

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GRANBOROUGH

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

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**Clergy's Report**

*By Rev Petra Elsmore*

This Annual Report covers the calendar year of 2023.

Again, as we look back over the year, we can offer our thanks for God's faithfulness to us. We are able to gather for worship and fellowship, support each other in love and with compassion and to engage with our village community and support charities both locally and more widely. In a year which has seen much violence and conflict escalating around the world, and many people in our country struggling with raising living costs, we continued to seek God's will for our church community, trying to remember that we are part of a bigger world.

We recognize that as part of our outreach, a regular contact with the village community is important. Our coffee mornings continue to be very popular and appreciated by the village community. Art and craft family sessions have also seen a very good attendance.

Several special services took place through 2023, some of them jointly with North Marston congregation.

We have run Lent Course jointly with North Marston on the seven "I am" of Jesus and then joined at Holy Week and Good Friday Services held in 2023 at North Marston.

In May we have celebrated, with a special service, the Coronation of our King Charles III., followed by a picnic lunch at the Village Hall.

Later in May, Rogation Sunday Family Service was held at Rookery farm and joined by North Marston Congregation.

We held two Café Church services at the Village Hall, at the end of April and in October. These services are creative and informal and always well attended.

In July we had a joint Café Church service with North Marston at Wesley Centre on the topic of Butterflies, with Hugh Ellerton giving us a talk on the butterflies that could be seen in our churchyards.

In July, much effort was put into our Church Fete, hosted by Christine and Robert at Rookery Farm and it raised amazing £1520.32 and was well attended.

At the end of September, we have celebrated Harvest with a delicious Harvest Supper on Monday followed by the produce auction.

And on October 22<sup>nd</sup> we held a Special service of Thanksgiving for the completion of the Tower Project. A separate report is available that follows the entire project from the fundraising efforts to the actual work that has been completed. This has been a great achievement, commitment of many who offered time and effort to see the project through, and of course many financial gifts from individuals and companies for which we are grateful.

In November we hosted Service of Light and Thanksgiving to remember those who died well attended jointly with North Marston congregation.

Our Christmas services were fully enjoyed, Christingle Service followed by Carol Singing, unfortunately cut short due to a heavy rain. Lovely Nativity Service with the help of children from North Marston, Carols by Candlelight Service, Crib service and well attended Christmas Day Service.

### **These occasional offices took place during 2023**

#### Funeral Services, Burials and Burial of Ashes:

Funeral services of Dennis Dean, Daphne McWhirter, Jacqueline Chersley, Michael Thorpe and Barry Heritage.

Burials of Diana Kemp, Margaret McKerrow and Ian Nicholson.

And burial of ashes of Harry and Muriel Brownson.

#### Weddings

The Wedding of Michael Herrmann and Nicola Emery in June.

## Baptisms:

Baptism of Joseph Sullivan in July.

### **And some thanks to close with:**

I am grateful to those who participate in services, those who read, write prayers, lead us in singing, help out with the PA system and provide us with refreshment, those who set up the church every week and tidy afterwards and keep us warm in the winter months. Lots of work goes into enabling us to gather and worship regularly and enjoy our fellowship, so thank you for all that you do in the service to God and our church.

Thank you to those who lead our family services and preach, we enjoy the lay ministry of Peter Evans, Robert Kemp, Richard Webster, and also of David Bayly and Mark Payne from North Marston. Involving lay leaders is important, it helps us to hear different voice, enjoy a different style but mostly, it's about enabling those who have gifts of leadership and teaching to share them in the service of God.

I am very grateful to Janet Bayly for her ministry, her support as a colleague and for all that she does within this parish through her pastoral work. She has faithfully served this community for many years and it's been privilege for me to work alongside her.

Many thanks to all those who serve on the PCC, for their time as they prayerfully oversee the running of this church and take on the responsibilities that serving the PCC involves.

A big thank you to Alison and Robert as the churchwardens, for all their hard work and their commitment to our church.

And finally thank you to all of you for participating, helping out when needed and making this church community a place where we can through worship, Christian fellowship and service grow in faith, and come closer to God.

**Churchwarden's Report 2024**

*By Alison Rosser*

This last year saw the completion of the church tower restoration, finalised by a thanksgiving service in October 2023.

Throughout the project, church services continued and all the usual necessary jobs within the church were still carried out with enthusiasm by many loyal helpers.

