantham Journal*. She said: 'Grantham Foodbank does an amazing job

helping the vulnerable people of our town. It is an absolute honour and privilege to be working with this team.'

The Grantham Foodbank featured on 'The One Show' on BBC 1 in December, and highlighted the work it was doing over the festive period, including the Reverse Advent Calendar featuring 24 days' worth of items that people could donate in the lead up to Christmas.

- Tins, packets, jars and bottles of food/drink and household toiletries are donated regularly to the Grantham Foodbank and The Passage through collection boxes located in church. From time to time, we issue useful 'shopping lists' encouraging members of our congregation and community to donate the items of food and toiletries that are most needed. Food is collected at Harvest-time for the Foodbank.
- We collected new toys, toiletries, pet food, and other gifts for the Grantham Foodbank at our Advent Sunday Parade and All-Age Eucharist on 'the ice' of the Christmas Tree Festival. These gifts were distributed with food to ease the crisis faced by families this Christmas. During December, we collected tinned and packet goods for the Foodbank through the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme, which ran for a third year.
- Over and above the charitable giving organised by the church community, approximately £9,000, excluding monies raised for Grantham Ark, was raised for charity through school services, funerals and other events held within the building.
- Aware of the impact of cost-of-living increases on households, we used the *Community News* to draw attention once again to valuable information on the South Kesteven District Council's website.
- Sadly, over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of people who are homeless, sleeping in tents or sofa-surfing in the locality. At present, there is no emergency provision in the district; so, the only response that clergy and The Passage volunteers can make in an emergency is to send people to Lincoln, Nottingham, or Peterborough to access emergency accommodation. In 2019, an important step was taken by 'Grantham Ark', a group comprising representatives from churches across Grantham (including St Wulfram's), to ameliorate the challenges faced by those in the locality lacking a permanent home. Fr Stuart spearheaded the initiative through the organisation 'Churches Together in Grantham & District'. Grantham Ark completed the process to register with the Charity Commission in 2020 (Registered Charity number 1190668).

In 2022, following discussion with Grantham Ark, South Kesteven District Council agreed to set aside one property from its housing stock per year for three years to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people for up to three weeks each. The first house was released to Grantham Ark in September, but needed significant work which was completed by 23 December. It was readied for occupation by the part-time Support Worker appointed by Grantham Ark in 2023. The first temporary resident was welcomed to the house on 27 December.

- For the fourth year, Grantham Ark organised the annual Sleep-Out event (Friday 8 December 9.00 p.m. to Saturday 9 December 7.00 a.m.) in the grounds of Grantham House, to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the homeless and to raise funds to set up an emergency night shelter for the homeless in the town. Local employers, voluntary groups, scouts, guides, schools, and colleges were encouraged to bring a group to take part. Around 30 people participated. Among these was the Mayor of Grantham Councillor Mark Whittington, who said 'There was a great sense of

camaraderie and mutual support between all those who took part.' Thanks are due to those who slept out on this occasion and to those who sponsored them. Altogether, between £8,000 and £9,000 was raised in sponsorship and donations including Gift Aid.

- Under the banner 'Christmas Cheer', we raised money once again to assist families needing extra help around Christmas time, which can be a burden leading to stress, unhappiness and debt. In January 2024, we shall give a total of £500 worth of supermarket vouchers to several vulnerable families whom we shall identify through contact with local schools.
- As usual, the collection at the Christingle Crib Service on Christmas Eve was donated to the Children's Society.
- Lincolnshire County Council uses the church Coffee Shop as a pop-up café on the first and third Tuesday of every month (10.15 to 11.45 a.m.), as part of their 'Grantham Day Opportunities' initiative for their adult learning disabilities group. Everyone is welcome to come for a drink and meet new people.

### **Safeguarding**

- The PCC continues to take extremely seriously the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk of harm. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (that is, the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm).
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Assistant Safeguarding Officer (ASO – our Parish Administrator) make regular written reports to the PCC; and the PSO attends PCC meetings to report in person as necessary. Each March, the PCC conducts an annual review of our safeguarding policy statement, which is signed by the Rector (as Chair of the PCC) and displayed in the church.
- The ASO continues to process applications for DBS clearance. In line with recruitment practices set out in the Church of England's Guidance *Safer Recruitment* and diocesan policy, our Churchwardens and all PCC members are DBS checked upon appointment/election. All other staff and volunteers (e.g., in the music department and lay pastoral team) are also DBS checked upon taking up roles. In addition, all adult choristers, including Youth Choir members who turn 18 years of age, go through the DBS checking process. We carefully monitor periods for which clearance is granted and apply for renewal, as appropriate. Adult choristers, who are not also chaperones, no longer qualify for an Enhanced DBS check and thirtyone:eight (the organisation that provides our DBS checks) does not carry out Basic DBS clearance.
- The ASO oversees a system to ensure that all individuals with DBS clearance complete online courses relevant to their role within the church. All PCC members undertake 'Basic Awareness' training (level Co), the 'Foundation Module' (C1) and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. All are available online through the Church of England training portal. When PCC membership changes at the APCM, steps are taken to ensure that new members undertake the necessary training as quickly as possible.

Pastoral assistants, leaders of groups for young people or adults at risk, the Bell Tower Captain, church administrative staff, and servers also undertake Co and C1. Licensed clergy and readers, clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate, PSOs, ASOs, and Authorised Lay Ministers are required to undertake the Leadership Module (C2). Completion certificates are sent to the ASO to update the parish records.

- The House of Bishops introduced new and expanded 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' guidance in January 2022. Under this guidance, there is a requirement for all those working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults to have a role description and person specification, to have DBS renewals every 3 years (rather than every 5 years) and for there to be an annual review meeting. The PCC is in the process of implementing these changes, in consultation with the Diocese of Lincoln, as necessary.
- Periodically, the PSO provides the PCC with copies of reports from the Safeguarding Dashboard, our progress on which is monitored by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. All parishes start at Level 1, which contains 18 dashboard lights. To progress to Level 2, at least 12 lights must be turned green. The PSO continues work on the Level 2 actions. From time to time, the PCC reviews the list of church activities, for which mini-dashboards are automatically created.

The PSO attended the PCC meeting on 25 January 2023 to outline the requirements in more detail, projecting the live dashboard onto a screen to show the status of various actions. Most of the amber zones are within the 'Church Activities' section of the dashboard, but stem from the 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' section. Detailed work to implement role descriptions for all leaders and helpers is ongoing.

- In line with national safeguarding requirements, the PSO continued to draw up a full register of volunteers (aged 18 and over) attached to church activities and to ensure the names are recorded correctly on the Diocesan Register of Volunteers. Introductory training sessions for volunteers have yet to be arranged.
- At its meeting on 23 May (the first after the Annual Meeting, when changes to PCC membership had been made), the churchwardens acknowledged their awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities (as set out in the 2017 House of Bishops *Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies Practice Guidance*). On that occasion, the PCC also adopted the revised annual Safeguarding Policy (subsequently signed by the Rector and displayed in the church) and approved the Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders and the revised Code of Practice (which had been circulated). At its meeting on 26 September, the PCC reviewed and approved procedures for dealing with and reporting any safeguarding concern or allegation; and relevant documentation was subsequently displayed prominently in the church.
- The PCC uses a step-by-step process (adopted in 2018) for approval of all off-site activities (e.g., by the Choir and Youth Group), delegating certain powers to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).
- In May, we used the weekly *Community News* to remind members about the use of social media in our church community. For us to ensure that everyone is protected under our safeguarding policy, we ask that 'friends' on social media apps are selected carefully. It is best practice that adults in our church community do not accept or invite anyone under the age of 18 years to be friends on social media; likewise, anyone under 18 years of age should not accept or invite an adult from our church community to be their friend on social media. People were welcome to speak to the Rector, Associate Rector or Parish Safeguarding about any issues regarding this.

## **Our resource centre at Grantham House**

- St Wulfram's continues to lease Grantham House (opposite the church, on Castlegate) from the National Trust. Our Parish Office is located there.
- As our 'church hall', space is utilised on a regular basis for a range of daytime and evening meetings (PCC and several sub-groups; youth groups; Deanery Chapter, Synod and committees; Friends of St Wulfram's; Almshouses Trustees; Grantham Ark Trustees; flower arrangers; Philip Lank Trustees). The weekly Coffee Morning takes place in the Hall if space in the church is unavailable. The Hall is used for choir rehearsals after school three days a week, and usually on Thursday evenings by the diocesan 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course and ALM Foundation Modules taught by the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries.
- Six wakes took place at Grantham House (using the Hall and Dining Room). Family members appreciate the level of personal attention from our Operations & Development Manager, the opportunity to deliver photographs and other mementoes beforehand ready for display on the day, and the chance to select some background music. They and other mourners enjoy the privacy that Grantham House offers and the peace and tranquillity of the gardens. Outside caterers are used on these occasions.
- The full discretionary charitable relief on the Grantham House Business Rates granted by South Kesteven District Council in 2022 continued beyond 1 April 2023.
- A six-month grant from Shine Lincolnshire enabled us to offer a new wellbeing activity, 'Singing for All', on Tuesday afternoons from September 2022, under the direction of Anna Bolton (also Vocal Coach to the church's choristers). Participants didn't need previous singing or musical experience. It was not a choir and didn't involve performance. The sessions involved relaxation, breathing and vocal exercises and then singing, just for fun. Staff and participants were extremely sorry that no continuation funding was available beyond March. On a voluntary basis, Dr Tim Williams kindly offered a few 'Sing with Tim' sessions until the summer.
- Sadly, at least for the time-being, Shine's support for 'Singing for All' was the last external grant for Wholeness & Wellbeing activities at Grantham House.

In the early months on the site, we benefitted significantly from new funding streams to enable people to recover from the social and health impacts of Covid-19. It proved to be relatively straightforward to capture grants for wellbeing activities under the 'Wulfram Centre' banner, and there were few strings attached, beyond regular reporting and comprehensive evaluation at the end of funding periods. The grants landscape is now different. Funding priorities have changed. There tend to be fewer funding rounds; and rounds can be massively over-subscribed, so it is much harder to stand out from the crowd even with a high-scoring bid. The level of annual income to St Wulfram's as a charity can count against us, especially if funders do not disregard restricted funds (such as for the church fabric). Monitoring by funders is close and robust, and reporting is often against mental and physical health metrics that the Wulfram Centre has not been accustomed to collecting (and which participants hitherto attracted to Grantham House might not be willing to share).

We shall continue to research funding sources (not least through 'Church Grants', a relatively new database to which we have now subscribed) and will explore any fruitful opportunities identified by a local fundraising consultant who has kindly offered *pro bono* assistance to St Wulfram's Church.

- In January, we reached the end of the 8-month grant funding from the People's Postcode Lottery (Postcode Places Trust) to support our outdoor activities through the Wulfram Centre for Wholeness and Wellbeing. The enthusiastic and dedicated team of community garden volunteers, built during the funding period, continue to work on site on Tuesday and/or Wednesday mornings, under the supervision of our full-time Gardener (whose post is now generously supported by donations from a local firm). A vegetable patch was cultivated so that vegetables could be grown and donated to the local Foodbank, along with fruit from the garden.

Some garden volunteers continue to be involved in the wider activities of St Wulfram's (for example, helping at the Artisan Brocante and decorating a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival).

- Once again, on Sunday afternoons in Lent (26 February, 5, 12 and 26 March, and 2 April, 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.), we welcomed people to the tranquil surroundings of the Walled Garden for 'Stations of the Cross', a self-guided prayerful walk recalling the last journey our Lord took on his way to his crucifixion. With the help of a specially prepared booklet, we stopped at each cross to read the story, offer prayer and meditate on the themes.
- To mark the national 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (15 to 21 May), we offered a special 'Singing for All' session at Grantham House (Tuesday 16 May, 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.), followed by refreshments; a Healing Mass (the same evening); and we opened the Grantham House gardens on Thursday 18 May from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. This year, the national theme for the week, set by the Mental Health Foundation, was 'Anxiety'. The Foundation's campaign aimed to help people and organisations to understand the difference between anxiety and anxiety disorders and to confidently seek and signpost each other to the right support. Clergy were on hand in the garden to listen and talk to visitors.
- The garden is a popular venue for events. The Friends of St Wulfram held a Coffee & Cake morning (17 August). Folksy Theatre presented the family musical 'The Ugly Duckling' in the garden (31 August), with live music, puppetry and colourful characters; gates opened from 2.00 p.m. to allow the audience to bring picnics, prior to the 3.00 p.m. start. A wedding reception was held in a marquee on the lawn (23 September).
- On Friday 9 June, we marked the national Carers' Week (5 to 11 June) by treating nominated carers to afternoon tea in the garden to recognise the incredible work they do and to show that they are respected and valued. We thank Ian Firth, ASDA Community Champion, for donations of scones, jam, and cream for the event.
- The Artisan Brocante fair in the grounds of Grantham House was a great success, attended by about 600 people (Saturday 9 September). Stallholders sold French brocante, homewares, vintage textiles, decorative gardenalia and furniture. Refreshments included wood-fired pizza, and artisan cakes; and Fr Clay ran a popular Pimms bar.
- An international festival celebrating pipes and tabors was based at Grantham House for the weekend of 15-17 September. Delegates gave a concert in the church (16 September).
- Following success in 2022, two Christmas wreath-making workshops were held for members of the public on Saturdays 9 and 16 December (10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon). Materials were provided, and participants brought their own decorations to

personalise their wreath. Coffee, mince pies and mulled wine were served. All the places were sold, so we plan to repeat the workshops in 2024, and to add an Easter wreath making workshop. We thank Lynne Ferguson, the tutor on these occasions.

- For the third year running, ‘Carols in the Courtyard’, sung by current and former members of the Youth Choir, was held at Grantham House (Thursday 21 December). This time, inclement weather forced the event to be staged in the Great Hall rather than outside. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in the interval.
- We engaged in discussions with the Grantham Charter Trustees about reviving the Gravity Fields Festival (Patron, Grantham-born Professor Valerie Gibson), with a view to St Wulfram’s Church and Grantham House playing significant roles. To honour the legacy of the event (last staged in 2018 before the pandemic), significant funding would be needed (e.g., from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Arts Council), together with ‘soft’ help from SKDC (e.g., free to use venues).
- Although the PCC decided in December 2021 to take a new five-year lease offered by the National Trust, financial considerations (especially the rising cost of utilities) militated against such a lengthy commitment in 2022-23. The ongoing tenure is based on an extension of the original 12-month lease signed on 4 December 2020. The future of our use of Grantham House was considered by the PCC at a special meeting in August 2023, following three meetings of the Standing Committee. It is now expected that a firm decision about the future of St Wulfram’s on the Grantham House site will be reached by the PCC early in 2024.

## **Music**

### *Introduction*

- Over the past 16 years, Organist and Director of Music Dr Tim Williams, FRCO (DipCHD) has achieved notable success in the recruiting and training of young members of the choir, drawing on relationships with local schools and other music contacts. Choristers are not auditioned, and all members share a remarkable commitment and professionalism in their approach to music. The standard of the children’s sections of St Wulfram’s Church Choir is one of the success stories of the church music programme.
- Choir clubs take place on Tuesday afternoon after school and on Wednesday afternoon after school. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards, without a formal audition process. New recruits are given their own introductory sessions. The children’s choirs continue to be a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community.
- Recruitment continued well – a waiting list for the girls’ choir (at capacity) and the boys’ choir maintained at its existing level, with several younger members joining in 2023.
- The youth choir (SATB ensemble), which meets on Monday afternoon, responds to the choristers as they graduate from the boys’ and girls’ choirs. This school year, there are five ‘choral scholars’ supported by the Philip Lank Trust, and two senior choral scholars supported by St Wulfram’s (through the endowment gifted in 2019 by the Friends of Cathedral Music). Most Fridays during term time, the youth choir sings Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m., supported by our portable box organ; a regular congregation attends.

- Thanks to a generous Cathedral Music Trust (CMT) grant, we welcomed Anna Bolton as our chorister Vocal Coach in September 2022. The work she undertook with individual choristers during regular rehearsal time yielded impressive results. Anna's role with us concluded in July 2023. Thanks to the same grant and a generous grant from the Diocesan Transformation Fund, we appointed Tim Selman to the new part-time (25-hours per week) post of Assistant Director of Music in January. The Rector and Tim Williams are profoundly grateful for the support of CMT and the Diocese.

Choral Evensong & Benediction on Sunday 15 January was attended by the Director of CMT. The service included the formal institution of the music staff, including a reinstitution of Dr Tim Williams, who celebrated 15 years at St Wulfram's that weekend.

We wished Tim Selman well as he moved to a prestigious two-year Organ Scholarship at Southwell Minster in August. James Lloyd Thomas was in post as Assistant Director of Music for a short while in the autumn. A decision will be taken early in 2024 about the future of this post.

- The job description of the new Assistant Director of Music included setting up a new St Wulfram's Community Choir. The choir, open to all, launched in the church on Thursday evening 2 February, under the direction of Tim Selman, and ran until the summer. Participants needed no previous experience and did not need to read music. The choir enjoyed learning a wide variety of songs from different genres of music.
- In 2024, we plan to seek funding from the Philip Lank Trust (Registered Charity 1135362) for a part-time member of staff to serve as PA to the Music department, easing the significant administrative burden on the Director of Music.
- Highlights in the early part of the year included a Service of Readings & Music for Passiontide featuring the youth choir and some past choristers, including J.S. Bach's Cantata *Ich Habe Genug* sung by Samuel Davie (26 March); a 'come and sing' devotional performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* (rehearsals from 3.00 p.m.), with soloists Samuel Davie, Flynn Campbell and Tom Fletcher (Palm Sunday, 2 April, 6.30 p.m.); and a Commemoration of the Resurrection with Leighton's *Easter Sequence* (14 May).
- The Youth Choir made a two-day trip to Cambridge and Ely, including singing at Selwyn College alongside the college choir (Thursday 16 February) and singing Evensong in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral (Friday 17 February). On Thursday 16 March, the Youth Choir sang at the Harlaxton College Advisory Council meal (a regular activity); and on Wednesday 12 April at St Mary and St Peter's Church Harlaxton at the Harlaxton College Concert alongside the College choir. Several members of the Youth Choir sang for a wedding at St Andrew's Church, Irnham (Saturday 4 March) and one at Belvoir Castle (Saturday 30 September). The two weddings represented professional engagements, and each involved a fee to the choir.
- In June, we began a sustained series of fundraising events for the choristers' summer residency in the beautiful setting of St Davids Cathedral (31 July to 6 August). This followed the regular choir cake sale after the 9.30 a.m. Parade and All-Age Eucharist on Mothering Sunday (19 March) and Saturday Morning Recitals through the year by members of the Music department.

Taking choristers away for a week is a massive organisational challenge and relies heavily on volunteer chaperones, who give freely of their time. It is also a massive financial commitment. The actual cost per chorister in 2023 was £650. To ensure the

opportunity is as accessible as possible, St Wulfram's subsidises the contribution families make per chorister. Our target in the weeks immediately before the residency was £9,500. Throughout this fundraising campaign, we posted a QR code to enable direct donations. We were delighted to reach the target through the hard work by our musicians and the generosity of our supporters.

The events included:

- A combined concert in the church by the pupils of three local primary schools – the National School, Gonerby Hill Foot School, and Grantham Preparatory School (Wednesday 28 June, 6.30 p.m.). The evening culminated in the singing of 'The Rhythm of Life' by all the school choirs and our choristers.
  - A 24-hour Music Marathon (from Choral Evensong at 5.15 p.m. on Friday 30 June to a closing service of celebration starting at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday 1 July). This featured our regular Friday evening choir practices; a livestreamed recital by the Youth Choir, who then provided music through the night; organ recitals by Tim Selman and Rosemary Field; songs from Elaine Bishop, Ellen Campbell, and Samuel Davie; Allara Campbell on drums; Holly Riordan on cello; 'The Big Sing', an open public singing session, including a performance by the St Wulfram's Community Choir; our choristers; the St Wulfram's Church Choir; and a 'Come & Sing' workshop for Key Stage 1 children.
  - An 'Alternative Concert' when choristers and Youth Choir members performed anything other than choral works, in a variety of musical styles (Thursday 13 July).
  - A Saturday morning Recital by our Youth Choir (15 July).
  - An Organ Extravaganza (Thursday 20 July), featuring Joseph Beech (Sub-Organist, Durham Cathedral), Matilda Johnson (Organ Student at the Royal Academy of Music), Dr Tim Williams; and four of our YOST (The Young Organ Scholars' Trust) Organ Scholars.
- The choristers were very excited to have the opportunity to sing services for a whole week in the inspirational setting of the twelfth century cathedral of St Davids, as well as spending time on the beach and taking a boat trip to Ramsey Island. Such a residency is an amazing opportunity for our choristers to grow as musicians and develop as a team, with many further activities beyond music – the annual talent show is one of the many highlights. Our experiences in 2023 add to the memories of our previous trip to St Davids in 2017.
  - On Sunday 8 October, we sang a Service of Celebration for the RSCM International Choristers' Day, including Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's setting of the 'Chorister's Prayer' composed for the RSCM International Chorister Day 2021. During the service there was an opportunity to light candles in memory of a loved one or to recognise that in our worship through music, Jesus is the light of the world.
  - Towards the end of the long summer holiday, choristers enjoyed a singing 'away-day' (Tuesday 29 August) at Harlaxton College, where Dr Williams works as Director of Music and Lecturer in Music. The college was keen to offer this opportunity, freely and on an ongoing basis in future summers, for choristers and youth choir to work in a focused way in a different setting. There was access to the college facilities and grounds outside during the day and during breaks. This was two days before a visit to Westminster Abbey to sing Choral Evensong (Thursday 31 August), and the away-day provided a great opportunity to prepare both for the choral discipline of that trip and for the new term. The visit to Westminster Abbey was the choir's third (previous occasions being New Year's Eve 2019 and 17 July 2022).

- The choir was invited to sing Choral Evensong at Lincoln Cathedral on Thursday 26 October. This was the first time the choir had sung there for a decade; and both Directors of Music (Mr Aric Prentice and Dr Williams) would like this to happen annually.
- Highlights in the latter part of the year included major services from All Souls (a liturgical offering of Fauré's *Requiem*), through Remembrance, to Advent Carols, An Advent Liturgy including Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with Eleanor Turner, harp (10 December), and the traditional Nine Lessons & Carols (Friday 22 December). In the two weeks before Christmas, sections of the choir sang at Harlaxton College, Belvoir Castle, Grantham Hospital, Royal Windsor Care Home, and in Kitchen & Coffee.
- Through the choral training programme at St Wulfram's, choristers achieved 13 RSCM awards in 2023. Between them, the choristers have now amassed over 160 RSCM awards since 2011, with many beckoning in 2024, including several potential Gold Awards.
- The ministry and dedication that the choir offers brings beauty to many people's lives and helps change their perceptions and experiences of the world. The choristers (broadly defined, meaning all ages) should never underestimate the lasting value of everything they bring to the choir, day in, day out. This would not be possible without the support of a wonderful team. The Director of Music pays tribute to:
  - The music administrative team of volunteers for the assistance they provide, especially with communication of schedules and paperwork.
  - The dedicated choir chaperoning team, which takes care of the choristers and helps with so many logistical and administrative tasks.
  - The commitment and dedication of choir parents. Despite all the wonderful opportunities the choristers have together, it requires a huge amount of time and care to get the choristers to all the places we require.
  - Everyone who dedicates so much of their life to singing in the choir.
- We are grateful to Assistant Organists Michael Dutton, Rosemary Field, David Humphreys, Harry Jacques, Edward McCall, Darren Williams, and Andrew Wyatt for their ongoing contributions to the music at St Wulfram's.

### *Organ teaching school*

- The musical training of young people at St Wulfram's includes a highly active organ teaching school. Currently ten young scholars are learning to play the organ under the tutelage of Rosemary Field, FRCO (former Head of Organ Studies, RSCM) and Dr Tim Williams FRCO, with some supported by the Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars' Trust (YOST), and by the Royal College of Organists. Our portable box organ (housed in the Lady Chapel) is also a valuable resource for the organ scholars. The digital organs gifted to the King's School and KGGS by the Royal College of Organists support the Grantham organ teaching school and enables both practice and teaching provisions in school time. Dr Williams teaches several pupils in KGGS via this resource.
- The organ scholars have achieved notable success in ABRSM examinations this year, and three are now working at or above Grade 5 level.

### *Wider music programme*

- The recital series continues, on the third Saturday morning of the month. Entry is free and there is a retiring collection for St Wulfram's Church. In 2023, we welcomed organists (Richard Tanner, Tim Selman, Christopher Weaver, Tim Williams) and singers (Will Burn + accompanist Philip Robinson, Helen Winter); and performances were given by various choirs (our own choristers, our Youth Choir, The Bridge Singers, InVoice Singers, and The St John's Winter Singers). We thank Mel Brown, in a volunteer capacity, for taking on the organisation of the recitals. Organists and singers are already booked into 2024.
- Among the other musical highlights in the church were:
  - Grantham Choral Society concert – Mozart and Vivaldi (25 March).
  - Michael Card in concert (following a Salvation Army conference in the church) (Saturday 27 April).
  - 'Scenes from the Life and Music of William Byrd' written and acted by Brean Hammond, performed by Melismata, conducted by Philip Robinson (27 May).
  - A concert by the 40-member Hitchin Concert Band (15 July).
  - A staged performance by Grantham Operatic Society, 'A Policeman's Lot is not a happy one' featuring many Gilbert and Sullivan favourites (2 September).
  - A concert by The Gents of St John's (a close-harmony group formed of the choral and organ scholars of the world-renowned St John's College, Cambridge) (7 September).
  - A concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund by the Band of the Irish Guards (27 October), featuring a performance by Chelsea Pensioner Colin Thackery who won ITV's 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2019.
  - A concert (and Christmas market) organised by South Lincs Blind Society (9 December).

### **Church Community**

#### **(a) *Children, Young People and Families***

- Children are welcomed at St Wulfram's and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the 'Children & Youth Sub-group' established by the PCC and (until 31 August) by our Children, Youth & Families Worker, who was appointed in September 2021 on a two-year contract (funded by the Diocese of Lincoln as part of the SDF programme). The sub-group meets regularly and includes in its membership several individuals who do not serve on the PCC. It hears reviews on each aspect of the church's work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church's involvement with church schools in the parish. It celebrates achievements and discusses challenges and points for action.
- Occasional Children and Youth evenings are held at Grantham House, when leaders at St Wulfram's can share learning and celebrate our ongoing work with children and young people.
- The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. Due to COVID-19 and lack of regular attenders, the original three age groups were condensed down to one; however, they still enjoy a full programme of teaching, prayer, music, and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord's Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been

doing at the end of the service. There is a very dedicated team of volunteers, including a teenager.

- Since 2014, on the first Saturday afternoon of the month, youngsters aged between 3 and 7 years have been invited to 'Come and Sing' with the Director of Music and others, which includes singing, musical games, and refreshments – aimed at developing a love of singing and basic musicianship skills. This was also designed to encourage family attendance at the first Sunday services. Pre-covid this model was successful but post-covid attendance has been more sporadic. In September 2023, Tim Williams and the Children & Youth team decided to suspend the group and consider alternatives for 2024 and beyond, including the possibility of more *ad hoc* Early Years and Key Stage One music workshops.
- Our Children's Area continues to be well used during services and throughout the week as a 'Stay and Play' resource for families with young children who want a place 'to be' with their children.
- Wulfram Wednesdays take place during school holidays when children aged 4 to 11 years and families are invited to participate in craft activities in church (or alternatively at Grantham House). The Wednesday workshops were led this year by Laura Craddock (Chair of the PCC's Children & Youth Sub-group) or Clayton Stiff (Children, Youth & Families Worker until August). During the February half-term break (15 February), there was a 'drop-in' Treasure Hunt in the church and churchyard, allowing children to explore our historic building. Scavenger hunt art was created during the May half-term break (31 May) in the garden of Grantham House. The summer themes (26 July, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August) included Egg Carton Bugs, Stained glass window art, Sea creature crafts, Draw what you see, and Mini-garden hide-outs. In the October half-term holiday (25 October), there was an autumn craft workshop. Numbers of children and adults attending range from 16 to 58 (average 26). Positive feedback was received from participants on each of the days. For example:
  - ❖ Amazingly laid out. Very easy for children and interesting. My son just said "We will have to do this next half term."
  - ❖ Great value, fab friendly team.
  - ❖ A great way to get children and adults to explore and learn about the history of this beautiful church.
  - ❖ Thank you for giving us kids and adults the chance to explore the stunning garden and find the beauty of nature, arts and crafts.
  - ❖ Really lovely. Well set out. Perfect half term activity!
  - ❖ Again a very welcoming session. Activity was well organised with map to follow etc. Lovely to explore an area we didn't know was here. Thank you for a great session.
  - ❖ The boys have had a lovely time. Thank you! We can't come to Wulfram Tots any more due to nursery so it's so nice to have a holiday option.

Two sets of feedback written by young participants:

- ❖ I loved this project. I thought it was cool. I love your recycling, it is great for the planet!
  - ❖ It was so fun. I loved it! 😊 Bye bye Clayton. 🍷
- Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, their parents/carers, meet at Wulfram Tots, in the church at 9.30 a.m. every Friday. The aim is to have fun and share the Christian faith in an informal way through play, singing (with guitar accompaniment), Bible stories and craft activities, hopefully building some new friendships for the adults as well as the children. The sessions are led by members of the clergy and (until August) also by our Children, Youth & Families Worker. After the sessions, people stay for

refreshments and to enjoy the children's play area. Details are shared on the Wulfram Tots noticeboard and through Facebook.

- Wulfram Bear's Baby Clothes Carousel (launched in September 2022) continues on the second Friday of every month, after Wulfram Tots. Parents can go along to donate and pick up baby clothes (ages 0-24 months) completely free of charge. The baby clothes 'swap' is advertised regularly on social media. In September, stocks of clothes were so high that we had to put a temporary stop to donations.
- Our Youth provision has developed again over the past 12 months with a change of the groupings, moving to three different age groups or 'cohorts', in response to the needs and distribution of ages of children and young people attending our groups. We now also offer a programme for children in school years 5 to 7. They meet on a Friday evening at Grantham House and consist of around 10 members. Our two other groups meet once a month on separate Sundays. Both groups meet at Grantham House. The middle age group is aimed at those in years 8 to 10. There are around 15 members of this group. A mixture of choir and non-choir members. Our oldest group is well established, many of whom were confirmed together and draws upon members of youth choir and beyond. This group consists of around 15 young people in years 11 to 13. The young people have been instrumental in designing the programme and members enjoy a range of activities. They are encouraged to invite their friends to join, and our older two groups are also encouraged to volunteer for wider church events.
- In the early part of the year, our hugely successful programme of Wulfram Family Fun Days continued on the second Saturday of the month, when families (which we recognise come in all manner of shapes and sizes) met together for an activity. The Board Games Bonanza (14 January) was especially popular, when we provided games suitable for ages 6+, and the church Coffee Shop was open serving refreshments.
- At the end of the year, we advertised a 'call-out' to all Dads to come along to a 'Breakfast Club', a new initiative starting in January 2024. This is a new group aimed primarily at Dads and their children aged 0 to 5 years (though all parents and child caregivers will be welcome). The group will meet in church from 8.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on the first and second Saturday of each month, for breakfast, playtime, singalongs, and story time.
- There are three Scout groups associated with the church and five regular parade services are held each year. Clergy and other members of the church are invited to go and speak to the groups. The groups also visit the church from time to time as part of their badge work and spiritual development.

Fr Stuart is Chaplain to the Scouts and led their Carol Service this year.

- Little Gonerby Infant School, Harrowby Infant School, and the National Junior School became primary schools in September 2023. As part of this development, the National School was renamed the St Wulfram's National Church of England Primary School.

Three members of our clergy team are governors of local schools. Fr Yuce serves on the Interim Local Board of the St Wulfram's National Church of England Primary and Harrowby Church of England Primary Schools (within the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust).

Members of the clergy team lead weekly collective worship in two church schools, as did our Children, Youth & Families Worker (until the end of the summer term).

Local schools, especially the church schools and the local state nursery school, make regular visits to learn about the church building, about Christianity and about the church's role in the community. Several schools also use the church for services throughout the year, including during Lent, for carol services and services to mark the end of the school year. The neighbouring grammar school uses the church building for its annual Founder's Day Service and Speech Night.

**(b) *Pastoral Care***

- The clergy and lay pastoral support team are available to any person in the parish who asks for their support or help. The team meet regularly to discuss the needs of the parish, of individuals and of those resident in care homes.
- Those who are new to the congregation are made welcome and visited as soon as convenient, and a welcome card was created to capture contact details as well as requests for prayer. Those who are ill, housebound, or too frail to attend church are visited regularly. Likewise, in normal times, residential and nursing homes, and a local sheltered housing development are visited monthly, and the reserved sacrament is taken by members of the team. Visits to the care homes in the parish in 2023 have been a source of blessing for the team as well as for residents.
- A Service for wholeness and healing was held in Holy Week and again later in the year. Additional opportunities to invite bereaved families to memorial services continue to grow; All Souls' Day, Lights of Love, and a Service on Suicide Prevention Day were well attended. In 2024, an additional Lights of Love Service will be held on the Friday before Mothering Sunday.

**(c) *Community groups***

- We have a popular Sunday lunch group for people of any age who would otherwise eat alone. Members of the group visit a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. The lunches continue to be a valuable opportunity for fellowship for congregation members and those with other connections to St Wulfram's. We are most grateful to Jane Sharp who co-ordinates the gatherings.
- Our monthly Art Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. If there is a clash of events in the church, the meeting takes place in Grantham House.
- The popular weekly Coffee Morning (which began online during the pandemic lockdowns) continues on Wednesdays in the church (or the Hall at Grantham House if there is a clash of bookings). Numbers fluctuated between 10 and 24; and average weekly attendance was 14 (as compared with 17 in 2022). The gathering provides valuable fellowship for members of the St Wulfram's community. Roger Graves (HSBC Bank) gave a talk, 'Fraud: Don't miss a trick', at the Coffee Morning on 19 April to help members protect their finances and save all the stress associated with being scammed. In December, members of the Coffee Morning group enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Grantham House.
- A simple lunch of homemade soup and bread is served in church (or at Grantham House if the church is unavailable) at 12.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, following the 12 noon Eucharist. The lunch is open to all, irrespective of whether they worship at St Wulfram's. Up to 25 attend each time. The lunch is friendly and the fellowship there can provide a lifeline for newcomers to the local community and those who are lonely and/or feel isolated. We are indebted to those who prepare the soup and bake fresh bread. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. We were most

grateful to Jo Castro of Shine Lincolnshire for sourcing valuable 'winter' funding to support four soup lunches (including the cost of ingredients and church heating) until March, including an additional lunch (10 January) when sandwiches were served with a mug of soup.

- Our Craft, Prayer & Chatter group continues in the church (or Grantham House if the church is unavailable) on the second Tuesday of each month, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Around 20 people attend, including some signposted by social prescribers (who may accompany clients until confidence grows for them to attend alone). Participants bring along their own crafts (e.g., knitting, sewing, card making, embroidery, crochet) or various small crafts are provided. They share refreshments, and also use the time for prayer in a relaxed atmosphere. The group created a stunning display of knitted, crocheted, and felt poppies in the church for Armistice Day.

The PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group allocated a grant of £100 to the Craft, Prayer & Fellowship Group towards the cost of supplies.

- The Men's Breakfast meets monthly on Saturdays, now at King's Walk Café in Guildhall Street, Grantham. Following the departure of our Children, Youth & Families Worker, the group is co-ordinated by Mike Knight (churchwarden). It continues to be a positive social space for men to come together for a leisurely start to the weekend and connect with each other. The Men's Group held a Curry Night on 22 March.
- The Ladies Social Group, led by Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate, continues to meet at different venues every other month on a Friday evening.

## **Church and Fabric**

- The past year has again been busy with several smaller projects, routine maintenance work and planning for future projects, particularly the proposal for the installation of solar PV panels on the church roof. The Fabric Fund started 2023 with a balance of some £178,000 but the church has benefitted by a very generous legacy from the estate of the late Mr Alan Geeson from which a total of £135,000 has now been received.
- *Proposal for Solar PV panels and other electrical work.* We are very grateful to Anthony Fletcher of AF Electrical for his work in adjusting settings in the lighting control system and replacing lamps and fittings throughout the year, using more energy efficient fittings wherever possible. The PCC in July 2022 agreed to the proposed introduction of 78 solar PV panels together with battery storage units and inverters. The equipment will be located on the south-facing slopes of the nave and north aisle roofs so that panels are not visible from ground level. If approved, this major investment will result in substantial savings to our electricity usage at a time of higher electrical prices, as well as a major step towards the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target pledge by 2030. Planning approval was granted in February 2023 subject to conditions, including detailed information about the design of the frame to support the panels and the fixings. These details were agreed with architect Peter Rogan, the structural engineer, and ACE Solar and an internal location for a more compact battery storage system close to the clergy vestry and the main distribution board has been identified. The whole scheme (without the need for the external steel cabinets) has been respecified (including a minor amendment to the size of the solar panels (still 78 in number)) and re-priced by ACE Solar with tenders received from two other installers. The revised detailed drawings and product information were approved by SKDC in November 2023. These revised drawings and project information have now been submitted to the DAC. The Faculty application will then need to go through the public notice period and then to the Registrar and Chancellor. The total cost of the

solar PV panels together with batteries and installation is now some £58,000 (plus VAT), although the potential for reducing electricity running costs remains considerable and there will be a payback over several years.

Thanks to the work of members of the Creation Care Sub-group, there is now a display about the project located by the west door and donations have been made or pledged. An application for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been agreed by SKDC awarding a grant of £49,500 with the proviso that the work takes place in the financial year commencing 1 April 2024, by which time the Faculty approval process should be completed.

- *Clergy Vestry.* The PCC has agreed plans for refurbishing the clergy vestry to incorporate more storage space and the Faculty for this work was granted on 10 February 2023 subject to various conditions. Architect Peter Rogan has put this project out to tender as a Minor Works project. Two tenders were received which are being evaluated by Peter Rogan. It is anticipated that these works may be completed in 2024, subject to PCC approval.
- *Monuments.* Work to conserve nine further monuments in the Lady Chapel and Corpus Christi Chapel began in June and by the end of November 2023 work on six monuments had been completed by Alex Carrington, ACR. This has been largely funded by donations, including The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation (£750), Grantham Civic Society (£750) the Friends of St Wulfram's Church (£500), the Finnis Scott Foundation (£2,100) and the War Memorials Trust (£380), (the latter specifically towards the conservation of the alabaster monument to Lt Rupert Hardy Parker, killed in 1917). It is anticipated that the conservation work on the remaining three monuments in the Lady Chapel will be completed in February 2024.
- *Brass work.* The Faculty for the repair, conservation and cleaning of the eagle lectern, the rails to the steps to the lectern and the banisters to the pulpit, was granted by the Chancellor on 3 April 2023. The costs of the proposed works amounted to £4,536 (less any recoverable VAT) and the Friends of St Wulfram's Church have kindly paid for this. Alex Carrington and Manor Welding carried out the work commencing in June and the last element was completed before the Remembrance Service in November.
- *Trigge Library.* The PCC agreed proposals for the acquisition of new glass and metal display cabinets to replace the wooden display cases, which are now regarded as unsuitable for display of books as they do not meet established criteria for displaying rare books in terms of security and environmental standards. The first cabinet made by Click Netherfield was installed in April 2023. The Friends of St Wulfram's have contributed £4,000 towards this and ChurchCare has paid £5,000. The total cost was £8,944 plus VAT (total £10,732.80). Fundraising for the second cabinet raised £3,950 from ChurchCare and £4,000 from The Friends of St Wulfram's. The second cabinet has been manufactured by Click Netherfield at the price of £9,135 (plus VAT). The balance will be met from the Trigge library reserve in 2024 with VAT being reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) scheme. This display cabinet will be installed in January 2024. The Faculty for the conservation of both volumes of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium* by Bridget Warrington ACR was granted in January 2023. We are again most grateful to The Friends of St Wulfram's for a donation of £1,000 and to ChurchCare for a grant of £10,000 towards this work which is likely to cost up to £13,750. The Aurelius Trust has given £3,600 for this project including for the purchase of the display cabinet. The balance of costs will be drawn from the church's Trigge Library book conservation fund. Conservation work by Bridget Warrington began in April 2023 and is now nearing completion. Regarding the second Gesner volume, the Friends have pledged £4,500 towards conservation work and

ChurchCare have agreed £7,000 towards the total cost of conservation work, which is estimated by Bridget Warrington to be up to £12,375 with any balance to come from the Trigge Library fund.

- *Remedial work following the break-in on Thursday 18 May 2023.* The Faculty for repairs to the stained glass and steel frame was granted on 16 August 2023. The cost of the glazing and other repairs is £3,552 of which £2,552 has been agreed by our insurers net of the policy excess, of which £500 has been met by The Friends of St Wulfram's Church. Derek Hunt, Master Glazier has completed work on the glass panel and the repaired window and metal frame will be installed in January 2024.
- *New Altar frontal.* One Faculty condition relating to the repairs to the existing green frontal was that the PCC formally considers the advice of the Church Buildings Council to retire that green frontal. The PCC (17.11.22) agreed that a Faculty be sought for a new altar frontal and super-frontal based on a design by Tracy Franklin. The DAC raised questions which have been referred back and partially resolved, but a final design has not yet been agreed by the Working Party and PCC.
- *Excavating Test Pits and drainage.* The Faculty application for the test pits was granted on 30 December 2022. Test pits were dug in various parts of the churchyard during April. Percolation tests were carried out by Peter Rogan and will now be used to help determine the future design of a modified drainage system which can incorporate modifications to the west entrance to improve access to the church.
- *Overhaul of Church Bells.* On 21 September 2023, the PCC agreed proposals for the overhaul of the church bells including the replacement of bearings and refurbishment of the clappers, etc, to be undertaken by Taylors of Loughborough in the sum of £15,306 (plus VAT). Repainting of the bell frames will be done by Braunton Homes. A List B application has been granted for these works which will be undertaken in early 2024.
- *Quinquennial Inspection 2022.* Architect Peter Rogan's report was circulated to the PCC and key recommendations have been discussed at the Fabric Group. Some recommendations have been implemented and Peter Rogan has been asked to draw up more detailed proposals for particular recommendations.
- The work on repair and maintenance of the fabric of St Wulfram's Church, which has a surface area in excess of one acre, has been constant but successful. We should like to thank members of the Fabric Sub-group for their input and attendance. Thanks are also expressed to everyone who helps with routine weekly cleaning and with the arrangement of flowers. Additional volunteers are most welcome. All help to make St Wulfram's a warm and welcoming church. We are greatly indebted to John Manterfield for his dedication in chairing the PCC's Fabric Sub-group and overseeing all its work.
- During the year, access from Swinegate to the church building (for people with disabilities, contractors, and deliveries) was impeded by a Church Trees neighbour, who took the view that the route is a footpath not a road. Despite efforts to resolve the dispute by various individuals, including the county councillor who holds the executive portfolio for highways, the situation is unresolved.

## **Church flowers**

- Throughout the year and especially at liturgical festivals, we benefit from the dedication of our band of flower arrangers (led by Val York), whose skills enhance the beauty of our church. We express gratitude to all those who contribute towards the

costs of flower arrangements throughout the year: many such donations are in memory of loved ones and an 'In Memoriam' list is displayed at the west end of the church at Easter and Christmas.

In the summer, the weekly *Community News* drew attention to the increasing use of plants instead of fresh flowers at the high altar, and the occasional practice of displaying flowers in a vase, meaning that the display may be smaller than in the past. This initiative cuts down on the amount of oasis that our flower arrangers use, so is more environmentally friendly, as well as reducing costs.

### **Ringling at St Wulfram's**

- This year the rebuilding work of the team of bell ringers has continued. We have adopted the Belton Ringers as St Wulfram's Ringers (they make up the majority and have enabled us to keep the bells ringing on Sundays throughout the year). We also have new learners and returning ringers in Grantham who have joined the team this year, so our membership has increased from five active members to 17 in total.
- In March/April we adopted eight brand new learners (from Saltby) for the 'Ring for the King' nationwide initiative; of these, all eight rang for the Coronation and we have kept six, who are now just beginning to ring regularly for services. We were only able to do this with the dedication of all the teachers who helped train the learners, throughout Holy Week and in the weeks following Easter, prior to the Coronation. On 6-7 May, combined with other local ringers and bands including those from Belton, Grantham, Harlaxton and Saltby, approximately 40 ringers ensured that the bells rang out at 18 local churches around Grantham, in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire for the Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla.
- Over the course of the year there have been 10 Quarter Peals and two successful Peals. We are now regularly trying to attempt both more complicated Quarter Peals and more simple methods to bring the established ringers along.
- Quotes for the overhaul of the bells have been sought and Taylors will be carrying out the work in or near Spring 2024. This will involve:
  - The original ten bells being lifted and their bearings replaced (being 70 years old and weeping oil).
  - The clappers for the old ten bells being rebuilt to original ball shape, the bearing being replaced as needed.
  - The sound control fitted in 2004 will be adjusted and put back to working order.
  - The frame will be painted in two coats for protection and longevity.
  - The two lightest trebles will have slightly heavier clappers to make the sound more balanced both internally and externally.
- Thanks to the Fabric committee for their help with processing the quotes. These have been forwarded to the Lincoln Guild and Southern Branch Bell Repair Fund who are likely to support us with some funding towards this project.

### **Hospitality for Pilgrims and Visitors**

- St Wulfram's, a landmark medieval parish church restored by Gilbert Scott (1866-75), is Grade I Listed (1062501) and of nationally recognised significance. Set back from main roads and surrounded by old buildings, the area has the feel of a cathedral close. The chained Trigge Library (established in the church in 1598) is of exceptional significance as the earliest in England for public use, and attracts local, national, and

international visitors and scholars. The church plays a dynamic role in attracting visitors to the town and district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Grantham Town Conservation Area. They lie within the 'Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone', which celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England to restore historic properties and regenerate public realm areas.

- Consistent with our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy, we encourage everyone in the community to see St Wulfram's as their parish church. The building is open for private prayer or to sit in quiet reflection, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Sundays.
- The Coffee Shop opens for Saturday morning recitals, during the Heritage Open Day, the Beer Festival, and the Christmas Tree Festival, and for interval drinks at concerts (when alcohol and soft drinks are also on sale). We are grateful to Jan Burrows, Di Hale and Eileen West for organising refreshments at recitals, to members of the Licence Management Committee for organising interval drinks, and to Di Hale for the significant work in overseeing the provision of refreshments (including recruitment of volunteers from organisations beyond St Wulfram's) for major festivals.
- We have volunteer stewards on hand to offer a generous welcome to visitors on Saturday mornings and on weekdays during the 'visitor season' (from the end of March to the end of September). This is always an important aspect of our ministry at St Wulfram's. With fewer stewards since 2017, it has been necessary to leave the church open unattended at certain times (this is in line with advice from the diocese and Ecclesiastical, our insurers). Although this strategy continues to be largely unproblematic, we experienced some antisocial behaviour and vandalism in the church this year, about which we were in discussion with relevant authorities. Sadly, this necessitated early closure of the church on a few occasions.
- The number of visitors to St Wulfram's continued to increase this year, after the pandemic lockdowns. Organised visits included groups from Harlaxton, Lincoln Civic Society and Hough on the Hill History Society.

Inscriptions in our Visitors' Book are overwhelmingly favourable. Visitors enjoy the history and architecture, for example:

- ❖ The wonderful windows and carvings make this church amazing.
- ❖ Incredible building. Gobsmacked!
- ❖ Fantastic craftsmanship and labour.

Visitors also appreciate the welcome offered by stewards and the hard work of those who keep the building in good order, for example:

- ❖ Wonderful place. Tania and Elizabeth were most welcoming. Had a great visit with a cup of coffee while we waited for Brian to open the Trigge Library. Most wonderful people.

Visitors are also grateful for the peace they find in our church, for example:

- ❖ A stunningly beautiful and peaceful place.
  - ❖ So blessed to visit this church. The place has an amazing feel of calm, peace and joy. Ever so grateful to be here. Will visit again.
- As part of the 2023 Heritage Open Days on the theme 'The Arts of Lincolnshire – Creativity Unwrapped', we opened St Wulfram's Church (9 September, 10.00 a.m. to

4.00 p.m.) and Grantham House and gardens (10 September, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.). The event in church coincided with the outdoor Artisan Brocante at Grantham House: this was to the advantage of each as stewards encouraged visitors to cross the road to see the other. Much positive feedback was received in person and on social media. Approximately 310 people visited the church as part of this event. The Trigge Library was especially popular. Families climbed the tower to visit the ringing chamber and try ringing bells. Much fun was had by all. Comments included:

- ❖ I was fascinated by history of the site.
- ❖ Lovely to see the church and Trigge Library.
- ❖ We enjoy this type of event.
- ❖ Seeing parts that weren't usually open to public.
- ❖ All very good – very helpful guides.
- ❖ Very welcoming team.

Approximately 390 people visited Grantham House and gardens. The event there started at 2.00 p.m. and was very busy in the first hour; but we were affected by a heavy shower at 3.30 p.m., so people either went home or sheltered in the house. Comments included:

- ❖ Lovely gardens – very good community.
  - ❖ Liked refreshments – beautiful house and garden.
- Near the west door of the church, we have a sales unit that displays postcards, guides, and souvenirs of the church, together with assorted greetings cards (including the popular Friends of St Wulfram's Christmas cards).
  - Peregrines first nested at St Wulfram's in 2007 with the last successful fledging in 2012. Surveillance cameras were installed in December 2020, funded by the Lincolnshire Bird Club. The peregrines are sighted around St Wulfram's all year. In the spring of 2023, they showed initial interest in the nest trays but did not then attempt to nest.

### **Trigge Library**

- It has been possible to open the Trigge Library for a complete season during 2023, weekly from April to the end of September, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. This was only interrupted once, on Saturday, 6 May, due to the coronation of King Charles III. A total of 517 visitors to the Library in 2023 represents an increase of 20% over the number for 2022, and the highest recorded since 2019.
- The number of visitors from the local area in 2023 was nearly double the number recorded in 2022 (102 compared to 53); but there were fewer visitors from the rest of the UK and only a modest number from Europe. However, there were notable increases in the number of visitors from the USA, Canada and Australia, accounting for an increase of nearly 57%.
- Our conservator, Ms Bridget Warrington, completed work on Henricus Moller's commentary on the Psalms, printed in Geneva in 1591. The front and rear wood boards were replaced, various repairs to the text block were carried out and the book returned to the Library.
- A new project that was initiated in 2022, involving the conservation and repair of the first volume of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium*, and the purchase of a replacement display case to meet current standards, was duly implemented thanks to the generosity of The Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, ChurchCare, and the Aurelius

Trust. The work on the *Historia Animalium* will continue into 2024, but the display case was supplied, installed and in use for the 2023 visitor season,

- Following this, further funding provided by ChurchCare and the Friends of St Wulfram's Church permitted the purchase of a second display case, which will be installed in early 2024.
- On Friday 19 May 2023 a successful symposium was held in St Wulfram's Church, focussing on the Antwerp *Polyglot Bible* printed by Christopher Plantin in 1568-72. Participants attending this event came from a wide area, including London, Oxford, and the US. It is hoped that a second symposium will be held in 2024, focussed on the *Historia Animalium*. Speakers included Dr Dirk Imhof, Dr Jessica Purdy and Ms Bridget Warrington as well as Dr Brian Stagg and Dr John Manterfield.
- The 'rolling' exhibition of books in the south aisle, using the case donated to the church by The National Trust, continues to attract interest. This serves to introduce visitors to the types of books in the collection, with the contents being replaced periodically. Castors were fitted to the legs of the case, as approved by the Fabric Committee, which gives greater flexibility as to where it is sited.
- As ever, thanks are due to Dr John Manterfield who kindly undertook the analysis of visitor statistics for 2023.

## Archive

- There have been no further acquisitions of material in the course of 2022, other than hard copies of *The Magazine*. The Interim Curator (John Manterfield) has not had any enquiries during the year.
- Regarding storage of the archives in the Vestry and elsewhere in the church, the proposals for refurbishment of the Clergy Vestry (including a dedicated secure Archive cupboard) have been approved as a Faculty application.

## Learning opportunities

- Hosted by St Wulfram's at Grantham House, the third joint deanery 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course began in September 2022 and ran until March 2023. Among the group of tutors from the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries, were five members of the St Wulfram's ministry team. Three members of St Wulfram's congregation completed the course. Following a period of discernment, two ALM Foundation Modules were offered in May/June, culminating in a joint deanery Authorisation Service in the garden of Grantham House on Sunday 2 July, when a total of 12 ALMs were authorised. Among the six from the Grantham Deanery was Helen Dawkins. Interviewed for our *Magazine*, Helen said: 'During the 16-week To Love and Serve the Lord course, I met some great fellow Christians, and it provided an opportunity for me to learn more about the Anglican Church and its structures, as well as strengthening my faith and love of our heavenly Father. I then went on to complete another 4 weeks of study to become an ALM, assisting with public worship at St Wulfram's Church. I feel honoured to have been accepted to undertake this role and hope to do so to the best of my ability.'

There was insufficient take-up for the fourth 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course which would have started in September 2023. So, 2023-24 was a fallow year. However, the deaneries will offer ALM Foundation Modules in May/June 2024, if there is sufficient interest from current ALMs.

- On Wednesday 11 January, we started 'Being With', a new 10-session course to explore more about the Christian faith, using material developed by St Martin in the Fields and HeartEdge. The course, aimed at people who had recently started coming to church or had questions about the Christian faith and life, was pursued by 10 people. When the course ended, the group continued to gather monthly for a while for mutual support.
- A new monthly Women's Bible Reflection and Prayer Group was launched in May. The group, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7.15 p.m. at St John's Spitalgate, provides space for women to come together to share and reflect through the Scriptures and prayer. All are welcome.
- Lent groups and courses (advertised in our online Lent, Holy Week, and Easter booklet) included: 'Introduction to Christian Prayer' (Saturdays, 11.00 a.m., St John's Church Spitalgate); 'The Rosary in Lent', based on Fr Clay's 2011 Canterbury Press volume *The Daily Prayer Rosary* (Saturdays, 5.00 p.m., St Wulfram's Church); 'If God is good, why do good people suffer?' (Tuesdays, 7.00 p.m., St John's Church, Manthorpe).
- Later in the year, Fr Yuce offered a two-session 'Introduction to Christian Baptism' course on Saturday afternoons (28 October, 4 November), at Grantham House. He discussed the theology, history, and tradition behind Christian Baptism, and how we might revisit our current practices to recapture the significance of this great Sacrament.
- We advertised 'Theology 4 Everyone', a chance to explore our faith through different themes over four Saturdays in the autumn at Edward King House, Lincoln.

### **Ministry training**

- Members of the congregation continue to take a full part in the licensed ministry of the church and new volunteers are trained and introduced on a regular basis to share in leading worship and exercising pastoral ministry.
- As mentioned above, in partnership with the Loveden Deanery, Grantham Deanery runs the diocesan 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course. This meets several needs: it is appropriate for those who simply wish to learn more about their faith; it provides a discernment process for those exploring a possible call to Authorised Lay Ministry and the initial module for ALM training; and it's also appropriate for existing ALMs who wish to do a refresher course.

### **Major Churches Network**

- St Wulfram's is a member of the Major Churches Network; and we are in regular contact with other large churches to benefit from information about good practice in areas of administration, fabric, mission, outreach, and how to best engage in service to the community.

### **Inclusive Church Network**

- St Wulfram's continues as a member of the Inclusive Church Network endorsing the statement of belief:

We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

## **Ecumenical relationships**

- By the time of the Churches Together in Grantham (CTiG) Annual General Meeting (22 March), attendance at meetings had reduced significantly. Despite requests for two new people to join the executive team (including a Treasurer), no nominations were forthcoming; and the organisation became non-compliant with the constitution. So, reluctantly, the decision was taken to suspend CTiG for one year (until the AGM 2024). Annual subscriptions were not collected, and the bank account was held with no transactions.

Despite this, there was a determination for the church leaders to continue to work together and share ideas/resources. The Secretary continued to disseminate information by email on a regular basis. Sadly, there was no energy to organise the annual Walk of Witness in the town on Good Friday; but the remaining officers pledged to ensure that the worshipping communities came together on at least two occasions during the year.

- A Churches Together service took place on Sunday evening 22 January at St Anne's Church, Harrowby Road, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 to 25 January); and a Carol Service on Tuesday 19 December at ChristChurch, Finkin Street.
- St Wulfram's welcomed Churches Together to Grantham House for an open-air Service of the Word for Creation on Sunday 27 August at 6.30 p.m. (with the gardens open from 5.00 p.m.).
- During Prisons' Week (8 to 14 October), we invited members of our congregation to consult the Prisons' Week website and offer up a prayer.
- We continue in a supportive relationship with ChristChurch, our Methodist/URC neighbours. We continue to publicise each other's services and events, through the respective monthly parish magazines and weekly pew-sheets.

## **Lincoln Diocesan Synod**

- St Wulfram's is represented on Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Fr Clay Roundtree, and Paul Davie (who also serves on the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees). Fr Stuart continues to serve on General Synod, as a representative of the diocesan House of Clergy.
- Diocesan Synod meets three times a year (April, July, November). After each Diocesan Synod meeting, the PCC receives a Digest of Proceedings, as published on the diocesan website; and, from time to time, the PCC receives communications from the Diocese of Lincoln.
- Much time continued to be devoted within the diocese and at Diocesan Synod to the implementation of 'A Time to Change – Together' (TTCT). This is foundational to the diocesan vision for our shared future, which involves collaborative partnerships, relationships of generosity and growth. The nine Deanery Partnerships (DPs) are roughly mapped to the nine local authorities and follow existing deanery lines for the

most part. Deanery Partnership Steering Groups (involving a range of local and external, lay, and ordained representatives) were tasked with supporting the initial development of the nine areas, including agreeing with parishes the boundaries for the Deanery Partnership and supporting the planning of Local Mission Partnerships (LMPs). The DP Steering Groups were regarded as short-term bodies.

- A Partnership Dean oversees the South Kesteven Deanery Partnership comprising the deaneries of Beltisloe, Grantham, Loveden, and Stamford. The four Deanery Synods came together for their first joint meeting in January at Corby Glen. We understand that the South Kesteven Steering Group completed its work in 2023 and disbanded.
- Around half the 700+ ministers of all types from across the diocese attended one of the Archidiaconal Vision Days in September and October 2023, or an abbreviated catch-up session. St Wulfram's Church hosted the Vision Day for the Boston Archdeaconry on Wednesday 4 October. The key messages were collaboration, growth, and generosity. All the learning and discussion was embedded in a day of rich and relevant prayer and worship, based on the monastic round of daily prayer. Key materials were posted online afterwards. The Vision Day was offered to share next steps, now Deanery Partnerships have been defined as administrative subdivisions of the diocese, and Local Mission Partnerships established as collaborative families of local churches, each with a clear vocation expressed in its self-identified Church Type. The diocese now enters the next phase, beginning to fill affordable vacant posts, to develop dynamic ministry teams, clarify missional objectives, and look at new ways of offering local leadership.
- The Diocese of Lincoln issued an invitation to attend the Enthronement of the Rt Revd Stephen Conway as Bishop of Lincoln at Lincoln Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday 11 November.

### **Grantham Deanery**

- Through its elected and *ex officio* representatives, St Wulfram's continues to take a leading part in shaping and implementing deanery policy. Our Rector, Fr Stuart Craddock, serves as Rural Dean, supported by Judith Muskett (our PCC Secretary) as Deanery Administrator (for 6 hours per week).
- Following the increase in the number on our Electoral Roll to over 200, St Wulfram's now has places for four elected lay representatives on Grantham Deanery Synod. Triennial elections were held at Annual Parochial Church Meetings in 2023 and the new terms of office began on 1 July: Paul Davie continues to serve on Synod until 2026 and Cherry Edwards, Chris Impey and Damien Macdonald Bloomfield were elected for the first time. Damien stood down for personal reasons in September. No-one has yet been elected to replace him. We thank Jan Burrows and Val York for the service they gave over the last three years as two of our elected lay representatives on Deanery Synod.
- All deanery PCCs are provided with regular written reports on Synod business; and a summary of Deanery Synod business is provided for Annual Parochial Church Meetings.
- A pastoral reorganisation is in progress in the deanery in line with the agreed Deanery Plan. The schemes, currently with the Church Commissioners for consultation, are as follows:

- To establish what is termed the West Grantham Group of Villages, comprising the united benefice of All Saints, Barrowby and St Sebastian's, Great Gonerby and the Harlaxton Group of Parishes (Denton, Harlaxton, Stroxtun, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, and Wyville with Hungerton).
- To dissolve the Trinity Parish, South Grantham and create two separate parishes, styled St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield (where there ceased to be a place of worship several years ago) and St Anne's New Somerby (into which St George's Church Stamford planted in August as part of the Strategic Development Programme). The Revd Andy Acheson was licensed by the Bishop of Grimsby at a well-attended service at St Anne's on Sunday 27 August.
- To hold in plurality the benefices of St John's Manthorpe, St Wulfram's Grantham, and the proposed new Parish of St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield, thus forming a central grouping within Grantham Deanery, consistent with the Deanery Plan.

We hope finally to hear the outcome of the consultations on the pastoral schemes in 2024.

- During 2023, Deanery Synod heard talks from the Archdeacon of Boston (the Venerable Justine Allain Chapman) on her experience of delivering 'Pause for Thought' on BBC Radio 2 (July); and from Marion Hewis (newly appointed Joint Warden of Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln) who addressed questions posed by our Synod about training and resources for lay ministry (Readers and ALMs), and from the Revd Andy Acheson about his vision for St Anne's New Somerby (October).
- In March, in light of the decision by the Loveden Deanery Synod not to join after all with the Grantham Deanery to form a Local Mission Partnership (LMP), Grantham Deanery Synod agreed to recommend to deanery PCCs that our LMP be coterminous with the current Grantham Deanery boundary. This recommendation was accepted by all deanery parishes. The diocese was notified accordingly. The Grantham LMP was inaugurated at the Visitation Service in St Wulfram's Church on 18 June 2023, during which Churchwardens were admitted. Grantham clergy continue to work collaboratively with Loveden Deanery clergy through Deanery Chapter. For its part, Grantham Deanery Synod continues to discuss patterns of collaborative working across its deanery churches.
- From time to time, Grantham House has hosted evening meetings, led by our Children, Youth & Families Worker, when those who work with children and young people in deanery churches gather to share learning and celebrate their ongoing work. Following the departure of Clayton Stiff at the end of his diocesan-funded two-year appointment, the support group continues to meet regularly under the leadership of the Revd Samantha Parsons (Benefice of Harrowby with Londonthorpe). Deanery parishes are also supported with a monthly newsletter forwarded by the diocesan Children & Youth Mission Enabler.
- A six-session deanery 'Youth Alpha' course starting on 26 April was hosted by St John's Church Spitalgate. Led by our Children, Youth & Families Worker, this course offered the opportunity for 11s to 18s to explore the Christian faith with other young people.
- We joined fellow Christians from around the deanery for a Deanery Ascension Day service at the Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Road, Grantham at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 18 May. The service was followed by refreshments.

