

Parochial Church Council of
St Swithin's Church Lincoln

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2023

ST SWITHIN'S CHURCH LINCOLN
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023



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1. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Swithin Lincoln, Diocese of Lincoln.

Correspondence Address: St. Swithin's Church, the Salthouse, Free School Lane, Lincoln, LN2 1EY.

The St. Swithin's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registered number 1162338.

St. Swithin's banks with Natwest Bank, High Street, Lincoln.

The St. Swithin's PCC Independent Examiner is Mr Zachary Ramsden FCA, 63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JT.

2. CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The primary aims of the Trust are to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. For us specifically this means we aim to be an Anglican church which plays our part in seeking to help people encounter the LOVE>of God, LIVE>in the way of Jesus and GO>in the power of the Spirit to see lives changed and communities transformed. We exist to be a city centre resourcing church.

We are seeking to build a community of people who are exploring and going deeper in their understanding, knowledge and experience of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are a community of people influenced by Jesus. A community for whom Acts Ch 2 v 42- 47 and John Ch 10 v 10 has been influential in our desire to be marked by Home, Real and Courage.

Our hope is that:

- a. amongst us people will find a welcome and safe place to explore faith and their own identity while receiving love, acceptance, support and encouragement in life,

and that;

- b. we will be good news to the parish, city and region by partnering with others to see social transformation,

and that;

c. we will be able to resource other churches and plant other churches.

In particular, though not exclusively, we have a focus on reaching the younger generations - children and families, young people, students and young adults. To do this effectively, we recognise we need a church of all ages joining, praying, serving and giving.

Activities in 2023

We focussed our activities and resources in 2023 into defined ministry areas as follows:

- Alpha - evangelistic outreach running in a variety of contexts in Lincoln and partnering with other churches.
- Worship for Everyone and Rising Generations - covering our work with all under 18's and families with children and extending our pastoral support into Lincoln College.
- 18-25's - ministry work aimed at those in the 18-25s age bracket, including local students from the two universities in the city, providing mentoring and pastoral support and regular 'Gatherings' to build social networks and offering opportunities to attend residential or other camps/conferences.
- Love Your Neighbour - outreach ministry providing support, food, signposting and a friendly welcoming space to those in need across our city. Continuous provision of mental health crisis support through the Night Light Cafe and running a variety of courses to help support people practically, emotionally and spiritually, e.g. CAP money course, Kintsugi Hope and Alpha.
- Leadership Development - investment in leadership training for those willing to take a year out to go deeper into their faith and receive training in theology and leadership skills.
- We also run a programme for young adults in developing their discipleship and leadership.
- We reformed Midweek Groups through gathering centrally for one term in 'Simply Us' before relaunching Midweek Groups in order to connect people for regular support, discipleship and fellowship outside of our regular Sunday services.
- Services - three Sunday services providing diverse opportunities for Christians to meet and worship. We also continued to stream our main morning service online. We also work in partnership with and help resource the congregations at St. Faith's Church to run the 10:15 Communion Service, the monthly 4:15 Worship for Everyone service and the midweek Wednesday Communion Service.
- Worship - continued investment in developing musicians and technicians to lead our worship.
- Resourcing other churches through supporting them in the development of specific ministry areas, in particular Alpha, Love Your Neighbour and Love Christmas.

3. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 along with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

STAFFING

In 2023, the staffing profile was as follows:

- The Office Manager role continued to be partly subsidised by SDF money to compensate for the additional workload created by the church planting activity.
- The Caretaker role continued to be 1/3 subsidised by a recharge made to Croft Street Community Centre for his time spent there.

- The Leadership Development Manager role continued to be 50% subsidised by the SDF and 50% subsidised by funding from the Henry Smith Charitable Trust for running Alpha and in particular with a focus on reaching young adults.
- The Love Your Neighbour Manager role was partly funded by restricted raised income and through restricted income from the ACTS Trust linked to the running of the Night Light Cafe.
- The 18-25s role was part funded by the SDF to support the building of a student community across St. Faith's Church & St. Swithin's Church.
- The Parish Administrator role to help facilitate the work at St. Faith's Church is part funded by the SDF until September 2026 and part funded by St. Swithin's.

During 2023 the PCC made the following appointments:

- The Diocese appointed Rev. Victoria Lawrence as a training curate in June 2023.
- With SDF funding, we appointed Victoria Prestwood as Worship for Everyone Pastor (PT), and Kathryn Marsden as Youth Outreach Pastor (PT).
- St. Swithin's also appointed and funded Kath Marsden as Digital Media Assistant (PT), Rose Williams as Finance Assistant (PT) and Susannah Williamson as Office Assistant (PT).
- We said goodbye to the 2022/23 cohort of Leadership Development Year students: Cameron Ross, Dan Lee, Harry Tyrrell, Katie Foy and Alice Teuten as they completed their year with us and moved on to employment and further education.
- We welcomed a new 2022/23 cohort of Leadership Development Year students: Harry Tyrrell returned for a second year (Children and LYN), Michael Clarke (Rising Gens Youth) and Emily Rosemeyer (Events). We also opened up the LDY Monday afternoon training to Jack Fielder and Lisa-Marie Rosemeyer from St. Swithin's and Matt Gooseman and Shane Yull from St. Mark's Grimsby.

THE SALTHOUSE

In 2023 we raised grant funding towards the refurbishment of the Salthouse as follows:

- £4,547 from the Hobson Charity Trust to be used for the purchase of an oven for the Salthouse.
- £50,000 from the Church Revitalisation Trust restricted to Phase 2 work on the Upstairs Ballroom at the Salthouse.
- £1,125 from Tesco Community Grant restricted to Phase 2 work on the Upstairs Ballroom at the Salthouse.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income during 2023 was £488,451 (2022: £476,168).

Total expenditure during 2023 was £483,865 (2022: £408,127).

At the end of 2023 total funds (represented by cash and other assets) was £207,540 (2022: £207,540). Within these funds we had general total unrestricted funds of £101,862 (2022: £101,863) and restricted funds of £105,678 (2022: £105,677).

We received the following grants:

- £4,371 from Evans Cornish Grass Roots funding for Love Your Neighbour (Kintsugi Hope, CAP Money Course, LYN Cafe).
- £800 from the Church Revitalisation Trust towards Transform - an annual senior leadership conference run out of HTB London.
- £750 from Lincolnshire County Council for Youth work at St. Swithin's and St. Faith's.

- £17,900 from The Henry Smith Charity Grant for Alpha (Year 2 of 3 year grant).
- £2,215 from the Church Revitalisation Trust towards Love Christmas. With a further £1,000 to be forwarded to St Mark's as onward grantee.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC recognises the importance of holding in reserve the equivalent of three months operating costs (being salaries and building utilities) along with enough to meet our policy of each year giving away a 10% tithe of our unrestricted giving to support the work of other mission agencies with aims in-keeping with our own. This is deemed sufficient to cover the core activities of the charity should there be a shortfall in anticipated income. The figure for this is usually £60,000, but following our being victim to bank fraud at the end of December, this level has dropped out of necessity and the PCC will be reviewing the reserves policy and amount held in reserves following the APCM. The PCC also acknowledges in their reserves policy that they have a duty to expend any surplus income on activities that further the objectives of St. Swithin's within the year and not to build up reserves beyond the operating needs of the charity.

4. VICAR/CHAIR OF TRUSTEES REPORT - Rev. Jim Prestwood

There is far too much to cover in the life of St. Swithin's over the 12 months of 2023 and so I will just draw to attention some of the most significant and some of the highlights that have defined the year.

Ministry and Mission

After all the uncertainty and then the regathering after the pandemic of 2020-22, 2023 was a year where we were able to recast vision and look towards growing into the things we sensed God had been pointing us towards. Some of this was regathering everyone around the overall vision and mission we believe we have as a church and some of this was beginning to reshape mission and ministry ready for the years to come. You can read a lot about this in the ministry reports shown below from the different ministry leads but a couple of things to highlight are:

'Simply Us' - For our Summer term we stopped Alpha (!), we stopped Midweek Groups and over 100 of us gathered weekly together in the Salthouse to regather, refresh and re-envision ourselves. It was a really positive few weeks and it was wonderful to see old connections remade and new connections between people take place - all of which looked towards relaunching Alpha and the reforming of Midweek Groups.

'Alpha' - Off the back of 'Simply Us', we relaunched Alpha and had our biggest number of guests on any one course which was fantastic and a massive thanks is due to Beth and her Alpha team, the catering team and the staff team - all of whom gave up their time freely and generously. It was also so exciting to see so many of our congregation inviting people - friends and family, colleagues and neighbours to try Alpha!

2023 also saw investment in our work with rising generations and their families with the PCC appointing two roles with SDF funding - a Youth Outreach Pastor (PT) and a Worship For Everyone Lead Pastor (PT). These two roles have helped us build on our ethos and culture of being an intergenerational church as well as facilitating growth in age specific ministries.