The resounding striking of the church clock was missed by villagers and greatly welcomed back after the tower project. The noticeboard has also been repaired.

As always there is a vast list of dedicated volunteers who keep our church ready for worship, cleaned and welcoming to enter.

As a church we are grateful to everyone who draw up the many rotas and those who donate their time accordingly- cleaners, flower arrangers, pastoral visitors, fire lighters, key holders, pew news editor and distributors, brass cleaners, gardeners. On Sundays we are grateful to have sides persons, intercessors, readers, refreshments provided, lay preachers, people to lay up communion and a music group to enhance our worship.

We have hosted afternoon craft sessions for Harvest, Christmas and an Easter egg hunt and craft afternoon. These have all been well attended by families.

Let us pray that as a church we will move into our village and share the love of Jesus.

Lastly but most importantly we express our thanks to our clergy- Petra and Janet. We are thankful for your ministry, dedication, guidance and unwavering loyalty. You are an amazing team, supporting each other and working side by side. May we also support and uphold you in prayer.

## **Crew Report**

*By Robert Kemp*

Keen followers of my annual reports will recall that at the end of my last one I mentioned that we were having something of a relaunch the following week, involving the ever reliable medium of pizza. This garnered us four new members, of which we still have two. Our core group is now ten, when they all turn up, but can dip to two on occasions as Petra discovered one evening. No one knew Petra was coming and she was brilliant by the way!

During the summer holidays Liz contacted me to say that she would no longer be able to continue leading Crew on a regular basis due to many and varied reasons. I knew the amazing Mrs Calver hadn't made this decision lightly. I absolutely respected her decision and was, and continue to be, in awe of her over twenty years of leading Crew in spite of

many and varied reasons including her health which she continually downplayed. She had the ability to read and respond to the kids and turn poor quality teaching material into interesting evenings on every occasion.

I am so grateful to Harriet Bartley who now helps run Crew, she brings many gifts and the guys respond well to her.

We covered many subjects during the year including: God's plan for us, kindness, goodness, humility, integrity, influence, family, chocolate, grace, loneliness, worldly wisdom and self control. We also remembered God's bounty at harvest and on bonfire night we had a bonfire, with no bonfire, as the weather was atrocious so we had sparklers in the grainstore. That evening we looked at the gunpowder plot through the lens of the Gaza conflict and, in despair at the futility of it all, we adjourned to the house and fell on the hot dogs, burgers and hot chocolate kindly provided by Mrs Kemp. At Christmas we took everyone bowling in Aylesbury with the financial support of a grant from Granborough Parish Council, where pizza was again consumed in quantity. Urban Saints, our umbrella organisation, provider of insurance, safeguarding and teaching materials is going through something of an existential crisis of its own. With falling numbers nationally they are slimming down, rebranding and trying to become more relevant. They have just launched some new teaching resources which we trialled last week and this which look quite good. I'll let you know how it goes.

### **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

*By Barbara Guiver*

There are now 58 on our Electoral Roll.

This is two down on last year.

Although we have three new members, we have lost five. Four of those have moved away and one has sadly died.

### **Music Group Report**

*By Barbara Guiver*

Little has changed since last year.

There are now 10 in the group and we continue to give a lead to the singing in the church, be it at the weekly Sunday services or at weddings, baptisms or funerals.

We also take our turn at leading the singing at the monthly Cafe Zest meetings and 5 of us enjoy the relaxation singing brings when we attend the Community Choir at Quainton.

We are always looking for others to join us. No special skill is needed-just the enjoyment of singing.

### **Safeguarding Report**

We are grateful for Nikki Day to continue as our Safeguarding Officer. She ensures that all our church officers have up to date DBS Checks. She also oversees our Data Protection Policy. At present, both Safeguarding Policy and Data Protection Notice are up to date.

## GRANBOROUGH PCC - TREASURERS REPORT 2023

Well, what a year 2023 was! Lots of building work together with lots of money movements, cheques out, grants in, VAT grants in and donations in (gratefully received). It is almost a shock, after all that has been achieved, that our accounts for 2023 show a loss of £58080.62. This has to be looked at in relation to the profit that was reported in 2022 in the sum of £55072.26 together with the income for grants and donations in 2023 in the region of £115,000 and the payment of just short of £190,000 for the tower work and associated costs.