## Communication

- The Parish website ([www.stwulframs.org.uk](http://www.stwulframs.org.uk)) is a prime contact point for people wishing to know more about the parish church, its people, and activities. Regular postings of information by the Parish Administrator keep it up to date. The home page offers the opportunity to sign up to our mailing list. Contacts and requests continue to increase in number. The website was updated in late September. We make full use of social media (Facebook, Instagram) to involve members of our church community and of the wider community in the life of the church; social media is especially valuable in attracting visitors and audience members to our special events and engaging them in online conversations at those times. The Church of England 'A Church Near You' website directs those who view, to our own website and social media. Details of services and events along with the *Community News* and the monthly parish *Magazine* are also posted to A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14634/>
- The ChurchDesk software is used daily in the Parish Office and enables us to send out weekly newsletters and information on forthcoming services and events. Our website and calendar information are also powered by ChurchDesk. Via ChurchDesk we can produce forms and donation projects where we can take bookings and payments for event and collections. By the end of 2023, we had accumulated 4,171 contacts, more than three times the number recorded pre-Covid (i.e., in 2019). This total includes members of the community of St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe, our sister church. ChurchDesk (based in Denmark) offers online and email support. The software package is a great asset to how we work and our outreach to our parish and wider community.
- The Sunday *Community* sheet updates the congregation, with news of services and activities. Continuing the practice started during the pandemic, it is shared with a weekly Friday email from the Parish Office. Printed copies are available in church on Sundays.
- The full-colour monthly *Magazine* continues to provide high quality and varied content in information and articles. Brian Buttery (Editor) belongs to the Association of Church Editors, whose secretary sends out a monthly bulletin of useful tips. The *Magazine* is available online through the church website; while printed copies are available in the church and are mailed out to those who subscribe. Brian has indicated that he will step down from the editorship in 2024 (producing his final edition in April 2024), after 13 years' dedicated service. The hunt is on for a replacement.
- We have good relations with the *Grantham Journal* (whose office was near St Wulfram's until recently); and articles about our community life and outreach activities are included in the newspaper on an almost weekly basis. In one of a series of New Year messages in the *Journal*, the Rector prayed that in 2023 all would strive for a community built on love, trust and kindness, the foundations of God's Kingdom. As part of the feature 'Inspirational women', Katie Green from the *Journal* interviewed Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate: the article entitled 'Curates hope to empower women to follow calling' was published on 14 April. In the lead-up to the special conference (19 May), the *Journal* published a two-page article on the Trigge Library, including a range of photographs.

We no longer pay to advertise regular services in the *Journal*, relying instead on our website, the *Magazine*, weekly *Community News*, social media, and word-of-mouth etc.

- We also have good relations with the monthly *Grantham Link* magazine, distributed free to around 10,000 homes in the locality, but estimated to reach 32,000 readers. We are grateful for the free advertising the *Link* provides for church events. In March, the magazine published a two-page interview with Fr Stuart about the Grantham Ark.
- Notice boards outside the church are well used. Our two chalk A-boards display daily information outside the west door and welcome visitors.
- In September, we launched a new quarterly colour 'What's on' guide, listing services, regular groups and special events. Copies were first distributed at the Heritage Weekend. Comments on the guide's style and content were welcome. It was well received.
- The churchwardens encourage members of the congregation to contact them by email or telephone with any comments or questions. The 'churchwardens@stwulframs.com' email address is advertised through the weekly *Community News*.

### **Special Events (including those for fund raising)**

- Over recent years, we have enhanced our engagement with people in the town. We strongly believe that the sacred space of St Wulfram's is common ground for all – a place where we can challenge each other, celebrate all that is good in our community, and a place we can call home where we can gather as a community – and God is amid this, in the everyday. Community use of the building is essential to our sustainability and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. Our challenging events (Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals, Beer Festivals, etc.) underpin our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy. Each event attracts significant numbers and at the same time raises useful funds for the church.
- With its flexible space and seating, the church is a well-used venue in normal times for large and smaller events and concerts, attracting regular bookings from local and county organisations. The local U3A holds monthly coffee mornings in St Wulfram's Church; and a Tai-Chi group meets weekly in the church.
- The St Wulfram's community began a year of social events with our annual Family Quiz with fish and chip supper in the church on Saturday 11 February. Teams of up to 8 people gathered for a fun-filled evening with rounds of questions set by the clergy. An equally popular Beetle Drive with pizza supper and live music was held on Saturday 8 July. An enjoyable Harvest Supper, with competitions, took place in the church on Saturday evening 30 September. A Parish Brunch was held in church after the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday 29 October to enable members of the congregation to socialise and get to know each other better.
- In March, Fr Stuart led a short service at the opening of Grantham's Mid-Lent Fair.
- Folksy Theatre performed Quentin Blake's *Mr Magnolia* in the church (12 April). The family extravaganza featured Mr Magnolia on his wacky adventures with live music, puppetry, and audience interaction. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by adults and children alike.
- Lincs Fashions put on a fashion show (with models from our congregation) in the church on Tuesday evening, 9 May. At the shopping event that followed, brand names were sold at bargain prices. It was a very successful evening. Unfortunately, too few tickets were sold in advance for a similar event near Christmas; but we shall invite Lincs Fashions back for a fashion show in the Spring of 2024.

- Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* was staged by MJH Productions in the church between Tuesday 8 and Saturday 12 August, with seven performances (including two matinees). The production company auditioned hundreds of performers of all ages from across the East Midlands, including four gifted young actors from local schools who shared the principal roles of Oliver and the Artful Dodger.
- We celebrated The Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May. The church was open from 9.30 a.m. for the livestreaming on a big screen of the Coronation from Westminster Abbey (11.00 a.m.). Copies of the authorised liturgy were available. There was a range of activities for children throughout the day. The Coffee Shop was open for light refreshments, with themed table decorations made by the Craft, Prayer, and Chatter group. As with the funeral of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (also livestreamed), people enjoyed coming together to celebrate this historic event. Our bellringers participated in the 'Ring for the King' between 5.45 p.m. and 6.45 p.m.
- On Monday 17 July, the Rector, Associate Rector, and a few members of our staff and congregation attended the installation by the Bishop of London of Fr James Titley (our former curate) as Guild Vicar and Chaplain to the Corporation of London, at St Lawrence Jewry, a Guild Church in the heart of the City of London. We congratulated Fr James on this appointment and wish him well in the new role.
- The Beer Festival 'Land of Hops and Glory' (run jointly with the Grantham branch of CAMRA) opened on Thursday 19 October and ran until Saturday 21 October, with the bars open from 12.00 noon to 11.00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 12.00 noon to 10.00 p.m. on Saturday. At Thursday's launch, Fr Clay blessed the beer before the Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Mark Whittington, rang the bell to open the festival. Real ales, ciders, perries, mead and Fr Clay's cocktail bar were on offer. The alcohol-free bar was well received. Live evening entertainment was offered on Folksy Thursday (Morris Dancers, Charlie's Aunt), Friday (High Point Players, 23 Reasons) and Saturday (Groove Cartell). Over 2,000 people visited from the town and from far and wide. The event, a permanent feature in the Grantham calendar, was deemed a huge success. We extend thanks to all who helped to make the festival such a wonderful and safe event.
- We arranged a five-mile Parish Walk on the Spring Bank Holiday (29 May) through Sudbrook and Ancaster, returning to Woodland Waters for lunch. Then on the August Bank Holiday (28 August), there was a Parish Walk of similar length from the village of Redmile, into farmland, along the canal towpath, and back to The Windmill Inn in the village for lunch.
- After the success of the Artisan Brocante at Grantham House (9 September), an Artisan Brocante Christmas Fair was held in the church on Saturday 4 November, from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. This included carefully curated vintage and artisan stalls with festive treats, and the Coffee Shop sold mince pies, mulled wine, and a selection of homemade cakes. Chapel House Pizza were on site from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
- A 'Disco for Grown-Ups', pop-up disco party, took place in the church on Friday evening 17 November. This was a great success, and a further event is booked for 2024.
- The Christmas Tree Festival with skating rink ran from Tuesday 28 November to Advent Sunday, 3 December. This was one day longer than hitherto; and allowed for more dedicated skating in the mornings by nurseries and schools (including for children with additional needs). Tuesday's opening ceremony began with a torchlit procession of around 100 people from the Market Place at 6.00 p.m. and the formal switching on of the lights in the church followed; the festival was then open until

9.00 p.m. The festival opened from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Advent Sunday. A record number of trees (189) was entered; and more people than ever before visited. As a celebration of the wonderful work and talents in the town, the Christmas Tree Festival is the best annual event that we hold at St Wulfram's.

Refreshments were served daily by a large band of volunteers organised by Di Hale, who calculated that we sold more than 23 dozen mince pies, 22 stollen, 140 sausage rolls, and used 73 bottles of mulled wine, close to 100 pints of milk and made over 450 cups of hot chocolate!

Once again, our own 22ft Christmas tree, positioned at the west end of the church, was adorned with around 200 wooden decorations crafted by people at the woodworking project Outwood CIC, which supports and promotes wellbeing and positive mental health through meaningful activities. As usual, a large Prayer Tree was set up beneath the Lady Chapel steps. Both were to remain in position until Candlemas. As in previous years, hundreds of prayers were hung.

During November, members of our congregation cut out paper hands that visitors to the Festival then coloured, decorated and covered with reflections, thoughts and prayers. Afterwards, the hundreds of hands were displayed as a pair of gigantic 'angel wings' on a pillar facing the west end of the church. In a video (part of our Advent video project), the Rector encouraged people to take photographs in front of the wings and to share these on Facebook and Insta, tagging them #wulframangels. A total of 33 photos was subsequently posted on our social media, and these attracted many 'likes'.

- Early in 2024, there will be a long overdue opportunity for the clergy and staff team to show our deep appreciation to all the volunteers (numbering more than 120) who enrich our community life in so many ways. At a special 'Volunteers Thank You evening', we shall celebrate and give thanks for all the time and talents our volunteers bring to enable St Wulfram's to flourish.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

It has not been possible to include financial statements within this Annual Report. Following the transition between Treasurers in 2023, and Jide Oduyoye's resignation with effect from 31 December, work to prepare the financial statements has taken significantly longer than usual. Work on these is now significantly advanced, and they will be prepared, examined, and filed in line with Charity Commission requirements.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the *Church Representation Rules 2020* (as amended). At St Wulfram's the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Associate Rector, Assistant Curates, retired clergy with permission to officiate, a Reader, lay Deanery Synod representatives, churchwardens, and lay members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. The number of elected lay representatives serving on the PCC and the number of co-options on an annual basis are governed by the number on the Electoral Roll.
- The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote in Church of England elections. Those entitled to have their names on this roll must be 16 years of age or more and reside in the parish or be regular worshippers in the church whose Roll they wish to join. The Roll is renewed every six years (the next time will be 2025). Joining the Roll opens the way for greater involvement in the life of our church, at deanery, diocesan and national levels, as well as being entitled to vote at the Annual

## Parochial Church Meeting.

Regular invitations to join the Electoral Roll are included in the weekly *Community News*. At least six months before our annual meeting, we encourage members of our community to register on the Roll, so they can play a full part in our governance and are eligible to stand for election to the PCC, as a churchwarden, or to Deanery Synod.

- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how PCC funds will be spent.
- The full PCC conducted business on 15 occasions during the year. The *Church Representation Rules 2020* (M29) allow for business to be conducted by correspondence; and the PCC conducted business in this manner on six occasions in 2023.

The average level of attendance for the nine in-person meetings in 2023 was 77% (as compared with an average of 74% in 2022).

We invited our two local councillors to attend a PCC meeting (18 July). To inform the PCC, Councillor Tim Harrison (newly elected, Independent, Grantham St Wulfram's Ward) and Councillor Ray Wootten (Conservative, part of the South Kesteven Coalition Group Grantham St Wulfram's Ward) each spoke for 5 minutes about their vision for the ward and responded to questions afterwards. At the subsequent PCC meeting (26 September), we paid tribute to Councillor Wootten, who sadly died in late August.

- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was conducted in the church on Sunday 14 May.
- At the APCM 2023, it was announced that the number on the Electoral Roll remained at 224.
- The rules governing the PCC Standing Committee changed with the introduction of the revised *Church Representation Rules 2020*. Although the Standing Committee has power to transact the PCC's business between meetings, it may not discharge a duty of the PCC, nor exercise a power of the PCC which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the PCC.

The committee comprises the Rector, Associate Rector, and Churchwardens (*ex officio*) and two further members (elected by the PCC). John Manterfield and Paul Davie served on the committee throughout 2023. The Treasurer and PCC Secretary are attendees. Written reports from the committee are submitted to the PCC at the subsequent meeting.

The Standing Committee met three times this year. Its business concerned the future of Grantham House.

- Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has several sub-groups (Children & Youth, Creation Care, Fabric, Finance, Licence Management [to meet obligations under the Premises Licence granted from 2018], Mission & Social Responsibility, and Social), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. Roles and responsibilities are set out in terms of reference adopted in 2020.

PCC members are expected to sit on at least one sub-group. Members of the congregation are also invited to join sub-groups. Each sub-group includes at least one

member of the clergy team and either one or both Churchwardens. Currently, all clergy serve on all sub-groups. Minutes or written reports of sub-group deliberations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

- We are immensely grateful to those who chair our sub-groups for the time they devote to their role and for the dedication and knowledge that they bring to our governance. The chairs in 2023 were: Laura Craddock (Children & Youth); Frances Roundtree (Creation Care); John Manterfield (Fabric); Paul Davie (Finance; Licence Management); Mike Knight (Mission & Social Responsibility), who took over on 23 November from Jo Counsell who resigned for personal reasons on 23 August; Cherry Edwards (Social) who took over from Mel Fletcher on 23 May.
- From time to time, the Rector may gather Sub-group Chairs and 'Heads of Department' (Director of Music, Head Server, Verger, Parish Administrator, PCC Officers) to discuss strategy concerning St Wulfram's mission. Such a meeting is planned for early in 2024.
- Grateful thanks are expressed to Jan Burrows, who completed her term of office as churchwarden on 14 May 2023. Speaking about Jan in his report at the APCM, the Rector said she had been a true source of wisdom and grace, and he would miss her very much in that role.

We also thank Michael Knight, churchwarden, and Mel Fletcher who was elected churchwarden on 14 May.

- Immense gratitude is expressed to Stephen Howe, who stood down as our Treasurer at the APCM after five years' dedicated service. Paying tribute to Stephen at the APCM, the Rector said that he had been a person of great integrity, honesty, and challenge. Although they had not always seen eye to eye, he and many others had benefitted from the sheer determination and hard work given by Stephen to God through this work with St Wulfram's. The Rector said Stephen would be missed.
- Jide Oduyoye was appointed Treasurer by the PCC at its meeting immediately after the APCM. We are grateful to Anna James, a PCC member, for taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer to support Jide with day-to-day book-keeping. Her appointment was agreed by the PCC by correspondence on 31 October.

The PCC was notified by the Rector on 28 November that Jide had decided to stand down as Treasurer from 31 December 2023. The Rector reported that he had begun a conversation with Hood Parkes & Co (who process the St Wulfram's payroll) about a consultation on how the Treasurer role can be made less demanding and how the Assistant Treasurer can be supported in her work.

- We also thank our Secretary (Judith Muskett) for the time she devotes to this role and for the knowledge she brings to the governance of St Wulfram's Church.

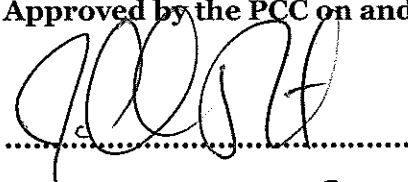
## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- St Wulfram's Church is situated in Grantham, Lincolnshire and is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rectory, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR.
- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, charity registration number 1131575, as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham."

- The PCC Treasurer is Jide Oduyoye (who took over from Stephen Howe on 14 May). The PCC Secretary is Judith Muskett (who undertakes this role on a voluntary basis alongside the salaried post of Mission Facilitator). Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is an elected member of the PCC.
- PCC members who served at any time from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are set out below. Five vacancies for elected members were unfilled at the APCM on 14 May 2023.

| Name                        | Post                                                                     | Date if part year |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ex officio members</b>   |                                                                          |                   |
| Father Stuart Craddock      | Incumbent, PCC Chair, Rural Dean, Diocesan Synod, General Synod          |                   |
| Father Clay Roundtree       | Associate Rector, Diocesan Synod                                         |                   |
| Mother June Rowland         | Bishop's Permission to Officiate; Community Chaplain                     | (until 14.5.23)   |
| Mother Geraldine Pond       | Bishop's Permission to Officiate                                         |                   |
| Mother Hannah Grivell       | Assistant Curate                                                         |                   |
| Mother Kate Hough           | Assistant Curate                                                         |                   |
| Father Yuce Kabakci         | Assistant Curate                                                         |                   |
| Katy Castañeda              | Reader                                                                   |                   |
| Jan Burrows                 | Warden and Vice Chair (until 14.5.23), Deanery Synod (until 30.6.23)     | (until 30.6.23)   |
| Mike Knight                 | Warden and (from 14.5.23) Vice Chair                                     |                   |
| Val York                    | Deanery Synod (until 30.6.23)                                            | (until 30.6.23)   |
| Paul Davie                  | Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod                                            |                   |
| Cherry Edwards              | Deanery Synod (from 1.7.23)                                              | (from 1.7.23)     |
| Chris Impey                 | Deanery Synod (from 1.7.23)                                              | (from 1.7.23)     |
| Damien Macdonald Bloomfield | Deanery Synod (from 1.7.23)                                              | (until 6.9.23)    |
| <b>Elected members</b>      |                                                                          |                   |
| Jason Bloomfield            |                                                                          | (until 14.5.23)   |
| Jo Counsell                 |                                                                          | (until 23.8.23)   |
| Helen Dawkins               |                                                                          | (from 14.5.23)    |
| Cherry Edwards              |                                                                          | (until 14.5.23)   |
| Melanie Fletcher            | Warden from 14.5.23                                                      |                   |
| Philip Joyce                |                                                                          | (from 14.5.23)    |
| Sheila Knight               |                                                                          |                   |
| John Manterfield            |                                                                          | (from 14.5.23)    |
| Lucille Pritchard           |                                                                          |                   |
| Jane Sharp                  |                                                                          |                   |
| Joanna Swinbourne           |                                                                          | (until 18.1.23)   |
| David West                  |                                                                          |                   |
| Eileen West                 |                                                                          |                   |
| <b>Co-opted members</b>     |                                                                          |                   |
| Mark Bates                  |                                                                          | (from 23.5.23)    |
| Chris Impey                 |                                                                          | (until 14.5.22)   |
| Anna James                  |                                                                          | (from 14.5.23)    |
| Philip Joyce                |                                                                          | (until 14.5.23)   |
| John Manterfield            |                                                                          | (until 14.5.23)   |
| Bankers                     | HSBC Bank plc, Westgate, Grantham.                                       |                   |
| Investment Managers         | CCLA Investment Management Limited,<br>84 Queen Victoria Street, London. |                   |
| Insurers                    | Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.                              |                   |
| Letting Agents              | Newton Fallowell, 68 High Street, Grantham.                              |                   |
| Independent Examiners       | Streets LLP, Windsor House, A1 Business Park,<br>Long Bennington.        |                   |

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf,



19 October 2024

THE Revd J.C. Roundtree 43

## **Addendum to 2023 Annual Report – Financial Review of 2023**

### **Introduction**

The Annual Report adopted at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting made reference to the extended time taken to produce the Financial Statements. This Addendum to the Annual Report is a review of the financial performance of St Wulframs Church during 2023.

### **Summary**

The General Fund budget for 2023 was set at a deficit of £27,631 for 2023, with an actual outturn for 2023 was a net deficit of £26,322, a marginal improvement on budget. However, it needs to be noted that with a General Fund balance of £9,138 at the start of 2023, this means that the General Fund was in deficit by £17,184 at 31 December 2023.

Taking into account all designated and restricted funds, the overall balance sheet commenced the year at £425,103 and stood at £474,341 at 31 December 2023, an increase of £49,238 in the year.

### **Commentary**

Heating and lighting costs remain a significant burden. The amounts attributed to Grantham House (designated funds) and the church (General Fund and restricted funds (Fabric)) can clearly be seen in Note 3a, where half of the gas bill has been covered by the Fabric Fund. Fabric Fund has continued to cover half of the cost of insurance of the church building, in line with previous years' practice.

St Wulframs Church encourages giving to support not only the church, but also the wider community, and will continue to make local, nation and international donations via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group for as long as it is financially able to do so. The Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group donations for 2023 are outlined in the section beginning on p. 10 of the Annual Report. In addition, donations for, and expenses incurred by, St Wulfram's Passage, which provides meals for the homeless and others in need, were also managed by the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-Group. Details of collections for other charities can be seen in Note 13.

Income for the church continues to depend heavily on Planned Giving, with income of £65,506 to compare to £62,008 in 2023. This is welcome growth, but is less than the budget of £67,000 for the year. It is planned to hold a Stewardship campaign in autumn 2024, with the intent to significantly reduce the General Fund deficit.

Fundraising income totalled £96,282 in 2023, an increase on the budgeted performance. This is a welcome boost to the church's finances, but shows that limited reliance can be placed on fundraising events to achieve a surplus.

In setting this budget, PCC recognised that it would be necessary to liquidate some assets in order to retain a positive balance on the General Fund. In support of this PCC agreed to sell the investment property owned by the Church. There were delays in being able to achieve vacant possession of the property during early and mid 2023, with the result that the property could not be sold, and the income realised, during 2023.

In line with previous practice the church's activities at Grantham House were not resourced through General Fund. Early in 2023, projections provided to PCC supported a decision to remain in Grantham House on the basis of extension of the 12 month lease signed on 4 December 2020, subject to close review. Following the trend from 2022, grants such as those from Shine Lincolnshire have become much less available. Unfortunately, therefore, it has not

been possible to deliver on those projections, and income of £45,640 for Grantham House has not offset the costs of £75,388 to maintain our operations at Grantham House.

Total incoming resources to General Fund amounted to £183,952 (2022: £179,162), and total resources expended amounted to £210,274 (2022: £211,210), resulting in a deficit for the year before transfers of £26,322 (2022: £32,048 deficit). No transfers have been made, and General Fund is now in deficit by £17,184.

The plan of PCC is that the sale of the investment property, which will permit reappportionment of the designated fund for the revaluation of the investment property, will restore the General Fund into surplus during 2024. This will allow PCC to develop fuller plans to rebalance income and expenditure to a level that will restore General Fund to St Wulframs policy, in line with Charity Commission guidance, of being in surplus with 3 months of predicted expenditure.

The balance sheet position had increased by £49,238 as at 31 December 2023. A major contributor to this increase in the balance sheet was a legacy of £135,000 to Fabric Fund. There was an unrealised loss on the investment property of £6,392 (2022: £13,304 gain), but unrealised gains in the overall value of financial investment assets of £13,873 (2022: £42,779 losses). £59,726 of investment securities were sold during the year. Overall, our financial investment portfolio made a capital return of 8.7% (i.e. excluding income received) in 2023 (2022: 12.4% loss), and the overall value decreased by 16.0% to £201,516 (2022: 30.4% decrease to £239,985). Cash on deposit and with the bank increased by £99,241 (2022: £87,072 decrease during the year).

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the year ending 31st December 2023

|                                                                                               | Note | Unrestricted Funds |                 | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
|                                                                                               |      | General<br>£       | Designated      | £                | £               | 2023<br>£      | 2022<br>£        |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                     |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                |                  |
| Voluntary income                                                                              | 2(a) | 93,838             | 41,286          | 229,668          | -               | 364,792        | 238,347          |
| Activities for generating funds                                                               | 2(b) | 74,067             | 9,909           | 12,306           | -               | 96,282         | 75,865           |
| Income from investments                                                                       | 2(c) | 2,993              | 81              | 7,676            | -               | 10,750         | 14,311           |
| Church activities                                                                             | 2(d) | 13,054             | -               | 8,086            | -               | 21,140         | 21,135           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                               |      | <b>183,952</b>     | <b>51,276</b>   | <b>257,736</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>492,964</b> | <b>349,658</b>   |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                     |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                |                  |
| Church activities                                                                             | 3(a) | 176,985            | 75,873          | 170,534          | -               | 423,392        | 433,096          |
| Fund-raising costs                                                                            | 3(b) | 30,595             | 704             | 273              | -               | 31,572         | 50,533           |
| Investment management costs                                                                   | 3(c) | 894                | (27)            | 614              | -               | 1,481          | 1,397            |
| Governance costs                                                                              | 3(d) | 1,800              | -               | -                | -               | 1,800          | 600              |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                               |      | <b>210,274</b>     | <b>76,550</b>   | <b>171,421</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>458,245</b> | <b>485,626</b>   |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>                           |      | <b>(26,322)</b>    | <b>(25,274)</b> | <b>86,315</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>34,719</b>  | <b>(135,968)</b> |
| Transfers between funds                                                                       | 11   | -                  | 24,730          | (24,730)         | -               | -              | -                |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING RESOURCES) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b> |      | <b>(26,322)</b>    | <b>(544)</b>    | <b>61,585</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>34,719</b>  | <b>(135,968)</b> |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets: on revaluation                                           | 6(b) | -                  | (6,753)         | 8,819            | 12,453          | 14,519         | (35,352)         |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                                                                  |      | <b>(26,322)</b>    | <b>(7,297)</b>  | <b>70,404</b>    | <b>12,453</b>   | <b>49,238</b>  | <b>(171,320)</b> |
| <b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JANUARY</b>                                                   |      | <b>9,138</b>       | <b>76,701</b>   | <b>278,921</b>   | <b>60,343</b>   | <b>425,103</b> | <b>596,423</b>   |
| <b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31st DECEMBER</b>                                                 |      | <b>(17,184)</b>    | <b>69,404</b>   | <b>349,325</b>   | <b>72,796</b>   | <b>474,341</b> | <b>425,103</b>   |

The notes on pages 43 to 52 form part of these accounts

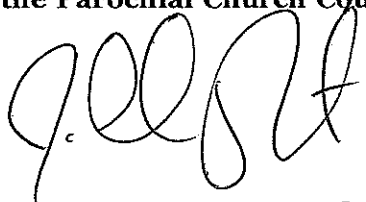
# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2023

|                                                | Notes | 2023<br>£                    | 2022<br>£                    |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                            |       |                              |                              |
| Tangible assets                                | 6(a)  | 2,295                        | 4,134                        |
| Investments                                    | 6(b)  | <u>344,018</u>               | <u>388,878</u>               |
|                                                |       | <b>346,313</b>               | <b>393,012</b>               |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |       |                              |                              |
| Debtors                                        | 7     | 53,475                       | 61,636                       |
| Short term deposits & cash at bank and in hand | 8     | <u>112,767</u>               | <u>13,536</u>                |
|                                                |       | 166,242                      | 75,172                       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |       |                              |                              |
| Creditors - amounts falling due in one year    | 9     | 38,214                       | 43,081                       |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |       | <u><b>128,028</b></u>        | <u><b>32,091</b></u>         |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                        |       | <u><u><b>474,341</b></u></u> | <u><u><b>425,103</b></u></u> |
| <b>PARISH FUNDS</b>                            |       |                              |                              |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>                            |       |                              |                              |
| General Fund                                   |       | (17,184)                     | 9,138                        |
| Designated Funds                               | 10    | <u>69,404</u>                | <u>76,701</u>                |
|                                                |       | 52,220                       | 85,839                       |
| <b>Restricted</b>                              |       |                              |                              |
| Endowment                                      | 10    | 349,325                      | 278,921                      |
|                                                | 10    | <u>72,796</u>                | <u>60,343</u>                |
|                                                |       | <u><b>474,341</b></u>        | <u><b>425,103</b></u>        |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

  
THE REV D J.C. ROUNDTREE

(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 43 to 52 form part of these accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2023

| <b>2 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                 | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> |                      | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Endowment Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>    |                       |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                             | <b>General</b>            | <b>Designated</b>    |                         |                        | <b>2023</b>           | <b>2022</b>           |
|                                             | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| <b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>                |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Planned giving:                             |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Gift Aid donations                          | 46,317                    |                      | 1,200                   |                        | 47,517                | 45,562                |
| Tax recoverable                             | 11,654                    |                      | 225                     |                        | 11,879                | 11,390                |
| Other                                       | 6,110                     |                      |                         |                        | 6,110                 | 5,056                 |
| Collections (open plate)                    | 10,245                    |                      |                         |                        | 10,245                | 9,094                 |
| Grants                                      |                           |                      | 65,374                  |                        | 65,374                | 126,862               |
| Other donations and appeals                 |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                      | 5,503                   |                        | 5,503                 | 3,418                 |
| Donations box                               | 6,112                     |                      |                         |                        | 6,112                 | 6,601                 |
| Other donations, appeals, etc.              | 10,945                    | 41,120               | 18,273                  |                        | 70,338                | 25,658                |
| Tax recoverable                             | 2,455                     | 166                  | 4,093                   |                        | 6,714                 | 3,706                 |
| Legacy income                               |                           |                      | 135,000                 |                        | 135,000               | 1,000                 |
|                                             | <u>93,838</u>             | <u>41,286</u>        | <u>229,668</u>          | <u>-</u>               | <u>364,792</u>        | <u>238,347</u>        |
| <b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b> |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Coffee shop                                 | 5,215                     |                      |                         |                        | 5,215                 | 3,796                 |
| Hire of church /Grantham House              | 15,970                    | 9,380                |                         |                        | 25,350                | 9,908                 |
| Sales Unit                                  | 1,270                     |                      |                         |                        | 1,270                 | 1,560                 |
| Lottery                                     | 977                       |                      |                         |                        | 977                   | 895                   |
| Events Bar                                  | 5,082                     |                      |                         |                        | 5,082                 | 3,047                 |
| Vintage Festival                            |                           |                      |                         |                        | -                     | 22,190                |
| Beer Festival                               | 15,924                    |                      |                         |                        | 15,924                | 10,374                |
| Christmas Tree Festival                     | 14,951                    |                      |                         |                        | 14,951                | 16,891                |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                      | 10,160                  |                        | 10,160                | 1,720                 |
| Performances at Church                      |                           |                      |                         |                        | -                     | 975                   |
| Tax recoverable                             |                           |                      |                         |                        | -                     | 64                    |
| Other fund-raising                          | 14,678                    | 529                  | 2,146                   |                        | 17,353                | 4,445                 |
|                                             | <u>74,067</u>             | <u>9,909</u>         | <u>12,306</u>           | <u>-</u>               | <u>96,282</u>         | <u>75,865</u>         |
| <b>2(c) Income from investments</b>         |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Rent from land & buildings                  | 1,362                     | 37                   | 3,494                   | -                      | 4,893                 | 5,920                 |
| Dividends and interest                      | 1,631                     | 44                   | 4,182                   |                        | 5,857                 | 8,391                 |
|                                             | <u>2,993</u>              | <u>81</u>            | <u>7,676</u>            | <u>-</u>               | <u>10,750</u>         | <u>14,311</u>         |
| <b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>   |                           |                      |                         |                        |                       |                       |
| Parish Magazine                             | 210                       |                      |                         |                        | 210                   | 235                   |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                      | 7,545                   |                        | 7,545                 | 7,703                 |
| Other income from church activities         | 7,196                     |                      | 541                     |                        | 7,737                 | 7,686                 |
| Fees paid to PCC for weddings & funerals    | 5,648                     | -                    | -                       | -                      | 5,648                 | 5,511                 |
| Insurance claim                             | -                         |                      | -                       |                        | -                     | -                     |
|                                             | <u>13,054</u>             | <u>-</u>             | <u>8,086</u>            | <u>-</u>               | <u>21,140</u>         | <u>21,135</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>             | <u><b>183,952</b></u>     | <u><b>51,276</b></u> | <u><b>257,736</b></u>   | <u><b>-</b></u>        | <u><b>492,964</b></u> | <u><b>349,658</b></u> |

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2023

| <b>3 RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                         | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> |                   | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Endowment Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                                     | <b>General</b>            | <b>Designated</b> |                         |                        | <b>2023</b>        | <b>2022</b>    |
|                                                     | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
| <b>3(a) Church activities</b>                       |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Missionary and charitable giving (note 13)          | 3,130                     |                   |                         |                        | 3,130              | 5,996          |
| Ministry                                            |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Diocesan parish share                               | 36,667                    |                   |                         |                        | 36,667             | 36,748         |
| Other ministry costs                                | 14,156                    |                   |                         |                        | 14,156             | 9,773          |
| Church/Grantham House running & maintenance         |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Heating, lighting & water                           | 28,822                    | 7,265             | 7,708                   |                        | 43,795             | 37,633         |
| Insurance                                           | 8,604                     | 3,462             | 8,604                   |                        | 20,670             | 19,772         |
| Rates                                               |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | (686)          |
| Maintenance and other costs                         | 9,409                     | 33,759            | 52,958                  |                        | 96,126             | 123,368        |
| Upkeep of services                                  | 5,988                     |                   |                         |                        | 5,988              | 8,168          |
| Music & choir                                       | 29,829                    |                   | 19,353                  |                        | 49,182             | 37,754         |
| Choir Trips                                         |                           |                   | 23,339                  |                        | 23,339             | 13,271         |
| Children and young people                           | 482                       |                   | 20,043                  |                        | 20,525             | 31,924         |
| Printing, stationery & other office costs           | 6,913                     | 2,754             |                         |                        | 9,667              | 14,637         |
| Trigge Library                                      |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | -              |
| Parish magazine costs                               | 975                       |                   |                         |                        | 975                | 489            |
| Legal & professional fees                           | 1,382                     |                   | 7,714                   |                        | 9,096              | 4,444          |
| Bank charges                                        | 578                       |                   | 271                     |                        | 849                | 721            |
| Training & Development                              | 44                        |                   | 1,500                   |                        | 1,544              | 1,147          |
| Other sundry expenses                               | 2,721                     | 1,080             | 2,912                   |                        | 6,713              | 8,744          |
| Other church activities costs                       | 1,626                     |                   | 644                     |                        | 2,270              | 5,840          |
| Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing activities |                           | 25                | 2,182                   |                        | 2,207              | 3,452          |
| Administration and support costs                    | 25,659                    | 27,528            | 23,306                  |                        | 76,493             | 60,901         |
|                                                     | <u>176,985</u>            | <u>75,873</u>     | <u>170,534</u>          | <u>-</u>               | <u>423,392</u>     | <u>433,995</u> |
| <b>3(b) Fund-raising costs</b>                      |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Coffee Shop                                         | 1,834                     |                   |                         |                        | 1,834              | 1,477          |
| Sales Unit stock                                    | 194                       |                   |                         |                        | 194                | 111            |
| Events Bar                                          | 5,668                     |                   |                         |                        | 5,668              | 1,323          |
| Vintage Festival                                    |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 21,435         |
| Gala (Metanoia) Climate Festival                    |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | -              |
| Beer Festival                                       | 9,570                     |                   |                         |                        | 9,570              | 12,730         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                             | 9,508                     |                   |                         |                        | 9,508              | 9,105          |
| Performances at Church                              |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 141            |
| Choir Trips                                         |                           |                   | 38                      |                        | 38                 | 7              |
| Other fund-raising                                  | 3,821                     | 704               | 235                     |                        | 4,760              | 4,204          |
|                                                     | <u>30,595</u>             | <u>704</u>        | <u>273</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>31,572</u>      | <u>50,533</u>  |
| <b>3(c) Investment management costs</b>             |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Investment property insurance and repairs           | 467                       | (14)              | 320                     |                        | 773                | 687            |
| Investment property management fees                 | 427                       | (13)              | 204                     |                        | 708                | 710            |
|                                                     | <u>894</u>                | <u>(27)</u>       | <u>614</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>1,481</u>       | <u>1,397</u>   |
| <b>3(d) Governance costs</b>                        | <u>1,800</u>              | <u>-</u>          | <u>-</u>                | <u>-</u>               | <u>1,800</u>       | <u>600</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                     | <u>210,274</u>            | <u>76,550</u>     | <u>171,421</u>          | <u>-</u>               | <u>458,245</u>     | <u>485,626</u> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2023

| 4 STAFF COSTS & EXPENSE PAYMENTS |                                         | 2023           | 2022           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                  |                                         | £              | £              |
| 4(a) Staff costs                 |                                         |                |                |
| Wages and salaries:              | Gross pay                               | 142,460        | 127,252        |
|                                  | Employer's NI and Pension Contributions | 12,625         | 11,833         |
|                                  |                                         | <u>155,085</u> | <u>139,085</u> |

The full-time equivalent number of staff was 5.0 (2021 - 3.1) and no employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000. No wages or salaries were paid to PCC members during the year.

**Grantham St Wulfram PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. , a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
  - b. , a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

### Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on the investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year are the contributions payable (**2023: £6,282; 2022: £5,492**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1%, following improvements in the funding position over 2022. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Grantham St Wulfram PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2023

### 4(b) Payments to PCC members

4 members of the PCC were reimbursed a total of £6,341 expenses in relation to their work at St Wulfram's that was unrelated to their additional duties as PCC members. These were for travel/mileage (£4,690), phone costs (£499), meals/subsistence (£443) & other charitable expenses (£709). A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the Rector may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

AF Electrical Installations was paid a total of £2,439 during 2023 for repair work done. Melanie Fletcher is married to the owner of the firm, but is not a member of the PCC Fabric sub-group that selects the contractors to undertake repair & maintenance work.

Life In Action Ltd, of which Jason Bloomfield is a director, was paid £700 for counselling services in 2023.

No other expenses, except those listed above, were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

|                                                                     | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Net incoming resources for the year are after charging:</b>      |           |           |
| Depreciation of computers & gardening equipment (lawnmowers)        | 1,839     | 1,839     |
| Independent Examination of the Annual Report & Financial Statements | 1800      | 600       |

### 6 FIXED ASSETS

#### a) Tangible assets

|                            | GENERAL<br>FUNDS            |                            | DESIGNATED<br>FUNDS      | TOTAL<br>FUNDS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                            | Gardening<br>Equipment<br>£ | Office<br>Photocopier<br>£ | Office<br>Computers<br>£ | £              |
| <b>Cost or deemed cost</b> |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2023        | 1,950                       | 3,990                      | 7,245                    | 13,185         |
| Additions                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2023      | <u>1,950</u>                | <u>3,990</u>               | <u>7,245</u>             | <u>13,185</u>  |
| <b>Depreciation</b>        |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2023        | 1,398                       | 3,990                      | 3,663                    | 9,051          |
| Charge for the year        | 390                         | -                          | 1,449                    | 1,839          |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2023      | <u>1,788</u>                | <u>3,990</u>               | <u>5,112</u>             | <u>10,890</u>  |
| <b>Net book value</b>      |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 31st December 2023      | <u>162</u>                  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>2,133</u>             | <u>2,295</u>   |
| At 31st December 2022      | <u>552</u>                  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>3,582</u>             | <u>4,134</u>   |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2023

| <b>6 b) Investments</b>            | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Market value 1 January 2023</b> | <b>148,892</b>              | <b>239,986</b>                | <b>388,878</b>                     |
| Additions                          | -                           | 346                           | 346                                |
| Disposals                          | -                           | (59,726)                      | (59,726)                           |
| Revaluation (loss)/gain*           | (6,392)                     | 20,912                        | 14,520                             |
| <b>At 31 December 2023</b>         | <b>142,500</b>              | <b>201,518</b>                | <b>344,018</b>                     |

Historic cost as at 31st December 2023 68,768

\* This valuation is based on the offer received for the property during the preparation of these accounts and is based on the actual market value at the time.

**The market value at 31st December 2023 represents investments for:**

|                  | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General funds    | -                           | -                             | -                                  |
| Designated funds | 73,732                      | -                             | 73,732                             |
| Restricted funds | 68,768                      | 128,722                       | 197,490                            |
| Endowment funds  | -                           | 72,796                        | 72,796                             |
|                  | <b>142,500</b>              | <b>201,518</b>                | <b>344,018</b>                     |

The allocation of the assets to the funds above reflects how the income is currently apportioned, with the exception of the designated investment property reserve of £73,732. Rental income relating to that part of the investment property is allocated to General funds. The type of asset actually used by a particular fund is ultimately dictated by liquidity needs - a fact that will aid the understanding of Note 12 also. Total fixed asset investment securities are within the United Kingdom and are all unlisted. They are intended to be held for longer than one year although can be sold at short notice, thereby ensuring sufficient liquidity.

| <b>7 DEBTORS</b> | <b>2023<br/>£</b> | <b>2022<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prepayments:     |                   |                   |
| Less than 1 year | 8,521             | 9,154             |
| More than 1 year | -                 | -                 |
| Tax recoverable  | 72                | 9,578             |
| Other debtors    | 44,882            | 42,904            |
|                  | <b>53,475</b>     | <b>61,636</b>     |

| <b>8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b> | <b>2023<br/>£</b> | <b>2022<br/>£</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Short term deposits               | 30,080            | 80                |
| Cash at bank and on hand          | 82,687            | 13,456            |
| Other                             | -                 | -                 |
|                                   | <b>112,767</b>    | <b>13,536</b>     |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2023

### 9 LIABILITIES

|                                                 | 2023<br>£     | 2022<br>£     |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts falling due in one year                 |               |               |
| Accruals for utility costs                      | 6,987         | 6,628         |
| Accruals for other costs                        | 24,165        | 24,815        |
| Deferred income*                                | 3,960         | 8,536         |
| Grantham Ark (Registered Charity No. 1190668)** | 3,102         | 3,102         |
|                                                 | <u>38,214</u> | <u>43,081</u> |

\*Deferred income includes Parish Magazine income relating to 2024 (£90), Walsingham Pilgrimage 2024 deposits (£600), choir trips 2024 (£1673) & advance income relating to cancelled events (£1,570)  
The movement in deferred income is analysed below:

|                                                  | 2023<br>£           | 2022<br>£           |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>                 | <b>8,536</b>        | <b>13,462</b>       |
| Amounts added in current period                  | 690                 | 4,523               |
| Amounts released to income from previous periods | (6,966)             | (9,449)             |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>               | <b><u>2,260</u></b> | <b><u>8,536</u></b> |

\*\*St Wulfram's Church still occasionally receives income on behalf of Grantham Ark, which is registered with The Charity Commission (number 1190668). This is largely due to difficulty the charity has been experiencing in operating a bank account. Below is a brief summary of income and expenditure for 2022 & 2023, which has been recorded separately from the church's income & expenditure, and the net cash amount owed by St Wulfram's Church to Grantham Ark for net income received on its behalf at the end of those years.

|                                                | 2023<br>£           | 2022<br>£ | £                   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>               | <b>3,102</b>        |           | <b>2,734</b>        |
| <b>Income</b>                                  |                     |           |                     |
| Grants received on behalf of Grantham Ark      | -                   | -         |                     |
| Donations (inc. Gift Aid) & fundraising income | -                   | 3,622     | 3,622               |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                |                     |           |                     |
| Leaflets re. SleepOut 2021                     | -                   | (11)      | (11)                |
| Payments made to Grantham Ark                  | -                   |           | (3,243)             |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>             | <b><u>3,102</u></b> |           | <b><u>3,102</u></b> |

No other expenses were paid to any other Grantham Ark trustee, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 9b OPERATING LEASE

The charity has future liabilities under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

|                                | < 1yr      | 1-5 yrs      | > 5 yrs  |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Office Equipment (photocopier) | <u>850</u> | <u>1,238</u> | <u>-</u> |

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**As at 31st December 2023**

| 10 FUNDS                                                 | As at<br>1st Jan 23                                                                                                                            | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers       | As at<br>31st Dec 23 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                                          | £                                                                                                                                              | £                     | £                     | £                            | £               | £                    |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                                  |                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Funeral collections "in memoriam"                        | 4,009                                                                                                                                          | 1,030                 | (10)                  | 131                          |                 | 5,160                |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)               | 14,689                                                                                                                                         | 345                   | -                     | -                            | (15,034)        | -                    |
| Mission & Social Responsibility                          | 6,811                                                                                                                                          | 5,989                 | (2,881)               | -                            | -               | 9,919                |
| Development (Grantham House)                             | (28,932)                                                                                                                                       | 45,640                | (75,388)              | (191)                        | 39,764          | (10,407)             |
| Revaluation of investment property                       | 80,124                                                                                                                                         | -                     | -                     | (6,193)                      | -               | 73,732               |
|                                                          | <u>76,701</u>                                                                                                                                  | <u>53,004</u>         | <u>(78,279)</u>       | <u>(6,752)</u>               | <u>24,730</u>   | <u>69,404</u>        |
| Funeral collections "in memoriam"                        | Collections of funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram designated for use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items "in memoriam". |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)               | Accumulated income from restricted income fund of same name, plus interest.                                                                    |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Revaluation of investment property                       | Revaluation reserve for the investment property.                                                                                               |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| <b>Restricted Income Funds</b>                           |                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
|                                                          | As at<br>1st Jan 23                                                                                                                            | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers       | As at<br>31st Dec 23 |
|                                                          | £                                                                                                                                              | £                     | £                     | £                            | £               | £                    |
| 505n booklet appeal                                      | 1,062                                                                                                                                          | 20                    | (2)                   | 28                           |                 | 1,108                |
| A Pinchbeck fund                                         | 1,962                                                                                                                                          | 57                    | (6)                   | 52                           |                 | 2,065                |
| AG Hardy fund books for lay readers                      | 2,461                                                                                                                                          | 99                    | (10)                  | 66                           |                 | 2,616                |
| Book of Remembrance                                      | 279                                                                                                                                            | 5                     | -                     | 7                            |                 | 291                  |
| Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music        | 41,115                                                                                                                                         | -                     | (17,148)              | -                            |                 | 23,967               |
| Chained (Trigge) Library (All Purposes)                  | 1,445                                                                                                                                          | 39,192                | (28,324)              | 78                           |                 | 3,091                |
| Choir Fund                                               | 2,516                                                                                                                                          | 26,584                | (28,773)              | 9                            |                 | 336                  |
| Clarks Charity                                           | 968                                                                                                                                            | 70                    | (7)                   | 27                           |                 | 1,058                |
| Downton bequest                                          | 10,747                                                                                                                                         | 189                   | (1,019)               | 257                          |                 | 10,174               |
| Fabric fund                                              | 178,279                                                                                                                                        | 154,102               | (45,870)              | 7,435                        |                 | 293,946              |
| Flowers                                                  | 1,730                                                                                                                                          | 1,176                 | (1,364)               | 40                           |                 | 1,582                |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Grant                         | 1,044                                                                                                                                          | 848                   | (321)                 | 41                           |                 | 1,612                |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)              | 24,046                                                                                                                                         | -                     | -                     | 646                          | (24,692)        | -                    |
| Langwith Charity                                         | 3,907                                                                                                                                          | 296                   | (337)                 | 100                          |                 | 3,966                |
| Mental Health First Aid Training - The Benefact Trust    | -                                                                                                                                              | 4,200                 | (1,967)               | -                            |                 | 2,233                |
| Organ Fund                                               | 111                                                                                                                                            | 2                     | -                     | 2                            |                 | 115                  |
| P Burdett bequest                                        | 905                                                                                                                                            | 18                    | (2)                   | 24                           |                 | 945                  |
| Postcode Places Trust grant                              | 2,824                                                                                                                                          | -                     | (2,824)               | -                            |                 | -                    |
| Shine Lincolnshire grant - Singing For All               | 3,001                                                                                                                                          | -                     | (2,963)               | -                            | (38)            | -                    |
| Shine Lincolnshire grant - Soup Lunch                    | 608                                                                                                                                            | -                     | (608)                 | -                            |                 | -                    |
| South Porch & Garden of Remembrance                      | 211                                                                                                                                            | 4                     | -                     | 5                            |                 | 220                  |
| Strategic Development Funding (SDF) / LITRHoF            | -                                                                                                                                              | 39,873                | (19,873)              | -                            |                 | -                    |
|                                                          | <u>278,921</u>                                                                                                                                 | <u>257,735</u>        | <u>(173,418)</u>      | <u>8,817</u>                 | <u>(24,730)</u> | <u>349,325</u>       |
| 505n booklet appeal                                      | Funds for the colour guide to the church.                                                                                                      |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| A Pinchbeck fund                                         | Income to be applied for use by the servers.                                                                                                   |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| AG Hardy fund books for lay readers                      | Income to be applied to reader ministry.                                                                                                       |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Book of Remembrance                                      | Donation from the Machine Gun Corp for preservation of the Book of Remembrance.                                                                |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music grants | Grants from CMT and Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance for 2 years Assistant Director of Music salary costs, plus Vocal Coach.          |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Chained (Trigge) Library                                 | Book restoration and upkeep of Trigge Library funded by donations for the purpose.                                                             |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Choir Fund                                               | Income from collections at music recitals, grants, sales of CDs and donations for choir and music expenditure.                                 |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Clarks Charity                                           | Beautifying the church.                                                                                                                        |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Downton bequest                                          | Rectee & churchwardens discretionary fund.                                                                                                     |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Fabric fund                                              | Income from bequests, legacies and other donations for preservation of the church fabric.                                                      |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Flowers                                                  | Purchase of flowers funded by donations for the purpose.                                                                                       |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Grant                         | Income from endowment for St Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships.                                                                          |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)              | Capital for religious, charitable & educational purposes in parish. Income to designated fund of same name.                                    |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Langwith Charity                                         | Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.                                                                                                   |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Mental Health First Aid Training - The Benefact Trust    | Benefact Trust grant for Mental Health First Aid training.                                                                                     |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Organ Fund                                               | Saturday Morning music and other donations to meet the running costs of the organ and expenses of visiting organists.                          |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| P Burdett bequest                                        | Vestments for servers and clergy.                                                                                                              |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Postcode Places Trust grant                              | Grantham House gardener (L16k), G.H. utilities (L2k), garden tools/seeds (L1k) & G.H. rates.                                                   |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Shine Lincolnshire grants                                | Grants for activities at Grantham House.                                                                                                       |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| South Porch & Garden of Remembrance                      | Donations for upkeep of the South Porch and Garden of Remembrance.                                                                             |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |
| Strategic Development Funding (SDF)                      | Strategic Development Funding from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance.                                                                  |                       |                       |                              |                 |                      |

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2023

| 10 | FUNDS (continued)                          | As at<br>1st Jan 23<br>£                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>Expended<br>£ | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses)<br>£ | Transfers<br>£           | As at<br>31st Dec 23<br>£ |
|----|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|    | Endowment Funds                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | A Pinchebeck fund                          | 972                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                          | -                          | 25                                | -                        | 997                       |
|    | A G Hardy fund                             | 2,648                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                          | -                          | 70                                | -                        | 2,718                     |
|    | Clarks Charity (REGISTERED)                | 2,627                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                          | -                          | 68                                | -                        | 2,695                     |
|    | Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | 128                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                          | -                          | 4                                 | -                        | 132                       |
|    | Fabric fund                                | 17,755                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -                          | -                          | 8,941                             | -                        | 26,696                    |
|    | Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | 25,709                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -                          | -                          | 2,562                             | -                        | 28,271                    |
|    | Hodds bequest                              | 2,322                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                          | -                          | 60                                | -                        | 2,382                     |
|    | Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | 7,568                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                          | -                          | 707                               | -                        | 8,275                     |
|    | Miss Harrison bequest                      | 442                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                          | -                          | 12                                | -                        | 454                       |
|    | P Barnes Fund                              | 172                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                          | -                          | 4                                 | -                        | 176                       |
|    |                                            | <u>60,343</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                   | <u>12,453</u>                     | <u>-</u>                 | <u>72,796</u>             |
|    | A Pinchebeck fund                          | Income to be applied for use by the servers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | A G Hardy fund                             | Income to be applied to reader ministry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Clarks Charity (REGISTERED)                | Income to be applied one third to orphans and two thirds to beautifying the church.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | Discretionary fund for distribution to the poor - income transferred to the general fund.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Fabric fund                                | Income to be applied for church fabric - income transferred to the fabric restricted income fund.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | Income for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships allocated to restricted income fund of same name.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Hodds bequest                              | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of verges, bellringers, servers and choir.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Miss Harrison bequest                      | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of choir, music etc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | P Barnes Fund                              | Income to be applied for the children of parish - transferred to general funds to set against cost of Sunday Club & other children's ministry expenses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
| 11 | TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS                    | Transfers between general and restricted funds normally represent a one-off transfer of incoming resources applied to restricted funds where resources expended for the same purpose have previously been met from general funds. Within designated income funds, £39,726 was transferred from the Harrowby Land fund to cover the costs of running Grantham House.<br>at the beginning of the year. Within restricted income funds, £38 grant income from Shine Lincolnshire was transferred to the designated Development (Grantham House) fund to help cover Shine Lincolnshire activities expenditure at Grantham House. |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
| 12 | ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund             | Fixed<br>Assets<br>£                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Current<br>Assets<br>£     | Liabilities<br>£           | Total<br>£                        |                          |                           |
|    | General funds                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | Designated funds                           | 162                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7,914                      | (8,076)                    | -                                 |                          |                           |
|    | Restricted funds                           | 75,865                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 544                        | (7,005)                    | 69,404                            |                          |                           |
|    | Endowment funds                            | 197,490                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 174,968                    | (23,133)                   | 349,325                           |                          |                           |
|    |                                            | <u>72,796</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                   | <u>72,796</u>                     |                          |                           |
|    |                                            | <u>346,313</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>183,426</u>             | <u>(31,209)</u>            | <u>498,530</u>                    |                          |                           |
| 13 | MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING             | Unrestricted Funds<br>General<br>£                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Designated<br>Funds<br>£   | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£   | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£           | TOTAL FUNDS<br>2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£                 |
|    | Mission & Social Responsibility            | 3,130                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                          | -                          | -                                 | 3,130                    | 3,075                     |
|    | Other charitable giving                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                            |                            |                                   |                          |                           |
|    | The Children's Society                     | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | 1,141                      | -                                 | 1,141                    | 674                       |
|    | DEC (Various appeals)                      | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | 235                        | -                                 | 235                      | 483                       |
|    | Christian Aid                              | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | 353                        | -                                 | 353                      | 207                       |
|    | The Philip Lank Trust                      | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | -                          | -                                 | -                        | 205                       |
|    | Samaritans                                 | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | -                          | -                                 | -                        | 14                        |
|    | Grantham Foodbank                          | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                          | -                          | -                                 | -                        | 38                        |
|    | Vouchers for families                      | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 101                        | -                          | -                                 | 101                      | 700                       |
|    |                                            | <u>3,130</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>101</u>                 | <u>1,729</u>               | <u>-</u>                          | <u>4,960</u>             | <u>5,995</u>              |

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### To the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham (the Trust), for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 45 to 46.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

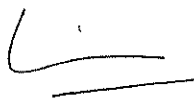
I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



04 October 2024

Chris Hubbard, FCA  
Streets LLP  
Windsor House  
A1 Business Park at Long Bennington  
Nottingham  
NG23 5JR

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
Saint Wulfram,  
Grantham

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report for the  
Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Annual Report & Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2022  
St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
Parochial Church Council**

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## **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Wulfram's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

The detail of this programme of mission is managed severally by the sub-groups (sub committees) of the PCC on its behalf. Their minutes and resolutions are available. From time to time, ad hoc working groups may be established to report to the PCC.

Full details of the PCC membership and officers are listed under 'Administrative Information' below.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC has the overall responsibility to make available to as many people as possible the ministry offered by the living Church based at St Wulfram's, and to welcome the same people to the church building. We communicate the Christian faith and exercise Christian ministry in the worship of the church through the ministry of word and sacrament. We seek to meet the needs of a variety of people in the wide range of worship and activities offered. Our church building is sufficiently flexible that we can manage occasions sacred and secular on a large or modest scale.

When undertaking their programme of activities, the staff and PCC have taken seriously the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. It is our express aim to be a community of Christians in the town and, according to the Anglican understanding, to be available to every single person in the town and parish. We seek to help the people of the town to live out their Christian faith through:

- Participation in the worship of the church and the practice of their own prayers at home, growing in confidence in their grasp of their faith through preaching, teaching and study together of scripture and Christian writings;
- Provision of pastoral care for the people of the parish and town; and
- Initiatives and ongoing work that express the love of God towards all people and reach those who are not regularly in touch with the life of the church.

To make all this possible the PCC has a prime responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Wulfram's.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Staff**

- Father Stuart Craddock, Rector and Rural Dean of Grantham.
- Father James Clabern (Clay) Roundtree, Associate Rector of Grantham and (from 4 September) Associate Priest of St John's Spitalgate Grantham.

We prayed for Clay, Frances and family when they moved from Harlaxton Rectory to the Vicarage of St John's Spitalgate in early March.

- Father James Titley, Assistant Curate (until 6 June).

We bade a formal farewell to Fr James on Sunday 5 June, before his move to be Interim TTCT Stipendiary Assistant Curate in the Loveden Deanery. Members of St Wulfram's congregation joined members of the Loveden Deanery at Fr James' licensing service at St Vincent's Church, Caythorpe on 7 June.

Shortly afterwards, the *Grantham Journal* 'Big Interview' featured Fr James, as he looked back fondly on his three years 'learning the trade' at St Wulfram's.

- Father Aron Donaldson, Assistant Curate (until 30 June).

We were pleased to announce Fr Aron's appointment as Palliative Care Chaplain at the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust from 10 October.

- Mother Hannah Grivell, Assistant Curate (from 26 June).
- Mother Kate Hough, Assistant Curate (from 26 June).
- Father Yuce Kabakci, Assistant Curate (from 26 June).
- St Wulfram's continues to benefit from the active support of local retired clergy. Mother Geraldine Pond presided for the first time at our Parish Eucharist on the Fourth Sunday after Trinity (10 July).
- We benefit from the active support of two Readers (Nick Kerry and Katy Castañeda) and several Authorised Lay Ministers (one of whom was re-authorised by the Rural Dean on 3 July and another of whom was authorised to extend her ministry at the same service).
- Mrs Anna Bolton, Vocal Coach to St Wulfram's Choir (from 13 September) and Musical Director of 'Singing for All' (from 20 September).
- Mrs Melanie Brown, Project Co-ordinator (Grantham House) (until 3 January); Operations & Development Manager (from 4 January).
- Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator.  
Elaine is a member of the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN).
- Mrs Anne-Marie Kerr, Artist in Residence (until 28 February).
- Mr Carl Kettle, Grantham House Gardener (from 20 June).
- Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator and Deanery Administrator.
- Mr Steve Prendergast, Church and Grantham House Cleaner.
- Mr Clayton Stiff, Children, Youth & Families Worker.
- Dr Tim Williams, Organist and Master of the Music.

## **Holders of the Bishop's Licence**

Those licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion in the parish (some within church and others within and outside church) are listed below. The asterisk denotes individuals for whom permission was granted or renewed by the Bishop during 2022.

PTA in church: Clare Arthur, Heather Arthur\*, Shaun Ashley\*, Daniel Castañeda\*, Paul Davie, Dorothy Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Trevor Johnston\*, Philip Joyce\*, Sue Redmile, Matthew Simons\*, Ian Stewart\*, David West.

PTA in church and out of church: Rachel Davie\*, Elizabeth Hill, Barbara Kime, Sheila Knight, Brenda Patten, Joanna Swinbourne, Eileen West, Valerie York\*.

Formerly a holder of the Bishop's Licence to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion, Katy Castañeda (Reader) has authority to administer Communion by virtue of her licence.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, no-one holding the Bishop's Licence was able to administer the elements in church from late March 2020 and during 2021. Lay administration was reintroduced in St Wulfram's Church in November 2022. We thank Barbara Kime, Rachel Davie, Brenda Patten and Sue Redmile, who stood down from lay administration in church at that time. The administration of the elements in homes (private houses and residential care settings) was reintroduced gradually during 2022, according to personal preferences and prevailing protocols.

## **Guild of Servers**

2022 saw the number of servers reduce over the last year – we now have 12 active servers. However, the Guild of Servers must continue to advertise actively for new members and address any training needs those current and new members feel they need.

In the summer of 2022, the group welcomed our new Chaplain, Mthr Kate Hough.

Much work was done on the revised Guild Handbook, and this awaits approval for print from the Rector. The handbook will be distributed amongst members so that they may find instruction on all roles available to them, as well as learn more about the liturgical practices. A working copy will be available in the Vestry.

In 2022, we saw a reduction in the number of laity responsible for the Altar Linen. This is an ongoing concern, which will require additional volunteers as soon as possible to enable sufficient linen for services. A full audit of linen has recently been conducted. Some items are now damaged and will require replacement. Mthr Kate is reviewing the inventory with a view to purchasing additional linen.

C1 Foundation Safeguarding training was conducted and facilitated by our Parish Safeguarding Officer (Di Hale) for all servers under the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework, using the Church of England's online portal.

A Sacristan was appointed with responsibility for various items needed for the liturgies and worship of the church.

The Guild has retained sufficient members to provide for regular worship, but we would still welcome more volunteers to enable duties to be more distributed amongst the membership. The Guild is not exclusive and is open to all members of the parish, of any age

and experience. Discussions were held on how we can recruit younger servers to initially act as Boat. The Head Server has sourced examples of suitable albs for younger servers from J&M Clothing, which would need to be ordered, once we have recruited. To that end, new members are most welcome, and training remains ongoing.

A provisional date was fixed for the next Servers' meeting (late February 2023), at which we will hopefully align with the new handbook and, if required, conduct some training in preparation for Holy Week.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **The diminishing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

During 2022, following the gradual relaxation of Government restrictions and the adaptation of Church of England guidance, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic began to lessen on the ministry and mission of St Wulfram's, and the health and wellbeing of our church and wider community.

With the implementation of the Government's new guidelines in January, there was no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering. The Government suggested that people continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, where there would be contact with people we would not normally meet. Social distancing in churches became a personal choice. We encouraged people to respect other attendees and those working who might wish to adopt a cautious approach.

Our popular weekly Coffee Morning (which began on Zoom in the Spring of 2020) moved into the church from 2 February. The event had outgrown the space in the Hall of Grantham House, but we did not want this to stop us from providing the opportunity for weekly fellowship and conversation.

The Church of England updated its guidance to churches on 3 May, and this included a statement on the reintroduction of communion wine within services. Our Rector and Associate Rector emphasised that no-one should feel obliged to receive communion in both kinds if they felt unable to do so at that time. They explained that communicant members of the church who wished only to receive the eucharistic bread should come forward to the altar in the usual way and return to their seat afterwards. On occasions such as the all-age mass, the priest stood before the nave altar flanked by chalice bearers; if congregants wished to receive the wine, they were advised to go to the chalice bearer and then back to their seats. Intinction (dipping bread into the chalice) by the communicant is not a recommended practice by the Church of England.

### **St Wulfram's as an SDF Urban Resource Church**

In 2020, St Wulfram's was designated an 'urban resource church', a strategic development funded in part by the Church Commissioners and in part by the Diocese of Lincoln. We are one of three urban resource churches in the diocese, the other two being St George's Stamford and St Swithin's Lincoln.

As well as continuing to serve the people of Grantham, St Wulfram's now has a wider responsibility to the whole diocese. This necessitated a change in the Rector's role. In recognition of this, St Wulfram's was able to appoint a new Associate Rector from May 2021, who works in partnership with the Rector in leading St Wulfram's mission, ministry, and pastoral care. In June 2022, we welcomed three new 'planting curates'. Each is training at St Wulfram's for three years in readiness to 'plant' (revitalise) an urban church elsewhere in the diocese (the precise locations have yet to be announced by the diocesan SDF Board).

Along with other resource church leaders, our Rector (or Associate Rector) participates in bi-monthly SDF Board meetings at the diocesan office in Lincoln. Several members of our staff team travelled to St Swithin's Church in Lincoln on Tuesday 8 September to share in the first networking meeting for the three churches. The next networking day will take place at St George's, Stamford at the end of January 2023; and St Wulfram's looks forward to hosting on 13 June 2023.

Our church planting principles are currently being 'piloted' through our local plant, St John's Spitalgate, Grantham<sup>1</sup> to which Fr Clay, our Associate Rector, was additionally licensed in September 2022. Public consultation has been vital to developing the vision for that community church to reach new people in new ways and also for the recruitment of an initial core team of community volunteers (some of whom have been drawn from a group with a previous connection to St John's). The outcome of local surveys and the public consultations has evidenced need for grant applications to support the initial work of hospitality around a five-morning-a-week 'warm hub' in the hall, followed by a weekly soup lunch on Fridays. Funding for this initiative is leading to valuable work with local partners, such as supermarkets; and there are plans to develop St John's service to the community by instituting a community pantry scheme inside the church building, with the working title 'Grantham Community Grocers'. High-quality choral music to support the liturgy is an historical strength of St John's; and this has been revived by building upon a group of singers/musicians previously associated with the church. Fundamental to the developing pattern of worship at St John's are midweek encounters: Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m. and the Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. on Thursdays. St John's will also be a place where catholic devotional spirituality will be developed, particularly through membership within the World Community for Christian Meditation. Fr Clay has led an introduction to Christian Meditation at St Wulfram's, and this will be replicated at St John's. St John's will also encourage prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the devotional use of prayer beads for deepening personal spirituality. This provision is in addition to a monthly Choral Evensong; and thought is being given to combining the service with a meal afterwards. As part of their training, our planting curates are gradually supporting the ministry and mission of St John's.