Love Your Neighbour continued to develop, and the LYN Cafe is full of life every week hosting people from all backgrounds and whether offering them a listening ear, some company or a jacket potato (!), the team do a great job of making people feel at home. Alongside the Night Light Cafe and CAP Money Course, running Kintsugi Hope and welcoming other partners into the Cafe space have also been a real joy this year.

Finances

We started the year in a reasonable place financially but with little wriggle room and without any spare to do anything other than keep things at the level they were at. With SDF funding tailing off towards the end of the 5-year grant period, with our covenant giving increasing in response to the Diocesan initiative, 'Time To Change Together', this seemed a large but just about realistic challenge. However, this was before we took into account the desire to try and add some additional support in the back office (having never replaced the Ops Manager role) and of course complete the kitchen and lift in the Salthouse (never mind get into the Upper Room at the Salthouse.)

However, as we drew to the end of the year, it was incredible to see again God's provision and the congregation's generosity. By the end of the year, as a result of a significant grant donation of £50K as well as incredible generosity over two giving days from the congregation (and a Monopoly fundraiser in the summer), we had completed the kitchen and the lift, taken on a Finance Assistant and an Admin Assistant in the office and were looking very close to being able to begin works on the renovation of the Upper Room.

Shockingly and upsettingly at the end of December, we fell victim to bank fraud with a fraudulent payment of £42,000 being taken out of our account. We are currently making representation to NatWest Bank and the financial ombudsman to seek to recover the funds. As a PCC/ Trustees, we have undertaken and are continuing to review all our financial policies and procedures, banking security and staff and trustee training on fraud. This fraud does not affect the expenditure of money we have received through grants or restricted giving, but it does affect the amount we are able to carry in reserves and this is currently being reviewed.

Staffing

It was a privilege to welcome Rev. Victoria Lawrence as a training curate to St. Swithin's and St. Faith's in June and also to support Rev. John Birkett as he was ordained priest the same month.

We also welcomed Kath Marsden onto the staff team as our Youth Outreach Pastor (PT) and Vicky Prestwood took up a paid role on the team as Worship for Everyone Lead Pastor (PT). In the Summer we also appointed Kath as Digital Media Assistant (PT) and Susie Williamson as Office Assistant (PT). Rose Williams also joined the team in Sept as Finance Assistant (PT).

Focus

The HTB network family holiday held at Newark Showground was attended by over 100 of our church family with many more joining us for the day on the Saturday. The sun shone (mostly!) and it was fantastic to spend time hanging out, eating and worshipping together.

The Salthouse

The completion of the kitchen at the Salthouse happened in 2023 and has facilitated us offering some great food and hospitality for Simply Us, Alpha, Family breakfasts and a brilliant Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings for our Love Your Neighbour guests.

The completion of the lift and finalising of plans for the Upper Room set us up ready to begin to use that space in the first half of 2024.

Thanks

There are so many people who give so generously with their time, gifts and finances and who make St. Swithin's the community of faith it is and Vicky and I are so grateful for all you do, seen and unseen. I had the amazing privilege of being able to take a 3 month sabbatical in the Summer, time to retreat, rest, reflect and refresh and Vicky and I especially want to thank Ben and Bekah, the staff team and the Church Wardens who all took on additional responsibilities and workload during this time. The fact that things not just

continued but developed and grew and that we are ending the year in such a healthy place is a testament to them, to you all and of course to the faithfulness of God.

2024

Believe it or not, 2024 is the 10th year since planting into St. Swithin's and we can't wait for the first weekend in October where we will both be celebrating God's faithfulness and officially opening the Upper Room with a big community party.

It's also going to be a year of change as we look at joining with St. Faith's into one parish, as we continue to consider the part we play in resourcing in our Deanery and wider Diocese, as we look to lease the church building to another denomination and as we look to how each one of us play our unique part in seeing more people encounter the Love of God, learn to Live more like Jesus and Go in the power of the Spirit to see lives and communities transformed.

5. MINISTRY REPORTS

Through 2023 we have been continuing to adapt and change as a church as we continue to try and meet the ever changing shape of the needs in our city (GO), the ways we help resource and nurture people in their discipleship (LIVE) and the way we gather and engage together as a worshipping community (LOVE). Key parts of this have involved Alpha and Love Your Neighbour as well as other ministries in support of our regular worshipping community that has grown to 400 over the past nine years.

ALPHA - Beth Harris

Alpha in 2023 has been a really interesting year. We've experimented with our usual rhythm of running an evening Alpha three times a year, allowing us to begin a new strategy which we are planning to continue going forward. We started the year running Alpha simultaneously at the Salthouse & St. Faith's, splitting the team and livestreaming from one church to the other. The numbers were a lot lower than usual for the time of year even though we were offering two locations and we struggled with the livestreaming consistency. After prayerful reflection around Alpha as a whole piece we decided to pause evening Alpha for the summer time, instead using the space to invite the whole congregation to 'Simple Us', a 5 week course aimed at reconnecting, re-envisioning and rediscovering with the aim of gearing up for one big Alpha a year starting in October, followed by smaller lower key Alphas in the subsequent terms.

We saw record numbers sign up for the autumn Alpha, and the average number of guests each week was much higher than usual. Many people commented on the buzz in the room and how encouraging it was to see the main room in the Salthouse full for an Alpha course.

"Very nice people, great team leaders and some great conversations, non-judgemental atmosphere, receiving prayer was a special moment."

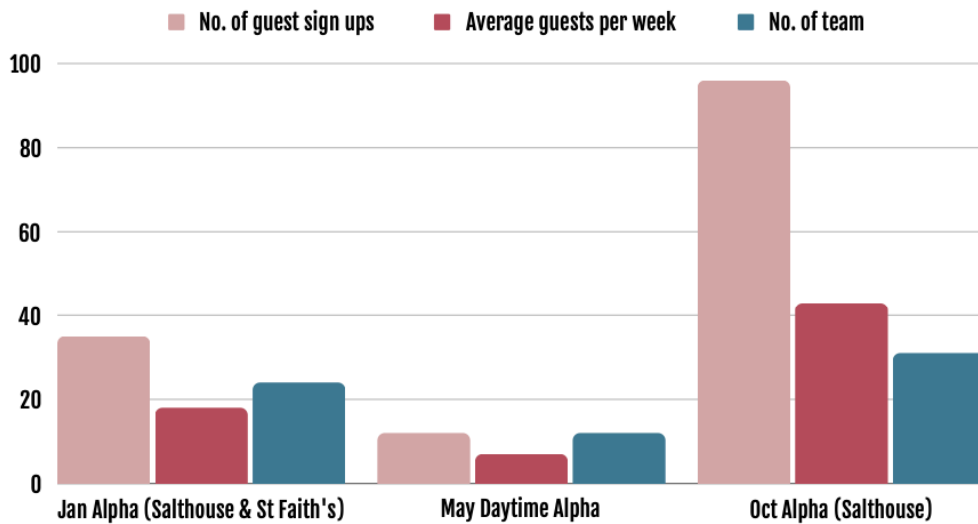
"Alpha was really good. People, community, food, the philosophy, the teachings of the church - good."

"I started Alpha as someone who hadn't even stepped foot in church, for me I wanted somewhere where I could explore faith and ask questions that perhaps I didn't have the opportunity to ask anyone, for me that was really important. Alpha helped me explore those questions in a safe space... I'm still exploring faith and

where I fit in that, and when those big topics have come up whether in the news or in my personal life it's just given me a different perspective."

"Within the video there are moments when the realisation sets in and you can truly understand the power and love of God. Every moment like that is worth cherishing for when you are having a low day so I appreciate being about to experience those!"

We've been encouraged to see multiple Alpha guests from this year coming along to church for the first time, inviting others, joining midweek groups and joining teams, continuing the journey of faith that they are on.



We kicked off both the January and October Alpha with a new launch event 'Bingo & Baltis' which proved very popular (105 sign ups and 79 check in's in Jan & 139 sign ups and 113 check in's in Oct). It was great to hear stories of 18-25's who have come along to an 18-25 event, then to Bingo & Baltis, then signed up for Alpha because "why not, everything I've come to has been really good so far".

In the summer term we ran a daytime Alpha in conjunction with the LYN Cafe inviting guests from the Cafe to come along. We had 12 sign ups, with an average of 7 guests. Running a smaller course in the day allowed space for those with small children to come along and it felt like a great model of church family as the team helped out with the kids, allowing the parents to engage with the material as well as leading small groups.

With each course we ran an Alpha day in partnership with St. Mark's, Grimsby sharing the hosting. On these days we focused on the Holy Spirit, with talks and videos and small group discussion followed by the opportunity to be prayed for to receive the Holy Spirit. Many of the guests were open to being prayed for, some being filled with the Holy Spirit for the first time as well as responding to words and pictures which they felt were specifically for them.

"I had experienced the Holy Spirit before and had a relationship with God before Alpha but everything has gotten better, not easier but reaffirmed things and strengthened faith. I learned how to use the Holy Spirit in day to day life and wasn't something I was consciously aware of. The Holy Spirit feels like a missing piece that I have been longing for. The Holy Spirit was a scary concept and had previously caused anxiety but that all went away."

