

Fenlands Church

**Annual Report and
Statement of Accounts**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

**FENLANDS CHURCH
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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FENLANDS CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Fenlands Church
Registered charity number	1136625
Charity's principal address	The Church Centre Main Road Tydd Gote Wisbech Cambs. PE13 5QD
Charity Email address	fenlandschurch@gmail.com
Charity Website	www.fenlandschurch.co.uk

Name of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name	Office
Mrs G C Wilson	Chairperson
Mrs K Maunder	Treasurer
Ms K Sparks	Secretary
Ms T Beach	
Mr P Summon	
Mrs H Summon	

The minimum number of Trustees is three individuals.

The Spiritual Leadership in consultation with the existing trustees appoint any new trustees following the provisions laid out in the Charity's governing instrument.

Names and addresses of advisers

Primary Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 3 North Brink Wisbech Cambs. PE13 1JR
Solicitors	Bowers 15 South Brink Wisbech Cambs. PE13 1JQ
Independent Examiner	P J Medcalf FCCA (Chartered Certified Accountant) 322 Smeeth Road Marshland St James Wisbech Cambs. PE14 8EP.

FENLANDS CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

The day-to-day running of the charity is in the hands of the elders. The Trustees are responsible for managing the finance and the buildings. They meet three times a year and, additionally as required, normally with the elders.

Description of the charity's trusts

Governing document

Trust Deed dated 6 June 2010

The charity's responsibilities for the Tydd Gote site and its benefits on the sale are contained in a document dated 1st December 2010.

Trustee's selection method

New trustees are appointed by the 'Spiritual Leadership of the Church'.

The current Spiritual Leadership comprises Mr. David Chapman, Mr. Jeff Bellamy, and Mr. Douglas Chapman.

Additional governance issues

There are no specific policies and procedures for inducting and training trustees but new trustees would be appointed who have suitable skills.

Relationship with any related parties

The Church is linked to Rural Ministries and Churches Together in East Elloe.

Trustees' consideration of major risks

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Objects of the Church are for the benefit of the public:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with any Statement of Beliefs and Doctrines prepared by the spiritual leadership of the church, in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees from time to time may think fit;
2. **To** relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees may from time to time think fit; and
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees from time to time may think fit.

FENLANDS CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

The charity acknowledges its requirements to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Fenlands Church meets each Sunday morning for worship and teaching in its Church Centre and usually on other occasions each week as well. The Church hall is used most weeks for activities for pre-school children and their careers and for local community groups and occasional activities and clubs for school age children and young people are held. Other meetings are arranged at other locations, particularly in members' homes. These activities are run by different church members who, apart from the pastor and his wife, are unpaid volunteers, some of whom claim out of pocket expenses for outgoings incurred. Fenlands Church has seen a constant number of regular attendees during the year.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The charity enjoys the use of its own buildings which are based on a large site in the rural village of Tydd Gote, in the heart of the Fens. During this accounting year we have been able to undertake some maintenance and repair work in the main church building, Welbrook Hall and the Manse. We now have a dedicated team who are responsible for these tasks. The surrounding garden areas continue to be maintained by volunteers throughout the year.

We regularly meet on a Sunday morning for our main worship service. We have been encouraged by new people joining us. Our team of musicians continues to grow and develop. They are a blessing to us all as they lead our worship week by week. In September we started five 'Church in the Home' groups at various homes in Tydd Gote and the surrounding villages. These groups meet weekly on Tuesday and their purpose is to encourage spiritual growth, help us to serve and to reach out to our families, friends, and neighbours.

We continue to hold our monthly men's and ladies' breakfasts with good numbers attending both.

In October, the ladies enjoyed a day away at Little Gidding.