## **Worship and Prayer**

### *Wulfram Festival, 2022*

- We had looked forward with excitement to 2020, a year of great significance in the history of our church as an ancient site of pilgrimage and prayer, when several special events had been planned to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our patron saint, Wulfram. These were postponed due to the pandemic. In October 2021, we were able to announce that members of the community of St Wandrille in France would visit Grantham in March 2022 for the 1302<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the death of St Wulfram and would present us with a relic of Wulfram as a gift.
- The following statement was issued by the Rector and Associate Rector in March 2022: 'We hope that this very special occasion, in which we as a community celebrate our patron and our love of God, may continue to help us to grow in our faith and understanding of the God who inspired Wulfram to leave the comfort of his life as an Archbishop to show others the life and love of Jesus Christ.'

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<sup>1</sup> St John's Spitalgate is currently part of the Trinity Parish South Grantham. It closed for the pandemic lockdown in March 2020 and did not re-open. St John's was initially categorised as a Type 5 church exploring closure. It re-opened in September 2022 under Fr Clay's leadership, and now aspires to be a Type 2 Local Mission Church within five years.

- Our 2022 festival weekend included the following:

Friday 18 March

6 p.m. Procession through the streets of Grantham with the Relic of Wulfram, flaming torches, huge carnival images of the Wulfram narrative, musicians, and senior church representatives.

6.30 p.m. Formal Service of Reception, with all the senior clergy of the diocese. Followed by a buffet for invited guests in the Old Hall, King's School.

Sunday 20 March (which marks the date of Wulfram's death)

9.30 a.m. Festal Mass with Dom Christopher Ludovic, visiting preacher from the Abbey of St Wandrille.

6.30 p.m. Festal Evensong with the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

- The gift of the relic (a fragment of Wulfram's skull) was a rare privilege, not only for a Roman Catholic Community in France to recognise an Anglican church, but also a significant sign of friendship and trust in St Wulfram's Grantham as a community of faith, a faith that goes beyond geographical and political bounds. It was only the second time in modern history that such a remarkable ecumenical act of faith, love and trust had been carried out, and so Grantham and St Wulfram's were truly blessed. A certificate of authenticity chronicles the history of the relic.
- We were unsure how many people would come out to support the procession on 18 March, but our clergy and people were moved by the numbers who were on the streets of Grantham to witness this historic event.
- We thank the many people who prepared for this special weekend. We are grateful to Mr Gary McCann (internationally renowned theatre and opera designer) for the gift of the large gold shrine, in which the relic is currently displayed. Prayers are regularly offered at the shrine. We are in discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) about the location of a smaller, permanent reliquary.
- We hope that our relationship with the Abbey of St Wandrille will continue to thrive in our common faith in Jesus Christ. We remember the community of St Wandrille every Friday in our weekly prayer intentions.
- The Rector wishes to commission a new icon of St Wulfram to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and the historic gift to us of a relic of Wulfram by the Abbot and brothers of the monastery at St Wandrille in France. The design of the icon will feature a new image of Wulfram created by iconographer Tamara Penwell and shared with the parish church in Ovingdean, Brighton (the only other UK church dedicated to the saint). A grant of £7,000 towards the cost has been awarded by the Cottam Will Trust. The dimensions, means of display, and location of the icon are subject to further discussion with the DAC. The plan is that Tamara Penwell will run a related, cross-generational community engagement programme for St Wulfram's: the educational activities will include icon painting workshops and a series of talks on the evolution, language and use of icons.

*Regular and special services*

- The PCC is committed to offering a range of worship that reflects the breadth of the Anglican tradition.

- The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship, giving opportunity to include good choral and congregational music. Children from the Sunday Club (which includes those aged 0 to 11) are actively included in this service and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions and assist in the administration of the Sacrament. All are welcome to participate in this service; and welcome stewards are at the door each Sunday. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and contacted in due course at home.
- The service pattern differs on the first Sunday of the month. All Age worship, or Parade Services for the scout and guide groups, take place at 9.30 a.m., supported by the St Wulfram's band of instrumentalists. These services continue to attract a cross-section of people young and old in the congregation. The All-Age worship or Parade Service is followed at 11.00 a.m. by a traditional Choral Eucharist, the style of which attracts regular members of the congregation, as well as worshippers from other churches and newcomers.
- 'Extra Half Hour' is an informal monthly Bible study on the fourth Sunday of the month, led by the preacher after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist. This could not be offered during the pandemic but was reinstated in January 2022.
- A Said Eucharist is held at 8.00 a.m. each Sunday, the liturgy alternating between Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.
- Choral Evensong is sung at 6.30 p.m. most Sundays during school term times. Outside school term and on the first Sunday of each month, Evening Prayer is said at 6.30 p.m.
- The Sunday Parish Eucharist, and Sunday Evening Prayer / Evensong and special services continue to be live-streamed to reach those who are unable to attend church in person. Broadcasting services via Facebook is a major part of our strategy for offering encouragement and welcome and sharing the good news of the Christian faith more widely. We welcomed new members to the live-streaming team this year.
- In contrast to the parish communion and choral evensong, the evening and midweek services are quieter and more reflective. Morning Prayer is said daily in the Crypt, and broadcast online; members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. The number of views indicate that in broadcasting the Office online St Wulfram's meets a real spiritual need. A midweek Eucharist is held on a Tuesday at 12.00 noon in St Michael's Chapel. Compline is held at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesdays (Sung Compline on the third Wednesday of the month). A weekly Exposition and Benediction is held at 12.00 noon on Fridays.
- The Youth Choir sing Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m. on Fridays during term time. In a change to the usual service on 4 November, there was a 'Peace One Day' service of music and prayer for the hope of a world without war.
- We celebrated Epiphany with our 'Epipha-nativity' at the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday 9 January. Our young people led and acted out the nativity and the arrival of the wise men.
- Fr Clay led 'Christian Meditation for Beginners', over six Thursday evenings in January/February. The sessions in church started at 6.00 p.m. and ran for one hour. Refreshments were available beforehand. It was not necessary to attend every session. All were welcome, and around 25 participants attended each time.
- We marked Inclusive Church Sunday on 13 February.

- Three special services for St Wulfram's and St John's Church Manthorpe marked Ash Wednesday (2 March), the beginning of Lent. Our Lent booklet (available online) detailed all the Lent, Holy Week and Easter services, Lent Groups, Confirmation and First Communion preparations. We made available copies of the Church of England booklet 'Live Lent, Embracing Justice' containing 40 reflections, each for one of the forty days in Lent, plus one for Easter Day.
- On two Thursday evenings during Lent, the church was open between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. for private prayer and quiet reflection in candlelight.
- We were invited to attend a service on Friday 4 March at St John's Church Manthorpe to mark the World Day of Prayer 2022. The service was written by Christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and all denominations were represented on the writing group. The theme was "I know the plans I have for you".
- On 23 March (the second anniversary of the first UK lockdown), we held a service at 12.30 p.m. to mark the National Day of Reflection (started by the Marie Curie charity). We remembered the millions of people bereaved during the pandemic and reflected on the lives of those who were lost. Candles were lit and there was an invitation to sign a book of remembrance. Prayer ministry was available to anyone who wished to stay behind afterwards and talk.
- Dads and children were welcomed to prepare Mothering Sunday flowers on Saturday morning 26 March in the church. Bacon baps were served on this occasion. Later in the month, in preparation for Palm Sunday, palm crosses were made at Grantham House (30 March). Those who gathered for this dextrous task enjoyed some social time together over refreshments.
- As we approached Easter Day, our Lenten journey included the following:
  - Walk of Witness on Palm Sunday (10 April, 9.30 a.m.), beginning at the white bridge in Wyndham Park.
  - Holy Monday (11 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Exposition and Benediction.
  - Holy Tuesday (12 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Eucharist with Stations of the Cross.
  - Holy Wednesday (13 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Healing Eucharist.
  - Maundy Thursday (14 April, 7.30 p.m.) – Choral Eucharist with foot-washing and vigil until midnight.
  - Good Friday (15 April, 2.00 p.m.) – The Liturgy.
  - Holy Saturday (16 April, 6.00 p.m.) – The Seder Meal. The Christian observation of this ritual meal celebrates our tradition of Christ's last supper and our own Jewish heritage that provided the context for Jesus' institution at the Last Supper.
- On Easter Day, we celebrated the risen Christ with a Said Eucharist (8.00 a.m.) and Choral Eucharist with Procession and Children's Easter Egg Hunt (9.30 a.m.).
- The Grantham Scout and Guide St George's Day Parade returned this year (Sunday 24 April), starting from the bus station and culminating in a service at St Wulfram's at 3.00 p.m. Large crowds lined the route of the procession.
- We like to hold an outdoor service (Parish Eucharist) on the lawn Grantham House once a month through the summer, weather permitting.
- The death of Her Majesty The Queen (8 September) was a huge loss to the nation, the Commonwealth, our communities and to us individually. It was with great pride that

St Wulfram's played a pivotal role in the local community during the period of national mourning. The church was open from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. every day as a safe and peaceful place: we invited everyone to visit, say a prayer, join us for a service or sign the formal Book of Condolence (which was staffed by South Kesteven District Council). Over 900 people signed the Book. During all these times, volunteers stewarded in the church and served refreshments.

Prayers were offered each day for the Royal Family, for Her Late Majesty and for God's blessing on the new reign:

- Saturday 10 September, 12.00 noon – Mass of Thanksgiving.
- Sunday 11 September, 9.30 a.m. – Solemn High Mass of Requiem.
- Monday 12 September, 12.00 noon – Mass of Thanksgiving for Queen Elizabeth.
- Tuesday 13 September, 12.00 noon – Mass of Thanksgiving, praying for the King.
- Wednesday 14 September, 7.30 p.m. – Celebrating Holy Cross.
- Thursday 15 September, 7.30 p.m. – Mass of Thanksgiving, praying for the Royal Family.
- Friday 16 September, 5.15 p.m. – Sung Mass of Thanksgiving, sung by the Youth Choir.
- Saturday 17 September, 12.00 noon – Mass of Thanksgiving.
- Sunday 18 September, 6.30 p.m. – A Special Commemoration Service marking the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We decided to erect a big screen in the church to broadcast The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from Westminster Abbey on Monday 19 September (which was declared a Bank Holiday). No-one needed to be alone to watch this important service in the life of our country: all were welcome to be with us together in love and thanksgiving. Between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., more than 100 adults and children were present.

The Rector and Associate Rector expressed their deep thanks to everyone who helped St Wulfram's rise to the various challenges over the period of national mourning.

- In line with our aim to mark certain 'awareness days' in the national calendar, we held a service in church at 6.30 p.m. on Friday 9 September for World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September). This was an opportunity to remember a loved one, to show support for suicide prevention and for the survivors of suicide and the families and friends affected. The service was led by Mthr Kate and Fr Yuce and sung by the adult choir. All were invited to light a candle of hope during the service. A collection was taken for the Samaritans. Clergy were available afterwards for anyone who wished to talk.

The nature of our service was outlined in a contribution made by Fr Stuart to the 'Bereavement Friendly Church Case Studies', an online resource compiled by the charity Loss & Hope to demonstrate the type of work undertaken by churches and Christian organisations on a daily basis, in keeping with the Bereavement Friendly Church Charter. The charity hoped that these case studies would inspire others to consider what they could develop in this vital area of ministry.

- We marked our patronal festival (15 October) at the Festal Eucharist on Sunday morning 16 October and a Choral Evensong and Benediction the same day.

- The All Souls Mass, including Fauré's Requiem, was held in church and broadcast on Facebook in the evening on Wednesday 2 November. The names of departed loved ones were included in the prayers; and an online form was available to complete beforehand for this purpose.
- Grantham paid its respects as the annual Remembrance Parade took place through the town centre on Sunday 13 November. The parade made its way to St Wulfram's Church, where the usual Service of Remembrance was held at 10.55 a.m., followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memorial in the churchyard.
- For one hour on Tuesday evenings starting on 29 November, Fr Clay led 'Merry Mindfulness' sessions in the Great Hall of Grantham House. The series aimed to give people peace and quietness in a time that can be busy and stressful. The evenings explored the themes of Advent, with silence, live ambient guitar music and an opportunity to light a candle. Simple refreshments were offered. Anyone was welcome to come along and give time for reflection and stillness.
- At 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 15 December, the Lights of Love service of carols and prayers was attended by more than 50 people supported by an 18-strong Choir. We paused to remember those whom we love but see no longer and light candles in their memory.
- On the morning of Friday 23 December, hundreds of christingles were prepared for the Christingle Crib service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, where we followed Mary and Joseph's journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Young people were encouraged to come dressed as a character from the nativity story. We thank the volunteers who support this very popular service by lighting christingles and keeping everyone safe.
- We held the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of Friday 23 December. Attendance was high, and people appreciated the proximity of this service to Christmas. Midnight Mass was held at 11.30 p.m. on 24 December. On Christmas Day, there was a Said Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 a.m. (in the Chancel); the Parish Mass was held at 10.00 a.m., when congregants were encouraged to bring along an unopened present to open during the service.

#### *Preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and Confirmation*

- Since January 2014 the PCC has allowed children from the age of those in school Year 3 to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, following a period of preparation. This takes the form of a five-week period of preparation undertaken in Lent, with the young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time, with their family, on Easter Day. Communion Club (as the period of preparation is known) is led by Fr Stuart and Mrs Laura Craddock.
- The Youth Confirmation Group is aimed at young people in school Year 8 upwards. Its usual format is a six-month programme, with monthly meetings, with the Confirmation service in the centre, and a confirmation retreat over three days where a significant amount of the pre-confirmation course content is covered (led by clergy).

Adult confirmation preparation is open to all who wish to recognise their personal development in faith. The usual format is meetings held on six consecutive Sundays, where we introduce what the Anglican Church believes and explore the essentials of the Christian faith.

Bishop Nicholas, Bishop of Grantham, confirmed 6 adult candidates from our parish at Pentecost (5 June, 6.30 p.m.).

## *Occasional Offices*

- The occasional offices continue to be an important point of contact and ministry within the wider community.

In 2022 there were 10 marriages. We conducted 35 baptisms: all children (14 under one year of age, 15 aged between one and four years old, three aged between five and 10 years old, one aged between 11 and 17 years old, two aged 18+). We have an open baptism policy and do our best to keep in touch with the families involved.

A total of 29 funerals for people in the parish were conducted during the year, of which 15 took place in church. On two occasions, ashes were interred in the churchyard.

In December 2021, the PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group welcomed Elaine Chambers to speak about her ideas for celebrating and following up life events, as part of her Authorised Lay Ministry. The Life Events Diary software in use in the Parish Office enables reminders to be set up for the anniversaries of weddings and baptisms. In 2022, Elaine updated the baptism card, introduced a certificate for Godparents, produced a certificate for weddings, and arranged for a series of high-quality cards to be printed (initial and ongoing costs are met by the Mission Fund). The design of anniversary cards will change year by year. Celebrating and following up life events in this way strengthens the mission of St Wulfram's in the local community.

## **Mission and Social Responsibility**

- St Wulfram's continues to take seriously its calling to be a living witness to the gospel at the heart of the town. In many of the activities detailed in this report there is effective contact with a substantial number of people of all ages beyond the congregation.
- The church's work in this area is overseen by a Mission & Social Responsibility committee (a sub-group of the PCC). St Wulfram's supports a range of mission and charitable organisations, giving away 5% of its pledged income to these each year. We were pleased to add some new causes to our list of beneficiaries in 2022, including £500 to The Berr Trust and £500 to Strut Safe. £500 was also donated to Basotho Educational Trust, £500 to Age UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire, £240 to Toilet Twinning to twin the Grantham House toilets in the same way as the church's toilets had been twinned previously and £600 plus the cost of a 5G router (for CCTV) was allocated to the Warm Hub initiative at St John's Church Spitalgate.
- In 2021, Shine Lincolnshire (which funds wellbeing activities for social prescribers to tap into, at our resource centre) gave St Wulfram's three free places on a two-day Mental Health First Aid training course; these were taken by the Parish Administrator, Grantham House Project Co-ordinator, and the Children, Youth & Families Worker. Five more people trained in Mental Health First Aid in 2022: our three new curates the Associate Rector and a Pastoral Team member. The cost of two places was met by Shine Lincolnshire and the curates' training was partially funded by the Diocese of Lincoln.

In 2022, the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group set aside a grant of £1,260 towards the cost of additional Mental Health First Aid training for church staff and volunteers. A grant of £2,100 was subsequently secured from the Benefact Trust under its 'Brighter Lives' programme. The total sum available will enable St Wulfram's to offer training to 13 extra people in 2023 (including some from St John's Church Spitalgate).

- The sub-group has considered reinstating the 'Pitch Pot' (a micro-funding initiative for local community projects), which ran successfully for a while after its launch in 2018 but fell into abeyance in 2019 for lack of leadership. This will be taken forward in 2023. In the meantime, a small grant from the Pitch Pot Fund was allocated to purchase sturdy storage boxes for Wulfram Bear's Baby Clothes Carousel.
- St Wulfram's was lit purple on Holocaust Memorial Day (January), as the world remembered the horrors of the Holocaust and the millions of lives that were lost. Candles were also lit to remember victims on the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- The war in Ukraine was uppermost in our minds in the spring. For several weeks, our reredos was lit in yellow and blue, the colours of the Ukraine flag, to show solidarity with Ukrainians. The following was written in our Visitors' Book:

❖ Thank you for the lights for Ukraine offering peace and a place to pray.

In mid-March, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Acting Bishop of Lincoln, sent a letter to the people of the Diocese, encouraging prayer for a lasting ceasefire, and for peace, justice, and reconciliation, and setting out ways in which help could be given.

The PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group donated £500 on behalf of St Wulfram's to a charity working in/near Ukraine. The money was to support civil society organisations in the region with their own efforts to support vulnerable groups, both through direct funding of projects and information-sharing events.

The church's Saturday Morning Recital featuring The Winter Singers (19 March) raised money for Ukraine.

- We supported the DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal (January) and the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal (September).
- There were various opportunities to donate during Christian Aid Week (15 to 21 May) to raise money to support work in Ukraine, Afghanistan and across the world. A coffee morning was held in the church on Saturday 21 May: there was coffee, cake, crafts and fun. Online donations could be made on a 'Just Giving' page and envelopes were available in the church on Sunday 15 and 22 May for cash donations. £207 was collected in cash including Gift Aid claimed.
- We encouraged members of the congregation to look out for Fairtrade products (such as tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar, fruit, cotton, silk etc), especially during Fairtrade Fortnight (20 February to 5 March).
- In July, there was an online opportunity to find out more about Prison Fellowship, which supports people in prison and their families.
- 2022 was an active year for The Passage with several new recruits to the teams. After the various restrictions and lockdowns, numbers are not always as high as previously, but there is a steady stream of clients with new faces often appearing. Volunteers work hard to produce a meal of soup, sandwiches and the ever-popular hotdogs. A soup appeal in Church at Harvest was very successful and our cupboards are now well stocked. Many thanks to all who contribute in so many ways.
- Tins, packets, jars and bottles of food/drink and household toiletries are donated regularly to the Grantham Foodbank and The Passage through collection boxes located

in church, and through soup sales when we invite members of the congregation to purchase/donate @ £1 per can. Following our service of Harvest Thanksgiving, we donated 106kg of food to the Foodbank. Also, at Harvest-time, we sold a total of 120 cans of soup for The Passage; and the profit of £126.77 was donated to the Foodbank.

- We collected new toys and gifts for the Grantham Foodbank at our Advent Sunday Parish and All-Age Eucharist. These gifts were distributed with food to ease the crisis faced by families this Christmas. During December, tinned and packet goods were collected for the Foodbank through our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme, which ran for the second year.
- Over and above the charitable giving organised by the church community, approximately £4,000, excluding monies raised for Grantham Ark, was raised for charity through school services, funerals and other events held within the building.
- Aware of the impact of cost-of-living increases on households, we used the *Community* news to draw attention to valuable information on the South Kesteven District Council's website.
- Sadly, over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of people who are homeless, sleeping in tents or sofa-surfing in the locality. At present, there is no emergency provision in the district; so, the only response that clergy and The Passage volunteers can make in an emergency is to send people to Lincoln, Nottingham, or Peterborough to access emergency accommodation. In 2019, an important step was taken by 'Grantham Ark', a group comprising representatives from churches across Grantham (including St Wulfram's), to ameliorate the challenges faced by those in the locality lacking a permanent home. Fr Stuart spearheaded the initiative through the organisation 'Churches Together in Grantham & District'.

In 2020, through the efforts of the Grantham Ark, three churches (including St Wulfram's) took it in turns, one or two weeks at a time, to open their doors during the harshest winter months (January to March) to those who needed shelter overnight (referred by relevant authorities/organisations). Sadly, it was impossible to operate the night shelter in 2021 and 2022, owing to COVID-19 restrictions and health and safety concerns for both guests and volunteers.

Grantham Ark completed the process to register with the Charity Commission in 2020 (Registered Charity number 1190668). An article in the *Grantham Journal* newspaper in April 2022 encouraged local people to go along to the AGM (4 May) to find out more, and perhaps offer to serve as a trustee.

In 2022, following discussion with Grantham Ark, South Kesteven District Council agreed to set aside one property from its housing stock per year for three years to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people for up to three weeks each. The first property has been identified and viewed by Ark trustees. The new scheme will be launched formally in 2023.

- Grantham Ark organised the annual SleepOut event (Friday 2 December) in the grounds of Grantham House, to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the homeless and to raise funds towards a permanent emergency night shelter in the town. A total of 37 people participated: some who had done this before and lots of new faces. It rained for most of the night, which made participants think about how the homeless get dry and warm. Described as 'a very humbling experience', those who slept out may have been cold and uncomfortable, but they did not have to protect their belongings or fear for their safety in the safe space of Grantham House garden. Altogether, £6,000

was raised and collected via the church in sponsorship and donations including Gift Aid.

- We revived the fund begun in 2020 to assist families needing some extra help at Christmas time. Under the banner 'Christmas Cheer', we raised further money and gave a total of £700 worth of supermarket vouchers to several vulnerable families whom we identified through contact with two local schools.
- As usual, the collection at the Christingle Crib Service on Christmas Eve was donated to the Children's Society.

## **Safeguarding**

- The PCC continues to take extremely seriously the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk of harm. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (that is, the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm).
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Assistant Safeguarding Officer (ASO – our Parish Administrator) make regular written reports to the PCC; and the PSO attends PCC meetings to report in person as necessary. Each March, the PCC conducts an annual review of our safeguarding policy statement, which is signed by the Rector (as Chair of the PCC) and displayed in the church.
- We routinely supply our safeguarding policy statement and practice guidance to external trusts and organisations that fund our wellbeing activities run in our resource centre at Grantham House.
- The ASO continues to process applications for DBS clearance. In line with recruitment practices set out in the Church of England's Guidance *Safer Recruitment* and diocesan policy, our Churchwardens and all PCC members are DBS checked upon appointment/election. All other staff and volunteers (e.g., in the music department and lay pastoral team) are also DBS checked upon taking up roles. In addition, all adult choristers, including Youth Choir members who turn 18 years of age, go through the DBS checking process. We carefully monitor periods for which clearance is granted and apply for renewal, as appropriate. Adult choristers, who are not also chaperones, no longer qualify for an Enhanced DBS check and thirtyone:eight (the organisation that provides our DBS checks) does not carry out Basic DBS clearance.
- The ASO oversees a system to ensure that all individuals with DBS clearance complete online courses relevant to their role within the church. All PCC members undertake 'Basic Awareness' training (level C0), the 'Foundation Module' (C1) and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. All are available online. When PCC membership changes at the APCM, steps are taken to ensure that new members undertake the necessary training as quickly as possible.

Pastoral assistants, leaders of groups for young people or adults at risk, the Bell Tower Captain, church administrative staff, and servers also undertake C0 and C1. Licensed clergy and readers, clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate, PSOs, ASOs, and Authorised Lay Ministers are required to undertake the Leadership Module (C2). Completion certificates are sent to the ASO to update the parish records.

- Both the PSO and ASO have now completed the two-day Training for Sex Offender Management in a church context, delivered by external trainers and diocesan

Safeguarding staff. The PSO completed the C2 Safeguarding Leadership Training in May 2022.

- During 2022, the House of Bishops extended the scope of training that church officers are required to undertake; and the PSO provided the PCC with a summary list. Subsequently, the PSO, ASO and all PCC members undertook the new online training on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse.
- The House of Bishops introduced new and expanded Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance in January 2022. Under this guidance, there is a requirement for all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults to have a role description and person specification, for DBS renewals every 3 years (rather than every 5 years) and for there to be an annual review meeting. The PCC is in the process of implementing these changes, in consultation with the Diocese of Lincoln, as necessary.
- Periodically, the PSO provides the PCC with copies of reports from the Safeguarding Dashboard, our progress on which is monitored by the diocesan Safeguarding Team. All parishes start at Level 1, which contains 18 dashboard lights. To progress to Level 2, at least 12 lights must be turned green. The PSO continues work on the Level 2 actions. From time to time, the PCC reviews the list of church activities, for which mini-dashboards are automatically created. At its meeting in November, the PCC decided to invite the PSO to attend its next meeting (January 2023) to outline the requirements in more detail.
- In line with national safeguarding requirements, the PSO continued to draw up a full register of volunteers (aged 18 and over) attached to church activities and to ensure the names are recorded correctly on the diocesan register of volunteers. Introductory training sessions for volunteers have yet to be arranged.
- The PCC uses a step-by-step process (adopted in 2018) for approval of all off-site activities (e.g., by the Choir and Youth Group), delegating certain powers to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

### **Our resource centre at Grantham House**

- St Wulfram's continues to lease Grantham House (opposite the church, on Castlegate) from the National Trust. Our Parish Office is located there.
- As our 'church hall', space is utilised on a regular basis for a range of daytime and evening meetings (PCC and several sub-groups; youth groups; Deanery Chapter, Synod and committees; Friends of St Wulfram's; Almshouse Trustees; Grantham Ark Trustees; flower arrangers; Philip Lank Trustees). The weekly Coffee Morning takes place in the Hall, if space in the church is unavailable. The Hall is used for choir rehearsals after school three days a week, and on Thursday evenings by the 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course and ALM Foundation Modules taught by the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries.
- In March, South Kesteven District Council granted full discretionary charitable relief on the Grantham House Business Rates. The award runs until 31 March 2023. SKDC may invite St Wulfram's to renew the relief from 1 April 2023.
- With a grant from NHS Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council, awarded by Shine Lincolnshire, we continued a programme of activities to which local social prescribers could refer clients, the aim being to improve mental and physical health and wellbeing, and to address loneliness. Our programme complements other local

services. At the Wulfram Centre, we are passionate about providing engaging activities open to all irrespective of socio-economic background. We don't want inequalities to prevent adults participating and impact on their wellbeing. For this reason, we make no charge for activities or refreshments.

The programme (initially funded until 31 July 2022) included a 'Cake and Coffee' facilitated chat in the Hall on Fridays, and art/craft workshops on Thursdays, which halted at the end of February following the resignation of our Artist in Residence. Following an unplanned hiatus and subsequent variation in the terms of our Shine grant, we ran 'Gardening for Wellbeing', and 'Coffee & Chat in the garden', during the summer months until the end of October.

- A six-month grant from Shine Lincolnshire enabled us to offer a new wellbeing activity, 'Singing for All', on Tuesday afternoons, under the direction of Anna Bolton (who is also Vocal Coach to the church's choristers). Participants don't have to have previous singing or musical experience. It's not a choir and doesn't involve performance. The sessions involve relaxation, breathing and vocal exercises and then singing, just for fun. During the first session in September, staff working in the office at Grantham House were spellbound by the wonderful sounds coming from the Hall when participants sang. Through the *Community* news in November, we were able to share some anonymised feedback about the positive impact of this activity.
- With thanks to an eight-month grant from the People's Postcode Lottery (Postcode Places Trust), we were able to recruit a full-time Gardener to support our outdoor activities through the Wulfram Centre for Wholeness and Wellbeing. Working together, the Operations & Development Manager and the Gardener have built an enthusiastic team of community garden volunteers, who have worked on site on Tuesday and/or Wednesday mornings since 20 July. Through a 'Buddy' system, they support a member of the Grantham College 'Building Better Opportunities' group, who helps in the garden to develop skills and enhance employability. Fruit from the gardens of Grantham House was donated to The Grantham Passage. A vegetable patch was cultivated so that vegetables can be grown and donated too at a later date.

It is pleasing that some garden volunteers have become involved in the wider activities of St Wulfram's (for example, helping at the Vintage Festival and decorating a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival). The dedication of the garden volunteers was recognised at a festive coffee morning for the team in December.

- Once again, on Sunday afternoons in Lent (20 March, 3 and 10 April), we welcomed a great number of people to the tranquil surroundings of the Walled Garden for 'Stations of the Cross', a self-guided prayerful walk recalling the last journey our Lord took on his way to his crucifixion. With the help of a specially prepared booklet, we stopped at each cross to read the story, offer prayer and meditate on the themes. This was a personal and moving experience for individuals and families.
- To mark the national 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (9 to 15 May), we opened the Grantham House gardens on Thursday 12 May from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. This year, the national theme for the week was 'loneliness'; across the country, people reflected on loneliness and how it impacts mental health and problems such as depression and anxiety. We welcomed over 50 visitors, who were able to wander in the gardens, sit and read a book, listen to birdsong, and chat. Simple refreshments were available. Our clergy and a local Community Psychiatric Nurse were on site throughout the afternoon to talk with visitors.

- Grantham Vintage Festival took place between Saturday 30 April and Bank Holiday Monday 2 May. We were delighted that the road closure affecting the northern end of Castlegate from January<sup>2</sup> was finally lifted just in time to allow vehicles to enter the Grantham House site to set up for this major event.

The idea for the Vintage Festival came from Fr James, but it was necessary to postpone the event in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. In glorious weather in the grounds of Grantham House, the festival showcased an array of vintage vehicles, exhibitions and living history groups, as well as a wide range of nationally known and era appropriate entertainers who performed live on stage. Period dress was encouraged; and there was a best-dressed competition for children and adults each day. There were trade stalls, a vintage hairstylist, a vintage tea-room in the Hall and a dance on the Saturday evening. About 1,500 visitors were welcomed to this opportunity to discover our heritage in a new and immersive way. There was a great atmosphere, and we are grateful to the organising committee and the team of committed and hard-working volunteers who contributed to the success of the event.

- On Saturday 16 July, Grantham House garden welcomed nearly 60 members of the Grantham Chemosabes (a support group that reaches out to all those affected by cancer and its treatments) for afternoon tea. Julie Harrod, founder of the group, said ‘This was a fantastic afternoon in splendid surroundings and glorious weather, and an opportunity for our members to change focus for a while, to meet and talk with those on the same daunting journey and to appreciate that they’re not alone in their fight.’
- The garden is a popular venue for events. A ‘Three Ps Picnic’ (Pimms, Punch & Puddings) was hosted by the PCC Social Sub-group (3 July); and the Friends of St Wulfram held a Strawberry Tea there (25 August). At the beginning of September, the garden played host to a performance of ‘Alice in Wonderland’ by Folksy Theatre. This outdoor entertainment was attended by around 40 people, including many youngsters, who participated throughout. We hope to put on more outside theatre in the summer of 2023.
- Two Christmas wreath-making workshops were held for members of the public on Saturday 10 December (10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.). Almost all the places were sold, so we plan to repeat the workshops in 2023.
- For the second year running, ‘Carols in the Courtyard’ was held at Grantham House (21 December). Tickets sold out quickly. Current members of the Youth Choir were joined by some former members, including one who was the first recruit to St Wulfram’s Church Choir when Dr Williams became Master of the Music 15 years ago. Festooned with white lights and lanterns and warmed with braziers, the courtyard was a perfect setting. Mulled wine and cider and mince pies were served by candlelight in the interval.
- As in 2021, space was let to the nearby King’s School as an overflow classroom for a few weeks in July and September.
- Following a decision taken by the PCC in December 2021, exploratory conversations took place with the Diocesan Director of Finance, and Duncan & Toplis (a local firm of accountants and business advisers) about suitable models for the establishment of a trading organisation, named ‘Wulfram Enterprises’.

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<sup>2</sup> To allow work to be carried out to the roof of one of the King’s School buildings that borders Castlegate.

- Although the PCC decided in December 2021 to take a new five-year lease offered by the National Trust, financial considerations (especially the rising cost of utilities) militated against such a lengthy commitment in 2022. The ongoing tenure is based on an extension of the original 12-month lease signed on 4 December 2020. The future of our use of Grantham House was considered by the PCC at meetings in November and December 2022, upon the advice of the Standing Committee. It was expected that a firm decision would be reached early in 2023.

## Music

### *Introduction*

- Over the past 15 years, Organist and Master of the Music Dr Tim Williams, FRCO (DipCHD) has achieved notable success in the recruiting and training of young members of the choir, drawing on relationships with local schools and other music contacts. Choristers are not auditioned, and all members share a remarkable commitment and professionalism in their approach to music. The standard of the children's sections of St Wulfram's Church Choir is one of the success stories of the church music programme.
- Choir club for boys is on Tuesday afternoon after school and for girls on Wednesday afternoon. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards, without a formal audition process. New recruits are given their own introductory sessions. The children's choirs continue to be a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community.
- Recruitment continued well in 2022 – a large waiting list for the girls' choir (at capacity) and the boys' choir maintained at its existing level, with several younger members hopefully joining in 2023.
- The youth choir (SATB ensemble), which meets on Monday afternoon, responds to the choristers as they graduate from the boys' and girls' choirs. This school year, there are five 'choral scholars' supported by the Philip Lank Trust, and two senior choral scholars supported by St Wulfram's (through the endowment gifted in 2019 by the Friends of Cathedral Music). Most Fridays during term time, the youth choir sings Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m., supported by our portable box organ; a regular congregation attends.
- This was the first full year since 2019 unaffected by singing restrictions. Looking back, it was remarkable how much output our dedicated choir created together during lockdown, both in services and additionally in performances and digital, virtual and hybrid online output. 2022 saw the publication in the academic journal *Early Music* of Tim Williams' collaborative article with Magnus Williamson (Newcastle University): 'Rethinking early music in a time of isolation' is about approaching early music via lockdown methods that emerged in the COVID-19 pandemic, centred on his work at St Wulfram's especially during the third UK lockdown (early 2021).
- 2022 was a fabulous year for the choir. Highlights included filming new hymns for the *Multitude of Voyces* project, stunning concert performances by the choristers and youth choir, a memorable Holy Week, Easter, and then the Leighton *Easter Sequence* returned to repertoire by the choristers.
- The late spring and summer saw a huge build in confidence as the choir prepared to sing in Ely Cathedral and then (at very short notice) was invited to sing Choral

Evensong in Westminster Abbey (16 July). This was a wonderful honour for the choristers. On their return from London, the choristers sang their Valediction Evensong (17 July), including Parry's *I was glad*.

- The Ely Cathedral residency (1 to 7 August) was the experience of a lifetime, with the choristers and youth choir staying in beautiful accommodation at the King's School, and everyone singing daily services to an impeccable standard throughout. During the residency, the youth choir sang a lunchtime concert at Little St Mary's Church in Cambridge (4 August); and the boy and girl choristers sang a lunchtime concert in St Peter's Church, Ely (5 August). Our supporters followed us on Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube Channel.

Such a residency is an amazing opportunity for our choristers to grow as musicians and develop as young people. It was a chance that this current group of choristers had missed out on over the last couple of years. Taking choristers away for a week is a massive organisational challenge and relies heavily on volunteer chaperones, who give freely of their time. It is also a massive financial commitment, the actual cost of a place on a week-long residency being £500. To ensure the opportunity is as accessible as possible, St Wulfram's subsidises the contribution families make per chorister, so they pay £200. The choir is creative with its fundraising activities, but the COVID restrictions had a significant impact on our fundraising capabilities. Alongside various events this year (including cake sales after church services), we set up a 'Sponsor a Chorister' fund.

- We filmed Tallis's *Sancte Deus*, sung from early notation as an experiment in performance practice. And we were acquainted with Tamsin Jones, singing her *Song to bring us home* (UK premiere) on the day of Pride Ely. The idea arose of a newly commissioned carol, which became reality at Christmas thanks to the Philip Lank Trust, in memory of David Brown.
- The music that the choir offered in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was truly inspired.
- Thanks to a generous Cathedral Music Trust (CMT) grant, we welcomed Anna Bolton as our chorister Vocal Coach in September. Thanks to the same grant and a generous grant from the Diocesan Transformation Fund, we look forward to Tim Selman joining us in the new post of Assistant Director of Music in January 2023, and to the help and new collaborative opportunities that this development will bring. The Rector and Tim Williams are profoundly grateful for the support of CMT and the Diocese.
- On 9 October, we sang a Service of Celebration for the RSCM International Choristers' Day. As autumn turned towards Advent and Christmas, the choir reached an incredible place, faultlessly singing major services from All Souls (a liturgical offering of Fauré's *Requiem*), through Remembrance, to Advent Carols, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and the Nine Lessons & Carols, while also beautifully singing all the other services in between. In the two weeks before Christmas, sections of the choir sang at Harlaxton College, Belvoir Castle, Grantham Hospital, Royal Windsor Care Home, Asda, and in Kitchen and Coffee.
- The pandemic significantly paused the progress of many choristers on the choral training programme at St Wulfram's. Following that hiatus, 15 awards were achieved in 2022. Between them, the choristers have now amassed 134 RSCM awards since 2011, with many beckoning in 2023, including several potential Gold Awards.

- The ministry and dedication that the choir offers brings beauty to many people's lives and helps change their perceptions and experiences of the world. The choristers (broadly defined, meaning all ages) should never underestimate the lasting value of everything they bring to the choir day in, day out. This would not be possible without the support of a wonderful team. The Master of the Music pays tribute to:
  - The music administrative team of volunteers for the assistance they provide, especially with communication of schedules and paperwork.
  - The dedicated choir chaperoning team, which takes care of the choristers and helps with so many logistical and administrative tasks.
  - The commitment and dedication of choir parents. Despite all the wonderful opportunities the choristers have together, it requires a huge amount of time and care to get the choristers to all of the places we require.
  - Everyone who dedicates so much of their life to singing in the choir.
- We are grateful to Assistant Organists Rosemary Field, David Humphreys, Harry Jacques, Edward McCall, and Andrew Wyatt for their ongoing contributions to the music at St Wulfram's.

#### *Organ teaching school*

- The musical training of young people at St Wulfram's includes a highly active organ teaching school. Currently seven young scholars are learning to play the organ under the tutelage of Rosemary Field, FRCO (former Head of Organ Studies, RSCM) and Dr Tim Williams FRCO, with some supported by the Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars' Trust (YOST), and by the Royal College of Organists. The digital organ (on loan) is a practice facility for the organ students who can use it with headphones while the choir rehearses. Our portable box organ (housed in the Lady Chapel) is also a valuable resource for the organ scholars. In 2022, both the King's School and KGGS were gifted a digital organ by the Royal College of Organists to support the Grantham organ teaching school, which is enabling both practice and teaching provisions in school time.
- The organ scholars have achieved notable success in ABRSM examinations this year, and three are now working at or above Grade 5 level.

#### *Wider music programme*

- The monthly Saturday morning recital series resumed in the church during March (but there was no recital at Easter or during the period of national mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II). Entry is free and there is a retiring collection for the St Wulfram's Church Music Fund. In 2022, we welcomed organists (Rosemary Field and Harry Jacques) and performances by various choirs (our own choristers, our Youth Choir, Bradford Cathedral Choir, U3A, the Belvoir Wassailers, and the Winter Singers). We thank Mel Brown, in a volunteer capacity, for taking on the organisation of the recitals. Organists and singers are already booked into 2024.
- Members of our own Boys', Girls' and Youth Choirs gave an Alternative Spring Concert (Thursday 21 April). Solo instrumental and vocal music was performed, and the concert ended with a choral performance from the Youth Choir.

- The William Jewell College Choir (which visits St Wulfram's once every three years) gave an evening concert on 18 May. The itinerary for the rest of the choir's tour included Ely and Lincoln Cathedrals, St Giles' Cathedral Edinburgh, the University Church Oxford, and Selby Abbey. At St Wulfram's, the retiring collection was in aid of the Philip Lank Trust.
- Among the other musical highlights in the church were:
  - An organ recital by David Humphreys, raising funds for Grantham Choral Society and St Wulfram's Church (Saturday 23 April).
  - Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle' (Saturday 7 May), sung by Grantham Choral Society accompanied by harmonium and piano, and supported by four young soloists, all studying opera at the Royal College of Music in London.
  - A Promenade Concert held by Helen Winter in memory of her father Geoff, on Saturday 18 June (which would have been his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday). The concert raised money for Parkinson's UK.
  - 'Tosca' performed by Opera in a Box (Saturday 2 July).
  - A concert by the RAF Air Cadets National Concert Band (Saturday 13 September).
  - A concert by the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival (Saturday 24 September).
  - A concert in the Grantham Music Club series (Wednesday 9 November), featuring our former organ scholar Joseph Beech (now Sub-Organist at Durham Cathedral) and Sam Pierce (trumpet).

## **Church Community**

### **(a) *Children, Young People and Families***

- Children are welcomed at St Wulfram's and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the 'Children & Youth Sub-group' established by the PCC and our Children, Youth and Families Worker (CYFW), who was appointed in September 2021 on a two-year contract (funded by the Diocese of Lincoln as part of the SDF programme). The sub-group meets regularly and includes in its membership several individuals who do not serve on the PCC. It hears reviews on each aspect of the church's work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church's involvement with church schools in the parish. It celebrates achievements and discusses challenges and points for action.
- Regular Children and Youth evenings are held at Grantham House, when leaders at St Wulfram's can share learning and celebrate our ongoing work with children and young people. Children and Youth deanery meetings are also held regularly following the same pattern of celebration, as well as resourcing other parishes as needs arise.
- The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. Due to COVID-19 and lack of regular attenders, the original three age groups were condensed down to one; however, they still enjoy a full programme of teaching, prayer, music, and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord's Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been doing at the end of the service. There is a very dedicated team of volunteers.
- On the first Saturday afternoon of the month, youngsters aged between 3 and 7 years are invited to 'Come and Sing' with the Master of the Music and others, which includes singing, musical games and refreshments – aimed at developing a love of singing and basic musicianship skills.

- Our Children's Area continues to be well used during services and throughout the week as a 'Stay and Play' resource for families with young children who want a place 'to be' with their children.
- Wulfram Wednesdays take place during school holidays when primary-aged children and families are invited to participate in craft activities in church (or alternatively at Grantham House). The Wednesday workshops are led by Laura Craddock (Chair of the PCC's Children & Youth Sub-group) or Clayton Stiff (Children, Youth & Families Worker). This summer, themes included Egg Carton Bugs, Sea Creatures, Suncatchers, Origami, and Draw what you see. In October, the theme was Firework craft. Numbers of children and adults attending range from 28 to 54. Positive feedback was received from participants on each of the days:
  - ❖ Thank you. We really enjoyed today. Perfect activities and right amount of instruction. Also great value for money.
  - ❖ Really lovely atmosphere, lots of great ideas. We really enjoyed ourselves!
  - ❖ Good activity. Suitable for a wide range of ages.
  - ❖ The staff are really friendly.
  - ❖ I really liked the bit where we painted the jellyfish – they are very cute.
  - ❖ [Name] says it was the best! [Name] also thought it was the best thing ever!
  - ❖ Lovely activity – thank you for hosting.
- We invited families to join us on Saturday 12 March for 'Muddy Church Moments' – a time to walk and wonder at God's beautiful creation in the season of Lent. Participants collected an activity sheet from the church at 2 p.m. and returned at around 3 p.m. for refreshments and to share their discoveries.
- Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, their parents/carers, meet at Wulfram Tots, in the church at 9.30 a.m. every Friday. The aim is to have fun and share the Christian faith in an informal way through play, singing (with guitar accompaniment), Bible stories and craft activities, hopefully building some new friendships for the adults as well as the children. The sessions are led by our Children, Youth & Families Worker and members of the clergy. After the sessions, people stay for refreshments and to enjoy the children's play area. Details are shared on the Wulfram Tots noticeboard and through Facebook.
- Wulfram Bear's Baby Clothes Carousel was launched in September. Parents of babies can go along on the second Friday of every month, after Wulfram Tots, to donate and pick up baby clothes (ages 0-24 months) completely free of charge.

Using the weekly *Community* news in November, we shared some wonderful feedback from a Mum who attends Wulfram Tots and participates in the Wulfram Bear's Baby Clothes Carousel. Some items of clothing and a pair of boots had delighted her child, and she thanked everyone who donates. The Mum wrote:

- ❖ With the cost-of-living crisis today, what we do together as a group really helps one another out. It's the little things that mean the most: acts of kindness and generosity today proves the impact that can be had. The joy in my [child's] face and excitement was completely priceless to me.
- Our two Youth Groups have developed into three, with a change of year groups/cohorts. We now also offer a programme for children in school years 6-8. They meet on a Friday evening at Grantham House and consist of around 15 members with a mixture of young people some of whom also attend the choir. Our two other long-standing groups usually meet on the first Sunday evening of the month. The group for those in Year 9 and above meets at Grantham House and consists of 20+ members (a

mixture of youth choir and non youth choir members). An older cohort has been identified for those young people who have moved away to university and meet when they return home for vacations. The young people have been instrumental in designing the programme and members enjoy a range of activities. They are encouraged to invite their friends to join.

- Our hugely successful programme of Wulfram Family Fun Days continues on the second Saturday of the month, when families (which we recognise come in all manner of shapes and sizes) meet together for an activity. The Board Games Bonanza is especially popular: we provide games suitable for ages 6+, and the church Coffee Shop is open serving refreshments.
- There are seven Scout or Guide sections associated with the church and five regular parade services are held each year. Clergy and other members of the church are invited to go and speak to the groups. The groups also visit the church from time to time as part of their badge work and spiritual development.

Fr James Titley remains District Chaplain to Grantham District Scouts. This role is a Grantham-wide appointment.

On one evening in the summer term, the 6th Grantham (St. Wulfram's) Guides held their meeting outdoors in the grounds of Grantham House.

- Two members of our clergy team are governors of local schools; and this number will increase in 2023. Our Rector serves on the Interim Local Board of the National Church of England Junior and Harrowby Church of England Infant School (within the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust).

It was announced in the autumn that Little Gonerby Infant School, Harrowby Infant School, and the National Junior School would each become primary schools by September 2023. As part of this development, the National School is to be renamed the St Wulfram's National C of E Primary School.

Members of the clergy team and our Children, Youth & Families Worker lead weekly collective worship in two church schools.

Local schools, especially the church schools and the local state nursery school make regular visits to the church to learn about the church building, about Christianity and about the church's role in the community. Local schools also use the church for services throughout the year, including carol services and services to mark the end of the school year. The neighbouring grammar school uses the church building for its annual Founder's Day Service and Speech Night.

## **(b) *Pastoral Care***

- The clergy and lay pastoral support team are available to any person in the parish who asks for their support or help. The team meet regularly to discuss the needs of the parish, of individuals and of those resident in care homes. In June 2022, we began work on a Pastoral Care Policy, which we hope to share more widely with the St Wulfram's community in 2023.
- Those who are new to the congregation are made welcome and visited as soon as convenient. Those who are ill, housebound, or too frail to attend church are visited regularly. Likewise, in normal times, residential and nursing homes, and a local sheltered housing development are visited monthly, and the reserved sacrament is

taken by members of the team. The pandemic continued to disrupt visits to the 10 care homes in the parish in 2022 but began to stabilise.

- Sadly, during the pandemic, it was impossible to hold the quarterly service for wholeness and healing. In 2022, a service for wholeness and healing was held in Holy Week and again later in the year. We intend to hold these services quarterly once again in 2023.

**(c) *Community groups***

- We have a popular Sunday lunch group for people of any age who would otherwise eat alone. Members of the group visit a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. The lunches continue to be a valuable opportunity for fellowship for congregation members and those with other connections to St Wulfram's. Several new people joined the group this year. We are most grateful to Jane Sharp who co-ordinates the gatherings.
- Our monthly Art Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. If there is a clash of events in the church, the meeting takes place in Grantham House.
- The popular weekly Coffee Morning (which began online during the pandemic lockdowns) continues on Wednesdays in the church (or the Hall at Grantham House if there is a clash of bookings). Numbers fluctuated between 11 and 29; and average weekly attendance was 17. The gathering provides valuable fellowship for members of the St Wulfram's community. In December, members of the Coffee Morning group enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the nearby Angel & Royal Hotel.
- In February, we started to host a simple lunch of homemade soup and bread at 12.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, following the 12 noon Eucharist. The lunch is open to all irrespective of whether they worship at St Wulfram's. Up to 25 attend each time. The lunch is friendly and the fellowship there can provide a lifeline for newcomers to the local community and those who are lonely and/or feel isolated. We are indebted to those who prepare the soup and bake fresh bread. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. The lunch usually takes place in the church but is held at Grantham House if the church is unavailable.

We are most grateful to Jo Castro of Shine Lincolnshire for sourcing valuable funding to support four of the soup lunches (including the cost of ingredients and church heating) during the winter months into 2023.

- In September, we started a new Craft, Fellowship & Prayer group in the church, on the second Tuesday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants bring along their own crafts (e.g., knitting, sewing, card making, embroidery, crochet) or various small crafts are provided. They share refreshments, and also use the time for prayer in a relaxed atmosphere. The PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group allocated a grant of £100 to the Craft, Prayer & Fellowship Group towards the cost of Christmas centrepieces.
- The new Wulfram Men's Group, led by our Children, Youth & Families Worker, is a positive social space for men to come together and connect with each other. Around 16 met for a BBQ Breakfast at Grantham House to launch the group (23 April). The group meets every month for breakfast, in addition to other activities at various venues through the year.

- A new Ladies Social Group, led by Mthr Hannah and Mthr Kate, was launched on Friday 18 November. The first get-together was in Finkins in the High Street. The ladies socialised over a drink and got to know each other a little more. The group will meet every other month.

## **Church and Fabric**

- The past year has again been very busy with one major project, other substantial repairs, routine maintenance work and planning for future projects.

*Work to the West Window of the North Aisle.* This was the biggest single project and was undertaken by Weldon Stone. The work involved the replacement of damaged mullions and repair of window tracery details. There were also minor repairs to the window glass but, in the event, it did not prove necessary to remove and then replace all the window glass. Stonework above and to the side of the window was repointed and sections of the parapet were replaced. The project began in February and was completed in October 2022. The total cost, slightly below the contracted price of £70,886, was £69,326 plus fees and VAT. We are grateful to the Marshall Trust for a grant of £12,000, to the Aslackby Trust for a grant of £2,500 and to the Friends of St Wulfram's Church for a grant of £1,000.

*The Crypt.* Sections of water damaged plasterwork in the Crypt ceiling were replaced and repainted by Weldon Stone at a cost of £2,297. Later in the year, conservator Alexandra Carrington, ACR, undertook the cleaning and conservation of the alabaster reredos in the Crypt. The cost of £1,200 was generously offset by a grant of £950 from the Friends. Two volunteers also commenced work on applying beeswax to the wooden panelling in the Crypt.

*Stonework.* Damaged and weathered stonework around the West entrance doors and the South porch was replaced by Weldon stone at a cost of £11,388.

*Roof work.* The access ladder to the hatch over the central nave was replaced and improved by the addition of a larger platform and safety rail. This was carried out by Sycamore Building Restoration Ltd at a cost of £2,160. Two repairs were carried out by HAB Leadworks to a rainwater head and to a downpipe at a total cost of £1,306.

*Energy Efficiency and lighting.* Replacement of the first tranche of some 50 halogen lamps with LED lamps took place in September whilst other existing halogen lamps have been replaced as there are currently no suitable equivalent LED lamps available for our fittings. Expenditure on electrical fittings and installation has amounted to £4,506. We are very grateful to Anthony Fletcher of AF Electrical for his work in adjusting settings in the lighting control system and replacing lamps and fittings throughout the year. The PCC in July agreed to the proposed introduction of 78 solar PV panels together with battery storage units and inverters, at an estimated cost of over £56,000, plus VAT. The equipment will be located on the south-facing slopes of the nave and north aisle roofs so that panels are not visible from ground level. Planning and Faculty applications have been submitted and the outcome should be known in the spring of 2023. If approved, there will be substantial savings in our electricity usage at a time of spiralling electrical prices as well as a major step towards the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target pledge by 2030.

*Excavating Test Pits and drainage.* A CCTV survey of several existing drainage runs and soakaways confirmed that many are blocked or damaged owing to tree roots. The Faculty application for the test pits was delayed pending the results of the CCTV survey but was granted on 30 December 2022. The results of the test pit investigations can

then be used to help determine the future design of a modified drainage system which can incorporate modifications to the west entrance to improve access to the church.

*Clergy Vestry.* The PCC has agreed plans for refurbishing the clergy vestry to incorporate more storage space. The Faculty application completed its public notice period in January 2023 and is with the Chancellor.

*Monuments.* Fundraising to cover the costs on work to conserve nine further monuments in the Lady Chapel and Corpus Christi Chapel (the Faculty for which was approved in 2022) has continued with over £2,000 pledged by the end of December 2022 towards the total of £4,770 needed. It is anticipated that this conservation work will begin in February 2023.

*Trigge Library.* Nine volumes which had furniture beetle activity had been deep frozen and have been monitored by conservator Bridget Warrington, ACR. Plans have been approved for further conservation work and for a new display cabinet to be installed in 2023.

- Clearly, the work on repair and maintenance of the fabric of St Wulfram's Church, which has a surface area in excess of one acre, has been constant but successful. We should like to thank members of the Fabric Sub-group for their input and attendance. Thanks are also expressed to everyone who helps with routine weekly cleaning and with the arrangement of flowers. Additional volunteers are most welcome. All help to make St Wulfram's a warm and welcoming church.
- We are greatly indebted to John Manterfield for his dedication in chairing the PCC's Fabric Sub-group and overseeing all its work.
- Towards the end of the year, access from Swinegate to the church building (for the disabled, contractors and deliveries) was impeded by a Church Trees neighbour, who took the view that the route is a footpath not a road. In an effort to resolve the dispute (which was covered in the news and letters pages of the local press, and also reached the national press), a meeting took place in December between the Rector, the neighbour, and the county councillor who holds the executive portfolio for highways. A compromise was reached, and the conversation was to continue in the Spring 2023.

## **Church flowers**

- Throughout the year and especially at liturgical festivals, we benefit from the dedication of our band of flower arrangers (led by Val York), whose skills enhance the beauty of our church. We welcomed some new flower arrangers in the latter part of the year. We express gratitude to all those who contribute towards the costs of flower arrangements throughout the year: many such donations are in memory of loved ones and an 'In Memoriam' list is displayed at the west end of the church at Easter and Christmas.

## **Ringings at St Wulfram's**

- This year has seen us resume ringing in a more normal fashion, following the ending of Covid restrictions. The Grantham Band is in the process of re-building but is still heavily reliant on support from the local Belton Band.
- David Braunton's predecessor as Tower Captain, Neville Sharpe, passed away on 30 May 2022. He had suffered from and been treated for Leukaemia for several years, but following catching Covid in early 2022, never managed to recover. He was a ringer at

St Wulfram's, Grantham (1970) and St James' Skillington (1968), over 50 years' service. On 25 June a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at St Wulfram's to celebrate the life and service to bell ringing of Neville.

- On 6 February our team of ringers rang at nine local towers - Barkston, Belton, Colsterworth, Denton, Grantham, Harlaxton, Honington, Skillington and Stoke Rochford - to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne.
- On 20 August an ARTS Foundation Course (Association of Ringing Teachers) for bell handling was held at St Wulfram's with 12 attendees of which 9 or so were locally based meaning we now have a development team of teachers to train new recruits, to address the shortage of ringers at present.
- In September, with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, our team rang the bells fully muffled in accordance with Operation London Bridge, starting 9 September through to the funeral on 19 September.
- In the later stages of 2022, we gained five new learners: this promises to be a big boost to numbers of Grantham Ringers after such a steep decline in numbers, but more recruitment will be key to ensuring the oldest recreation group in Grantham (1781) flourishes once again. With our new team of teachers, we can train greater numbers and run 'have a go' events.
- Over the course of the year there have been 12 Quarter Peals and three successful peals, one of which was rung of Bristol Surprise Maximus of 5,088 changes to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, on 3 June.
- Looking forward, there is work to do on improving the sound of the bells both inside for the ringers and outside to make the bells louder for special occasions, as well as maintenance work to keep this fine peal of bells in good and safe condition. Since the bells were installed in 1947, there has not been a major assessment/overhaul of the bells.

## **Hospitality for Pilgrims and Visitors**

- St Wulfram's, a landmark medieval parish church restored by Gilbert Scott (1866-75), is Grade I Listed (1062501) and of nationally recognised significance. Set back from main roads and surrounded by old buildings, the area has the feel of a cathedral close. The chained Trigge Library (established in the church in 1598) is of exceptional significance as the earliest in England for public use, and attracts local, national and international visitors and scholars. The church plays a dynamic role in attracting visitors to the town and district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Grantham Town Conservation Area. They lie within the 'Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone', which celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England to restore historic properties and regenerate public realm areas.
- Consistent with our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy, we encourage everyone in the community to see St Wulfram's as their parish church. The building is open for private prayer or to sit in quiet reflection, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Sundays.
- Government regulations affecting the hospitality sector caused the Coffee Shop to close in mid-March 2020 and to remain closed for much of 2021. The opening hours and

staffing of the Coffee Shop remain under careful review. In the meantime, the Coffee Shop opens for Saturday morning recitals, during the Heritage Open Day, the Beer Festival, and the Christmas Tree Festival, and for interval drinks at concerts (when alcohol and soft drinks are also on sale). We are grateful to Jan Burrows for organising the refreshments at recitals and to Di Hale for the significant work in overseeing the provision of refreshments (including recruitment of volunteers from organisations beyond St Wulfram's) for major festivals.

- In 2017, with fewer volunteers and a policy of no 'lone working' in church, the PCC took the decision (on the advice of the Diocese and Ecclesiastical Insurance) to leave the church open unattended at certain times. Although this strategy continues to be largely unproblematic, St Wulfram's experienced some antisocial behaviour in the church this year, about which we were in discussion with relevant authorities.

Pre-COVID, we tried to have stewards on hand to welcome visitors each Saturday morning and during the 'visitor season' (from the end of March to end of September). With fewer visitors, we have yet to reinstate a formal rota for stewarding.

- The number of visitors to St Wulfram's increased this year, after the pandemic lockdowns. Inscriptions in our Visitors' Book are overwhelmingly favourable. Visitors enjoy the history and architecture, for example:
  - ❖ Amazing. Loved it and so much to see. The info boards were welcome.
  - ❖ What a find! Beautiful and so interesting.
  - ❖ Stunning cathedral. Beautiful stained glass. Fantastic font.
  - ❖ Lovely church. Will come again.
  - ❖ A stunning church. We are so lucky to have something so beautiful on our doorstep. Thank you.
  - ❖ Fantastic to finally have a good look around this wonderful church and even nicer to hear the choir practice while we were here.
  - ❖ A beautiful building. Love the children's area.

Visitors also appreciate the welcome offered by stewards and the hard work of those who keep the building in good order, for example:

- ❖ Thank you. Warm welcome and very beautiful.
- ❖ Beautiful church, very welcoming.
- ❖ Very lovely and magnificent church. Thank you very much to those who keep it in such great condition.
- ❖ What a beautiful church, so full of history, serene and being looked after well.
- ❖ Wonderful warm welcome and a spontaneous 5-minute tour offered and received with gratitude.
- ❖ Beautiful, Awe-inspiring. Thank you to John for all his insight.

Visitors are also grateful for the peace they find in our church, for example:

- ❖ My first visit to light a candle to my beloved who went to his final journey on [date]. I now reside here in Grantham. A beautiful town and church. I feel at peace here.
- ❖ Peaceful in a world of war and sadness.
- ❖ I have visited a few times, always beautiful and serene.
- ❖ I've recently come into Christianity, so this was a lovely visit. Simply amazing.
- As in previous years, it was planned to open both St Wulfram's Church and Grantham House and gardens as part of the 2022 Heritage Open Days. The sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II two days before led to the church being used to house a Book of Remembrance for the parish and town of Grantham on behalf of South Kesteven District Council; and the Heritage Open Day at the church was cancelled accordingly. A more muted Open Day was held in Grantham House Gardens on the

Sunday afternoon and visitors could sit and reflect on the end of Her Majesty's long reign as well as partake of refreshments. 312 visitors including at least 25 children were counted. Comments this year included:

- ❖ Gardens enjoyable, lovely surroundings.
  - ❖ Loved everything.
  - ❖ Enjoyed the cakes.
- As part of the Reinvent Project sponsored by Lincolnshire One Venues (LOV), the launch of the Grantham History Arts Trail (October) showcased 13 silk banners that local school children had produced for display in shops and businesses around the town, including at St Wulfram's. Grantham Arts led the session in the church to create our banner which told the story of the building. Alongside the banner was a QR code allowing visitors to find out more.
  - Near the west door of the church, we have a sales unit that displays postcards, guides and souvenirs of the church, together with assorted greetings cards (including the popular Friends of St Wulfram's Christmas cards).
  - Peregrines first nested at St Wulfram's in 2007 with the last successful fledging in 2012. Surveillance cameras were installed in December 2020, funded by the Lincolnshire Bird Club. The peregrines are sighted around St Wulfram's all year. In the spring of 2022, they showed initial interest in the nest trays but did not then attempt to nest.

## **Trigge Library**

- Due the lifting of COVID restrictions in 2022, it has been possible to open the Library for the complete season, weekly from April to the end of September, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The number of recorded visitors increased from 413 in 2021 to 434 in 2022, a 5% growth. This was remarkable given that, owing to the death of HM The Queen, the Library was closed over the Heritage Open Day and for much of the following fortnight, as the church was the location of the Book of Condolence for the parish and the district of South Kesteven. In 2021, over 100 visitors had been welcomed to the Library in September, but only 37 in 2022.
- It was also remarkable that, in 2022, the number of visitors from outside Grantham and the county (94) were greatly exceeded by those from other parts of the UK (206), compared to 2021 when 203 came from Grantham and the county. A total of 206 visitors came from the rest of England compared with 126 in 2021, an increase of 63.5%.
- There were significantly more overseas visitors in 2022 (70), compared with 2021 (17). This is an increase of 311%. Clearly this reflects the easing of travel restrictions post-Covid but it does indicate just how St Wulfram's Church and the Trigge Library is becoming known as a place to visit. Thirty of the visitors from overseas were from the USA, some admittedly were in small groups from the University of Evansville's Harlaxton campus, but many were individuals or families visiting the UK. Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Poland accounted for 17 out of 26 visitors from Europe. Visitors from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and Sri Lanka were also welcomed to the Library in 2022.
- Our conservator, Ms Bridget Warrington, continued work on the 10 books requiring urgent attention to disinfest them from attack by furniture beetle, with their transfer to Harwell for deep-freeze treatment. Nine of these were returned to the Library during

the year, but one was retained for further conservation. This was Henricus Moller's commentary on the Psalms, printed in Geneva in 1591. The front and rear wood boards were replaced and various repairs to the text block were completed. This book will be returned to the Library early in 2023.

- A new project was initiated in 2022, involving raising funding to (a) commence the extensive programme of conservation and repair of the first volume of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium*, and (b) the purchase of a replacement exhibition case to meet current standards for the display of heritage items. Successful applications were made to The Friends of St. Wulfram's Church and ChurchCare, which provided £20,000 in total for the project. A further application has been made to the Aurelius Trust.
- The 'rolling' exhibition of books in the south aisle using the case donated to the church by The National Trust continues to attract interest. This serves to introduce visitors to the types of books in the collection, with the contents being replaced periodically. The Fabric Committee has agreed to fund the addition of casters to the legs of the cabinet, which will allow for more flexible presentation.
- Dr John Manterfield kindly undertook the analysis of visitor statistics for 2022, for which Brian Stagg, *Custos*, is grateful.