We had the opportunity to work with Alpha UK gathering Alpha leaders in June from across Lincoln & Lincolnshire to share stories and pray together to encourage one another as we each run Alpha in our own

churches. From that we ran 'GROW ALPHA' a training evening to equip churches to grow their Alpha courses. It was encouraging to meet and learn from each other over the course of the evening.

COLLEGE - Rev. Victoria Lawrence

We are continuing to provide chaplaincy at Lincoln College every Tuesday lunchtime. We meet and chat with students in the common room (known as the Well-Being Hub) and over the past few months have made some really great connections and have enjoyed hearing the student's reflections on faith and Christianity. One college student now regularly attends older youth on a Wednesday, our Kingdom Come evenings and attended the youth weekend away. We are hoping to run another 'Youth Alpha' in the summer term as a means of offering a space for students to share their thoughts and ask questions that are important to them. As a team, we continue to build links with the college staff and seek to work together to support students in their wellbeing and ongoing questions of faith.

CHURCH PLANTING AND RESOURCING THE URBAN CHURCH - Rev. Jim Prestwood

2023 has been a year of supporting and embedding the two churches we planted into in 2021. St. Mark's Grimsby continues to grow and develop under the leadership of Rev. Matt Rodgers and his team, and we work closely with them informally in a variety of ways ranging from joint staff days, training and prayer to organising joint youth residentials. St. Faith's is a different model and is also our neighbouring parish and so St. Swithin's work much more hands on with St. Faith's, with many of the team and some of the congregations working and worshipping across both churches. We have used the term 'one family, two churches' to try and express this. In particular the partnership around the 4:15 service has been really fruitful with over an average of 100 school children, parents and others from the West End attending the monthly interactive service each month.

We continue to explore with the SDF project board and with Rev. Juliette Willis and Rev. Ben Willis the next potential plant from St. Swithin's as part of the resourcing Urban Church project.

MIDWEEK GROUPS - Rev. Juliette Willis

For much of 2023 Midweek Groups took a pause as we chose to gather centrally for various courses. The Lent course was well attended by many who were already in Midweek Groups at the beginning of 2023. This course provided space for in-depth in-person teaching led by Rev. Ben Brady and was well received by those who attended. During the Easter to summer term we ran 'Simply Us' centrally at the Salthouse. This was invaluable for gathering, envisioning and encouraging the congregation. With a regular attendance in-person of over 100 people each week and the addition of an online group following the same content. It created space for us to come together to deepen our relationship with Jesus, help us build friendships with one another and envisaged us for the future. Then from September to Christmas we intentionally paused all Midweek Groups to encourage the whole Church to invite friends and colleagues to Alpha and to come along with them. With nearly 100 people attending the Alpha course that term it's the most well attended course we've run at St Swithins so far.

At the end of 2023 it's fair to say that we recognised there was a real appetite for Midweek Groups to be re-established and as we head into 2024 there are 17 Midweek Group options available running alongside various courses. Each group looks a little different in their style, location, timings and group-makeup - from monthly family groups to weekly groups discussing the sermon-series content. Each intentional pause from

Midweek Groups that was made in 2023 have helped to build an excitement and desire for groups this coming year. As we look ahead our hope is that these groups will continue to strengthen and multiply.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Beth Harris

Our Leadership Development Year has continued this year offering training in leadership and theology alongside ministry experience serving alongside the staff team, where our LDY students could put their learning into practise. Our 22/23 cohort served in various ministries: Love Your Neighbour, Youth, Events and Storytelling (AV). Throughout the year, they got involved in Love Christmas, the LYN Cafe, video editing, the youth weekend away, co-leading services and Alpha to name a few. They had the opportunity to go along to the HTB Leadership Conference and they finished their year with serving at Focus.

We had a new cohort of two begin in September and another joined in November. They serve in kids, youth and events. This year we opened up the training sessions on a Monday afternoon to allow those who couldn't commit to the whole LDY programme because of other responsibilities, but still giving them the opportunity to participate in the training. We've had two commit to coming along to the training and are encouraging them to serve in the church alongside this training. We have also joined with St Mark's, Grimsby, and are joined by two of their LDY students at the training sessions.

We ran other Leaderships Stream and had a cohort of seven from the 18-25's. We began with the Lent Course, thinking about our own discipleship as a leader, focusing on spiritual disciples and incorporating a rule of life. We then offered 4 leadership training sessions to equip them with a clearer understanding of who they are and their strengths and tools to equip them for leading others as they serve in a church and in work.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR - Paul Epton

The impact of Love Your Neighbour has continued to grow throughout 2023, with many people being added to the fringes of church as a result of its various ministries.

A major change has taken place in the food depot, with deliveries around the city halting and with a different approach being taken - that of encouraging collections from the Love Your Neighbour Cafe at the same time as being able to grab a coffee and cake and meeting our team in person in a relaxed atmosphere. By doing this, we have been able to get to know the recipients that bit better than a swift doorstep delivery would allow, and we can signpost to other support more easily. In addition, due to the lack of suitable food being offered, the decision was made to cancel the contract with Fareshare to supply us with food, and more donations have been sought through other channels, such as the church congregations, donation stations at various places in the city, and surplus food collections from Aldi and Sainsburys.

The Love Your Neighbour Cafe continues to be well attended on Thursday mornings, often seeing between 40-50 visitors, and relationships with guests are getting stronger. As a result, we have been able to experiment with more courses running alongside the Cafe, including Kintsugi Hope and a daytime Alpha Course. In addition, the Cafe has become more of a hub with other service providers, and regularly hosts the team from Voluntary Centre Services who use it as a meeting place for social prescribers and their clients.

With the cost of living crisis worsening, in January 2023 we launched a Warm Space on Tuesday mornings at the Salthouse. A guest who first came to the warm space in February said:

"I was invited to the Salthouse by a friend who regularly attended the LYN Cafe. Straight away I felt welcomed; the team took the time to chat to me and after

attending a couple of times invited me to come to church, something I had never considered and never thought I would do. Now my phone is filled with the numbers of friends I have made from the Cafe and church and it is a crucial part of my week, both for me and my young daughter. The daytime Alpha course I attended through LYN was an important part of my journey into faith and I will be eternally grateful for that opportunity.”

We continue to run the Night Light Cafe every Saturday night from the Salthouse, and have been encouraged by the way relationships have developed and been built, with between 4-9 people regularly in attendance. However, we have seen team numbers falling, meaning that it has been a challenge to cover shifts. Active recruitment is taking place and our hope is to be able to have three people on team per shift to ensure a better experience for our guests. One guest arrived in a very bad state, and it turned out he was homeless suffering from very poor mental health. He visited the cafe for 6 months and loved it. When he managed to find accommodation out of the area, he left the following message:

“I just wanted to say thank you, if it wasn't for you and the team, I would have given up a long time ago. Night Light has helped me more than I can even begin to explain, so thank you so much, truly, it's been great.”

We have continued to run the CAP Money Course and sought to run it in local schools in St. Faith's, however, we have had difficulty recruiting participants. An online course was run at the beginning of the year with 4 participants, and then the decision was made to pause the running of the course while the materials were refreshed and the course rebranded as Money Coaching by CAP. In 2024 we will reach out again to schools and other charities to run the courses there, as well as at the Salthouse.

We have run two Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups in 2023, the first partnering with Threshold Church (10 participants) and the second in house after the LYN Cafe (8 participants), both were very well received, with participants commenting how “helpful, positive, affirming and informative” they have been.

As in previous years we participated in Love Christmas and produced 443 bags and hampers of kindness which were distributed to people in need across the city. We partnered with a number of clubs, churches, schools and businesses to create donation stations and had a hugely successful fundraising quiz at the end of November which helped ensure we were able to create some excellent bags and hampers. In addition, with the kitchen having recently been installed at the Salthouse, we did our first ever Love Your Neighbour Christmas Meal, where we catered for 50 guests with a full Christmas dinner, with entertainment from a local junior school choir. It was very well received and a lot of fun.

For Love Easter we rallied around the congregation and partners and were generously donated over 700 chocolate Easter eggs which were given out at the cafe and to local charities and churches.

It has been a good year, and we wouldn't be where we are without the faithful service of our dedicated team members, to whom we are very grateful. In addition, we are thankful for our LDYers, Harry Tyrrell and Alice Teuten, who have served brilliantly in all areas of LYN.

2023 - LYN Activity Stats (as at 31 Dec 2023)

Food parcels delivered/collected	1270
Night Light Cafe Guests	286
CAP Money Participants	11
Kintsugi Hope Participants	14
LYN Cafe Guests/Visits	1034
Love Christmas bags of kindness	443
Regular volunteers (not inc. Love Christmas)	51

18-25S - Mads Baker

A call to mission

Recent research released in 2023 states that 74% of unchurched students would go to church if a friend invited them. In a city of 16,000 students where the equivalent of 1% are engaged in the local church, I hope this statistic stirs both hope and heartbreak for the lives of University students nationally and also here in Lincoln.

