Christ Church
Stamford

Annual Report & Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

ChristChurch
A PLACE TO BELONG

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Stamford
Charitable status	The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registration number: 1139222
Principal address	Christ Church, Green Lane, Stamford PE9 1HE
Principal contact	Rev Anthony Laotan, Vicar
Telephone no.	01780 766446
Email	vicar@christchurchstamford.com
Website	www.christchurchstamford.com
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, Broad St, Stamford
Independent examiner	Michelle Feasey, Stamford

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Administrative information

Christ Church Stamford is situated on Green Lane Stamford. It is part of the Diocese of Lincoln within the Church of England.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC members who have served from / during 2025 are:

Ex-Officio	Anthony Laotan	Vicar
	Dawn Field	Warden
Elected Members	Tina Bland	Member
	Jacqui Wells	Deputy Safeguarding Officer
	Carol MacBeath	Lead Safeguarding Officer
	Phiona Suleiman (nee Blake)	Member
	Denise Collins	Member

Committees

The Ministry Team operates with the Vicar, Revd. Anthony Laotan, Children, Youth & Families Minister, Laura Mitchell, Deputy Safeguarding Officer, Jacqui Wells & Dawn Field the Churchwarden.

Structure, governance and management

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. The full PCC meets ten times over the course of the year while the Ministry Team meets monthly.

Objectives and activities

Christ Church PCC has the responsibility of promoting within the Ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Christ Church building. The church operates social outreach projects covering newborn to elderly, vulnerable, disabled, and marginalized individuals.

Church Attendance

The church holds a weekly morning service at 10am. Our weekly attendance at services averages between 25 to 30 per week.

There are 29 members on the Electoral Roll.

Financial review

Regular financial reports have been given to the PCC throughout the year.

For these 2025 accounts we have continued to use ExpensePlus, which is the financial software we have employed since 2023, and this year's accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

Income and Expenditure Overview

Christ Church recorded a total income of £209,073 for the year, while total expenditure amounted to £94,067. The increased income is attributable to several factors, including the receipt of medium to large legacies from the estates of deceased church members. Additionally, the final payment from the Henry Smith Charity Grant was received, supporting the role of the Children, Youth and Family Minister.

Over the course of the year, open plate collections remained steady, indicating consistent contributions from church members. Despite this stability, the actual income from these collections was 18% lower than projected. In contrast, the church experienced a notable increase in regular giving, as well as a rise in contactless donations. This positive trend in financial support was complemented by dependable income generated from hall lettings, with the number of hirers utilizing the facilities showing an upward trend.

Utility expenses remained elevated throughout the year, with both electricity and gas bills nearly doubling compared to the previous period. Following the 2024 APCM report, an annual inspection by a gas engineer resulted in condemnation of the church boilers, which were deemed irreparable due to their age and condition. To ensure the continued safe and efficient heating of the church, it was decided to replace the boilers. In March 2025, the Friends of Christ Church generously contributed £3,200 to aid fundraising for the new boilers.

The church renewed its Covenant Pledge with the Diocese, agreeing to pay £15,000 in 2025 (which has already been fully paid), £17,500 in 2026, and £19,000 in 2027. Significant purchases during the year included a new cooker costing £1,564.18 and the replacement boilers at £19,930.

Christ Church Ministry

Throughout the year, our regular income has remained steady, reflecting ongoing support from our congregation and community. We have also experienced consistent attendance at church services, with

most Sundays being well attended. New individuals continue to join our community, even as some members have departed due to relocation or changes in their professional lives.

While our CATALYST Communities have been reduced to two groups, they continue to offer meaningful context and foster a sense of belonging for all participants.

A variety of fundraising events were organized over the past year. A Jumble Sale successfully raised £343 to support the installation of a replacement basement stairlift. The Communitea Plus Volunteers showed remarkable dedication by operating a Pop-Up Café throughout the summer, which generated an additional £380.81 for the same cause. Other notable events included the Christmas Variety Night, which featured musical performances, quizzes, and a community sing-along. Our annual Christmas Fayre fundraising event, held in December, was another highlight, raising £1068.86 to support church initiatives.

Operations Report

Christ Church places a strong emphasis on outreach programs, with a central goal of welcoming individuals, addressing their pastoral needs, and fostering fellowship within the community. Our commitment is to bring the church's core values and vision to life by actively encouraging participation in fellowship and guiding individuals toward building a relationship with Christ. Under the leadership of Rev. Anthony Laotan, we continue to respond to emerging opportunities and community needs through the Anchored project, which serves as an umbrella for these outreach efforts.