### Archive

- There have been no further acquisitions of material in the course of 2022, other than hard copies of *The Magazine*. The Interim Curator (John Manterfield) has not had any enquiries during the year.
- Regarding storage of the archives in the Vestry and elsewhere in the church, the proposals for refurbishment of the Clergy Vestry (including a dedicated secure Archive cupboard) have been submitted as a Faculty application.

### Learning opportunities

- Starting in late January (with A for Alb) and ending in July (with Z for Zucchetto), our clergy took it in turns to provide weekly information sheets about miscellaneous items that are part of our church life and services. The series was called the 'A to Z of Church Tat!'
- A new weekly fellowship group led by Fr Aron on Zoom on Monday evenings began on 17 January 2022. Inspired by Hebrews 10:24-25 ('Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another'), this was an informal small group that met to encourage one another, to read scripture, ask questions, and pray for each other.
- Our *Lectio Divina in the Lenten Season* took place on Wednesday evenings at St John's Church Manthorpe. This contemplative way of reading the Bible dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church and was established as a monastic practice by St Benedict in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The resources for this course were available online through the church website and in paper form, so participants could use the material on their own or through the Lent Groups. Fr Aron's Bible online Study continued throughout Lent on Monday evenings.
- In March, eight students finally completed the second iteration of the 16-session diocesan course entitled 'To Love and Serve the Lord'. Two ALM Foundation Modules

were subsequently offered for those whose calling to Authorised Lay Ministry had been discerned.

- A third joint deanery 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course began on Thursday 8 September and will run until March 2023. Among the group of tutors from the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries are five members of the St Wulfram's ministry team. Three members of St Wulfram's congregation are following the course. Following a period of discernment, ALM Foundation Modules will be offered after Easter 2023.
- Towards the end of the year, we began to advertise 'Being With', a new 10-session course to explore more about the Christian faith, using material developed by St Martin in the Fields and HeartEdge. The course, aimed at people who had recently started coming to church or had questions about the Christian faith and life, was due to start on 11 January 2023.

### **Ministry training**

- Members of the congregation continue to take a full part in the licensed ministry of the church and new volunteers are trained and introduced on a regular basis to share in leading worship and exercising pastoral ministry.
- Members of our congregation were invited to attend a Day Conference 'Exploring Calling and Ministry' at The Salhouse, Lincoln (Saturday 14 May), run by the diocesan Vocations Team.
- In partnership with the Loveden Deanery, Grantham Deanery runs the diocesan 'To Love and Serve the Lord' course. This meets several needs: it is appropriate for those who simply wish to learn more about their faith; it provides a discernment process for those exploring a possible call to authorised lay ministry and the initial module for ALM training; and it's also appropriate for existing ALMs who wish to do a refresher course.

One of our ALMs followed the 2021-22 course as a refresher, prior to re-authorisation at a joint deanery service on Sunday 3 July.

### **Major Churches Network**

- St Wulfram's is a member of the Major Churches Network; and we are in regular contact with other large churches to benefit from information about good practice in areas of administration, fabric, mission, outreach, and how to best engage in service to the community.

### **Inclusive Church Network**

- St Wulfram's continues as a member of the Inclusive Church Network endorsing the statement of belief:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## **Ecumenical relationships**

- St Wulfram's continues to play a full part in Churches Together in Grantham (CTiG), in hosting or assisting in the major events of the ecumenical year. Representatives of our congregation attend regular CTiG meetings and reports are made to the PCC.
- On Good Friday, following a two-year absence due to Covid-19 restrictions, members of our congregation and clergy were able to participate in the Walk of Witness, organised by CTiG, from the Market Cross to St Peter's Hill (where Fr Clay led prayers).
- We encouraged members of St Wulfram's to attend the Churches Together service for One World Week (30 October) and Carol Service (21 December), both at ChristChurch, Finkin Street.
- We continue in a supportive relationship with ChristChurch, our Methodist/URC neighbours. We continue to publicise each other's services and events, through the respective monthly parish magazines and weekly pew-sheets.

## **Lincoln Diocesan Synod**

- St Wulfram's is represented on Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Fr Clay Roundtree and Paul Davie (who also serves on the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees). Fr Stuart continues to serve on General Synod, as a representative of the diocesan House of Clergy.
- After each Diocesan Synod meeting, the PCC receives a Digest of Proceedings, as published on the diocesan website; and, from time to time, the PCC receives communications from the Diocese of Lincoln.
- Much time continued to be devoted in the Diocese of Lincoln and at Diocesan Synod to the implementation of 'A Time to Change – Together' (TTCT). This is foundational to the diocesan vision for our shared future, which involves collaborative partnerships, relationships of generosity and growth. Nine new Deanery Partnerships (DPs) are roughly mapped to the nine local authorities and follow existing deanery lines for the most part. Deanery Partnership Steering Groups have been tasked with supporting the initial development of the nine areas, including agreeing with parishes the boundaries for the Deanery Partnership and supporting the planning of Local Mission Partnerships (LMPs). These groups involve a range of local and external, lay and ordained representatives. They are short term bodies but may well develop into some longer-term responsibility as seen fit. With the likely constraints on the total number of stipends, there was likely to be between one and four LMPs per DP. In many ways, Local Mission Partnerships (LMPs) will be the most important part of the new ways of working together. Defining and establishing these partnerships was the big task in 2022. Like DPs, they do not replace benefices, groups or parishes, but join these together to create missional working communities of churches, worshippers and ministers. Wherever possible, LMPs will have at least three stipendiary ministers.
- As part of TTCT, every ordained and lay minister holding the bishop's licence was invited to a vocational conversation - an opportunity to reflect on her/his ministry. The intention was to listen, to support and to discern ways forward, for individuals and for the whole diocesan family of ministers.
- Towards the end of 2022, a series of archdeaconry Vision Days was planned. All ordained and lay ministers holding the bishop's licence were invited to attend the gathering for the Boston Archdeaconry to be held early in January 2023.

- A Partnership Dean was appointed to oversee the new South Kesteven Deanery Partnership comprising the deaneries of Beltisloe, Grantham, Loveden and Stamford. The four Deanery Synods were to come together for their first joint meeting in January 2023. The Partnership Dean's role includes guiding plans for the formation of Local Mission Partnerships.
- As part of the TTCT process, St Wulfram's agreed a financial pledge to the diocese for the support of ministry for the period 2023-25.

### **Grantham Deanery**

- Through its elected and *ex officio* representatives, St Wulfram's continues to take a leading part in shaping and implementing deanery policy. Our Rector, Fr Stuart Cradduck, serves as Rural Dean, supported by Judith Muskett (our PCC Secretary) as Deanery Administrator (for 6 hours per week).
- St Wulfram's currently has three elected lay representatives on Deanery Synod (Jan Burrows, Paul Davie, and Val York) and we thank them for their service. There will be elections for lay reps in 2023. Reflecting the increase in the size of St Wulfram's Electoral Roll in the last couple of years, there will be an opportunity to elect four lay reps for the next triennium.
- All deanery PCCs are provided with regular written reports on Synod business; and a summary of Deanery Synod business is provided for Annual Parochial Church Meetings.
- A pastoral reorganisation is in progress in the deanery in line with the agreed Deanery Plan. The schemes are as follows:
  - Following the retirement of the Revd Peter Hopkins from the united benefice of All Saints, Barrowby and St Sebastian's, Great Gonerby and of the Revd Stephen Harrop from a half-time appointment in the Harlaxton Group of Parishes (Denton, Harlaxton, Stroxton, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, and Wyville with Hungerton), a pastoral scheme is underway to establish what is termed the West Grantham Group of Villages. At the end of April 2022, in anticipation of this reorganisation, the Revd Sarah Tierney was licensed as parish priest for the seven parishes of the new group.
  - A separate pastoral scheme has been proposed to dissolve the Trinity Parish, South Grantham and create two separate parishes, styled St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield (where there ceased to be a place of worship several years ago) and St Anne's New Somerby (into which St George's Church Stamford will plant in 2023 as part of the Strategic Development Programme).
  - A third scheme under discussion at the end of 2022 is to hold in plurality the benefices of St John's Manthorpe, St Wulfram's Grantham, and the proposed new Parish of St John's Spitalgate with Earlesfield, thus forming a central grouping within Grantham Deanery, consistent with the Deanery Plan.
- During 2022, Deanery Synod heard talks from the Revd Jackie Johnson (Diocese of Lincoln) on the 'Living in Love and Faith' project (March); from Clayton Stiff on Children, Youth and Families Work (July); and from Peter Middleton (Ecclesiastical's Church Insurance Consultant for the Diocese of Lincoln) (October).

- At a special meeting of Deanery Synod in September, agreement was reached on a motion to form a Local Mission Partnership with the Loveden Deanery. Deanery PCCs were consulted on this proposal in the autumn and asked to respond by January 2023.
- Through Deanery Chapter, Grantham clergy have begun to work collaboratively with Loveden Deanery clergy. For its part, Grantham Deanery Synod began to discuss patterns of collaborative working across its deanery churches.
- From time to time, Grantham House hosts evening meetings, led by our Children, Youth & Families Worker, when those who work with children and young people in deanery churches gather to share learning and celebrate their ongoing work. There are plans to start a 'Youth Alpha' course in 2023. Deanery parishes are also supported with a monthly newsletter forwarded by the diocesan Children & Youth Mission Enabler.
- We joined fellow Christians from around the deanery for a Deanery Ascension Day service at the Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Road, Grantham at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 May. The service was followed by refreshments.

## Communication

- The Parish website ([www.stwulframs.org.uk](http://www.stwulframs.org.uk)) is a prime contact point for people wishing to know more about the parish church, its people and activities. Regular postings of information by the Parish Administrator keep it fully up to date. The home page offers the opportunity to sign up to our mailing list. Contacts and requests continue to increase in number. The website suffered some technical problems in May, but was soon up and running again. We make full use of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to involve members of our church community and of the wider community in the life of the church; social media is especially valuable in attracting visitors and audience members to our special events and engaging them in online conversations at those times. The Church of England 'A Church Near You' website directs those who view to our own website and social media.
- The ChurchDesk software is used daily in the Parish Office and enables us to send out weekly newsletters and information on forthcoming services and events. By the end of 2022, we had accumulated 3,387 contacts, more than three times the number recorded pre-Covid (i.e., in 2019). This total includes members of the community of St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe, our sister church. ChurchDesk (based in Denmark) offers online and telephone support from their office in London. The software package is a great asset to how we work and our outreach to our parish and wider community.
- The Sunday *Community* sheet updates the congregation, with news of services and activities. Continuing the practice started during the pandemic, it is shared with a weekly Friday email from the Parish Office. Printed copies are available in church on Sundays.
- The full-colour monthly *Magazine* continues to provide high quality and varied content in information and articles. Brian Buttery (Editor) belongs to the Association of Church Editors, whose secretary sends out a monthly bulletin of useful tips. Since the start of the pandemic, we have made the *Magazine* available online through the church website. Printed copies are available in the church and are mailed out to those who subscribe.
- Continuing our long-standing practice, we paid to advertise full details of weekday and Sunday worship at St Wulfram's each week in the local newspaper, the *Grantham Journal*. However, when the 2023 General Fund Budget was set in the autumn, it was

decided to save money by discontinuing this practice, relying instead on other methods to advertise services, such as social media.

- We have good relations with the *Journal* (whose office is near St Wulfram's); and articles about our community life and outreach activities are included in the newspaper on a regular basis.
- Notice boards outside the church are well used. Our two chalk A-boards display daily information outside the west door and welcome visitors.
- The churchwardens encourage members of the congregation to contact them by email or telephone with any comments or questions. The churchwardens@stwulframs.com email address is advertised through the weekly *Community* news.
- **Special Events (including those for fund raising)**
- Over recent years, we have enhanced our engagement with people in the town. We strongly believe that the sacred space of St Wulfram's is common ground for all – a place where we can challenge each other, celebrate all that is good in our community, and a place we can call home where we can gather as a community – and God is amid this, in the everyday. Community use of the building is essential to our sustainability and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. Our challenging events (Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals, Beer Festivals, etc.) underpin our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy. Each event attracts significant numbers and at the same time raises useful funds for the church.
- With its flexible space and seating, the church is a well-used venue in normal times for large and smaller events and concerts, attracting regular bookings from local and county organisations. The local U3A holds monthly coffee mornings in St Wulfram's Church. A Tai-Chi group meets weekly in the church.
- The St Wulfram's community began a year of social events with our annual Family Quiz with fish and chip supper in the church on Saturday 5 February. Teams of up to 8 people gathered for a fun-filled evening with rounds of questions set by the clergy. A 'Three Ps Picnic' (Pimms, Punch & Puddings) was hosted by the PCC Social Sub-group (3 July). A Harvest Supper took place in the church on Saturday evening 1 October.
- The Queen's Commonwealth Baton Relay came to Grantham on Monday 11 July. The Grantham leg was part of the baton's 294-day journey across the Commonwealth before arriving in Birmingham for the start of the Commonwealth Games on 28 July. The 2.2 km route started and finished at the Visitor Centre in Wyndham Park and passed Grantham House and St Wulfram's Church in its journey south along Castlegate.
- After a delay of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* was staged by MJH Productions in the church in 2022. This was the first time that The Really Useful Company, that owns the rights to the production, had granted permission for an amateur company to use a mixed cast. Between Tuesday 5 and Saturday 9 April, the cast of more than 50 gave seven performances.

On 17 November, MJH held a production launch for *Oliver!* that will be staged in the church in 2023. This was an opportunity for people to hear about the plans ahead.

- We marked Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the weekend of 4-5 June. 'The Party at the Palace' was livestreamed on a big screen in the church on the Saturday, with food and a bar available. A 'Street Party' was held inside the church on the Sunday, between 12.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. We took our own food and drink and had a wonderful time.
- Our three new curates (Mthr Hannah, Mthr Kate and Fr Yuce) were ordained Deacon at Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday morning 26 June. Following Choral Evensong at St Wulfram's, we had the opportunity to welcome them and their families, over a bring-and-share supper.
- The Beer Festival 'Land of Hops and Glory' (run jointly with the Grantham branch of CAMRA) opened on Thursday 20 October and ran until Saturday 22 October, with live music during the evenings (Latino Sound, Friday and Groove Cartell, Saturday). The Mayor of Grantham and SKDC Chairman attended the launch event, which included a performance by Morris dancers. People visited from the town and from far and wide. As well as different real ales on offer, there were also ciders, perries, and mead, and the popular Gin Bar. The event, now a permanent feature in the Grantham calendar, was deemed a huge success. We extend thanks to all who helped to make the festival such a wonderful and safe event.

The *Journal* published a letter from Fr Clay during the Beer Festival. He reflected in the letter on his experience of the 2021 Beer Festival, when hospitality had been offered to visitors, conversations with them had been enjoyed, and the atmosphere was convivial and respectful. He remarked that only a couple of Grantham residents had said to him over the last year that they did not think such a festival should be held in a church. He commented that many arguments for and against beer festivals in churches are rolled out with the accompanying beer barrels. Based on his experience in 2021, he said that comments about the beauty of the building led to conversations about deeper things, when people were ready to open up about the place of faith within their lives, which Fr Clay found very humbling.

- As part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we arranged a five-mile Parish Walk and lunch (Thursday 2 June) from and back to The Green Man pub at Ropsley. A five-mile Parish Walk was also arranged on the August Bank Holiday Monday, from and to The Cholmeley Arms pub at Burton-le-Coggles.
- The Christmas Tree Festival with skating rink ran from Thursday 24 November to Advent Sunday, 27 November. Thursday's opening ceremony began with a candlelit procession from the Market Place at 6.00 p.m. and the formal switching on of the lights in the church followed; the festival was then open until 9.00 p.m. Far more people took part in the procession this year and filled us with hope for the weekend to come. The festival opened from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday, and from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Advent Sunday. A record number of trees was entered 150. As a celebration of the wonderful work and talents in the town, the Christmas Tree Festival is the best annual event that we hold at St Wulfram's.

Refreshments were served daily by a large band of volunteers organised by Di Hale, who calculated that we sold 216 mince pies, 15 stollen, 18 packets of shortbread fingers, 7 trays of flapjack, 110 sausage rolls, and used 30 bottles of mulled wine, 44 pints of milk and made over 500 cups of hot chocolate! We were rapidly running out of stock by Saturday evening and by Sunday afternoon everything had gone.

Once again, our own huge Christmas tree, positioned at the west end of the church, was adorned with around 200 wooden decorations crafted by people at the woodworking project Outwood CIC, which supports and promotes wellbeing and

positive mental health through meaningful activities. As usual, a large Prayer Tree was set up in the Lady Chapel.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

- The Finance Sub-group set a General Fund budget deficit of -£5,312 for 2022 in November 2021. The final outcome in 2022 was a General Fund deficit of -£32,048. The large increases in utility costs that occurred during 2022 had mostly been included within the budget, so the primary reasons for the large General Fund deficit were the inability to generate sufficient net events income due to steep increases in cost inflation, particularly those relating to staging, lighting and production, and also two events that had been included within the budget did not take place. Furthermore, in 2021, the Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage grant was used in part to cover some General Fund salary costs, but no such help was available during 2022. However, General Fund running costs that benefitted the fabric of the building (£14.1k) were once again allocated to the Fabric Fund and this mitigated the size of the eventual 2022 General Fund deficit a little.
- For 2023, budgeted net events income expectations have been scaled back in response to the 2022 realised outcome. However, gas & electricity costs are expected to remain elevated, even after budgeting for anticipated electricity cost savings from the second half of 2023 onwards, due, hopefully, to the installation of solar panels on the church roof, the cost of which will be covered by the Fabric Fund. Consequently, the General Fund budget deficit set for 2023 in November 2022 was even higher at -£35,603. At the time the 2023 General Fund budget was set, the PCC was aware that action would likely be required during 2023 to restore the General Fund reserve balance back into positive territory by the end of the year, hopefully to a level that met its current reserves policy of covering at least three months' budgeted General Fund expenditure. Despite the financial challenges, Grantham St Wulfram PCC is still considered to be a going concern on the basis that should sufficient unbudgeted donations, grants or legacies not be received during 2023, then action will indeed be taken to restore the General Fund reserve balance back to a position that allows the church to continue its day-to-day activities in the furtherance of its charitable objectives. This is likely to involve the church selling assets to improve liquidity and, where necessary, the prioritisation according to importance, and possible delay in the commencement of, some of the larger projects relating to the fabric of the building, and the seeking of further grants and/or match funding to reduce net cash outflows.
- During 2022, the resource centre (Wulfram Centre for Wholeness and Wellbeing) at Grantham House has continued to develop and grow. At the start of the year, there was a -£4.4k deficit in this designated fund. By the end of 2022, that had grown to -£28.9k. Grant funding is constantly being sought to support expenditure and a number of grants were secured in 2022, including £6.6k from Shine Lincolnshire (Singing For All) and also £10.6k from South Kesteven District Council, which was to cover some setup costs. £5.7k income was allocated from a Shine Lincolnshire grant received in 2021. Hire and other income has not yet reached a level to enable income and expenditure to be matched, so additional funding, primarily via business and charitable donations, is being sought to reach a position of financial sustainability. Grantham House expenditure mostly composed salary costs of the Operations & Development Manager (£3.7k of which were covered by Shine Lincolnshire (restricted income fund) grants), gardener salary and some gardening expenses from the middle of the year (£13.2k allocated to the Postcode Places Trust grant – a restricted income fund), heat and light costs (£3.9k of which were also allocated to the Postcode Places Trust grant), website design costs, insurance and other costs (£3.7k of which related to the Shine Lincolnshire project costs and so allocated to those funds). Further

information is available within Notes 2 and 3. During 2023, it is expected that the two Grantham Land adj. Harrowby funds (as listed in Note 10) will be sold and the balances used not only to boost cash levels, but also to eliminate the deficit on the Grantham House fund as it stands at the time those two funds are sold.

- Planned Giving income in 2022 of £62,008 was lower compared to last year (2021: £66,661) continuing to reflect the impact of the sad loss of a small number of generous Planned Givers. With significant amounts of our income dependent on the congregation and their giving, a constant review is maintained of those giving and how to maximise this through tax efficiency and regular giving in order to increase the proportion of regular income. The church regularly holds Stewardship campaigns in order to improve Planned Giving levels and the church's membership of the Parish Giving Scheme should also help, particularly if most donors allow inflationary increases to be applied to their donations annually. In late September at Harvest Festival the church launched a Stewardship campaign with the aim of significantly reducing the General Fund deficit. The church is immensely grateful for all the donations, grants & funds from congregational giving that it receives and an uplift of approximately 8% in Planned Giving is hoped for and included within the General Fund 2023 budget.
- Fundraising income improved on 2021, though not by as much as hoped for. Church and Grantham House hire raised £6,443 and £3,465, respectively. The Coffee Shop raised £2,528, St Wulfram's share of lottery income was £895 and the Sales Unit generated £1,449. With regards to the larger events, the Vintage and Beer Festivals both raised significantly less than budgeted for. Indeed, the Beer Festival posted a loss, once adjustment for actual receipts from CAMRA relating to the 2021 festival compared to the provision included within last year's accounts is included. Higher than expected costs largely account for the lower net income levels. It's thought that there may be some scope for efficiency savings at future Beer Festival events. The ever-popular Christmas Tree Festival, however, did contribute meaningfully to church funds, generating a net £7,786. Events Bar income also contributed a useful £1,724. Overall, net fundraising income of £25,332 was higher than last year's £17,767, but much lower than budget expectations of £46,230.
- Total donations (ex. Planned Giving) and grants of £175,339 (2021: £164,060) included £17.2k grants, to help fund projects at Grantham House, from South Kesteven District Council (£10.6k) and Shine Lincolnshire, Singing For All (£6.6k). General Fund grants included a £2.6k heating support grant and a £0.5k MHRA training grant from the Lincoln diocese. A £0.5k SKDC Ward Member grant was received for the Choir Fund, £22.3k from the Cathedral Music Trust & £20k from the diocesan Transformation Fund was received mostly to fund an Assistant Director of Music for 2 years, Fabric Fund grants of £2.5k from the Aslackby Trust and £12k from Marshall's Charity were received towards window repairs and £48.6k Strategic Development and restricted income fund grants were given by the Lincoln diocese in support of some salary costs. Donations included £1,950 from The Friends of St Wulfram's, £1,000 from The Machine Gun Corps. Old Comrades Association, £1,023 from The Philip Lank Trust, £500 from the Rothwell Lee Charity, £250 from Grantham U3A, £200 from The Grantham Civic Society and £150 from The Tollemache (Buckminster) Charity. There were many other donations from individuals, schools and societies gratefully received. A legacy of £1,000, allocated to the General Fund this year, was also received in 2022 (2021: £8,869 total).
- As reported in 2021, there was an outstanding deficit in the fund relating to The Festival of Angels project as at the end of 2021. No additional funding was secured

towards the project, so £6,076 was released from the Grantham Land adj. Harrowby designated fund to cover the shortfall.

- St Wulfram's Church encourages giving to support not only the church, but also the wider community, and will continue itself to make local, national & international donations via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group for as long as it is financially able to do so. Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group 2022 allocations have been outlined earlier within the Annual Report on page 11. In addition, local families in need were helped by the St Wulfram's Church Christmas Cheer Appeal, via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group, in the form of supermarket vouchers to the value of £700. Donations for, and expenses incurred by, St Wulfram's Passage, which provides meals for the homeless and others in need, were also managed by the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group. Details of collections for other charities can be seen in Note 13.
- St Wulfram's Church banked sponsorship monies on behalf of Grantham Ark during 2022. £3,622 was received in 2022, outlined further in Note 9. £3,243 was paid by the church to Grantham Ark during the year. SleepOut 2022 monies collected of £3,102 were owed to Grantham Ark as at year end.
- Heating and lighting costs were up compared to last year due to another increase in gas and electricity prices during 2022. The government support scheme from October has helped a little, but the costs are still substantial. The amounts attributed to Grantham House (designated funds) and the church (General Fund and restricted funds (Fabric)), can be clearly seen within Note 3a. The cost of annual insurance premiums was £16,021 for the church and £3,750 in relation to Grantham House. Half of the cost of insurance of the church building was charged to the Fabric Fund in line with previous years pre-COVID-19.
- Total incoming resources to the General Fund amounted to £179,162 (2021: £155,389) and total resources expended amounted to £211,210 (2021: £156,296) resulting in a deficit for the year before transfers of -£32,048 (2021: -£907 deficit). After transfers of £nil (2021: £nil) from other funds, General Fund reserves now amount to £9,138.
- The balance sheet position had reduced by £171,320 as at 31st December 2022. There was an unrealised gain in the value of the investment property of £7,427 (2021: £13,304) but unrealised losses in the value of financial investment assets of -£42,779 (2021: -£7,558 losses). A majority of the investment securities are held with the Central Board of Finance (CBF) of the Church of England. The largest holding is in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund whose unit value decreased by 13.5% in 2022. £50,000 were sold during the year, so the total amount held in the fund decreased by 36%. Overall, our financial investment portfolio made a negative capital return of -12.4% (i.e., excluding income received) in 2022 (2021: -1.7% loss), and the overall value decreased by 30.4% to £239,985 (2021: 22.9% decrease to £344,821). Cash on deposit and with the bank decreased by £87,072 (2021: increase of £7,561) during the year.
- In order to maintain the income from investments while taking a conservative approach to the financial risk associated with these investments, the church regularly reviews the performance of these investments in order to ensure the value of the asset over the longer term is maintained. Investments that do not relate to endowments may have to be liquidated at short notice, so a large weighting in bonds and cash is necessarily maintained despite the fact that these assets are expected to yield lower returns over the longer term. Endowments, however, are typically invested wholly in equities where expected returns over the longer term are expected to be higher, as there is typically no need to sell them at short notice.

- The church faces all the usual risks of any organisation involved with handling cash and maintaining its security and proper accounting. To enable this wherever possible, a good segregation of duties and rigorous documentation of all income is maintained. All new volunteers are made aware of the requirements, and these are reviewed on a regular basis. The physical security of money is also taken very seriously and regular reviews of access to cash are made, and restrictions put in place when necessary. All cash is held in accordance with our insurance requirements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more remote working was necessary. Therefore, it became necessary to authorise more invoices for payment via email rather than via a visit to the Parish Office. Nevertheless, all payments continue to require two cheque signatures with the exception of prepayment card spending by the Parish Office Administrator, who provides receipts for all spending incurred that are then examined before being recorded in the accounting system.
- Over time there is an increased reliance on making the church building pay for itself by both holding large events such as the Ball, Beer and Christmas Tree Festivals and by hiring it out as a venue. The large Festivals do have significant financial risk and these are under constant review to find as many ways as possible to minimise fixed costs and manage cashflow. Where possible, events are held in collaboration with organisations such as CAMRA to spread the risks and gain outside expertise. A process of review is undertaken after each event to ensure all lessons learned are carried forward.
- Six of Grantham St Wulfram PCC employees are members of the Church of England Pension Board's Church Workers Pension Fund, which complies with the Government Auto Enrolment requirements.
- The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

## **RESERVES POLICY**

### **General Funds**

- The policy of the PCC in respect of General Fund reserves is to maintain a balance sufficient to cover for emergency situations equivalent to 3 months' expenditure. Faced with huge deficits in the past, the PCC now tries to avoid setting large deficit budgets, unless absolutely necessary, and looks to reduce costs wherever possible to help maintain General Fund reserves at a level that will enable the PCC to plan for the future with confidence, knowing that there is sufficient to meet future emergency situations. The average quarterly expenditure in 2022 was £52,803 (2021: £39,074), but was £40,904, excluding fundraising costs (2021: £30,803). General Fund reserves at the end of 2022 were £9,138 (2021: £41,186), which is now well below the level the PCC would like, as they are currently inadequate to cover average quarterly budgeted General Fund expenditure for 2023, excluding fundraising costs. As stated earlier, it will be necessary to restore General Fund reserves in 2023, probably via asset sales.

### **Designated Funds**

- A revaluation reserve to account for increases and decreases in the valuation of the investment property asset has been set aside as a designated fund as this can only be used if the asset is sold.

- Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram's are designated of use to purchase fixtures, fittings, and other items in memoriam.
- A development reserve earmarked for potential works relating to the "Sacred Space, Common Ground" project.
- A designated fund for religious, charitable and education purposes included retrospectively from 2018 in 2019's accounts.
- Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group money awaiting distribution to charities are kept for charitable purposes.

### **Fabric Fund**

- The balance on the Fabric Fund is for use to cover repairs and maintenance of our huge church building. A proportion of the balance has been earmarked to meet programmed repair costs.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the *Church Representation Rules 2020* (as amended). At St Wulfram's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, associate rector, assistant curates, retired clergy with permission to officiate, a reader, lay Deanery Synod representatives, churchwardens, and lay members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. The number of elected lay representatives serving on the PCC and the number of co-options on an annual basis are governed by the number on the Electoral Roll.
- The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote in Church of England elections. Those entitled to have their names on this roll must be 16 years of age or more and reside in the parish or be regular worshippers in the church whose roll they wish to join. The Roll is renewed every six years (the next time will be 2025). Joining the Roll opens the way for greater involvement in the life of our church, at deanery, diocesan and national levels, as well as being entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Regular invitations to join the Electoral Roll are included in the weekly *Community* news. At least six months before our annual meeting, we encourage members of our community to register on the Roll, so they can play a full part in our governance, and are eligible to stand for election to the PCC, as a churchwarden or to Deanery Synod.

- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how PCC funds will be spent.
- The full PCC conducted business on 11 occasions during the year. The *Church Representation Rules 2020* (M29) allow for business to be conducted by correspondence; and the PCC conducted business in this manner on two occasions in 2022.

The average level of attendance for the nine in-person meetings in 2022 was 74% (as compared with an average of 84% in 2021).

- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was conducted in the church on Sunday 8 May. This was the first time since the pandemic restrictions that a full in-person meeting had taken place.

At the APCM 2022, it was announced that the number on the Electoral Roll had risen to 224.

- The rules governing the PCC Standing Committee changed with the introduction of the revised *Church Representation Rules 2020*. Although the Standing Committee has power to transact the PCC's business between meetings, it may not discharge a duty of the PCC, nor exercise a power of the PCC which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the PCC.

The committee comprises the Rector, Associate Rector, and Churchwardens (*ex officio*) and two further members (elected by the PCC). John Manterfield served on the committee throughout 2022; Stuart Jackson served until 31 March, at which point Paul Davie became a member of the committee. The Treasurer and PCC Secretary are attendees. Written reports from the committee are submitted to the PCC at the subsequent meeting.

The Standing Committee met three times this year (21 October, 8 November and 8 December. Its business concerned the future of Grantham House.

- Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several sub-groups (Children & Youth, Creation Care, Fabric, Finance, Licence Management [to meet obligations under the Premises Licence granted from 2018], Mission & Social Responsibility, and Social), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. Roles and responsibilities are set out in terms of reference adopted in 2020.

PCC members are expected to sit on at least one sub-group. Members of the congregation are also invited to join sub-groups. Each sub-group includes at least one member of the clergy team and either one or both Churchwardens. Currently, all clergy serve on all sub-groups. Minutes or written reports of sub-group deliberations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

- We are immensely grateful to those who chair our sub-groups for the time they devote to their role and for the dedication and knowledge that they bring to our governance. The chairs in 2022 were: Jo Counsell (Mission & Social Responsibility); Laura Cradduck (Children & Youth); Paul Davie (Licence Management); Mel Fletcher (Social); Frances Roundtree (Creation Care, from 14.7.22), who took over from Gillian Kendon; John Manterfield (Fabric); Paul Davie (Finance, initially on an interim basis from 25.1.22), who took over from Stuart Jackson (who first stood back for personal reasons, and then resigned 31.3.22).
- From time to time, the Rector may gather Sub-group Chairs and 'Heads of Department' (Director of Music, Head Server, Verger, Parish Administrator, PCC Officers) to discuss strategy concerning St Wulfram's mission.
- Gratitude is expressed to our Treasurer (Stephen Howe) and Secretary (Judith Muskett) for the time they each devote to their voluntary roles and for the dedication and knowledge that they too bring to the governance of St Wulfram's Church.

Sincere gratitude is expressed to our churchwardens: Jan Burrows, Andrew Gregory (who completed his term of office at the APCM 2022) and Michael Knight (elected at the APCM 2022).

After stepping down, Andrew told the congregation how much he had enjoyed being Churchwarden. He thanked everyone for supporting him during his term of office. Andrew had stated that he needed no gift to mark the end of his role: it had been an honour to hold the position. But Fr Stuart arranged to use money to twin a toilet on Andrew's behalf. Andrew wrote: 'I am touched that he should take the time to do this, and I am happy that this gift will benefit others. I am passionate about clean water and sanitation being available to all the citizens of the world, so really appreciate this gesture.'

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Wulfram's Church is situated in Grantham, Lincolnshire and is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rectory, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, charity registration number 1131575, as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham."

The PCC Treasurer is Stephen Howe. The PCC Secretary is Judith Muskett (who undertakes this role on a voluntary basis alongside the salaried post of Mission Facilitator). Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is an elected member of the PCC.

PCC members who served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are set out below. Five vacancies for elected members were unfilled at the APCM on 8 May 2022.

| Name                      | Post                                                            | Date if part year |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ex officio members</b> |                                                                 |                   |
| Father Stuart Craddock    | Incumbent, PCC Chair, Rural Dean, Diocesan Synod, General Synod |                   |
| Father Clay Roundtree     | Associate Rector, Diocesan Synod                                |                   |
| Mother June Rowland       | Bishop's Permission to Officiate; Community Chaplain            |                   |
| Mother Geraldine Pond     | Bishop's Permission to Officiate                                | (from 8.5.22)     |
| Father Aron Donaldson     | Assistant Curate                                                | (until 30.6.22)   |
| Father James Titley       | Assistant Curate                                                | (until 7.6.22)    |
| Mother Hannah Grivell     | Assistant Curate                                                | (from 26.6.22)    |
| Mother Kate Hough         | Assistant Curate                                                | (from 26.6.22)    |
| Father Yuce Kabakci       | Assistant Curate                                                | (from 26.6.22)    |
| Katy Castañeda            | Reader                                                          | (from 8.5.22)     |
| Andrew Gregory            | Warden and Vice-Chair                                           | (until 8.5.22)    |
| Jan Burrows               | Warden, Vice Chair (from 8.5.22), Deanery Synod                 |                   |
| Val York                  | Deanery Synod                                                   |                   |
| Paul Davie                | Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod                                   |                   |
| <b>Elected members</b>    |                                                                 |                   |
| Jason Bloomfield          |                                                                 |                   |
| Jo Counsell               |                                                                 | (from 8.5.22)     |
| Cherry Edwards            |                                                                 |                   |
| Melanie Fletcher          |                                                                 |                   |
| Marie Jackson             |                                                                 | (until 8.5.22)    |
| Stuart Jackson            |                                                                 | (until 31.3.22)   |
| Sheila Knight             |                                                                 |                   |
| John Manterfield          |                                                                 | (until 8.5.22)    |
| Lucille Pritchard         |                                                                 | (from 8.5.22)     |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                 |                   |
| Brian Stagg               | Reader Emeritus & Custos of the Trigge Library                  | (until 8.5.22)    |
| Ian Stewart               |                                                                 | (until 8.5.22)    |
| Joanna Swinbourne         |                                                                 | (from 8.5.22)     |
| David West                |                                                                 | (from 8.5.22)     |

Eileen West

(from 8.5.22)

**Co-opted members**

Jo Counsell

(until 8.5.22)

Chris Impey

(from 8.5.22)

Philip Joyce

(from 8.5.22)

John Manterfield

(from 8.5.22)

Bankers

Investment Managers

HSBC Bank plc, Westgate, Grantham.

CCLA Investment Management Limited,

84 Queen Victoria Street, London.

Insurers

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.

Letting Agents

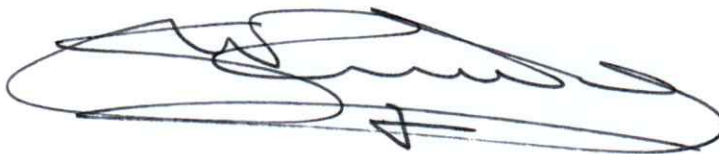
Newton Fallowell, 68 High Street, Grantham.

Independent Examiners

Streets LLP, Windsor House, A1 Business Park,

Long Bennington.

**Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stuart Craddock', written over a horizontal line.

**Father Stuart Craddock**

**23 April 2023**

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2022

|                                                                                                | Note | Unrestricted Funds |                 | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS      |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                |      | General<br>£       | Designated      | £                | £               | 2022<br>£        | 2021<br>£       |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                      |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                  |                 |
| Voluntary income                                                                               | 2(a) | 95,830             | 16,021          | 126,496          | -               | 238,347          | 239,590         |
| Activities for generating funds                                                                | 2(b) | 67,579             | 5,818           | 2,468            | -               | 75,865           | 57,963          |
| Income from investments                                                                        | 2(c) | 4,882              | 49              | 9,380            | -               | 14,311           | 16,623          |
| Church activities                                                                              | 2(d) | 10,871             | 604             | 9,660            | -               | 21,135           | 14,311          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                |      | <b>179,162</b>     | <b>22,492</b>   | <b>148,004</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>349,658</b>   | <b>328,487</b>  |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                      |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                  |                 |
| Church activities                                                                              | 3(a) | 161,886            | 58,877          | 212,333          | -               | 433,096          | 343,435         |
| Fund-raising costs                                                                             | 3(b) | 47,595             | 2,267           | 671              | -               | 50,533           | 40,196          |
| Investment management costs                                                                    | 3(c) | 1,129              | (35)            | 303              | -               | 1,397            | 2,687           |
| Governance costs                                                                               | 3(d) | 600                | -               | -                | -               | 600              | 540             |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                |      | <b>211,210</b>     | <b>61,109</b>   | <b>213,307</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>485,626</b>   | <b>386,858</b>  |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>                            |      | <b>(32,048)</b>    | <b>(38,617)</b> | <b>(65,303)</b>  | <b>-</b>        | <b>(135,968)</b> | <b>(58,371)</b> |
| Transfers between funds                                                                        | 11   | -                  | (335)           | 335              | -               | -                | -               |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b> |      | <b>(32,048)</b>    | <b>(38,952)</b> | <b>(64,968)</b>  | <b>-</b>        | <b>(135,968)</b> | <b>(58,371)</b> |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets:<br>on revaluation                                         | 6(b) | -                  | 11,554          | (37,522)         | (9,384)         | (35,352)         | 5,747           |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                                                                   |      | <b>(32,048)</b>    | <b>(27,398)</b> | <b>(102,490)</b> | <b>(9,384)</b>  | <b>(171,320)</b> | <b>(52,624)</b> |
| <b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JANUARY</b>                                                    |      | <b>41,186</b>      | <b>104,099</b>  | <b>381,411</b>   | <b>69,727</b>   | <b>596,423</b>   | <b>649,047</b>  |
| <b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31st DECEMBER</b>                                                  |      | <b>9,138</b>       | <b>76,701</b>   | <b>278,921</b>   | <b>60,343</b>   | <b>425,103</b>   | <b>596,423</b>  |

The notes on pages 47 to 56 form part of these accounts

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2022

|                                                | Notes | 2022<br>£             | 2021<br>£             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| Tangible assets                                | 6(a)  | 4,134                 | 5,973                 |
| Investments                                    | 6(b)  | <u>388,878</u>        | <u>486,286</u>        |
|                                                |       | <b>393,012</b>        | <b>492,259</b>        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |       |                       |                       |
| Debtors                                        | 7     | 61,636                | 52,369                |
| Short term deposits & cash at bank and in hand | 8     | <u>13,536</u>         | <u>100,608</u>        |
|                                                |       | 75,172                | 152,977               |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |       |                       |                       |
| Creditors - amounts falling due in one year    | 9     | 43,081                | 48,813                |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |       | <u>32,091</u>         | <u>104,164</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                        |       | <u><b>425,103</b></u> | <u><b>596,423</b></u> |
| <b>PARISH FUNDS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| General Fund                                   |       | 9,138                 | 41,186                |
| Designated Funds                               | 10    | <u>76,701</u>         | <u>104,099</u>        |
|                                                |       | 85,839                | 145,285               |
| <b>Restricted</b>                              |       |                       |                       |
| Endowment                                      | 10    | 278,921               | 381,411               |
|                                                | 10    | 60,343                | 69,727                |
|                                                |       | <u><b>425,103</b></u> | <u><b>596,423</b></u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd April 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Father Stuart Cradduck

(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 47 to 56 form part of these accounts

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Funds

**Endowment funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted income or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established (see note 10).

**Restricted funds** represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, income from investments is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis (see note 10).

**Unrestricted funds** are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Of the unrestricted funds, designated funds represent the valuation gain on investment property which can only be realised on sale, a fund for collections in memoriam, a fund designated for potential development, a deposit fund designated for religious, charitable and educational purposes comprised of accumulated income and interest, and a reserve of unrestricted funds held separate from general funds (see note 10).

#### Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable and is accounted for gross.

#### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2022

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### **Fixed assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2005 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2005 is written off.

##### **Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 is calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life by equal annual instalments at the following rates, (% p.a. on cost):

Office equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Computer equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Gardening equipment - 20% straight line basis.

##### **Fixed asset investments**

**Investment property** is valued at 31<sup>st</sup> December, with reference to movements in a regional house price index, from the date of acquisition (see note 6).

**Investment securities** are valued at market value at 31<sup>st</sup> December.

##### **Connected charity**

The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

The objects of the Friends of St. Wulfram's are:

"to preserve and beautify the Church of St Wulfram, Grantham, its fabric, fixtures, fittings, monuments, ornaments and other chattels".

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

| 2 INCOMING RESOURCES                        | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                             | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2022           | 2021           |
|                                             | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>                |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Planned giving:                             |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Gift Aid donations                          | 44,362             |               | 1,200            |                 | 45,562         | 48,175         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 11,090             |               | 300              |                 | 11,390         | 12,044         |
| Other                                       | 5,056              |               |                  |                 | 5,056          | 6,442          |
| Collections (open plate)                    | 9,094              |               |                  |                 | 9,094          | 6,143          |
| Grants                                      | 3,104              | 10,646        | 113,112          |                 | 126,862        | 126,352        |
| Other donations and appeals                 |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 3,418            |                 | 3,418          | -              |
| Donations box                               | 6,601              |               |                  |                 | 6,601          | 5,629          |
| Other donations, appeals, etc.              | 12,633             | 5,220         | 7,805            |                 | 25,658         | 21,927         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 2,890              | 155           | 661              |                 | 3,706          | 4,009          |
| Legacy income                               | 1,000              |               |                  |                 | 1,000          | 8,869          |
|                                             | <b>95,830</b>      | <b>16,021</b> | <b>126,496</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>238,347</b> | <b>239,590</b> |
| <b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b> |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee shop                                 | 3,755              | 41            |                  |                 | 3,796          | 2,116          |
| Hire of church /Grantham House              | 6,443              | 3,465         |                  |                 | 9,908          | 7,897          |
| Sales Unit                                  | 1,340              |               | 220              |                 | 1,560          | 855            |
| Lottery                                     | 895                |               |                  |                 | 895            | 923            |
| Events Bar                                  | 3,047              |               |                  |                 | 3,047          | 2,455          |
| Vintage Festival                            | 22,190             |               |                  |                 | 22,190         | -              |
| Gaia (Metanoia) Climate Festival            | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 2,032          |
| Beer Festival                               | 10,374             |               |                  |                 | 10,374         | 18,751         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                     | 16,891             |               |                  |                 | 16,891         | 13,994         |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 1,720            |                 | 1,720          | 899            |
| Performances at Church                      | 975                |               |                  |                 | 975            | -              |
| Tax recoverable                             |                    |               | 64               |                 | 64             | 181            |
| Other fund-raising                          | 1,669              | 2,312         | 464              |                 | 4,445          | 7,860          |
|                                             | <b>67,579</b>      | <b>5,818</b>  | <b>2,468</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>75,865</b>  | <b>57,963</b>  |
| <b>2(c) Income from investments</b>         |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Rent from land & buildings                  | 4,766              | (151)         | 1,305            | -               | 5,920          | 5,938          |
| Dividends and interest                      | 116                | 200           | 8,075            |                 | 8,391          | 10,685         |
|                                             | <b>4,882</b>       | <b>49</b>     | <b>9,380</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>14,311</b>  | <b>16,623</b>  |
| <b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>   |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Parish Magazine                             | 235                |               |                  |                 | 235            | 302            |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 7,703            |                 | 7,703          | 3,314          |
| Other income from church activities         | 5,125              | 604           | 1,957            |                 | 7,686          | 6,656          |
| Fees paid to PCC for weddings & funerals    | 5,511              |               |                  |                 | 5,511          | 4,039          |
| Insurance claim                             | -                  |               | -                |                 | -              | -              |
|                                             | <b>10,871</b>      | <b>604</b>    | <b>9,660</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>21,135</b>  | <b>14,311</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>             | <b>179,162</b>     | <b>22,492</b> | <b>148,004</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>349,658</b> | <b>328,487</b> |

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2022

| <b>3 RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                          | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> |                   | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Endowment Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                                      | <b>General</b>            | <b>Designated</b> |                         |                        | <b>2022</b>        | <b>2021</b>    |
|                                                      | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
| <b>3(a) Church activities</b>                        |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Missionary and charitable giving (note 13)           | 3,675                     | 738               | 1,583                   |                        | 5,996              | 5,129          |
| Ministry                                             |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Diocesan parish share                                | 36,748                    |                   |                         |                        | 36,748             | 37,029         |
| Other ministry costs                                 | 9,773                     |                   |                         |                        | 9,773              | 6,955          |
| Church/Grantham House running & maintenance          |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Heating, lighting & water                            | 22,158                    | 7,704             | 7,771                   |                        | 37,633             | 22,716         |
| Insurance                                            | 8,011                     | 3,750             | 8,011                   |                        | 19,772             | 18,330         |
| Rates                                                |                           | (686)             |                         |                        | (686)              | 3,161          |
| Maintenance and other costs                          | 5,055                     | 6,898             | 111,415                 |                        | 123,368            | 82,549         |
| Upkeep of services                                   | 6,011                     | 282               | 1,875                   |                        | 8,168              | 6,815          |
| Music & choir                                        | 31,146                    |                   | 6,608                   |                        | 37,754             | 30,715         |
| Choir Trips                                          |                           |                   | 13,271                  |                        | 13,271             | 4,573          |
| Children and young people                            | 1,516                     |                   | 30,408                  |                        | 31,924             | 10,331         |
| Printing, stationery & other office costs            | 8,319                     | 6,318             |                         |                        | 14,637             | 12,024         |
| Trigge Library                                       | -                         |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 2,193          |
| Parish magazine costs                                | 489                       |                   |                         |                        | 489                | 2              |
| Legal & professional fees                            | 323                       |                   | 4,121                   |                        | 4,444              | 6,345          |
| Bank charges                                         | 721                       |                   |                         |                        | 721                | (4,455)        |
| Training & Development                               | 949                       | 198               |                         |                        | 1,147              | 1,519          |
| Festival of Angels project costs (part grant funded) | -                         |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 26,976         |
| Other sundry expenses                                | 3,138                     | 5,455             | 151                     |                        | 8,744              | 18,433         |
| Other church activities costs                        | 831                       | 3,681             | 1,328                   |                        | 5,840              | 3,870          |
| Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing activities  | -                         | 80                | 3,372                   |                        | 3,452              | 1,372          |
| Administration and support costs                     | 23,023                    | 24,459            | 22,419                  |                        | 69,901             | 46,853         |
|                                                      | <b>161,886</b>            | <b>58,877</b>     | <b>212,333</b>          | <b>-</b>               | <b>433,096</b>     | <b>343,435</b> |
| <b>3(b) Fund-raising costs</b>                       |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Coffee Shop                                          | 1,167                     | 101               | 209                     |                        | 1,477              | 576            |
| Sales Unit stock                                     | 111                       |                   |                         |                        | 111                | 167            |
| Events Bar                                           | 1,323                     |                   |                         |                        | 1,323              | 831            |
| Vintage Festival                                     | 21,435                    |                   |                         |                        | 21,435             | -              |
| Gaia (Metanoia) Climate Festival                     | -                         |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 6,353          |
| Beer Festival                                        | 12,730                    |                   |                         |                        | 12,730             | 13,468         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                              | 9,105                     |                   |                         |                        | 9,105              | 8,065          |
| Performances at Church                               | 141                       |                   |                         |                        | 141                | -              |
| Choir Trips                                          | -                         |                   | 7                       |                        | 7                  | -              |
| Other fund-raising                                   | 1,583                     | 2,166             | 455                     |                        | 4,204              | 10,736         |
|                                                      | <b>47,595</b>             | <b>2,267</b>      | <b>671</b>              | <b>-</b>               | <b>50,533</b>      | <b>40,196</b>  |
| <b>3(c) Investment management costs</b>              |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Investment property insurance and repairs            | 555                       | (17)              | 149                     |                        | 687                | 1,975          |
| Investment property management fees                  | 574                       | (18)              | 154                     |                        | 710                | 712            |
|                                                      | <b>1,129</b>              | <b>(35)</b>       | <b>303</b>              | <b>-</b>               | <b>1,397</b>       | <b>2,687</b>   |
| <b>3(d) Governance costs</b>                         | <b>600</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>               | <b>600</b>         | <b>540</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                      | <b>211,210</b>            | <b>61,109</b>     | <b>213,307</b>          | <b>-</b>               | <b>485,626</b>     | <b>386,858</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

| 4 STAFF COSTS & EXPENSE PAYMENTS |                                         | 2022           | 2021          |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                  |                                         | £              | £             |
| 4(a) Staff costs                 |                                         |                |               |
| Wages and salaries:              | Gross pay                               | 127,252        | 76,227        |
|                                  | Employer's NI and Pension Contributions | 11,833         | 4,638         |
|                                  |                                         | <b>139,085</b> | <b>80,865</b> |

The full-time equivalent number of staff was 5.0 (2021 - 3.1) and no employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000. No wages or salaries were paid to PCC members during the year.

**Grantham St Wulfram PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. , a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
  - b. , a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

### Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on the investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year are the contributions payable (**2022: £5,492; 2021: £3,173**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1%, following improvements in the funding position over 2022. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Grantham St Wulfram PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

### 4(b) Payments to PCC members

3 members of the PCC were reimbursed a total of £5,645 expenses in relation to their work at St Wulfram's that was unrelated to their additional duties as PCC members. These were for travel/mileage (£4,307), phone costs (£680), meals/subsistence (£308) & other charitable expenses (£350). A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the Rector may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

AF Electrical Installations was paid a total of £7,860 during 2022 for repair work done. Melanie Fletcher is married to the owner of the firm, but is not a member of the PCC Fabric sub-group that selects the contractors to undertake repair & maintenance work.

Life In Action Ltd, of which Jason Bloomfield is a director, was paid £315 for counselling services in 2022.

No other expenses, except those listed above, were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

|                                                                     | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Net incoming resources for the year are after charging:</b>      |           |           |
| Depreciation of computers & gardening equipment (lawnmowers)        | 1,839     | 1,839     |
| Independent Examination of the Annual Report & Financial Statements | 600       | 540       |

### 6 FIXED ASSETS

#### a) Tangible assets

|                            | GENERAL FUNDS            |                         | DESIGNATED FUNDS      | TOTAL FUNDS   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                            | Gardening Equipment<br>£ | Office Photocopier<br>£ | Office Computers<br>£ | £             |
| <b>Cost or deemed cost</b> |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 1st January 2022        | 1,950                    | 3,990                   | 7,245                 | 13,185        |
| Additions                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| Disposals                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| At 31st December 2022      | <u>1,950</u>             | <u>3,990</u>            | <u>7,245</u>          | <u>13,185</u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>        |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 1st January 2022        | 1,008                    | 3,990                   | 2,214                 | 7,212         |
| Charge for the year        | 390                      | -                       | 1,449                 | 1,839         |
| Disposals                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| At 31st December 2022      | <u>1,398</u>             | <u>3,990</u>            | <u>3,663</u>          | <u>9,051</u>  |
| <b>Net book value</b>      |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 31st December 2022      | <u>552</u>               | <u>-</u>                | <u>3,582</u>          | <u>4,134</u>  |
| At 31st December 2021      | <u>942</u>               | <u>-</u>                | <u>5,031</u>          | <u>5,973</u>  |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

| <b>6 b) Investments</b>            | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Market value 1 January 2022</b> | <b>141,465</b>              | <b>344,821</b>                | <b>486,286</b>                     |
| Additions                          | -                           | 965                           | <b>965</b>                         |
| Disposals                          | -                           | (63,021)                      | <b>(63,021)</b>                    |
| Revaluation (loss)/gain*           | 7,427                       | (42,779)                      | <b>(35,352)</b>                    |
| <b>At 31 December 2022</b>         | <b>148,892</b>              | <b>239,986</b>                | <b>388,878</b>                     |

Historic cost as at 31st December 2022 68,768

\*An estimate of the increase in value of the investment property is obtained using the Nationwide House Price Calculator for properties in the East Midlands region from Q4 2021 to Q4 2022.

**The market value at 31st December 2022 represents investments for:**

|                  | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General funds    | 9,138                       | -                             | <b>9,138</b>                       |
| Designated funds | 80,124                      | -                             | <b>80,124</b>                      |
| Restricted funds | 59,630                      | 179,643                       | <b>239,273</b>                     |
| Endowment funds  | -                           | 60,343                        | <b>60,343</b>                      |
|                  | <b>148,892</b>              | <b>239,986</b>                | <b>388,878</b>                     |

The allocation of the assets to the funds above reflects how the income is currently apportioned, with the exception of the designated investment property reserve of £80,124. Rental income relating to that part of the investment property is allocated to General funds. The type of asset actually used by a particular fund is ultimately dictated by liquidity needs - a fact that will aid the understanding of Note 12 also. Total fixed asset investment securities are within the United Kingdom and are all unlisted. They are intended to be held for longer than one year although can be sold at short notice, thereby ensuring sufficient liquidity.

| <b>7 DEBTORS</b>                  | <b>2022<br/>£</b> | <b>2021<br/>£</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prepayments:                      |                   |                   |
| Less than 1 year                  | 9,154             | 5,487             |
| More than 1 year                  | -                 | 591               |
| Tax recoverable                   | 9,578             | 6,706             |
| Other debtors                     | 42,904            | 39,585            |
|                                   | <b>61,636</b>     | <b>52,369</b>     |
| <b>8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b> | <b>2022<br/>£</b> | <b>2021<br/>£</b> |
| Short term deposits               | 80                | 20,080            |
| Cash at bank and on hand          | 13,456            | 80,528            |
| Other                             | -                 | -                 |
|                                   | <b>13,536</b>     | <b>100,608</b>    |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

### 9 LIABILITIES

|                                                 | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£     |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts falling due in one year                 |               |               |
| Accruals for utility costs                      | 6,628         | 5,131         |
| Accruals for other costs                        | 24,815        | 27,486        |
| Deferred income*                                | 8,536         | 13,462        |
| Grantham Ark (Registered Charity No. 1190668)** | 3,102         | 2,734         |
|                                                 | <b>43,081</b> | <b>48,813</b> |

\*Deferred income includes Parish Magazine income relating to 2023 (£104), monies held for future choir trips (£5,836), advance income relating to cancelled events (£1,570) & Employment Allowance 2022/3 received (£1,026) to be allocated against the Jan.-Mar. 2023 period. The movement in deferred income is analysed below:

|                                                  | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£     |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>                 | <b>13,462</b> | <b>12,662</b> |
| Amounts added in current period                  | 4,523         | 2,805         |
| Amounts released to income from previous periods | (9,449)       | (2,005)       |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>               | <b>8,536</b>  | <b>13,462</b> |

\*\*St Wulfram's Church still occasionally receives income on behalf of Grantham Ark, which is registered with The Charity Commission (number 1190668). This is largely due to difficulty the charity has been experiencing in operating a bank account. Below is a brief summary of income and expenditure for 2021 & 2022, which has been recorded separately from the church's income & expenditure, and the net cash amount owed by St Wulfram's Church to Grantham Ark for net income received on its behalf at the end of those years.

|                                                | 2022<br>£    | 2021<br>£     |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>               | <b>2,734</b> | <b>12,499</b> |
| <b>Income</b>                                  |              |               |
| Grants received on behalf of Grantham Ark      | -            | 500           |
| Donations (inc. Gift Aid) & fundraising income | 3,622        | 2,734         |
|                                                | 3,622        | 3,234         |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                |              |               |
| Leaflets re. SleepOut 2021                     | (11)         | -             |
|                                                | (11)         | -             |
| Payments made to Grantham Ark                  | (3,243)      | (12,999)      |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>             | <b>3,102</b> | <b>2,734</b>  |

No other expenses were paid to any other Grantham Ark trustee, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 9b OPERATING LEASE

The charity has future liabilities under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

|                                | < 1yr      | 1-5 yrs      | > 5 yrs |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Office Equipment (photocopier) | <b>850</b> | <b>2,088</b> | -       |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2022

| 10 | FUNDS                                      | As at<br>1st Jan 22 | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers    | As at<br>31st Dec 22 |
|----|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
|    |                                            | £                   | £                     | £                     | £                            | £            | £                    |
|    | <b>Designated Funds</b>                    | <b>4,531</b>        | -                     | -                     | (522)                        | -            | <b>4,009</b>         |
|    | Funeral collections "in memoriam"          |                     |                       |                       |                              |              |                      |
|    | Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income) | <b>23,745</b>       | -                     | (3,945)               | 965                          | (6,076)      | <b>14,689</b>        |
|    | Mission & Social Responsibility            | <b>7,547</b>        | 6,901                 | (7,637)               | -                            | -            | <b>6,811</b>         |
|    | Development (Grantham House)               | <b>(4,421)</b>      | 17,126                | (51,146)              | 3,768                        | 5,741        | <b>(28,932)</b>      |
|    | Revaluation of investment property         | <b>72,697</b>       | -                     | -                     | 7,427                        | -            | <b>80,124</b>        |
|    |                                            | <b>104,099</b>      | <b>24,027</b>         | <b>(62,728)</b>       | <b>11,638</b>                | <b>(335)</b> | <b>76,701</b>        |

Funeral collections "in memoriam"

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)

Revaluation of investment property

Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram designated for use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items 'in memoriam'.

Accumulated income from restricted income fund of same name, plus interest.

Revaluation reserve for the investment property at 8 Lytham Close.

|  | Restricted Income Funds                           | As at<br>1st Jan 22 | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers  | As at<br>31st Dec 22 |
|--|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
|  |                                                   | £                   | £                     | £                     | £                            | £          | £                    |
|  | 5050 booklet appeal                               | <b>1,200</b>        | -                     | -                     | (138)                        | -          | <b>1,062</b>         |
|  | A Pinchbeck fund                                  | <b>2,183</b>        | -                     | -                     | (221)                        | -          | <b>1,962</b>         |
|  | AG Hardy fund books for lay readers               | <b>2,688</b>        | -                     | -                     | (227)                        | -          | <b>2,461</b>         |
|  | Book of Remembrance                               | <b>316</b>          | -                     | -                     | (37)                         | -          | <b>279</b>           |
|  | Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music | -                   | 42,287                | (1,172)               | -                            | -          | <b>41,115</b>        |
|  | Chained (Trigge) library [Books]                  | <b>3,851</b>        | -                     | (3,851)               | -                            | -          | -                    |
|  | Chained (Trigge) library [All Purposes]           | <b>1,264</b>        | 610                   | (579)                 | (150)                        | -          | <b>1,145</b>         |
|  | Choir Fund                                        | <b>3,713</b>        | 19,640                | (20,509)              | (328)                        | -          | <b>2,516</b>         |
|  | Clarkes Charity                                   | <b>1,001</b>        | -                     | -                     | (33)                         | -          | <b>968</b>           |
|  | Downton bequest                                   | <b>12,146</b>       | -                     | -                     | (1,399)                      | -          | <b>10,747</b>        |
|  | Fabric fund                                       | <b>294,040</b>      | 35,625                | (128,678)             | (22,708)                     | -          | <b>178,279</b>       |
|  | Festival of Angels (SKDC) grant                   | <b>(6,076)</b>      | -                     | -                     | -                            | 6,076      | -                    |
|  | Flowers                                           | <b>1,921</b>        | 1,926                 | (1,892)               | (225)                        | -          | <b>1,730</b>         |
|  | Friends of Cathedral Music Grant                  | <b>882</b>          | -                     | (500)                 | 662                          | -          | <b>1,044</b>         |
|  | Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)       | <b>27,238</b>       | -                     | -                     | (3,192)                      | -          | <b>24,046</b>        |
|  | Langwith Charity                                  | <b>4,196</b>        | -                     | -                     | (289)                        | -          | <b>3,907</b>         |
|  | Organ Fund                                        | <b>125</b>          | -                     | -                     | (14)                         | -          | <b>111</b>           |
|  | P Burdett bequest                                 | <b>1,039</b>        | -                     | (16)                  | (118)                        | -          | <b>905</b>           |
|  | Postcode Places Trust grant                       | <b>19,908</b>       | -                     | (17,084)              | -                            | -          | <b>2,824</b>         |
|  | Shine Lincolnshire grant                          | <b>9,538</b>        | 9                     | (3,806)               | -                            | (5,741)    | -                    |
|  | Shine Lincolnshire grant - Singing For All        | -                   | 6,584                 | (3,583)               | -                            | -          | <b>3,001</b>         |
|  | Shine Lincolnshire grant - Soup Lunch             | -                   | 608                   | -                     | -                            | -          | <b>608</b>           |
|  | South Porch & Garden of Remembrance               | <b>238</b>          | -                     | -                     | (27)                         | -          | <b>211</b>           |
|  | Strategic Development Funding (SDF) / LDT&BoF     | -                   | 48,633                | (48,633)              | -                            | -          | -                    |
|  |                                                   | <b>381,411</b>      | <b>155,922</b>        | <b>(230,303)</b>      | <b>(28,444)</b>              | <b>335</b> | <b>278,921</b>       |

5050 booklet appeal

A Pinchbeck fund

AG Hardy fund books for lay readers

Book of Remembrance

Cathedral Music Trust & Transformation Fund Music grants

Chained (Trigge) library

Choir Fund

Clarkes Charity

Downton bequest

Fabric fund

Festival of Angels grant

Flowers

Friends of Cathedral Music Grant

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)

Langwith Charity

Organ Fund

P Burdett bequest

Postcode Places Trust grant

Shine Lincolnshire grants (ex. Singing For All)

Shine Lincolnshire grant - Singing For All

South Porch & Garden of Remembrance

Strategic Development Funding (SDF)

Funds for the colour guide to the church.

Income to be applied for use by the servers.

Income to be applied to reader ministry.

Donation from the Machine Gun Corp for preservation of the Book of Remembrance.

Grants from CMT and Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance for 2 years Assistant Director of Music salary costs, plus Vocal Coach.

Book restoration and upkeep of Trigge Library funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from collections at music recitals, grants, sales of CDs and donations for choir and music expenditure.

Beautifying the church.

Rector & churchwardens discretionary fund.

Income from bequests, legacies and other donations for preservation of the church fabric.

SKDC grant - Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone - Cultural Consortium Programme.

Purchase of flowers funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from endowment for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships.

Capital for religious, charitable & educational purposes in parish. Income to designated fund of same name.

Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.

Saturday Morning music and other donations to meet the running costs of the organ and expenses of visiting organists.

Vestments for servers and clergy.

Grantham House gardener (£15k), G.H. utilities (£3k), garden tools/seeds (£1k) & G.H. rates.

Grantham House wellbeing classes & some G.H. salary costs. Also Soup Lunch grant covering meal provision costs, Dec. 2022 - Mar. 2023.

Shine Lincolnshire Managed Care Network (MCN) Wave 12 grant for Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing: Singing for All.

Donations for upkeep of the South Porch and Garden of Remembrance.

