



## Parish of Thrapston and Islip



Annual Reports and Financial Statements for 2023

Presented to the APCM on

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

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# Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of Thrapston and Islip.

**St James Church, Thrapston, 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Appoint a clerk to the meeting.
2. Receive apologies for absence and note attendance.
3. Receive the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners.
4. Elect four churchwardens for the parish of Thrapston and Islip.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

5. Confirm apologies for absence and note attendance.
6. Receive the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
7. Receive the electoral roll report for the parish of Thrapston and Islip.
8. Receive the 2023 Financial Statements and Reports.
9. Appoint an independent examiner of the church accounts for 2024.
10. Receive the PCC and activities reports for Thrapston and Islip, together with any questions arising from the reports.
11. Elect four members to the PCC of Thrapston and Islip.
12. Elect three members to the Deanery Synod as representatives of Thrapston and Islip.
13. Receive a reflection from the Rector with a chance for attendees to ask questions.
14. Consider items of any other business brought to the meeting.

# Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of Thrapston and Islip.

St James Church, Thrapston, 7.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## Annual Meeting of Parishioners

**1. Appoint a clerk to the meeting.**

Mrs Jan Jousiffe was appointed and thanked for her work as PCC secretary.

**2. Receive apologies for absence and note attendance.**

Those in attendance were: Revd Nolan Robson, Frank Jenkins, Chris Jenkins, John McGill, Fiona McGill, Sarah Pickles, June Davy, Sue Couves, Lesley Baden, Joy Farey-Wood, Jan Jousiffe, Viv Bull, Mary Barnard, Alison Byrnes, Janis Petersons, Suzanne Thurlow, Elizabeth Cox, Philip Pike, Mark Palmer, James Wilford, Jason Royce, Paul Dowling, Thresa Scholtz, Gerry Scholtz.

Apologies were received from: John Pickles, Stuart Barnard, Jeanne Pike, Ray Banner, Ruth Banner, Chris Hurn, Jean Fouhy.

**3. Receive the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of Parishioners of both St James Thrapston and St Nicholas Islip.**

These had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. No comments were made and the minutes were duly received.

**4. Receive the minutes of the 2022 Special Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens to the Parish of Thrapston and Islip.**

These had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. No comments were made and the minutes were duly received.

**5. Elect four churchwardens for the parish of Thrapston, St James.**

Thanks were given to June Davy and a gift presented for serving as Churchwarden of Thrapston from the 2017 APCM through to the SPCM of November 2022. Since then she had trained and supported the New Churchwardens as they took on responsibility.

Four nominations were received for the post of churchwarden. Therefore, Sue Couves, James Wilford, Jan Colson and Sarah Pickles were duly elected.

Nolan prayed giving thanks for the churchwardens and concluded the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**6. Confirm apologies for absence and note attendance.**

These were confirmed to be the same as for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**7. Receive the minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting of both St James Thrapston and St Nicholas Islip.**

These had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. No comments were made and the minutes were duly received.

**8. Receive the minutes of the 2022 Special Parochial Church Meeting for the parish of Thrapston and Islip.**

These had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. No comments were made and the minutes were duly received.

**9. Receive the electoral roll report for the parish of Thrapston and Islip.**

John Pickles pointed people towards his Electoral Roll Report in the Annual Report and confirmed that since the November Special Parochial Church Meeting, 1 person who was previously on the electoral roll had died and 1 new person had joined the roll. Thus, the Electoral Roll stood unchanged at 111. Nolan thanked John Pickles for his work.

**10. Receive the 2022 Financial Statements and Reports for the former parishes of Thrapston and Islip.**

Fiona McGill presented the accounts included in the Annual Report, drawing attention to key points. She noted that these would be the last set of separate Thrapston and Islip accounts, because the finances of the parish were now merged and future accounts would reflect that. In response to questions, Fiona confirmed that restricted funds of each church would remain restricted to their given purpose in that church.

Fiona noted that Parish Share was the largest expenditure and she reminded those present that it reflected the real costs of having a Rector in post, plus a contribution towards the cost of training the next Rector. It was a priority to pay this and should be the responsibility of the congregation to cover this through regular giving.

Nolan thanked Fiona for the enormous amount of work she puts in to stewarding the church's finances and producing the accounts.

**11. Appoint an independent examiner of the church accounts for 2023.**

Fiona McGill proposed that Paul Adams be appointed to examine the 2023 accounts and this was agreed unanimously by those present.

**12. Receive the PCC and activities reports for Thrapston and Islip, together with any questions arising from the reports.**

These were duly received without questions.

**13. Elect 4 members to the PCC of Thrapston and Islip.**

Nolan apologised for the error of judgement he had made in thinking the November 2022 SPCM election results could simply be carried through the 2023 APCM. Having

rechecked the CofE regulations it had become clear that new elections were required and therefore the date of the 2023 APCM had been changed from 26<sup>th</sup> April to the 10<sup>th</sup> May to allow the necessary time to advertise the elections correctly.

Four nominations for membership on the PCC had been received, therefore: Mark Palmer, Suzanne Thurlow, Janis Petersons and Mary Barnard were duly elected onto the PCC for a three year term. Thanks were given for Rachael Wilford who had served on PCC since the November SPCM but had chosen not to re-stand.

Nolan prayed giving thanks for the PCC.

**6. Elect 3 members to the Deanery Synod as representatives of Thrapston and Islip.**

No nominations had been received, therefore all three seats remain vacant.

**7. Receive a reflection from the Rector with a chance for attendees to ask questions.**

Nolan gave thanks to God for a year in which the church properly emerged from the pandemic restrictions to grow in faith and number. He also reflected on how exhausting it had been for him and many in the congregation, to re-launch, re-organise and re-start so many areas of ministry. For Nolan the most significant moments of the year had both related to the Queen. First the celebratory Jubilee Service with breakfast, then later in the year, the honour of leading the congregation and many across the town in marking the Queen's death.

Other significant happenings to note included Viv Bull's licensing as Lay Reader and the circus themed Charter Fair stall, at which gospel flyers were handed out explaining why Jesus is a bit like a tent. The confirmation service had also been very special as 10 candidates from the benefice took a step forward in their commitment to Jesus.

Looking forwards to 2023, Nolan was excited about the arrival of Andy Stilwell, who will serve as curate within the benefice as he is trained. Nolan was also pleased to announce that he and the churchwardens had started the process of forming a vision plan for the next three years and this would be developed in association with the PCC and wider congregation over the course of 2023.

