

Parish of Denford



Annual Reports and Financial Statements for 2023

Presented to the APCM on

Tuesday 14th May 2024

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The Rectory
48 Oundle Road
Thrapston
Kettering
NN14 4PD

T: 01832 734614

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of Denford

Holy Trinity Church, Denford, 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th 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 two churchwardens for the parish for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

5. Confirm apologies for absence and note attendance
6. To receive the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
7. Receive an Electoral Roll report
8. Receive the End of Year Financial Statements for 2023
9. To appoint an independent examiner for the church accounts for 2024
10. Receive the PCC and activities reports, together with any questions arising from the reports.
11. Elect 2 members to the PCC.
12. Elect 1 members to serve as Deanery Synod Representative.
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 of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Holy Trinity Church, Denford on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. The Clerk was appointed. Mrs Morton was elected.
2. Present: The Rector, Mrs Smith, Ms Moreton, Mrs Higham, Mr & Mrs Stimpson, Mr Blestsoe, Mrs Langford Mrs Morton,
Apologies: Mrs Sullivan
3. The minutes for 2022 were received and approved.
4. Election of churchwardens. There were two nominations, Mrs Smith and Mrs Moreton, who were duly re-elected for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

5. Those present as above. Apologies also as above.
6. The minutes of the 2022 meeting were read and approved.
7. Electoral Roll report. Mrs Smith reported that the roll remains at 18.
8. We received a report of the Church Finances. It was reported that we were in a good place. Thanks were given to Mr Stimpson for his excellent work.
9. Independent examiner for the 2023 accounts was appointed. Mr Stimpson proposed, Paul Adams This was agreed unanimously.
10. We received the PCC and activities reports. Mr Bletsoe asked about work done to address the Quinquennial report. Some work has been completed but other items are outstanding. Priority 1 is to be redone, as an annual task. Priority 2 is under way. The Churchwardens will make out a list of significant priorities from both areas.
11. Mrs Higham was re-elected to the PCC for a further 3 years.
12. The Rector reflected that we are now getting back to normal after Covid, but it has been tiring. Significant moments of the year included special services for The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations and also commemorating the Queen's death. The Benefice walk was also a great success. He is anticipating some good opportunities with the arrival of the new Curate. During his 3 year curacy he will shadow the Rector initially and "tag team" with him. From September the aim is to develop innovations within the Benefice.
13. AOB. Mrs Higham asked that the congregation can show their appreciation, by standing whenever the Minister and Choir process down the aisle. This was agreed. It was also asked if lay preachers could be reminded of voice projection as some were experiencing difficulties with hearing at times.

Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Denford is part of a benefice which includes the Parish of Thrapston and Islip. It is located in the Deanery of Oundle, the Archdeaconry of Oakham and the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England.

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 July 2016)
Churchwardens:	Mrs Sandra Smith Mrs Dawn Moreton
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Heather Morton (until 2024 APCM)
Elected Members:	Mr Christopher Bletsoe (until 2024 APCM) <i>Vacant Seat (until 2024 APCM)</i> Mr Ren Stimpson (until 2025 APCM) Mrs Hazel Stimpson (until 2025 APCM) Mrs Margaret Higham (until 2026 APCM) <i>Vacant Seat (until 2026 APCM)</i>

The PCC met four times in 2023 including the APCM.

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

Holy Trinity 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 and churchyard of Holy Trinity Denford.

Rector's Report and Church Activities of 2023

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

- The year began with a joyous New Year's day wedding in the church.
- In sermons at the start of the year we considered 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.
- On 10th February the local group Sweet F.A. held a concert in church performing a selection of their comic songs.
- A Benefice Lent Course was held on Sunday evenings in St James Thrapston, 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 Good Friday a reflective Hour at the Cross service was held in Holy Trinity. Jesus resurrection was then celebrated on the Sunday.
- On Sunday 7th May, the churchwardens led a special Service in Celebration of King Charles' Coronation.
- On Sunday 14th May, cream teas were served in the afternoon in support of Christian Aid.
- On Saturday 3rd June, The Village Fete was held in the church building and the garden of Denford House. A lively time was had by all.
- On Sunday 4th June, the church family welcomed many villagers to join them for the annual church BBQ where the food was excellent as always.
- On the 2nd July the benefice church family welcomed Andy Stilwell (Assistant Curate) and his family with an afternoon tea in St James. He comes to serve in the benefice for three years as he prepares for incumbency.
- On 9th September, the church welcomed riders and striders who were taking part in the annual Historic Churches Ride and Stride, a sponsored event in aid of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.
- On Sunday 1st October, the Harvest Festival service was held in Holy Trinity along with musical pieces from the choir.
- On Monday 2nd October, the annual harvest supper and auction took place at the village hall. The food was excellent and the auction raised money for Water Aid.
- On Sunday 22nd October, a BCP Communion service was held at the request of the PCC. It was well attended and stirred up fond memories for some.
- On Sunday 12th November, the Curate led the village Remembrance Service starting at the war memorial and concluding in church. The choir also sang and the brass band played for the hymns.
- On 1st and 2nd December, Will Adams staged a version of A Christmas Carol in the church.

