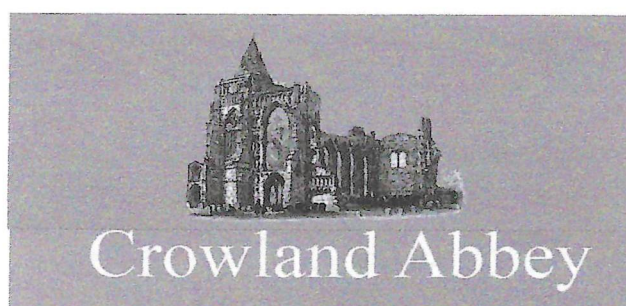


**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND
CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NO. 1153258
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended

31 December 2023



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the presentation of financial statements which complies with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and the charity's constitution.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Crowland is situated in the market town of Crowland, Lincolnshire. It is part of the Deanery of Elloe West within the Church of England's Diocese of Lincoln. Crowland Parochial Church Council is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission.

Correspondence Address:	The Treasurer 3 Penwald Close Crowland Peterborough PE6 0AQ	
Priest in Charge	The Reverend Mark Williams*	Responsibility for organising the Pastoral Offices.
Associate Priest (OLM)	Deeping Saint Nicholas,	
Churchwardens:	Mr. David Searle * Mrs. Laura Beeken *	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs Margaret Beardshaw* Mr. David Searle *	
Elected members of the PCC:	Mr. Michael Atkinson (2021) Mrs. Laura Beeken (2020) Mrs. Janet Brown (2019) Mrs. Val Capes (2020) Mrs. Linda Fox (2020) Mrs. Jane Kisbee (2021) Mr. K Smith (2022) Mrs. Carol Richardson (Appointed 23 April 2023) Mr. Martin Pattenden (Resigned 1 December 2023)	
Co-opted Member:	Mr Robert Gibbard	
Officers:	Mrs Margaret Beardshaw (Chair) Mr Robert Gibbard (Treasurer) Mrs. Linda Fox (Electoral Roll Officer) Miss E Coulhoun (Secretary - appointed 23 April 2023, resigned 15 January 2024) Mrs Janet Brown (Secretary - resigned 23 April 2023)	
Standing committee:	Mrs. Laura Beeken Mrs Margaret Beardshaw Mrs Janet Brown Mr Robert Gibbard Mr. David Searle	

* Indicates ex officio membership of the PCC

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND
Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance, and Management

Crowland Abbey is a member of the Welland Local Mission Partnership (LMP), along with the Parishes of Deeping St James, Deeping St Nicholas, Market Deeping, and the Ness Group (Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby). Ministers meet regularly in chapter, and all the churches actively support one another in practical ways. Since September, following the retirement of the Revd Charles Brown, the Revd's Carolyn Bayley, Annie Billson, Sonia Marshall and Mark Williams, along with Readers Nigel Bacon and Kate Brown, have taken part in a rota to cover regular services. In addition, the Revd Mark Williams has taken responsibility for organising the Pastoral Offices (Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals), with the services taken by the Revd's Carolyn Bailey, Georgina Holding, Sonia Marshall and Mark Williams.

The parochial church council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers' Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the book Church Representation Rules.

Between PCC meetings the Standing Committee of the PCC, which includes the PCC's chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and the two churchwardens, meets when required to transact PCC business.

Church Life and aims

The PCC seeks to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the ecclesiastical Parish of Crowland. It does so in accordance with the traditions of the universal Church as accepted and practised by the Church of

The PCC works with members of other Christian communities represented in Crowland through Christians Together in Crowland.

The PCC has the responsibility of maintaining the parish church, the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Bartholomew, and Saint Guthlac, popularly known as Crowland Abbey. This grade-one listed building is adjoined by the ruins of the nave of what was the church of the medieval Crowland Abbey, a Benedictine foundation.

The maintenance of these ruins, which are both a consecrated space and a scheduled ancient monument, is also the responsibility of the PCC. Although the maintenance of the magnificent church building and the strikingly beautiful ruined nave are a great responsibility for the congregation, our parish life centres, not around fundraising for the maintenance of these structures or around the tourism that their architecture attracts, but around the prayer that knits us together as a community of faith.

Services are at 11 a.m. each Sunday. The presiding ministers at these services come from the parishes within the Welland LMP. The 11 a.m. service is a Eucharist, apart from the fourth Sunday of the month, when it is an All Age Service. On the fourth Sunday a Eucharist takes place at 6 p.m. On the second Sunday of each month the congregation worships with members of Crowland Methodist Church, the service alternating between the two congregations' church buildings. When this service takes place at Crowland Methodist Church it is sometimes a service of the word.