Strategic Development Funding from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance.

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2022

| <b>10 FUNDS (continued)</b>                | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 22</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 22</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Endowment Funds</b>                     | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| A Pinchbeck fund                           | 1,133                       | -                             | -                             | (161)                                | -                | 972                          |
| A G Hardy fund                             | 3,086                       | -                             | -                             | (438)                                | -                | 2,648                        |
| Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | 3,062                       | -                             | -                             | (435)                                | -                | 2,627                        |
| Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | 149                         | -                             | -                             | (21)                                 | -                | 128                          |
| Fabric fund                                | 20,112                      | -                             | -                             | (2,357)                              | -                | 17,755                       |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | 30,198                      | -                             | -                             | (4,489)                              | -                | 25,709                       |
| Hodds bequest                              | 2,706                       | -                             | -                             | (384)                                | -                | 2,322                        |
| Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | 8,564                       | -                             | -                             | (996)                                | -                | 7,568                        |
| Miss Harrison bequest                      | 516                         | -                             | -                             | (74)                                 | -                | 442                          |
| P Barnes Fund                              | 201                         | -                             | -                             | (29)                                 | -                | 172                          |
|                                            | <b>69,727</b>               | <b>-</b>                      | <b>-</b>                      | <b>(9,384)</b>                       | <b>-</b>         | <b>60,343</b>                |

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A Pinchbeck fund                           | Income to be applied for use by the servers.                                                                                                            |
| A G Hardy fund                             | Income to be applied to reader ministry.                                                                                                                |
| Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | Income to be applied one third to orphans and two thirds to beautifying the church.                                                                     |
| Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | Discretionary fund for distribution to the poor - income transferred to the general fund.                                                               |
| Fabric fund                                | Income to be applied for church fabric - income transferred to the fabric restricted income fund.                                                       |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | Income for St. Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships allocated to restricted income fund of same name.                                                |
| Hodds bequest                              | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of verger, bellringers, servers and choir.                                                      |
| Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.                                                                                                            |
| Miss Harrison bequest                      | Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of choir, music etc                                                                             |
| P Barnes Fund                              | Income to be applied for the children of parish - transferred to general funds to set against cost of Sunday Club & other children's ministry expenses. |

## **11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Transfers between general and restricted funds normally represent a one-off transfer of incoming resources applied to restricted funds where resources expended for the same purpose have previously been met from general funds. Within designated income funds, £6,076 was transferred from the Harrowby Land fund to cover the unrecovered shortfall within the restricted income Festival of Angels fund existing at the beginning of the year. Within restricted income funds, £5,741 grant income from Shine Lincolnshire was transferred to the designated Development (Grantham House) fund to help cover Shine Lincolnshire activities expenditure at Grantham House.

| <b>12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund</b> | <b>Fixed<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Current<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Liabilities</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                          | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
| General funds                            | 9,690                   | 12,391                    | (12,943)           | 9,138          |
| Designated funds                         | 83,706                  | -                         | (7,005)            | 76,701         |
| Restricted funds                         | 239,273                 | 62,781                    | (23,133)           | 278,921        |
| Endowment funds                          | 60,343                  | -                         | -                  | 60,343         |
|                                          | <b>393,012</b>          | <b>75,172</b>             | <b>(43,081)</b>    | <b>425,103</b> |

| <b>13 MISSIONARY &amp; CHARITABLE GIVING</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds<br/>General</b> | <b>Restricted Funds<br/>Designated</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Endowment Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |              |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                                              | <b>£</b>                              | <b>£</b>                               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>               | <b>2022</b>        | <b>2021</b>  |
| Mission & Social Responsibility              | 3,675                                 | -                                      | -                       | -                      | 3,675              | 3,875        |
| Other charitable giving                      |                                       |                                        |                         |                        |                    |              |
| The Children's Society                       | -                                     | -                                      | 674                     | -                      | 674                | 169          |
| DEC (Various appeals)                        | -                                     | -                                      | 483                     | -                      | 483                | 96           |
| Christian Aid                                | -                                     | -                                      | 207                     | -                      | 207                | 62           |
| The Philip Lank Trust                        | -                                     | -                                      | 205                     | -                      | 205                | -            |
| Macmillan                                    | -                                     | -                                      | -                       | -                      | -                  | 249          |
| Samaritans                                   | -                                     | -                                      | 14                      | -                      | 14                 | 78           |
| Grantham Foodbank                            | -                                     | 38                                     | -                       | -                      | 38                 | -            |
| Vouchers for families via local schools      | -                                     | 700                                    | -                       | -                      | 700                | 600          |
|                                              | <b>3,675</b>                          | <b>738</b>                             | <b>1,583</b>            | <b>-</b>               | <b>5,996</b>       | <b>5,129</b> |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****To the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham (the Trust), for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 45 to 46.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



21 April 2023

Chris Hubbard, FCA

Streets LLP  
Windsor House  
A1 Business Park at Long Bennington  
Nottingham  
NG23 5JR

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
Saint Wulfram,  
Grantham

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report for the  
Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

**Annual Report & Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021  
St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
Parochial Church Council**

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## **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Wulfram's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

The detail of this programme of mission is managed severally by the sub-groups (sub committees) of the PCC on its behalf. Their minutes and resolutions are available. From time to time, ad hoc working groups may be established to report to the PCC.

Full details of the PCC membership and officers are listed under 'Administrative Information' below.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC has the overall responsibility to make available to as many people as possible the ministry offered by the living Church based at St Wulfram's, and to welcome the same people to the church building. We communicate the Christian faith and exercise Christian ministry in the worship of the church through the ministry of word and sacrament. We seek to meet the needs of a variety of people in the wide range of worship and activities offered. Our church building is sufficiently flexible that we can manage occasions sacred and secular on a large or modest scale.

When undertaking their programme of activities, the staff and PCC have taken seriously the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. It is our express aim to be a community of Christians in the town and, according to the Anglican understanding, to be available to every single person in the town and parish. We seek to help the people of the town to live out their Christian faith through:

- Participation in the worship of the church and the practice of their own prayers at home, growing in confidence in their grasp of their faith through preaching, teaching and study together of scripture and Christian writings;
- Provision of pastoral care for the people of the parish and town; and
- Initiatives and ongoing work that express the love of God towards all people and reach those who are not regularly in touch with the life of the church.

To make all this possible the PCC has a prime responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Wulfram's.

In the Spring of 2020, St Wulfram's was designated an 'urban resource church', a strategic development funded in part by the Church Commissioners and in part by the Diocese of Lincoln. As well as continuing to serve the people of Grantham, St Wulfram's has a wider responsibility to the whole diocese. This has necessitated a change in the Rector's role. In recognition of this, St Wulfram's was able to appoint a new Associate Rector, who works in partnership with the Rector in leading St Wulfram's mission, ministry, and pastoral care. As one element of the strategic development funding, the Diocese of Lincoln made available two years' funding for a new full-time Children, Youth & Families Worker, whose role at St Wulfram's extends into the Grantham Deanery.

On Saturday 25 September, a Parish Vision Day was held in church from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Under the leadership of our new Associate Rector (see below) and the Archdeacon

of Boston, we explored and discerned what God was calling our church to be, and prepared a strategy for future work.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Staff**

- Father Stuart Craddock, Rector and Rural Dean of Grantham.
- Father James Claybern (Clay) Roundtree, Associate Rector of Grantham (from 4 May).

Fr Clay (who was born and raised in Oklahoma) moved with his family to Grantham from North Yorkshire, where he served for 14 years as Vicar at the St Francis of Assisi Church, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton on Tees.

- Mother Mel Parkin, Assistant Curate (until 30 June).

We bade a formal farewell to Mthr Mel and family at an open-air service in the grounds of Grantham House on 9 July, before their move to Bristol where Fr Jonnie took up the post of Canon Missioner at the Cathedral in August.

- Father James Titley, Assistant Curate.
- Father Aron Donaldson, Assistant Curate (who transferred from the Corby Glen benefice, following a placement at St Wulfram's over the summer).
- St Wulfram's continues to benefit from the active support of local retired clergy (one of whom is designated our 'Community Chaplain').
- We also benefit from the active support of several Authorised Lay Ministers (four of whom were newly authorised by the Rural Dean in July) and two Readers (Nick Kerry, who was re-licensed in October; and Katy Castañeda, who was licensed by the Bishop in October).
- Mrs Melanie Brown, Project Co-ordinator (Grantham House) (from 8 June).
- Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator.  
Elaine is a member of the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN).
- Mr Simon Chesters Thompson, Project Co-ordinator (Grantham House) (from 1 March to 7 June).
- Mrs Anne-Marie Kerr, Artist in Residence (from 1 March).
- Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator and Deanery Administrator.
- Mr Steve Prendergast, Church and Grantham House Cleaner.
- Mr Clayton Stiff, Children, Youth & Families Worker (from 1 September).
- Dr Tim Williams, Organist and Master of the Music.

## **Holders of the Bishop's Licence**

Those licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion in the parish (some within church and others within and outside church) are listed below. The asterisk denotes individuals for whom permission was granted or renewed by the Bishop during 2021. Due to the pandemic restrictions, no-one holding the Bishop's Licence was able to administer the elements in church during 2021.

PTA in church: Clare Arthur\*, Heather Arthur, Shaun Ashley, Daniel Castañeda, Katy Castañeda, Paul Davie\*, Dorothy Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Sue Redmile\*, Georgina Stewart, Ian Stewart, David West.

PTA in church and out of church: Susanne Graham, Elizabeth Hill, Barbara Kime\*, Sheila Knight\*, Shirley Leverett, Brenda Patten, Joanna Swinbourne, Eileen West, Valerie York.

## **Guild of Servers**

Issues and anxieties around the pandemic saw the number of servers reduce over the last year. However, the Guild of Servers continued to actively advertise for new members and address any training needs those current members felt they needed. In late 2021 the group gathered for the first time since before the pandemic for a training session for server's roles and duties, and this was delivered by the Chaplain and the Head Server. At this time, it was decided that the Guild Handbook would be rewritten and distributed amongst members so that they may find instruction on all roles available to them, as well as learn more about the liturgical practices.

The Guild have retained a suitable membership to provide for regular worship but would still welcome more volunteers to enable duties to be more distributed amongst the membership. To that end, new members are most welcome, and training remains an ongoing concern. The guild is not exclusive and is open to all members of the parish, of any age and experience.

## **THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

- The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the ministry and mission of St Wulfram's in 2021. As in 2020, we followed Government restrictions and Church of England guidance on the implications for our work and the health and wellbeing of our church and wider community.
- On 5 January, the UK Government announced the third national lockdown for England, with the message 'Stay at home'. Schools across Grantham closed after just one day of lessons. St Wulfram's continued to provide a beacon of light and hope at this time. The Government chose not to suspend public worship and we followed the guidance to ensure that St Wulfram's remained as safe as possible (with safety precautions such as hand sanitizer available for all, 2m social distancing, the compulsory wearing of face coverings except for those exempt, participation in 'Track and Trace'). The guidance emphasised that those attending a place of worship must not mingle with anyone outside their household or 'support bubble'. In the circumstances, we recognised that some would feel it was better not to attend in person, and our daily offering of online worship continued. St Wulfram's remained open for private prayer (9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) as well as a limited number of services. Our office remained closed with staff working remotely. We prayed especially for those on the front line of our public services, as well as the isolated and lonely at this anxious time.

- On Tuesday 26 January at 8.00 p.m., our Tower Captain rang the tenor bell half-muffled (as for a funeral) for 10 minutes to pay respects to those who had died of COVID-19, after 100,000 deaths were recorded in the UK.
- In late February, while the nationwide vaccination programme continued, the Prime Minister set out a 'roadmap' to the lifting of restrictions. The timeline gave us provisional dates to work towards. The country reached 'Step 1' on 8 March. Schools re-opened for all students. The number permitted to attend funerals remained at 30, while the number permitted to attend weddings and wakes remained at 6.
- The first anniversary of the first national lockdown was commemorated on 23 March by the broadcast of a special service entitled '1 Year On' from St Wulfram's in partnership with the United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust. The service of reflection and hope for the future, which was inclusive of all faiths and none, was attended by a small number of healthcare colleagues and streamed at 6.00 p.m. on the ULHT intranet sites and on Facebook.
- Further restrictions eased on 12 April when 'Step 2' was reached. For St Wulfram's, this meant that the different choir clubs could meet in person to rehearse and that more members of the choir could sing at our services. The number of people permitted to attend a wedding or wake increased to 15.
- The Government moved to 'Step 3' on Monday 17 May. The 'Rule of 6 or 2 households' that had applied hitherto only outdoors then applied indoors. We opened the Parish Office at Grantham House on 17 May.
- Five weeks later, on 21 June, the country reached 'Step 4' and legal limits on social contact, life events and large events were removed. Following further guidance from the Government and Church of England in late July, we reviewed the implications for our life at St Wulfram's. We strongly encouraged everyone to continue to wear face coverings and continued to encourage social distancing by placing chairs and groups of chairs at a minimum distance of 1.5m. We continued our practise of not physically exchanging The Peace. Members of the congregation were asked to come up to the Quire Screen step to receive the Sacrament, and we continued to share only the bread of the Eucharist, not the Common Cup. From 1 August, refreshments after the Parish Eucharist began again: we collected refreshments and took them outside the west end of the church following the service. We continued to produce paper orders of service, which were posted online for those joining services broadcast on Facebook.
- With the emergence of the Omicron variant of Coronavirus, the Government moved England to 'COVID Plan B' on 9 December. Face coverings became mandatory again in places of worship. The Parish Office remained open and St Wulfram's announced that all Christmas services would proceed as planned.
- Once again, the clergy thank the whole community who continued to make significant sacrifices this year. The team is incredibly proud of who we are as a family and thank God that, despite the many challenges of 2020 and 2021, St Wulfram's moves from strength to strength. Particular gratitude is expressed once again to Elaine Chambers (Parish Administrator) who worked immensely hard behind the scenes to maintain the flow of information to and from members of the St Wulfram's community and, with colleagues, to ready the Parish Office at Grantham House for opening in May; and to Dr Tim Williams (Master of the Music), who enabled the choir to continue to share in community, sing, produce music for Sundays and send out a positive message to the church family and beyond in challenging and unsettling times.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship and Prayer

#### *Introduction*

- The PCC is committed to offering a range of worship that reflects not only the breadth of the Anglican tradition but includes worship based on traditions from the Taizé Community and the Abbey on Iona in Scotland.
- The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship, giving opportunity to include good choral and congregational music. In normal times, children from the Sunday Club (which includes those aged 0 to 11) are actively included in this service and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions and assist in the administration of the Sacrament. All are welcome to participate in this service; and, in normal times, welcome stewards are at the door each Sunday. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and contacted in due course at home.
- The service pattern differs on the first Sunday of the month. All Age worship, or Parade Services for the scout and guide groups, take place at 9.30 a.m., supported by the St Wulfram's band of instrumentalists. These services continue to attract a cross-section of people young and old in the congregation. The All Age worship or Parade Service is followed at 11.00 a.m. by a traditional Choral Eucharist, the style of which attracts regular members of the congregation, as well as worshippers from other churches and newcomers.
- 'Extra Half Hour' is an informal monthly Bible study after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist. This could not be offered in 2021, but there are plans to reinstate it in January 2022.
- Choral Evensong is sung at 6.30 p.m. most Sundays during school term times. Outside school term and on the first Sunday of each month, Evening Prayer is said at 6.30 p.m.
- The Sunday Parish Eucharist and Evening Prayer / Evensong continued to be live-streamed to reach those who are unable to attend church in person.
- In contrast to the parish communion and choral evensong, the evening and midweek services are quieter and more reflective. Morning Prayer is said daily in the Crypt, and broadcast online; members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. The number of views indicate that in broadcasting the Office online St Wulfram's meets a real spiritual need.
- We resumed midweek services in September. The midweek Eucharist held on a Tuesday at 12 noon in St Michael's Chapel resumed on 7 September. Choral Evensong with the Youth Choir in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m. on Fridays resumed on 17 September. Exposition and Benediction at 12 noon on Fridays resumed on 24 September. One of our Readers broadcasts Compline from home on a Saturday.

#### *The pattern of worship and prayer in 2021*

- Although it was impossible to meet in person for the World Day of Prayer (5 March), we invited members of our community to mark this using a booklet available from [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) and at home at 10 a.m. to use prayers written by the Christian women of Vanuatu, whose chosen theme was 'Build on a Strong Foundation'.

- Three special services for St Wulfram's and St John's Church Manthorpe marked Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The prescribed safer way of anointing with ash this year was to sprinkle above the forehead, avoiding any physical contact.
- Lit only by candlelight, St Wulfram's was open for an hour on four Thursday evenings during Lent for private prayer and reflection.
- On 25 March, St Wulfram's marked the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary with a livestreamed Solemn Choral High Mass at 7.30 p.m.
- It was not possible to have our Walk of Witness on Palm Sunday (28 March); but we encouraged members of our church community to decorate a door, gate or window with a 'palm' branch and we shared a link to a video showing how to make a palm cross. We shared photos of our creations on social media.
- We welcomed the Revd (Sqn Ldr) Andrew Chapman, Station Chaplain, Royal Air Force College Cranwell as our visiting speaker at the services held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.
- We posted a specially designed Easter postcard (bearing seasonal photographs) to all members of our church community, wishing them well and announcing the dates and times of services on Easter Eve and Day.
- A special exhibition for Easter entitled 'The Same Boat. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Street Cultures meets 8<sup>th</sup> century Legacy' (funded by the Arts Council England and SKDC) was on display at St Wulfram's from 29 March to 30 April. The concept was inspired by the story of St Wulfram and the Stations of the Cross, and acknowledged the extraordinary collective experience that we had all lived through in the preceding 12 months. Against this background, Fr Stuart chose five words to inspire the project's installations: betrayal, suffering, vulnerability, hope and courage. The exhibition consisted of four initial art installations (created by participants from local educational establishments, who worked with local artists, including our Artist in Residence). A fifth and final installation was created 'live' by internationally renowned Islamic street artist Mohammed Ali, with music provided by award winning composer and musician Cleveland Watkiss, with members of the St Wulfram's Youth Choir. As restrictions prevented the live event being open to the public, it was filmed and streamed on 27 March. Fr Stuart made a series of short films offering reflections on the art works. Visitors to the exhibition were encouraged to write a reflection on a post-it-note to be stuck to the side or back of the image created by Mohammed.
- We gathered together at St Wulfram's and online at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 15 April for a Solemn High Mass of Requiem for His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The celebrant was Fr Stuart, and the choir sang the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré.
- The Scout and Girlguiding movements celebrated St George, their patron saint, on Sunday afternoon 25 April with a service broadcast online.
- Outdoor Parish Eucharists were held at 10.00 a.m. in the garden of Grantham House on the first Sundays in June and July. These enabled the congregation to sing aloud at a time when pandemic restrictions did not allow singing indoors.
- In the year of COP26, we participated in the Climate Sunday initiative on 4 July with a special service led by Mthr Mel Parkin: we reflected on God's creation and encouraged

people to commit to greater action to address climate change. Packets of wildflower seeds were distributed. A link to online resources was shared immediately afterwards.

- In line with our aim to mark certain ‘awareness days’ in the national calendar, we held a service in church at 6.30 p.m. on Friday 10 September for World Suicide Prevention Day. This was an opportunity to remember a loved one, to show support for suicide prevention and for the survivors of suicide and the families and friends affected. The service, attended by more than 20 people, was led by Fr Aron Donaldson and sung by the adult choir. All were invited to light a candle of hope during the service. A collection was taken for the Samaritans. Clergy were available afterwards to speak to anyone who wished.
- The Order of Service for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (12 September) was the final printed service sheet; and on Sunday 19 September, we started to use hymn books and service booklets in church again.
- The Bishop of Grantham led our Harvest Thanksgiving services at 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 26 September. The services were held under Luke Jerram’s GAIA installation [see ‘Grantham Deanery’ section below.] Issued with the *Community News* was a list of items required by the Foodbank and we encouraged the congregation to bring donations to the services. At 9.30 a.m., we welcomed members of the Scouts and Guides, choristers and our band.
- We marked Safeguarding Sunday at the Parish Eucharist on 10 October. A special Choral Evensong was held on Sunday 10 October to celebrate the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, after which a new support vehicle was dedicated outside the church.
- We marked our patronal festival (15 October) at the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 17 October and with a Patronal Evensong and Benediction the same day. The services were held in church and broadcast on Facebook.
- On the first Saturday afternoon of October, November and December, we reintroduced ‘Come and Sing’ with the Master of the Music and others. The activity, for youngsters aged between 3 and 7 years, includes singing, musical games and refreshments, and is aimed at developing a love of singing and basic musicianship skills. The activity took place in Grantham House due to a clash with events in the church, but would normally be held in the church.
- The All Souls Mass, including Fauré’s Requiem, was held in church and broadcast on Facebook in the evening on Sunday 7 November. The names of departed loved ones were included in the prayers; and an online form was available for this purpose.
- Grantham paid its respects as the annual Remembrance Parade returned on Sunday 14 November. The usual Service of Remembrance was held at 10.55 a.m. in St Wulfram’s.
- For one hour on the four Thursday evenings before Christmas, Fr Clay led ‘Merry Mindfulness’ in the Great Hall of Grantham House. The series aimed to give people space in a time that can be busy and stressful. The evenings explored the themes of Advent, with silence, live ambient guitar music and an opportunity to light a candle. Simple refreshments were offered. We looked forward to a ‘Meditation for Beginners’ course on six consecutive Thursday evenings starting on 6 January 2022.

- On the morning of Wednesday 22 December, hundreds of christingles were prepared for the Christingle Crib service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We express gratitude to the local Morrisons supermarket for donating oranges and other items. All the donations received at the service were given to the Children's Society.
- Towards the end of the year, we issued members of the congregation with copies of the booklet entitled 'At the heart of Christmas' by Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell and guests. The booklet contained 12 days of stories and meditations to use from Christmas Eve until 6 January.

### *Preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and Confirmation*

- Since January 2014 the PCC has allowed children from the age of those in school Year 3 to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, following a period of preparation. This would usually take the form of a five-week period of preparation, undertaken in Lent, with the young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time, with their family, on Easter Day.

After not running in 2020 owing to pandemic restrictions, Communion Club resumed over Zoom in 2021, with five meetings led by Fr Stuart and Mrs Laura Craddock.

- The Youth Confirmation Group is aimed at young people in school Year 8 upwards. Its usual format is a six-month programme, with monthly meetings, with the Confirmation service in the centre, and a confirmation retreat over three days where a significant amount of the pre-confirmation course content is covered (led by clergy). This year, over Zoom, we ran nine sessions for confirmation preparation.

Adult confirmation preparation is open to all who wish to recognise their personal development in faith. The usual format is meetings held on six consecutive Sundays, with the Confirmation service held in the centre of the course. This year, adult confirmation preparation was conducted over Zoom by Fr James.

Bishop David, Bishop of Grimsby, confirmed 2 adults and 11 children from St Wulfram's parish at a service on Holy Saturday evening (3 April).

### *Occasional Offices*

- The occasional offices continue to be an important point of contact and ministry within the wider community.

In 2021 there were eight weddings. More weddings were expected (13 in total booked for the year plus 2 wedding vow renewals) but due to COVID-19 restrictions seven services were moved to 2022.

The *Grantham Journal* published an article on the first couple to say 'I do' in St Wulfram's (5 June) after the easing of restrictions. Fr Clay conducted the wedding ceremony under COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, with 30 guests, who all wore facemasks inside the church. The bride said to the *Journal*: 'Getting married at St Wulfram's was a dream come true. It was a shame that we couldn't have had more of our family and friends there, but everyone understood.'

We conducted 15 baptisms: all children (four under one year of age, nine aged between one and three years old, two aged between six and seven years old). We have an open baptism policy and do our best to keep in touch with the families involved.

A total of 15 funerals for people in the parish were conducted during the year, of which 11 took place in church.

At their meeting in December, the PCC's Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group welcomed Elaine Chambers to speak about her ideas for celebrating and following up life events, as part of her Authorised Lay Ministry. The Life Events Diary software in use in the Parish Office enables reminders to be set up for the anniversaries of weddings and baptisms. Elaine subsequently updated the baptism card, introduced a certificate for Godparents, will be producing a certificate for weddings, and arranged for a series of high-quality cards to be printed (the initial and ongoing costs being met by the Mission Fund). The design of anniversary cards will change year by year. Celebrating and following up life events in this way will strengthen the mission of St Wulfram's in the local community.

### **Mission and Social Responsibility**

- St Wulfram's continues to take seriously its calling to be a living witness to the gospel at the heart of the town. In many of the activities detailed in this report there is effective contact with a substantial number of people of all ages beyond the congregation.
- St Wulfram's supports a range of mission and charitable organisations, giving away 5% of its pledged income to these each year. We were pleased to add some new causes to our list of beneficiaries in 2021. Further details are included in the financial statements.
- In addition, we supported Di Hale who did a 5km Walk for Hunger in March to raise funds for the Trussell Trust, and Thomas Craddock who walked 26 miles along the Wye Valley in September to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.
- A Macmillan Coffee Morning was held at Grantham House on Friday 17 September. Thanks were expressed to all who made and donated cakes, helping us to raise £249 including Gift Aid.
- In September, St Wulfram's was an overnight stop for more than 30 cyclists who rode the route of the 12 Queen Eleanor crosses and raised £25,000 for a homeless charity, The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The cyclists enjoyed a trip to The Blue Pig pub and slept on the stone floors of the church.
- It was impossible to run the usual Christian Aid events in May. However, an online community fundraising page was set up, which raised £640 including GiftAid. A further £62 was collected in cash including Gift Aid claimed.
- We encouraged members of the congregation to look out for Fairtrade products, especially during Fairtrade Fortnight (22 February to 7 March).
- St Wulfram's worked with Rotary and other partners across the town and district to respond to the immediate needs of Afghan refugees staying in the local area. We received an incredible outpouring of generosity in the form of clothing, shoes, blankets and toys. The appeal was paused just days after opening, while donations were sorted and delivered. Following a meeting of Churches Together, our Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group agreed to purchase items (such as trainers, jackets and underwear) to support two Afghan refugees at the Urban Hotel in Grantham. The total cost was £173.90.

- This was a busy year for the Passage working with Grantham Poverty Concern. The year started with around 200 deliveries made every week to many vulnerable families and individuals. As lockdown restrictions eased, it was possible to resume the provision of daily meals in the various Passage locations including St. Wulfram's on a Thursday lunchtime. Over the summer we provided take away sandwich lunches and from September have been able to provide soup and hot dog meals again from the base at St. Mary's Church, thanks to our dedicated teams of volunteers, including several new helpers.
- Tins, packets, jars and bottles of food/drink and household toiletries are donated regularly to the Grantham Foodbank and The Passage through collection boxes located in church.
- We collected new toys for the Grantham Foodbank at our Advent Sunday Parish Eucharist; and, during December, approximately 220kg of tinned and packet goods were collected for the Foodbank through our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme, run for the first time in 2021.
- Over and above the charitable giving organised by the church community, in excess of £5,000 was raised for charity through school services, funerals and other events held within the building.
- Sadly, over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of people who are homeless, sleeping in tents or sofa-surfing in the locality. At present, there is no emergency provision in the district; so, the only response that clergy and The Passage volunteers can make in an emergency is to send people to Lincoln, Nottingham, or Peterborough to access emergency accommodation. In 2019, an important step was taken by 'Grantham Ark', a group comprising representatives from churches across Grantham (including St Wulfram's), to ameliorate the challenges faced by those in the locality lacking a permanent home. Fr Stuart led the initiative through the organisation 'Churches Together in Grantham & District'. Grantham Ark completed the process to register with the Charity Commission in 2020 (Registered Charity number 1190668). In 2020, through the efforts of the Grantham Ark, three churches (including St Wulfram's) took it in turns, one or two weeks at a time, to open their doors during the harshest winter months (January to March) to those who needed shelter overnight (referred by relevant authorities/organisations). After considerable work for Grantham Ark in the autumn 2020, the sad conclusion was reached that it would be impossible to operate the night shelter in the early months of 2021, owing to COVID-19 restrictions and health and safety concerns for both guests and volunteers.
- Grantham Ark organised the annual SleepOut event in December 2021 in the grounds of Grantham House (by kind permission of the National Trust), to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the homeless and to raise funds towards a permanent emergency night shelter in the town. A total of £2,734 was raised and collected via the church in sponsorship and donations including Gift Aid.
- We revived the fund begun in 2020 to assist families needing some extra help at Christmas time. Under the banner 'Christmas Cheer', we raised further money and gave a total of £600 worth of supermarket vouchers to several vulnerable families whom we identified through contact with a local church school.

## **Safeguarding**

- The PCC continues to take extremely seriously the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk of harm. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the

Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (that is, the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm).

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Assistant Safeguarding Officer (ASO – our Parish Administrator) make regular written reports to the PCC; and the PSO attends PCC meetings to report in person as necessary. Each March, the PCC conducts an annual review of our safeguarding policy statement, which is signed by the Rector (as Chair of the PCC) and displayed in the church.
- We routinely supply our safeguarding policy statement and practice guidance to external trusts and organisations that fund our wellbeing activities run in our resource centre at Grantham House.
- The ASO continues to process applications for DBS clearance. In line with recruitment practices set out in the Church of England's Guidance *Safer Recruitment* and diocesan policy, our Churchwardens and all PCC members are DBS checked upon appointment/election. All other staff and volunteers (e.g., in the music department and lay pastoral team) are also DBS checked upon taking up roles. In addition, all adult choristers, including Youth Choir members who turn 18 years of age, go through the DBS checking process. We carefully monitor periods for which clearance is granted and apply for renewal, as appropriate.
- The ASO oversees a system to ensure that all individuals with DBS clearance complete online courses relevant to their role within the church. It was established during the year that all PCC members should undertake 'Basic Awareness' training (level Co) and that churchwardens, pastoral assistants, leaders of groups for young people or adults at risk, the Bell Tower Captain, church administrative staff, and servers should undertake the 'Foundation Module' (C1, as well as Co). Licensed clergy and readers, clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate, PSOs and Authorised Lay Ministers are required to undertake the Leadership Module (C2). Completion certificates are sent to the ASO to update the parish records.
- The ASO completed the C2 Safeguarding Leadership Training (that for the PSO is due in 2022). The PSO and ASO (as the Lead Recruiter for St Wulfram's) undertook Safer Recruitment Training. The ASO completed Training for Sex Offender Management in a church context in 2021 and the PSO is due to undertake this training in January 2022.
- Certificates were issued by St John Ambulance to a total of ten people (certain volunteers who work with children and young people, and selected members of staff) who completed a Paediatric First Aid course (online training followed by a one-day in-person training session, which we arranged at Grantham House). The cost of this was met in part by a 'Tier 1' grant from the Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund. Mental Health First Aid training was completed by our Parish Administrator (the ASO), Children, Youth & Families Worker, and our Project Co-ordinator. The cost of their places was met by Shine Lincolnshire (which funds wellbeing activities for social prescribers to tap into, at our resource centre).
- The PSO continued work on the Level 2 actions arising from the online audit of *Promoting a Safer Church*. One action concerned the training of PCC members; and the PCC was notified in September that all individuals had completed the (e-learning) training at the prescribed level. Another action concerned identifying the list of activities provided for those under 18 years of age and for adults at risk of harm. The PCC formally acknowledged the change of name of two such activity groups during the year.

- In line with national safeguarding requirements, the PSO continued to draw up a full register of volunteers (aged 18 and over) attached to church activities and to ensure the names are recorded correctly on the diocesan register of volunteers. In the autumn, the PSO met with the church's (voluntary) HR Advisor to discuss the process; and they planned a series of introductory training sessions for volunteers in 2022.
- The PSO met with the Children, Youth & Families Worker in the autumn; and together they ensured that all groups involving children and young people are covered by up-to-date risk assessments, and that volunteers have current DBS clearance and have completed the correct level of safeguarding training. A generic COVID-19 risk assessment can be used by all groups.
- The PCC uses a step-by-step process (adopted in 2018) for approval of all off-site activities (e.g., by the Choir and Youth Group), delegating certain powers to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Unfortunately, the pandemic continued to prevent many Choir and Youth Group activities taking place this year.
- A trip to Coventry Cathedral by the Choir in the October half-term break resulted in a minor coach incident on the return journey. We were grateful that no participant was injured. The Master of the Music and the chaperones were praised by the PCC for their prompt action and care of the choristers. A de-brief meeting was held in November to discuss learning points.

### **Our resource centre at Grantham House**

- As reported last year, the National Trust granted St Wulfram's a 12-month lease from December 2020 on the ground floor of Grantham House at 45 Castlegate (directly opposite the east end of the church). Due to pandemic restrictions, our use of the building was severely curtailed in the early months of 2021.
- In February, St Wulfram's applied to South Kesteven District Council for planning permission for change of use from residential to office and storage space. The application was granted on 8 April 2021. As a charity, St Wulfram's was granted substantial relief on Business Rates; and in the autumn we applied to SKDC for discretionary relief on the remaining portion of the Rates. A decision is awaited.
- With thanks to external funders (Allchurches Trust, the Evan Cornish Grassroots Fund and the diocesan Transformation Fund), we were able to recruit a part-time Project Co-ordinator and a part-time Artist in Residence as we developed our presence on site and activities through the Wulfram Centre for Wholeness and Wellbeing. The announcement of the appointments from 1 March was accompanied by short introductory videos from the appointees. Members of our community were invited to email their ideas for things they would like to see happen at Grantham House.
- On four Sunday afternoons in Lent, we welcomed a great number of people to the tranquil surroundings of the Walled Garden for 'Stations of the Cross', a self-guided prayerful walk recalling the last journey our Lord took on his way to his crucifixion. With the help of a specially prepared booklet, we stopped at each cross to read the story, offer prayer and meditate on the themes. This was a personal and moving experience for individuals and families, in accordance with pandemic restrictions. We were greatly indebted to Elaine and Mick Chambers for both the construction and the remarkable numbering of the beautiful crosses.

- In readiness for the opening of the Parish Office on Monday 17 May, a team drawn from our church community kindly cleaned Grantham House on Friday 14 May. We are grateful also to the decorating party who worked through the summer months on the pool house.
- To mark 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (10 to 16 May), we opened the Grantham House gardens on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 May from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., in partnership with the National Trust. The theme of the week was 'Nature'. Research into the impact of the pandemic restrictions on mental health had shown that connecting with nature in green spaces was an important coping strategy. We were grateful to Amy Hazard (National Trust Gardener at Grantham House) and her band of volunteers, and to the Head Gardener at Belton House for making these open days possible. We welcomed over a hundred visitors. Many had never seen the wonderful gardens before. All spoke of what a treat it was to enjoy wandering in this oasis of calm close to the town centre.
- Also in May, 'Grantham Trump Cards' were launched at an event in the garden of Grantham House. The cards (on sale at £4.99 per pack, or free to schools and community groups) were created through the Heritage Action Zone project funded by Historic England working in partnership with InvestSK, Grantham Civic Society and Heritage Lincolnshire. The cards highlight 62 of the architectural treasures found in Grantham, including Grantham House and St Wulfram's Church.
- Our Artist in Residence started a series of popular school holiday workshops in the early summer. In the first of these, participants enjoyed making bird boxes and bug hotels in the Grantham House courtyard, using recycled wood and other found materials. Subsequent workshops included a garden treasure hunt, making sun-catchers and mini lanterns, glass painting and pinhole photography. Participants took inspiration from the grounds of Grantham House. A mixture of ages took part: from children and parents, to retired people. Everyone enjoyed being creative and feedback was extremely positive:
  - ❖ A wonderful garden and very peaceful! A lovely place to spend a quiet moment during Mental Health Awareness Week.
  - ❖ Saw a lot of the garden we did not realise was here. An oasis of calm in the middle of a town.
- On Saturday 10 July, St Wulfram's Church and Grantham Vintage Festival presented an evening of entertainment in the garden of Grantham House by 'The Shirt Tail Stompers', London's top vintage swing and jazz band. There was an on-site gin and Pimms bar and a variety of other refreshments, and vintage dress was encouraged. This event was part of the run-up to the Grantham Vintage Festival, postponed until 2022 (30 April to 2 May) due to the pandemic.
- With a grant from NHS Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council, awarded by Shine Lincolnshire, we began a programme of activities to which local social prescribers could refer clients: the aim was to improve mental and physical health and wellbeing, and to address loneliness. The programme (funded until 31 July 2022) included a 'Cake and Coffee' facilitated chat on Fridays, and art/craft workshops on Thursdays led by our Artist in Residence.
- We bade farewell to Amy Hazard in November, when the National Trust moved her to the team of gardeners at Belton House. We plan to appoint our own gardener early in 2022 to care for the 7.5 acre site. An appeal will be made for garden volunteers.

- Towards the end of 2021, we were notified that two further grant applications had been successful: these related to our community gardening project to be launched in the Spring of 2022 and will meet the cost of our new gardener for a year.
- Former choristers and youth choir members sang at an open-air Christmas concert on 21 December in the courtyard of Grantham House. Festooned with white lights and lanterns and warmed with braziers, the courtyard was a perfect setting despite the chilly weather. Mulled wine and mince pies were served by candlelight in the interval.
- By the end of the year, space in Grantham House was being utilised on a regular basis for a range of activities including the church's weekly coffee morning, our funded wellbeing activities and committee meetings (for example, PCC; deanery; flower arrangers; Friends of St Wulfram's; Almshouse Trustees). The Dining Room was let to the nearby King's School as an overflow classroom for a few weeks in June/July.
- In November 2021, the PCC held a special meeting to discuss the long-term future of the Grantham House site; and the decision was to take a five-year lease from the National Trust on the whole site. The PCC also decided to establish a trading organisation to be called 'Wulfram Enterprises' from the tax year 2022-23.

## **Music**

### *Introduction*

- Over the past 14 years, Organist and Master of the Music Dr Tim Williams, FRCO (DipCHD) has achieved notable success in the recruiting and training of young members of the choir, drawing on relationships with local schools and other music contacts. Choristers are not auditioned, and all members share a remarkable commitment and professionalism in their approach to music. The standard of the children's sections of St Wulfram's Church Choir is one of the success stories of the church music programme.
- We are grateful to Assistant Organists Rosemary Field, David Humphreys, Harry Jacques, Edward McCall and Andrew Wyatt, and former organ scholar Matilda Johnson, for their ongoing contributions to the music at St Wulfram's.
- Choir club for boys is on Tuesday afternoon after school and for girls on Wednesday afternoon. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards, without a formal audition process. New recruits are given their own introductory sessions. The children's choirs continue to be a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community.
- The youth choir, which meets on Monday afternoon, responds to the choristers as they graduate from the boys' and girls' choirs. This school year, there are five 'choral scholars' supported by the Philip Lank Trust, and two senior choral scholars supported by St Wulfram's (through the endowment gifted in 2019 by the Friends of Cathedral Music). Most Fridays during term time, the youth choir sings Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m., supported by our portable box organ; a small regular congregation attends.

### *The narrative of 2021 – a year in which the goalposts kept shifting*

- As 2021 began, the choir sang for one Sunday service, and then a long lockdown was announced. We were very conscious of how hard these times were, especially for our choristers and youth choir who were accessing education remotely. For three long months we were only allowed a single cantor to sing in worship. Choristers continued to access choir via Zoom, but we decided not to request a high quantity of virtual output from the younger choristers. The approach was training-first, seeking to get this remarkable and committed group of choristers back into the best place for future in-person singing.
- In the meantime, the youth choir, a few of the senior choristers and a dedicated group of adult singers set a new benchmark for lockdown sacred choral music. In collaboration with academics, including Professor Magnus Williamson (University of Newcastle), we created a virtual project for the Feast of Candlemas in February, experimenting with digital methods in plainsong and chant, and reconstructing elaborate polyphony as remote virtual singers. We went further for Ash Wednesday, and we were (to our knowledge) the only choir in the UK to produce a virtual *Allegri Miserere* for this day. This was shared widely, and our determination as well as methodology was acclaimed. Further lockdown projects followed, with our most elaborate undertaking at the end of March. By that time, we had won the attention of the internationally renowned choir, the Gesualdo Six, who wrote on our YouTube channel: 'What you've managed to achieve during lockdown is nothing short of remarkable.'
- As Easter arrived, a staggered return to choral singing at church became possible, but with further restrictions – initially trios only, and then when larger choirs were allowed, it was with the caveat that was a bombshell to us: no choral singing which involved the mixing of under-18 choristers from different schools. Even so, we adapted, and each Holy Week service was sung with a group of choristers from one of our individual feeder schools. Nevertheless, returning choral music to church after all this time was a great feeling. On Easter Day, a small group of singers sang in church; but our only way of singing fully 'together' as a choir with the restrictions was to produce a virtual Easter anthem, for a Facebook and YouTube premiere on the evening of Easter Day. We hoped that this would be our virtual swansong, and that a brighter world for in-person singing was on the horizon as the vaccination programme advanced.
- Moving forward from there was still fraught with complication. For a while, more generous rules followed, and the choristers could meet together again. In services, it was necessary to keep 2 metre distancing, which enabled a maximum of 16 singers to participate in any one service in the chancel. The first such service was the Requiem for HRH Prince Philip.
- As not all singers in the adult choir were ready to return to in-person singing, the Master of the Music was keen to try and find a new means for all members to sing and produce together when some were in the same building and others were accessing choir remotely. This led to an experiment in the production of a hybrid choir, as part of his project with Professor Williamson to reconstruct a Tudor hymn for Ascension. It came together well, and we created more digital output from it, a dawn broadcast for Ascension Day.
- As the rest of the world moved towards less restricted times, in the middle of May amateur adult singers were suddenly faced with extreme restrictions: a maximum of six singers inside, no matter how big and ventilated the space was. Unlike the Easter rules, which restricted children and teenage singers more than adults, this time our

children's and youth activities could continue. But we continued singing. The church's resource centre at Grantham House enabled summer evening garden rehearsals outside for the adults (unless it rained, and we switched to six singers inside, Zoom streamed). Choral evensongs were sung with choristers and a teenage back row. The ruling threatened to scupper a Corpus Christi project, but our hybrid method came into its own.

- In June, we welcomed the Gesualdo Six to St Wulfram's. They had worked with our choristers on Zoom in March, and we were all excited for this visit. Initially the plan had been for them to give performances in church and at Grantham House, but as restrictions did not ease fully at the time it was not viable to go ahead with these concerts. But we had a fabulous two days of workshops, for the children, teenagers and adult choir. On the Friday evening, the youth choir filmed alongside the Gesualdo Six and created beautiful output. It felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but it was in fact the beginning of what we hope will be a much longer collaboration. The concert happened on St Wulfram's Day in October, with some of our senior choristers and youth choir participating – and the Gesualdo Six stayed on the Saturday to deliver sensational workshops with the full choir. This collaboration also led to a further collaboration with the *Multitude of Voyces* project – an initiative supported by the PCC. A donor bought us full sets of all three MoV anthologies of music by female composers, and we were able to start to get some of the music in repertoire in the autumn.
- The roadmap from lockdown arrived at its destination on Monday 19 July; and there were suddenly no singing restrictions, just a requirement for local assessment of risk. We sang our valediction evensong that day with 48 singers, spaced throughout the chancel towards the altar, and with a contingent of 11 new choristers (recruited since lockdown) and their families in the congregation.
- In the summer, we were able to take a weekend away to sing in Beverley Minster. This was a wonderful residency. The choir sang at a very high level and impressed many people. The choristers and youth choir were able to reconnect, staying at Beverley YHA. By the end of the weekend, the choir was singing at its highest level. We were able to create properly in-person choral output. Our film of Palestrina's *Sicut cervus* is now our most viewed YouTube video, with over 1.5K views (in addition to many more on Facebook).
- On Sunday afternoon 19 September, we celebrated the RSCM's International Chorister Day, inviting youngsters aged 7 to 11 to experience being a church chorister. The day culminated in a closing act of worship in church at 6.30pm, featuring Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's anthem 'The Choristers' Prayer: Bless us O Lord, us thy servants' (a special commission for International Chorister Day).
- In the October half-term we visited Coventry Cathedral, and sang a beautiful evensong, and created a film of Byrd's *Ne irascaris Domine* ready for Remembrance in the most poignant setting with the old cathedral ruins visible in the background. We also produced two further pieces of digital output for the days of Remembrance with a small ensemble in St Wulfram's. St Wulfram's Choir has now sung at a total of 24 Anglican cathedrals in England/Wales; and we look forward to a residency in Ely Cathedral in August 2022.
- Without restriction, the choir was able to enjoy a fairly normal autumn term. We have become acquainted, since June, with Grantham House as the space for our after-school choir clubs, while still rehearsing on Fridays in church.

- Choir recruitment continued well – a large waiting list for the girls’ choir (at capacity); a steady build with the boys’ choir (needing further attention in 2022); and the youth choir thriving as an SATB ensemble. The youth choir has returned to the routine of singing Friday evensongs. We were also able to reinstate some of our most elaborate Sunday repertoire from pre-pandemic days in worship.
- The choir sang Fauré’s *Requiem* during the All Souls Eucharist on 7 November. The Advent Carol Service featured the choir at its polished best; the boy and girl choristers totally smashed their liturgical performance of Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*; and, despite the worries of the advance of the new Omicron wave, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was truly magical, beautifully and impeccably sung. As well as carol singing around town at Downton and at Belton House, the choristers prepared an outreach video for those in care homes and hospitals, which was shared widely.
- The pandemic has significantly paused the progress of many choristers on the choral training programme at St Wulfram’s. Despite the many challenges, the programme in 2021 yielded 4 Royal School of Church Music awards – one Gold Award, one Bishop’s (Silver) Award, and two Dean’s (Bronze) Awards. Between them, the choristers have now amassed 119 RSCM awards since 2011.
- Looking back, it is remarkable how much output our dedicated choir have created together, both in services, and additionally in performances and digital, virtual, and hybrid online output. The Master of the Music spent many lockdown hours creating our digital output and learnt a huge amount in the process. In the most difficult and adverse times for church choirs, we reinvented ourselves as a choir in how we produce and create music; and we all learnt a huge amount in the crisis of these times. This equips us well for the future.
- The Master of the Music is enormously grateful to:
  - The music administrative team of volunteers for the assistance they provide, especially with communication of schedules and paperwork.
  - The chaperoning team, which takes care of the choristers and helps with so many logistical and administrative tasks, and even doubles as a film crew on many occasions.
  - The dedication of choir parents. Despite all the wonderful opportunities the choristers have together, it requires a huge amount of time and care to get the choristers to all of the places we require.

### *Organ teaching school*

- The musical training of young people at St Wulfram’s includes a highly active organ teaching school. Currently six young scholars are learning to play the organ under the tutelage of Rosemary Field, FRCO (former Head of Organ Studies, RSCM) and Dr Tim Williams FRCO, supported by the Philip Lank Trust, the Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars’ Trust (YOST), the Royal School of Church Music, the Ouseley Trust, and the Royal College of Organists. The digital organ (on loan) is a practice facility for the organ students who can use it with headphones while the choir rehearses. Our portable box organ (housed in the Lady Chapel) is also a valuable resource for the organ scholars.
- The organ scholars have achieved notable success in ABRSM examinations this year, and three are now working at or above Grade 5 level.

## *Wider music programme*

- In May 2020, the Master of Music launched 'Hymns with Tim', half an hour of hymn singing for members of the congregation at 12 noon each Friday via Zoom. The weekly event continued until July 2021 (by which time congregational singing was allowed again in church), with Jo Gardner stepping in to lead the virtual hymn singing on the few occasions Tim was unavailable. 'Hymns with Tim' had a loyal following of up to 15 people each week, and often included children during school holidays.
- In normal times, recitals are held in the church on the third Saturday morning of each month. Entry is free and there is a retiring collection for the St Wulfram's Church Music Fund. The recital series resumed in the autumn and appreciative audiences attended the recitals given by Elaine Bishop (mezzo soprano) and Tim Williams (piano) (September), Dr Martin Ennis from the University of Cambridge (organ) and The Winter Singers (December).
- After the removal of all pandemic restrictions, the first major event in church was a Community Concert (organised by Grantham Choral Society, Grantham Music Club and Grantham Music Festival) on Friday evening 30 July. The 'feelgood' programme featured St Wulfram's Choir, Jake Muffett (baritone), Agatha Parkin (violin), Dr Tim Williams (piano and organ) and the Winter Singers. All performers gave their time for free, and the proceeds (£600) were split between the NHS charity and St Wulfram's Church.
- The Band of the Coldstream Guards performed a fundraising 'Concert of Hope' in church on 22 October, with an appearance by Chelsea Pensioner and Korean war veteran Colin Thackery (winner of the ITV show *Britain's Got Talent* in 2019). The concert raised about £6,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.
- Grantham Choral Society and the Eboracum Baroque performed Handel's 'Messiah' in the church on the evening of Saturday 11 December to a large and appreciative audience.

## **Church Community**

### **(a) *Children and Young People***

- Children are welcomed at St Wulfram's and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the 'Children & Youth Sub-group' established by the PCC and our newly appointed Children, Youth and Families Worker (CYFW), who was appointed in September 2021 on a two-year contract (funded by the Diocese of Lincoln as part of the SDF programme). The sub-group meets regularly and includes in its membership several individuals who do not serve on the PCC. It hears reviews on each aspect of the church's work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church's involvement with church schools in the parish. It celebrates achievements and discusses challenges and points for action. In particular, the sub-group recognises that more work needs to be undertaken to enhance the profile of children's activities in church (through the church website and social media, and hopefully using ChurchDesk); and this is at the forefront of the newly appointed CYFW's job description and agenda.
- A Children and Youth evening was held at Grantham House at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 6 October. This was for anyone previously involved in this ministry or for anyone new

who wished to make initial enquiries about how to become involved prior to the relaunch of Sunday Club and our youth provision.

- The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. Due to COVID-19 and lack of regular attenders, the three age groups have been condensed down to one; however, they still enjoy a full programme of teaching, prayer, music and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord's Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been doing at the end of the service. There is a very dedicated team of volunteers (including three young people who are growing in confidence to plan and lead their own sessions).
- In normal times, our Children's Area continues to be well used during services and throughout the week as a 'Stay and Play' resource for families with young children who want a place 'to be' with their children.
- To coincide with the start of Lent, St Wulfram's launched a three-week challenge to recreate parts of the Easter story with Lego®. The idea came from a member of the congregation and was an accessible activity for all ages and talents. Families shared photos of their creations on social media.
- Wulfram Wednesdays resumed during the summer holidays when children and families were invited to participate in activities in church (or alternatively at Grantham House). The Wednesday workshops were led by Laura Craddock or Anne-Marie Kerr, Artist in Residence, and featured glass painting, Cyanotype printing, nail & string art, making suncatchers and a garden treasure hunt. Positive feedback was received from participants:
  - ❖ We enjoyed the workshops and hope that there will be more in the future!
  - ❖ Organisers very friendly and helpful.
  - ❖ Today was very fun and creative. I really enjoyed it.
- The 'Rhyme Time' singing and activity group for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and their parents/carers was re-named Wulfram Tots to celebrate its distinctiveness within the town and to capture the vision and values of St Wulfram's. It continues to meet for an hour in church each Friday morning during term-time, where numbers are steadily increasing after a two-year break due to COVID-19.
- Our two Youth Groups have developed into three, with a change of year groups/cohorts. We now also offer a programme for children in school years 6-8. They meet on a Friday evening at Grantham House and consist of around 10 members with a mixture of young people some of whom also attend the choir. Our two other long-standing groups usually meet on the first Sunday evening of the month. The group for those in Year 9 and above meets at Grantham House and consists of 20+ members (a mixture of youth choir and non youth choir members). An older cohort has been identified for those young people who have moved away to university and meet when they return home for vacations. The young people have been instrumental in designing the programme and members enjoy a range of activities. They are encouraged to invite their friends to join.
- Our CYFW also launched a new initiative called Wulfram Family days. These are on the second Saturday of the month where families (which we recognise come in all manner of shapes and sizes) meet together for an activity. The first two consisted of a Photo Treasure Hunt and then a Breakfast Morning held inside St Wulfram's.

- There are seven Scout or Guide sections associated with the church and five regular parade services a year are held, with all age worship to involve the children in every way. Over the last year, owing to national restrictions by the respective organisations, sections have been unable to be with us as often as previously. However, since the Autumn, uniforms have once again been welcomed and in attendance at all age services.

Clergy and other members of the church are invited to go and speak to the groups, but again this has been limited during the pandemic. The groups also visit the church from time to time as part of their badge work and spiritual development.

Fr James is District Chaplain to Grantham District Scouts. This role is a Grantham-wide appointment but includes regular purposeful visits to the sections of the 2nd Grantham (St Wulfram's) Scout Group. In 2021, the group celebrated its centenary year with a special service planned and lead by Fr. James at St. Wulfram's. This service welcomed many people, both past and present, who had been associated with the group.

At times in the past year, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grantham (St. Wulfram's) Guides were once again resident within the church grounds when they held several of their unit meetings at Grantham House.

- Three members of our clergy team are governors of local Church of England schools; and our Rector also serves on the governing body of the Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham. Our PCC was consulted when specific vacancies are filled on the Board of the Harrowby/National Academy Trust.

On 1 November, the National Church of England Junior School became a member of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) family of schools (bringing the total number of schools in this Multi Academy Trust to 20).

Members of the clergy team and also our CYFW lead weekly collective worship in two church schools. During the pandemic, the team prepared videos for the schools instead.

Local schools, especially the church schools and the local state nursery school usually make regular visits to the church to learn about the church building, about Christianity and about the church's role in the community. In normal times, local schools also use the church for services throughout the year, including carol services and services to mark the end of the school year. The neighbouring grammar school uses the church building for its annual Founder's Day Service and Speech Night.

## **(b) *Pastoral Care***

- The clergy and lay pastoral support team are available to any person in the parish who asks for their support or help. The team welcomed some new members this year. Once in-person meetings became safe, the team made efforts to meet regularly to discuss the needs of the parish, of individuals and of those resident in care homes.
- Those who are new to the congregation are made welcome and visited as soon as convenient. In normal times, those who are ill, housebound, or too frail to attend church are visited regularly. Likewise, in normal times, residential and nursing homes, and a local sheltered housing development are visited monthly and Holy Communion is celebrated or the reserved sacrament is taken by members of the team. The pandemic continued to disrupt visits to the 10 care homes in the parish.

- Sadly, during the pandemic, it was impossible to hold the quarterly service for wholeness and healing.

**(c) Community groups**

- We have a popular Sunday lunch group for people of any age who would otherwise eat alone. Until March 2020, it had been our practice to visit a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. Continuing the practice begun in 2020, around half the group gathered virtually by Zoom video conference for an hour or so on the second Sunday of the month in the first half of 2021 to enjoy a wide-ranging chat. The group was consulted about restarting the lunches in the summer. Although the pandemic was still with us, members had all had the opportunity to be double vaccinated, we could wear face coverings except when eating, and the pubs/restaurants had adjusted to being COVID secure, as far as possible. We enjoyed a reunion at the Angel & Royal Hotel in August and continued to meet in person for the rest of the year. We are most grateful to Jane Sharp who continues to co-ordinate the gatherings of this group, whether in-person or online.
- Our monthly Art Group, which had not able to meet since the first lockdown in March 2020, resumed its activities in church in August and now meets on the first Wednesday of each month. If there is a clash of events in the church, the meeting takes place in Grantham House. Members hope to find some inspiration in the Grantham House garden next year.
- Sadly, the Nativity Knitters group has not met since the pandemic lockdown in March 2020. The connection with the local hospital and care homes has been lost as the Grantham Dementia Support Group no longer exists. This is due to the pandemic, age, and other circumstances. We thank everyone who belonged to the group – it was fun!
- Through pandemic restrictions until 21 July, we continued to offer fellowship through a Virtual Coffee Morning via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11.00 a.m., with a loyal following of between 14 and 18. After consultation and an experimental 'hybrid' gathering, the Coffee Morning shifted in August to an in-person gathering at Grantham House, sometimes in the garden, then indoors in the Great Hall. Numbers fluctuated between 12 and 24. On 18 August, the Coffee Morning was hosted in the Great Hall by the Friends of St Wulfram's and over 50 attended.

**Church and Fabric**

- Virtually no maintenance work took place between January and mid-April, but an extensive programme of maintenance works was undertaken by Weldon Stone and other contractors following the successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Culture Recovery Fund (Round 2), submitted to a tight deadline and stringent conditions and to be spent by 30 June. The Culture Recovery Fund was announced by DCMS to safeguard cultural and heritage organisations across England from the economic impact of COVID-19. The Fund supported organisations to transition from the challenging months of lockdowns and social distancing to resume business activity and welcome visitors back to the country's diverse heritage sites, of which St Wulfram's is one.
- Regarding the items approved in the grant, progress was as follows (figures to nearest £100):  
*Cleaning of hoppers/gutters/downpipes* (£2,900) – completed by HAB Leadworks during May and June;

*Cleaning & repainting of external gates in churchyard (£1,800) – undertaken by P A G Construction and completed in June;*

*Cleaning & repair of gutters above North Porch Visitor Centre (£1,800) – completed by HAB Leadworks in April;*

*Internal work to ensure safe access on stone floors (£8,100) – completed by Weldon Stone in early June;*

*Electrical safety inspection and remedial work – completed by AF Electrical in May (£750); completed by Engineering Inspectors in June – fee £320);*

*Refurbishing internal & external noticeboards (£1200) – completed by Viking Signs and P A G Construction in May/June;*

*Cleaning & re-oiling of Visitor Centre doors in North Porch (£3,500) – completed by Weldon Stone in May;*

*Deep cleaning of floors & sanitizing coffee shop area (£700) – completed by Demon Cleaning in June once other internal work had been completed;*

*Redecoration & cleaning of Trigge Library (£3,550) – work by Weldon Stone completed in June;*

*Service of two Hoval boilers (£550) – completed in June.*

SUB-TOTAL £24,850. Where eligible, VAT has been recovered under the Listed Places of Worship VAT recovery scheme.

- Other necessary work has also taken place in 2021:

*Repair of the two leaks in the central heating system* (one adjacent to the font and the other adjacent to St Michael Chapel). This involved exposing the damaged pipe, pinpointing the leaks, replacing several sections of pipe, re-construction of brick ductwork underground and backfilling. Weldon Stone re-laid the floor slabs in the affected areas. The total cost was over £35,000 with VAT recovered. The impact of the repairs has been felt this winter with most areas significantly warmer, including the crypt.

Alternative heating is needed in the Clergy Vestry and will be considered as part of the Vestry Refurbishment project.

*Re-fixing the brass plaque memorial to William Wagstaffe* on the south wall of the church adjacent to the steps to the Lady Chapel. This minor repair, which required a Faculty, was completed in November.

*Replacement of roof access ladders* involved two pairs of ladders (on the Corpus Christi roof and the main nave roof) and was undertaken by Sycamore Construction and completed in October 2021. The design for the separate ladder to access the hatch in the nave was finalised with the architect and relevant parties and a List B Application approved by the Archdeacon in December 2021. The ladder should be installed in March 2022.

*Repointing to the Trigge Library chimney* and stonework around the South Porch roof. Work was needed to re-bed the capstone to the chimney and repoint associated joints. This was completed by Weldon Stone at a cost of some £1,500 plus VAT.

*West window of North Aisle* – The tender report (1.11.21) from Peter Rogan recommended acceptance of the tender in the sum of £70,886 from Weldon Stone for the repair of damaged mullions with Lincolnshire Stained Glass as the principal sub-contractor for the glazing work to de-glaze and re-glaze the window. The Faculty for the work was applied for in 2021 (but not granted until January 2022) with work scheduled to commence in February 2022.

*Excavating test pits within the churchyard* to ascertain drainage absorption rates preparatory to a scheme to be finalised and agreed to improve the west end entrance and associated drainage. A specification for this has been drawn up by our Inspecting Architect, Peter Rogan. A Faculty application was underway.

*Repair of table tomb to the Huthwaite family* in the churchyard. Owing to subsidence caused by tree roots and dry weather at the start of 2021, this very fine tomb (1752-60),

by sculptor Christopher Staveley, had begun to collapse. The repairs were completed in December and were funded by South Kesteven District Council.

- Clearly, the work on maintenance and repair of the Fabric of St Wulfram's Church, which has a surface area in excess of one acre has been constant but successful. We should like to thank members of the Fabric Sub-group for their input and attendance. Thanks are also expressed to all who help with routine weekly cleaning and with the arrangement of flowers. All help to make St Wulfram's a warm and welcoming church.
- We are greatly indebted to John Manterfield for his dedication in chairing the PCC's Fabric Sub-group and overseeing all its work.

### **Church flowers**

- Throughout the year and especially at liturgical festivals, we benefit from the dedication of our band of flower arrangers (led by Val York), whose skills enhance the beauty of our church. We welcomed some new flower arrangers in the latter part of the year. We are grateful to the arrangers who have arranged flowers for many years but are no longer part of the team.

We express gratitude to all those who contribute towards the costs of flower arrangements throughout the year: many such donations are in memory of loved ones and an 'In Memoriam' list is displayed at the west end of the church and online at Easter and Christmas.

### **Change ringing**

- We are grateful for the leadership of David Braunton (Tower Captain) and his team in maintaining change ringing at St Wulfram's during the most challenging circumstances.
- Bell ringing was very limited this year, with the bells being rung by a team from May until December, when we paused again due to rapidly rising cases and the Omicron variant and the environment of the ringing chamber.
- The local band has suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic. Whereas before, a regular local band of up to 16 ringers could be relied upon, we are now down to three regular ringers and approximately three more, from time to time. To keep the bells ringing, we are heavily reliant on the new band from Belton and ringers from Harlaxton to join with us. Without them our bells would have been mostly silent this year.
- During the late spring/summer, Evensong ringing was mostly undertaken by a youth band, made up of ringers from Barrowby, Harlaxton and Grantham in readiness for the Young Ringers Striking Competition held at Worcester.
- We had five successful quarter peal attempts at the tower this year: two on 24 July to celebrate the end of the Lockdown, with ringers from all over the country; on 3 October two couples of the Belton Band rang their first quarter peals (Howard and Rose Pell and Sue and Simon Syddall); on 23 October a band made up of ringers from mostly Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire rang the final Quarter Peal for 2021.
- Due to the nature of teaching bell handling (face-to-face and handling the same rope) within close proximity of learner and teacher, there is not really any 'safe' way to do so in the light of COVID. Hopefully, if the virus continues to weaken in its severity, teaching will be able to be undertaken in the near future.

- We are faced with a major rebuild of the band, if we are to keep the bells ringing at St Wulfram's for the future. As before, this is something where we will need to encourage and recruit from a wider population than that of the Church itself. This is something that is faced across the towers of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Guild. As a result, we are looking to organise training for teachers of bell handling and then a recruitment drive to bolster the number of ringers in the area.

## **Hospitality for Pilgrims and Visitors**

- St Wulfram's, a landmark medieval parish church restored by Gilbert Scott (1866-75), is Grade I Listed (1062501) and of nationally recognised significance. Set back from main roads and surrounded by old buildings, the area has the feel of a cathedral close. The chained Trigge Library (established in the church in 1598) is of exceptional significance as the earliest in England for public use, and attracts local, national and international visitors and scholars. The church plays a dynamic role in attracting visitors to the town and district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Grantham Town Conservation Area. They lie within the 'Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone', which celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England to restore historic properties and regenerate public realm areas.
- Consistent with our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy, we encourage everyone in the community to see St Wulfram's as their parish church, a building open for prayer or a place to come and sit in quiet reflection.
- In 'normal times', each Saturday morning and during the 'visitor season' (from the end of March to end of September), we try to have stewards on hand to welcome our visitors. Government regulations affecting the hospitality sector caused the Coffee Shop to close in mid-March 2020 and to remain closed for much of 2021. It opened during the Heritage Open Day, Metanoia Climate Festival, the Beer Festival, the Christmas Tree Festival and for Saturday morning recitals when they resumed in the autumn. At the end of 2021, we expressed thanks to Di Hale for her time, skill and dedication in managing the Coffee Shop over recent years. We are grateful that she will continue to oversee the provision of refreshments (including recruitment of volunteers from organisations beyond St Wulfram's) for major events such as the Christmas Tree Festival. As we begin to plan for the 2022 visitor season, the opening hours and staffing of the Coffee Shop are under careful review.
- In 2017, with fewer volunteers and a policy of no 'lone working' in church, the PCC took the decision (on the advice of the Diocese and Ecclesiastical Insurance) to leave the church open unattended at certain times. This strategy continues to be largely unproblematic.
- St Wulfram's had fewer visitors this year, so there were fewer inscriptions in our Visitors' Book. The comments written are overwhelmingly favourable. For example:
  - ❖ Amazing church and obviously being used well.
  - ❖ We love this place so much. Very elegant.
  - ❖ Beautiful and full of life and memories to me!
  - ❖ Really calming and pretty. We are definitely coming back!
- As mentioned earlier, in accordance with guidance from the Government and Church of England and following a detailed risk assessment, the church building was open for private prayer (9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on

Sundays). Automatic hand sanitizers were placed at the entrance and exit and within the church; the wearing of facemasks was required; and posters encouraged social distancing.