Anchored

This project incorporates StartaFresh, Communitea Plus, Feeding Families & Bread & Butter. All the programmes are run by volunteers under the Leadership of Revd Anthony Laotan.

Communitea Plus

Communitea Plus serves a diverse group within the Stamford community, extending its support beyond the elderly to include individuals who are isolated, lonely, or new to the area. The group meets every Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 PM during term time, offering participants an opportunity to socialize, share a cooked two-course meal, and enjoy various forms of entertainment. Recently, Communitea Plus has experienced growth, with an increasing number of new members joining and more individuals becoming part of the volunteer team. This expansion reflects the group's ongoing commitment to fostering community connections and providing a welcoming environment for all.

Start-a-Fresh

Sadly, the StartaFresh programme concluded last summer owing to Rutland Adult Learning's inability to continue funding a tutor for the weekly sessions. This brought an end to a group that had fostered strong bonds among its long-term members over the years. Although there was disappointment at the closure, participants recognized that the programme had been struggling for some time and ultimately accepted that winding it down was the most sensible and natural course of action.

Feeding Families

Our community continues to benefit from the support of the Rapid Relief Team, which regularly provides boxes of emergency food. These boxes are distributed directly to individuals and families within our community who are experiencing difficulties. The process is intentionally simple and compassionate: there is no need for referrals or formal assessments. Instead, we focus on reaching out to people we know are struggling and ensuring they receive the assistance they need during challenging times.

The Bread & Butter Thing

The Bread & Butter Thing is a food membership club that operates weekly throughout the year, offering significant benefits to the local community. By sourcing food from farms, factories, and supermarkets, the club provides members with groceries at prices approximately one-third lower than typical supermarket rates. This approach not only makes food more affordable but also helps reduce waste by utilizing surplus food. During the year, the club faced a challenging period as there were not enough volunteers to support its activities. This shortage of volunteers impacted the club's ability to operate smoothly and meet the needs of its members. Fortunately, as the year progressed, the situation improved and the volunteer numbers stabilized, allowing the club to continue providing its valuable services and support to the community.

Buildings

Our Quinquennial inspection took place in January 2024 and highlighted the basement stairlift needs replacement. We have commenced fundraising efforts towards this.

Children and Youth

Our provision for children and young people, including 'Tots and Toast' and partnerships with local schools, have continued to flourish. These initiatives are well attended and have become favourites among local families. The Children, Youth & Families Minister maintains a weekly presence at both Bluecoat School and Stamford Welland Academy, dedicating one day each week to supporting students. Activities offered include gardening and mentoring, providing important engagement and guidance for both children and youth.

Our summer bible-themed holiday club, Rooted, was once again a great success, drawing positive participation from the community. The Youth Cell group began as Youth Alpha, a program designed to help church youth deepen their understanding of Jesus and strengthen their faith. Following its launch, the group has continued to meet regularly, providing a space for young people to share their experiences and grow together.

Seasonal events such as Messy Easter and Messy Christmas have proven to be highlights, demonstrating the ongoing need and enthusiasm for this type of church expression within our community.

Christ Church Grantors

Christ Church gives a huge thank you to the many people who so kindly donate to support the outreach programs. We have also received generous grants and donations from a range of organizations in 2025, including:

- Burghley Family Trust
- Stamford Lads Club
- Henry Smith Charity
- Friends of Christ Church
- Benefact Trust
- Quick Wins – Diocese of Lincoln
- Deos

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC

Charity Law requires the members of the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial transactions during the Charity year and of the disposition of the Charity's assets and liabilities at the end of that year. In preparing those financial statements, the members of the PCC are required to:

i. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
ii. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
iii. state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRSSE) subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which enable them to prepare financial statements which comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Christ Church – 113922
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies	159875	0	159875	19022
Charitable Activities	22405	24708	47113	41813
Investments	687	0	687	0
Trading Activities	0	0	0	0
Other	1397	0	1397	0
Total receipts	**184364**	**24708**	**209073**	**60835**
Payments				
Charitable Activities	73840	20227	94067	57072
Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0
Support	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total payments	**73840**	**20227**	**94067**	**57072**
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	110524	4481	115005	3763
Fund Transfers In	14601	2731	17333	120
Fund Transfers Out	11633	5700	17333	120
Net Movement of Cash Funds	**113492**	**1513**	**115005**	**3763**
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	**37132**	**12673**	**49805**	**46042**
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	**150624**	**14187**	**164811**	**49805**