The Beyond Youth group meets weekly on a Thursday evening as well as other activities that are arranged from time to time. Some of the youth are also involved in other aspects of church life. They enjoyed sleepovers at the church centre as well as attending the NewDay Youth camp at the Norfolk & Norwich Showground at the beginning of the school summer holidays. On Monday mornings we meet at the church centre to do various jobs such as garden maintenance, decorating, repairs, and reorganizing, with homemade soup being served midday as part of our community outreach. Several people from the village have become regular attendees.

The tearoom in Welbrook Hall continues to be open most Wednesdays at lunchtime, serving light lunches, scones, and cake in the summer months and a cooked lunch and dessert during the winter. There is no fixed charge, people give what they can. There is a core of regular customers and others who visit from time to time.

There has been good attendance at the bi-monthly Ladies night where we have enjoyed varied activities and a Christmas dinner and Carol Service.

At the end of September, we held a Harvest Event, where we offered food, a 'free to a new home' table, crafts, and a tombola, also an opportunity to donate to the local food bank.

Just before Christmas we held a Carol concert which was well attended.

Fenlands Family Church continues to meet on Sunday morning at The Duke of Bedford School in Thorney. They also meet in two homes during the week for prayer and Bible study. Outreach activities included a pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday, a light event on 31st October and carol singing before Christmas. In September they joined with other churches in Thorney for a harvest thanksgiving service and shared lunch hosted by a local farmer.

We have continued to support our chosen overseas mission projects on a regular basis as well as responding to requests for support in specific projects. We have been able to help our contacts in Malawi and Congo. We also make every effort to be mindful of the needs of our own locality, supporting the local food bank and the local branch of CAP as well as other individual needs as they come to our notice.

FENLANDS CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfill its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavor not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

The trustees are happy with the current level of reserves but will review these if they fall below £10,000.

Details of funds materially in deficit None.

The charity's principal sources of funds

The principle source of funds is member's monthly donations and offerings given by the church attendees. We still have the balance of legacies given some years ago to Tydd Gote Chapel of which Fenlands Church is the successor.

Gift Aid is also a significant source.

Investment Policy

The trust deed gives the trustees wide investment powers. In practice current or deposit accounts are used as it is not the intention to build large financial reserves. The Trustees are not aware of any major risk which is not covered by appropriate insurance.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

Gillian Wilson

Kathleen Maunder

Full Names

GILLIAN WILSON

KATHLEEN MAUNDER

Position

CHAIRPERSON

TREASURER

Date

20th July 2025

20th July 2025 .

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of Fenlands Church on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



P J Medcalf FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
322 Smeeth Road
Marshland St James
Wisbech
Cambs.
PE14 8EP

Date: 11 June 2025

FENLANDS CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
RECEIPTS					
Donations, Legacies and Other Similar Receipts	4a	71,472	-	71,472	46,880
Operating Activities to Further Charity's Objects	4b	6,672	-	6,672	6,500
Investment Income Receipts	4c	498	-	498	424
Other Receipts	4d	-	-	-	375
TOTAL RECEIPTS		78,642	-	78,642	54,179
PAYMENTS					
Costs of Charitable Activities	5a	76,179	-	76,179	62,639
Investment Management Costs	5b	15	-	15	30
Governance Costs	5c	656	-	656	331
TOTAL PAYMENTS		76,850	-	76,850	62,600
NET -PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS for the year		1,792	-	1,792	(8,421)
Cash Funds Last Year End		34,285	-	34,285	42,706
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END		36,077		36,077	34,285