Towards the end of 2023, God has been stirring greater hunger and courage for mission and evangelism amongst this generation. Hearing all that God was doing on the Asbury University Campus at the start of 2023 has raised faith in all God can do and is a reminder of His love for this generation. There's a stirring call to equip our 18-25s to reach their colleagues, housemates, coursemates and friends on campus. A call to catalyse courage in bold missional initiatives and everyday conversations about faith for the sake of God's Kingdom.

In 2023 we began to consider how we could start to reach students in the West End of Lincoln through our freshers events and services. The West End area is saturated with student housing for those in their 2nd and 3rd year and provides a key opportunity for invitation to Church. We formed a St. Faith's student team which despite having varying degrees of success still helped 4 new students to settle at St. Faith's and call it home (4 more than we had last year!)

Coffee Trailer

Between September to December 2023, we also pioneered a coffee trailer outside of St. Faith's Church run entirely by 18-25s and with a vision to serve the community and to create greater interaction with the students living in this area.

During the first week, we had conversations with a second-year student who came for a coffee. As we got chatting to her, we discovered that she and her housemates all lived on the same road as St Faith's Church. We invited her to attend our firepits and paella freshers event that evening outside St Faith's where we also made use of the coffee van to serve drinks. That evening she came along to the firepit event and brought all 4 of her housemates with her. They stayed for most of the evening and sat around the fire having conversations with other 18-25s and the core team. As the weeks went on, we got to know her other housemates well. From other conversations with her at the coffee van, we learnt that she had some background in faith but had never found a Church at University. She has since attended other events at St Faith's and attended the 6:15 service.

Growing & Releasing

Our current 18-25s are a core part of our community often attracting upwards of 50 new students each year. This year we saw a dip in this number, with us dropping from an average of 80 18-25s to just under 50. (20+ of our 3rd years moving on this year)

We normally see 30+ new freshers settle at St. Swithin's each year. This year that dropped to 15. There may be several reasons for this but as we have reviewed this and gathered feedback, one key reason appears to be some difference in theological views held by some of the CU exec and St. Swithin's which then played into Freshers not being encouraged as much as in previous years to consider St. Swithin's an option. We have since sought to build relationships with the CU and worked with them to co-lead events during their missions week and we are working on more plans for the future.

Another possible reasons for lower numbers this year is that more churches in the city are doing more to reach students! This is a good thing when only 1% of students on campus know Jesus! The number of Christian students on campus maybe hasn't dropped but perhaps they are spread over more churches. It really is a good thing that more churches are an option for students! With this in mind, it just highlights further the other 99% and how we might reach them!

Although numbers of students have dropped, the 18-25's ministry has continued to develop and grow as we care for, support and disciple our 18-25s. We have had the utter privilege of seeing them change and grow in their faith over the three years they are here and then we get to see them released to go out into the world and see lives and communities transformed in their new context. When speaking to our student leavers in the summer I was encouraged to hear all God had done in them during their time in Lincoln. Some had found faith for the first time at St. Swithin's, others had gone from telling no one about faith to inviting housemates to Church and another still remarked that she had seen a change in her parent's openness to faith since she had told them about Church and been coming along to St Swithin's. Some of our 18-25 leavers have gone off to further pursue mission by heading off to Youth With A Mission (YWAM), others have chosen to stay in Lincoln after graduating and are lights in the every day in the vocation in which God has called them.

18-25s form an integral part of our Church, pollinating across ministry areas and seeking to use their gifts to serve and connect with others. They serve on our youth teams, as part of our Love Your Neighbour ministry, they serve on Alpha and are a key part of supporting everything that happens on a Sunday. We continue to use our mentoring programme to support our 18-25s and we also saw our biggest weekend away attendance yet with 70 people coming along to yet another new location!

We have seen our evening service continue to attract new students and it has been amazing to see how courageous our 18-25s are in inviting their friends to try Church and explore faith.

My prayer is:

1. that we continue to reach students in the West End and on campus; and
2. that our 18-25s keep growing in their deep desire to see their friends come to know Jesus.

RISING GENERATIONS

BABYCCINOS - Vicky Prestwood

Babyccinos in the Salthouse continued to grow in numbers; with between 30 and 40 babies and toddlers, along with parents or carers, regularly attending. As well as numerically, this group has also grown in the sense of community over the past year, with members of the group getting to know the team and taking

ownership of the space. This can be seen in the way that members contribute towards resources and also invite others along.

The Babyccinos team has grown in its identity, with 5 people helping each week and being committed to the ministry of Babyccinos. Relationships with those coming along have really built up with this consistent and committed team. One of the most encouraging things about Babyccinos this year has been the cross-over to other ministries within St. Swithin's and St. Faith's. Over the course of the year we have seen around 10 families from Babyccinos come to a St. Faith's 4:15pm service and some have come along to Stay Toasty and the Love Your Neighbour Cafe. Again, over the coming year we would like to build on these links more and see more invitations to our church services.

SCHOOLS - Victoria Lawrence

We are continuing to provide collective worship on a fortnightly basis in both St. Faith's Infants and St. Faith's and St. Martin's Schools'. These collective worship sessions cover a range of topics around fruits of the spirit, times and seasons of the church calendar, biblical themes and stories. We are also working with schools' to support them with elements of the RE curriculum, these include welcoming year groups to St. Faith's Church for baptism, parables and wedding workshops. Alongside this, we have visited schools' to be interviewed by the children on areas such as science and faith, the incarnation and the role of a vicar. These have been great opportunities to explore and reflect on kingdom values and what it means to live our lives through the transforming love of Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Vicky Prestwood

This year we have continued to build on our Children's and Family work within the wider context of our Worship for Everyone Services.

Our 9:15 service remains popular with young families, and this year we have seen a growing depth within this service, with a particular push into worship and the ministry of the Holy Spirit - all done with very young families in mind.

The 10:15 service continues to grow in its identity as we explore and grapple with how best to deliver Worship for Everyone within quite a broad context. Whilst we are aware that this has not been everyone's preferred style of service, research shows the positive impact of the Worship for Everyone model on the whole worshipping community, with children learning alongside their families meaning that families take responsibility for their own children's discipleship; children are more likely to stick in church in the long term and the whole community share their faith journey together. In our society where many are isolated and lonely, an intergenerational model of worship can be beneficial to all ages. As we develop this model of children's work within Worship for Everyone services, we continue to provide connection points for specific ages to have fun and learn together.

Each Sunday there is a kids connect time between the 9:15 and the 10:15 which has been steadily growing and is a space for kids to come and connect together, have fun together and pray together. Once a term the children have an opportunity to come to a social just for their age group, to which they are encouraged to invite friends. This year we have also worked on our strategy for discipleship within families; introducing twice-termly family breakfasts, Midweek Groups and take-home resources from services.

YOUTH MINISTRY - Kath Marsden

There are two words that constantly run around my head when I think about our youth ministry - thrive and flourish. As a youth team we are constantly seeking space for the young people of our church and those who they invite to thrive and flourish, not just in their faith, but in who they are, and in the giftings God has given them. One way in which we have seen this at work over the last year is through our growing youth band. Not only do they help to lead worship every Wednesday as part of our midweek gathering, but we have termly band rehearsals to pray together, listen to what songs God has placed on their hearts for the term and a way of including other youth too who have a particular gifting to music. This has flowed well into our 4:15pm band at St. Faiths as well as the worship bands for Sundays at St. Swithins.

Over this past year it has been amazing to see so many new faces join our youth group, not just for the socials but regularly at our midweek gatherings where we give space for young people to thrive and flourish through the gospel. Since February 2023, when we took over 20 young people from St Swithin's away on a weekend residential with the young people from St mark's, Grimsby, we have seen 27 new youth join our groups week in week out, including those who moved up to youth from kids in Y5, at both midweek youth at the Salthouse and West End youth club at St. Faiths. Numbers are an important measure of growth, but more important is the development of the young people's relationships with Jesus. Momentum has been building over at St. Faiths through our West End youth club. This is predominantly aimed at the younger youth and is a space on a Friday night for games, sweets, hot chocolate etc where we can have an open and easy invite for youth to bring friends. Since February last year this group has really taken off with 6 of them coming to our weekend away and experiencing what it is like to be filled with the Spirit and learning more about Jesus.

One story that stands out over this past year involves the work we do at Lincoln College as part of the chaplaincy team. Every Tuesday lunch time we go into the college and hang out, play cards, have informal chats, connect and be a presence to the young people in the college common room. The college themselves have had a shift in their structures within their wellbeing hub but what we have continued to be is a support for the students and offer to pray, listen and eat with them weekly. Off the back of our work here, we invited one of the students to midweek youth and have seen them consistently come along to our youth programs. As a team we love how much they have become involved and how they don't shy away from telling their college friends either!

