

Christ Church

Stamford

**Annual Report & Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**



Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION.....	3
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC.....	4
Administrative information	4
Structure, governance and management	5
Objectives and activities	5
Church Attendance	5
Financial review.....	5
Operations Report	6
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC	8
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	9
BALANCE SHEET	10
FUND MOVEMENT BY TYPE.....	11
CONCLUSION.....	12
EXAMINER'S REPORT	13

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST CHURCH, STAMFORD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Stamford
Charitable status	The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registration number: 1139222
Principal address	Christ Church, Green Lane, Stamford PE9 1HE
Principal contact	Rev Anthony Laotan, Vicar
Telephone no.	01780 766446
Email	vicar@christchurchstamford.com
Website	www.christchurchstamford.com
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, Broad St, Stamford
Independent examiner	Michelle Feasey, Stamford

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST CHURCH, STAMFORD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Administrative information

Christ Church Stamford is situated on Green Lane Stamford. It is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC members who have served from / during 2023 are:

Ex-Officio	Anthony Laotan	Vicar
	Dawn Field	Warden
	Nigel Garwood	Resigned as Warden 2023
	Laura Mitchell	Stepped down April 2023
	Lesley Foulkes	Stepped down December 2022
	Barbara Morley	Tenure completed 2023
Elected Members	Tina Bland	Member
	Rachael Carter	Secretary
	Jacqui Wells	Deputy Safeguarding Officer
	Carol MacBeath	Lead Safeguarding Officer
Co-opted	Lisa Garwood	Resigned as Treasurer 2023

Committees

The PCC operates through a Standing Committee which has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by Council and to limits of delegated authority.

The Building Committee oversees the stewardship of the Church building and ensures that repairs are dealt with.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. The full PCC met ten times during the year. Committees have met between meetings and items from these were included in the PCC discussions as appropriate.

Objectives and activities

Christ Church PCC has the responsibility of promoting within the Ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Christ Church building. The church operates social outreach projects covering newborn to elderly, vulnerable, disabled, and marginalized individuals.

Church Attendance

The church holds a weekly morning service at 10am. Our weekly attendance at services averages 40 per week.

There are 51 members on the Electoral Roll.

Financial review

Regular financial reports have been given to the PCC throughout the year.

For these 2023 accounts we have moved to a new financial package, ExpensePlus, and this year's accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The total income for Christ Church was £57,741 an increase of 11% on the previous year. Total expenditure was £62,827 which was almost the same as last year. It should be noted that the increased income did include a large grant of £18,800 for the Henry Smith Charity to employ a Children, Youth and Family Minister.

Our overall giving was very much in line with our budget. Open plate collections remained stable and whilst regular giving did dip towards the year end, it was compensated for by an increase in one-off gifts. We are receiving good regular income now from hall lettings and a regular hirer has increased the number of sessions which will further benefit the church and *increase* income in 2024.

Utility bills remain high, our electricity was in line with budget but gas was much higher. The boilers are old and will require replacement in the medium term. We had made a Covenant Pledge with the Diocese to pay £11,500 in 2023 (which was achieved), £12,500 in 2024 rising to £15,000 by 2025. We spent the agreed £6,754 on repairs to the ramp wall. Three quotes were obtained and the work was completed in December 2023. This money has been taken from General Fund reserves.

Christ Church Ministry

Our regular income has remained stable, and we have seen stability in the numbers of people attending church and our weekly activities. This year we developed the garden to the rear of the church into a welcoming space for the community. We are grateful to our funders for enabling this to happen. As we head into 2024, we plan to use this for outreach activities. Church services are well attended and we have seen new people join us. Following a fortnightly discipleship group in 2022, two CATALYST Communities (Home groups) emerged and have been established. Another Home Group that was functional pre-covid also restarted bringing the number of CATALYST Communities to three. Towards the end of the year, two more groups were formed including one for teenage girls. We have had a few successful social events during the year, including Step into Spring - a community event, and a Coronation Party for King Charles which was largely funded and supported by the Council. We capped the year with our annual fundraiser, the Christmas Fayre. This event raised £700.