However, whilst there was plenty to rejoice about locally, Nolan explained there was much to be concerned about nationally. This is because the storm clouds seemed to be gathering with regards to the Church of England's ongoing plans to bless same sex marriage, contrary to God's clear word on the matter. Therefore Nolan explained some of the possible outcomes, based on whether significant provision is made for churches and ministers who believe such blessings would be ungodly. He concluded by questioning whether his next job would be in the Church of England, but reassured the congregation he was not going anywhere yet.

Nolan then responded to questions including one about home groups and another about the church directory.

**8. Consider items of any other business brought to the meeting.**

There were no further items of business so the meeting closed in prayer.

# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2023

## Administrative Information

The Parish of Thrapston and Islip came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 following a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. It united the formerly separate parishes of Thrapston and Islip into a single parish now known as The Parish of Thrapston and Islip. The united parish remains part of a benefice which includes the Parish of Denford. It belongs to the archdeaconry of Oakham and the deanery of Oundle and is located in the Church of England Diocese of Peterborough.

The correspondence address is: The Rectory, 48 Oundle Road, Thrapston, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN14 4PD.

## PCC members who served during 2023 were:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Incumbent:        | Revd Nolan Robson (from 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016)  |
| Assistant Curate: | Revd Andrew (Andy) Stilwell (from 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2023)   |
| Churchwardens:    | Miss Janice Colson<br>Mrs Sarah Pickles<br>Mr James Wilford<br>Mrs Susan Couves   |
| Deanery Synod:    | 3 vacant seats  |
| Elected Members:  | Mr Jason Royce (Nov 2022 - 2024 APCM)<br>Mrs Janet Jousiffe (Nov 2022 - 2024 APCM)<br>Mr John Pickles (Nov 2022 - 2024 APCM)<br>Mrs Vivienne Bull (Nov 2022 - 2024 APCM)<br>Mrs Joy Farey- Wood (Nov 2022 - 2025 APCM)<br>Mrs Theresa Scholtz (Nov 2022 - 2025 APCM)<br>Mrs June Davy (Nov 2022 - 2025 APCM)<br>Mrs Fiona McGill (Nov 2022 - 2025 APCM)<br>Mr Mark Palmer (Nov 2022 - 2023 APCM, re-elected - 2026)<br>Mrs Suzanne Thurlow (Nov 2022 - 2023 APCM, re-elected - 2026)<br>Mrs Rachael Wilford (Nov 2022 - 2023 APCM)<br>Mr Janis Petersons (Nov 2022 - 2023 APCM, re-elected - 2026)<br>Mrs Mary Barnard (2023 APCM - 2026) |

The PCC met six times in 2023, all were scheduled meetings.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The 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 Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

## **Objectives and Activities**

Thrapston and Islip PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Nolan Robson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, church hall and churchyard of St James Thrapston, together with the church building and churchyard of St Nicholas Islip and the allotment land on Lowick Road in Islip.

## **PCC Report of Church activities during the Year 2023**

Below were some of the features, changes and highlights from throughout the year.

- The year began with a sermon series on: How Jesus Regarded Scripture, based on various passages in Matthews Gospel. This was then followed by a sermon series on: How Scripture Regards Sex, which sought to outline a Biblical understanding of sex and sexuality. This was designed to help the congregation think through matters relating to the CofE's plans to effectively bless and celebrate same sex sexual activity.
- St Nicholas Islip remained closed to worship for the first two months of the year. This was due to the boiler being broken. Following successful repair, weekly Sunday worship was able to resume in March.
- A traditional Ash Wednesday service was held at St Nicholas Islip to mark the start of Lent.
- Tuesday Communion Services took place throughout the year in association with the Tuesday Together Coffee Morning. Morning Prayer Services were conducted by Readers when the Rector wasn't available. Sermons at Communion Services continued to work through Mark's Gospel to its conclusion, then started on Matthew's Gospel.
- In Family Services throughout the year the story of Moses was explored. The series started with the baby in the basket and went on to reveal how God rescued his people from Pharaoh and slavery in Egypt. The series concluded in early 2024 with the people of God gathered at Mount Sinai.

- A Lent Course was held on Sunday evenings at which a series of Church of England Evangelical Council videos were watched and discussed in the light of scripture. They included topics like: What are God's values when it comes to sex and marriage? can Christians agree to disagree about the morality of same sex sexual activity? as well as, what is going on in the Church of England and why?
- On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a service was held in St James Thrapston, to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer.
- On Maundy Thursday a children's Easter Workshop was held with families coming to sing, hear teaching and do Easter themed crafts together.
- A children's art competition was organised in the lead up to Easter. Winners were announced during the Easter Day Service in St James and all the entries were publicly displayed in the windows of the church hall.
- A Good Friday reflective service took place in St James Thrapston.
- An outdoor dawn service was held on Easter morning in the churchyard of St Nicholas Islip, followed by breakfast at St James before the 9.30am communion service.
- A Coronation themed Family Service was held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April followed by a coronation bring and share lunch in St James.
- During the spring a leaders' training course was run on Sunday evenings to train up current and future small-group and home-group leaders.
- During June, Marylin Percy (a Reader in training) came and did a month-long placement in the parish to gain experience and receive training.
- From May to July Sunday sermons were generally based on Paul's first letter to Timothy. During the series questions of how to be a Christlike church and how to spot Christlike leaders were addressed.
- Adrian Ringrose was appointed Inspecting Architect of St Nicholas Islip due to the retirement of John Barker. Adrian was already Inspecting Architect of St James.
- JAMES Club was split into two, due to the increasing number of children. KS2 children became JAMES Club Plus, which started meeting at the Rectory, whilst KS1 children continued to meet during Sunday services in the church hall as JAMES Club.
- The church ran a stall at the Islip Village Fete on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. It was a free to play skittle alley and it proved popular with families. It also gave the opportunity to give out gospel tracts and invite people to services.
- On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June refreshments were served in St James during Charter Fair. The church also ran a stall on the High Street, which was a free to play game involving toy animals in a bag. This also gave the opportunity to give out gospel tracts and invite people to services.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July the church family welcomed Andy Stilwell (Assistant Curate) and his family with an afternoon tea in St James. He comes to serve in the church for three years as he prepares for incumbency.