The youth are not just our next generation of leaders, many are leading now and I thank God that we, as a Church, have such a wonderful group of youth who are thriving and flourishing in their own special way, and we get to journey alongside them. I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store, but if it's anything like these past 12 months, we will see more lives transformed and more young people going in the power of the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP - Rev. Ben Brady

God has blessed us with such good musicianship for our worship team and skilled people for the technology side. As a team we continue to learn and improve our skills and processes as we lead the church in worship. With no Worship Pastor, our worship leaders truly go above and beyond. I am so grateful for all they do and their passion for leading us in worship. The attitude has been positive in pursuing Worship for Everyone in our services and all of them have suggested new worship songs to add to our repertoire. We want to reflect what is going on in our country, city and church in our sung worship. This has led to broadening what we listen to and to continue prayerful selection of song choices.

The model is four bands for each Sunday of the month. There's a slight variation for the evening service, but we have found a consistent pattern of people playing can help avoid one person doing too much. We have had interest from new members of the church to join the worship team, predominantly from the 6:15.

We have implemented a 'three audition' process to allow new members to play with different musicians, for other worship leaders to share their views and to confirm their commitment to arriving early, being rehearsed and prepared for practice.

The development of team for the Audio and Visuals is continuing. Although it can look overwhelming, we have committed a lot of time to try and streamline/simplify the process. The reality is that it is an ongoing process, as new people join and others leave with their expertise, training will take place. Although it is heavily technical, I believe this is also a great ground to build up potential leaders and gain skills in working and leading groups.

We are seeing more Rising Generations joining us in both the bands and AV. It is so wonderful to have their knowledge and intuition (especially around technology - which seems like second nature!) on the team.

The growth of the 4:15 service at St. Faith's has led to new and younger members joining the band, reflecting the age of the people attending this service. Due to the organist playing at the Prison service once a month, we have some of the worship team playing at St. Faith's for the 10:15 service once a month which has been well received. We hope to establish more of a worship team at St Faith's this coming year, with a hybrid of band and organ music in the 10:15 service. As we continue seeing growth across the services, we will carry on setting a culture at St. Swithin's with our values of Home, Real and Courage at the heart of all we do.

SUNDAY SERVICES - Rev. Jim Prestwood

My thanks go to so many people who are involved in such a variety of ways to make our services what they are. From the welcome team to the worship team, the tech team to the teaching team and everyone else who understands that we all have our unique part to play in the church family.

Our regular pattern of services throughout 2023 has sought to consolidate and build on the experimentation that took place in 2022 as we came out of the pandemic. Our regular pattern of services has been:

the 9:15 aimed primarily at families with preschool children has grown in both its identity and its number over the 2023 and we are starting to see invitations given through Babyccinos to attend the service being taken up which is really exciting.

the 10:15 remains the largest congregation and the most diverse with an intergenerational focus. We have overall in 2023 seen numbers creep up at this service. There was a slight slump around the middle of the year as a small team went to help 'plant' at St. Faith's 10:15, a cohort of students moved on, we hit the summer months, Jim and Vicky took a sabbatical and we continued to learn and grow in our understanding of a theology, model and practice of intergenerational worship. However, as we have prayed, worked hard as a preaching, leading and worship team, had a regular pattern of church lunches and welcome lunches (and I'm sure many other factors), towards the end of the year we're seeing signs of growth amongst the number of children, young people and young adults attending this service. (The number of children and young people attending has also been reflected in the numbers attending 'connect time' which takes place between the two morning services.) A particular joy this year has been to see our children and young people grow in their engagement and expression of sung worship and we are so grateful to those that lead us in worship every week.

The prospect of moving into the upper room in 2024 is particularly exciting for this congregation as we are over 80% capacity most weeks and so at a growth ceiling in that regard. This service continues to be streamed online and there is a regular number who tune in weekly (as well as those who catch up on the talks afterwards).

the6:15 has by and large seen a consistent attendance in 2023 with a mix of ages from older youth upwards but attracting a significant number of students and young adults. There is more time and space in this service which follows a worship, teaching, ministry model. Again this service saw a dip in the middle of the year in terms of attendance for a variety of reasons, some alluded to above. In October we reviewed and refreshed ever so slightly the flow and content of this service and alongside the introduction of midweek groups and intentionally focusing on the social time after the service, we saw some old faces return as well as new faces joining us. Towards the end of the year, our USA was back up to previous levels.

In addition, as a result of our partnership with St. Faith's, people also have the option of:

- a Sunday morning Eucharist service at 10:15 at St. Faith's.
- a monthly 4:15pm service aimed at primary school aged children and their families, usually on the first Sunday of the month.
- a midweek Eucharist service at St. Faith's on a Wednesday morning at 9:30am.

SUNDAY SERVICES STATS - Rev. Jim Prestwood

Service	Usual Sunday Attendance - Oct 2023 (incl. Adults, Youth & Children)
the9:15	53
the10:15 in person	116
the6:15	73
the10:15 online	17

* The team continue to work and support St. Faith's, details of which will be reported in their end of year report.

6. CHURCH WARDENS REPORT - Rachel Tyrrell and Richard Lambert

The Church Wardens have a duty to represent the laity and co-operate with the incumbent. They are responsible for two main areas – maintain the Inventory, Terrier and Log-book, and support the incumbent in the orderly running of the church.

Inventory - Maintain the inventory of the church treasure and other paraphernalia - we can confirm that all articles cited in the 2023 inventory have been accounted for in 2024. In addition, a silver thurible and some ecclesiastical vestments, previously on loan to All Saints, Nettleham were returned in June, and silver plate valuation was received from Peter Rowlett, Rowletts of Lincoln in September. A silver chalice, used in communion was also sent away for repairs.

Terrier - Maintain a full register of all land owned by the church - we can confirm that no land or property has been sold. The Church building remains closed to all but staff, due to unresolved structural problems. As such, all Church life was conducted in and through the Salthouse; a building owned by the Diocese.

Quinquennial - The Quinquennial Inspection of St. Swithin's Church Building was carried out in June by Diocesan Architects GMS. Their report confirmed that major work is required to halt further deterioration and

restore a watertight and structurally sound shell. Although not currently used for weekly worship, the church is regularly checked by staff and the vestry areas is still in use with some of the main nave also used for storage. Building insurance continues in place and routine lightning protection assessments are maintained. Following the fall of one of the many stone finials, which adorn the church tower, some damage to the nave roof tiles was evident. Given the potentially high impact to the building and the general public from such events, Heras fencing was used to cordon off relevant areas on the perimeter of the Church but due to insufficient funds, no further inspection or repair has been possible.

Log-book - Towards the end of 2023, another denomination, the Traditional Anglican Church approached the diocese concerning potential interest in long term use of the St. Swithin's Church building as their place of worship. The Diocese subsequently approached the PCC who have been exploring with the support of the Archdeacon and the Registrar, a potential 2-3 year lease with a view to the TAC looking to take the building on longer term.

Supporting Jim & Vicky, Ben & Bekah – 2023 saw a first for us at St. Swithin's and St. Faith's, with a Sabbatical taken by Jim from July to October. During this time we had the continuing privilege of supporting both families and also the staff team as people absorbed different levels of responsibility for a relatively short period. It served as a good reminder to prioritise and protect our own sabbath rest. The next year promises much change (as usual!) and the simple call in 1 Thessalonians 5 to, 'always be joyful, never stop praying' has never been so important. See you at the next Kingdom Come!

7. SAFEGUARDING - Rosemary Brooks (PSO)

We comply with all regulations and duties and have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is very important to us and is at the heart of all our activities. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda and is reviewed at every PCC meeting.

Current Team

Rosemary Brooks is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. The other members of the Safeguarding team are Rev. Jim Prestwood (Safeguarding Lead) and Rev. Ben Brady with Susan Watt being responsible for DBS checks and safeguarding training.

We continue to work closely with the Diocesan team during 2023, seeking their advice and guidance where appropriate. The Diocese Safeguarding Advisor is Jack Redeyoff and the Case Worker that has supported us with regard to any concerns is Jonny Fluck.

Dashboard

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard helps us to monitor our practice and compliance with national Church of England guidance and generates an Action Plan which enables us to identify areas for improvement. Our current status is green in all areas.

DBS checks

At St. Swithin's we have 117 people with DBS checks serving in a variety of teams and roles. There were 28 new DBS checks in 2023.

Training

The cycle for training is three years and trainees are only required to refresh training at the highest level previously completed. In 2023 65 training courses were completed.

All members of the PCC are required to complete safeguarding training, and this now includes the module on Domestic Abuse. This module is particularly pertinent to our commitment to safeguarding vulnerable adults.

If you have any questions about DBS checks or Safeguarding training please contact Susan Watt sue.watt@stswithins.org.uk

Safeguarding Processes & Practice

Since the introduction of the new guidelines, we have continued to review the safeguarding process to ensure that not only are we compliant with the new guidance but that also our practice promotes and supports a safe environment for all.

We have reviewed how we record and log any cases. The Parish Safeguarding Officer maintains a central log of concerns which is only accessible to the safeguarding team. The log enables any team member to quickly identify if there are any previous concerns relating to any individual and also if there are any trends that might indicate an area of concern that needs addressing. All concerns, including those where no further action was deemed appropriate, are logged. All safeguarding records are maintained in accordance with the guidance and in a secure storage area that only the safeguarding team can access.