In 2023, the average Sunday attendance was 20 (2022- 23). In 2023, we had 7 baptisms (2022 - 19), 3 weddings (2022 - 8) and 1 wedding blessing, 20 funerals were taken, of which 12 were held at the Abbey, and 12 interments of ashes.

On the second Monday of each month, a Julian group meets in the Abbey for silent prayer at 11 a.m.

In 2023, we had a very full and successful calendar of events. We held a wedding dress display in February, craft fairs in May and October and a flower festival in August. We also held a Christmas event at the end of November, a concert with Peterborough Community Orchestra in July and a joint concert between Abbey 345 and Peterborough Operatic Society in December and the very popular reenactment of the 1643 siege of Crowland Abbey in September. We also hosted a men's mental health support group for several months, hosted visiting bell ringers, offered tours to the public, U3A groups and a group from Hereford Cathedral. We also were part of a community project which saw over 6000 knitted and crocheted poppies draped from the top of the bell tower in October and November. We also invited local preschools to have a teddy bears picnic in the grounds, hosted them for harvest craft activities and invited them for several visits to look around and learn about the Abbey.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Church Life and aims (continued)

We are blessed with a group of dedicated guides who offer a welcome to visitors in the Abbey every day of the week and offer tours. Over the last year they have taken on more responsibilities, playing a key part in helping with and organising events, putting together exhibitions and generally helping to improve our engagement with the local community, enhancing the life of the Abbey.

The work on the parvise is ongoing and should be completed in 2024.

Financial results and reserves policy

The charity suffered a deficit in funding during the financial year ended 31 December 2023 amounting to £6,492.

The charity trustees are required to ensure that the charity maintains sufficient reserves to promote the mission of the church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Crowland. Part of that is the maintenance of the Crowland Abbey, our place of Worship. This assists in the promotion of the church in this parish.

Having originated in the 8th century, the Abbey could use any funds that could ever come available. As such the trustees use Restricted Funds to secure funding for specific projects and then they must Unrestricted Funds to fund any deficit amounts. The policy is to retain sufficient funds to enable services to continue, approximately 3 months of Parish costs, i.e. £15,000, which leaves a surplus of circ. £34,654 which is available to fund other projects.

Challenges

Without doubt, the biggest challenge we face is the lack of a resident incumbent or any oversight. The LMP provides cover to ensure that the regular services and occasional offices continue. This is appreciated, and anecdotally, the congregation quite enjoy the variety of ministry. However, the lack of someone as focus for the ministry in the town is seriously hampering the outreach of the church. Whilst the reduction in occasional offices may be part of a wider trend, it is possibly exacerbated by the longer-term lack of contact and follow-up. The town continues to expand, and there is a ripe mission field, but few are able to take on this burden in a generally aging congregation.

Two areas of real concern are the roles of treasurer and verger. The current treasurer announced well in advance that he intended to move away from the area, but no replacement has yet been found, despite every effort made. It is a very real possibility that there will be no treasurer from early 2024.

The sad death of the regular verger at the end of 2022 has left a hole that it has not been possible to fill on a regular basis.

The result of this is that a very significant and heavy burden has fallen on the churchwardens – at what is an unsustainable level.

Efforts are continuing to find people to fulfil these roles.

Blessings

There is encouragement to be seen in the All-Age and children's ministry of the church, especially with the introduction of a monthly All-Age service on the 4th Sunday towards the end of 2023, and work continues to advertise and encourage new families and those new to faith or wishing to explore the idea.

The continuation of the Methodist-Anglican Partnership with Crowland Methodist Church, better known as MAP, plays the key role in our mission outreach. The Revd Mark Williams has continued to enjoy working in partnership with Revd Langley Mackrell-Hey, who acts as both the minister-in-charge of Crowland Methodist Church and the superintendent of the Peterborough Methodist Circuit, as well as lay colleagues both Anglican and Methodist to make MAP an effective instrument of Christian mission here in Crowland. Oversight for MAP and its activities lies with a committee composed of three Methodist laypersons and three Anglican laypersons.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Annual Report (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Blessings (continued)

MAP runs a Messy Church that meets on the second Saturday of each month in Crowland Methodist Church, and is aimed at parents and their children. MAP also sponsors the Crowland Community Larder, a food bank located at Crowland Methodist Church and Family Eats, which provides a lunch and activities for families during breaks in the school year, is also sponsored by MAP.

