

**The Orthodox Christian Community of
St Constantine the Great, York**

**Trustees Annual Report
for the period
1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023**

Charity number 1201173

Structure Governance & Management

Charities principal address: 31 Keble Park Crescent
Bishopthorpe, York
YO23 2SY

Names of Trustees that served during the year:

Rev Michael Alexander – Chair
Christopher Bennigsen – Secretary
Stephen Nendick – Treasurer
Melissa Bryan
Natalia Dowding
Rev David Hoskin

Safeguarding Officer – Peter Comley

The Orthodox Christian Community of St Constantine the Great, York (St Constantine's) is a CIO with a Foundation Constitution whose trustees are appointed by members. The trustees meet quarterly, while the Church Council convenes more frequently for practical discussions and decision-making. The Council consists of the Trustees and an additional six elected members.

We take safeguarding very seriously. Our Safeguarding Officer ensures that all Trustees, as well as congregation members in positions of responsibility, are DBS checked (as required) and remain up to date with regular safeguarding training. The Trustees are notified of any safeguarding concerns, and any relevant outcomes.

Objectives

The objectives of St Constantine's are to promote the Orthodox Christian faith; to advance Orthodox Christian education; to sustain the well-being of the Orthodox Christian community in York and the surrounding area; to assist in the relief of poverty locally, nationally and internationally; to support other charitable objectives as the trustees may from time to time decide.

Activities and Achievements

Weekly Sunday Eucharist services were held throughout the year, augmented by mid-week prayer services once per month and special services to mark Liturgical feasts. The average attendance at Sunday services increased from 30 to 40, while mid-week attendance increased from 3 to 12, largely due to student members. Our current membership consists of 103 adults and 32 children.

Educational classes were held throughout the year for 'catechumens', i.e. those preparing for sacramental reception into the Orthodox Church. We had eight catechumens in the year, of which two were baptised, while the others continued their instruction into 2024. In addition, we baptised two infants.

We had 2 successful parish pilgrimages, to Crowland and Hibaldstow. These gave us the opportunity to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with other parishes in our diocese.

There were opportunities for the congregation to be involved in talks and discussion groups during the year. The children performed a Nativity Play on Christmas Eve which was enjoyed by all. We are hopeful that our children's provision will grow in 2024.

During Lent, we collected items and cash for Carecent and the York Foodbank, encouraging the congregation to contribute when coming to services. This was a tangible way to help those in our city.

We were delighted to assist in the opening of our Mission Parish in Scunthorpe which started weekly services in September 2023. They have grown in numbers and are blessing the community there.

Financial Review

We do not receive any external funds. We rely on donations from our congregation. During 2023 we were successfully able to launch a planned giving initiative, replacing our weekly collection plate. This saw an increase in

planned giving of around £700 per month – most of which is tax-efficient giving.

Our income increased 50% from 2022 to £15,000, while expenditure remained similar to 2022. This resulted in a surplus of nearly £6000. As we have no overheads and do not employ any staff or clergy, our biggest outgoing is our parish share to the diocese. This equates to 15% of our income.

Our reserves policy equates to £8,000. We finished the year with reserves of £22,000. Therefore the Trustees have recommended that a portion of this is moved into a designated building fund to help us purchase our own building.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Michael Alexander, Chair

17/02/2024

Melissa Bryan, Trustee

17/02/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF
ST CONSTANTINE THE GREAT, YORK

No (if any)
1201173

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Planned Giving	7,078	-	-	7,078	3,055
Collections at services	5,866	-	-	5,866	4,389
Candles	662	-	-	662	687
Other Donations	320	-	-	320	954
Gift Aid recovered	-	-	-	-	-
Trading Income	150	-	-	150	90
Investment Interest	230	-	-	230	26
Specific Charity Donations	252	-	-	252	461
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,558	-	-	14,558	9,662
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,558	-	-	14,558	9,662
A3 Payments					
Parish Share	1,818	-	-	1,818	1,190
Clergy Costs	243	-	-	243	459
Premise Hire	110	-	-	110	66
Mission Giving and Donations	560	-	-	560	845
Church running expenses	2,655	-	-	2,655	2,669
Administrative	2,116	-	-	2,116	958
Other Expenses	1,154	-	-	1,154	1,232
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,656	-	-	8,656	7,419
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,656	-	-	8,656	7,419
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,902	-	-	5,902	2,243
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,211	-	-	16,211	13,968
Cash funds this year end	22,113	-	-	22,113	16,211

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank current account	9,321	-	
	Deposit Account	12,792	-	
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	22,113	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Michael Alexander	17/02/2024	
		Melissa Bryan	17/02/2024	