

Friends of Thistleton Church

Charity registration number: 1167538

Trustees' Annual Report

Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report

for the period April 6th 2020 to April 5th 2021

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are

- 1) For the benefit of the public, to maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve and enhance the fabric of St Nicholas' Church, Main Street, Thistleton, Rutland; its monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments and other chattels and its churchyard.
- 2) To advance the education of the public in the heritage of the church and the local area by providing information on its history and architecture.

Main Activities in relation to the objectives

- Raising funds, receiving donations and applying for grants and donations;
- Applying funds to carry out the work of the charity;
- Providing practical support to support the upkeep of the building and its grounds
- Ensuring that all projects meet the requirements of all statutory obligations;
- Co-operating with and supporting other charities with similar purposes.

Trustee's statement in respect of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit

In setting its objectives and planning for activities, the charity Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. In their view the charity meets, in full, the criteria to satisfy the requirement. The Trustees' Annual Report describes the activities undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Policy on grant making: The charity does not award grants

Contribution of volunteers: The charity does not employ any paid staff. All activities are carried out by unpaid volunteers.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO governed by the conditions set out in its constitution. Trustees are elected by the membership of the Friends of Thistleton Church at the annual general meeting. The constitution allows for between three and eight elected trustees. Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. During the year, the trustees may appoint up to two additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM. The Parochial Church Council of Cottesmore with Burley and Thistleton is responsible in law for the church building and services but day-to-day management is delegated to the charity.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Thistleton Church
Other name the charity uses	FOTC
Registered charity number	1167538
Charity's principal address	c/o Old Orchard, Main Street, Thistleton, Rutland LE15 7RE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Hannah Barclay	Chair
Beverley Hancock	Treasurer
Patrick Hughes	Trustee
Susan Hughes	Trustee

Achievements and Performance

Repairs and building works

We were therefore delighted to receive grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Rutland Historic Churches Trust to enable planned repairs and improvements to the church building to be carried out. Between April and September 2020 the Collyweston roof of the nave and the vestry was re-slatted. When it became evident that Covid 19 would close the church building to the general public for some time, we commissioned the contractors to carry out the internal work too: rotted wooden pew platforms were removed, a stone floor was laid to the exposed areas, energy efficient central heating was installed and plaster damaged by historic water ingress was repaired.

Events

The charity's finances are dependent on fundraising and donations but Covid 19 meant that fundraising events were virtually impossible last year. None of our usual events were possible. The Saturday Café re-opened as soon as possible in July but closed after ten weeks as infections rapidly rose in the area. "Cakeaway" was launched at the beginning of March when only takeaway hospitality was allowed and was a great success.

Church services

Covid 19 wrecked the pattern of church services. Even after the lifting of the first lockdown, many churches across the county, including the ones in our benefice, did not return to a normal service programme all year. At Thistleton the only services were the Patronal Feast (6th December) and Christmas Day. FOTC did what it could to raise spirits at Christmas by organising outdoor carol singing around a beautifully decorated Christmas tree donated by supporters.

Heritage Project

A major condition of the NLHF grant is that the charity carries out a three year project to promote community and public interest in the history and heritage of the church and local area. This is in keeping with our charitable objectives. Although the pandemic delayed events, research work has progressed well.

Thanks

The Friends of Thistleton Church is fortunate to have a number of supporters and hardworking volunteers, and a committed group of trustees who turn their hands to anything that is needed to keep the building open for the benefit of the community. Collectively they help with fundraising, carrying out various tasks and much of their work has also helped to keep up spirits during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who contributes in some way. Without them there would be no FOTC and the church building would close.

Financial Review

The charity's only sources of funding are fundraising activities, donations and grants. The Covid 19 pandemic meant that hardly any of the charity's usual fundraising activities could take place. Fortunately the limited income for general running costs was sufficient to cover costs which were also lower than usual. Grants from the NLHF and RHCPT, in addition to monies raised in previous years, were sufficient to cover all capital costs. Funds remaining in the heritage account are allocated to the remaining two years of the Heritage Project.

It is the charity's policy to hold in reserve sufficient funds to cover one year's running costs to ensure that the charity can meet its financial obligations in the face of unexpected events – like a pandemic. Because of Covid 19, the charity ended the year with approximately four months of running costs in the General Fund. The Charity is confident that it will build up funds once normal activities can be resumed as Covid 19 subsides. The heritage project and a planned Music Festival is expected to bring in additional income.

Financial Summary for Year Ending 05.04.21

Opening balance 06.04.20	28,220.64
Plus Income 06.04.20 - 5.04.2021	121,732.96
Less Expenditure 06.04.20 - 05.04.21	122,655.84
Closing Balance 05.04.21	27,297.76

C/F to 2021-2022

General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,284.86
Heritage Fund (Restricted)	13,642.90
Development Fund: WC and servery extension (Restricted)	8,800.00
Music Festival (Restricted)	3,570.00

Income	Year ending 05.04.21	Year ending 05.04.20
Donations	978.90	5,821.47
HMRC Gift Aid refunds	835.43	673.23
Grants	118,175.11	3,330.52
Fundraising	1,743.52	5,774.70
Totals	121,732.96	15,599.92

Expenditure

Church Insurance	1,208.32	1,223.77
FOTC Insurance	260.38	255.12
Electricity	1,264.41	600.71
Consumables	20.00	72.00
Christmas activities	0	178.78
Equipment	0	351.05
Maintenance and minor repairs	454.00	415.80
Development and major repairs	119,448.73	5,292.34
	122,655.84	8,389.57

Declarations

I declare that the trustees have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Signature
Full name Beverley Hancock
Position Trustee and Treasurer
Date February 2nd 2022



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
FRIENDS OF THISTLETON CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

5th APRIL 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1167538

Set out on pages

A

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: J C Beckett

Date: 31-1-22

Name: JOHN GRAHAM BECKETT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address: 44 TYNE ROAD

OAKHAM

RUTLAND LE15 6ST.