- The Civic Service for Thrapston was held in St James Church on the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup> July. It was attended by the Mayor of Thrapston, councillor Craig Wilcox, along with his guests.
- June Davy was appointed to the newly agreed role of Pastoral Coordinator. She will be responsible for helping to co-ordinate pastoral work and pastoral visiting.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July an afternoon service was held to celebrate St James Day. It was followed by a celebratory cream tea. The service had originally been planned for outside but was forced inside due to weather.
- A three year Vision Strategy was developed by the PCC to clarify which ministry developments and practical aims to focus on in the coming years.
- A letter was drafted and sent to the acting Bishop of Peterborough expressing the PCCs concern about the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith and that the Church of England is heading away from Biblical faithfulness.
- On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September there was a co-ordinated Meet at The Beach with many members of the congregation getting together for a day at Old Hunstanton. The day concluded with fish and chips.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> September, both St James and St Nicholas welcomed riders and striders who were taking part in the annual Historic Churches Ride and Stride.
- On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September a special service was held, called Feedback Sunday. It was an extended service during which everyone had the opportunity to feedback on various aspects of church life and suggest improvements. These comments and proposals were subsequently reviewed by the PCC to agree a set of actions.
- Related to the Feedback Sunday, a short sermon series was delivered in September. It was titled the 'Church we want to be,' and during the series we explored Bible passages which addressed the topics of worship, commitment and maturity.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 6@StNics was launched, which was a new style of service seeking to reach a new group of people. It aims to be a weekly service at 6.00pm on Sunday evenings in St Nicholas Islip, including lively worship music, Bible teaching and an opportunity to chat about the teaching and ask questions. The launch evening included a gathering round the fire pit to toast s'mores.
- Following a PCC decision, the Sunday morning services at St Nicholas Islip were reduced to twice per month from October.
- A Harvest Festival Family Service was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October in St James, followed in the afternoon by a barn dance in the church building with a bring and share supper.
- During October and November the church family were taught from John chapters 2-4 in the Sunday sermons. It was a series that considered the new life and new way of life that Jesus gives his people.
- As a Halloween alternative, a Light Party was held in St James with glow in the dark bowling taking place in the hall along with games, teaching and hotdogs in the church.

- St James hosted the Thrapston Town Remembrance service during the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday and there was also a 6@StNics Remembrance Service held in Islip.
- Christmas flyers, inviting people to services and events, were delivered to every letterbox in the parish by members of the congregation.
- On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November St James held a Christmas Craft Workshop to co-ordinate with the town lights switch on. A variety of Christmas crafts were available to make and refreshments were on offer from the servery.
- A Christmas Tree Festival was held in St Nicholas over the first weekend in December. The theme was 'My favourite Book' and there was an impressive display of decorated trees. The weekend concluded with a 6@StNics carol service in a contemporary style.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas visits were held for all the Primary School year groups. The time of teaching, singing and games was conducted in the church hall because the heating boiler in St James was broken. However, craft was still done in the cold church. There was also a visit to Nursery at the school, where the Christmas story was taken to them.
- An atmospheric Saturday evening carol service was held in St James Thrapston on the weekend before Christmas. There was also a traditional carol service for the Rotary Club held during the week.
- On Christmas Eve there was a lively Crib Service in St James, followed by a well attended Carols by Candlelight in St Nicholas Islip. A Midnight Communion was held in St James and on Christmas Day, communion services were held in both churches.
- Throughout the year monthly Communion Services took place at Clanfield Residential Care Home in Islip and during the autumn, services were also held at Hermitage House Care Home in Thrapston.
- Six assemblies for Key Stage 1 and six assemblies for Key Stage 2 were delivered at Thrapston Primary School during the year.
- During 2023 there were nine baptisms conducted in the parish, one of which was an adult. All the parents and the adult candidate were taken through a baptism preparation course in advance.
- During 2023 there was one wedding conducted in the parish, this was at St Nicholas, Islip.
- During 2023 there were six funerals held across both church buildings, plus six funerals taken at the crematorium. There were also six burials of cremated remains conducted on separate occasions.

## Financial Review for 2023

This report covers the accounts for the first year of the new parish of Thrapston and Islip, so it is not possible to make comparisons with the accounts of previous years. Full details of the finances of the parish can be found in the Financial Statements.

Total receipts to unrestricted funds amounted to just over £94,000, of which approximately £57,000 came from congregational giving and almost £14,000 came from Gift Aid recovered.

Regular giving from the congregation comes largely through the Parish Giving Scheme which is administered on behalf of the Church of England with Gift Aid tax recovered being paid directly to the parish, automatically each month.

One-off donations, hire of St James Hall and fundraising activities also contributed to our income.

We were pleased to be able to pay our parish share of just over £60,000 in full by the end of the year as this was by no means certain earlier in the year.

The costs of gas and electricity have been significant during the year but it is difficult to analyse these in detail as both the companies who provide the supplies do not collect the charges on a regular basis each month.

Monies held in the investment funds are restricted funds which can only be used for specific purposes.

**Full details can be found in the Financial Statements at the end of the report.**

*Fiona McGill*

## St James Electoral Roll Report

Since the last APCM, 4 people who were previously on the electoral roll have either died or moved away, and 9 new people have joined the roll. Thus, the Electoral Roll now stands at 116, which is 5 more than last year.

*John Pickles, Electoral Roll Officer*

## Churchwarden Team Report

2023 has been the first full year in our roles as church wardens. We continue to be grateful for the honour that our Church family has given us to serve the Parish of St James & St Nicholas, and for their continued support. Our roles are many but our key tasks are to support Nolan & Andy as well as ensuring that our prayer and worship during services is organised, our buildings are inspected and are safe and that any risk assessments are completed to ensure that special events and regular ones meet the needs of children and vulnerable adults.

Our thanks continue to go to Nolan & Andy and to Fiona McGill for their support in our roles.

At least one of our team is on hand at each Sunday service and each of us has continued to take the lead for certain areas listed below, but we hope we have remained flexible in our approach with a “can do” attitude when things are thrown our way.

Sarah Pickles: Monthly service rota and safeguarding

Sue Couves and Jan Colson: Minor offices including funerals and baptisms

James Wilford: Energy, buildings and fabric

2023 saw many events taking place across our Parish, which are listed within the APCM report, and although coordination of these events is our responsibility, we continue to be blessed by the generosity of our Church family to work in both churches to offer their support, and to encourage the spread of the Good News at all events. Following the merger of St Nicholas Islip and St James Thrapston, a significant amount of time has been devoted to the challenge of supporting St Nicholas Islip and encouraging spiritual growth there.

As we look ahead to 2024, we pray for continued growth across our Parish and give thanks to our Lord for his many blessings and look forward to continuing our service to him in the knowledge that our wonderful Parish is held firmly within his caring hands.

During the last year there have been a number of changes at St Nicholas Church Islip. Due to diminishing membership of the congregation and financial constraints the 11.15am service has been reduced to 2 services a month and is now held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Recently numbers have remained steady.