- On Sunday 17th December, the village carol service was held in Holy Trinity at which the choir sang.
- On 25th December, a Christmas Day Communion service was held in Holy Trinity with musical pieces performed by the choir.
- One wedding was conducted in Holy Trinity, Denford, during 2023.
- During 2023, two funerals were conducted in Holy Trinity. In addition to this, one funeral of a Denford resident was conducted at the crematorium. There was one body burial and two burials of cremated remains.
- There were no baptisms in Denford during the year.

Safeguarding Report

- Peterborough Diocese requires all PCC members to have an enhanced DBS check, which is renewed every 3 years. Unfortunately, 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 (Benefice Safeguarding Officer) on behalf of the PCC and will be displayed on Church Premises.
- Currently, 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.
- 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.

Sarah Pickles (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)

Churchwarden's Fabric Report for 2023

The churchyard and church building exterior

- The grounds are being maintained by the mowing team.
- Ren with Chris and team have continued working on the trees near the river.
- The church path plans are still ongoing.
- The front notice board and the Church outside doors need revarnishing, we now have a quote, just waiting for better weather. Andy Pendred will let us know when this is to be completed.

- The outside gates will be power washed by Chris to be cleaned of the algae.
- All the priority 1 and 2 work that was resulting from the quinquennial report 2022 has been delayed due to the builder's ill health, we are now just waiting to hear when this can be completed by Simon Elbrow.
- The outer boundary churchyard walls have mortar missing and need repair.
- The Church clock in the Tower keeps losing time, we feel this needs to be discussed at the next PCC.
- The roof alarm has been maintained.
- We will be carrying out a check on the graves in the drier weather.

The church building interior

- The organ has been tuned.
- We now have a new cordless hoover, with thanks to Sheila Pendred.
- Thank you to the cleaners, flower arrangers, readers and refreshment team.
- Thank you to all the members of the PCC that help with the life and worship of Holy Trinity, Denford.

Sandra Smith and Dawn Moreton (Churchwardens)

Financial Report and End of Year Financial Statements, Year Ending 31st December 2023

The 2023 accounts are included below.

It appears that we have made a loss of about £4,000 this last year, a large part of which was the work on making the trees safe (£2,500). Fundraising was up by about £900 but donations were down by about £1,200, and grants were down by £440. Fees for weddings and funerals were up by £400. We gave away to charities £200 more than in 2022.

Clergy expenses were up by £440. Churchyard maintenance was up by £2,500 because of the tree work. We also spent money on sorting out the drains at the back of the church. Electricity costs in 2023 of about £1,000 should have been in the 2022 accounts but were not billed by Total GP until 2023 as they omitted to connect the Smart meter at their end (not very smart of them).

We also paid £828 to the diocese in respect of their share of the fees for weddings and funerals. Parish share was also paid in full.

I haven't yet done a budget, but we will not be faced with tree work again for some years and may even generate some income from the wood! Neither will we be faced with a large bill for electricity as Total GP now send us an account each month and I can keep a watch on it. We do take advantage of the Parish Buying Scheme for electricity which does give a collective very competitive rate.

So had it not been for the tree work and the electricity charges we would have broken even and hopefully with no unforeseen expenditure we will equalise our income and expenditure this year.

Ren Stimpson. Treasurer. 12th March 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

		Total funds	Prior year funds
Appeal - Appeal Fund (Designated)			
Brought forward balance		£297.09	£297.09
	Carried forward balance	£297.09	£297.09
Clock - Clock Fund (Restricted)			
Receipts			
Other voluntary receipts		£0.00	£2,000.00
0550 - Donations			
	<i>Total Other voluntary receipts</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
	Total Receipts	£0.00	£2,000.00
Payments			
Church Running Expenses		£0.00	£72.65
2345 - Stationery and Supplies			
	<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£72.65</i>
	Total Payments	£0.00	£72.65
Excess of Receipts over Payments		£0.00	£1,927.35
Transfers to/(from)		(£220.00)	£500.00
Brought forward balance		£5,377.35	£2,950.00
	Carried forward balance	£5,157.35	£5,377.35
Fabric - Fabric (Designated)			
Receipts			
Gift Aid recovered		£1,123.30	£317.77
1020 - Bank and building society interest			
	<i>Total Gift Aid recovered</i>	<i>£1,123.30</i>	<i>£317.77</i>
	Total Receipts	£1,123.30	£317.77
Excess of Receipts over Payments		£1,123.30	£317.77
Brought forward balance		£24,478.33	£24,160.56
	Carried forward balance	£25,601.63	£24,478.33