- St Wulfram's participated in the annual nationwide Heritage Open Days event in September. In total, around 220 adults and 40 children visited the church between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday 11 September; and a record 530 adults and 50 children visited Grantham House gardens on Sunday afternoon 12 September between 2 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., when tea and home-made cakes were served. The event in the church included a 'DIY Evensong': an opportunity to be part of an ad hoc choir. Positive feedback was received from visitors to both venues. Comments included:
  - ❖ A magnificent building, of almost cathedral-like splendour. Thank you for making the library and tower available to view.
  - ❖ The volunteers were very knowledgeable and enhanced the experience.
  - ❖ Well organised. Excellent cakes. And lovely to have no entrance fee.
- Near the west door of the church, we have a sales unit that, in normal times, displays postcards, guides and souvenirs of the church, together with assorted greetings cards (including the popular Friends of St Wulfram's Christmas cards). Unfortunately, stock had to be removed at the start of the pandemic; but we thank John Manterfield for his efforts to continue to sell items in imaginative ways and for returning a limited range of items towards the end of 2021.
- Our Traidcraft account has been closed. Sales were very slow before lockdown and stopped completely during 2021. Thank you to everyone who helped to support Traidcraft through our sales unit over the years.
- Peregrines first nested at St Wulfram's eight years ago. At the end of 2020, Chris Skipper from the Cromer Peregrine Group installed new state-of-the-art cameras and monitoring systems, funded by the Lincolnshire Bird Club. The new equipment monitors all four walkways of the church tower and the peregrines' nest tray using a zoom, pan and tilt facility operated by the peregrine team. There is 24/7 virtual access to the peregrine's nest tray via our YouTube channel. The adult birds could occasionally be seen perching during the winter. A screen in the church was live during the breeding season.

## **Trigge Library**

- Due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible to open the Library before 16 July, 2021. However, after that date the Library was opened weekly on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until 29 September, and thereafter monthly on Saturday mornings. The number of recorded visitors increased from 83 in 2020 to 413 in 2021, which compares favourably with the full-year figure of 687 recorded in 2019.

During the six-month period to year's end, small groups from Grantham U3A, Grantham & Kesteven Rotary Club and Gonerby Hill Foot WI were also welcomed to the Library.

The busiest days for visitors were 11 September during the Heritage Open Day, and 2 October during the Gaia festival, which together accounted for about 150 visitors.

- Only 21 visitors from just four countries outside the UK visited the Library in 2021, of which none were from Europe. This reflected the travel restrictions imposed on foreign visitors to the UK during this period.
- During 2021 the Library was redecorated using funding from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant; and minor repointing was carried out to stonework on the south porch roof. Several items of artwork from the Library were reframed and/or repaired. It is hoped that, in due course, it will be possible to replace the two exhibition cases in the Library, which are now in poor condition.
- Our conservator, Ms Bridget Warrington, continued work on the 10 books requiring urgent attention to disinfest them from attack by furniture beetle, with their transfer to Harwell for deep-freeze treatment. This seems to have worked following further freezing treatment, and these books will be returned to the Library when complete disinfestation has been confirmed. Other repair and conservation work is in progress and will continue in 2022. We are awaiting a grant payment from the Institute of Conservation (ICON) for some of this work and a further bid to ChurchCare will be made for additional funding for other urgent conservation work on other high priority items.
- A new book – entitled *The Trigge Library, St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: A Guide* – by Brian Stagg, with photographs by Roger Sleight, was published in March 2021 with generous financial assistance provided by the Friends of St Wulfram's Church. Copies of the guide were sold through The Grantham Civic Society and, by the time the Library reopened in July, most of the design and printing costs had been recovered. The Friends kindly gifted the remaining stock to the Church which will continue to be sold in aid of the Library repairs fund. There have also been several generous casual donations made by visitors.
- The 'rolling' exhibition of books in the south aisle using the case donated to the church by The National Trust continues to attract interest. This serves to introduce visitors to the types of books in the collection. The contents are replaced periodically.
- It is hoped that during 2022 it may be possible to further develop the display in the north aisle to include an audio-visual introduction to the Library.

## **Archive**

- There have been no further acquisitions of material in the course of 2021, no doubt partly owing to isolation and Covid restrictions. The Interim Curator (John Manterfield) has dealt with just one enquiry during the past year from someone in Australia researching one of the Vicars of Grantham in the 1930s.
- Storage of the archives in the Vestry and elsewhere in the church has long been problematic with intense pressure on space, but the plans to reorder the Vestry have taken on board the request for dedicated and secure Archive space.

## **Learning opportunities**

- Our Lent study course (led solely via Zoom) focused on vocations. We looked at how God called certain people within the Bible and throughout the history of the Church, and how their acceptance of God's call affected them and those around them. The course was designed to be inclusive, challenging and equipping, as we all seek our place within God's Kingdom.

- In March, five members of our congregation completed the diocesan course entitled ‘To Love and Serve the Lord’, which Grantham Deanery ran under the leadership of the Revd Canon Geraldine Pond (former Director of Vocations, Diocese of Derby). The 16-session course, taught via Zoom by a mix of ordained and lay ministers (including three from St Wulfram’s), meets a number of needs: it is appropriate for those who simply wish to learn more about their faith; it provides a discernment process for those exploring a possible call to authorised lay ministry and the initial module for ALM training; and it’s also appropriate for existing ALMs who wish to do a refresher course.
- A second ‘To Love and Serve the Lord’ course ran from June until November. All four of our clergy participated in the delivery (again via Zoom). One of our ALMs followed the course as a refresher.
- We look forward to the start of a weekly fellowship group to be led by Fr Aron on Zoom on Monday evenings from 17 January 2022. This will be an informal small group that meets to encourage one another, to read scripture, ask questions, and pray for each other.

### **Ministry training**

- Members of the congregation continue to take a full part in the licensed ministry of the church and new volunteers are trained and introduced on a regular basis to share in leading worship and exercising pastoral ministry.
- Katy Castañeda was licensed as a Reader at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 9 October, following her training at the Lincoln School of Theology (LST). The cathedral broadcast the service through its Facebook page. Katy has now embarked on the master’s programme through LST. One further member of our congregation was pursuing Reader training through the LST.
- Three members of our congregation (Elaine Chambers, Sharon Evans, and Joanna Swinbourne), who completed ‘To Love and Serve the Lord’ in March, were discerned to have a call to ministry. Along with an ALM transferring from elsewhere in the diocese (Sheila Knight), they pursued a four-session ALM Foundation Module (in Mission & Evangelism or Pastoral Visiting) and were authorised for lay ministry by the Rural Dean at an outdoor service in July.
- In partnership with the Loveden Deanery, Grantham Deanery ran a second ‘To Love and Serve the Lord’ course (June to November), which one of our ALMs completed as a refresher. This course (also taught by Zoom) was led by a team including all four members of the St Wulfram’s clergy.

### **Major Churches Network**

- St Wulfram’s is a member of the Major Churches Network; and we are in regular contact with other large churches to benefit from information about good practice in areas of administration, fabric, mission, outreach, how to best engage in service to the community and the COVID-19 response.

### **Inclusive Church Network**

- St Wulfram’s continues as a member of the Inclusive Church Network endorsing the statement of belief:

We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

## **Ecumenical relationships**

- St Wulfram's continues to play a full part in Churches Together in Grantham (CTiG), in hosting or assisting in the major events of the ecumenical year. Representatives of our congregation attend regular CTiG meetings and report back to the PCC.
- A Carol Service for Churches Together was held at St Wulfram's on Tuesday evening 7 December.
- We continue in a supportive relationship with ChristChurch, our Methodist/URC neighbours. Prior to the pandemic, we worshipped together on the fifth Sunday of each month, with the combined services (mostly in the evening) alternating between St Wulfram's and ChristChurch. There also used to be quarterly meetings to arrange joint events and worship. We continue to publicise each others' services and events, through the respective monthly parish magazines and weekly pew-sheets.

## **Lincoln Diocesan Synod**

- Until July, St Wulfram's was represented on Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Mthr Mel Parkin and Paul Davie. A new triennium began on 1 August and, following elections by Deanery Synod, St Wulfram's is now represented on Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Paul Davie and Fr Clay Roundtree. In November, Paul Davie was elected by the House of Laity of Diocesan Synod to fill a vacancy for the Boston Archdeaconry on the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees; he will serve a three-year term.
- In October, the House of Clergy elected Fr Stuart to General Synod. He serves for a term of three years (from 16 November 2021).
- After each Diocesan Synod meeting, the PCC receives a Digest of Proceedings, as published on the diocesan website; and, from time to time, the PCC receives communications from the Diocese of Lincoln, for example concerning Parish Share.
- During the year, the bishops, their chaplain, and the Diocesan Secretary continued to be in regular correspondence by email with incumbents and parish officers to share advice and provide the latest guidance on the response to COVID-19.
- Early in 2021, the Diocese reported back on the series of Zoom consultation meetings that it hosted (September to November 2020) on 'Resourcing Sustainable Church'; and in May, Diocesan Synod approved a 71-page report detailing the 15 recommendations and 15 commitments (under the themes of growth, ministry, parish share, costs and assets) that became 'A Time to Change – Together' (TTCT). A two-page document summarising the process and principles underlying the TTCT proposals was circulated after Synod in May. Later in the year, all diocesan churches were asked to participate in the Church Types survey, answering the question: 'What type of church do we believe God is calling us to be?' The diocese provided resources to support the thinking and next steps to help churches to flourish in their identified types. By the end of the year, more than 90% of churches had responded to the survey; and the diocese made

available a map of church types by Deanery Partnership (based predominantly on local authority areas for the time being).

- Discussions at our Parish Vision Day on 25 September and at PCC led to St Wulfram's identifying as one of 19 as 'Key Mission Churches' (Type 1) in the diocese and one of four in the South Kesteven Deanery Partnership.
- In due course, St Wulfram's will have to agree a financial pledge to the diocese for the support of ministry. Also, as part of the TTCT process, every ordained and lay minister holding the bishop's licence is invited to a vocational conversation - an opportunity to reflect on her/his ministry. The intention is to listen, to support and to discern ways forward, for individuals and for the whole diocesan family of ministers.

## **Grantham Deanery**

- Through its elected and *ex officio* representatives, St Wulfram's continues to take a leading part in shaping and implementing deanery policy. Our Rector, Fr Stuart Craddock serves as Rural Dean, supported by Judith Muskett (our PCC Secretary) as Deanery Administrator (for 6 hours per week).
- A pastoral reorganisation is under way in the deanery in line with the agreed Deanery Plan. During the vacancy in the western group of churches (to be designated the West Grantham Group of Villages), St Wulfram's clergy regularly led worship and conducted occasional offices in All Saints Barrowby, St Sebastian's Great Gonerby, St Mary and St Peter's Harlaxton, St Andrew's Denton, and St James' Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. A parish profile was drawn up and the post was advertised in the summer. An interview day took place in the autumn. The Diocese subsequently announced that the Revd Sarah Tierney had been appointed Interim Priest in Charge of the group. She is due to be licensed in late April 2022.
- We currently have three elected lay representatives on Deanery Synod (Jan Burrows, Paul Davie and Val York) and we thank them for their service.
- During the year, Synod heard talks on vocations, championing the environment and the work of Covenant Pastors in the diocese. A significant item of business from the diocese throughout 2021 was 'Resourcing Sustainable Church: Time to Change - Together' (see above). Through Deanery Chapter, Grantham clergy have begun to work collaboratively with Loveden Deanery clergy. For its part, Grantham Deanery Synod began to discuss patterns of collaborative working across its deanery churches.
- All deanery PCCs are provided with regular written reports on Synod business; and a summary of Deanery Synod business is provided for Annual Parochial Church Meetings.
- The deanery was successful in its bid for funding (£5,000) from the Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund towards the cost of staging the Metanoia Climate Festival in St Wulfram's (Friday 1 October to Sunday 3 October 2021). Over 5,000 visited the festival, the highlight of which was Luke Jerram's GAIA art installation.
- On Sunday evening 29 August, we joined our fellow Christians at St John's Church Manthorpe for an outdoor Songs of Praise. Then on Sunday 31 October, at 5.00 p.m., we joined them for the service of dedication of their re-ordered church and completion of the new Community Hall in the presence of Bishop Nicholas, Bishop of Grantham.

## Communication

- The Parish website ([www.stwulframs.org.uk](http://www.stwulframs.org.uk)) is a prime contact point for people wishing to know more about the parish church, its people and activities. Regular postings of information by the Parish Administrator keep it fully up to date. The home page offers the opportunity to sign up to our mailing list. Contacts and requests continue to increase in number. We make full use of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to involve members of our church community and of the wider community in the life of the church; social media is especially valuable in attracting visitors and audience members to our special events and engaging them in online conversations at those times. The Church of England 'A Church Near You' website directs those who view to our own website and social media.
- During the second week of January, our Parish Administrator took part in the 'Church Comms Challenge' run by Digital Church Toolkit. Each day this involved a live training session via Facebook between 8 and 9 a.m. when a challenge was posed; followed by an opportunity to post feedback from 3 p.m.; and another live session from 4 to 5 p.m., which was a Q&A responding to queries and comments posted. The daily themes included how to align digital comms with the church's unique vision, mission, and values; identifying the church's target audience; what platforms the church should be on and how it should use them; how to develop a regular rhythm of posting and management; and how to execute your strategy. Elaine subsequently shared feedback with the staff team and the PCC.
- The ChurchDesk software package enables the Parish Office to send out weekly newsletters and information on forthcoming services (including orders or service and hymn sheets), all of which have been immensely valuable during the pandemic. By the end of 2020, we had accumulated over 1,000 'Contacts', almost twice the number recorded in 2019. This total includes members of the community of St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe, our sister church. Passing the threshold of 1,000 contacts necessitated an upgrade to the ChurchDesk subscription, which the Finance Sub-group approved in March 2021.
- The Sunday *Community* sheet updates the congregation each week, with news of services and activities. Since the start of the pandemic, it has been shared with the weekly Friday email from the Parish Office; and this practice continues. From mid-September printed copies were made available in church again on Sundays.
- The full-colour monthly *Magazine* continues to provide high quality and varied content in information and articles. Brian Buttery (Editor) belongs to the Association of Church Editors, whose secretary sends out a monthly bulletin of useful tips. Since the start of the pandemic, an online version of the *Magazine* has been available through the church website; and printed copies have been mailed out to those who subscribe. We hope to resume issuing printed magazines early in 2022.
- Continuing our long-standing practice, we pay to advertise full details of weekday and Sunday worship at St Wulfram's each week in the local newspaper, the *Grantham Journal*. We have good relations with the *Journal* (whose office is near St Wulfram's); and articles about our community life and outreach activities are included in the newspaper on a regular basis.
- Notice boards outside the church are well used. Our two chalk A-boards display daily information outside the west door and welcome visitors.

- Once again, our churchwardens were unable to hold any of their usual wardens' surgeries during the year. A new 'churchwardens@stwulframs.com' email address was launched through the *Community* sheet, and the wardens encouraged members of the congregation to contact them by email or telephone with any comments or questions.

### **Special Events (including those for fund raising)**

- Over recent years, we have enhanced our engagement with people in the town. We strongly believe that the sacred space of St Wulfram's is common ground for all – a place where we can challenge each other, celebrate all that is good in our community, and be a place we can call home where we can gather as a community – and God is in the midst of this, in the everyday. Community use of the building is essential to our sustainability and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. Our challenging events (Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals, annual Beer Festival, etc.) underpin our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy. Each event attracts significant numbers and at the same time raises useful funds for the church.
- With its flexible space and seating, the church is a well-used venue in normal times for large and smaller events and concerts, attracting regular bookings from local and county organisations. The local U3A holds monthly coffee mornings in St Wulfram's Church; and the U3A art group also meets monthly in the church. These in-person activities resumed in September and August respectively.
- The St Wulfram's community began a year of social events with 'The Great British Bump Off', an online murder mystery evening on Saturday 9 January. Our annual Quiz followed on Saturday 6 February; this time the event ran on Zoom, but was just as much fun as usual, with rounds of questions set by the clergy. The 'Wulfram's Arms' opened for business again on Mondays 8 March, 12 April and 10 May: this is a social evening on Zoom when we invite members of the church community to pour themselves their favourite drink and join a friendly chat from the comfort of their own home.
- The Beer Festival 'Land of Hops and Glory' (run jointly with the Grantham branch of CAMRA) opened on Thursday 4 November and ran until Saturday 6 November, with live music during the evenings. A record number of people visited from the town and from far and wide. As well as different ales on offer, there were also ciders, perries, gin and mead. The bar was drunk dry. The event was deemed a huge success and is fast becoming a permanent feature in the Grantham calendar.
- An amazing 'Festival of Angels' launched on Friday 19 November and remained in the church until 6 January 2022. This community art project, funded as part of the High Street Action Zone by the Arts Council, Historic England, SKDC and the Heritage Lottery, had been in the pipeline since 2019 and was originally to form part of the Wulfram 2020 celebrations, but was postponed owing to the pandemic. The project was led by our Artist in Residence, Anne-Marie Kerr, who devised and designed the angels. With the help of artists Claire Carrington and Dawn Wesselby, Anne-Marie worked with individuals and community groups over several weeks to construct and decorate the eight sculptures (including Gabriel and Michael); they ranged in size from two metres to a staggering seven metres high. Messages of hope and thanksgiving were written on the sculptures, recognising the efforts of all those who had been an angel over the previous 18 months of the pandemic. Portraits of participants by Emilie Nunn were also displayed: these were a legacy of their involvement and a celebration of what can be achieved when a community comes together. We were taken aback by the response to the opening night. So many people found the experience deeply moving.

The following comments are examples of those written at the time in our Visitors' Book:

- ❖ The angels are breath-taking.
  - ❖ The angels – so amazing!
  - ❖ The silence was spectacular. The angels so very moving. It provoked a very emotional response – tears at their beauty. Well done to everyone who made this beautiful festival of Angels happen. It was a delight. Thank you.
  - ❖ Angels – wonderful. A real help to prayer. Thank you.
- During the Festival of Angels, the Christmas Tree Festival with skating rink ran from Thursday 25 November to Sunday 28 November. The opening ceremony began with a candlelit procession from the Market Place at 6.00 p.m. and the formal switching on of the lights followed; the festival was then open until 9.00 p.m. Far more people took part this year and filled us with hope for the weekend to come. The festival opened from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday, and from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Advent Sunday. As a celebration of the wonderful work and talents in the town, the Christmas Tree Festival is the best annual event that we hold at St Wulfram's.

Refreshments were served daily by a large band of volunteers organised by Di Hale, who calculated that, over a total of 30 hours, we sold 200 mince pies, 19 stollen, 12 packets of shortbread fingers, 72 bundles of lebkuchen, 25 ham salad rolls, 25 cheese salad rolls, 110 sausage rolls, 45 pork pies, and used 1,000 cups, 36 bottles of mulled wine and 48 pints of milk!

Our own huge Christmas tree, positioned at the west end of the church, was adorned with around 200 wooden decorations crafted by people at the woodworking project Outwood CIC, which supports and promotes wellbeing and positive mental health through meaningful activities.

- We had looked forward with excitement to 2020, a year of great significance in the history of our church as an ancient site of pilgrimage and prayer, when several special events had been planned to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our patron saint, Wulfram. These were postponed due to the pandemic. In October 2021, we were able to announce that members of the community of St Wandrille in France would visit Grantham in March 2022 for the 1302<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the death of St Wulfram and would present us with a relic of Wulfram as a gift. A service to mark the reception of the relic is being arranged for Friday 18 March 2022.
- In May, the PCC discussed how St Wulfram's might mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen next year. There will be a national celebration over a four-day bank holiday weekend (2 to 5 June 2022). Fr James searched parish magazines for 1952 and 1953 looking for references to the Accession and Coronation; and this revealed some significant events in the life of St Wulfram's Church in that period (for example, the dedication of the Corpus Christi Chapel). Members of the church community were encouraged to contact Fr James with suggestions for how St Wulfram's might mark the Jubilee.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- The Finance Sub-group set a General Fund budget surplus of £192 for 2021 in November 2020. The final outcome in 2021 was a deficit in the General Fund of £907. When the budget for 2021 was set, the expectation was that COVID-19 restrictions would have largely ended beyond Easter 2021 and that it would be possible to profitably hold fundraising events once more, albeit concentrated mostly in the second

half of the year. Unfortunately, planned activities in 2021 were impacted more significantly by COVID-19 than expected so additional sources of income were sought once again to offset the loss of events income. A Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant covered approximately £9.8k of General Fund salary costs and Transformation Fund grants, totalling approximately £5.5k, were received from the Lincoln diocese to cover some of the Metanoia Climate Festival costs (£5k) and first aid training costs (£480). The General Fund was also aided by multi-year banking fees rebates relating to our two main bank accounts of £5.1k, plus an additional £3.2k interest (accounted for as other income from church activities). General Fund running costs that benefitted the fabric of the building (£8.8k) were once again allocated to the Fabric Fund, although this support will be scaled back in 2022 and beyond as events income returns to more normal levels. For 2022, despite the expectation of a much higher level of net fundraising events income, increased gas and electricity costs, and higher salary costs, in part due to increased working hours, resulted in a General Fund budget deficit set for 2022 in November 2021 of -£5.3k. Should the final outcome for 2022 not exceed budget expectations, it's likely that the PCC will need to review its current reserves policy of covering at least three months' budgeted General Fund expenditure. At present, this is not considered to be a serious concern as available reserves are judged to be more than sufficient.

- Slightly lower Planned Giving income in 2021 of £66,661 versus last year (2020: £68,324) was impacted by the sad loss of a small number of generous Planned Givers. With significant amounts of our income dependent on the congregation and their giving, a constant review is maintained of those giving and how to maximise this through tax efficiency and regular giving in order to increase the proportion of regular income. The church regularly holds Stewardship campaigns in order to improve Planned Giving levels and the church's membership of the Parish Giving Scheme should also help, particularly if most donors allow inflationary increases to be applied to their donations annually.
- Fundraising income improved in 2021 from a very low base. Church and Grantham House hire raised £2,868 and £5,029, respectively. The coffee shop raised £1,540, St Wulfram's share of lottery income was £923 and the Sales Unit generated £0.7k. Unfortunately, the Vintage Festival was postponed again in 2021, although the related Shirt Tail Stompers event managed to generate a small surplus once net bar takings (included within Events Bar income) were taken into account. The most financially successful events in 2021 included the Beer Festival, which is expected to raise at least £5.3k (excluding £1.8k Facilities Fee included within Church Hire income), and the Christmas Tree Festival, which raised £5.9k. Events Bar income was £1.6k net. The Metanoia Climate Festival, which was not intended to be primarily a fundraising event, cost £4.3k net, before receipt of a £5k Transformation Fund grant from the Lincoln diocese. There were other fundraising events, including the Gesualdo Six concert, which also managed to generate small surpluses. Other fundraising costs were a little higher than expected also due to the purchase of PA system, projector & screen and lighting equipment for approximately £2.6k that was expensed, but will be used for future events held at Grantham House. Overall, net fundraising income was £17.8k compared with budget expectations of around £43.7k. However, this still compared favourably with the £2.4k raised in 2020.
- Other donations and grants of £148,279 (2020: £89,762) included £29,908 grants to help fund projects at Grantham House, £39,100 Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant, £28,314 of Strategic Development Funding and Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance funding from the Lincoln Diocese, £20,850 from SKDC to part-fund the Festival of Angels project (£15,850) and the Same Boat/Wulfram Spring 2020 project (£5k), the remaining 10% (£1,450) grant from Arts Council England to part-fund the

Same Boat/Wulfram Spring 2020 project and a £1,250 Institute of Conservation grant for the Trigge Library. Large donations included £2k from The Friends of St Wulfram's Church towards the cost of the equipment to enable broadcast of services online, £624.10 from Grantham Choral Society, £500 from Buckminster Estates and £250 from Machine Gun Corps. Old Comrades Association. There were many other donations from individuals, schools and societies gratefully received. Legacies of £8,869, all for the Fabric Fund this year, were also received in 2021 (2020: £3,500 total).

- As referred to above, there were two main arts projects funded during 2021. The Festival of Angels project costs totalled £26,976. Unfortunately, the grant received was not sufficient to cover the full cost, mainly due to higher-than-expected equipment hire and installation costs. Efforts are being made to source additional income for this project, but should they prove to be unsuccessful, the remaining £6.1k deficit on the Festival of Angels fund will be covered by other available funds, in addition to the £5k already allocated to the General Fund this year. The Same Boat/Wulfram Spring 2020 project was completed this year, with the overspend of approximately £0.5k also allocated to the General Fund.
- St Wulfram's Church encourages giving to support not only the church, but also the wider community, and will continue itself to make local, national & international donations via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group for as long as it is financially able to do so. Happily, the amount given was restored to 5% of pledged giving in 2021. Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group 2021 allocations included those to Church Mission Society, Oxford Mission, St James' Church, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, £173.90 in support of Afghan refugees and others. In addition, local families in need were helped by the St Wulfram's Church Christmas Cheer Appeal, via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group, in the form of supermarket vouchers to the value of £600. Donations (including £300 from Grantham Poverty Concern) for, and expenses incurred by, St Wulfram's Passage, which provides meals for the homeless and others in need, were also managed by the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group.
- St Wulfram's Church continued to receive grants and donations on behalf of Grantham Ark during 2021. A further £3,234 was received in 2021, outlined further in Note 9. £12,999 was paid by the church to Grantham Ark during the year. SleepOut 2021 monies collected of £2,734 were owed to Grantham Ark as at year end.
- Heating and lighting costs were up compared to last year due to the large increase in gas and electricity prices in the second half of 2021. Further increases are expected and were hopefully fully factored into the 2022 General Fund budget, although the situation with regards to future energy cost increases remains uncertain. The amounts attributed to Grantham House (designated funds) and the church (General Fund and restricted funds (Fabric)), can be clearly seen within Note 3a. The cost of annual insurance premiums was £14,584 for the church and £3,746 in relation to Grantham House. Half of the cost of insurance of the church building was charged to the Fabric Fund in line with previous years pre-COVID-19.
- Total incoming resources to the General Fund amounted to £155,389 (2020: £111,624) and total resources expended amounted to £156,296 (2020: £109,865) resulting in a deficit for the year before transfers of £907 (2020: £1,759 surplus). After transfers of £nil (2020: £nil) from other funds, General Fund reserves now amount to £41,186.
- The balance sheet position had reduced by £52,624 as at 31st December 2021. There was an unrealised gain in the value of the investment property of £13,304 (2020:

£10,116) but unrealised losses in the value of financial investment assets of £7,558 (2020: £6,764 gain). A majority of the investment securities are held with the Central Board of Finance (CBF) of the Church of England. The largest holding is in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund whose unit value decreased by 6.6% in 2021. £90,000 were sold during the year, so the total amount held in the fund decreased by 32.8%. Overall, our financial investment portfolio made a negative capital return of -1.7% (i.e. excluding income received) in 2021 (2020: 4.1% gain), and the overall value decreased by 22.9% to £344,821 (2019: 271.6% increase to £447,176). Cash on deposit and with the bank increased by £7,561 (2020: decrease of £321,144) during the year.

- In order to maintain the income from investments while taking a conservative approach to the financial risk associated with these investments, the church regularly reviews the performance of these investments in order to ensure the value of the asset over the longer term is maintained. Investments that do not relate to endowments may have to be liquidated at short notice, so a large weighting in bonds and cash is necessarily maintained despite the fact that these assets are expected to yield lower returns over the longer term. Endowments, however, are typically invested wholly in equities where expected returns over the longer term are expected to be higher, as there is typically no need to sell them at short notice.
- The church faces all the usual risks of any organisation involved with handling cash and maintaining its security and proper accounting. To enable this wherever possible, a good segregation of duties and rigorous documentation of all income is maintained. All new volunteers are made aware of the requirements and these are reviewed on a regular basis. The physical security of money is also taken very seriously and regular reviews of access to cash are made and restrictions put in place when necessary. All cash is held in accordance with our insurance requirements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more remote working was necessary. Therefore, it became necessary to authorise more invoices for payment via email rather than via a visit to the Parish Office. Nevertheless, all payments continue to require two cheque signatures with the exception of prepayment card spending by the Parish Office Administrator, who provides receipts for all spending incurred that are then examined before being recorded in the accounting system.
- Over time there is an increased reliance on making the church building pay for itself by both holding large events such as the Ball, Beer and Christmas Tree Festivals and by hiring it out as a venue. The large Festivals do have significant financial risk and these are under constant review to find as many ways as possible to minimise fixed costs and manage cashflow. Where possible, events are held in collaboration with organisations such as CAMRA to spread the risks and gain outside expertise. A process of review is undertaken after each event to ensure all lessons learned are carried forward.
- During 2021, the resource centre (Wulfram Centre for Wholeness and Wellbeing) at Grantham House has grown in scale. Costs associated with this and the relocation of the Parish Office has meant that the allocated resources within the Development (Grantham House) have been exhausted. Currently, there is a £4.4k deficit in the fund. Grant funding is constantly being sought to support expenditure and a number of those were secured in 2021 which are included within restricted income funds (Note 10). The increased financial risk to the PCC has been recognised. Consequently, it is planned to set up a financially separated organisation, called “Wulfram Enterprises”. A paper was presented to the PCC during 2021 which projected income and expenditure during the early years of its operation. Working capital will be required at least in the early years, and it is expected that St Wulfram’s will provide this, most likely in the form of a loan or loan facility, underwritten by two of its available funds (the Harrowby funds as listed

in Note 10). The working capital requirements as outlined in the paper were well within the current valuation of the two Harrowby funds, however, it is recognised that actual income and expenditure could vary substantially from projections, so careful cash management and spending will be required to give the project the best chance of success.

- Five of Grantham St Wulfram PCC employees are members of the Church of England Pension Board's Church Workers Pension Fund, which complies with the Government Auto Enrolment requirements.
- The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

## **RESERVES POLICY**

### **General Funds**

- The policy of the PCC in respect of General Fund reserves is to maintain a balance sufficient to cover for emergency situations equivalent to 3 months' expenditure. Faced with huge deficits in the past, the PCC now tries to avoid setting large deficit budgets and looks to reduce costs wherever possible, to help maintain General Fund reserves at a level that will enable the PCC to plan for the future with confidence, knowing that there is sufficient to meet future emergency situations. The average quarterly expenditure in 2021 was £39,074 (2020: £27,466), but was £30,803, excluding fundraising costs (2020: £26,883). General Fund reserves at the end of 2021 were £41,186 (2020: £42,093). Whilst they are lower than the PCC would like, they do currently exceed average quarterly budgeted General Fund expenditure for 2022, excluding fundraising costs. General Fund surpluses are needed once the Covid-19 pandemic has fully ended to restore reserves to a more comfortable level, if possible, otherwise a review of reserves policy will be required. Currently, it is expected that General Fund reserves will fall below the current policy threshold by the end of 2022, but not by an amount large enough to threaten St Wulfram's financial stability.

### **Designated Funds**

- A revaluation reserve to account for increases and decreases in the valuation of the investment property asset has been set aside as a designated fund as this can only be used if the asset is sold.
- Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram's are designated of use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items in memoriam.
- A development reserve earmarked for potential works relating to the "Sacred Space, Common Ground" project.
- A designated fund for religious, charitable and education purposes included retrospectively from 2018 in 2019's accounts.
- Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group money awaiting distribution to charities and profits made on the church Traidcraft stall are kept for charitable purposes.

## **Fabric Fund**

- The balance on the Fabric Fund is for use to cover repairs and maintenance of our huge church building. A proportion of the balance has been earmarked to meet programmed repair costs.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the revised *Church Representation Rules* which came into effect on 1 January 2020. At St Wulfram's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, curates, lay Deanery Synod representatives, churchwardens, readers, and lay members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. There is provision in the rules for the PCC, if it so wishes, to make co-options on an annual basis.
- In accordance with the *Church Representation Rules*, the number of elected lay representatives serving on the PCC and the number of co-options is governed by the number on the Electoral Roll. This increased in 2020, so there was an opportunity to elect additional lay representatives at the Annual Parochial Meeting in 2021 and to co-opt up to three members on an annual basis, if the PCC desires.
- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how PCC funds will be spent.
- The full PCC conducted business on 12 occasions during the year. The *Church Representation Rules 2020* (M29) allow for business to be conducted by correspondence; and three of the 12 meetings were conducted in this manner.

Following the first national pandemic lockdown, the Church of England issued guidance about online PCC meetings: this included the advice that decisions requiring a formal resolution of the PCC should be put into written form after a virtual meeting and circulated for formal approval under rule M29 (which, under rule 76, can be conducted by email). The PCC has followed this guidance for the six meetings held via Zoom video conference in 2021. On two further occasions, Zoom enabled a member to participate in in-person meetings. For safety reasons, the meeting on 13 July 2021 was held outdoors at Grantham House.

The average level of attendance for the nine meetings in 2021 was 84% (as compared with an average of 87% in 2020).

- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was conducted by Zoom on Sunday 25 April.
- The rules governing the PCC Standing Committee changed with the introduction of the revised *Church Representation Rules 2020*. Although the Standing Committee has power to transact the PCC's business between meetings, it may not discharge a duty of the PCC, nor exercise a power of the PCC which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the PCC.

The committee comprises the Rector and Churchwardens (*ex officio*) and two further members (elected by the PCC). John Manterfield served on the committee throughout 2021; Jane Sharp served until 25 April, at which point Stuart Jackson was elected a member of the committee. The Treasurer and PCC Secretary are attendees. Written reports from the committee are submitted to the PCC at the subsequent meeting.

The Standing Committee met once this year, in September. Its business concerned PCC policies and it was advised on that occasion by Damien Macdonald-Bloomfield (Senior Human Resources Business Partner, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust), who assists the PCC in such matters, on a voluntary basis. A

suite of policies (Bribery; Complaints; Conflict of Interest; Equality & Diversity; Disciplinary; Grievance; Health & Safety), a Prevent Strategy Statement and a code of conduct was subsequently approved by the PCC on 21 September, upon the recommendation of the committee. The policies etc will be reviewed on a regular basis.

- Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several sub-groups (Children & Youth, Creation Care, Fabric, Finance, Licence Management [to meet obligations under the Premises Licence granted from 2018], Mission & Social Responsibility, and Social), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. Roles and responsibilities are set out in terms of reference adopted in 2020.

PCC members are expected to sit on at least one sub-group. Members of the congregation are also invited to join sub-groups. Each sub-group includes at least one member of the clergy team and either one or both Churchwardens. Minutes or written reports of sub-group deliberations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

- We are immensely grateful to those who chair our sub-groups for the time they devote to their role and for the dedication and knowledge that they bring to our governance. The chairs in 2021 were: Jo Counsell (Mission & Social Responsibility); Laura Craddock (Children & Youth); Paul Davie (Licence Management); Mel Fletcher (Social); Gillian Kendon (Creation Care); John Manterfield (Fabric); Stuart Jackson (Finance, from 25 April), who took over from Gary Moment (who resigned on 16 March).
- From time to time, the Rector gathers Sub-group Chairs and 'Heads of Department' (Director of Music, Head Server, Verger, Parish Administrator, PCC Officers) to discuss strategy concerning St Wulfram's mission.
- Sincere gratitude is expressed to our two churchwardens (Jan Burrows and Andrew Gregory) and to our Treasurer (Stephen Howe) and Secretary (Judith Muskett) for the time they each devote to their voluntary roles and for the dedication and knowledge that they too bring to the governance of St Wulfram's Church.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Wulfram's Church is situated in Grantham, Lincolnshire and is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rectory, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, charity registration number 1131575, as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham."

The PCC Treasurer is Stephen Howe. The PCC Secretary is Judith Muskett (who undertakes this role on a voluntary basis alongside the salaried post of Mission Facilitator). Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is an elected member of the PCC.

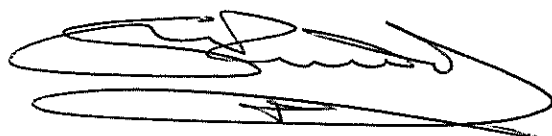
PCC members who served at any time from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved are set out below. Five vacancies for elected members were unfilled at the APCM on 25 April 2021.

| Name                      | Post                                                                             | Date if part year |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ex officio members</b> |                                                                                  |                   |
| Father Stuart Craddock    | Incumbent, PCC Chair, Rural Dean, Diocesan Synod & (from 16.11.22) General Synod |                   |
| Father Clay Roundtree     | Associate Rector                                                                 | (from 4.5.21)     |
| Mother June Rowland       | Bishop's Permission to Officiate; Community Chaplain                             |                   |
| Father Aron Donaldson     | Assistant Curate                                                                 | (from September)  |
| Mother Mel Parkin         | Assistant Curate & Diocesan Synod                                                | (until 30.6.21)   |
| Father James Titley       | Assistant Curate                                                                 |                   |
| Nick Kerry                | Reader                                                                           | (until 3.8.21)    |
| Andrew Gregory            | Warden and Vice-Chair                                                            |                   |
| Jan Burrows               | Warden & Deanery Synod                                                           |                   |
| Val York                  | Deanery Synod                                                                    |                   |
| Paul Davie                | Deanery Synod                                                                    |                   |
| <b>Elected members</b>    |                                                                                  |                   |
| Jason Bloomfield          |                                                                                  |                   |
| Jo Counsell               |                                                                                  | (until 25.4.21)   |
| Cherry Edwards            |                                                                                  |                   |
| Melanie Fletcher          |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| Marie Jackson             |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| Stuart Jackson            |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| Sheila Knight             |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| John Manterfield          |                                                                                  |                   |
| Gary Moment               |                                                                                  | (until 16.3.21)   |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| Brian Stagg               | Reader Emeritus & Custos of the Trigge Library                                   |                   |
| Ian Stewart               |                                                                                  |                   |
| <b>Co-opted members</b>   |                                                                                  |                   |
| Jo Counsell               |                                                                                  | (from 25.4.21)    |
| Melanie Fletcher          |                                                                                  | (until 25.4.21)   |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                                  | (until 25.4.21)   |
| Bankers                   | HSBC Bank plc, Westgate, Grantham.                                               |                   |
| Investment Managers       | CCLA Investment Management Limited,<br>84 Queen Victoria Street, London.         |                   |
| Insurers                  | Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.                                      |                   |
| Letting Agents            | Newton Fallowell, 24 Market Place, Grantham.                                     |                   |
| Independent Examiners     | Streets LLP, Windsor House, A1 Business Park,<br>Long Bennington.                |                   |

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf,

Father Stuart Craddock

3 April 2022



# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2021

|                                                                                               | Note | Unrestricted Funds |                 | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                               |      | General<br>£       | Designated      | £                | £               | 2021<br>£       | 2020<br>£       |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                     |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Voluntary income                                                                              | 2(a) | 94,632             | 8,092           | 136,866          | -               | <b>239,590</b>  | <b>170,339</b>  |
| Activities for generating funds                                                               | 2(b) | 46,861             | 6,140           | 4,962            | -               | <b>57,963</b>   | <b>4,986</b>    |
| Income from investments                                                                       | 2(c) | 4,806              | 710             | 11,107           | -               | <b>16,623</b>   | <b>14,341</b>   |
| Church activities                                                                             | 2(d) | 9,090              | 1,014           | 4,207            | -               | <b>14,311</b>   | <b>11,491</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                               |      | <b>155,389</b>     | <b>15,956</b>   | <b>157,142</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>328,487</b>  | <b>201,157</b>  |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                     |      |                    |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Church activities                                                                             | 3(a) | 120,536            | 41,045          | 181,854          | -               | <b>343,435</b>  | <b>250,849</b>  |
| Fund-raising costs                                                                            | 3(b) | 33,086             | 3,649           | 3,461            | -               | <b>40,196</b>   | <b>2,625</b>    |
| Investment management costs                                                                   | 3(c) | 2,134              | -               | 553              | -               | <b>2,687</b>    | <b>1,193</b>    |
| Governance costs                                                                              | 3(d) | 540                | -               | -                | -               | <b>540</b>      | <b>510</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                               |      | <b>156,296</b>     | <b>44,694</b>   | <b>185,868</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>386,858</b>  | <b>255,177</b>  |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>                           |      | <b>(907)</b>       | <b>(28,738)</b> | <b>(28,726)</b>  | <b>-</b>        | <b>(58,371)</b> | <b>(54,020)</b> |
| Transfers between funds                                                                       | 11   | -                  | -               | -                | -               | -               | -               |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING RESOURCES) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b> |      | <b>(907)</b>       | <b>(28,738)</b> | <b>(28,726)</b>  | <b>-</b>        | <b>(58,371)</b> | <b>(54,020)</b> |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets: on revaluation                                           | 6(b) | -                  | 13,299          | (14,636)         | 7,084           | <b>5,747</b>    | <b>16,880</b>   |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                                                                  |      | <b>(907)</b>       | <b>(15,439)</b> | <b>(43,362)</b>  | <b>7,084</b>    | <b>(52,624)</b> | <b>(37,140)</b> |
| <b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JANUARY</b>                                                   |      | <b>42,093</b>      | <b>119,538</b>  | <b>424,773</b>   | <b>62,643</b>   | <b>649,047</b>  | <b>686,187</b>  |
| <b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31st DECEMBER</b>                                                 |      | <b>41,186</b>      | <b>104,099</b>  | <b>381,411</b>   | <b>69,727</b>   | <b>596,423</b>  | <b>649,047</b>  |

The notes on pages 43 to 52 form part of these accounts

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

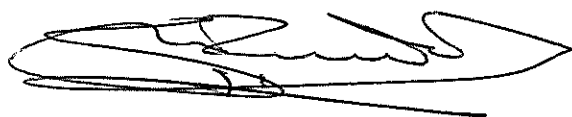
As at 31st December 2021

|                                                | Notes | 2021<br>£             | 2020<br>£             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| Tangible assets                                | 6(a)  | 5,973                 | 7,812                 |
| Investments                                    | 6(b)  | <u>486,286</u>        | <u>575,337</u>        |
|                                                |       | <b>492,259</b>        | <b>583,149</b>        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |       |                       |                       |
| Debtors                                        | 7     | 52,369                | 16,484                |
| Short term deposits & cash at bank and in hand | 8     | <u>100,608</u>        | <u>93,047</u>         |
|                                                |       | 152,977               | 109,531               |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |       |                       |                       |
| Creditors - amounts falling due in one year    | 9     | 48,813                | 43,633                |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |       | <u>104,164</u>        | <u>65,898</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                        |       | <u><b>596,423</b></u> | <u><b>649,047</b></u> |
| <b>PARISH FUNDS</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| General Fund                                   |       | 41,186                | 42,093                |
| Designated Funds                               | 10    | <u>104,099</u>        | <u>119,538</u>        |
|                                                |       | 145,285               | 161,631               |
| <b>Restricted</b>                              | 10    | 381,411               | 424,773               |
| <b>Endowment</b>                               | 10    | 69,727                | 62,643                |
|                                                |       | <u><b>596,423</b></u> | <u><b>649,047</b></u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 3rd April 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Father Stuart Craddock

(PCC Chairman)



The notes on pages 43 to 52 form part of these accounts

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Funds

**Endowment funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted income or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established (see note 10).

**Restricted funds** represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, income from investments is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis (see note 10).

**Unrestricted funds** are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Of the unrestricted funds, designated funds represent the valuation gain on investment property which can only be realised on sale, a fund for collections in memoriam, a fund designated for potential development, a deposit fund designated for religious, charitable and educational purposes comprised of accumulated income and interest, and a reserve of unrestricted funds held separate from general funds (see note 10).

#### Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable and is accounted for gross.

#### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2021

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### **Fixed assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2005 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2005 is written off.

##### **Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 is calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life by equal annual instalments at the following rates, (% p.a. on cost):

Office equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Computer equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Gardening equipment - 20% straight line basis.

##### **Fixed asset investments**

**Investment property** is valued at 31<sup>st</sup> December, with reference to movements in a regional house price index, from the date of acquisition (see note 6).

**Investment securities** are valued at market value at 31<sup>st</sup> December.

##### **Connected charity**

The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

The objects of the Friends of St. Wulfram's are:

"to preserve and beautify the Church of St Wulfram, Grantham, its fabric, fixtures, fittings, monuments, ornaments and other chattels".

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

| <b>2 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                 | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> |                   | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Endowment Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |                |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                             | <b>General</b>            | <b>Designated</b> |                         |                        | <b>2021</b>        | <b>2020</b>    |
|                                             | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
| <b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>                |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Planned giving:                             |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Gift Aid donations                          | 46,975                    |                   | 1,200                   |                        | 48,175             | 48,163         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 11,744                    |                   | 300                     |                        | 12,044             | 12,041         |
| Other                                       | 6,442                     |                   |                         |                        | 6,442              | 8,120          |
| Collections (open plate)                    | 6,143                     |                   |                         |                        | 6,143              | 3,416          |
| Grants                                      | 5,480                     |                   | 120,872                 |                        | 126,352            | 69,026         |
| Other donations and appeals                 |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                   |                         |                        | -                  | -              |
| Donations box                               | 5,629                     |                   |                         |                        | 5,629              | 2,274          |
| Other donations, appeals, etc.              | 9,025                     | 7,909             | 4,993                   |                        | 21,927             | 20,736         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 3,194                     | 183               | 632                     |                        | 4,009              | 3,063          |
| Legacy income                               |                           |                   | 8,869                   |                        | 8,869              | 3,500          |
|                                             | <b>94,632</b>             | <b>8,092</b>      | <b>136,866</b>          | <b>-</b>               | <b>239,590</b>     | <b>170,339</b> |
| <b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b> |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Coffee shop                                 | 1,935                     | 181               |                         |                        | 2,116              | 1,013          |
| Hire of church /Grantham House              | 2,868                     | 5,029             |                         |                        | 7,897              | 840            |
| Sales Unit                                  | 777                       |                   | 78                      |                        | 855                | 598            |
| Lottery                                     | 923                       |                   |                         |                        | 923                | 916            |
| Events Bar                                  | 1,913                     |                   | 542                     |                        | 2,455              | -              |
| Vintage Festival                            | -                         |                   |                         |                        | -                  | -              |
| Gaia (Metanoia) Climate Festival            | 2,032                     |                   |                         |                        | 2,032              | -              |
| Beer Festival                               | 18,751                    |                   |                         |                        | 18,751             | 515            |
| Christmas Tree Festival                     | 13,994                    |                   |                         |                        | 13,994             | -              |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                   | 899                     |                        | 899                | 43             |
| Parish Magazine Advertising                 | -                         |                   |                         |                        | -                  | 150            |
| Tax recoverable                             | 1                         |                   | 180                     |                        | 181                | -              |
| Other fund-raising                          | 3,667                     | 930               | 3,263                   |                        | 7,860              | 911            |
|                                             | <b>46,861</b>             | <b>6,140</b>      | <b>4,962</b>            | <b>-</b>               | <b>57,963</b>      | <b>4,986</b>   |
| <b>2(c) Income from investments</b>         |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Rent from land & buildings                  | 4,715                     |                   | 1,223                   | -                      | 5,938              | 5,225          |
| Dividends and interest                      | 91                        | 710               | 9,884                   |                        | 10,685             | 9,116          |
|                                             | <b>4,806</b>              | <b>710</b>        | <b>11,107</b>           | <b>-</b>               | <b>16,623</b>      | <b>14,341</b>  |
| <b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>   |                           |                   |                         |                        |                    |                |
| Parish Magazine                             | 302                       |                   |                         |                        | 302                | 326            |
| Choir Trips                                 |                           |                   | 3,314                   |                        | 3,314              | 36             |
| Other income from church activities         | 4,749                     | 1,014             | 893                     |                        | 6,656              | 601            |
| Fees paid to PCC for weddings & funerals    | 4,039                     |                   |                         |                        | 4,039              | 934            |
| Insurance claim                             | -                         |                   | -                       |                        | -                  | 9,594          |
|                                             | <b>9,090</b>              | <b>1,014</b>      | <b>4,207</b>            | <b>-</b>               | <b>14,311</b>      | <b>11,491</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>             | <b>155,389</b>            | <b>15,956</b>     | <b>157,142</b>          | <b>-</b>               | <b>328,487</b>     | <b>201,157</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

| 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED                                 | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                      | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2021           | 2020           |
|                                                      | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>3(a) Church activities</b>                        |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Missionary and charitable giving (note 13)           | 3,875              |               | 654              |                 | 4,529          | 2,161          |
| Ministry                                             |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Diocesan parish share                                | 37,029             |               |                  |                 | 37,029         | 29,849         |
| Other ministry costs                                 | 6,955              |               |                  |                 | 6,955          | 7,187          |
| Church/Grantham House running & maintenance          |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Heating, lighting & water                            | 12,065             | 5,137         | 5,514            |                 | 22,716         | 11,448         |
| Insurance                                            | 7,292              | 3,746         | 7,292            |                 | 18,330         | 13,867         |
| Rates                                                |                    | 3,161         |                  |                 | 3,161          | -              |
| Maintenance and other costs                          | 1,820              | 7,768         | 72,961           |                 | 82,549         | 92,110         |
| Upkeep of services                                   | 4,414              | 985           | 1,416            |                 | 6,815          | 10,289         |
| Music & choir                                        | 22,542             |               | 8,173            |                 | 30,715         | 26,388         |
| Choir Trips                                          |                    |               | 4,573            |                 | 4,573          | -              |
| Children and young people                            | 284                |               | 10,047           |                 | 10,331         | 360            |
| Printing, stationery & other office costs            | 8,043              | 2,762         | 1,219            |                 | 12,024         | 8,847          |
| Trigge Library                                       |                    |               | 2,193            |                 | 2,193          | 4,032          |
| Parish magazine costs                                | 2                  |               |                  |                 | 2              | 300            |
| Legal & professional fees                            | 302                | 508           | 5,535            |                 | 6,345          | 2,766          |
| Bank charges                                         | (4,455)            |               |                  |                 | (4,455)        | 332            |
| Training & Development                               | 1,519              |               |                  |                 | 1,519          | 79             |
| Festival of Angels project costs (part grant funded) | 5,000              |               | 21,976           |                 | 26,976         | -              |
| Other sundry expenses                                | 1,747              | 2,291         | 14,995           |                 | 19,033         | 14,535         |
| Other church activities costs                        | 252                | 15            | 3,603            |                 | 3,870          | 1,271          |
| Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing activities  |                    | 998           | 374              |                 | 1,372          | -              |
| Administration and support costs                     | 11,850             | 13,674        | 21,329           |                 | 46,853         | 25,028         |
|                                                      | <b>120,536</b>     | <b>41,045</b> | <b>181,854</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>343,435</b> | <b>250,849</b> |
| <b>3(b) Fund-raising costs</b>                       |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee Shop                                          | 574                | 2             |                  |                 | 576            | 373            |
| Sales Unit stock                                     | 167                |               |                  |                 | 167            | 355            |
| Events Bar                                           | 555                |               | 276              |                 | 831            | -              |
| Vintage Festival                                     | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 122            |
| Gaia (Metanoia) Climate Festival                     | 6,353              |               |                  |                 | 6,353          | -              |
| Beer Festival                                        | 13,468             |               |                  |                 | 13,468         | 17             |
| Christmas Tree Festival                              | 8,065              |               |                  |                 | 8,065          | 100            |
| Choir Trips                                          |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 43             |
| Other fund-raising                                   | 3,904              | 3,647         | 3,185            |                 | 10,736         | 1,615          |
|                                                      | <b>33,086</b>      | <b>3,649</b>  | <b>3,461</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>40,196</b>  | <b>2,625</b>   |
| <b>3(c) Investment management costs</b>              |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Investment property insurance and repairs            | 1,568              |               | 407              |                 | 1,975          | 566            |
| Investment property management fees                  | 566                |               | 146              |                 | 712            | 627            |
|                                                      | <b>2,134</b>       | <b>-</b>      | <b>553</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>2,687</b>   | <b>1,193</b>   |
| <b>3(d) Governance costs</b>                         | <b>540</b>         | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>        | <b>540</b>     | <b>510</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                      | <b>156,296</b>     | <b>44,694</b> | <b>185,868</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>386,858</b> | <b>255,177</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

| 4    | STAFF COSTS & EXPENSE PAYMENTS          | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£     |
|------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 4(a) | Staff costs                             |               |               |
|      | Wages and salaries:                     |               |               |
|      | Gross pay                               | 76,227        | 46,021        |
|      | Employer's NI and Pension Contributions | 4,638         | 2,017         |
|      |                                         | <b>80,865</b> | <b>48,038</b> |

The full-time equivalent number of staff was 3.1 (2020 - 1.9) and no employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000. No wages or salaries were paid to PCC members during the year.

**Grantham St Wulfram PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. , a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
  - b. , a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

### Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on the investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (**2021: £3,173; 2020: £2,017**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 3%, following recent improvements in the funding position over 2021. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Grantham St Wulfram PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

### 4(b) Payments to PCC members

5 members of the PCC were reimbursed a total of £4,746 expenses in relation to their work at St Wulfram's that was unrelated to their additional duties as PCC members. After adjusting for less than expected 2020 expenses claimed in 2021, the net expense for 2021 was £3,939. These were for travel/mileage (£2,973), phone costs (£673), meals/subsistence (£318) & other charitable expenses (-£25). A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the Rector may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

AF Electrical Installations was paid a total of £937 during 2021 for repair work done. Melanie Fletcher is married to the owner of the firm, but is not a member of the PCC Fabric sub-group that selects the contractors to undertake repair & maintenance work.

No other expenses, except those listed above, were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

|                                                                     | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Net incoming resources for the year are after charging:</b>      |           |           |
| Depreciation of computers & gardening equipment (lawnmowers)        | 1,839     | 1,155     |
| Independent Examination of the Annual Report & Financial Statements | 540       | 510       |

### 6 FIXED ASSETS

#### a) Tangible assets

|                            | GENERAL FUNDS            |                         | DESIGNATED FUNDS      | TOTAL FUNDS   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                            | Gardening Equipment<br>£ | Office Photocopier<br>£ | Office Computers<br>£ | £             |
| <b>Cost or deemed cost</b> |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 1st January 2021        | 1,950                    | 3,990                   | 7,245                 | 13,185        |
| Additions                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| Disposals                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| At 31st December 2021      | <b>1,950</b>             | <b>3,990</b>            | <b>7,245</b>          | <b>13,185</b> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>        |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 1st January 2021        | 618                      | 3,990                   | 765                   | 5,373         |
| Charge for the year        | 390                      | -                       | 1,449                 | 1,839         |
| Disposals                  | -                        | -                       | -                     | -             |
| At 31st December 2021      | <b>1,008</b>             | <b>3,990</b>            | <b>2,214</b>          | <b>7,212</b>  |
| <b>Net book value</b>      |                          |                         |                       |               |
| At 31st December 2021      | <b>942</b>               | <b>-</b>                | <b>5,031</b>          | <b>5,973</b>  |
| At 31st December 2020      | <b>1,332</b>             | <b>-</b>                | <b>6,480</b>          | <b>7,812</b>  |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

| <b>6 b) Investments</b>            | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Market value 1 January 2021</b> | <b>128,161</b>              | <b>447,176</b>                | <b>575,337</b>                     |
| Additions                          | -                           | 707                           | 707                                |
| Disposals                          | -                           | (95,504)                      | (95,504)                           |
| Revaluation (loss)/gain*           | 13,304                      | (7,558)                       | 5,746                              |
| <b>At 31 December 2021</b>         | <b>141,465</b>              | <b>344,821</b>                | <b>486,286</b>                     |

Historic cost as at 31st December 2021 68,768

\*An estimate of the increase in value of the investment property is obtained using the Nationwide House Price Calculator for properties in the East Midlands region from Q4 2020 to Q4 2021.

**The market value at 31st December 2021 represents investments for:**

|                  | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General funds    | 41,186                      | -                             | <b>41,186</b>                      |
| Designated funds | 72,697                      | 18,824                        | <b>91,521</b>                      |
| Restricted funds | 27,582                      | 324,733                       | <b>352,315</b>                     |
| Endowment funds  | -                           | 1,264                         | <b>1,264</b>                       |
|                  | <b>141,465</b>              | <b>344,821</b>                | <b>486,286</b>                     |

The allocation of the assets to the funds above reflects how the income is currently apportioned, with the exception of the designated investment property reserve of £72,697. Rental income relating to that part of the investment property is allocated to General funds. The type of asset actually used by a particular fund is ultimately dictated by liquidity needs - a fact that will aid the understanding of Note 12 also. Total fixed asset investment securities are within the United Kingdom and are all unlisted. They are intended to be held for longer than one year although can be sold at short notice, thereby ensuring sufficient liquidity.

| <b>7 DEBTORS</b>                  | <b>2021<br/>£</b> | <b>2020<br/>£</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prepayments:                      |                   |                   |
| Less than 1 year                  | 5,487             | 3,043             |
| More than 1 year                  | 591               | 427               |
| Tax recoverable                   | 6,706             | 9,556             |
| Other debtors                     | 39,585            | 3,458             |
|                                   | <b>52,369</b>     | <b>16,484</b>     |
| <b>8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b> | <b>2021<br/>£</b> | <b>2020<br/>£</b> |
| Short term deposits               | 20,080            | 40,080            |
| Cash at bank and on hand          | 80,528            | 52,967            |
| Other                             | -                 | -                 |
|                                   | <b>100,608</b>    | <b>93,047</b>     |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2021

| <b>9</b> | <b>LIABILITIES</b>                              | <b>2021</b>          | <b>2020</b>          |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|          |                                                 | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>             |
|          | Amounts falling due in one year                 |                      |                      |
|          | Accruals for utility costs                      | 5,131                | 2,195                |
|          | Accruals for other costs                        | 27,486               | 16,277               |
|          | Deferred income*                                | 13,462               | 12,662               |
|          | Grantham Ark (Registered Charity No. 1190668)** | 2,734                | 12,499               |
|          |                                                 | <b><u>48,813</u></b> | <b><u>43,633</u></b> |

\*Deferred income includes Parish Magazine income relating to 2021 (£89), monies held for future choir trips (£4,253) & advance income mostly relating to cancelled events (£9,120). The movement in deferred income is analysed below:

|                                                  | <b>2021</b>          | <b>2020</b>          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                                                  | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>             |
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>                 | <b>12,662</b>        | <b>5,302</b>         |
| Amounts added in current period                  | 2,805                | 8,018                |
| Amounts released to income from previous periods | (2,005)              | (658)                |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>               | <b><u>13,462</u></b> | <b><u>12,662</u></b> |

\*\*St Wulfram's Church continued to receive income during 2021 on behalf of Grantham Ark, which is registered with The Charity Commission (number 1190668). This was largely due to difficulty the charity had been experiencing in opening a bank account. Below is a brief summary of income and expenditure for 2020 & 2021, which has been recorded separately from the church's income & expenditure, and the net cash amount owed by St Wulfram's Church to Grantham Ark for net income received on its behalf at the end of those years.

|                                                     | <b>2021</b>  |                     | <b>2020</b>    |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|                                                     | <b>£</b>     | <b>£</b>            | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>             |
| <b>Balance as at 1st January</b>                    |              | <b>12,499</b>       |                | <b>8,865</b>         |
| <b>Income</b>                                       |              |                     |                |                      |
| Grants received on behalf of Grantham Ark           | 500          |                     | 3,103          |                      |
| Donations (inc. Gift Aid) & fundraising income      | <u>2,734</u> |                     | <u>3,490</u>   |                      |
|                                                     |              | 3,234               |                | 6,593                |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                     |              |                     |                |                      |
| Portaloos hire (allocated expense relating to 2019) | -            |                     | (234)          |                      |
| Night shelter expenses*                             | -            |                     | (915)          |                      |
| Accommodation expenses for homeless people          | <u>-</u>     |                     | <u>(1,810)</u> |                      |
|                                                     |              | -                   |                | (2,959)              |
| Payments made to Grantham Ark                       |              | (12,999)            |                | -                    |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>                  |              | <b><u>2,734</u></b> |                | <b><u>12,499</u></b> |

\*No other expenses were paid to any other Grantham Ark trustee, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

## 9b OPERATING LEASE

The charity has future liabilities under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

|                                | <b>&lt; 1yr</b>   | <b>1-5 yrs</b>      | <b>&gt; 5 yrs</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Office Equipment (photocopier) | <b><u>878</u></b> | <b><u>3,633</u></b> | <b><u>-</u></b>   |

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2021

| 10 | FUNDS                                      | As at<br>1st Jan 21 | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers | As at<br>31st Dec 21 |
|----|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|    |                                            | £                   | £                     | £                     | £                            | £         | £                    |
|    | <b>Designated Funds</b>                    |                     |                       |                       |                              |           |                      |
|    | Funeral collections "in memoriam"          | 5,407               | 235                   | (985)                 | (126)                        | -         | 4,531                |
|    | Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income) | 10,078              | (673)                 | (1,367)               | 707                          | 15,000    | 23,745               |
|    | Mission & Social Responsibility            | 4,399               | 6,007                 | (2,859)               | -                            | -         | 7,547                |
|    | Development (Grantham House)               | 40,261              | 7,659                 | (37,464)              | 123                          | (15,000)  | (4,421)              |
|    | Revaluation of investment property         | 59,393              | -                     | -                     | 13,304                       | -         | 72,697               |
|    |                                            | <b>119,538</b>      | <b>13,228</b>         | <b>(42,675)</b>       | <b>14,008</b>                | <b>-</b>  | <b>104,099</b>       |

Funeral collections "in memoriam"

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)

Revaluation of investment property

Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram designated for use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items 'in memoriam'.

Accumulated income from restricted income fund of same name, plus interest.