In September “6 @ St Nic’s” a modern service of praise, teaching and opportunity for reflective discussion was introduced. This service is popular with those who attend and provides opportunities for others who have roles within the morning worship which take them away from the main body of the church, to concentrate on their own spiritual needs.

The timing of this service allows for refreshments and further fellowship when the formal service is over. The annual Christmas tree festival, a popular event for the church and village was held in December when a warm welcome was extended to many visitors. The three-day event ended with a Sunday evening Carol service amongst the Christmas trees.

Churchyard Maintenance in Islip is done by Emery Grounds and Garden Maintenance, who cut the grass from Spring to Autumn and Nicholas Daniels who cuts the hedges and takes care of the flowerpots on the steps from the lych-gate. Recently Nicholas has done some sterling work on the bushes and small trees in the area at the front of the church allowing light in and a clear view from the road.

*Sarah Pickles, Sue Couves, Jan Colson and James Wilford*

## **Fabric Reports for St James Thrapston and St Nicholas Islip**

Our buildings provide wonderful places to worship as well as atmospheric venues for seasonal events and performances. They also remain at the centre of our communities providing a space for outreach with Saturday morning coffee and Tuesday together as well as support for young families and their children with Praise and Play toddler group at St James.

We are truly blessed to have so many volunteers willing to serve at these events and so grateful to the cleaning teams in Thrapston and Islip who keep our buildings so clean and tidy.

2023 wasn't however, without its share of challenges for our buildings, some of which, praise the Lord, were resolved, others which weren't (at least not yet), and will require further investment both in time and money during 2024.

### **St James Church**

The recurring issue of water ingress in the top of the North Aisle wall continued along with intermittent dampness in the porch area from the tower - especially after downpours.

Owing to the limited number of specialist builders available, and their availability, it proved difficult to secure the services to rectify the problems during 2023. Following the quinquennials, we hope to be able to address these issues during 2024.

Another challenge we hope to address is the repair of the St James clock - Cumbrian Clock Company having attempted, unsuccessfully to rectify the problem on several occasions previously.

On a more positive note, we saw answer to prayer in the form of the repair of the St James church boiler which broke down 2 weeks prior to Christmas. Thanks to the dedicated heating engineers from Corvee Ltd, and a willingness to overcome difficulties such as broken replacement parts, the team were able to fix the boiler - meaning we had a warm church in time for the Christmas services.

We were doubly blessed when a member of the congregation made a generous donation to cover the cost of the repairs.

### **St James Church Hall**

Our venerable, well-loved church hall continued to provide us with a wonderful space for James Club and the various other groups during 2023, despite showing its age.

During the boiler issues, the church family squeezed into the hall for a couple of services - the hall providing a warm space from which Nolan and Andy were able to lead us in worship.

Subsequently, work has been carried out by Janis to secure the halls on going use into 2024.

### **St Nicholas Church**

As with St James, securing the services of specialist builders with experience in traditional stonework proved very difficult during 2023. To this end, the repairing of the churchyard retaining wall on School Lane was not possible, despite a builder having been commissioned. Our architect remains in contact with the builder and we hope to instigate these repairs during 2024.

Similar to St James, issues with the clock continued at Islip, with the Cumbrian clock company making several unsuccessful attempts at correcting a persistent fault, which as of the time of writing is yet to be resolved. This is another item we hope to address during 2024.

Much time was spent considering how best to improve the church building and facilities for future generations and further investigations regarding heating and beyond are expected to be progressed during this year.

Despite these challenges, St Nicholas continues to provide our communities with a wonderful, intimate location for worship. Several highlights for this church warden in 2023 being the Christmas tree festival, Carols by candlelight and the dawn Easter day service.

The introduction of '6@StNics' has also been a welcome addition to the Sunday services and has further expanded the buildings use. We thank God for the possibilities and opportunities that St Nicholas provides for outreach within the Islip community.

*Jamie Wilford*

## **Church Hall Report**

Despite its' increasing fragility, the church hall continues to be one of the few places in Thrapston where groups can meet on a regular basis and continues to be well used throughout the week by a variety of community groups serving all ages and interests.

The indoor craft market which runs on the first Saturday of the month is extremely popular, often overflowing onto the grass outside and Suzanne Thurlow has a long waiting list of stall holders hoping to participate.

On Sundays the hall is used by JAMES Club during the service with other groups kindly hosted in the Rectory and by the Smarts.

We continue to receive requests for one-off events including birthday parties and funeral teas though we are encouraging the latter to be in the church whenever possible as the ambiance and catering facilities are much better.

We are grateful to Margita Petersons and her family who keep the hall clean (and repaired) on a regular basis.

The hall also serves to provide toilet facilities, not only for hall users, but anyone using the church for services, concerts, coffee mornings and school visits.

The hall was a great asset when the church boiler broke down in December as we were still able to welcome Thrapston Primary school children into the warmth of the hall for songs, quiz and teaching over two days with the freezing church being used for just half an hour each session for craft activities.

The time will come however, when repairs are no longer viable and the hall needs to be completely replaced, hopefully with multiple rooms for use on Sunday mornings as well as a big hall.

*June Davy*

## Safeguarding Report for Thrapston & Islip

- All activities with children & young people take place at St James, Thrapston.
- The Parish adopts a safe recruitment policy which ensures that all those who volunteer with children & young people on behalf of the church are safely recruited. All readers and volunteers who work with children & young people have in date DBS certification.
- Peterborough Diocese requires all PCC members to have an enhanced DBS check, which is renewed every 3 years. The Diocese does not accept the validity of the Update service. Unfortunately, despite chasing, the PCC has not been able to fully meet the requirement that all members have an in date DBS and training certificate by the end of 2023.
- A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy will be signed by Nolan Robson (Incumbent) & Sarah Pickles (Parish Safeguarding Officer) on behalf of the PCC and will be displayed on Church Premises.
- It has been encouraging to see that any safeguarding concerns have been raised in the correct way during 2023.
- It has been encouraging to witness how conscientiously volunteers engage with the needs of our young people and vulnerable adults, particularly as the number of children engaging with activities has grown so much over the past year.
- The St James safeguarding policy is issued to all organisations who regularly hire the St James Church Hall and who do not have a safeguarding policy for their individual organisations.
- I am grateful to all our volunteers who respond to my requests for safeguarding paperwork & training certification.