Operations Report

Christ Church has at the heart of its outreach programmes - a desire to welcome people, meet their pastoral needs, and draw them into fellowship together. We aim to bring the Christ Church Values and Vision to life by drawing people into fellowship and ultimately a relationship with Christ. Under the leadership of the Rev Anthony Laotan, we continue to respond to the opportunity and need around us under the umbrella of the Anchored project.

Anchored

This programme incorporates StartaFresh, Day Centre, Community Chatter and Feeding Families. There were some significant changes to the way Anchored operates as the contract for Temporary Manager overseeing the Day Centre and Feeding Families expired. All the programmes are now run by volunteers under the oversight of Revd Anthony Laotan.

Day Centre

Day Centre ran for the first half of the year with several efforts to keep it financially and numerically sustainable. Numbers dropped significantly as more members either took ill or were rehoused in care homes as rising operational costs outweighed income. Decision was made to bring the Day Centre to an end and not to renew the Temporary Manager's contract. Also, decision was also made to incorporate the former Day Centre and Community Chatter members into a new group, COMMUNITEA PLUS, with a broader remit of not just the elderly but others within the Community who are isolated, lonely or new to Stamford

StartaFresh

This group continued to meet on a Friday, dropping to once a week due to staff changes. StartaFresh offers vital confidence building and social support for the members. We continue to provide educational opportunities with Rutland Adult Learning to whom we are very grateful for their continued support.

Community Chatter

Ran weekly as an afternoon drop-in session where anyone from the community can come along for friendship and support until it was ended alongside the Day Centre as stated above. Members were migrated to COMMUNITEA PLUS, the new group that has incorporated both the Day Centre and Community Chatter.

Feeding Families

We still receive boxes of emergency food from Rapid Relief Team and distribute these to those in need in our community. People do not need to be referred or have any kind of assessment. These are given to people known to us who are struggling and also through our local schools.

The Bread & Butter Thing

We met with The Bread and Butter Thing Charity in the summer and started a food membership club in November 2023. This club provides food recovered from Farms, Factories and Supermarkets at affordable prices, about a third less than supermarket prices. This club runs weekly through the year and has already become popular within the community.

Children and Youth

Our work with children and young people through 'Tots and Toast' and The Den continues to thrive. These groups are well attended and popular with local families. Our new Children and Youth Minister resumed duty in April 2023 and has continued the good work established by her predecessor. She has continued visiting Bluecoat School and Stamford Welland Academy one day a week supporting both children and young people through gardening activities and mentoring. She organized various activities and sessions in the summer such as Community Cook-up for families and creative workshops for young people. We ran a Light Party in October which was well attended. Work with young people gathering on church grounds through the drop-in has temporarily ceased but engagement is ongoing as and when they are around. We remain grateful to all those who fund us to continue all this important work, thanks to funding from The Burghley Family Trust, Stamford Lads Club, the Ark Trust and Henry Smith Charity.

Christ Church Grantors

Christ Church gives a huge thank you to the many people who so kindly donate to support the outreach programs. We have also received generous donations from a range of organisations in 2023, including:

- Burghley Family Trust
- The Ark Trust
- Stamford Lad's Club
- Henry Smith Charity

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC

Charity Law requires the members of the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial transactions during the Charity year and of the disposition of the Charity's assets and liabilities at the end of that year. In preparing those financial statements, the members of the PCC are required to:

- i. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- ii. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- iii. state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRSSE) subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which enable them to prepare financial statements which comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Christ Church – 113922
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Incoming Resources				
Donations & Legacies	21,657	128	21,785	17,202
Charitable Activities	15,552	20,405	35,957	34,398
Investments	0	0	0	0
Trading Activities	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total incoming resources	37,209	20,532	57,741	51,600
Resources Used				
Charitable Activities	47,124	15,703	62,827	62,894
Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Activities	0	0	0	0
Support	0	0	0	0
Total resources used	47,124	15,703	62,827	62,894
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before transfers)	-9,915	4,829	-5,086	-11,293
Fund Transfers In	0	3,000	3,000	130
Fund Transfers Out	3,000	0	3,000	130
Net Movement of Funds	-12,915	7,829	-5,086	-11,293
Total Funds Brought Forward	45,821	4,952	50,773	62,066
Total Funds Carried Forward	32,905	12,781	45,687	50,773