Revaluation reserve for the investment property at 8 Lytham Close.

|  | Restricted Income Funds                        | As at<br>1st Jan 21 | Incoming<br>Resources | Resources<br>Expended | Investment<br>Gains/(Losses) | Transfers | As at<br>31st Dec 21 |
|--|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|  |                                                | £                   | £                     | £                     | £                            | £         | £                    |
|  | 5050 booklet appeal                            | 1,233               | -                     | -                     | (33)                         | -         | 1,200                |
|  | A Pinchbeck fund                               | 2,213               | -                     | -                     | (30)                         | -         | 2,183                |
|  | AG Hardy fund books for lay readers            | 2,680               | -                     | -                     | 8                            | -         | 2,688                |
|  | Book of Remembrance                            | 325                 | -                     | -                     | (9)                          | -         | 316                  |
|  | Chained (Trigge) library [Books]               | 4,782               | 1,279                 | (2,103)               | (107)                        | -         | 3,851                |
|  | Chained (Trigge) library [All Purposes]        | 851                 | 538                   | (90)                  | (35)                         | -         | 1,264                |
|  | Choir Fund                                     | 3,901               | 13,092                | (13,176)              | (104)                        | -         | 3,713                |
|  | Clarkes Charity                                | 947                 | -                     | -                     | 54                           | -         | 1,001                |
|  | Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage             | -                   | 43,800                | (43,800)              | -                            | -         | -                    |
|  | Downton bequest                                | 12,484              | -                     | -                     | (338)                        | -         | 12,146               |
|  | Fabric fund                                    | 358,411             | 17,431                | (74,125)              | (7,677)                      | -         | 294,040              |
|  | Festival of Angels (SKDC) grant                | -                   | 15,900                | (21,976)              | -                            | -         | (6,076)              |
|  | Flowers                                        | 1,959               | 1,431                 | (1,416)               | (53)                         | -         | 1,921                |
|  | Friends of Cathedral Music Grant               | 784                 | -                     | (660)                 | 758                          | -         | 882                  |
|  | Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)    | 23,814              | -                     | -                     | 3,424                        | -         | 27,238               |
|  | Langwith Charity                               | 4,098               | -                     | -                     | 98                           | -         | 4,196                |
|  | Organ Fund                                     | 128                 | -                     | -                     | (3)                          | -         | 125                  |
|  | P Burdett bequest                              | 1,068               | -                     | -                     | (29)                         | -         | 1,039                |
|  | Postcode Places Trust grant                    | -                   | 19,908                | -                     | -                            | -         | 19,908               |
|  | Shine Lincolnshire grant                       | -                   | 10,000                | (462)                 | -                            | -         | 9,538                |
|  | South Porch & Garden of Remembrance            | 245                 | -                     | -                     | (7)                          | -         | 238                  |
|  | Strategic Development Funding (SDF) / LDT&BoF  | -                   | 28,314                | (28,314)              | -                            | -         | -                    |
|  | Wulfram Spring 2020 Arts Council England grant | 4,850               | 6,950                 | (11,800)              | -                            | -         | -                    |
|  |                                                | <b>424,773</b>      | <b>158,643</b>        | <b>(197,922)</b>      | <b>(4,083)</b>               | <b>-</b>  | <b>381,411</b>       |

5050 booklet appeal

A Pinchbeck fund

AG Hardy fund books for lay readers

Book of Remembrance

Chained (Trigge) library

Choir Fund

Clarkes Charity

Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant

Downton bequest

Fabric fund

Festival of Angels grant

Flowers

Friends of Cathedral Music Grant

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)

Langwith Charity

Organ Fund

P Burdett bequest

Postcode Places Trust grant

Shine Lincolnshire grant

South Porch & Garden of Remembrance

Strategic Development Funding (SDF)

Wulfram Spring 2020 Arts Council England Grant

Funds for the colour guide to the church.

Income to be applied for use by the servers.

Income to be applied to reader ministry.

Donation from the Machine Gun Corp for preservation of the Book of Remembrance.

Book restoration and upkeep of Trigge Library funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from collections at music recitals, grants, sales of CDs and donations for choir and music expenditure.

Income - 1/3rd to orphans, 2/3rds to beautifying the church. (£1,650 spent 2018 on Altar Frontal. £825 still to be applied to orphans).

Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant (Project no. OM-20-06042, The National Lottery Heritage Fund).

Rector & churchwardens discretionary fund.

Income from bequests, legacies and other donations for preservation of the church fabric.

SKDC grant - Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone - Cultural Consortium Programme.

Purchase of flowers funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from endowment for St. Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships.

Capital for religious, charitable & educational purposes in parish. Income to designated fund of same name.

Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.

Saturday Morning music and other donations to meet the running costs of the organ and expenses of visiting organists

Vestments for servers and clergy.

Grantham House gardener (£15k), G.H. utilities (£3k), garden tools/seeds (£1k) & G.H. rates.

Grantham House wellbeing classes & some G.H. salary costs.

Donations for upkeep of the South Porch and Garden of Remembrance.

Strategic Development Funding from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance.

Grant from Arts Council England for Wulfram Spring 2020 project (No. ACPG-00209771; 90%). Interrupted due to Covid-19.

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2021

| <b>10</b> | <b>FUNDS (continued)</b>                   | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 21</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 21</b> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
|           | <b>Endowment Funds</b>                     | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
|           | A Pinchbeck fund                           | 1,194                       | -                             | -                             | (61)                                 | -                | 1,133                        |
|           | A G Hardy fund                             | 3,254                       | -                             | -                             | (168)                                | -                | 3,086                        |
|           | Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | 3,229                       | -                             | -                             | (167)                                | -                | 3,062                        |
|           | Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | 158                         | -                             | -                             | (9)                                  | -                | 149                          |
|           | Fabric fund                                | 17,584                      | -                             | -                             | 2,528                                | -                | 20,112                       |
|           | Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | 26,118                      | -                             | -                             | 4,080                                | -                | 30,198                       |
|           | Hodds bequest                              | 2,854                       | -                             | -                             | (148)                                | -                | 2,706                        |
|           | Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | 7,496                       | -                             | -                             | 1,068                                | -                | 8,564                        |
|           | Miss Harrison bequest                      | 544                         | -                             | -                             | (28)                                 | -                | 516                          |
|           | P Barnes Fund                              | 212                         | -                             | -                             | (11)                                 | -                | 201                          |
|           |                                            | <b>62,643</b>               | <b>-</b>                      | <b>-</b>                      | <b>7,084</b>                         | <b>-</b>         | <b>69,727</b>                |

A Pinchbeck fund

A G Hardy fund

Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)

Donal charity (REGISTERED)

Fabric fund

Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant

Hodds bequest

Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)

Miss Harrison bequest

P Barnes Fund

Income to be applied for use by the servers.

Income to be applied to reader ministry.

Income to be applied one third to orphans and two thirds to beautifying the church.

Discretionary fund for distribution to the poor - income transferred to the general fund.

Income to be applied for church fabric - income transferred to the fabric restricted income fund.

Income for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships allocated to restricted income fund of same name.

Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of verger, bellringers, servers and choir.

Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.

Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of choir, music etc

Income to be applied for the children of parish - transferred to general funds to set against cost of Sunday Club & other children's ministry expenses.

## **11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Transfers between general and restricted funds normally represent a one-off transfer of incoming resources applied to restricted funds where resources expended for the same purpose have previously been met from general funds. Within designated funds, a £15,000 Hope Beyond grant from Allchurches Trust, received in 2020, was reallocated by agreement to meet visual streaming equipment costs.

| <b>12</b> | <b>ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund</b> | <b>Fixed<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Current<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Liabilities</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|           |                                       | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>       |
|           | General funds                         | 42,128                  | 17,385                    | (18,327)           | 41,186         |
|           | Designated funds                      | 96,552                  | 12,531                    | (4,984)            | 104,099        |
|           | Restricted funds                      | 283,852                 | 123,061                   | (25,502)           | 381,411        |
|           | Endowment funds                       | 69,727                  | -                         | -                  | 69,727         |
|           |                                       | <b>492,259</b>          | <b>152,977</b>            | <b>(48,813)</b>    | <b>596,423</b> |

## **13 MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING**

|                                 | <b>Unrestricted Funds<br/>General</b> | <b>Designated</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Endowment<br/>Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> |              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                                 | <b>£</b>                              | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                   | <b>2021</b>        | <b>2020</b>  |
| Mission & Social Responsibility | 3,875                                 | -                 | -                           | -                          | 3,875              | 1,500        |
| Other charitable giving         |                                       |                   |                             |                            |                    |              |
| The Children's Society          | -                                     | -                 | 169                         | -                          | 169                | 54           |
| DEC (Various appeals)           | -                                     | -                 | 96                          | -                          | 96                 | -            |
| Christian Aid                   | -                                     | -                 | 62                          | -                          | 62                 | -            |
| Grantham Foodbank               | -                                     | -                 | -                           | -                          | -                  | 298          |
| Macmillan                       | -                                     | -                 | 249                         | -                          | 249                | -            |
| Samaritans                      | -                                     | -                 | 78                          | -                          | 78                 | -            |
| WaterAid                        | -                                     | -                 | -                           | -                          | -                  | 309          |
|                                 | <b>3,875</b>                          | <b>-</b>          | <b>654</b>                  | <b>-</b>                   | <b>4,529</b>       | <b>2,161</b> |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****To the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham (the Trust), for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 41 to 42.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



31 March 2022

Chris Hubbard, FCA

Streets LLP  
Windsor House  
A1 Business Park at Long Bennington  
Nottingham  
NG23 5JR

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
Saint Wulfram,  
Grantham

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report for the  
Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

**Annual Report & Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
Parochial Church Council**

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## **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Wulfram's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Grantham the whole mission of the Church, in daily worship of God, in matters pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical to serve the people of the town and all who come to the church building.

The detail of this programme of mission is managed severally by the sub-groups (sub committees) of the PCC on its behalf. Their minutes and resolutions are available. From time to time, ad hoc working groups may be established to report to the PCC.

Full details of the PCC membership and officers are listed under 'Administrative Information' below.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC has the overall responsibility to make available to as many people as possible the ministry offered by the living Church based at St Wulfram's, and to welcome the same people to the church building. We communicate the Christian faith and exercise Christian ministry in the worship of the church through the ministry of word and sacrament. We seek to meet the needs of a variety of people in the wide range of worship and activities offered. Our church building is sufficiently flexible that we can manage occasions sacred and secular on a large or modest scale.

When undertaking their programme of activities, the staff and PCC have taken seriously the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. It is our express aim to be a community of Christians in the town and, according to the Anglican understanding, to be available to every single person in the town and parish. We seek to help the people of the town to live out their Christian faith through:

- Participation in the worship of the church and the practice of their own prayers at home, growing in confidence in their grasp of their faith through preaching, teaching and study together of scripture and Christian writings;
- Provision of pastoral care for the people of the parish and town; and
- Initiatives and ongoing work that express the love of God towards all people and reach those who are not regularly in touch with the life of the church.

To make all this possible the PCC has a prime responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Wulfram's.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Staff**

- Father Stuart Craddock, Rector of Grantham.
- Mother Mel Parkin, Assistant Curate.
- Father James Titley, Assistant Curate.
- St Wulfram's continues to benefit from the active support of local retired clergy (one of whom is designated our 'Community Chaplain').

- We also benefit from the active support of a Reader and several Authorised Lay Ministers.
- Dr Tim Williams, Organist and Master of the Music.
- Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator.  
Elaine is a member of the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN).
- Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator (from 1 June).
- Mr Steve Prendergast, Church Cleaner.

In January, we congratulated Fr James Titley on gaining his BA from Durham University as part of his theological training at Westcott House, Cambridge. Later, we congratulated him on his ordination to the Priesthood at Lincoln Cathedral on 3 October (the occasion having been delayed owing to COVID-19 restrictions). It was impossible for members of the congregation to attend the service; but we were grateful to the cathedral Dean and Bishop Nicholas for allowing us to record the ordination element of the service to view afterwards on St Wulfram's Facebook page.

### **Holders of the Bishop's Licence**

Those licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of the elements at Holy Communion in the parish (some within church and others within and outside church) are listed below. The § symbol denotes individuals for whom permission was granted by the Bishop during 2020. An asterisk indicates that the person did not administer the elements at all in 2020.

Permission to Administer (PTA) in church: Clare Arthur, Heather Arthur\*, Shaun Ashley, Michael Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tom Brooks\*, Daniel Castañeda, Katy Castañeda, Paul Davie, Dorothy Gaughan§, Michael Gaughan§, David Graham, Susanne Graham, Jerry Proffitt§\* (resigned during 2020), Georgina Stewart, Ian Stewart, Keith Streets (resigned during 2020), David West§, Sarah Whiting§\* (resigned during 2020).

Permission to Administer (PTA) in church and out of church: Betty Fernyhough, Elizabeth Hill, Barbara Kime, Shirley Leverett, Brenda Patten, Sue Redmile, Eileen West, Valerie York.

### **Guild of Servers**

Owing to the number of new members joining, in late 2019 the Guild of Servers began a period of consultation to address any training needs that members felt they needed. In early 2020 the group gathered for the first training session for server's duties, and this was delivered by the Chaplain and the Head Server. At this time, it was decided that training would be offered throughout the year, to culminate with an en-masse service of admittance later in the year. Unfortunately, in April 2020, divine worship was suspended and subsequently the recruitment and further training opportunities of servers.

For a variety of reasons, we lost the services of a number of members of the Guild of Servers during 2020, either on a temporary or permanent basis, but have retained a suitable membership to offer assistance as services have resumed. To that end, training remains an ongoing concern and it is hoped that it can be resumed more formally as the social context

allows. The guild is not exclusive and is open to all members of the parish, of any age and experience.

## **PREAMBLE: A YEAR OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

We looked forward with excitement to 2020, a year of great significance in the history of our church as an ancient site of pilgrimage and prayer, and our life together. For this year of celebration, a number of special events had been planned to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our patron saint Wulfram.

The mission and ministry of St Wulfram's Church in 2020 was defined and shaped by three significant developments, the headlines of which are set out below. Fuller details are provided in the pages that follow.

### *St Wulfram's became an SDF-funded 'resource church'*

- In February, as part of a bold new diocesan programme to resource the urban church, funded in part by the national church's Strategic Development Fund, the Acting Bishop of Lincoln invited St Wulfram's to become one of three urban centre 'resource churches' in the diocese, alongside St George's Stamford and St Swithin's Lincoln. At an additional meeting of the PCC on 20 February, a motion to accept this nomination was carried unanimously.
- The three churches represent the variety in Anglican traditions present across the 630 parishes and the eleven urban centres of the Diocese of Lincoln. St Wulfram's has been designated a Centre for Formation in Catholic Mission. As resource churches, we have been given a specific mandate to play a part in the revitalisation of the diocese's urban centres, strengthening churches across the diocese and facilitating the diocesan strategy for church planting.
- Over the next five years, each resource church aims:
  - to grow its Usual Sunday Attendance - St Wulfram's has been challenged to grow to at least 390 (in 2019, we reached 280);
  - to grow disciples;
  - to develop both lay and ordained leaders; and
  - to resource existing churches with training and volunteers.

This will establish the groundwork, growth and pipeline needed for church planting. Each church will establish 2-3 new or revitalised 'church plants' - a total of 8 churches. The aim is for each church plant to grow by at least 150 people and become self-sustaining within five years. The diocese will consult with key stakeholders to determine the locations and timings of the three churches that St Wulfram's has been challenged to plant or revitalise.

- The SDF funding enables St Wulfram's to appoint additional staff members to achieve the programme aims. Our new Mission Facilitator (0.6 FTE) was appointed following interview in May. We are in the process of recruiting one 'catholic missionary' (planting curates) for 2021 and two for 2022.

At the end of a two-day selection process that involved members of the PCC and culminated in candidate interviews with a panel chaired by the Archdeacon of Boston on 8 December, a preferred candidate was identified to take on the role of Associate Rector in 2021. The new appointee will play a key part in our ambitious and exciting vision, sharing in the overall leadership of St Wulfram's. This will release the Rector

to oversee the strategic development of church planting teams.

- Following research that Fr Stuart conducted over the summer among growth-minded priests in the catholic tradition in the Province of Canterbury and of York, which revealed how crucial children's, youth and families ministry is for church growth, we made a bid to the diocesan SDF Board for funding for a new Children's, Youth and Families worker for St Wulfram's. We hope that it will prove possible to appoint to this post in 2021.

### *The Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic*

- From early March, St Wulfram's, its people and the wider community had to respond to restrictions imposed because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- We were preparing to receive the last relic of Wulfram from +Dom Jean-Charles Nault, Abbot of Wandrille in northern France, at an historic ecumenical service on 20 March (the date that marks the death of Wulfram), preceded by a magnificent torch-lit procession<sup>1</sup>. However, the Abbot was unable to travel from France owing to the pandemic and the postponement of the event was announced with great regret.
- The timeline around the pandemic is set out below. The achievements and performance outlined in later sections of this report should be read against this background.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 March               | Congregants at St Wulfram's Church received advice issued by the Diocese of Lincoln about following good hygiene practice in church and in pastoral contacts.                                                                                               |
| 10 March              | The Archbishops of Canterbury and York advised members of the clergy to suspend the administration of the Chalice at Holy Communion and to halt physical contact during the Peace.                                                                          |
| 11 March              | Pandemic declared by the World Health Organisation.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 17 March              | The Church of England suspended all public acts of worship.<br>St Wulfram's suspended all church groups and events.                                                                                                                                         |
| 22 March              | The Parish Eucharist for Mothering Sunday was broadcast on Facebook from St Wulfram's Church.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 23 March<br>(evening) | The Prime Minister announced that places of worship were among the buildings that must shut.<br>The Archbishops, and the bishops within the Diocese of Lincoln, stated that clergy should not enter their churches to say prayers or to broadcast services. |
| 13 June               | Churches were allowed to re-open for private prayer and funeral services.<br>St Wulfram's opened from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday; and from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sundays.                                                               |
| 4 July                | The ban on public worship was lifted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5 July                | St Wulfram's resumed public worship in church.<br>(No singing was allowed indoors.)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 24 July               | Face-coverings became mandatory on public transport and in shops.                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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<sup>1</sup> The relic was to be housed in the Lady Chapel of St Wulfram's Church in a reliquary (a gift from Gary McCann, theatre and opera designer) until the summer, before being returned to the Abbey at Wandrille. The loan of the relic would have been a rare and special privilege: the recognition granted to an Anglican church by a Roman Catholic community in France, and a demonstrable sign of friendship and trust in us as a community of faith, a faith that stretches beyond geographical and political bounds.

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             | St Wulfram's strongly advised that face-coverings should be worn by all those attending for worship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 8 August                    | The Government extended the requirement to wear a face-covering to other indoor settings, including places of worship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 24 September                | The NHS COVID-19 app was launched in England and Wales. St Wulfram's displayed the QR code on entry to the church                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 27 September                | The St Wulfram's Choir resumed their liturgical presence in church.<br>(Congregational singing in church was still banned.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5 November to<br>1 December | Public worship was suspended once again during the month-long second national lockdown.<br>St Wulfram's Church remained open for private prayer (Monday to Saturday, 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Sunday services were broadcast by clergy from inside the church. There was no entry to church until after the morning services, when the church was opened for private prayer until 4.00 p.m. |

- Communities lived with a deep sense of apprehension and many people (especially the old and clinically extremely vulnerable) were left lonely and isolated. There was, however, a significant increase in community spirit that began with standing on our doorsteps and applauding NHS and frontline workers at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday evenings, and extended into new forms of neighbourliness and acts of kindness.
- As detailed above and explained more fully later in this report, the clergy and staff of St Wulfram's adapted quickly, exploiting modern technology to live-stream a range of services etc on Facebook, to gather members of the church community for weekly events by video-conference, and to offer pastoral support to those isolated at home. Our Music Department also adapted quickly and made music virtually, to much acclaim. In mid-December, the PCC invested in a new multi-point visual system to enhance the services that St Wulfram's broadcasts online.
- What we learned during these challenging times is shaping our ministry and mission as we look forward to 2021 and an eventual 'new normal' facilitated by widespread roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. We look forward to emerging from our 'cocoons' to gather together physically and to live in a different and transformed way, shaped by the past, but hopeful of the new life that lays ahead of us.
- The clergy thank the whole community who have made significant sacrifices this year, both financially and in time. They are especially grateful to the Philip Lank Trust for their generous grant to sustain Music at St Wulfram's during the pandemic and also to the congregation for their extra giving to help bridge the significant gap in our finances. (In the Financial Review below, we describe in detail the church's strategy to address the large deficit caused by the reduction in donations from visitors, the loss of sales during periods of closure and the loss of significant fundraising income due to cancelled events). The team is incredibly proud of who we are as a family and thank God that, despite the many challenges of 2020, St Wulfram's moves from strength to strength.

Particular gratitude is expressed to Elaine Chambers (Parish Administrator) who has worked immensely hard behind the scenes to maintain the flow of information to and from members of the St Wulfram's community. Her working conditions have been very different since March – sometimes frustrating, but rewarding – and her technical knowledge has expanded to cope with the many demands. In turn, she thanks the St Wulfram's community for their patience and support this year.

Particular gratitude is expressed also to Dr Tim Williams (Master of the Music), who enabled the choir to continue to share in community, sing, produce music for Sundays and send out a positive message to the church family and beyond in challenging and unsettling times. The virtual music he and the musicians created in lockdown and the resilience he built among them were extraordinary; and we thank him for his magnificent efforts in learning and perfecting the art of producing composite virtual anthems while all members of the choir remained safe in their own homes. Online rehearsal and production methods kept the choir and organ scholars fully engaged; and there is now an extensive archive of virtual recordings accessible from the church website and Facebook. We are delighted that Dr Williams has been able to resource others by publishing articles about virtual music and resilience, and by co-chairing meetings of directors of music of other major parish churches about the recruitment and retention of choristers.

#### *New resource space was acquired for St Wulfram's at Grantham House*

- In July 2020, after lengthy negotiations with the National Trust, the Parochial Church Council of St Wulfram's decided to take an initial 12-month lease on the ground floor of Grantham House (a 14<sup>th</sup> century town house on Castlegate, opposite the church). The lease was eventually signed on 4 December.
- We are most grateful to Ian Cooper (General Manager) and Rachel Walker (Estates Manager) of the National Trust, for their work in making this happen and for the generosity they have shown St Wulfram's in backing the vision for the site.
- So, five years after the loss of the church hall, St Wulfram's now has adequate space to resource itself, the deanery and the wider diocese; and we look forward to using the site (indoors and outdoors) to grow as a community of faith and share the love of God with everyone in the heart of Grantham. Relocating certain weekday and one-off activities from inside the church to Grantham House will facilitate a more consistent offering in terms of weekday worship and for private prayer and quiet reflection inside the church.
- A cottage on the Grantham House site has been rented by the Diocese of Lincoln; and, from the autumn, this became home to Fr James, Assistant Curate.
- Our five-year plans assume a longer-term lease on Grantham House, subject to further discussion with the National Trust and the success of funding applications.
- St Wulfram's is most grateful to have been awarded charitable funding from the Allchurches Trust ('Hope Beyond' thematic programme), the Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund, and the Evan Cornish Grassroots Fund (administered by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation). These grants and, we hope, additional external funding will allow St Wulfram's to utilise the indoor and outdoor resource space at Grantham House to support the wholeness and wellbeing of our local community as it recovers from the pandemic. Further grant applications are being made to external funders to support our resourcing work at Grantham House.
- The two-day selection process for the Associate Rector was held at Grantham House. Our next event on the site was socially distanced carol singing outdoors in the courtyard, on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 December, to which members of our community were invited.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship and Prayer

#### *The pattern in 'normal times'*

- The PCC is committed to offering a range of worship that reflects not only the breadth of the Anglican tradition but includes worship based on traditions from the Taizé Community and the Abbey on Iona in Scotland.
- The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship, giving opportunity to include good choral and congregational music. In normal times, children from the Sunday Club (which includes those aged 0 to 11) are actively included in this service and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions and assist in the administration of the Sacrament. All are welcome to participate in this service, and welcome stewards are at the door each Sunday. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and contacted in due course at home.
- 'Extra Half Hour' is an informal Bible study after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist, once a month in normal times. All are welcome. The aim is to provide an opportunity to dig a little deeper into the scripture readings for the day.
- Choral Evensong is sung at 6.30 p.m. on Sundays during school term times. Outside school term, Evening Prayer is said on Sundays at 6.30 p.m.
- In contrast to the parish communion and choral evensong, the evening and midweek services are quieter and more reflective. Morning Prayer is said daily in the Crypt and members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. Midweek Eucharists are held on a Tuesday at noon in St Michael's Chapel and at 10.30 on a Wednesday morning. On the second Wednesday of the month, the Eucharist is an Iona service. On Fridays at 12 noon, we offer a service of Exposition and Benediction.
- The service pattern differs on the first Sunday of the month. All Age worship, or Parade Services for the Scout and Guide groups, take place at 9.30 a.m., supported by the St Wulfram's band of instrumentalists. These services continue to attract a cross-section of people young and old in the congregation. The All Age worship or Parade Service is followed at 11.00 a.m. by a traditional Choral Eucharist, the style of which attracts regular members of the congregation, as well as worshippers from other churches and newcomers.
- On the first Saturday afternoon of the month, youngsters aged between 3 and 7 years are invited to 'Come and Sing' with the Master of the Music and others, which includes singing, musical games and refreshments – aimed at developing a love of singing and basic musicianship skills. Numbers are steady. Publicity is being given to the event, through schools.

#### *Actions during the COVID-19 pandemic*

- As soon as the country was put into lockdown in response to the pandemic, and places of worship were closed from 24 March 2020, St Wulfram's responded by live-streaming a range of services on Facebook (with video recordings available afterwards and 'views' reckoned over the subsequent 28 days). The Eucharist was celebrated at 9.30 each Sunday morning in the Rectory garden (from 29 March); and the first three videos (Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday, and Easter Day) were viewed by significant numbers (1,400, 1,100 and 1,700 respectively).

From mid-May, the Eucharist was broadcast from church; and at that stage it became possible (broadcasting to Facebook through Zoom) to include lay people at home reading the lessons and offering intercessions. On 21 and 28 June, we welcomed 'visiting' preachers via Zoom.

- From the start of the first national lockdown, Morning Prayer was said daily at 9.00 a.m. at the home of a member of the clergy team. The number of views indicate that in broadcasting the Office, St Wulfram's meets a real spiritual need. Daily Compline was said in Holy Week. Our Licensed Reader joined the clergy in hosting broadcasts from home, leading Morning Prayer on Mondays from 11 May and Saturday Compline from 16 May at 8.00 p.m.
- A 'Thought for the Day' or Bible reflection was offered later in the morning each Tuesday and Wednesday by members of the clergy team (in two instances involving young people, whose mature and refreshing ideas became a particular talking-point). As lockdown restrictions were gradually relaxed and places of worship could eventually re-open for public worship, our number and range of Facebook broadcasts was tailored accordingly. We replaced 'Thought for the Day' with Weekly online Prayer at noon on Tuesdays; and, through the prayer tab on our website, we invited our community to submit online prayers to be prayed on these occasions.
- In readiness for the resumption of public worship in church on 5 July, we issued guidance on 'Coming to church' so that our congregation knew what to expect. This was based on guidance from the Government and the House of Bishops. Seats were spaced to conform with social distancing advice. People were asked to remain in their seats throughout the service; and Communion (in one kind) was distributed by the priest as people remained in their seats. The doors were open throughout the service to allow ventilation.
- We continue to broadcast weekday Morning Prayer (from the church from 5 October) and Saturday Compline; and the Sunday Parish Eucharist and Evening Prayer / Evensong continue to be live-streamed to reach those who are unable to attend church in person. The range of online worship is kept continually under review; and St Wulfram's will respond to the needs of its church community with appropriate broadcasts, as circumstances evolve.
- A special Festival Eucharist in honour of St Wulfram was held in church and broadcast on Facebook on the evening of Thursday 15 October, the patronal festival.
- The All Souls Mass, including Fauré's Requiem, was held in church and broadcast on Facebook in the evening on Sunday 1 November. The names of departed loved ones were included in the prayers; and an online form was available for this purpose.
- In normal times, St Wulfram's hosts central acts of worship and commemoration for the people of the town. Unfortunately, no such acts of worship could be held in person in 2020.

The online St George's Service and Renewal of Promises for the Scout and Guide Association gave members of the movement the opportunity to come together to reaffirm their promises and share in some fellowship. The service reached members locally and around the diocese; and the video was viewed over 1,200 times during the first 28 days.

- Remembrance Sunday was very different this year. We planned a ticketed service in the church (for 200 people, socially distanced), to be relayed outside with a PA system.

However, once the second lockdown was announced, plans changed. A virtual service of Remembrance was broadcast on Facebook from the locked church on Sunday 8 November. Sadly, there could be no parade through the town. Thomas Craddock (the Rector's son) played the Last Post from the church tower. The church was open for private prayer afterwards and wreaths were laid at the war memorial in the churchyard during the day.

- As Advent Sunday fell during the second national lockdown, the Service of Carols for Advent was pre-prepared to be broadcast online. The lesson readers offered their readings from home. All the choral music was prepared by digital and virtual means from choristers' homes. All congregational music was from the archive of recordings (2018); and we hoped that the online congregation would join in singing the words at home. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed a similar format.
- St Wulfram's was open on Wednesday evenings through Advent from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Lit only by candles, the church provided a space for quiet reflection and prayer.
- In accordance with government guidelines on social distancing, we held two successful 'Carols in the Courtyard' evenings at Grantham House (21 and 22 December), which enabled members of our congregation and local community to sing joyfully outdoors, supported by our Master of the Music and members of our Choir. The carols were interspersed with seasonal readings by Fr Stuart and Fr James.

#### *Preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and Confirmation*

- Since January 2014 the PCC has allowed children from the age of those in school Year 3 to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, following a period of preparation. This would usually take the form of a five-week period of preparation, undertaken in Lent, with the young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time, with their family, on Easter Day.

For the first time in five years, Communion Club did not run in 2019, owing to low numbers; however, on the basis of interest expressed, we anticipated a larger group in 2020. However, the pandemic restrictions made it impossible to run Communion Club in 2020. Plans are being made for the Club to resume in Lent 2021, using digital technology.

- The Youth Confirmation Group is aimed at young people in school Year 9 upwards. Its usual format is a six-month programme, with monthly meetings, with the Confirmation service in the centre, and a confirmation retreat over three days where a significant amount of the pre-confirmation course content is covered (led by clergy).

Adult confirmation preparation is open to all who wish to recognise their personal development in faith. The usual format is meetings held on six consecutive Sundays, with the Confirmation service held in the centre of the course. This course is led by the clergy.

Sadly, no confirmation preparation could happen in 2020 owing to the pandemic restrictions; and there was no deanery Confirmation service. Plans are being made for preparation to start in Lent 2021, mainly using video conferencing.

## *Occasional Offices*

- The occasional offices continue to be an important point of contact and ministry within the wider community.

In 2020 there was just one wedding. Those that were originally planned for 2020 (16 weddings plus 2 renewal of vows) changed the dates of their wedding to 2021 and some to 2022 due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

We were delighted that David Betts and Rachel Hare, members of our congregation, were able to marry at St Wulfram's post-lockdown (25 July). The couple had originally invited between 80 and 100 guests to their ceremony but reduced the list to just 30 in line with Government guidelines. The service was live-streamed to friends and family unable to attend. Dr Williams, Master of the Music at St Wulfram's, arranged for the church choir (of which David, his daughters and Rachel's son are members) to record all the music virtually: the video of the choir, who filmed themselves singing, was shown on a large screen during the ceremony. Instead of a reception in the church, the couple enjoyed a low-key picnic with their close family. Fr Stuart told the *Grantham Journal* that this was another sign that the church was 'springing back to life after such a difficult time for everyone'.

We conducted 7 baptisms: 5 children (one under one year of age, 4 aged between one and two years old) and 2 adults. We have an open baptism policy and do our best to keep in touch with the families involved.

A total of 21 funerals for people in the parish were conducted during the year, of which 10 took place in church.

## **Mission and Social Responsibility**

- St Wulfram's continues to take seriously its calling to be a living witness to the gospel at the heart of the town. In many of the activities detailed in this report there is effective contact with a substantial number of people of all ages beyond the congregation.
- St Wulfram's supports a range of mission and charitable organisations, usually giving away 5% of its pledged income to these each year. In 2020, the amount given was necessarily reduced. Further details are included in the financial review and statements.
- Over and above the charitable giving organised by the church community, in excess of £10,000 was raised for charity through schools services, funerals and other events held within the building.
- Disappointingly, items from our Traidcraft unit were not selling well before the pandemic lockdown. Teabags were used in the Coffee Shop and cards sold occasionally. Stock that became out-of-date during lockdown was sold at a reduced price when church services could be held in the building once again. The remainder of the stock was donated to Grantham Foodbank.
- Donations received on 8 March for refreshments after the Parish Eucharist were given to Traidcraft Exchange.
- It was impossible to run the usual Christian Aid events in May. However, donations were collected; and a total of £1,045 (including Gift Aid) was raised by St Wulfram's and St John the Evangelist Manthorpe together.

- This year has been very different for the work of Grantham Passage. Unfortunately, since March we have not been able to provide hot lunches as in previous years, due to the Covid pandemic. Instead, Grantham Poverty Concern has organised a weekly Saturday morning delivery to vulnerable individuals and families, operating from the hall at the Baptist Church. Members of the participating churches have helped with this which has been a huge effort and to date have distributed over 5,000 food parcels, including 203 Christmas dinners on Christmas Day. On a typical Saturday 140 – 160 food bags are delivered by the volunteers.
- Tins, packets, jars and bottles of food/drink and household toiletries are donated regularly to the Grantham Foodbank and The Passage through collection boxes located in church. In addition, we collected new toys for the Grantham Foodbank at our Advent Sunday Parish Eucharist.
- Sadly, over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of people who are homeless, sleeping in tents or sofa-surfing in the locality. At present, there is no emergency provision in the district; so, the only response that clergy and The Passage volunteers can make in an emergency situation is to send people to Lincoln, Nottingham or Peterborough to access emergency accommodation. In 2019, an important step was taken by ‘Grantham Ark’, a group comprising representatives from churches across Grantham (including St Wulfram’s), to ameliorate the challenges faced by those in the locality lacking a permanent home. Fr Stuart Craddock led the initiative through the organisation ‘Churches Together in Grantham & District’. Grantham Ark completed the process to register with the Charity Commission in 2020 (Registered Charity number 1190668).
- In 2020, through the efforts of Grantham Ark, three churches (including St Wulfram’s) took it in turns, one or two weeks at a time, to open their doors during the harshest winter months (January to March) to those who needed shelter overnight (referred by relevant authorities/organisations). The last two weeks (additional to the original period of time) were hosted by St Wulfram’s; and members of the congregation contributed the cost of ten beds (@ £25 each), when those loaned by the Army had to be returned on the due date. 90 people received training (provided by INN Churches, an initiative based in Bradford) in order to help at one or more of the three locations. A total of 12 guests received hospitality over the three months: food, a warm dry place to sleep and a sense of dignity.
- After considerable investigation and work in the autumn led by Mthr Mel for Grantham Ark, the sad conclusion was reached that it would be impossible to operate the night shelter in the early months of 2021, owing to COVID-19 restrictions and health and safety concerns for both guests and volunteers.
- Grantham Ark organised a SleepOut event in December 2019 in the grounds of Grantham House (by kind permission of the National Trust), to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the homeless and to raise funds towards a permanent emergency night shelter in the town. It is intended that this be an annual event. Unfortunately, the pandemic restrictions prevented a SleepOut in 2020. However, thanks to the generosity of those who donate to the Grantham Ark charity, limited emergency care will be offered to those who are homeless in the winter months of 2021.
- Our Harvest theme this year was water; and funds were raised for the charity Water Aid and also for Grantham Foodbank.
- We received a donation of £200 to start a fund to help families needing some extra help at Christmas time. Under the banner ‘Christmas Cheer’, we raised an additional

£540; and gave a total of £700 worth of supermarket vouchers to several vulnerable families whom we identified through contacts with three local schools.

- Volunteer fundraisers with the British Heart Foundation raised £1,100 to buy a life-saving defibrillator to be installed in St Wulfram's Church. The machine was presented to Fr Stuart by the fundraisers in January.
- Fr James grew a moustache to raise money for the 'Movember 2020' campaign, which funds male mental health and suicide prevention projects and prostate and testicular cancer research.

## **Safeguarding**

- The PCC continues to take extremely seriously the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (that is, the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).
- The PCC uses a step-by-step process (adopted in 2018) for approval of all off-site activities (e.g., by the Choir and Youth Group), delegating certain powers to the Safeguarding Officer. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented many Choir and Youth Group activities taking place this year.
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer or Assistant Safeguarding Officer (our Parish Administrator) make regular written reports to the PCC and attend PCC meetings to report in person from time-to-time. Each March, the PCC conducts an annual review of our safeguarding policy statement, which is signed by the Rector (as Chair of the PCC) and displayed in the church.
- The multi-page paper audit of *Promoting a Safer Church* was replaced by an online version. The Parish Safeguarding Officer and Assistant Safeguarding Officer met in the early Spring to complete the first stage; and they generated a Level 1 Action Plan. The outcome was to place St Wulfram's in the 'Green' (Good) category for the majority of points, with only five 'Amber' markers (needing some action – mostly in relation to training advised) and no 'Red' markers (urgent action required). Once those areas had been addressed, the two officers generated and worked on a Level 2 Action Plan, which was subsequently adopted by the PCC (2 April). To address one of the Level 2 actions, the PCC adopted (5 May) a policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders to paid and voluntary roles. Work on the Level 2 Action Plan continues.
- Owing to restrictions imposed because of the pandemic, in-person safeguarding training was suspended by the Diocese of Lincoln, until e-learning safeguarding courses became available. In November, PCC members were urged to undertake relevant online training accessed from the diocesan website (where there were links to the Lincolnshire County Council site and Church of England training portal). The Assistant Safeguarding Officer has instituted a process to ensure that all individuals with DBS clearance complete online courses relevant to their role within the church.
- As the Lead Recruiter for St Wulfram's, the Assistant Safeguarding Officer undertook Safer Recruitment training (provided through Lincolnshire County Council).
- Working with the Rector, the two officers prepared a report to the Diocese of Lincoln on the Past Cases Review 2.

- The Assistant Safeguarding Officer continues to process applications for DBS clearance. In line with recruitment practices set out in the Church of England's Guidance *Safer Recruitment* and diocesan policy, our Churchwardens and all PCC members are DBS checked upon appointment/election. All other staff and volunteers (e.g., in the music department and lay pastoral team) are also DBS checked upon taking up roles. In addition, all adult choristers, including Youth Choir members who turn 18 years of age, go through the DBS checking process. We carefully monitor periods for which clearance are granted and apply for renewal, as appropriate.
- A training session for our team of Choir Chaperones took place on 18 January. During the event, a series of documents was revised to go into the Chaperone Handbook. The event also looked at what works well and discussed areas of concern. It was attended by the Parish Safeguarding Officer and 12 of the 14 chaperones. One-to-one sessions were arranged for those unable to attend the event. It is evident that the bulk of the weekly chaperoning usually falls onto a small number of the group; but several individuals are limited in what they can do on weekdays owing to the nature of their work.

## Music

- Over the past 13 years, Organist and Master of the Music Dr Tim Williams has achieved notable success in the recruiting and training of young members of the choir, drawing on relationships with local schools and other music contacts. Choristers are not auditioned and all members share a remarkable commitment and professionalism in their approach to music. The standard of the children's sections of St Wulfram's Church Choir is one of the success stories of the church music programme.
- We are grateful to Assistant Organists Andrew Wyatt, Edward McCall and Harry Jacques for their ongoing contributions to the music at St Wulfram's.
- Choir club for boys is on Tuesday afternoon after school and for girls on Wednesday afternoon. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards, without a formal audition process. New recruits are given their own introductory sessions. The junior choirs continue to be a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community.
- The Youth Choir, which meets on Monday afternoon, has responded to the choristers as they have graduated from the boys' and girls' choirs. This school year, 7 'choral scholars' are supported by the Philip Lank Trust. Most Fridays during term time, the Youth Choir sings Choral Evensong in the Lady Chapel at 5.15 p.m., supported by our portable box organ; a small regular congregation attends.
- The Master of the Music is enormously grateful to the music administrative team of volunteers for the assistance they provide, especially with communication of schedules, paperwork and chaperoning.
- The pandemic has significantly paused the progress of many choristers on the choral training programme at St Wulfram's, due to the non-availability of in-person examinations and potential examination dates. Despite the many challenges, the programme at St Wulfram's in 2020 yielded 7 Royal School of Church Music awards – 3 Bishop's (Silver) Awards, and 4 Dean's (Bronze) Awards. The Bronze and Silver Award examinations were postponed from March until in-person activities were possible in October. No examinations for Gold Awards (the highest chorister award in

the UK) took place nationally in 2020. Between them, the choristers have now amassed 115 RSCM awards since 2011.

- Choristers were excited to sing in the Grantham Music Festival on Saturday 14 March: over 30 vocal solos and duets; and the boys' and girls' choirs performed together in the Church Choir class.
- The musical training of young people at St Wulfram's includes a highly active organ teaching school. Currently 11 young scholars are learning to play the organ, supported by the Philip Lank Trust, the Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars' Trust (YOST), the Royal School of Church Music, the Ouseley Trust, and the Royal College of Organists. The digital organ (on loan) is a superb practice facility for the organ students who can use it with headphones while the choir rehearses. Our portable box organ (housed in the Lady Chapel) is also a valuable resource for the organ scholars.
- Matilda Johnson, a former organ scholar, took up a place at the Royal Academy of Music to study the organ.
- The organ scholars have achieved notable success in ABRSM examinations this year, and 6 are now working at or above Grade 5 level.
- The programme of social activities included a visit to Pizza Hut (Saturday 25 January), when around 35 members of the boys' and girls' choir celebrated the invitation to return to Westminster Abbey (following their successful visit to sing Choral Evensong on New Year's Eve 2019).

#### *Actions during the COVID-19 pandemic*

- Not being able to meet to sing together was a culture shock for the choir at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown. It became clear that the members wanted not only to continue to share in community, but also to sing, to produce music for Sundays, and to give out a positive message in such difficult and unsettling times.
- The choir's response to lockdown was charted by Dr Williams in an article entitled 'June in lockdown: Virtual music, resilience and hope from St Wulfram's', published in the journal *Cathedral Music* (November 2020). The article explains how so much of the routine of the choral tradition seemed to have been lost; and how everyone who was accustomed to helping with the music provision felt 'a disconnection from the camaraderie that comes from being a part of real live church music'. The task in isolation during lockdown was to take all the powerfully felt emotion and 'convert it into the art of remote singing' (p. 37).
- The Music Department learnt the art of producing composite virtual anthems while all members stayed safe in their homes. The method worked through podcasting rehearsal videos to the choir: these focused on singing technique, learning notes, interpreting the music and understanding its historical background. When members were ready, they recorded themselves on phone voice memo recorders while listening through headphones to a synthesised backing track and conducting file produced by the Master of the Music. Once they were happy, the choir families sent through the memos, and the Master of the Music layered them together using audio editing software. After a few hours of work, this method produced results that showed the togetherness and connectedness of St Wulfram's Church Choir, even though they could not actually meet together. The method kept the choir fully engaged, including the

youngest and oldest members. After Easter, the choir moved from predominantly podcasting rehearsal files to primarily rehearsing in real time on Zoom.

- The valuable assistance of volunteers with the preparation of virtual materials was much appreciated.
- An archive of virtual recordings was produced, accessible from the church website. Through this resource, our music had a wider reach nationally and internationally than ever before.
- Recruitment to the choir has continued through the pandemic. During this time, Dr Williams collaborated with the directors of music of major parish churches and co-chaired meetings in relation to the recruitment and retention of choristers, sharing learning on resilience in the face of the pandemic.
- The choir was proud to feature in the Royal School of Church Music 'Big Music Sunday' broadcast live on Youtube (14 June, 6.00 p.m.), when they led the singing of the final hymn 'How shall I sing thy majesty' with an international online congregation.
- Sunday 19 July marked the end of the choir year with a Valediction Evensong, for which the choir gathered for the first time, socially distanced, still unable to sing in person together. In the previous four months, the choir had shown remarkable resilience and still made church music for these times, producing 23 virtual pieces.
- In line with a detailed risk assessment, the Choir came back together for rehearsals in early September. The boys and girls quickly got used to the space of the nave for socially distanced singing and seemed totally at home. We were delighted to welcome the choir back into church to resume their liturgical presence on 27 September (Harvest Thanksgiving), for the Parish Eucharist (choristers) and Choral Evensong (youth choir and adults).
- Plans were made for the full continuation of choir activities for all choristers, youth choir and adult members virtually during the November lockdown. A particular highlight of this time was the Advent Carol Service (pre-recorded and transmitted on Facebook) (29 November) with organ music before and after the service provided by former choristers and organ scholars Matilda Johnson (now studying organ at the Royal Academy of Music) and Joseph Beech (Sub-Organist of Durham Cathedral).
- Starting on 1 December, the Music department published a daily musical offering on Facebook from the choristers, choral scholars, organ scholars and musicians of St Wulfram's Church.
- The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was produced virtually as well (20 December). The decision to go virtual was made in a spirit of inclusivity, so that choristers who were isolating and adult members who were shielding could be part of the service. Only one week elapsed between the point at which the decision was taken to go virtual and the actual service; and the service engaged 55 members of the choir. This was a testimony to the dedication and resilience of the members.
- One of the aspects that choristers missed in the early weeks of lockdown was the chance to share news together. In response, the department launched a weekly online meeting for choir families; family home recitals were shared by virtual means; and an online group was set up to appreciate members' photography and visual arts.

- As part of the choir's annual outreach to local care homes (which forms an important part of the choristers' Christmas programme), a 15-minute video of Christmas Carols was produced. It included three carols sung at the church and three sung remotely from homes, and digitally mixed. Choristers also spoke on the video about the carols and their role in the project.
- St Wulfram's Choir has sung at 23 Anglican cathedrals in England/Wales; and was looking forward to a week-long summer residency at Winchester Cathedral (3 to 10 August), for which fundraising began in 2019. It was with sadness, but no great surprise, that confirmation was received from Winchester in June that the cathedral would not be able to host the choir for the residency. Thanks were expressed to those families who felt able to donate some or all of their deposits to church and future choir trips, rather than receive reimbursement. All the funds raised from activities in 2019-20, which were expected to contribute towards the Winchester trip, were carried forward for future trips.

### *Wider music programme*

- On 8 May, the Master of the Music launched 'Hymns with Tim', half an hour of hymn singing for members of the congregation at 12 noon each Friday via Zoom. The event has a loyal following of up to around 15 people each week, and often includes children during school holidays. We are grateful to Jo Gardner for stepping in to lead the virtual hymn singing on the few occasions Tim has been unavailable. The plan is for the weekly event to continue until congregational singing is allowed again in church.
- A special edition of the weekly 'Hymns with Tim' took place in the evening on Thursday 17 December – up to 26 adults and children gathered virtually to sing 'Carols with Tim'.
- In normal times, recitals are held on the third Saturday morning of each month. A large and appreciative audience attended the recital given by Elaine Bishop (mezzo soprano) and Tim Williams (piano) (15 February). This was the only recital of 2020. The recital by Ian Hare (Director of Music at St Oswald's Church, Grasmere and of the Keswick Choral Society) due to take place on Saturday 21 November, was postponed upon the announcement of the second national lockdown.

## **Church Community**

### **(a) *Children and Young People***

- Children are welcomed at St Wulfram's and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the 'Children & Youth Sub-group' established by the PCC. The sub-group meets regularly and includes in its membership several individuals who do not serve on the PCC. It hears reviews on each aspect of the church's work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church's involvement with church schools in the parish. It celebrates achievements, and discusses challenges and points for action. In particular, the sub-group recognises that more work needs to be undertaken to enhance the profile of children's activities in church (through the church website and social media, and hopefully using ChurchDesk).
- The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. In three age groups, they have a full programme of teaching, prayer, music and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord's Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been doing at the end

of the service. There is a very dedicated team of volunteers (including three young people who are growing in confidence to plan and lead their own sessions).

- In normal times, our Children's Area continues to be well used during services and throughout the week as a 'Stay and Play' resource for families with young children who want a place 'to be' with their children.
- The 'Rhyme Time' singing and activity group for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents/carers meets for an hour in church each Friday during term-time.
- Our two Youth Groups usually meet on the first Sunday evening of the month. The group for those in Year 9 and above meets in the Rectory and consists of 20+ members (a mixture of Youth Choir and non-Youth Choir members). The group for those in Years 7 to 9 (launched in October 2019) met in the church and currently has 14 members. The young people have been instrumental in designing the programme and members enjoy a range of activities. They are encouraged to invite their friends to join.
- Sadly, all in-person children's and youth activity (save for choir activities) paused in March, due to the pandemic. It was hoped that Sunday morning provision would have started before Christmas in the alternative location of Grantham House, allowing more space. However, because the start of the lease on Grantham House was delayed, the plan did not come to fruition. We aim for all our activities (Rhyme Time, Teddy Bear Service, Come and Sing, Sunday Club, two Youth Groups) to emerge from the present situation in a new and revitalized way.
- There are seven Scout or Guide sections associated with the church and five regular parade services a year are held, with all age worship to involve the children in every way. Clergy and other members of the church are invited to go and speak to the groups. The groups also visit the church. The loss of the church hall in 2016 resulted in the groups meeting off-site, so steps are being taken to improve regular contact.

Fr James is District Chaplain to Grantham District Scouts. This role is a Grantham-wide appointment but includes regular purposeful visits to the sections of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grantham (St Wulfram's) Scout Group.

- All three members of our clergy team are governors of local Church of England schools; and our Rector also serves on the governing body of the Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham. Our PCC is consulted when specific vacancies are filled on the Board of the Harrowby/National Academy Trust.

Members of the clergy team lead weekly collective worship in two church schools. During the pandemic, the clergy team prepared videos for the schools instead.

Local schools, especially the church schools and the local state nursery school usually make regular visits to the church to learn about the church building, about Christianity and about the church's role in the community. In normal times, local schools also use the church for services throughout the year, including carol services and services to mark the end of the school year. The neighbouring grammar school uses the church building for its annual Founder's Day Service and Speech Night.

## **(b) *Pastoral Care***

- The clergy and lay pastoral support team are available to any person in the parish who asks for their support or help. Members of the congregation are visited at home, when

this is possible. Those who are new to the congregation are made welcome and visited as soon as convenient.

- In normal times, those who are ill, housebound or too frail to attend church are visited regularly.
- Likewise, in normal times, residential and nursing homes, and a local sheltered housing development are visited every month and Holy Communion is celebrated or the reserved sacrament is taken by one or two lay members of the team.
- A quarterly service for wholeness and healing, open to all, is held in church in normal times; this is very much appreciated by those who attend.
- On Wednesday 5 February, free 'Dementia Friends' sessions were offered (by Lynda Basford, our former Parish Administrator) for members of our congregation who wanted to learn how dementia affects a person and what can be done to make a difference. There was a special session in the afternoon aimed at under 16s for the St Wulfram's choristers. The sessions helped our choristers' outreach in the community, and also their educational development and understanding of relatives with this condition.

**(c) *Community groups***

- Our Sunday lunch group for people of any age (who would otherwise eat alone) continued to flourish in January, February and March, visiting a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. Around 20 attended. Unable to gather safely for a meal indoors once COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, the group's regular gatherings halted in April. From July onwards, around half the group members gathered virtually by Zoom video conference on the second Sunday of the month (either late morning or early afternoon) and enjoyed a wide-ranging chat. We are grateful to Jane Sharp who continues to co-ordinate the in-person and online gatherings of this group.
- Our monthly Art Group was unfortunately not able to meet since the first lockdown in March. However, they hope to meet again, as soon as they are able. The group still anticipates meeting in the church but also looks forward to, hopefully on occasions, being able to meet either in Grantham House or the gardens later in 2021.
- Until February, the Nativity Knitters group were knitting twiddlemuffs and knee rugs, which Anne Laxton then took on their behalf to three wards at Grantham Hospital, the Mental Health Unit, and also to some residential care homes. Grantham Volunteer Dementia Support also distributed some muffs and rugs to their clients. Thank you to everyone who contributed so much to this effort. As with many activities, the knitters have been able to do nothing since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, because items cannot be taken anywhere.
- The Wulfram Men's Group started at the end of 2019 and gathered a healthy number of members of the church family at its first meeting. For some reason or other, numbers had dropped at subsequent meetings. However, by February 2020 a varied programme (which included pub socials, day trips, and meals) had been established for the forthcoming year; and, following the first meeting of 2020 during that month, interest began to grow once again as the programme was advertised. COVID-19 measures came in as we prepared for the March meeting – at which we were to mark Wulfram 2020 – and the group were subsequently unable to meet at all during the rest of the year.

- Sadly, the St Wulfram's Curry Club, which visits a local restaurant once a month, was unable to operate in 2020.
- Since 22 April, fellowship has been offered through a Virtual Coffee Morning on Wednesdays at 11.00 a.m. The event, hosted by a member of the clergy (in rotation), is held via a Zoom video conference. In the early days of the first national lockdown, the coffee morning attracted well over 20 people from St Wulfram's and St John's Manthorpe. The popular weekly event continues, with a loyal following of around 15. On one occasion, the participants included a couple planning to relocate from another area, who were 'shopping around' for a new church.
- Members of the congregation were invited to gather, with a drink, on the evening of Monday 9 November at the virtual 'Wulfram's Arms'. This social event was a great success with 17 people present on Zoom screens. An online 'Murder Mystery' evening is planned by the Social Sub-group for January 2021 and the popular annual Quiz will take place by Zoom in February 2021.

### **Church and Fabric**

- The year began with the second phase of conservation work on the Georgian monuments identified as 'at risk' in Dr David Carrington's report from 2017. The Georgian monuments to Sir Thomas Bury and Charles Clarke and other monuments to the three daughters of Rev Richard Stevens, to Susanna Bourne, and to the Newton family of Watergate have all been fully repaired, cleaned and conserved by conservators from the Messenger BCR group. We are grateful to ChurchCare, the Georgian Group (Cleary Fund) and the Henry Moore foundation and several individuals for their generosity totalling over £4,500 for this second phase of work with some monies previously received in 2019 towards this project.
- Repairs to the stained-glass window in the south aisle adjacent to the office, damaged in the break-in on Christmas morning 2019, were undertaken by conservator Derek Hunt of Limelight Studios. Grants towards this work were received from The Glaziers Company and the Friends of St Wulfram's Church and from our insurers. Other repairs and work arising from the break-in included a new safe, new key suiting and replacement of locks.
- Derek Hunt dismantled, repaired and cleaned the plain glass window in the south aisle. The external ferramenta was repainted and damaged stonework to the window was also addressed. Derek Hunt also cleaned the plain glass window in the north aisle. This work was paid for from the Fabric Fund.
- Roof work included the replacement of the lead sump and supporting timberwork in the south-east turret and minor repairs in other areas. The whole church roof has been surveyed to identify priorities for further work in 2021.
- Towards the end of the first lockdown in June, wooden and stone floors in the nave, aisles and chancel were deep cleaned by a local contractor and it is felt that this has enhanced the appearance of the church as most of the seating has been stacked away when the church has not been utilised for services.
- In September 2020 work was completed to undertake consolidation, re-pointing and cleaning the spirelet on the north side of the church adjacent to the Corpus Christi Chapel. This work was undertaken by Weldon Stone Enterprises following competitive tender at a price of some £10,000 including fees and VAT.

- Work was also carried out to repair a leak in the water pipe under the floor by the font. The central heating system pipework has also been surveyed to pinpoint the location of two leaks which will be repaired in the summer of 2021.
- Prior to Christmas 2020, additional cameras and microphones were installed to enhance the quality of our live-streamed services which are now viewed by several hundred members of our congregation and friends from home. The new system extended CCTV coverage in the church.
- Thanks are due to everyone who has helped in cleaning the church and assisted with other repairs, particularly Anthony Fletcher of AF Electrical for his work on the lighting and heating systems.
- We are greatly indebted to John Manterfield for his dedication in chairing the PCC's Fabric Sub-group and overseeing its work.

### **Church flowers**

- Throughout the year and especially at liturgical festivals, we benefit from the dedication of our band of flower arrangers (led by Val York), whose skills enhance the beauty of our church. We are grateful to all those who contribute towards the costs of flower arrangements throughout the year: many such donations are in memory of loved ones and an 'In Memoriam' list is displayed at the west end of the church at Easter and Christmas. Recognising that those who donated towards the cost of Christmas flowers this year would not necessarily be able to come into the church to see the arrangements, our weekly community email before Christmas included photographs of the flower arrangements and the 'In Memoriam' list.

### **Change ringing**

- We are grateful for the leadership of David Braunton (Tower Captain) and his team in maintaining change ringing at St Wulfram's.
- Until mid-March ringing continued much as normal; the bells then fell silent, other than for the clock chiming the quarters and hours. In April, the Tower Captain spent some time checking over the bells for any potential maintenance issues; and for the last few weeks of the 'clap for carers' used the tenor bell to lead the 5-minute clap around the town on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. In late May/June the tenor bell was used to announce the start of the Sunday 9.30 a.m. broadcast service with a 5–10 minute burst of noise.
- Following guidance from the CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) and PHE (Public Health England), in July we began ringing six bells as a team for the Sunday service; and, following the 72 hours abstinence advice, moved our Tuesday practice to Wednesday evenings. Several ringers who were shielding unfortunately had to refrain from ringing activities; but the numbers supporting were sufficient to warrant holding another practice locally at Stoke Rochford, ringing in masks and in well-ventilated ringing chambers.
- We rang all twelve bells on a Sunday, as a last hurrah just before the Government introduced the 'rule of six' in mid-September. In October, as a band and with worsening figures, we decided that should figures increase above 100 COVID-19 cases per 100,000, we would not continue to ring as a group. For the remainder of the year,

the Tower Captain has continued to ring one or two bells on a Sunday to announce the start and end of 9.30 a.m. service, to provide an audible reminder to the community that the church is still here.

- We are planning to carry out some improvements to the internal acoustics of the bells for the ringers in the coming months, and our enthusiastic steeple keeper Sarah Boott will be involved with this.
- Youtube videos continue to be popular, with the Notre Dame performance now having reached nearly 268,000 views and one of English-style change-ringing 557,000 views (as at 29 December 2020).
- We hope that with the roll-out of vaccinations a return to safe ringing comes at some point in 2021. Recruitment will be crucial to the very survival of bell ringing, with an appeal to 'Restore your inner balance – try Bell Ringing!'

### **Hospitality for Pilgrims and Visitors**

- St Wulfram's, a landmark medieval parish church restored by Gilbert Scott (1866-75), is Grade I Listed (1062501) and of nationally recognised significance. Set back from main roads and surrounded by old buildings, the area has the feel of a cathedral close. The chained Trigge Library (established in the church in 1598) is of exceptional significance as the earliest in England for public use, and attracts local, national and international visitors and scholars. The church plays a dynamic role in attracting visitors to the town and district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Grantham Town Conservation Area. They lie within the 'Grantham High Street Heritage Action Zone', which celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England to restore historic properties and regenerate public realm areas.
- Consistent with our 'sacred space, common ground' strategy, we encourage everyone in the community to see St Wulfram's as their parish church, a building open for prayer or a place to come and sit in quiet reflection.
- In normal times, each Saturday morning and during the 'visitor season' (from the end of March to end of September), we try to have stewards on hand to welcome our visitors. The Coffee Shop offers a welcome to visitors on Wednesday and Saturday mornings in the winter season, and on Wednesday to Saturday mornings during the visitor season.
- In 2017, with fewer volunteers and a policy of no 'lone working' in church, the PCC took the decision (on the advice of the Diocese and Ecclesiastical Insurance) to leave the church open unattended at certain times. This strategy continues to be largely unproblematic.
- Some visitors take the trouble to sign our Visitors Book. Their comments are overwhelmingly favourable. Some comments written early in 2020 follow:
  - ❖ A truly beautiful church. A lovely visit.
  - ❖ Magnificent. More cathedral than church.
  - ❖ Very helpful staff. Lots of interest to see.
  - ❖ Beautiful and very visitor friendly.
  - ❖ A most magnificent yet peaceful church – tranquillity at its best.

- ❖ Incredible space, magnificent spire. Nice to see evidence of community involvement.
  - ❖ Absolutely gorgeous architecture and stained glass.
  - ❖ Wonderful church and a fantastic place to spend some time.
- In accordance with government pandemic restrictions, the church building closed from 24 March until 12 June (inclusive). In line with guidance from the Government and Church of England and following a detailed risk assessment, the building re-opened for private prayer from 13 June (9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sundays). Automatic hand sanitizers were placed at the entrance and exit and within the church; the wearing of masks was required; and posters encouraged social distancing. At the end of every day, on a rota basis, a few members of the congregation cleaned the areas that visitors may have touched. We are grateful to those who cleaned and to Jan Burrows who organised the rota.
  - The Coffee Shop closed in mid-March and was unable to re-open in 2020 due to government regulations affecting the hospitality sector.
  - St Wulfram's participated in a limited way in the annual nationwide Heritage Open Days event in September: the church had a limited opening period and visitors were able to access only the nave. In total, around 85 visitors attended (fewer than in previous years).
  - Near the west door of the church, we have a sales unit that, in normal times, displays postcards, guides and souvenirs of the church, together with assorted greetings cards (including the popular Friends of St Wulfram's Christmas cards and tea-towels). Unfortunately, stock had to be removed at the start of the pandemic; but we thank John Manterfield for his efforts to sell items in imaginative ways since April, including the new edition of William Glaister's 1878 'The Life and Times of St Wulfram', which he edited and published through the Grantham Civic Society.

### **Trigge Library**

- Recorded visitors for 2020 decreased from 834 in 2019 to 83 in 2020, a decrease of some 90%, wholly owing to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library was closed from mid-March to June and then only operated as permitted with social distancing until November when it was closed again. This was a direct result of associated government guidance and regulations resulting in the lockdowns and cessation of non-essential activities affecting travel from overseas as well as within the UK. Of the total, 62 visitors attended in the first quarter of the year with 21 in the whole of the remaining nine months of 2020.
- The visitors who were recorded produced the following figures: The total number of visitors recorded was 83. The number of visitors from the UK was 61, representing 74% of the total. Only 8 visitors were from Grantham, probably because local people were aware of the closure of the Library. The rest of England (other than Lincolnshire) accounted for 46 visitors. The number from overseas amounted to 21, with 5 from Europe and 16 from the USA.
- During 2020 our conservator, Mrs Bridget Warrington, carried out a complete Condition Survey of the Library and provided a report of her findings. A number of problems were identified, and these are currently being addressed. Ten books required urgent attention to disinfest them from attack by furniture beetle (commonly known as woodworm), with one initially undergoing treatment in an oxygen-free environment. When this proved unsuccessful, it was transferred to Harwell for deep-

freeze treatment. This seems to have worked and the remaining nine books were subsequently sent to Harwell for identical treatment. In addition, woodwork affected by furniture beetle including the book presses, floor and roof were also treated appropriately. Following this, the Library was deep-cleaned. The Condition Survey report provided a prioritised list of books requiring conservation of bindings and/or page blocks to ensure their long-term preservation.

- New security cameras will be installed together with a 'panic button' for use by stewards. A device for continuously monitoring temperature, humidity and dewpoint has been installed, and data is being downloaded for further analysis. Quotations have been obtained for replacement of the free-standing exhibition cases and the book supports for viewing the books when off their shelves. Blinds to reduce light emission will also be installed. It is hoped that the costs of these will be met by grants from appropriate bodies.
- Fr James has set up a 'rolling' exhibition of books in south aisle using the case donated to the church by The National Trust. This serves to introduce visitors to the types of books in the collection. The contents are replaced periodically.
- A new guidebook to the Library with photographs has been written to replace the guide published by John Glenn in ca.1988. It is hoped that it will be printed shortly and become available in the early spring of 2021.

### **Archive**

- The church archive has continued to acquire items, from various sources. A major acquisition has been from the Friends of St Wulfram's Archive, which contained many items of historical interest to the church. The Curator of Archives thanks everyone who has donated in any way. Where the name and address of the donor is known, a letter or email of thanks is sent.
- Restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic have prevented easy access to the Vestry, and ongoing research has been suspended since March 2020.
- The Curator dealt with 11 separate enquiries during the past year, which involved 23 responses.
- St Wulfram's continued to hold a small quantity of archives belonging to the parish of St John's Manthorpe while building work in that church was carried out.
- Storage of the archives in the Vestry and elsewhere in the church has long been problematic with intense pressure on space, but there are plans to reorder the Vestry with dedicated and secure Archive space.

### **Ministry training**

- Members of the congregation continue to take a full part in the licensed ministry of the church and new volunteers are trained and introduced on a regular basis to share in leading worship and exercising pastoral ministry.
- Two members of our congregation are currently pursuing Reader training with the Diocese of Lincoln.

- Five members of our congregation embarked in September on the diocesan course entitled ‘To Love and Serve the Lord’, which Grantham Deanery ran for the first time under the leadership of the Revd Canon Geraldine Pond (former Director of Vocations, Diocese of Derby). The 16-session course, which is taught via Zoom by a mix of ordained and lay ministers (including three from St Wulfram’s), provides a discernment process for those exploring a possible call to authorised lay ministry and the initial module for ALM training.