Safeguarding Team Review Meetings

The core safeguarding team meet quarterly to review the central log and actions taken. This ensures that all team members are aware of current cases and any learning from those cases can be shared.

Volunteer Reviews

The new guidance requires that all volunteers in activities that require a DBS check have an annual review. Currently, this impacts primarily on Rising Generations ministry teams. The PCC view this as not only an opportunity to reflect on best practice with regard to safeguarding, but also one where we can celebrate and acknowledge the very valuable contribution that so many volunteers make. It also enables ministry leads to foster and develop leadership qualities within their teams and ensure that ministry teams remain resourced with committed volunteers who feel appreciated. Rev. Juliette Willis led the first set of reviews with the Youth Team and has given feedback on the process. The form was adapted slightly to allow volunteers to scale their level of satisfaction with their role as this is more informative than a simple yes/no response. It also allows for comparison at subsequent reviews. Juliette reported that the review process was time efficient and helpful to both herself and the volunteers. It was easily built into their normal team meeting cycle. Paul Epton has also looked to conduct reviews with his team of volunteers. Whilst the reviews are linked primarily to the safeguarding process, it was agreed that the process could be beneficial to all volunteer teams in terms of acknowledging the value of their contribution.

Reported Concerns 2023-2024

In total there have been 29 concerns logged since the last APCM. The majority of concerns reported have been for adults and 18-25s, with only 4 concerning minors. The reported concerns for under 18s have related to inappropriate communication between peers and mental wellbeing. None of the concerns with regard to minors resulted in further action being necessary and were resolved with parental involvement and support.

The adult concerns have been more varied, but the majority have been concerns about mental wellbeing and personal safety. In all cases we work closely with Diocesan advice and signpost to other agencies where appropriate.

We continue to hold safeguarding at the heart of all our activities. If anyone has any concerns with regards to safeguarding, they should alert Rosemary Brooks, Jim Prestwood or Ben Brady in person or by emailing safeguarding@stswithins.org.uk

8. REPORTS ON DIOCESAN AND DEANERY SYNOD - Sue Watt

The Church of England is governed synodically - by Deanery synods, Diocesan synods and the General Synod. Matters affecting the church are discussed and decisions made at the relevant synod.

Christianity Deanery includes the Church of England churches within the city of Lincoln. Alongside the clergy, lay representatives from local churches are elected at their APCM's to serve on their Deanery synod, for a three-year term. Our lay reps on Deanery Synod in 2023 were Dan Chard, Susan Watt (the Deanery secretary) and Phil Williams (the Deanery Lay Chair). The Deanery synod met in January, June and October 2023. Time to Change Together - the change programme which forms the basis of the vision for the future of the Church of England parishes in the Diocese - has continued to dominate discussions during 2023. In January, following a number of meetings and lots of discussions within the Local Mission Partnership (an area under TTCT which is roughly the same as our Deanery), synod formally took note of the Deanery Plan. This outlined where we envisaged stipendiary priests being deployed in the future in Lincoln, whilst also recognising the necessity of collaborative working, with churches working together in partnerships with one or two other churches, like our partnership with St. Faith's church. We are also pleased to have appointed people to two new voluntary roles within the deanery - a Deanery Mission Enabler (Rev. Ben Brady) and Environment Champion (Geoff Stratford). Their roles will be to encourage and assist parishes across the deanery in developing their responses to these needs.

The Diocese of Lincoln covers the historic county of Lincolnshire (the county of Lincolnshire, and the unitary authorities of North and North-East Lincolnshire) and the Diocesan synod comprises lay and clergy representatives from across the Diocese, elected by the Deanery synods for a three-year term. Susan Watt is currently a lay Diocesan synod representative and Rev. Jim Prestwood is a clergy Diocesan synod representative. A new Diocesan Bishop - the Right Rev. Stephen Conway - was appointed in Autumn 2023. The Diocesan synod met three times in 2023. Business included the following:

- Time to Change Together - updates
- Finance - approval of Diocesan accounts and budget for 2024
- Environment - approval of the Environmental Action plan
- Education - Diocesan Board of Education Annual Report
- Strategic Development Fund project - updates

The final tier in the structure is the General Synod which deals with matters of significance for the national church. Representatives on the General Synod are elected by Deanery Synod members and serve for a period of five years. Jonny Palmer from St. Swithin's is a member representing the RAF. Other people elected from Lincoln are Gavin Kirk (the Archdeacon of Lincoln) and Muriel Robinson (the Deanery Treasurer). Topics that are discussed are often reported in the national press.

Updates on all tiers of synodical governance are routinely reported and discussed at the PCC. If you would like to know more, please contact one of the reps named above.

9. ST SWITHIN'S PCC

St. Swithin's Electoral Roll

The number of members on the Electoral Roll at the APCM held in April 2023 was 207. The Electoral Roll Officer will present the number on the revised 2024 Electoral Roll to the APCM during the meeting.

St. Swithin's PCC meetings

The PCC met nine times during the year. After a heavy focus last year on mission and ministry it was almost inevitable that in 2023 our focus would turn elsewhere. It was envisaged that in 2023 we would review and audit our finance, governance, policies and procedures, but although this work has begun our attention has become diverted as circumstances have unfolded.

Finances continue to be monitored closely as we continue to juggle income and expenditure against a background of rising costs generally, with the need from a missional perspective - to start work on Phase 2 of the refurbishment of the Salthouse and in light of being a victim of bank fraud that we were subject to in December. The bank have initially refused to uphold our appeal to recover the money but we are now submitting a case to the ombudsman.

During the year, it became further apparent that the fabric of the old church building needed considerable investment to prevent further decay. As a result, the PCC made the difficult decision to begin the process for its closure or for handing it over to another denomination. Alongside this and as part of the Diocesan strategy, 'Time to Change Together' and recognising our growing partnership with St. Faith's, Lincoln, the PCC have voted to have begun the process of formalising the partnership with St. Faith's Church and joining with them to become one parish.

In terms of the refurbishment of the Salthouse, the kitchen and lift were installed and we developed and finalised plans for the worship space upstairs ready for work to commence in early 2024.

Risk Statement

In common with other churches and charities the PCC considers the major areas of risk to which it is exposed, be they operational, financial or reputational, and establishes systems to mitigate those risks. As we continue over 2024 to audit and review our policies, procedures and wider governance.

PCC Statement of Responsibilities

The PCC has prepared the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of its financial activities for that year and adequately distinguishes any material special trust or other restricted fund of the church.

In preparing those financial statements the PCC has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently; complied with applicable accounting standards, including FRS 102, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Stated whether a Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applies and has been followed, subject to any material departures which are explained in the financial statements;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis;
- The PCC has kept proper accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the church. Financial statements comply with applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice and the regulations made under s154 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- The PCC has taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. All the current members of the PCC have taken all the steps, which they ought to make themselves aware of any information needed by the independent examiner for the purposes of their independent examination and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information. The current

members of the PCC are not aware of any relevant information of which the independent examiner is unaware.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in 'The advancement of religion for the Public Benefit'; and have had regard to it in its administration of the church.

The PCC believes that by promoting the Christian faith it provides a benefit to the public by: Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual development, both for existing church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers; and Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Trustees in 2023

Rev. Jim Prestwood (Vicar and Chair of PCC)
Rev. Ben Brady (Associate Vicar)
Rev. John Birkett (from 24.06.23)
Rev. Victoria Lawrence (from 25.06.23)
Rev. Ben Willis
Rev. Juliette Willis
Mr Richard Lambert (Churchwarden, Vice Chair and Buildings Lead)
Mrs Rachel Tyrrell (Churchwarden)
Mrs Susan Watt (PCC Secretary, Deanery Synod representative)
Dr Phil Williams (Deanery Synod representative)
Mr Dan Chard (Treasurer, Deanery Synod representative)
Mrs Rosemary Brooks (Safeguarding Officer)
Mrs Becky Bull
Mr John Crowder
Mrs Linzi Crowder
Mr Paul Finch (until APCM 2023)
Mrs Jo Epton (until APCM 2023)
Miss Kath Marsden (until APCM 2023)
Mrs Jen Moat (elected APCM 2023)
Mrs Hayley Palmer
Mr Mark Perry
Miss Jane Pickersgill
Mr Callum Roper
Mr Andrew Shepherd (elected APCM 2023)
Mr David Stapleton
Mr Peter Sutton (until APCM 2023)
Mrs Moji Wadsworth (until APCM 2023)
Mr Andrew Warnes (co-opted 24.04.23)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Swithins Lincoln

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Zachary Ramsden*

Name: Zachary Ramsden FCA

Chartered Accountant

63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JT

Date: 18th April 2024

ST SWITHIN'S LINCOLN
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	209,662	224,035	433,697	413,431
Charitable activities	4	24,362	38,407	62,769	62,737
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments		<u>234,024</u>	<u>262,442</u>	<u>496,466</u>	<u>476,168</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:	5	273,487	210,378	483,865	408,127
Total expenditure		<u>273,487</u>	<u>210,378</u>	<u>483,865</u>	<u>408,127</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(39,463)</u>	<u>52,064</u>	<u>12,601</u>	<u>68,041</u>
Transfers between funds	13	39,504	(39,504)	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>41</u>	<u>12,560</u>	<u>12,601</u>	<u>68,041</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	13	101,862	105,678	207,540	207,540
Total funds carried forward		<u>101,903</u>	<u>118,238</u>	<u>220,141</u>	<u>275,581</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

The notes on page 24 to 34 form part of these accounts.

