

Christ Church

Stamford

**Annual Report & Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**



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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 2024

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
Elected Members	Tina Bland	Member
	Rachael Carter	Secretary, stepped down April 2024
	Jacqui Wells	Deputy Safeguarding Officer
	Carol MacBeath	Lead Safeguarding Officer
	Phiona Blake	Member
	Lorraine Davie (Lou)	Stepped down November 24

Committees

The Ministry Team operates with the Vicar, Revd. Anthony Laotan, Children, Youth & Families Minister, Laura Mitchell, Jacqui Wells & Dawn Field the Churchwarden.

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 over the course of the year whereas Ministry Team met monthly.

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 30 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 2024 accounts we have continued to use ExpensePlus, which was the financial software we employed in 2023, and this year's accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The total income for Christ Church was £60,218 an increase of 4% on the previous year. Total expenditure was £57,072, a decrease in spending of 9% on the previous year. It should be noted that the increased income did include a large grant of £21,500 (2nd year allocation) from the Henry Smith Charity to employ our Children, Youth and Family Minister.

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 2025. In May 2024, the Friends of Christ Church donated £50 towards obtaining a contactless device for collecting offerings and other donations from the Diocese of Lincoln Generosity Team and it has since been an additional income stream.

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 short term. We had made a Covenant Pledge with the Diocese to pay £11,500 in 2023, £12,500 in 2024 (which was fully paid) rising to £15,000 by 2025.

Christ Church Ministry

Our regular income has remained stable, and we have seen stability in the number of people attending church and our weekly activities. Church services are well attended and we still have new people join us even as we have had a few leave due to house moves, career changes etc. Our CATALYST Communities (Home groups) have expanded and shrunk over the course of the year. We increased to 5 earlier in the year and decreased to 3 by the latter part of the year as three smaller CCs morphed into 1. The highlight of the year was our own version of 'Come Dine With Me' in June. Each CATALYST Community took it in turn to host both church members and invited guests over 4 Wednesdays to explore the Christian faith using a video series called 3,2,1 by the Speak Life Charity. It was a success judging by the number of new people that attended and also the community feel it gave us as a Church. We decided, based on good feedback; to organize a similar event quarterly and in December, we held a Christmas Variety Night which had 45 people in attendance and a good cross section of members and people from the community. Our Annual fundraiser, the Christmas Fayre, also took place in December raising £750.

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 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 opportunities and need around us under the umbrella of the Anchored project.

Anchored

This project incorporates StartaFresh, Communita Plus & Bread & Butter. All the programmes are run by volunteers under the Leadership of Revd Anthony Laotan.

Communita Plus

Communita Plus is a group with a broad remit of not just the elderly but others within the Community who are isolated, lonely or new to Stamford. These people meet every Wednesday from 11am to 2pm (term-time) to socialize, enjoy a cooked two-course meal and some form of entertainment.

StartaFresh

This group continues to meet weekly on a Friday (term-time). 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.

Feeding Families

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

The Bread & Butter Thing

This food membership club provides food recovered from Farms, Factories and Supermarkets at affordable prices, about a third less than supermarket prices. This club runs weekly throughout the year and has already become popular within the community.

Buildings

Our Quinquennial inspection took place in January 2024 and highlighted the basement stairlift needs replacement.

Children and Youth

Our work with children and young people through 'Tots and Toast' and the local schools continues to thrive. These groups are well attended and popular with local families. Our Children, Youth & Families Minister has continued working with children and youth in both Bluecoat School and Stamford Welland Academy one day a week supporting both children and young people through gardening activities and mentoring. She organized Rooted, a bible-themed holiday club in the summer which was very successful. At Halloween, she and her team helped to run a Light Party at Bluecoat School in October which was equally well attended. The Den, however, suffered a decline in numbers all year and had to be rested in December with a view to repurposing it in 2025. 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, 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 grants and donations from a range of organizations in 2024, including:

- Burghley Family Trust
- Stamford Lads Club
- Henry Smith Charity
- Friends of Christ Church