*Sarah Pickles (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)*

## Curate's Report

- It has been a privilege to be warmly welcomed into the community of Thrapston, both for myself and my family. We have quickly settled into the rhythms and activities of St James, and the Christmas events were particularly special for our parents, who had missed participating in services during my training period.
- Navigating the responsibilities in a semi-rural parish has presented its challenges, but I am grateful to everyone who has supported me in understanding the intricacies of our benefice. Nolan and I have developed a collaborative leadership style and way of working, learning from and alongside each other.
- Some highlights and learning experiences include the successful launch of 6@StNics and the opportunity to lead various different forms of worship services. I've become more aware of the need to consider a broad range of expectations when planning services, especially during significant times like Christmas.

- As you read this report, I hope to have been signed off my first year as a deacon and be looking forward to my priesting service on July 14th. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as I continue to serve St James and the wider benefice.

*Andy Stilwell*

## **Readers**

There are three Readers in the Benefice, Joy Farey-Wood, Adrian Waring and Viv Bull. We have been trained for three years, (equivalent to 1 year's full time training at university plus practical assignments) and we take services and preach on a rota, usually in the village churches of Islip and Denford. On average, two a month are led by a Reader, and sometimes a Benefice service if Nolan is not available.

If there is a need for a Reader outside our Benefice, Joy and Adrian are able, with permission from Nolan, to help elsewhere. Sadly, without a car, I cannot. Joy took four services in the Ely Diocese last summer and another in a neighbouring parish. Adrian took two in Northampton and a Harvest Festival in a neighbouring parish. I led a number of Tuesday morning services in St James while Nolan was on holiday. Joy and I being retired are also able to take home communion to people who ask for it, if Nolan is unavailable. Being a Reader is a special ministry, and it is a real privilege to serve in this way.

*Viv Bull*

## **Pastoral Co-ordinator**

Being appointed Pastoral Co-ordinator for our parish is an immense privilege and is a role which is evolving as opportunities arise. The early months have included making contact with church members who for a variety of reasons are no longer able to join in with regular worship or events but would like to retain contact with the church family they have belonged to for many years. Feedback is already suggesting that people are pleased with the contact being offered, through cards, phone calls, visits and home communion. Attending baptisms to welcome new members into the church is a joy and anniversary cards will follow along with invitations to Praise and Play and the Family Service. Following up on funerals is being carried out as advised by the Rector. It was stressed that the Pastoral Co-ordinator should co-ordinate rather than do all the work herself and I am grateful to others who show Christian love and caring to members of our church family and keep me up to date.

*June Davy*

## **Music at St James**

Sunday services in Thrapston are played by David Bull (2nd and 4th) and June Davy (1st and 3rd) in rotation, with Vincent Davy invited to play for weddings, funerals and occasional services.



In Islip, technology enables hymns to be sung without a regular organist both in the mornings and at 6@St Nics, although live musicians are appearing in the evenings from time to time which is very encouraging.

For the Family Service and Morning Praise in Thrapston June is joined by our wonderful bands, now including Alice and Mary Burgham who made their debut at Christmas and Josh Mayes and Jacob Wilford who have joined the percussion section. We are still hoping to have adult lead singers in the Praise Service but are delighted to have a set of younger singers who lead the singing in Family services. Next step - to sing with the microphone!

We are grateful for the commitment of the instrumentalists to playing in church as their presence really enhances our worship. If anyone else would like to join in please let me know so that music can be prepared and you can join us for our practices.

It was a pleasure to be able welcome Thrapston Town Band to play at the Remembrance Day service once more and the Band was delighted to play for the Civic Service at the request of the newly elected Mayor, Craig Wilcox.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with the music ministry especially the more experienced players who really encourage and support the younger ones.

*June Davy*

## **Sunday Prayer Ministry**

The team of people willing to pray with congregation members after the Sunday morning service is small but faithful. It is a very worthwhile thing to offer, as those who come are in need of help. Trust and confidentiality play a part too. Some just seem to need to share a trouble they are having to deal with and all seem to be helped by the support of others standing with them. It is a privilege to serve in this way and we believe it is appreciated by those who use us.

*Viv Bull*

## **JAMES Club**

We have grown and split into two groups this year! We exceeded capacity in the church hall in the first few months of the year, being sometimes more than 25 children. With the challenges of accommodating such large numbers and range of ages, we investigated the possibility of splitting the group. Praise the Lord because he provided another 6 leaders and helpers to enable us to do this. So, in September 2023 we launched JAMES club for the KS1 children in the church hall and JAMES club+ for the KS2 children in the Rectory.

We continued to use a variety of resources including a number of different children's Bibles, 'Click' resources and 'XTB' study notes to aid us in our teaching. During the course of the year we also met as an extended group, involving preschool children and their parents, for a number of sessions during the spring term. This was due to the adult nature of the sermon series.

Overall it has been a joy to be a part of and we are particularly thankful for the team of leaders who work so well together.

*Sophia Robson*

## **Youth Group**

This past year has been one of transition as a new group of year 7s joined us and some older ones started attending church services as part of the adult congregation.

Susie Gray joined us as one of our leaders. We now have an experienced team of four of us... some in the congregation will remember when the entire youth group wasn't that big! Let's thank God for the growth of youth ministry over the past 8 years.

This year we've been doing the Bible course (from The Bible Society) to give us all a refresher and overview of the Bible's big story. We've used the video content and had some excellent discussions including about the historical evidence for the Bible.

As a follow-up to the Bible Course, we have arranged a trip to the British Museum at the end of May 2024.

*Jason Royce, Mary Barnard, Sarah Pickles and Susie Gray*

## **Praise and Play**

Praise and Play is definitely the place to be on a Monday morning – the cheerful flag outside St James welcomes under 5s and their grown-ups into the church which is a hive of activity with toys and activities located all around the building.

We are delighted that this group continues to thrive with new people coming in almost every week and many that we see on a very regular basis. Friendships developing between the children themselves are delightful – a huge step forward from the children who came in after the pandemic lockdowns and were very wary of each other.

Each session follows the same format with playtime until 10.00am then a snack time where we gather on chairs around the pink carpet, celebrate birthdays with a card and a crown, share news of services and events happening in church that might appeal to the young families, listen to a Bible story, pray together and complete the session with favourite songs including our theme song.

Our biggest challenge is finding Bible stories that appeal to small children with engaging pictures. We are avoiding using stories on the screen as this is a great opportunity to share books with them. Songs too are sung unaccompanied with a favourite being 'Old Macdonald' using the animals from the knitted farmyard, thanks to Viv Bull and Sue Couves who masterminded this project when the plastic animals began to lose their legs.

