

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

**Trustees Annual Report
for the period
1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024**

Charity number 1201173

Structure Governance & Management

Names of Trustees that served during the year:

Rev Michael Alexander – Chair

Christopher Bennigsen – Secretary

Stephen Nendick – Treasurer (until February 2024)

Melissa Bryan - Treasurer (from February 2024)

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 and its trustees are appointed by members. The trustees meet quarterly and in between those meetings the Church Council meets to deal with operational discussions and decisions. The Council consists of all Trustees plus six elected members.

We take safeguarding very seriously and our Safeguarding Officer ensures that all Trustees and relevant congregation members are DBS checked and are up to date with their 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

Church Services

Sunday services consisting of Parish Matins and the Divine Liturgy were held usually on Sunday mornings. The exceptions to this from Sunday 23rd June to Sunday 6th October when Fr. Michael Alexander underwent heart surgery, followed by convalescence. During this period Sunday worship continued but was led by the Fr. Dn. David Hoskin and the Sub-Deacons and Readers. Occasional visits were made by priests from neighbouring parishes on some Saturday mornings during this period to offer Divine Liturgy with communion for those who were in need. From 13th October to 15th December the Divine Liturgy was served on alternate Sundays, with Fr. Michal's return to partial parish duties. The regular Sunday cycle began again from 22nd December.

The Sub-Deacons and Readers also continued the regular monthly evening services during this period. The annual feasts of the Church were also observed, either by the priest, when available, or by the junior clergy.

Despite this, the weekly average attendance on Sundays held steady at 41 people (32 adults and 9 children). Attendance at the monthly evening service also stayed steady at 10-15 people. Our registered membership at the end of 2024 was 122 adults and 33 children.

Education and Development

Classes for those seeking membership of the church (catechumens) continued, overseen by the two Readers. Two adults and two children were baptized during the year.

Parish pilgrimages were somewhat curtailed this year because of the parish priest's hospitalization. However some members did manage to join parishioners from the Antiochian parish in Scunthorpe on their annual pilgrimage to Hibaldstow.

Thanks to the efforts of the Readers our programme of talks and discussion groups continued during the year.

Children's Activities

The children again performed a Nativity Play on Christmas Eve which was enjoyed by all. The development in our provision of activities for children on Sunday also grew in 2024, with a very energetic Sunday School led by Mrs Katherine Melissa Bryan and Mrs Naomi Bennigsen.

Charitable Activities

We had a number of collections for the York Homeless Charity, Carecent, during the Year; with donations in food and cash. We have given financial support to some parishioners who have been experiencing temporary hardship during this period, in accordance with the constitution of the Parish Trust.

Financial Review

We do not receive any external funds. We rely on donations from our congregation.

Our total income for 2024 was £23,735, which is an increase of £9,177 from 2023. The biggest driver for this increase was the £4,897 we were able to claim in Gift Aid. Even though Planned giving and collections at services were only £1,000 more combined, the switch from cash collections to planned giving allowed for the large Gift Aid claim. We also had over £2,000 of other donations from weddings and funerals.

Expenditure was £11,285, which was £2,629 more than 2023. Our Parish Share to the Diocese increased in line with the additional income received in 2024. Our mission giving and donations increased by £1,506.

This left us with a surplus of £12,450 at the end of the year.

The 2025 calendar which Fr Dn Christopher produced sold 143 copies this year which was double the previous year. Most of that increase was sales to the other parishes in the diocese. We made a profit of over £900, of which half was given away.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy equates to £8,000. At the end of 2024, our cash reserve was £34,563, with £25,000 being designated for our Building Fund.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Michael Alexander, Chair

07/05/2025

Melissa Bryan, Treasurer

07/05/2025



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	To	Period end date
	1/1/2024		31/12/2024

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	12,383	-	-	12,383	7,078
Collections at services	1,563	-	-	1,563	5,866
Candles	769	-	-	769	662
Other Donations	2,042	-	-	2,042	320
Gift Aid recovered	4,897	-	-	4,897	-
Trading Income	1,420	-	-	1,420	150
Investment Interest	429	-	-	429	230
Specific Charity Donations		232	-	232	252
Sub total	23,503	232	-	23,735	14,558
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,503	232	-	23,735	14,558
A3 Payments					
Parish Share	2,390	-	-	2,390	1,818
Clergy Costs	501	-	-	501	243
Premise Hire	75	-	-	75	110
Mission Giving and Donations	1,834	232	-	2,066	560
Church running expenses	2,938	-	-	2,938	2,655
Administrative	1,812	-	-	1,812	2,116
Other Expenses	901	-	-	901	1,154
Cost of Raising Funds	602	-	-	602	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total	11,053	232	-	11,285	8,656
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,053	232	-	11,285	8,656
Net of receipts/(payments)	12,450	-	-	12,450	5,902
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,113	-	-	22,113	16,211
Cash funds this year end	34,563	-	-	34,563	22,113

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	11,342	-	
	Deposit Account	23,221	-	
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	34,563	-	-
	(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	7/5/2025	
		Melissa Bryan	7/5/2025	