As the Abbey lacks a church hall, the facilities at Crowland Methodist Church have made up for this lack by providing both congregations with a space that is well suited for children's activities, socializing and more informal worship, our relationship with our Methodist sisters and brothers is a real source of hope and blessing for us.

MAP also puts up the pilgrims of Student Cross who come to Crowland each year on the Monday of Holy Week, as they walk from Leicester to Walsingham. These pilgrims are provided with an evening meal, a place to sleep, and breakfast, all at Crowland Methodist Church.

We are blessed by a congregation that encompasses people with many gifts. Their prayers and faithful service to God, both within the Abbey community and beyond it, are the heartbeat of our faith community. May God guide us as we seek to serve Christ's Church and to find new disciples for him.

We are blessed by a congregation that encompasses people with many gifts. Their prayers and faithful service to God, both within the Abbey community and beyond it, are the heartbeat of our faith community

May God guide us as we seek to serve Christ's Church and to find new disciples for him.

On behalf of Crowland PCC,



Mrs. Laura Beeken
Churchwarden

Date: 26th MARCH 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to
the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Crowland**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

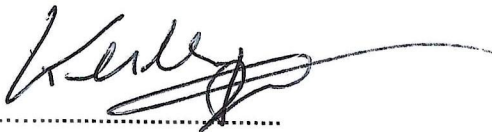
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



.....
K. J. Maggs F.C.A., B.A.
Chartered Accountants

Dated: 22 March.....**2024**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Receipts and Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary Income				
Gift Aid donations	6,072	2,830	8,902	8,030
Income tax recovered	4,611	-	4,611	3,224
Open plate collections at all services	1,680	1,220	2,900	4,819
Donations	11,127	-	11,127	6,898
Legacies	-	1,808	1,808	11,750
Grants	-	1,500	1,500	-
Collections for other causes	-	453	453	7,520
	<u>23,490</u>	<u>7,811</u>	<u>31,301</u>	<u>42,241</u>
Fundraising				
Flower Festival	4,109	-	4,109	1,689
Bookstall	3,678	-	3,678	6,323
Other fundraising activities	8,788	310	9,098	20,569
	<u>16,575</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>16,885</u>	<u>28,581</u>
Income from investments				
Dividends and interest	1,472	-	1,472	927
Income from church activities				
Fees	11,967	-	11,967	12,191
Other income	2,164	-	2,164	2,207
	<u>14,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,131</u>	<u>14,398</u>
Other income				
VAT recovered	303	-	303	1,066
	<u>303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>1,066</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>55,971</u>	<u>8,121</u>	<u>64,092</u>	<u>87,213</u>
PAYMENTS				
Church Activities and Governance				
Ministry: Diocesan parish share	22,774	-	22,774	21,500
Church running and maintenance	7,132	547	7,679	5,568
Power	8,199	-	8,199	6,902
Insurance	7,490	-	7,490	6,648
Fees for organist, choir, bell ringers, etc	2,200	-	2,200	130
Major restoration work	8,442	-	8,442	1,498
Visitor's Centre	37	842	879	955
Administration costs	2,268	-	2,268	940
Independent examination fees	460	-	460	552
	<u>59,002</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>60,391</u>	<u>44,693</u>
Fundraising Costs				
Fundraising Costs	1,702	-	1,702	257
Bookstall Costs	1,759	-	1,759	2,868
	<u>3,461</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>3,125</u>
Other outgoings				
Collections for other causes	-	265	265	7,687
	<u>-</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>7,687</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>62,463</u>	<u>1,654</u>	<u>64,117</u>	<u>55,505</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Reconciliation of Cash Flows and Statement of Net Assets

At 31 December 2023

RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS


	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
Total receipts	55,971	8,121	64,092	87,213
Total payments	62,463	1,654	64,117	55,505
Net (payments) / receipts	(6,492)	6,467	(25)	31,708
Transfers between funds	(7)	7	-	-
Cash funds at 1 January	56,153	49,490	105,643	73,935
Cash funds at 31 December	49,654	55,964	105,618	105,643

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
CASH FUNDS				
Barclays Bank Plc				
Community account	1,641	205	1,846	11,646
Money Held for Agencies	-	259	259	447
Active Saver account	13,000	48,500	61,500	60
Virgin Money Plc	35,013	7,000	42,013	93,490
	49,654	55,964	105,618	105,643
MONETARY LIABILITY				
Agency collections	-	259	259	447
Independent examiner's fee	475	-	475	460
	475	259	734	907

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf on 21st MARCH 2024 by:


 Mrs Margaret Beardshaw
 (Chairman)


 Robert Gibbard
 (Treasurer)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the exemptions applicable under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

The statements of financial activities has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis which is a consistent basis to previous years.