We have a fabulous team who work really well together gently sharing our Christian values with all who come, offering support with activities where needed, chatting and listening. We are grateful to Andy Stilwell for his commitment to the group, not just for moving furniture but for being a friendly and welcoming clergy presence each week. Please

continue to pray for the team – Viv Bull, Rachael Wilford, Bethan Mayes, Ann Smart, Sue Couves, Chris Horn, Katy Royce and Lizzie Burgham who show a great commitment to this ministry with Sarah Pickles and Mary Barnard who help out when needed. Thanks must go to Jean Fouhy who continues to influence the way we tidy our cupboards even though she has taken a step back from the team.

*June Davy*

## **Homegroups**

### **Homegroup Report - 2 Fisher Close**

We continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings in each month with a few months break between each series. Since the last APCM, we have completed three series:

- A 5-session series on what the Bible reveals about Suffering (Apr-Jun last year). This was complemented by privately reading the excellent and contemporary book on "Where is God in all the Suffering" by Amy Orr-Ewing, and collectively discussing two of the chapters each session.
- A 5-session series on Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament that were fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament (Sep-Nov last year), and their significance.
- A 5-session series on what the Bible reveals about Prayer (Feb-Apr this year). This was also complemented by privately reading the excellent book on "Pray Big" by Alistair Begg, and collectively discussing two of the chapters each session.

Every session was Bible-centred, and the topics and course books were agreed beforehand with our Rector. Attendance was 5-9 people per session.

The group was led by John Pickles, but attendees have started to research and introduce assigned Bible passages themselves in the last two series, which has been good.

*John Pickles*

### **The Zoom (formerly shared) Homegroup**

Now a small group with members still taking care to avoid infection due to illness and operations, we have for those reasons continued to meet on-line, although we hope to meet during the summer in person and then to decide on our future direction.

During the past year we have met monthly at dates, convenient for all members (given medical appointments etc.) with Margaret Whiteway facilitating the computer/zoom access and Joy Farey-Wood leading the Bible Reading and subsequent discussions. At the request of a participant we have been studying Revelation with the help of the Christian writer Tom Wright. We begin with a short time of fellowship and close with prayer and find the two periods of forty minutes with a short break pass quickly. Sharing a love of God and a reliance on Jesus has helped us to trust one another and share in ways which have contributed to our Christian lives and perspectives.

*Joy Farey-Wood*

## **Homegroup (Hosted by Jason & Katy)**

Katy and I are so grateful to be part of our home group. We have continued to grow as disciples, in both studying and practising the teaching of scripture together. Last year we completed a series about discipleship using the Beatitudes. As part of this, we also sold some of our possessions to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Additionally, we did a series on how to follow the Biblical encouragement to meditate on scripture. A number of us reflected that, though we had all been taught the value of scripture and some had been taught to study it, very few had been taught to meditate on God's word. We enjoyed learning and doing it together and had many rich experiences in the Bible with God.

We're currently exploring what love looks like for disciples of Jesus, particularly in how we relate to others. Topics include; how to listen deeply, not making assumptions or trying to read minds and how to disagree with love.

*Jason & Katy Royce*

## **Friday Ladies Bible study**

The Ladies Bible study continues to meet on Friday afternoons and has moved to being a weekly group with a regular attendance of 6 - 8 members with others who come when they can. There are 22 members in the WhatsApp group which is great way of sharing songs, prayer requests, thoughts for the day, news and Bible readings with each other. It was a real pleasure for us all to meet for dinner in November. The aim of the group is to give women a space to be still, study scripture and pray together, although the many commitments that mothers have with childcare can make attendance erratic. People returning to work has impacted on their availability during the day so another group for younger women may be needed in the future.

Leadership of the group is shared between Susie Gray and June Davy who both followed the 'Growth Group Course' led by Nolan in the Summer.

We continued studying Psalm 27 from "Be Still" by Matt Searles during the early part of 2023, moving on to 'Discipleship Explored' and returning to our final Psalm, 34, towards the end of the year.

Due to the nature of the discussions, there is a limit to numbers, but anyone wishing to join should speak to one of the leaders. It has been really encouraging journeying together as we desire to learn more about God and his ways, deepen our faith and share experiences and questions.

*June Davy and Susie Gray*

## **Saturday Coffee Morning and Tuesday Together**

There continues to be a steady flow of people who attend both sessions regularly and it is heartening to see new faces as well as those passing through Thrapston and calling in to visit our lovely church.

We are still a designated warm space and on occasions receive food donations from Morrison's supermarket.

Refreshments include tea, coffee, fruit teas, squash, biscuits and other treats. There is no charge for refreshments but there is a donation pot and also the card reader is now being used more often. Any profit made from refreshments goes towards helping with church funds.

On a Saturday we are open between 10am-12noon and this session can get especially busy on the first Saturday of the month when there is a Farmers Market.

On a Tuesday morning the church is usually open a little earlier as there is a short Communion service at 9.45am, but refreshments generally don't commence until 10am.

Aprons with the Benefice logo have been purchased and all volunteers are encouraged to wear these so they are distinguishable when we have visitors during these sessions.

In March 2023 we again received a Five Star rating for hygiene from the Environmental Health Office, North Northants Council.

There are currently 28 volunteers who cover Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays (after the Service) and without their continued support and willingness to help this vital ministry would not be able to continue.

*Beverley Marsden*

## **Flower Team**

We have enlarged the Flower Team this year with much help from Ann Drew from Islip who provides us with greenery from her garden. Also joining this year has been Catherine Holmes and Jean Fouhy. The other members are Sue Couves, Chris Horn, Alison Byrnes and Sarah Cullum.

As we use a lot of silk flowers when we are short of money, there is not a need to keep renewing them and watering is at a minimum! We are very glad of the extra help at Christmas and Easter (and this year there was also the King's Coronation) when we made more of a 'show'. The Easter flowers are more of a problem than Christmas when we can make use of holly and silk poinsettias as we did this year, making 'plants' in flower pots (which fooled a few!).

At Easter we have to buy fresh and have to ask for help from the congregation. This year we collected £70 which covered everything including the expensive lilies. A book of Remembrance by the collection box meant we could put the names on cards of those being remembered, among the arrangements. Thank you to all who contributed for this. Once we are all working together it is a lovely way to spend our time.

Funding the flowers: We do not have a fund as such. One or two people donate to an arrangement done in memory of loved ones, or an anniversary etc. and Teg Curl donates the money for the January flowers every year as a lot of her family died in January (a very generous and lovely idea). I sell marmalade, jam and chutney at the Craft Fair in the hall once a month which provides about £30 a month after expenses.

We are a very happy team and work well together. It is a joy to have such a decorative ministry between us in the church. Thanks to everyone for your support and good comments when we have worked especially hard. They are much appreciated.