Christ Church – 1139222
Balance Sheet (Church of England)
As at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Cash Assets Represented By				
Unrestricted				
General (Unrestricted)	113380	0	113380	16228
Designated				
Children and Youth Refreshments (Designated)	323	0	323	303
Mission Refreshments (Designated)	31	0	31	230
Anchored D (Designated)	15705	0	15705	13664
Day Centre D (Designated)	505	0	505	255
Garden Project (Designated)	0	0	0	0
Toddlers (Designated)	537	0	537	530
Fabric (Designated)	14568	0	14568	358
Audio Visual (Designated)	639	0	639	639
Hardship (Designated)	2023	0	2023	2100
Outreach (Designated)	1838	0	1838	1458
StartaFresh (Designated)	874	0	874	800
Wheelchair Car (Designated)	195	0	195	563
Restricted				

Children and Youth Minister (Restricted)	0	10890	10890	10944
Children and Youth Projects (Restricted)	0	2198	2198	592
Anchored R (Restricted)	0	31	31	0
Childrens Church (Restricted)	0	275	275	344
Day Centre R (Restricted)	0	0	0	0
Garden Project R (Restricted)	0	113	113	113
Mission Fund (Restricted)	0	157	157	157
StartaFresh R (Restricted)	0	507	507	507
Minibus Transport Scheme (Restricted)	0	0	0	0
AED (Restricted)	0	13	13	13
Agency Collections (Restricted)	0	0	0	0
Funds of the Church	**150624**	**14187**	**16481 1**	**49805**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence is not being shown
There has been a small adjustment to the prior year figures (£612), following the allocation of an unidentified donation after the year end.

Christ Church – 1139222
Fund Movement by Type
For the Period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
General (Unrestricted)	16229	279778	174115	-8511	113381
Total	16229	279778	174115	-8511	113381
Designated					
Children and Youth Refreshments (Designated)	303	312	291	0	324
Mission Refreshments (Designated)	230	0	199	0	32
Anchored D (Designated)	13665	3962	1921	0	15706
Day Centre D (Designated)	255	250	0	0	505

Garden Project (Designated)	0	0	0	0	0
Toddlers (Designated)	530	7	0	0	538
Fabric (Designated)	358	14223	11569	11556	14569
Audio Visual (Designated)	639	0	0	0	639
Hardship (Designated)	2100	0	0	-77	2024
Outreach (Designated)	1458	381	0	0	1839
StartaFresh (Designated)	800	74	0	0	874
Wheelchair Car (Designated)	563	378	746	0	196
Total	**20904**	**1958 7**	**14726**	**11480**	**37244**
Unrestricted Total	**37132**	**2993 65**	**188841**	**2968**	**15062 5**
Restricted					
Children and Youth Minister (Restricted)	10945	23560	17914	-5700	10890
Children and Youth Projects (Restricted)	593	1149	2244	2700	2198
Anchored R (Restricted)	0	0	0	32	32
Childrens Church (Restricted)	344	0	69	0	275
Day Centre R (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Garden Project R (Restricted)	113	0	0	0	113
Mission Fund (Restricted)	157	0	0	0	157
StartaFresh R (Restricted)	507	0	0	0	507
Minibus Transport Scheme (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
AED (Restricted)	14	0	0	0	14
Agency Collections (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**12674**	**2470 9**	**20227**	**-2968**	**14187**
Restricted Total	**12674**	**2470 9**	**20227**	**-2968**	**14187**
TOTAL	**49806**	**3240 73**	**209068**	**0**	**16481 2**

CONCLUSION

Before closing it is appropriate to thank most sincerely our staff and all the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to ensure the efficient running of our services, projects and community activities. We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from sponsors, grantors and charitable organizations, trusts and businesses - and the people who just give, even when they

themselves struggle to make ends meet. We also thank the many other groups and partners who collaborate closely with us in a multitude of ways.

This report dated:

Signed:

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Anthony Laotan
(Vicar)

X----------

Dawn Field
(Church Warden)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH, STAMFORD