As can be seen from the Profit and Loss account, our general income increased in 2023 by just over £5,000. This is due to the inflationary element of the Parish Giving Scheme, an increase in general collection monies and an increase of nearly £3,000 for parish fees on weddings and funerals. If any of our congregation would like to switch to giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, please do let me know and I will arrange it.

The Tower Fund ended 2023 with a balance of £5,599.72 (including an interest payment from the CBF account. In addition to this, we are in the position of being able to submit a further claim for Gift Aid in the sum of around £7,000. However, there will be further costs to come before the project is totally completed.

I can also confirm that both our Parish Share has been paid in full as has our contribution to the Schorne Team.

***Refer to table below for allocation of funds:***

Restoration	£6411.87	Deposit A/C CBF	£5,566.13
Bell Fund	£541.00	Cheque A/C TSB	£19,456.10
Friends of Granborough	£0.00	Tower A/C TSB	£5,599.72
Churchyard	£0.00	Petty Cash	£6.95
General	£18,145.31		
Tower Fund	£5,530.72		
	<b>£30,628.90</b>		<b>£30,628.90</b>

I would like to thank Matthew Goss who has once again acted as our Independent Examiner this year and has signed off the accounts and is satisfied that the accounts fairly represent the financial position of the Parish of Granborough. He has also confirmed that he will be happy to examine our 2024 accounts.

DEBORAH THOMPSON  
Treasurer - 31 December 2023





Granborough Parochial Church Council - St John the Baptist  
BALANCE SHEET / BANK RECONCILIATION / ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET		BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 (Lloyds TSB Current Account)	
1st January 2023		General Account	Closing balance bank statement
Central Board of Finance/CCLA	£ 5,393.28	Open Balance Cash Book	£ 9,239.97
TSB - General Account	£ 9,239.97	Plus receipts	£ 34,552.42
TSB - Tower Fund Account	£ 74,069.32	Less payments	£ 24,336.29
Petty cash	£ 6.95	Balance c/f	£ 19,456.10
<b>Balance b/fwd</b>	<b>£ 88,709.52</b>		1286 A Adams
Profit / (Loss) for 2023	-£ 58,080.62		1287 North Marston ECC
<b>Retained income 31 Dec 2023</b>	<b>£ 30,628.90</b>		1288 ODBoF
			1289 ODBoF
			1290 ODBoF
			1291 Cliveden Conservation
			1292 Hockley & Dawson
			Bank balance as per cash book
			<b>£ 19,456.10</b>
<b>31st December 2023</b>			
Central Board of Finance/CCLA	£ 5,566.13		
TSB General A/c	£ 19,456.10		
TSB Tower Fund	£ 5,599.72		
Petty cash	£ 6.95		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 30,628.90</b>		
		<b>Churchyard</b>	
		Balance b/f	£ -
		<b>Income</b>	
		Tax Refund	£ -
		<b>Less payments</b>	
		Grass cut	£ 1,950.00
		<b>Shortfall trf to general fund -£</b>	<b>1,950.00</b>
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ -</b>
		<b>Restoration</b>	
		Balance b/f	£ 6,239.02
		<b>Income</b>	
		Interest received	£ 172.85
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 6,411.87</b>
		<b>Tower Fund</b>	
		Balance b/f	£ 74,069.32
		<b>Income</b>	
		Grants	£ 80,715.78
		Donations	£ 35,811.29
		Gift Aid on Donations	£ 1,848.94
		Other Income	£ 1,884.32
		<b>Less Payments</b>	
		Tower Restoration	£ 188,798.93
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 5,530.72</b>
		<b>Friends of Granborough</b>	
		Balance b/f	£ -
		<b>Income</b>	
		Gift Aid	£ 635.00
		Boxes	£ -
		Tax refund	£ -
		<b>Less Payments</b>	
		Organ Cost	£ 216.00
		Insurance	£ 1,551.13
		Maint of & new extinguishers	£ 194.64
		<b>Income</b>	
		Maint/Test Lightning Pro System	£ -
		Tower Inspection & Report	£ -
		<b>Shortfall trf to general fund</b>	<b>£ 1,961.77</b>
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ -</b>
		<b>Bell fund income</b>	
		Balance b/f	£ 541.00
		<b>Income</b>	
		Donation	£ -
		<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>£ 541.00</b>
		<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>£ 188,798.93</b>
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 5,530.72</b>