St Nicholas Islip is decorated for the major festivals by a number of people and most of these are on the monthly rota to put a small arrangement under the war memorial. Once again thanks go to these ladies for their contribution to the church.

*Lesley Baden and Jan Colson*

## **Belfry report for St. James and St Nicholas**

### **St James Thrapston**

We have been able to hold regular and well attended Monday evening practices with help and support from ringers travelling in from other towers but it has not been possible to ring for many Sunday Services due to a lack of local ringers. However, we were able to take part in the 'Ring for The King 'campaign leading up to some wonderful ringing for the Coronation. We have also been able to welcome visiting ringing groups from both near and far. The bells and belfry are generally in good order but there has been some maintenance work undertaken. However, the metal frame is in need of repainting and this is no easy task.

### **St Nicholas Islip**

St Nicholas has been able to welcome visiting ringing groups and take part in the Coronation Celebrations. We have also been able to ring for weddings on two occasions and re-instate the monthly evening practices. The bells and belfry are generally in good order although some maintenance work was required on one of the bell wheels. The pigeon ingress problem has also been successfully resolved. We are now just awaiting the successful completion of the chiming mechanism on the clock.

Our Thanks go to Nolan, the Churchwardens and P.C.C. for all their support in keeping our lovely bells ringing.

*Alison Byrnes and Ray Banner (Tower captains Islip and Thrapston)*

## **Monday Night Knitting for Beginners**

We are entering our fourth year and we are still getting new people which is lovely. We have anywhere between 10 and 16 members every Monday night I'm willing to carry on helping people as long as possible. We also do crocheting and we have people who know how to do Mosaic and Tunisian crochet.

*Sue Couves*

## **Line Dancing**

Monday and every Tuesday line dancing is still as strong, with some new members, I was asked to be a guest speaker and demonstrate at Thrapston ladies fellowship also to demonstrate at the 2023 Charter Fair, it was encouraging to see many of the ladies giving it a try, I also demonstrated chair line dancing for those who need to exercise but have trouble with balance.

*Suzanne Thurlow*

## **Thrapston Indoor Craft Market**

The monthly Indoor Craft Market is getting more followers and people visiting us, which is creating more footfall in the high street and around the shops as well. I am blessed to have June Davy, Sue Couves and Emma Riches to step in when I am away, I also thank the Lord for giving me the strength.

*Suzanne Thurlow*

## **St James Church Cleaning Team**

The team started the year with 4 regular volunteers however this has subsequently reduced to 3. This works well enough - but new volunteers are always welcome! We are blessed with volunteers who willingly help clean up after events and this is really valued and much appreciated. As a team we clean twice a month and endeavour to work around festivals and other events to help keep our church clean and welcoming.

## **St Nicholas Church Cleaning Team**

Thanks go to the ladies who have given willingly of their time to clean the church during the past year. There are two teams and each month one team goes in to sweep, dust, and polish helping to keep the church looking tidy and cared for. Unfortunately, due to increasing age and health issues, two ladies have had to resign but one new lady has been recruited recently. We hope to have some more volunteers soon.

*Nikki Parkin, Melanie Regan and Jan Colson*

## **TDI Men**

A few of us met together to explore what a re-boot of the TDI Men group should offer and look like as we aim to develop faith, friendships, and a deeper understanding of authentic masculinity within our church family and community.

We kicked off with two successful social events: a board games night followed by a youth group games night, both well-attended. Subsequently, we've established a WhatsApp group and outlined plans for future events. We intend to meet every 6 weeks, alternating between Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Our planned activities include breakfast

and gardening at St James, movie nights, breakfast followed by a walk, paddle or bike ride, a brewery tour, and participation in the Moulton Men's Day in November.

A highlight has been welcoming men from the edge of our church community, who have enjoyed connecting with our regular Sunday attendees.

We are optimistic about continued growth as we establish a regular pattern of activities.

*Andy Stilwell*



# Financial Statements

## Thrapston and Islip PCC Financial Statements to 31 December 2023 Receipts and Payments Accounts

|  | Note | Unrestricted Fund | Designated Fund | Restricted Fund  | Total             |
|--|------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                        |      |                   |                 |                  |                   |
| <b>Voluntary receipts:</b>             |      |                   |                 |                  |                   |
| Gift-aided planned giving              |      | 52,131.09         |                 | 1,800.00         | 53,931.09         |
| Other planned giving                   |      | 1,814.30          |                 |                  | 1,814.30          |
| Collection at services                 |      | 3,483.78          |                 |                  | 3,483.78          |
| All other giving                       | 1    | 5,950.55          | 5,505.39        | 200.90           | 11,656.84         |
| Gift Aid recovered                     |      | 13,787.74         |                 | 450.00           | 14,237.74         |
|  |      | <b>77,167.46</b>  | <b>5,505.39</b> | <b>2,450.90</b>  | <b>85,123.75</b>  |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b> |      | 4,574.09          |                 |                  | 4,574.09          |
| <b>Investment income/interest</b>      |      | 179.24            |                 | 10,625.21        | 10,804.45         |
| <b>Church activities</b>               | 2    | 12,233.78         |                 | 2,076.49         | 14,310.27         |
| <b>Other</b>                           |      | 6.25              | 13.00           | 300.00           | 319.25            |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                  |      | <b>94,160.82</b>  | <b>5,518.39</b> | <b>15,452.60</b> | <b>115,131.81</b> |
| <b>Payments</b>                        |      |                   |                 |                  |                   |
| <b>Church activities:</b>              |      |                   |                 |                  |                   |
| Parish share                           |      | 60,123.00         |                 |                  | 60,123.00         |
| Clergy costs                           |      | 1,031.60          |                 | 614.02           | 1,645.62          |
| Church running expenses                | 3    | 13,940.13         | 1,251.60        | 16,613.48        | 31,805.21         |
| Utilities                              | 4    | 15,065.22         |                 |                  | 15,065.22         |
| Hall running costs                     | 5    | 2,321.46          |                 |                  | 2,321.46          |
| Donations                              |      | 27.46             |                 | 150.00           | 177.46            |
|  |      | <b>92,508.87</b>  | <b>1,251.60</b> | <b>17,377.50</b> | <b>111,137.97</b> |
| <b>Cost of generating funds</b>        |      | <b>344.46</b>     |                 |                  | <b>344.46</b>     |
| <b>Total payments</b>                  |      | <b>92,853.33</b>  | <b>1,251.60</b> | <b>17,377.50</b> | <b>111,482.43</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                      |      | 1,307.49          | 4,266.79        | (1,924.90)       | 3,649.38          |
| Transfers between funds                |      | -                 | -               | 5,150.00         | 5,150.00          |
|  |      | (150.00)          | -               | (5,000.00)       | (5,150.00)        |
| Net income after transfers             |      | 1,157.49          | 4,266.79        | (1,774.90)       | 3,649.38          |
| Cash Funds at 1 January                |      | 33,982.32         | 6,266.06        | 137,679.68       | 177,928.06        |
| Cash Funds at 31 December              |      | 35,139.81         | 10,532.85       | 135,904.78       | 181,577.44        |