ST SWITHIN'S LINCOLN
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	2,236	-	2,236	5,295
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	8	-	300	300	500
Debtors	9	12,364	20,531	32,895	16,662
Cash at bank and in hand	10	142,475	97,406	239,881	232,190
		<u>154,839</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>273,076</u>	<u>249,352</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	11	43,171	-	43,171	23,108
Net current assets / (liabilities)		<u>111,668</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>229,905</u>	<u>226,244</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>113,904</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>232,141</u>	<u>231,539</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	12,000		12,000	24,000
Provisions for liabilities				-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>101,904</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>220,141</u>	<u>207,539</u>
FUND BALANCES					
13					
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds		60,975	-	60,975	3,182
Designated funds		40,929	-	40,929	98,681
		<u>101,904</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,904</u>	<u>101,863</u>
Restricted Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>105,677</u>
		<u>101,904</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>220,141</u>	<u>207,540</u>

The financial statements were approved by the members of the Parochial Church Council and were signed on its behalf by:

Jim Prestwood Vicar of St Swithin's

Date

The notes on page 18 to 30 form part of these accounts.

ST SWITHIN'S LINCOLN
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Statutory Information

The Parochial Church Council of St Swithin's PCC Lincoln is a charity registered in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all activities for which the PCC is legally responsible; the activities of informal gatherings of church members and groups that owe their main affiliation to another body and are excluded.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with The Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)' ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The PCC have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The PCC have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the PCC have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The PCC have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) Income

Income (which includes planned giving, collections and other donations) is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part income is generally recognised when it is received by, or on behalf of, the PCC. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

- i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.
- ii) Donated facilities, services and goods. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (being an estimate of the amount it would cost to purchase those items). Facilities, services and goods donated for the charity's own use are recognised as income when receivable at their value to the charity.

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed or consumed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock; donated fixed assets are capitalised.

Income from charitable activities represents income receivable from goods, services and facilities supplied in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects. It includes income from church retreats and other events and courses.

Income from other trading activities represents income receivable from activities undertaken to generate funds for the charity. It includes income from reimbursement of staff time on secondment.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Contributions in respect of the diocesan parish share are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for all amounts agreed to being payable for the financial year. Any contributions that have not been paid over by the year end are included as a creditor.

The charity makes grants to other institutions and individuals to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

The cost of raising funds is not significant and has not been separately disclosed.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in these financial statements by virtue of s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Movable church furnishings held by the incumbent and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are capitalised in accordance with the policy set out below. These items are regarded as inalienable property and are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Inalienable property acquired prior to 2014 has not been capitalised as there is insufficient cost information available.

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £1,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment

3 years

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

f) Stocks:

Stocks of donated items held for distribution to beneficiaries are measured at fair value.

g) Leased assets

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the charity are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term (unless another systematic basis is more representative of use).

h) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

i) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

j) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

k) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

l) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing financial statements certain judgements, estimates and assumptions have to be made that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The members of the PCC consider the following to be significant:

- i) The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimates for useful economic life and residual value. These estimates are reassessed annually and, when necessary, adjusted to reflect current circumstances.
- ii) The constructive obligation for grants payable is based on an assessment of the likely duration of the supported activity. Again this estimate is re-assessed annually and the obligation is adjusted to reflect current expectations.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations of cash and similar	175,072	43,993	219,065	201,216
Donations in kind	-	9,610	9,610	8,273
Other grants receivable	-	167,894	167,894	176,517
Income tax recoverable	34,590	2,538	37,128	27,425
	<u>209,662</u>	<u>224,035</u>	<u>433,697</u>	<u>413,431</u>

Donations in kind comprise the following:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Goods donated for:				
Food for LYN received for distribution to beneficiaries	-	9,610	9,610	8,273
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>8,273</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Church events	24,362	38,407	62,769	62,737
	<u>24,362</u>	<u>38,407</u>	<u>62,769</u>	<u>62,737</u>

5 Charitable expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
a Costs incurred directly on specific activities				
Ministry expenses:				
Parish share	32,750	-	32,750	27,500
Mission and evangelism	17,744	7,976	25,720	27,687
Other ministry expenses	14,310	3,740	18,050	13,263
Salaries, wages & pension costs	100,819	83,124	183,943	233,589
Donated goods (note 5c)	-	9,610	9,610	8,273
Total Ministry expenses	165,623	104,450	270,073	310,312
Property expenses:				
Church running expenses	42,652	36,999	79,651	21,030
Utilities and insurance	23,752	-	23,752	22,160
Routine maintenance	7,458	-	7,458	10,411
Major repairs & structural work	3,222	57,672	60,894	4,376
Total Property expenses	77,084	94,671	171,755	57,977
Grants payable (note 5d)	7,826	10,000	17,826	22,373
	<u>250,533</u>	<u>209,121</u>	<u>459,654</u>	<u>390,662</u>
b Costs incurred on support & administration				
Governance costs				
Cost of independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other	2,725	-	2,725	2,696
Total Governance costs	2,725	-	2,725	2,696
Other support costs	16,091	1,257	17,348	6,646
Property and equipment depreciation	4,138	-	4,138	8,123
	<u>22,954</u>	<u>1,257</u>	<u>24,211</u>	<u>17,465</u>
Total expenditure	<u>273,487</u>	<u>210,378</u>	<u>483,865</u>	<u>408,127</u>

5 Charitable expenditure (continued)

c Donations in kind expensed in year	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Food for LYN distributed to beneficiaries	-	9,610	9,610	8,273
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>9,610</u>	<u>8,273</u>
d Grants payable		Institutions	Individuals	2023
		£	£	£
Missionary support		7,826	-	7,826
Church Planting		10,000	-	10,000
Relief of poverty		-	-	-
		<u>17,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,826</u>

The comparatives for the previous year are as follows:

	Institutions	Individuals	2022
	£	£	£
Missionary support	7,373	-	7,373
Church Planting	15,000	-	15,000
Relief of poverty	-	-	-
	<u>22,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,373</u>

The charity's principal grants to institutions comprised:	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant Transfer of Funds to St Mark's Grimsby	10,000	15,000
Charis Foundation	-	1,500
CP Africa	-	1,500
Fusion UK	-	1,000
Hope for Justice	-	1,500
Lincoln Active Faith Network	-	-
Tearfund	1,614	1,189
Baby's Basket	-	120
Lincoln Street Pastors	-	500
Unallocated	6,212	-
Grants for less than £100 each	-	64
	<u>17,826</u>	<u>22,373</u>

6 Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and remuneration of members of the PCC

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and other direct employment costs	159,229	208,633
Social security	10,481	16,305
Pension and Life Insurance costs	5,742	8,651
	<u>175,452</u>	<u>233,589</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 7 (2022: 9). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The charity's key management comprise the members of the PCC, including specifically the clergy members. Total employment benefits payable to key management for the year were as follows:

Jim Prestwood, Ben Brady, Juliette Willis, Ben Willis and Victoria Lawrence (who are clergy members of the PCC) receive a stipend from the Diocese and are not employees but office holders; some of the Parish Share paid to the Diocese is used to help meet the cost of these stipends. Jim Prestwood, Ben Brady, Juliette Willis, Ben Willis and Victoria Lawrence are provided with accommodation (which is customary for clergy) and the cost of this accommodation to the PCC is disclosed in note 5 'Charitable Expenditure' and was not material during 2023 or 2022. The charity also reimbursed expenses to Jim Prestwood, Ben Brady, Juliette Willis, Ben Willis and Victoria Lawrence; again these costs are disclosed in note 5 'Charitable Expenditure' and was not material during 2023 or 2022.

Sue Watt Parish Administrator received employment benefits in 2023, part funded through SDF with the remainder paid by St. Swithin's.

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	89,168	89,168
Additions	1,079	1,079
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>90,247</u>	<u>90,247</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	83,873	83,873
Charge for the year	4,138	4,138
At 31 December 2023	<u>88,011</u>	<u>88,011</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,236</u>	<u>2,236</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>5,295</u>	<u>5,295</u>

The Salthouse was completed for occupation during 2020 and taken on by St Swithins PCC as a Functional Fixed Asset, but it is not included as an asset for the purpose of these accounts. Ownership of the Salthouse remains with the Diocese of Lincoln and is included on their balance sheet as a Glebe Property. However, for information the building is for the exclusive usage of St Swithins PCC, who are responsible for maintenance, upkeep and insurance. The building is currently valued by the Diocese of Lincoln for insurance purposes at £2M.