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Christ Church – 1139222
Balance Sheet (Church of England)
As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Current Assets				
Cash	32,905	12,781	45,687	50,773
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	32,905	12,781	45,687	50,773
Represented By				
Unrestricted				
General (Unrestricted)	14,762		14,762	23,133
Designated				
Children and Youth Refreshments (Des)	512		512	631
Mission Refreshments (Des)	409		409	500
Anchored D (Des)	10,846		10,846	9,456
Day Centre D (Des)	255		255	2,318
Garden Project (Des)	0		0	103
Toddlers (Des)	530		530	628
Fabric (Des)	358		358	895
Audio Visual (Des)	639		639	782
Hardship (Des)	2,255		2,255	2,255
Outreach (Des)	1,458		1,458	4,500
StartaFresh (Des)	680		680	619
Wheelchair Car (Des)	201		201	0
Transport Scheme (Des)	0		0	0
Restricted				
Children and Youth Minister (Res)		10,597	10,597	1,084
Children and Youth Projects (Res)		1,197	1,197	700
Anchored R (Res)		0	0	12
Childrens Church (Res)		459	459	564
Day Centre R (Res)		0	0	72
Garden Project R (Res)		148	148	902
Mission Fund (Res)		367	367	424
StartaFresh R (Res)		0	0	0
Minibus Transport Scheme (Res)		0	0	1,181
AED (Res)		14	14	14
Agency Collections (Res)		0	0	0
Funds of the Church	32,905	12,781	45,687	50,773

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Christ Church – 1139222
Fund Movement by Type
For the Period 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Fund Name and Type	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
General	23,133	30,278	38,650	0	14,762
Designated					
Children and Youth Refreshments	631	743	862	0	512
Mission Refreshments	500	858	950	0	409
Anchored D	9,456	1,850	461	0	10,846
Day Centre D	2,318	2,937	5,000	0	255
Garden Project	103	0	103	0	0
Toddlers	628	0	97	0	530
Fabric	895	0	537	0	358
Audio Visual	782	0	142	0	639
Hardship	2,255	0	0	0	2,255
Outreach	4,500	0	42	-3,000	1,458
StartaFresh	619	61	0	0	680
Wheelchair Car	0	482	281	0	201
Transport Scheme	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted					
Children and Youth Minister	1,084	18,800	12,287	3,000	10,597
Children and Youth Projects	700	1,600	1,103	0	1,197
Anchored R	12	100	112	0	0
Childrens Church	564	0	105	0	459
Day Centre R	72	0	72	0	0
Garden Project R	902	0	755	0	148
Mission Fund	424	0	56	0	367
StartaFresh R	0	0	0	0	0
Minibus Transport Scheme	1,181	0	1,181	0	0
AED	14	0	0	0	14
Agency Collections	0	33	33	0	0
TOTAL	50,773	57,741	62,827	0	45,687

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

CONCLUSION

Before closing it is appropriate to thank most sincerely our staff and the many volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to ensure the efficient running of our projects and community activities. We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from sponsors, grantors and charitable organisations, trusts and businesses - and the people who just give, even when they themselves struggle to make ends meet. We also thank the many other groups and partners who collaborate closely with us in a multitude of ways.

This report dated:

Signed:

X-----

Anthony Laotan
(Vicar)

X-----

Dawn Field
(Church Warden)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH,
STAMFORD**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH, STAMFORD

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 explanation from you as trustees concerning any 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 matter 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. in which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Feasey
1 West Street Business Park
Stamford PE9 2PL



2nd April 2024

Director: Michelle A. E. Feasey
Company Secretary: Niall McQuitty
Vat Registration No. 793 3980 79
Registered in England No: 4462491

