

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.

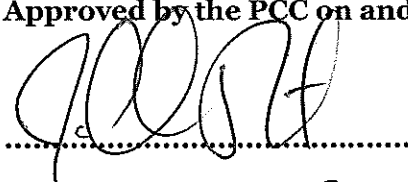
## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- 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, 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,



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 £	Designated	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
<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

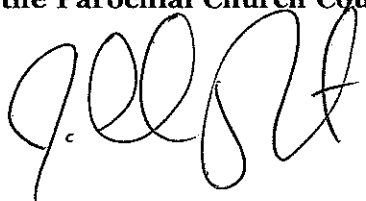
# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WULFRAM, GRANTHAM

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<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>128,028</u>	<u>32,091</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>474,341</b></u>	<u><b>425,103</b></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>183,952</u>	<u>51,276</u>	<u>257,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>492,964</u>	<u>349,658</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 General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</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 £	2022 £
<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 FUNDS		DESIGNATED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	Gardening Equipment £	Office Photocopier £	Office Computers £	£
<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 property £	Investment securities £	<b>Total investments £</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 property £	Investment securities £	<b>Total investments £</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 £</b>	<b>2022 £</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 £</b>	<b>2022 £</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 £	2022 £
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 £	2022 £
<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 £	2022 £	£
<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 1st Jan 23	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(Losses)	Transfers	As at 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 1st Jan 23	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(Losses)	Transfers	As at 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 (L10k), G.H. utilities (L3k), 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 1st Jan 23 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Investment Gains/(Losses) £	Transfers £	As at 31st Dec 23 £
	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.					
		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 Assets £	Current Assets £	Liabilities £	Total £		
	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>(31,214)</u>	<u>498,525</u>		
13	MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	2022 £
	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').

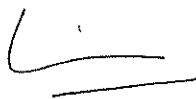
I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### 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

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