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 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies	17999	510	18509	21785
Charitable Activities	22045	19665	41710	35957
Investments	0	0	0	0
Trading Activities	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	40043	20175	60218	57741
Payments				
Charitable Activities	36789	20283	57072	62827
Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0
Support	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total payments	36789	20283	57072	62827
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	3254	-108	3146	-5086
Fund Transfers In	120	0	120	3000
Fund Transfers Out	120	0	120	3000
Net Movement of Cash Funds	3254	-108	3146	-5086
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	33261	12781	46043	50773
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	36515	12674	49189	45687

Christ Church – 1139222
Balance Sheet (Church of England)
As at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Current Assets				
Cash	36,515	12,674	49,189	45,687
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	36,515	12,674	49,189	45,687
Represented By				
Unrestricted				
General (Unrestricted)	15,612		15,612	14,762
Designated				
Children and Youth Refreshments (Des)	303		303	512
Mission Refreshments (Des)	230		230	409
Anchored D (Des)	13,665		13,665	10,846
Day Centre D (Des)	255		255	255
Garden Project (Des)	0		0	0
Toddlers (Des)	530		530	530
Fabric (Des)	358		358	358
Audio Visual (Des)	639		639	639
Hardship (Des)	2,100		2,100	2,255
Outreach (Des)	1,458		1,458	1,458
StartaFresh (Des)	800		800	680
Wheelchair Car (Des)	563		563	201
Transport Scheme (Des)	0		0	0
Restricted				
Children and Youth Minister (Res)		10,945	10,945	10,597
Children and Youth Projects (Res)		593	593	1,197
Anchored R (Res)		0	0	0
Children's Church (Res)		344	344	459
Day Centre R (Res)		0	0	0
Garden Project R (Res)		113	113	148
Mission Fund (Res)		157	157	367
StartaFresh R (Res)		507	507	0
Minibus Transport Scheme (Res)		0	0	0
AED (Res)		14	14	14
Agency Collections (Res)		0	0	0
Funds of the Church	36,515	12,674	49,189	45,687

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 2024 to 31 December 2024

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
General (Unrestricted)	15118	33532	33158	120	15612
Total	15118	33532	33158	120	15612
Designated					
Children and Youth Refreshments (Designated)	512	606	815	0	303
Mission Refreshments (Designated)	409	0	179	0	230
Anchored D (Designated)	10846	4295	1476	0	13665
Day Centre D (Designated)	255	0	0	0	255
Garden Project (Designated)	0	0	0	0	0
Toddlers (Designated)	530	0	0	0	530
Fabric (Designated)	358	0	0	0	358
Audio Visual (Designated)	639	0	0	0	639
Hardship (Designated)	2255	0	35	-120	2100
Outreach (Designated)	1458	0	0	0	1458
StartaFresh (Designated)	680	125	4	0	800
Wheelchair Car (Designated)	201	1486	1123	0	563
Total	18144	6511	3631	-120	20904
Unrestricted Total	33261	40043	36789	0	36515
Restricted					
Children and Youth Minister (Restricted)	10597	17230	16882	0	10945
Children and Youth Projects (Restricted)	1197	2305	2909	0	593
Anchored R (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Childrens Church (Restricted)	459	0	114	0	344
Day Centre R (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Garden Project R (Restricted)	148	0	34	0	113
Mission Fund (Restricted)	367	133	343	0	157
StartaFresh R (Restricted)	0	507	0	0	507
Minibus Transport Scheme (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
AED (Restricted)	14	0	0	0	14
Agency Collections (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12781	20175	20283	0	12674
Restricted Total	12781	20175	20283	0	12674
TOTAL	46043	60218	57072	0	49189

CONCLUSION

Before closing it is appropriate to thank most sincerely our staff and all the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to ensure the efficient running of our services, projects and community activities. We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from sponsors, grantors and charitable organizations, 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:

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Anthony Laotan
(Vicar)

X-----

Dawn Field
(Church Warden)

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