### **Learning opportunities**

- In preparation for the arrival of the Wulfram relic from the Abbey of St Wandrille in March, the Rector led an open discussion about the nature of relics after the Parish Eucharist on 26 January.
- Lenten study groups (clergy- or lay-led) were run jointly with St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe at four locations at different times to suit participants’ availability (Monday evenings, Wednesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons). However, due to the first national pandemic lockdown, it was impossible for the study groups to complete their programme.
- On Thursday evenings in the first half of 2020, Bible Study sessions took place, mostly over Zoom. The group worked through the Bible Society guide *Making Good Sense of the Bible Together*. This was designed to help the reader to understand and interpret the Bible correctly by considering the world as it existed when the Bible was written, thereby helping to put verses into their proper context. The guide also looked at different translations in order to access what the writers were aiming to convey. The guide enabled the group to see how studying the Bible can help Christians to grow and mature.
- On Sunday afternoons in Advent, Mthr Mel hosted our ‘Advent Series’ via Zoom video conference. Each week, participants watched a short film (produced by the Bible Project) exploring the biblical understanding of four themes important in Advent (Hope, Peace, Joy and Love) and discussion followed.

### **Major Churches Network**

- We are members of the Major Churches Network (which grew from the Greater Churches Network); and we are in regular contact with other large churches to benefit from information about good practice in areas of fabric, mission and outreach, and how to best engage in service to the community. This year, the network has enabled member churches to share ideas about how best to respond to COVID-19 in terms of ministry and mission.

### **Inclusive Church Network**

- St Wulfram’s continues as a member of the Inclusive Church Network endorsing the statement of belief:

We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

## **Ecumenical relationships**

- St Wulfram's continues to play a full part in Churches Together in Grantham (CTiG), in hosting or assisting in the major events of the ecumenical year. Representatives of our congregation attend regular CTiG meetings and report back to the PCC.
- St Wulfram's was the main location for the online carol service produced by Churches Together, which went live on the Churches Together Facebook page on 22 December.
- We continue in a supportive relationship with ChristChurch, our Methodist/URC neighbours. In normal times, we worship together on the fifth Sunday of each month, the combined services (mostly now in the evening) alternating between St Wulfram's and ChristChurch. Quarterly meetings to arrange joint events and worship are well supported; and we publicise each others' services and events, through our monthly parish *Magazine* (see below) and weekly *Community* news.

## **Lincoln Diocesan Synod**

- St Wulfram's is represented on the Diocesan Synod by the Rector, Mthr Mel and (from 3 December) Paul Davie. After each Diocesan Synod meeting, the PCC receives a Digest of Proceedings, as published on the diocesan website; and, from time to time, the PCC also receives the 'Parish Share – update to parishes' communication issued by the Diocese of Lincoln.
- During the pandemic, the bishops, their chaplain and the Diocesan Secretary were in regular correspondence by email with incumbents and parish officers to share advice and provide the latest guidance.
- There has been a growing sense in the Diocese of Lincoln, replicated across the Church of England as a whole, that the current way of doing and being Church is neither workable nor sustainable, and that new ways need to be found of being the people of God together. The diocese faces a major financial crisis, having spent around £5 million more in recent years than it has raised itself. Historic assets currently fund £2 million of the overspend; but income from Parish Share falls short of the real cost of ministry and the diocese is left with a recurring deficit of £3million. The effect of COVID-19 in 2020 meant that the anticipated deficit would be £4million.

Back in November 2019, the Acting Bishop of Lincoln had commissioned a group of individuals from across the diocese to address the systemic issues that it faced and discern how the diocese could build the healthy, vibrant and sustainable church that it longs to be. In January 2020, five working groups (comprising over 50 people – lay, clergy and officers) were established to look at the following areas: assets; Parish Share; costs; growth; and deployment. The groups reported in July and the proposals subsequently received overwhelming support from the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees and Diocesan Synod. In the autumn, the diocese held a series of virtual consultation meetings with parishes, gathered by 'Greater Ecclesial Areas' (GEAs), based roughly on the nine local authority areas. Feedback was then used to shape plans submitted to Diocesan Synod on 21 November.

92% of Synod members present at the November meeting voted to support the general principles laid out by the 'Resourcing a Sustainable Church' programme. Synod also voted 'to support the exploration of the possible sale of Edward King House' (the diocesan offices). In addition, Synod committed 'in principle to the introduction of a Covenant Giving Scheme based on mutual responsibility between the parish and the diocese as a whole', to replace the formula-based system of parish share, with 'some

mechanism to support those parishes in areas of highest deprivation’ and support from a team of volunteer Covenant Pastors. Consultation with parishes in the autumn became the first step in a long process of engagement, consultation and refinement of plans, ahead of what the diocese called ‘a full working plan’ for consultation in March 2021 and presentation to Synod in April 2021.

## **Grantham Deanery**

- St Wulfram’s plays a full part in the life of the deanery. Our Rector, Fr Stuart Craddock was appointed Rural Dean in November 2019. Since February, he has been supported in this role by Judith Muskett (our PCC Secretary), who was appointed Deanery Administrator for 6 hours per week (a position funded by the Diocese of Lincoln). The Deanery Administrator provides all deanery PCCs with regular written reports on Synod business.
- Through its elected and *ex officio* representatives, St Wulfram’s continues to take a leading part in shaping and implementing deanery policy. We currently have three elected lay representatives on the Grantham Deanery Synod. Triennial elections were held at Annual Parochial Church Meetings in 2020 and the new terms of office began on 1 December: Jan Burrows and Val York continue to serve on Synod until 2023 and Paul Davie was elected for the first time (but brings experience as a former deanery lay representative in a different diocese). We thank Andrew Gregory for the service he gave over the last three years as one of our elected lay representatives on Deanery Synod.
- The deanery was successful in its bid for funding from the Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund towards the cost of staging the Metanoia Climate Festival, originally planned for September 2020 but which will now take place over Friday 1 October to Sunday 3 October 2021.
- A significant item of business during 2020 was the ‘Resourcing Sustainable Church’ initiative from the Diocese of Lincoln (see above).

The version of the scheme favoured by Grantham Deanery designates St Wulfram’s as a ‘Key Mission Church’ within the ‘Local Ecclesial Area’ comprising the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries (one of three proposed divisions within the South Kesteven ‘Greater Ecclesial Area’). Representatives of deanery churches (including St Wulfram’s) participated in an online consultation meeting for the South Kesteven GEA with the bishops on 30 September.

The diocese has declared that changes to the number and structure of deployed clergy are essential; and it is working towards a model of 100 stipendiary posts or equivalent (a reduction from the aspiration of 153) and training 6 stipendiary curates a year. Collaborative ministry is at the heart of the new model, with groups of stipendiary clergy, self-supporting clergy and lay ministers working collegially in diverse teams across wider geographical areas. Grantham Deanery Synod has said it would accept a minimum of 6 stipendiary clergy + 2 House for Duty priests to cover the LEA. If, as anticipated, the current deanery is re-organised into three greater parishes (west, central and east), St Wulfram’s clergy would be responsible not only for St John’s Manthorpe but also for the current Earlsfield and Spitalgate parishes.

## **Communication**

- The Parish website ([www.stwulframs.org.uk](http://www.stwulframs.org.uk)) is a prime contact point for people wishing to know more about the parish church, its people and activities. Regular

postings of information by the Parish Administrator keep it fully up-to-date. Contacts and requests continue to increase in number. We make full use of social media to involve members of our church community and of the wider community in the life of the church; social media is especially valuable in attracting visitors and audience members to our special events and engaging them in online conversations at those times. We recently enhanced our presence on the Church of England 'A Church Near You' website: the site directs those who view to the church's own website and social media.

- The ChurchDesk software package enables the Parish Office to send out weekly newsletters and information on forthcoming services (including orders or service and hymn sheets), all of which have been immensely valuable during the pandemic. By the end of the year, we had accumulated over 1,000 'Contacts', almost twice the number recorded in 2019. The contacts include members of the community of St John the Evangelist, Manthorpe, our sister church.
- The Sunday *Community* sheet updates the congregation each week, with news of services and activities. In normal times, it is available in printed form on Sundays, but since the start of the pandemic it has been shared with the weekly Friday email from the Parish Office.
- The full-colour monthly *Magazine* continues to provide high quality and varied content in information and articles. Brian Buttery, the present Editor, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> issue in January 2020. He is a member of the Association of Church Editors, whose secretary sends out a monthly bulletin of useful tips. Brian looks forward to his next anniversary in September 2021, when he will take stock in a quinquennial report.

Since the start of the pandemic, an online version of the *Magazine* has been available through the church website; and printed copies have been mailed out to those who subscribe.

- Continuing our long-standing practice, we pay to advertise full details of weekday and Sunday worship at St Wulfram's each week in the local newspaper, the *Grantham Journal*. We have good relations with the *Journal* (whose office is near St Wulfram's); and articles about our community life and outreach activities are included in the newspaper on a regular basis.
- Notice boards outside the church are well used. Our two chalk A-boards display daily information outside the west door and welcome visitors.
- Our churchwardens were unable to hold any of their usual wardens' surgeries during the year. However, through regular notices in the *Community* news, they encouraged members of the congregation to contact them by telephone or email with any comments or questions. They were also happy simply to have a chat with callers.

### **Special Events (including those for fund raising)**

- Over recent years, we have enhanced our engagement with people in the town. We strongly believe that the sacred space of St Wulfram's is common ground for all – a place where we can challenge each other, celebrate all that is good in our community, and be a place we can call home where we can gather as a community – and God is in the midst of this, in the everyday. Community use of the building is essential to our sustainability and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. Our challenging events (Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals, May Balls, Beer Festivals, disco nights for children etc.) underpin our 'sacred

space, common ground' strategy. Each event attracts significant numbers and at the same time raises useful funds for the church.

- Sadly, in this year of celebration to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our patron saint Wulfram, significant events were postponed or cancelled: a 'Stations of the Cross' community art project, leading into Easter; Grantham Vintage Festival (June); the annual St Wulfram's / CAMRA Beer Festival, known as 'Land of Hops and Glory' (October); the Festive Fayre (November); a Festival of Angels (from November). A taster of what is to come at the Vintage Festival in 2021 was shared through a 'Festival in a Day' on the festival's Facebook page (13 June).
- With its flexible space and seating, the church is a well-used venue for large and smaller events and concerts, attracting regular bookings from local and county organisations. The local U3A holds monthly coffee mornings in St Wulfram's Church; and the U3A art group also meets on a monthly basis in the church.
- In the early months of the year, the following events were enjoyed at the church: Quiz Night (including Fish and Chip Supper) (1 February), Parish Lunch in church, after a tidy and clean-up session (8 March),
- In May, the award-winning performance poet Jay Hulme launched a knock-out tournament on Twitter to discover 'the finest non-cathedral Church of England church'. To our delight, St Wulfram's beat 63 other churches to the top spot: on the way, St Wulfram's knocked out St Mary Redcliffe Bristol (which boasts the highest spire in the country), Halifax Minster, and Beverley Minster. The final saw St Wulfram's up against Tewksbury Abbey, in a closely fought battle. Fr Stuart told the *Grantham Journal* 'We are truly humbled by the support for the church. We really hope that this is in response not simply to the awesome beauty of St Wulfram's but also how it continues to play a part in the local community'. Jay Hulme said on Twitter: 'St Wulfram's really is a worth winner, because it is so deeply loved'.
- To mark the first anniversary of their Azuma trains, LNER ran a competition to name trains. In our own special year, we encouraged members of our congregation to propose the name of Saint Wulfram, to celebrate one of the most iconic landmarks on the East Coast mainline.
- Phenomenal feedback was received for the first ever Grantham town-centre Advent window tour, organised by Mrs Laura Cradduck and Fr Stuart. The tour began and ended with windows unveiled at St Wulfram's on 1 December and Christmas Eve. The tour was a great success locally, with people taking their daily exercise to view the windows in local businesses. Special thanks were due to the Grantham Journal for publicising an account of the window trail each week, as it built up. With the pandemic having necessitated the cancelling of Christmas events throughout the town, the Advent window tour was a way to spread some Christmas cheer. The windows remained lit until 6 January 2021.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

- The Finance Sub-group set a General Fund budget surplus of £7,195 for 2020 in November 2019. The final outcome in 2020 was a modest surplus in the General Fund of £1,759, although via a most unexpected route. Some months into the COVID-19 crisis last year it became clear that it was not going to be transitory in nature and that remedial action had to be taken in order to avoid a General Fund deficit so large (in the order of £40k+) that the church faced the possibility of having to use the majority of its readily available unrestricted reserves. A financial projection was presented to the PCC during the first half of 2020 that showed the expected financial impact of the loss of approximately £47k budgeted events net income & £10k church hire income. Primarily, cost savings were identified in order to bring the deficit down to a more manageable level. These included allocating a larger proportion of General Fund running costs that benefitted the fabric of the building to the Fabric Fund (£13k), and, regrettably, underpaying our Parish Share allocation (£7k) and cutting the church's donation to the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group (£2.5k). Additional income was received via a most welcome grant from The Philip Lank Trust (£11k) and by the redirection of St Wulfram's Lottery income away from the Fabric Fund (£0.5k). A COVID-19 Appeal largely offset the loss of collection plate, Donations Box, Planned & other Unplanned Giving income. Lower activity levels also naturally reduced overheads to a limited degree. The expectation of the return of fundraising events income in 2021 resulted in a balanced General Fund budget being set for 2021 in November 2020 of a £192 surplus. Since then, however, concerns have grown that social distancing measures may linger longer than expected, necessarily leading to some events being cancelled or postponed and others generating less income than previously expected. It would not, therefore, be a surprise to see a drawdown in the General Fund in 2021, highlighting the value of having some reserves to call upon.
- Higher Planned Giving income in 2020 of £68,324 versus last year (2019: £60,499) was due to the successful Stewardship Campaign in the previous year and was helped also by the church's membership of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which allows for automatic inflationary increases in giving from donors who have given their consent.
- Fundraising income was all but wiped out in 2020. Church hire raised £840. The coffee shop raised £640 & St Wulfram's share of lottery income was £916. Before the pandemic, budgeted fundraising net income was expected to be around £57k compared with £42k in 2019.
- Other donations and grants of £89,762 (2019: £121,359) included £29,000 to help fund projects at Grantham House, £10,973 from the Philip Lank Trust, £9,503 of Strategic Development Funding from the Lincoln Diocese, approximately £7,000 for the Fabric Fund, which helped towards the cost of a spirelet repair, continued restoration work on monuments and repairs to windows, £13,050 from Arts Council England for the Wulfram Spring 2020 project, which was unfortunately interrupted by COVID-19 and remains partially unspent, and an Archbishops' Council grant of £3,200 towards the cost of the Trigge Library survey. Legacies of £3,500 were also received in 2020 (2019: £350,095), including £1,000 for the Fabric Fund.
- As reported last year, St Wulfram's Church was broken into on Christmas Day morning in 2019. Despite the damage caused, it was expected that the repair costs would not be material. Thankfully, due to a receipt from our insurers of £9,594 and other donations of £1,140, it has been possible to cover all but approximately £5k repair and security upgrade costs.

- St Wulfram's Church encourages giving to support not only the church, but also the wider community, and will continue itself to make local, national & international donations via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group for as long as it is financially able to do so. In 2020, the amount given was necessarily temporarily cut to £1,500. However, the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group had some additional reserves to call upon and 2020 allocations included those to Grantham Poverty Concern, Tap Twinning, Church Mission Society and others. In addition, local families in need were helped by the St Wulfram's Church Christmas Cheer Appeal, via the Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group, in the form of supermarket vouchers to the value of £700.
- St Wulfram's Church continued to receive grants and donations on behalf of Grantham Ark during 2020. A further £6,593 was received in 2020, outlined further in Note 9. A total of £12,499 was being held by the church as at the year end and is owed to Grantham Ark.
- Heating and lighting costs were down as compared to last year. The lockdowns and loss of events reduced electricity costs and the milder winter reduced gas costs. The cost of annual insurance premiums was £13,575 for the church and £292 was included for the period from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to year end in relation to Grantham House. £12,000 of the cost of insurance of the church building was charged to the Fabric Fund as opposed to the usual 50% as part of the General Fund deficit avoidance measures.
- Total incoming resources to the General Fund amounted to £111,624 (2019: £181,584) and total resources expended amounted to £109,865 (2019: £194,997) resulting in a surplus for the year before transfers of £1,759 (2019: £13,413 deficit). After transfers of £nil (2019: £5,807) from other funds, General Fund reserves now amount to £42,093.
- During 2020, more information was received with regards to the St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom Fund, an endowment fund held by the Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance that was included in Grantham St Wulfram PCC accounts in 2019. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to remove that fund from the balance sheet, thereby reducing endowment funds by £18,246. More details are available in Note 14 to the accounts.
- The balance sheet position had reduced by £37,140 as at 31st December 2020. There was an unrealised gain in the value of the investment property of £10,116 (2019: £515) and also unrealised gains in the value of financial investment assets of £6,764 (2019: £13,356 (after accounting for the removal of an endowment fund)). A majority of the investment securities are held with the Central Board of Finance (CBF) of the Church of England. The largest holding is in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund whose unit value increased by 3.5% in 2020, although £275,000 were bought during the year, so the total amount held in the fund increased by 590.1%. Overall, our financial investment portfolio made a positive capital return of 4.1% (i.e. excluding income received) in 2020 (2019: 6.7% (after accounting for the removal of an endowment fund)), and the overall value increased by 271.6% to £447,176 (2019: 17.9% decrease to £164,625 (after accounting for the removal of an endowment fund)). Cash on deposit and with the bank decreased by £321,144 (2019: increase of £357,848) during the year.
- In order to maintain the income from investments while taking a conservative approach to the financial risk associated with these investments, the church regularly reviews the performance of these investments in order to ensure the value of the asset over the longer term is maintained. Investments that do not relate to endowments may have to be liquidated at short notice, so a large weighting in bonds and cash is

necessarily maintained despite the fact that these assets are expected to yield lower returns over the longer term. Endowments, however, are typically invested wholly in equities where expected returns over the longer term are expected to be higher, as there is typically no need to sell them at short notice.

- The church faces all the usual risks of any organisation involved with handling cash and maintaining its security and proper accounting. To enable this wherever possible, a good segregation of duties and rigorous documentation of all income is maintained. All new volunteers are made aware of the requirements and these are reviewed on a regular basis. The physical security of money is also taken very seriously and regular reviews of access to cash are made and restrictions put in place when necessary. All cash is held in accordance with our insurance requirements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more remote working was necessary. Therefore, it became necessary to authorise more invoices for payment via email rather than via a visit to the Parish Office. Nevertheless, all payments continue to require two cheque signatures with the exception of prepayment card spending by the Parish Office Administrator, who provides receipts for all spending incurred that are then examined before being recorded in the accounting system.
- With significant amounts of our income dependent on the congregation and their giving, a constant review is maintained of those giving and how to maximise this through tax efficiency and regular giving in order to increase the proportion of regular income.
- Over time there is an increased reliance on making the church building pay for itself by both holding large events such as the Ball, Beer and Christmas Tree Festivals and by hiring it out as a venue. The large Festivals do have significant financial risk and these are under constant review to find as many ways as possible to minimise fixed costs and manage cashflow. Where possible, events are held in collaboration with organisations such as CAMRA to spread the risks and gain outside expertise. A process of review is undertaken after each event to ensure all lessons learned are carried forward.
- Three of Grantham St Wulfram PCC employees are members of the Church of England Pension Board's Church Workers Pension Fund, which complies with the Government Auto Enrolment requirements.
- The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

## **RESERVES POLICY**

### **General Funds**

- The policy of the PCC in respect of General Fund reserves is to maintain a balance sufficient to cover for emergency situations equivalent to 3 months' expenditure. Faced with huge deficits in the past, the PCC now tries to avoid setting large deficit budgets and looks to reduce costs wherever possible, to help maintain General Fund reserves at a level that will enable the PCC to plan for the future with confidence, knowing that there is sufficient to meet future emergency situations. The average quarterly expenditure in 2020 was £27,466 (2019: £48,749), but was £26,883, excluding fundraising costs (2019: £36,463). General Fund reserves at the end of 2020

were £42,093 (2019: £40,334). Whilst they are lower than the PCC would like, they do exceed average quarterly budgeted General Fund expenditure for 2021, excluding fundraising costs. General Fund surpluses are needed once the Covid-19 pandemic has ended to restore reserves to a more comfortable level, if possible.

### **Designated Funds**

- A revaluation reserve to account for increases and decreases in the valuation of the investment property asset has been set aside as a designated fund as this can only be used if the asset is sold.
- Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wolfram's are designated of use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items in memoriam.
- A development reserve earmarked for potential works relating to the "Sacred Space, Common Ground" project.
- A designated fund for religious, charitable and education purposes included retrospectively from 2018 in 2019's accounts.
- Mission & Social Responsibility Sub-group money awaiting distribution to charities and profits made on the church Traidcraft stall are kept for charitable purposes.

### **Fabric Fund**

- The balance on the Fabric Fund is for use to cover repairs and maintenance of our huge church building. A proportion of the balance has been earmarked to meet programmed repair costs.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the revised *Church Representation Rules* which came into effect on 1 January 2020. At St Wolfram's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, curates, lay Deanery Synod representatives, churchwardens, readers and lay members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. There is provision in the rules for the PCC, if it so wishes, to co-opt up to two members on an annual basis.
- In accordance with the *Church Representation Rules*, the number of elected lay representatives serving on the PCC and the number of co-options is governed by the number on the Electoral Roll. This increased in 2020, so we shall have the opportunity to elect additional lay representatives at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2021 and then to be able to co-opt up to three members on an annual basis, if the PCC desires.
- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how PCC funds will be spent.
- The full PCC conducted business on thirteen occasions during the year. The *Church Representation Rules 2020* (M29) allow for business to be conducted by correspondence; and three of the thirteen meetings (including one scheduled for 17 March, which could not proceed in church owing to the pandemic restrictions) were conducted in this manner.

Following the first national pandemic lockdown, the Church of England issued guidance about online PCC meetings: this included the advice that decisions requiring a formal resolution of the PCC should be put into written form after a virtual meeting and circulated for formal approval under rule M29 (which, under rule 76, can be conducted by email). The PCC has followed this guidance for the six meetings held via Zoom video conference in 2020.

The advent of Zoom meetings has enabled PCC members to participate from the comfort of their own homes or offices, and obviated the need to venture outside on cold, dark autumn and winter evenings. The average level of attendance for the meetings in 2020 was 87% (as compared with an average of 82% in 2019).

We foresee the need to conduct PCC business by Zoom, at least in part, during 2021.

- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) scheduled for Sunday 26 April was postponed owing to the pandemic. The Church of England extended the deadline by which such meetings should be held in 2020 from 31 May to 31 October (and later to 30 November); and terms of office of PCC members, churchwardens and lay representatives on Deanery Synod were extended accordingly. In line with guidance issued by the Church of England and the Diocese of Lincoln, the APCM on Sunday 13 September was held in 'hybrid' fashion (socially distanced in the church and by Zoom for those unable to attend in person).
- The rules governing the PCC Standing Committee changed this year with the introduction of the revised *Church Representation Rules 2020*. Although the Standing Committee has power to transact the PCC's business between meetings, it may not discharge a duty of the PCC, nor exercise a power of the PCC which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the PCC.

The committee comprises the Rector and Churchwardens (*ex officio*) and two further members (elected by the PCC). John Manterfield and Jane Sharp served on the committee throughout 2020. The Treasurer and PCC Secretary are attendees. Meetings of the Standing Committee tend to be 'virtual' conducted by email correspondence. Written reports from the committee are submitted to the PCC at the subsequent meeting.

- Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several sub-groups (Children & Youth, Fabric, Finance, Licence Management [to meet obligations under the Premises Licence granted from 2018]), Mission & Social Responsibility, and Social), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. To clarify roles and responsibilities, revised terms of reference for all sub-groups were adopted in May.

The PCC established a new Creation Care Sub-group this year (with new terms of reference) and the group began its important work after the APCM.

PCC members are expected to sit on at least one sub-group. Members of the congregation are also invited to join sub-groups. Each sub-group includes at least one member of the clergy team and either one or both Churchwardens. A list of sub-group members is displayed in church. Minutes or written reports of sub-group deliberations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

- We are immensely grateful to those who chair our sub-groups for the time they devote to their role and for the dedication and knowledge that they bring to our governance.

The chairs in 2020 were: Jo Counsell (Mission & Social Responsibility); Laura Craddock (Children & Youth); Paul Davie (Licence Management); Mel Fletcher (Social); John Manterfield (Fabric); Gary Moment (Finance), who took over from Jane Sharp on 13.9.20; and Mother Mel Parkin, Interim Chair of Creation Care from 13.9.20 until 18.11.20 when Gillian Kendon took over.

- From time to time, the Rector gathers Sub-group Chairs and 'Heads of Department' (Master of the Music, Head Server, Verger, Parish Administrator, PCC Officers) to discuss strategy concerning St Wulfram's mission. It was at a meeting of this group (February) that the Acting Bishop of Lincoln formally extended the invitation to St Wulfram's to be designated a resource church under the diocesan Strategic Development Programme. The group also participated in the process to appoint the Associate Rector (December), offering informal views on candidates' presentations.
- Sincere gratitude is expressed to our two churchwardens (Jan Burrows and Andrew Gregory) and to our Treasurer (Stephen Howe) and Secretary (Judith Muskett) for the time they each devote to their voluntary roles and for the dedication and knowledge that they too bring to the governance of St Wulfram's Church.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Wulfram's Church is situated in Grantham, Lincolnshire and is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rectory, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, charity registration number 1131575, as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham."

The PCC Treasurer is Stephen Howe. The PCC Secretary is Judith Muskett (who, since June, undertook this role on a voluntary basis alongside the salaried post of Mission Facilitator). Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is an elected member of the PCC.

PCC members who served at any time from 1 January 2020 until the date this report was approved are set out below. Two vacancies for elected members were unfilled at the APCM on 13 September 2020.

| Name                      | Post                                                                     | Date if part year |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ex officio members</b> |                                                                          |                   |
| Father Stuart Cradduck    | Incumbent, PCC Chair, Rural Dean & Diocesan Synod                        |                   |
| Mother June Rowland       | Bishop's Permission to Officiate; Community Chaplain                     |                   |
| Mother Mel Parkin         | Assistant Curate & Diocesan Synod                                        |                   |
| Father James Titley       | Assistant Curate                                                         |                   |
| Nick Kerry                | Reader                                                                   | (from 13.9.20)    |
| Andrew Gregory            | Warden & (until 30.11.20) Deanery Synod                                  |                   |
| Jan Burrows               | Warden & Deanery Synod                                                   |                   |
| Val York                  | Deanery Synod                                                            |                   |
| Paul Davie                | Deanery Synod (from 1.12.20)                                             | (from 13.9.20)    |
| <b>Elected members</b>    |                                                                          |                   |
| Jason Bloomfield          |                                                                          | (from 13.9.20)    |
| Jo Counsell               |                                                                          |                   |
| Paul Davie                |                                                                          | (until 13.9.20)   |
| Cherry Edwards            |                                                                          | (from 13.9.20)    |
| Melanie Fletcher          |                                                                          | (until 13.9.20)   |
| Jane Gregory              |                                                                          |                   |
| John Manterfield          |                                                                          |                   |
| Gary Moment               |                                                                          |                   |
| John Morrissey            |                                                                          | (until 13.9.20)   |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                          | (until 13.9.20)   |
| Brian Stagg               | Reader Emeritus & Custos of the Trigge Library                           |                   |
| Ian Stewart               |                                                                          |                   |
| David West                |                                                                          |                   |
| Eileen West               |                                                                          |                   |
| <b>Co-opted members</b>   |                                                                          |                   |
| Melanie Fletcher          |                                                                          | (from 13.9.20)    |
| Jane Sharp                |                                                                          | (from 13.9.20)    |
| Bankers                   | HSBC Bank plc, Westgate, Grantham.                                       |                   |
| Investment Managers       | CCLA Investment Management Limited,<br>84 Queen Victoria Street, London. |                   |
| Insurers                  | Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.                              |                   |
| Letting Agents            | Newton Fallowell, 24 Market Place, Grantham.                             |                   |
| Independent Examiners     | Streets LLP, Windsor House, A1 Business Park,<br>Long Bennington.        |                   |

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf,



Father Stuart Cradduck

28 March 2021

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2020

|                                                                                                       | Note          | Unrestricted Funds<br>General<br>£ | Designated     | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | TOTAL FUNDS<br>2020<br>£ | 2019<br>£      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                             |               |                                    |                |                          |                         |                          |                |
| Voluntary income                                                                                      | 2(a)          | 101,889                            | 31,346         | 37,104                   | -                       | 170,339                  | 555,872        |
| Activities for generating funds                                                                       | 2(b)          | 4,342                              | 108            | 536                      | -                       | 4,986                    | 91,605         |
| Income from investments                                                                               | 2(c)          | 4,035                              | 1,606          | 8,700                    | -                       | 14,341                   | 12,004         |
| Church activities                                                                                     | 2(d)          | 1,358                              | -              | 10,133                   | -                       | 11,491                   | 18,497         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                                                       |               | <b>111,624</b>                     | <b>33,060</b>  | <b>56,473</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>201,157</b>           | <b>677,978</b> |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                             |               |                                    |                |                          |                         |                          |                |
| Church activities                                                                                     | 3(a)          | 106,112                            | 27,542         | 117,195                  | -                       | 250,849                  | 309,161        |
| Fund-raising costs                                                                                    | 3(b)          | 2,335                              | 97             | 193                      | -                       | 2,625                    | 50,007         |
| Investment management costs                                                                           | 3(c)          | 908                                | 29             | 256                      | -                       | 1,193                    | 1,713          |
| Governance costs                                                                                      | 3(d)          | 510                                | -              | -                        | -                       | 510                      | 480            |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                                                       |               | <b>109,865</b>                     | <b>27,668</b>  | <b>117,644</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>255,177</b>           | <b>361,361</b> |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING)<br/>RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>                               |               | <b>1,759</b>                       | <b>5,392</b>   | <b>(61,171)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>(54,020)</b>          | <b>316,617</b> |
| Transfers between funds                                                                               | 11            | -                                  | -              | -                        | -                       | -                        | -              |
| <b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(OUTGOING<br/>RESOURCES) BEFORE OTHER<br/>RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b> |               | <b>1,759</b>                       | <b>5,392</b>   | <b>(61,171)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>(54,020)</b>          | <b>316,617</b> |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets:<br>on revaluation                                                | 6(b)<br>14(b) | -                                  | 10,406         | 4,047                    | 2,427                   | 16,880                   | 13,871         |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                                                                          | 14(c)         | <b>1,759</b>                       | <b>15,798</b>  | <b>(57,124)</b>          | <b>2,427</b>            | <b>(37,140)</b>          | <b>330,488</b> |
| <b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JANUARY</b>                                                           | 14(a),(d)     | <b>40,334</b>                      | <b>103,740</b> | <b>481,897</b>           | <b>60,216</b>           | <b>686,187</b>           | <b>355,699</b> |
| <b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31st DECEMBER</b>                                                         |               | <b>42,093</b>                      | <b>119,538</b> | <b>424,773</b>           | <b>62,643</b>           | <b>649,047</b>           | <b>686,187</b> |

The notes on pages 38 to 48 form part of these accounts

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2020

|                                                | Notes    | 2020<br>£                    | 2019<br>£                    |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                            |          |                              |                              |
| Tangible assets                                | 6(a)     | 7,812                        | 1,722                        |
| Investments                                    | 6(b), 14 | <u>575,337</u>               | <u>282,670</u>               |
|                                                |          | <b>583,149</b>               | <b>284,392</b>               |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |          |                              |                              |
| Debtors                                        | 7        | 16,484                       | 19,933                       |
| Short term deposits & cash at bank and in hand | 8        | <u>93,047</u>                | <u>414,191</u>               |
|                                                |          | 109,531                      | 434,124                      |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |          |                              |                              |
| Creditors - amounts falling due in one year    | 9        | 43,633                       | 32,329                       |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |          | <u><b>65,898</b></u>         | <u><b>401,795</b></u>        |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                        | 14       | <u><u><b>649,047</b></u></u> | <u><u><b>686,187</b></u></u> |
| <b>PARISH FUNDS</b>                            |          |                              |                              |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>                            |          |                              |                              |
| General Fund                                   |          | 42,093                       | 40,334                       |
| Designated Funds                               | 10       | <u>119,538</u>               | <u>103,740</u>               |
|                                                |          | 161,631                      | 144,074                      |
| <b>Restricted</b>                              | 10       | 424,773                      | 481,897                      |
| <b>Endowment</b>                               | 10       | 62,643                       | 60,216                       |
|                                                |          | <u><u><b>649,047</b></u></u> | <u><u><b>686,187</b></u></u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Father Stuart Craddock

(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 38 to 48 form part of these accounts

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Funds

**Endowment funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted income or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established (see note 10).

**Restricted funds** represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, income from investments is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis (see note 10).

**Unrestricted funds** are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Of the unrestricted funds, designated funds represent the valuation gain on investment property which can only be realised on sale, a fund for collections in memoriam, a fund designated for potential development, a deposit fund designated for religious, charitable and educational purposes comprised of accumulated income and interest, and a reserve of unrestricted funds held separate from general funds (see note 10).

#### Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable and is accounted for gross.

#### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2020

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### **Fixed assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2005 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2005 is written off.

##### **Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 is calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life by equal annual instalments at the following rates, (% p.a. on cost):

Office equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Computer equipment - 20% straight line basis.

Gardening equipment - 20% straight line basis.

##### **Fixed asset investments**

**Investment property** is valued at 31<sup>st</sup> December, with reference to movements in a regional house price index, from the date of acquisition (see note 6).

**Investment securities** are valued at market value at 31<sup>st</sup> December.

##### **Connected charity**

The PCC cooperates with the "Friends of St. Wulfram's Church, Grantham" which is a separately registered charity (registered charity number 1066896), chaired by the Rector.

The objects of the Friends of St. Wulfram's are:

"to preserve and beautify the Church of St Wulfram, Grantham, its fabric, fixtures, fittings, monuments, ornaments and other chattels".

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

| 2 INCOMING RESOURCES                        | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                             | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2020           | 2019           |
|                                             | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>                |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Planned giving:                             |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Gift Aid donations                          | 46,963             |               | 1,200            |                 | 48,163         | 43,397         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 11,741             |               | 300              |                 | 12,041         | 10,849         |
| Other                                       | 8,120              |               |                  |                 | 8,120          | 6,253          |
| Collections (open plate)                    | 3,416              |               |                  |                 | 3,416          | 11,574         |
| Grants                                      | 10,973             | 26,300        | 31,753           |                 | 69,026         | 50,571         |
| Other donations and appeals                 |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               |                  |                 | -              | 2,850          |
| Donations box                               | 2,244              |               | 30               |                 | 2,274          | 4,938          |
| Other donations, appeals, etc.              | 13,289             | 4,889         | 2,558            |                 | 20,736         | 70,788         |
| Tax recoverable                             | 2,643              | 157           | 263              |                 | 3,063          | 4,557          |
| Legacy income                               | 2,500              |               | 1,000            |                 | 3,500          | 350,095        |
|                                             | <b>101,889</b>     | <b>31,346</b> | <b>37,104</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>170,339</b> | <b>555,872</b> |
| <b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b> |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee shop                                 | 1,013              |               |                  |                 | 1,013          | 6,026          |
| Hire of church                              | 840                |               |                  |                 | 840            | 6,450          |
| Sales Unit                                  | 586                |               | 12               |                 | 598            | 2,635          |
| Grantham Business Awards                    | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 3,759          |
| Lottery                                     | 455                |               | 461              |                 | 916            | 1,079          |
| Events Bar                                  | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 3,308          |
| Vintage Festival                            | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | -              |
| Beer Festival                               | 515                |               |                  |                 | 515            | 32,787         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                     | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 8,771          |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 43               |                 | 43             | 8,581          |
| Parish Magazine Advertising                 | 150                |               |                  |                 | 150            | 170            |
| Tax recoverable                             | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 793            |
| Other fund-raising                          | 783                | 108           | 20               |                 | 911            | 17,246         |
|                                             | <b>4,342</b>       | <b>108</b>    | <b>536</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>4,986</b>   | <b>91,605</b>  |
| <b>2(c) Income from investments</b>         |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Rent from land & buildings                  | 3,977              | 127           | 1,121            | -               | 5,225          | 5,700          |
| Dividends and interest                      | 58                 | 1,479         | 7,579            |                 | 9,116          | 6,304          |
|                                             | <b>4,035</b>       | <b>1,606</b>  | <b>8,700</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>14,341</b>  | <b>12,004</b>  |
| <b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>   |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Parish Magazine                             | 326                |               |                  |                 | 326            | 475            |
| Choir Trips                                 |                    |               | 36               |                 | 36             | 10,443         |
| Other income from church activities         | 98                 |               | 503              |                 | 601            | 2,298          |
| Fees paid to PCC for weddings & funerals    | 934                |               |                  |                 | 934            | 5,281          |
| Insurance claim                             | -                  |               | 9,594            |                 | 9,594          | -              |
|                                             | <b>1,358</b>       | <b>-</b>      | <b>10,133</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>11,491</b>  | <b>18,497</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>             | <b>111,624</b>     | <b>33,060</b> | <b>56,473</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>201,157</b> | <b>677,978</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

| 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED                             | Unrestricted Funds |               | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS    |                |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                  | General            | Designated    |                  |                 | 2020           | 2019           |
|                                                  | £                  | £             | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>3(a) Church activities</b>                    |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Missionary and charitable giving (note 13)       | 1,500              |               | 661              |                 | 2,161          | 4,483          |
| Ministry                                         |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Diocesan parish share                            | 29,849             |               |                  |                 | 29,849         | 37,119         |
| Other ministry costs                             | 7,187              |               |                  |                 | 7,187          | 7,056          |
| Church running and maintenance                   |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Heating, lighting & water                        | 6,928              |               | 4,520            |                 | 11,448         | 16,987         |
| Insurance                                        | 1,575              | 292           | 12,000           |                 | 13,867         | 13,188         |
| Maintenance and other costs                      | 1,936              | 20,640        | 69,534           |                 | 92,110         | 116,295        |
| Upkeep of services                               | 5,514              | 697           | 4,078            |                 | 10,289         | 9,583          |
| Music & choir                                    | 25,848             |               | 540              |                 | 26,388         | 31,172         |
| Choir Trips                                      | -                  |               | -                |                 | -              | 22,216         |
| Children and young people                        | 160                |               | 200              |                 | 360            | 1,345          |
| Printing, stationery & other parish office costs | 6,127              | 2,720         | -                |                 | 8,847          | 6,686          |
| Trigge Library                                   |                    |               | 4,032            |                 | 4,032          | 2,655          |
| Parish magazine costs                            | 300                |               |                  |                 | 300            | 1,247          |
| Legal & professional fees                        | 108                |               | 2,658            |                 | 2,766          | 5,784          |
| Bank charges                                     | 332                |               |                  |                 | 332            | 406            |
| Other sundry expenses                            | 2,488              | 3,193         | 8,933            |                 | 14,614         | 14,492         |
| Other church activities costs                    | 735                |               | 536              |                 | 1,271          | 3,374          |
| Administration and support costs                 | 15,525             |               | 9,503            |                 | 25,028         | 15,073         |
|                                                  | <b>106,112</b>     | <b>27,542</b> | <b>117,195</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>250,849</b> | <b>309,161</b> |
| <b>3(b) Fund-raising costs</b>                   |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Coffee Shop                                      | 373                |               |                  |                 | 373            | 1,555          |
| Sales Unit stock                                 | 355                |               |                  |                 | 355            | 2,535          |
| Grantham Business Awards                         | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 1,414          |
| Events Bar                                       | -                  |               |                  |                 | -              | 1,452          |
| Vintage Festival                                 | 122                |               |                  |                 | 122            | -              |
| Beer Festival                                    | 17                 |               |                  |                 | 17             | 27,094         |
| Christmas Tree Festival                          | 100                |               |                  |                 | 100            | 2,520          |
| Choir Trips                                      |                    |               | 43               |                 | 43             | -              |
| Other fund-raising                               | 1,368              | 97            | 150              |                 | 1,615          | 13,437         |
|                                                  | <b>2,335</b>       | <b>97</b>     | <b>193</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>2,625</b>   | <b>50,007</b>  |
| <b>3(c) Investment management costs</b>          |                    |               |                  |                 |                |                |
| Investment property insurance and repairs        | 431                | 14            | 121              |                 | 566            | 1,029          |
| Investment property management fees              | 477                | 15            | 135              |                 | 627            | 684            |
|                                                  | <b>908</b>         | <b>29</b>     | <b>256</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>1,193</b>   | <b>1,713</b>   |
| <b>3(d) Governance costs</b>                     | <b>510</b>         | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>        | <b>510</b>     | <b>480</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                  | <b>109,865</b>     | <b>27,668</b> | <b>117,644</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>255,177</b> | <b>361,361</b> |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

### 4 STAFF COSTS & EXPENSE PAYMENTS

|                         |                                         | 2020<br>£     | 2019<br>£     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>4(a) Staff costs</b> |                                         |               |               |
| Wages and salaries:     | Gross pay                               | 46,021        | 37,889        |
|                         | Employer's NI and Pension Contributions | 2,017         | 1,567         |
|                         |                                         | <b>48,038</b> | <b>39,456</b> |

The full-time equivalent number of staff was 1.9 (2019 - 1.3) and no employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000. No wages or salaries were paid to PCC members during the year.

**Grantham St Wulfram PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes. Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable (**2020: £2,017; 2019: £1,567**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2016.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £14.2m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose not to grant a discretionary bonus, which will have acted to improve the funding position. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £1.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Grantham St Wulfram PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

### 4(b) Payments to PCC members

4 members of the PCC were reimbursed a total of £3,257 expenses in relation to their work at St Wulfram's that was unrelated to their additional duties as PCC members. A further £900 was estimated to be due for 2020. These were for travel/mileage (£2,705), phone costs (£980), meals/subsistence (£195) & other charitable expenses (£277). A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the Rector may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

AF Electrical Installations was paid a total of £3,949 during 2020 for repair work done. Melanie Fletcher is married to the owner of the firm, but is not a member of the PCC Fabric Sub-group that selects the contractors to undertake repair & maintenance work.

No other expenses, except those listed above, were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

### 5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

|                                                                     | 2020<br>£ | 2019<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Net incoming resources for the year are after charging:</b>      |           |           |
| Depreciation of gardening equipment (garden lawnmowers)             | 1,155     | 228       |
| Independent Examination of the Annual Report & Financial Statements | 510       | 480       |

### 6 FIXED ASSETS

#### a) Tangible assets

|                            | GENERAL<br>FUNDS            |                            | DESIGNATED<br>FUNDS      | TOTAL<br>FUNDS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                            | Gardening<br>Equipment<br>£ | Office<br>Photocopier<br>£ | Office<br>Computers<br>£ | £              |
| <b>Cost or deemed cost</b> |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2020        | 1,950                       | 3,990                      | -                        | 5,940          |
| Additions                  | -                           | -                          | 7,245                    | 7,245          |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2020      | <b>1,950</b>                | <b>3,990</b>               | <b>7,245</b>             | <b>13,185</b>  |
| <b>Depreciation</b>        |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 1st January 2020        | 228                         | 3,990                      | -                        | 4,218          |
| Charge for the year        | 390                         | -                          | 765                      | 1,155          |
| Disposals                  | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| At 31st December 2020      | <b>618</b>                  | <b>3,990</b>               | <b>765</b>               | <b>5,373</b>   |
| <b>Net book value</b>      |                             |                            |                          |                |
| At 31st December 2020      | <b>1,332</b>                | <b>-</b>                   | <b>6,480</b>             | <b>7,812</b>   |
| At 31st December 2019      | <b>1,722</b>                | <b>-</b>                   | <b>-</b>                 | <b>1,722</b>   |

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2020

| <b>6 b) Investments</b>                | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Market value 1 January 2020</b>     | <b>118,045</b>              | <b>164,625</b>                | <b>282,670</b>                     |
| Additions                              | -                           | 275,787                       | <b>275,787</b>                     |
| Disposals                              | -                           | -                             | -                                  |
| Revaluation (loss)/gain*               | 10,116                      | 6,764                         | <b>16,880</b>                      |
| <b>At 31 December 2020</b>             | <b>128,161</b>              | <b>447,176</b>                | <b>575,337</b>                     |
| Historic cost as at 31st December 2020 | 68,768                      |                               |                                    |

\*An estimate of the increase in value of the investment property is obtained using the Nationwide House Price Calculator for properties in the East Midlands region from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020.

**The market value at 31st December 2020 represents investments for:**

|                  | Investment<br>property<br>£ | Investment<br>securities<br>£ | <b>Total<br/>investments<br/>£</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General funds    | 42,093                      | -                             | <b>42,093</b>                      |
| Designated funds | 59,393                      | 33,545                        | <b>92,938</b>                      |
| Restricted funds | 26,675                      | 350,988                       | <b>377,663</b>                     |
| Endowment funds  | -                           | 62,643                        | <b>62,643</b>                      |
|                  | <b>128,161</b>              | <b>447,176</b>                | <b>575,337</b>                     |

The allocation of the assets to the funds above reflects how the income is currently apportioned, with the exception of the designated investment property reserve of £59,393. Rental income relating to that part of the investment property is allocated to General funds. The type of asset actually used by a particular fund is ultimately dictated by liquidity needs - a fact that will aid the understanding of Note 12 also. Total fixed asset investment securities are within the United Kingdom and are all unlisted. They are intended to be held for longer than one year although can be sold at short notice, thereby ensuring sufficient liquidity.

| <b>7 DEBTORS</b>                  | <b>2020<br/>£</b> | <b>2019<br/>£</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prepayments:                      |                   |                   |
| Less than 1 year                  | 3,043             | 5,814             |
| More than 1 year                  | 427               | 2,136             |
| Tax recoverable                   | 9,556             | 1,396             |
| Other debtors                     | 3,458             | 10,587            |
|                                   | <b>16,484</b>     | <b>19,933</b>     |
| <b>8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b> | <b>2020<br/>£</b> | <b>2019<br/>£</b> |
| Short term deposits               | 40,080            | 370,080           |
| Cash at bank and on hand          | 52,967            | 44,111            |
| Other                             | -                 | -                 |
|                                   | <b>93,047</b>     | <b>414,191</b>    |

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

| <b>9</b> | <b>LIABILITIES</b>                              | <b>2020</b>   | <b>2019</b>   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|          |                                                 | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
|          | Amounts falling due in one year                 |               |               |
|          | Accruals for utility costs                      | 2,195         | 2,752         |
|          | Accruals for other costs                        | 16,277        | 15,410        |
|          | Deferred income*                                | 12,662        | 5,302         |
|          | Grantham Ark (Registered Charity No. 1190668)** | 12,499        | 8,865         |
|          |                                                 | <b>43,633</b> | <b>32,329</b> |

\*Deferred income includes Parish Magazine income relating to 2021 (£111), monies held for a cancelled choir trip to Winchester (£4,667) & advance income mostly relating to cancelled events (£7,884). The movement in deferred income is analysed below:

|                                                  | <b>2020</b>   | <b>2019</b>  |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                                  | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>     |
| Balance as at 1st January                        | 5,302         | 20,499       |
| Amounts added in current period                  | 8,018         | 5,302        |
| Amounts released to income from previous periods | (658)         | (20,499)     |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>               | <b>12,662</b> | <b>5,302</b> |

\*\*From November 2019, St Wulfram's Church has been receiving income and paying expenses on behalf of Grantham Ark, which is now registered with The Charity Commission (number 1190668). This was largely due to difficulty the charity has been experiencing in opening a bank account. Below is a brief summary of income and expenditure for 2019 & 2020, which has been recorded separately from the church's income & expenditure, and the net cash amount owed by St Wulfram's Church to Grantham Ark at the end of those years.

|                                                     | <b>2020</b>    |               | <b>2019</b>  |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                     | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>     | <b>£</b>     |
| Balance as at 1st January                           |                | 8,865         |              | -            |
| <b>Income</b>                                       |                |               |              |              |
| Grants received on behalf of Grantham Ark           | 3,103          |               | -            |              |
| Donations (inc. Gift Aid) & fundraising income      | <u>3,490</u>   |               | <u>8,865</u> |              |
|                                                     |                | 6,593         |              | 8,865        |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                     |                |               |              |              |
| Portaloos hire (allocated expense relating to 2019) | (234)          |               | -            |              |
| Night shelter expenses*                             | (915)          |               | -            |              |
| Accommodation expenses for homeless people          | <u>(1,810)</u> |               | <u>-</u>     |              |
|                                                     |                | (2,959)       |              | -            |
| <b>Balance as at 31st December</b>                  |                | <b>12,499</b> |              | <b>8,865</b> |

\*Night shelter expenses included £45 reimbursed to 1 Grantham Ark trustee for taxi fares incurred. No other expenses were paid to any other Grantham Ark trustee, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2020

| <b>10 FUNDS</b>                            | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 20</b> | <b>Prior Year<br/>Adjustments<br/>(See note 14)</b> | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 20</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 20</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                    | <b>£</b>                    |                                                     | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                                  | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| Funeral collections "in memoriam"          | 5,976                       | -                                                   | 5,976                       | -                             | (697)                         | 128                                       | -                | 5,407                        |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income) | 27,756                      | -                                                   | 27,756                      | 3,693                         | (22,158)                      | 787                                       | -                | 10,078                       |
| Mission & Social Responsibility            | 5,235                       | -                                                   | 5,235                       | 2,455                         | (3,291)                       | -                                         | -                | 4,399                        |
| Development (Grantham House)               | 15,496                      | -                                                   | 15,496                      | 29,000                        | (5,186)                       | 951                                       | -                | 40,261                       |
| Revaluation of investment property         | 49,277                      | -                                                   | 49,277                      | -                             | -                             | 10,116                                    | -                | 59,393                       |
|                                            | <b>103,740</b>              | <b>-</b>                                            | <b>103,740</b>              | <b>35,148</b>                 | <b>(31,332)</b>               | <b>11,982</b>                             | <b>-</b>         | <b>119,538</b>               |

Funeral collections "in memoriam"

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Income)

Revaluation of investment property

Collections at funeral services for the benefit of St Wulfram designated for use to purchase fixtures, fittings and other items 'in memoriam'.

Accumulated income from restricted income fund of same name, plus interest.

Revaluation reserve for the investment property at 8 Lytham Close.

### **Restricted Income Funds**

|                                                | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 20 (as<br/>reported 2019)</b> | <b>Prior Year<br/>Adjustments<br/>(See note 14)</b> | <b>As at<br/>1st Jan 20<br/>(Restated)</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Resources</b> | <b>Resources<br/>Expended</b> | <b>Investment<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st Dec 20</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
|                                                | <b>£</b>                                           |                                                     | <b>£</b>                                   | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                                  | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>                     |
| 5050 booklet appeal                            | 1,204                                              | -                                                   | 1,204                                      | -                             | -                             | 29                                        | -                | 1,233                        |
| A Pinchbeck fund                               | 2,140                                              | -                                                   | 2,140                                      | -                             | -                             | 73                                        | -                | 2,213                        |
| AG Hardy fund books for lay readers            | 2,560                                              | -                                                   | 2,560                                      | -                             | -                             | 120                                       | -                | 2,680                        |
| Book of Remembrance                            | 317                                                | -                                                   | 317                                        | -                             | -                             | 8                                         | -                | 325                          |
| Chained (Trigge) library [Books]               | 5,501                                              | -                                                   | 5,501                                      | 3,200                         | (4,032)                       | 113                                       | -                | 4,782                        |
| Chained (Trigge) library [All Purposes]        | 883                                                | -                                                   | 883                                        | 82                            | (133)                         | 19                                        | -                | 851                          |
| Choir Fund                                     | 3,330                                              | -                                                   | 3,330                                      | 2,178                         | (1,699)                       | 92                                        | -                | 3,901                        |
| Clarkes Charity                                | 869                                                | -                                                   | 869                                        | -                             | -                             | 78                                        | -                | 947                          |
| Downton bequest                                | 16,435                                             | -                                                   | 16,435                                     | -                             | (4,245)                       | 294                                       | -                | 12,484                       |
| Fabric fund                                    | 418,041                                            | -                                                   | 418,041                                    | 29,131                        | (97,715)                      | 8,954                                     | -                | 358,411                      |
| Flowers                                        | 1,884                                              | -                                                   | 1,884                                      | 534                           | (505)                         | 46                                        | -                | 1,959                        |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Grant               | -                                                  | -                                                   | -                                          | -                             | -                             | 784                                       | -                | 784                          |
| Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)    | 22,276                                             | -                                                   | 22,276                                     | -                             | -                             | 1,538                                     | -                | 23,814                       |
| Langwith Charity                               | 3,789                                              | -                                                   | 3,789                                      | -                             | -                             | 309                                       | -                | 4,098                        |
| Organ Fund                                     | -                                                  | -                                                   | -                                          | 125                           | -                             | 3                                         | -                | 128                          |
| P Burdett bequest                              | 2,429                                              | -                                                   | 2,429                                      | -                             | (1,386)                       | 25                                        | -                | 1,068                        |
| South Porch & Garden of Remembrance            | 239                                                | -                                                   | 239                                        | -                             | -                             | 6                                         | -                | 245                          |
| Strategic Development Funding (SDF)            | -                                                  | -                                                   | -                                          | 9,503                         | (9,503)                       | -                                         | -                | -                            |
| Wulfram Spring 2020 Arts Council England Grant | -                                                  | -                                                   | -                                          | 13,050                        | (8,200)                       | -                                         | -                | 4,850                        |
|                                                | <b>481,897</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                                            | <b>481,897</b>                             | <b>57,803</b>                 | <b>(127,418)</b>              | <b>12,491</b>                             | <b>-</b>         | <b>424,773</b>               |

5050 booklet appeal

A Pinchbeck fund

AG Hardy fund books for lay readers

Book of Remembrance

Chained (Trigge) library

Choir Fund

Clarkes Charity

Downton bequest

Fabric fund

Flowers

Friends of Cathedral Music Grant

Grantham Land Adj Harrowby School (Capital)

Langwith Charity

Organ Fund

P Burdett bequest

South Porch & Garden of Remembrance

Strategic Development Funding (SDF)

Wulfram Spring 2020 Arts Council England Grant

Funds for the colour guide to the church.

Income to be applied for use by the servers.

Income to be applied to reader ministry.

Donation from the Machine Gun Corp for preservation of the Book of Remembrance.

Book restoration and upkeep of Trigge Library funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from collections at music recitals, grants, sales of CDs and donations for choir and music expenditure.

Income - 1/3rd to orphans, 2/3rds to beautifying the church. (£1,650 spent 2018 on Altar Frontal. £825 still to be applied to orphans.)

Rector & churchwardens discretionary fund.

Income from bequests, legacies and other donations for preservation of the church fabric.

Purchase of flowers funded by donations for the purpose.

Income from endowment for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships.

Capital for religious, charitable & educational purposes in parish. Income to designated fund of same name.

Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.

Saturday Morning music and other donations to meet the running costs of the organ and expenses of visiting organists

Vestments for servers and clergy.

Donations for upkeep of the South Porch and Garden of Remembrance.

Strategic Development Funding from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance.

Grant from Arts Council England for Wulfram Spring 2020 project (No. ACPG-00209771; 90%). Interrupted due to Covid-19.

# **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As at 31st December 2020

### **10 FUNDS (continued)**

#### **Endowment Funds**

|                                            | As at<br>1st Jan 20 (as<br>reported 2019)<br>£ | Prior Year<br>Adjustments<br>(See note 14) | As at<br>1st Jan 20<br>(Restated)<br>£ | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>Expended<br>£ | Investment<br>Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at<br>31st Dec 20<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| A Pinchbeck fund                           | 1,187                                          | -                                          | 1,187                                  | -                          | -                          | 7                                     | -              | 1,194                     |
| A G Hardy fund                             | 3,234                                          | -                                          | 3,234                                  | -                          | -                          | 20                                    | -              | 3,254                     |
| Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)               | 3,208                                          | -                                          | 3,208                                  | -                          | -                          | 21                                    | -              | 3,229                     |
| Donal charity (REGISTERED)                 | 157                                            | -                                          | 157                                    | -                          | -                          | 1                                     | -              | 158                       |
| Fabric fund                                | 16,448                                         | -                                          | 16,448                                 | -                          | -                          | 1,136                                 | -              | 17,584                    |
| Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant | 25,351                                         | -                                          | 25,351                                 | -                          | -                          | 767                                   | -              | 26,118                    |
| Grantham St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom    | 18,246                                         | (18,246)                                   | -                                      | -                          | -                          | -                                     | -              | -                         |
| Hodds bequest                              | 2,836                                          | -                                          | 2,836                                  | -                          | -                          | 18                                    | -              | 2,854                     |
| Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)              | 7,043                                          | -                                          | 7,043                                  | -                          | -                          | 453                                   | -              | 7,496                     |
| Miss Harrison bequest                      | 541                                            | -                                          | 541                                    | -                          | -                          | 3                                     | -              | 544                       |
| P Barnes Fund                              | 211                                            | -                                          | 211                                    | -                          | -                          | 1                                     | -              | 212                       |
|                                            | <b>78,462</b>                                  | <b>(18,246)</b>                            | <b>60,216</b>                          | <b>-</b>                   | <b>-</b>                   | <b>2,427</b>                          | <b>-</b>       | <b>62,643</b>             |

A Pinchbeck fund

A G Hardy fund

Clarkes Charity (REGISTERED)

Donal charity (REGISTERED)

Fabric fund

Friends of Cathedral Music Endowment Grant

Grantham St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom

Hodds bequest

Langwith Charity (REGISTERED)

Miss Harrison bequest

P Barnes Fund

Income to be applied for use by the servers.

Income to be applied to reader ministry.

Income to be applied one third to orphans and two thirds to beautifying the church.

Discretionary fund for distribution to the poor - income transferred to the general fund.

Income to be applied for church fabric - income transferred to the fabric restricted income fund.

Income for St.Wulfram's Music for Choral Scholarships allocated to restricted income fund of same name.

Expendable endowment for church building devoted to Divine Service & ecclesiastical purposes therein. REMOVED.

Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of vergers, bellringers, servers and choir.

Discretionary fund for distribution to poor.

Income transferred to general funds to set against cost of choir, music etc

Income to be applied for the children of parish - transferred to general funds to set against cost of Sunday Club & other childrens ministry expenses.

### **11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Transfers between general and restricted funds normally represent a one-off transfer of incoming resources applied to restricted funds where resources expended for the same purpose have previously been met from general funds.

### **12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund**

|                  | Fixed<br>Assets<br>£ | Current<br>Assets<br>£ | Liabilities<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| General funds    | 43,425               | 16,014                 | (17,346)         | <b>42,093</b>  |
| Designated funds | 99,418               | 26,503                 | (6,383)          | <b>119,538</b> |
| Restricted funds | 377,663              | 67,014                 | (19,904)         | <b>424,773</b> |
| Endowment funds  | 62,643               | -                      | -                | <b>62,643</b>  |
|                  | <b>583,149</b>       | <b>109,531</b>         | <b>(43,633)</b>  | <b>649,047</b> |

### **13 MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING**

|                                           | Unrestricted Funds |                 | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL FUNDS  |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                           | General<br>£       | Designated<br>£ | £                | £               | 2020<br>£    | 2019<br>£    |
| Mission & Social Responsibility           | 1,500              | -               | -                | -               | <b>1,500</b> | <b>3,525</b> |
| Other charitable giving                   |                    |                 |                  |                 |              |              |
| The Children's Society                    | -                  | -               | 54               | -               | <b>54</b>    | <b>660</b>   |
| DEC (Various appeals)                     | -                  | -               | -                | -               | <b>-</b>     | <b>15</b>    |
| Grantham Foodbank                         | -                  | -               | 298              | -               | <b>298</b>   | <b>-</b>     |
| WaterAid                                  | -                  | -               | 309              | -               | <b>309</b>   | <b>-</b>     |
| Macmillan                                 | -                  | -               | -                | -               | <b>-</b>     | <b>183</b>   |
| Traidcraft donation for Grantham SleepOut | -                  | -               | -                | -               | <b>-</b>     | <b>100</b>   |
|                                           | <b>1,500</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>661</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>2,161</b> | <b>4,483</b> |

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31st December 2020

#### 14 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS (Reconciliation of opening balances 2019 & 2020, and net movement in funds 2019)

Unfortunately, since the last Annual Report & Accounts were drafted further information was received from Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance with regards to the St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom Fund. It became apparent that a copy trust deed that we had on file was obsolete and Grantham St Wulfram PCC did not in fact have the right to the capital or income from this fund. In confirmation, the fund valuation statement as at 31st December 2020 was not received from the Diocese. Therefore, it has been necessary to remove this fund from the list of endowments shown on our balance sheet.

In order to restate last year's comparative figures on a like for like basis, the St Saviour Fund has been removed from 2019 opening reserves, together with the investment gain previously reported in 2019 relating to that fund. The valuation of the endowment fund at the beginning of 2019 was £15,369, and the investment gain previously reported in 2019 was £2,877.

The net effect of these adjustments is to reduce opening net assets in 2020 by £18,246 to £686,187 from £704,433 as previously reported in the 2019 accounts. Listed below is a summary of all the adjustments made and their effect.

#### 14(a) RECONCILIATION OF RESTATED 1st JANUARY 2019 BALANCES (vs. reported 2019)

|                                                                                   | Unrestricted Funds |                | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                                                                   | General £          | Designated £   | £                | £               | £              |
| 1st January 2019 balances (as reported 2019)                                      | 47,940             | 102,387        | 173,381          | 47,360          | 371,068        |
| Removal of investments (£15,369):<br>Grantham St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom Fund |                    |                |                  | (15,369)        | (15,369)       |
| <b>Restated 1st January 2019 opening balances</b>                                 | <b>47,940</b>      | <b>102,387</b> | <b>173,381</b>   | <b>31,991</b>   | <b>355,699</b> |

#### 14(b) RECONCILIATION OF RESTATED OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES 2019 (vs. reported 2019)

|                                                                                                 | Unrestricted Funds |              | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                 | General £          | Designated £ | £                | £               | £             |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets 2019 on revaluation as previously reported in 2019 accounts | -                  | 810          | 9,836            | 6,102           | 16,748        |
| Deduction of investment gains/(losses) 2019:<br>Grantham St Saviour Chapel & Schoolroom Fund    |                    |              |                  | (2,877)         | (2,877)       |
| <b>Restated gains/(losses) on investments 2019</b>                                              | <b>-</b>           | <b>810</b>   | <b>9,836</b>     | <b>3,225</b>    | <b>13,871</b> |

#### 14(c) RECONCILIATION OF RESTATED NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS 2019 (vs. reported 2019)

|                                                                         | Unrestricted Funds |              | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                                                         | General £          | Designated £ | £                | £               | £              |
| Net movement in funds (as reported 2019)                                | (7,606)            | 1,353        | 308,516          | 31,102          | 333,365        |
| Change in recognised gains and losses 2019 (as outlined above in 14(b)) |                    |              |                  | (2,877)         | (2,877)        |
| <b>Restated net movement in funds 2019</b>                              | <b>(7,606)</b>     | <b>1,353</b> | <b>308,516</b>   | <b>28,225</b>   | <b>330,488</b> |

#### 14(d) RECONCILIATION OF RESTATED 1st JANUARY 2020 BALANCES (vs. reported 2019)

|                                                                          | Unrestricted Funds |                | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                                                          | General £          | Designated £   | £                | £               | £              |
| 1st January 2020 balances (as reported 2019)                             | 40,334             | 103,740        | 481,897          | 78,462          | 704,433        |
| Change in 1st January 2019 opening balances (as outlined above in 14(a)) |                    |                |                  | (15,369)        | (15,369)       |
| Change in net movement in funds 2019 (as outlined above in 14(c))        |                    |                |                  | (2,877)         | (2,877)        |
| <b>Restated 1st January 2020 opening balances</b>                        | <b>40,334</b>      | <b>103,740</b> | <b>481,897</b>   | <b>60,216</b>   | <b>686,187</b> |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****To the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wulfram, Grantham (the Trust), for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 36 to 37.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Chris Hubbard, FCA

24 March 2021

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