General - General fund (Unrestricted)

Receipts

Planned giving			
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank through Diocese		£9,887.30	£8,875.30
	<i>Total Planned giving</i>	<u>£9,887.30</u>	<u>£8,875.30</u>
Collections and other giving			
0301 - Plate collections		£2,206.49	£2,069.43
	<i>Total Collections and other giving</i>	<u>£2,206.49</u>	<u>£2,069.43</u>
Other voluntary receipts			
0910 - Fundraising		£3,819.34	£2,939.20
0550 - Donations		£1,837.60	£3,162.00
0801 - Grants		£312.00	£755.00
	<i>Total Other voluntary receipts</i>	<u>£5,968.94</u>	<u>£6,856.20</u>
Gift Aid recovered			
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		£2,403.09	£4,418.19
1020 - Bank and building society interest		£309.95	£39.98
	<i>Total Gift Aid recovered</i>	<u>£2,713.04</u>	<u>£4,458.17</u>
Receipts from church activities			
1101 - PCC fees weddings and funerals		£2,627.00	£2,225.00
	<i>Total Receipts from church activities</i>	<u>£2,627.00</u>	<u>£2,225.00</u>
Total Receipts		<u>£23,402.77</u>	<u>£24,484.10</u>

Payments

Missionary and Charitable Giving			
1801 - Giving to missionary societies		£900.00	£800.00
1870 - Secular charities		£400.00	£300.00
	<i>Total Missionary and Charitable Giving</i>	<u>£1,300.00</u>	<u>£1,100.00</u>
Parish Share			
1910 - Parish Share		£12,829.00	£12,829.00
	<i>Total Parish Share</i>	<u>£12,829.00</u>	<u>£12,829.00</u>
Clergy and Staffing costs			
2101 - Vicars expenses		£1,210.68	£769.27
	<i>Total Clergy and Staffing costs</i>	<u>£1,210.68</u>	<u>£769.27</u>
Church Running Expenses			
1730 - Costs of fundraising		£698.00	£120.00
2301 - Church running - insurance		£2,312.61	£2,057.72
2320 - Organ tuning and maintenance		£372.00	£260.00
2330 - Church maintenance		£1,889.28	£2,636.73
2340 - Upkeep of services		£0.00	£566.74
2341 - Organist Fees		£240.00	£0.00
2342 - Diocesan Fees for Weddings and Funerals		£828.40	£0.00
2345 - Stationery and Supplies		£226.06	£215.76
2346 - Misc		£134.76	£494.00
2350 - Churchyard maintenance		£2,870.28	£358.50
2401 - Church running - electric		£2,391.44	£856.88
2420 - Church running - water		£67.87	£53.95
	<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>£12,030.70</u>	<u>£7,620.28</u>
Total Payments		<u>£27,370.38</u>	<u>£22,318.55</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(£3,967.61)	£2,165.55
Transfers to/(from)		£220.00	(£500.00)
Brought forward balance		£12,497.96	£10,832.41
Carried forward balance		<u>£8,750.35</u>	<u>£12,497.96</u>

Statement of assets and liabilities

	This year	Last year
Cash at bank and in hand		
Nat West Current account		
General fund (Unrestricted) -	£2,750.35	£6,497.96
Agency collection (Restricted) -	(£10.00)	(£10.00)
	<u>£2,740.35</u>	<u>£6,487.96</u>
Nat West Appeals account		
Appeal Fund (Designated) -	£297.09	£297.09
	<u>£297.09</u>	<u>£297.09</u>
Nat West Current Clock account		
Clock Fund (Restricted) -	£5,157.35	£5,377.35
	<u>£5,157.35</u>	<u>£5,377.35</u>
CCLA (CBF) 628054001D Deposit account		
Fabric (Designated) -	£25,601.63	£24,478.33
	<u>£25,601.63</u>	<u>£24,478.33</u>
CCLA (CBF) 628054002D deposit account		
General fund (Unrestricted) -	£6,000.00	£6,000.00
	<u>£6,000.00</u>	<u>£6,000.00</u>
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£39,796.42</u>	<u>£42,640.73</u>
Agency accounts		
Agency collections		
Agency collection (Restricted) -	£10.00	£10.00
Total for Agency accounts	<u>£10.00</u>	<u>£10.00</u>
Grand total	<u>£39,806.42</u>	<u>£42,650.73</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Holy Trinity Church, Denford

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 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.



Paul Adams
19 Wymington Park
Rushden
Northants
NN10 9JP

5/2/2023