The notes on pages 8 & 9 form a part of the financial statements

FENLANDS CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
ASSETS				
Cash funds				
Bank Accounts - Tydd	2,289	-	2,289	856
Bank Accounts - Thorney	1,585	-	1,585	2,210
Deposit Accounts - Tydd	16,284	-	16,284	19,326
Deposit Accounts - Thorney	8,833	-	8,833	9,586
Petty Cash - Tydd	21	-	21	38
Petty Cash - Thorney	250	-	250	250
Total cash funds	29,262		29,262	32,266
Other Assets				
Debtor	-	-	-	-
Recoverable Gift Aid - Tydd	4,742	-	4,742	1,365
Recoverable Gift Aid - Thorney	2,073	-	2,073	654
	6,815		6,815	2,019
TOTAL ASSETS	36,077		36,077	34,285
REPRESENTED BY:				
General Fund - Tydd	20,878	-	20,878	21,587
General Fund - Thorney	15,199	-	15,199	12,698
TOTAL FUNDS	36,077		36,077	34,285
Assets retained for the Charity's own use: (Valued at cost, or if gifted at the value to the charity on receipt)				
Main church building				
Computer equipment	1,492	-	1,492	1,492
Musical Items	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Other equipment	6,910	-	6,910	6,910
Fixtures & Fittings	4,600	-	4,600	4,600
Projectors	1,590	-	1,590	1,590
Audio Visual Items	5,280	-	5,280	5,280
Coffee shop/Office/Kitchen				
Equipment	11,060	-	11,060	11,060
Carpets	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
	34,932		34,932	34,932
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiners Fee	240	-	240	480
	240		240	480

(Chairman)

(Treasurer)

Gavin
Kathy Mawder

Approved by the trustees on:

The notes on pages 8 & 9 form a part of the financial statements

FENLANDS CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts have been prepared under the "Receipts and Payments" basis as prescribed by the Charity Commission.

2 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The charity held no restricted funds during this financial year.

3 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial year. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

4 RECEIPTS	Tydd	Unrestricted Funds Thorney £	2024 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds
a Donations, legacies and other similar receipts					
Charitable Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Bequests and Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Non Gift Aided Donations	15,643	3,450	-	19,093	7,099
Thorney Contribution	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid Donations	38,716	13,265	-	51,981	39,781
Sunday Offerings	398	-	-	398	-
	54,757	16,715	-	71,472	46,880
b Operating activities to further charity's objects					
Letting Income	172	-	-	172	-
Manse Rent	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
c Investment income receipts					
Bank Interest	386	112	-	498	424
d Other Receipts					
Sundry Receipts	-	-	-	-	375
	-	-	-	-	375
TOTAL RECEIPTS	61,815	16,827	-	78,642	54,179

**FENLANDS CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

5 PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds Tydd £	Thorney £	2024 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds
a Cost of Charitable Activities					
Catering Costs	2,333	-	-	2,333	1,248
Children's Work	825	-	-	825	607
Cleaning Materials	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Event Costs	8,815	1,625	-	10,440	2,196
Equipment Purchases	816	202	-	1,018	1,253
Gifts: Missionaries	3,535	900	-	4,435	5,500
Organizations	1,664	1,054	-	2,718	2,284
Individuals	995	-	-	995	1,437
Thorney Contribution to Tydd	-	-	-	-	-
General Travel Expenses	75	150	-	225	283
Insurance	2,162	-	-	2,162	1,948
Licenses	958	285	-	1,243	893
Literature Purchases	61	171	-	232	269
Maintenance/Repairs	5,972	-	-	5,972	2,317
Postage	-	-	-	-	-
Premises Improvement	278	-	-	278	885
Printing/Photocopying	173	63	-	236	329
Salaries and Wages	26,345	10,400	-	36,745	33,718
Sundry Payments	194	126	-	320	328
Telephone/Broadband	573	-	-	573	547
Utilities	5,429	-	-	5,429	6,020
Visiting Ministry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-	-	177
	61,203	14,976		76,179	62,239
b Investment Management Costs					
Bank Charges	15	-	-	15	30
	15	-	-	15	30
c Governance Costs					
Professional Fees	480	-	-	480	-
Child Protection Fees	176	-	-	176	331
	656	-	-	656	331
TOTAL PAYMENTS	61,874	14,976	-	76,850	62,600
NET OF RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS	(59)	1851	-	1,792	(8,421)
Cash Funds Last Year End	20,937	13,348	-	34,285	42,706
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	20,878	15,199	-	36,077	34,285