The Statements of Assets shows the assets of the charity and any amounts due to or owed by the charity. The statement will not include any provisions for liabilities and charges. The trustees are of the opinion that should any significant matters arise prior to the year end, they will disclose them within the notes to the financial statements.

The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

(b) Funds

Restricted funds represent:

- (i) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and
- (ii) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object.

The funds may only be expended on the purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds represent:

- (iii) general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.
- (iv) designated funds which are used for a purpose specified by the trustees.

(c) Resources Used

- (i) Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.
- (ii) The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.
- (iii) Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

(d) Fixed Assets

- (i) Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.
- (ii) Moveable church furnishings held by the priest and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time.
- (iii) For items acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

2 FUND MOVEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2023					
	Balance 1 Jan £	Funds Added £	Funds Used £	Funds Transferred £	Balance 31 Dec £
(a) Unrestricted Funds					
General PCC Fund	<u>56,153</u>	<u>55,971</u>	<u>(62,463)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	<u>49,654</u>
Year ended 30 December 2022					
	Balance 1 Jan £	Funds Added £	Funds Used £	Funds Transferred £	Balance 31 Dec £
General PCC Fund	<u>45,552</u>	<u>57,206</u>	<u>(46,605)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,153</u>
Year ended 31 December 2023					
	Balance 1 Jan £	Funds Added £	Funds Used £	Funds Transferred £	Balance 31 Dec £
(b) Restricted Funds					
Window restoration fund	31,236	5,934	-	-	37,170
Path restoration fund	4,491	-	-	-	4,491
Fabric fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Bell fund	989	300	-	-	1,289
Visitors' Centre	835	-	(842)	7	-
Agency collections	447	453	(265)	-	635
Music fund	<u>11,492</u>	<u>434</u>	<u>(547)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,379</u>
	<u>49,490</u>	<u>8,121</u>	<u>(1,654)</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>55,964</u>
Year ended 30 December 2022					
	Balance 1 Jan £	Funds Added £	Funds Used £	Funds Transferred £	Balance 31 Dec £
Window restoration fund	21,255	9,499	-	482	31,236
Path restoration fund	4,491	-	-	-	4,491
Bell fund	341	300	-	348	989
Visitors' Centre	1,682	-	(955)	108	835
Agency collections	614	7,520	(7,687)	-	447
Music fund	-	11,750	(258)	-	11,492
Book fund	-	938	-	(938)	-
	<u>28,383</u>	<u>30,007</u>	<u>(8,900)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,490</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CROWLAND

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

3 FUND COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
RECEIPTS			
Voluntary Income			
Gift Aid Donations	7,730	300	8,030
Income tax recovered	3,224	-	3,224
Open plate collections at all services	3,390	1,429	4,819
Donations	6,898	-	6,898
Legacies	-	11,750	11,750
Collections for other causes	-	7,520	7,520
	<u>21,242</u>	<u>20,999</u>	<u>42,241</u>
Fundraising			
Flower Festival	1,689	-	1,689
Bookstall	5,385	938	6,323
Other fundraising activities	12,499	8,070	20,569
	<u>19,573</u>	<u>9,008</u>	<u>28,581</u>
Income from investments			
Dividends and interest	927	-	927
Income from church activities			
Fees	12,191	-	12,191
Other income	2,207	-	2,207
	<u>14,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,398</u>
Other income			
VAT recovered	1,066	-	1,066
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>57,206</u>	<u>30,007</u>	<u>87,213</u>
PAYMENTS			
Church Activities			
Ministry: Diocesan parish share	21,500	-	21,500
Church running and maintenance	5,310	258	5,568
Power	6,902	-	6,902
Insurance	6,648	-	6,648
Fees for organist, choir bell ringers, etc	130	-	130
Major restoration work	1,498	-	1,498
Visitor's Centre	-	955	955
Administration costs	940	-	940
Independent examiner fees	552	-	552
	<u>43,480</u>	<u>1,213</u>	<u>44,693</u>
Fundraising Costs			
Fundraising Costs	257	-	257
Bookstall Costs	2,868	-	2,868
	<u>3,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,125</u>
Other outgoings			
Collections for other causes	-	7,687	7,687
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>46,605</u>	<u>8,900</u>	<u>55,505</u>