8 Stock	2023	2022
Donated goods	£	£
Food donated for distribution to beneficiaries for LYN	300	500
	<u>300</u>	<u>500</u>
9 Debtors	2023	2022
Falling due within one year:	£	£
Tax recoverable - St Swithin's	11,441	3,128
Tax recoverable - St Mark's	-	245
Other debtors	19,994	7,892
Prepayments and accrued income	1,460	5,397
Total debtors	<u>32,895</u>	<u>16,662</u>
10 Cash at Bank and in Hand	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank with immediate access	239,881	232,190
Notice deposits (with a term of three months or less)	-	-
	<u>239,881</u>	<u>232,190</u>
11 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	31,171	11,107
Accruals	-	-
Methodist 5 year loan for Salthouse	12,000	12,000
Grant obligations	-	-
	<u>43,171</u>	<u>23,107</u>
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Methodist 5 year loan for Salthouse	12,000	24,000
Grant obligations	-	-
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>

13 Funds

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2023 £	Incoming resources 2023 £	Outgoing resources 2023 £	Transfers in the year 2023 £	Closing balance 2023 £
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Hardship Fund	810	-	-	-	810
Emergency Fund	1,200	-	-	-	1,200
Church Planting	30,000	-	(10,000)	(7,500)	12,500
Buildings R&M Fund	6,671	-	-	971	7,642
Working Reserves	60,000	-	-	(41,223)	18,777
	<u>98,681</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(47,752)</u>	<u>40,929</u>
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	<u>3,182</u>	<u>234,024</u>	<u>(263,487)</u>	<u>87,256</u>	<u>60,975</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>101,863</u>	<u>234,024</u>	<u>(273,487)</u>	<u>39,504</u>	<u>101,904</u>
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
Salthouse	61,094	80,367	(59,148)	13,629	95,942
Lands Trust Grants	5,272	9,597	(10,927)	(3,942)	-
Diocese: SDF Salary Support	-	82,751	(82,751)	-	-
Love Your Neighbour/(LYN)	500	34,951	(17,187)	(7,936)	10,328
Leadership Development	56	181	(2,341)	-	(2,104)
7 Minute Fund	487	-	(487)	-	-
CRT Transform	-	800	(764)	(36)	-
Student Ministry Fund	7,007	8,750	(8,288)	(1,469)	6,000
Rising Gens	-	750	(362)	-	388
Church Planting - St Mark's	11,995	1,148	(14,016)	-	(873)
Church Planting - St Faith's	(691)	20,700	(11,503)	(1,482)	7,024
Henry Smith Charity	17,378	17,900	(2,604)	(31,142)	1,532
Heating Grant	2,579	-	-	(2,579)	-
Charity	-	-	-	-	-
Hobson	-	4,547	-	(4,547)	-
	<u>105,677</u>	<u>262,442</u>	<u>(210,378)</u>	<u>(39,504)</u>	<u>118,237</u>
Aggregate of funds	<u>207,540</u>	<u>496,466</u>	<u>(483,865)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>220,141</u>

13 Funds (continued)

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2022 £	Incoming resources 2022 £	Outgoing resources 2022 £	Transfers in the year 2022 £	Closing balance 2022 £
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Hardship Fund	810	-	-	-	810
Emergency Fund	1,200	-	-	-	1,200
Church Planting	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Building R&M Fund	7,000	-	(329)	-	6,671
Working Reserves	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
	99,010	-	(329)	-	98,681
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>					
	(34,188)	224,881	(178,567)	(8,944)	3,182
Total Unrestricted Funds	64,822	224,881	(178,896)	(8,944)	101,863
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
Salthouse	47,080	17,181	(3,167)	-	61,094
Lands Trust Grant	3,165	2,107	-	-	5,272
Diocese: SDF Salary Support	-	82,906	(82,906)	-	-
Love Your Neighbour/(LYN)	3,682	32,395	(46,581)	11,004	500
Leadership Development	147	3,096	(3,187)	-	56
Social Transformation/7 Minute Fund	1,573	-	(1,086)	-	487
Student Ministry Fund	3,752	9,805	(6,550)	-	7,007
Church Planting - St Mark's	17,210	77,538	(82,753)	-	11,995
Church Planting - St Faith's	(1,932)	4,020	(2,779)	-	(691)
Henry Smith Charity	-	17,600	(222)	-	17,378
Heating Grant	-	2,579	-	-	2,579
Charity	-	2,060	-	(2,060)	-
	74,677	251,287	(229,231)	8,944	105,677
Aggregate of funds	139,499	476,168	(408,127)	-	207,540

13 Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

The Diocese missional building grant funding from 2015 is primarily to help develop buildings appropriate for mission in the community for the next decades.

The Diocese salary payments fund is funding from the Diocese of Lincoln towards key church worker salaries in the initial stages of the development of the work of the church in the community.

The Love Your Neighbour (LYN) fund was income provided for the establishment and running of food bank, crisis café, debt advice and other social ministries.

Social Transformation and 7 Minute Fund was received in 2020 but due to the pandemic not spent until 2021. Funds were given to enable a better welcome into the building.

Student Ministry is money received for and spent on the work of youth and students ministries, including weekly events and one off trips. All funds were utilised in 2019.

Designated Funds

Hardship fund is money set aside by the trustees for the clergy to spend on relief of poverty / to meet specific needs, at their discretion.

The Emergency Fund is money set aside by the trustees to cover any future unexpected one-off expenditure or to meet on going costs in the face of a fall in income.

The Church planting fund is money set aside by trustees to cover any future costs incurred in the planting of new

Analysis of net assets by fund

The assets and liabilities of the various funds at the year end date were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2023 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	
Fixed assets	2,236	-	-	2,236
Stock and debtors	12,364	-	20,831	33,195
Cash at bank and in hand	101,546	40,929	97,406	239,881
Current liabilities	(43,171)	-	-	(43,171)
Non-current liabilities	(12,000)			(12,000)
				-
	<u>60,975</u>	<u>40,929</u>	<u>118,237</u>	<u>220,141</u>

The assets and liabilities of the various funds at the previous year end date (31/12/22) were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2022 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	
Fixed assets	3,505	-	1,790	5,295
Stock and debtors	10,375	-	6,787	17,162
Cash at bank and in hand	36,409	98,681	97,100	232,190
Current liabilities	(23,107)	-	-	(23,107)
Non-current liabilities	(24,000)			(24,000)
				-
	<u>3,182</u>	<u>98,681</u>	<u>105,677</u>	<u>207,540</u>

14 Pension commitments

During the year employer's pension contributions totalling £4,468 (2022: £5,976) were payable to defined contribution personal pension schemes. No pension contributions were owing at the balance sheet date (2022: £nil).

15 Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity:

- a) received donations totalling £62,780 (2022: £64,023) from related parties (which includes members of the PCC, anyone closely connected to them and any other member of key management).
- b) No expenses (2022: £nil) were paid to, or for, non-clergy members of the PCC (reimbursements for expenses incurred when acting as agent for the charity or incurred when undertaking employment duties not connected with serving as a PCC member are not included in this disclosure).
- c) received funds from the St Swithin's Community Centre (Croft Street), charity number 521948, of £5,134 (2022: £3,120),

During the year the charity also made the following payments to, or for, related parties:

- a) Employed Ruth Cook as Head of Ops and Development, sister of Linzi Crowder who is a PCC member. Ruth received remuneration of £27,018 (2022: £25,919)
- b) paid grants of £0 (2022: £1,500) to Christian Partners in Africa in furtherance of the charities own objects. Raymond Evans and Richard Lambert, who are members of the PCC is are also directors of C.P.A.

Except as disclosed in note 6 'Analysis of staff costs', there have been no other transactions with related parties during the year.

16 Material Fraud

As stated in the Trustees' Report the charity was victim to a material bank fraud of £41,223.

Representations are being made to the bank and financial ombudsman to recover the funds.

ST SWITHIN'S LINCOLN
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH COMPARATIVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General		Unrestricted Funds Designated		Restricted Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations and legacies	3	209,662	181,334	-	-	224,035	232,097	433,697	413,431
Charitable activities	4	24,362	43,547	-	-	38,407	19,190	62,769	62,737
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		234,024	224,881	-	-	262,442	251,287	496,466	476,168
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Charitable activities:	5	263,487	178,567	10,000	329	210,378	229,231	483,865	408,127
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		263,487	178,567	10,000	329	210,378	229,231	483,865	408,127
Net income/(expenditure)		(29,463)	46,314	(10,000)	(329)	52,064	22,056	12,601	68,041
Transfers between funds	13	87,256	(8,944)	(47,752)	-	(39,504)	8,944	-	-
Net movement in funds		57,793	37,370	(57,752)	(329)	12,560	31,000	12,601	68,041
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward	13	3,182	(34,188)	98,681	99,010	105,677	74,677	207,540	139,499
Total funds carried forward		60,975	3,182	40,929	98,681	118,237	105,677	220,141	207,540