**Thrapston and Islip PCC**  
**Statements of Liabilities and Assets to 31 December 2023**

| <b>Cash Funds</b>             | Note | Unrestricted Fund | Designated Fund  | Restricted Fund   | Total             |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Current Account/ in hand |      | 29,367.86         | 10,532.85        | 29,221.53         | 69,122.24         |
| Cash in hand                  |      | -                 | -                | 200.00            | 200.00            |
| Deposit Account               |      | -                 | -                | 8,201.43          | 8,201.43          |
| CCLA Account                  |      | 5,771.95          | -                | 98,281.82         | 104,053.77        |
|                               |      | <u>35,139.81</u>  | <u>10,532.85</u> | <u>135,904.78</u> | <u>-</u>          |
|                               |      |                   |                  |                   | <u>181,577.44</u> |

**Notes**

Movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

|                          | Bal B/fwd       | Receipts        | Payments        | Bal C/fwd        |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Designated</b>        |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| Childrens and Youth Work | 1,082.99        | 518.39          | 1,251.60        | 349.78           |
| Legacies                 |                 | 5,000.00        | -               | 5,000.00         |
| Misc                     | 5,183.07        | -               | -               | 5,183.07         |
|                          | <u>6,266.06</u> | <u>5,518.39</u> | <u>1,251.60</u> | <u>-</u>         |
|                          |                 |                 |                 | <u>10,532.85</u> |

**Restricted**

|                                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Bell Tower                         | 1,286.25          | 140.90           | 50.00            | 1,377.15          |
| Church Land Charity (Allotments)   | 14,811.77         | 3,518.85         | 5,000.00         | 13,330.62         |
| Churchyard Maintenance             | 586.65            | 1,500.00         | 1,854.00         | 232.65            |
| Clock Fund (I)                     | 6,905.34          | -                | 4,800.00         | 2,105.34          |
| Fabric Fund (I)                    | 2,413.61          | 3,592.48         | 7,120.39         | (1,114.30)        |
| Go Make Disciples Fund             | 3,163.33          | 2,250.00         | 968.27           | 4,445.06          |
| Legacy for Tower and Clock (T)     | 2,685.20          | -                | -                | 2,685.20          |
| Lychgate Fund                      | 6,033.02          | 552.59           | -                | 6,585.61          |
| Mission and Development            | 3,944.88          | -                | -                | 3,944.88          |
| New Hall Fund (T)                  | 6,619.39          | 123.01           | -                | 6,742.40          |
| Northants Islip Church Land Fund   | 9,149.64          | 684.31           | -                | 9,833.95          |
| Old School and Education Fund      | 22,389.20         | 2,417.55         | 1,740.82         | 23,065.93         |
| Rector's Fund                      | 877.86            | -                | 614.02           | 263.84            |
| Rector's Pastoral Fund             | 200.00            | 450.00           | 230.00           | 420.00            |
| R&CW Old School and Education Fund | 56,613.54         | 5,372.91         | -                | 61,986.45         |
|                                    | <u>137,679.68</u> | <u>20,602.60</u> | <u>22,377.50</u> | <u>-</u>          |
|                                    |                   |                  |                  | <u>135,904.78</u> |

**Thrapston and Islip PCC**  
**Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments to 31 December 2023**

|   | Unrestricted Fund | Designated Fund | Restricted Fund  | Total            |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                   |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>1 All other giving:</b>                        |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| Legacies  |                   | 5,000.00        |                  | 5,000.00         |
| Grants  | 850.00            |                 |                  | 850.00           |
| Donations   | 5,100.55          | 505.39          | 200.90           | 5,806.84         |
|   | <u>5,950.55</u>   | <u>5,505.39</u> | <u>200.90</u>    | <u>11,656.84</u> |
| <br>  |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>2 Church activities:</b>                       |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| Fees (weddings and funerals)                      | 2,153.00          |                 |                  | 2,153.00         |
| Hall  | 5,361.00          |                 |                  | 5,361.00         |
| Allotments  |                   |                 | 2,076.49         | 2,076.49         |
| Other   | 4,719.78          |                 |                  | 4,719.78         |
|   | <u>12,233.78</u>  | <u>-</u>        | <u>2,076.49</u>  | <u>14,310.27</u> |
| <br>  |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>Payments</b>                                   |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>3 Church running expenses</b>                  |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| Insurance   | 3,107.79          |                 | 2,901.89         | 6,009.68         |
| Costs of services                                 | 1,780.11          |                 | 204.00           | 1,984.11         |
| Running expenses                                  | 2,801.15          |                 |                  | 2,801.15         |
| Maintenance and Repairs                           | 5,052.19          |                 | 4,014.50         | 9,066.69         |
| Upkeep of Churchyard                              |                   |                 | 1,854.00         |                  |
| Major Repairs                                     | 384.00            |                 | 4,800.00         | 5,184.00         |
| Major Installation                                |                   |                 |                  | -                |
| Misc  | 627.49            |                 | 130.00           | 757.49           |
| Training and Mission<br>(incl Education/Children) | 187.40            | 1,251.60        | 2,709.09         | 4,148.09         |
|   | <u>13,940.13</u>  | <u>1,251.60</u> | <u>16,613.48</u> | <u>31,805.21</u> |
| <br>  |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>4 Utilities (Church)</b>                       |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| Electricity                                       | 2,709.10          |                 |                  | 2,709.10         |
| Gas   | 11,779.12         |                 |                  | 11,779.12        |
| Water   | 577.00            |                 |                  | 577.00           |
|   | <u>15,065.22</u>  | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>         | <u>15,065.22</u> |
| <br>  |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| <b>5 Hall running costs</b>                       |                   |                 |                  |                  |
| Insurance   | 605.21            |                 |                  | 605.21           |
| Electricity                                       | 876.36            |                 |                  | 876.36           |
| Water   | 308.00            |                 |                  | 308.00           |
| Running expenses/Maintenance                      | 531.89            |                 |                  | 531.89           |
|   | <u>2,321.46</u>   | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>         | <u>2,321.46</u>  |

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thrapston and Islip Parish**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31/12/2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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14/3/2024