

The Parochial Council of St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent

Reverend Philip Daniel
3 Walsall Road
Little Aston B74 3BD

Honorary Assistant Priest

Reverend Jeremy Blunt

Readers

Andrew Farrow
Pamela Strong

Bank

HSBC UK
67 The Parade
Sutton Coldfield B72 1PD

Independent Examiner

Michael Johnson

stpeterslittleaston.co.uk



The Parochial Council of St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2022

(This report is made in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (2011) and is separate from any other statement or address that the incumbent may wish to make or any reports that any other individual or parish group may present at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Administrative Information

St. Peter's Church is situated on Roman Road, Little Aston B74 3AT. It is part of the Diocese of Lichfield within the Church of England. Correspondence is addressed to the Vicarage, 3 Walsall Road, Little Aston B74 3BD. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a Registered Charity 1128819.

Ex officio members

Incumbent	Reverend Philip Daniel
Church Warden	Jane Alderson
Church Warden	Tony Sweeney
Secretary	Brenda Clarke

Elected Members

Treasurer	Christopher Hulland
Gift Aid Secretary	Paul Eveleigh
Deanery Synod Member & Electoral Roll	Margaret Pye
Diocesan Synod Member and Assistant Lay Chair of Deanery Synod	Jill Hope
	Ethne Owen
	Jane Medlicott
	Richard Paxton
	Elisabeth Paxton
	Lynne Gibson
	Nina Diaper
	Kathryn Sweeney

It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the church, as defined in Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010, are 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Act. All PCC members elected for the first time and those re-elected are supplied with minutes of PCC meetings and receive a copy of the last Annual Report and Accounts. They are entitled to ask for any explanations of their content. In service training is offered as appropriate.

Structure, government and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Peter's the membership consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation that are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including how the funds of the PCC are spent. New members receive initial training in the workings of the PCC.

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

There is a Standing Committee that is the only committee required to be in existence by church law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Meetings were via Zoom when necessary.

Aims and purposes

St Peter's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Phillip Daniel, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the community of St. Peter's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and will feedback to the vicar suggestions and comments relating to forms of service undertaken. Our services are intended to put our faith into practice through prayer, Scripture, music and the sacraments.

We endeavour to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our church community.

- Worship & Prayer - Bible studies, Discipleship courses, Lent courses, preaching and different types of service with some meeting particular needs are promoted.
- Provision of pastoral care for members of the congregation both within and outside the parish. This includes our Authorised Lay Ministers taking communion to those unable to attend church and visiting in hospitals, nursing homes and homes.
- Missionary and outreach work - our targeted charitable giving and support for social opportunities are well understood supporting both local and international concerns.
- To facilitate all this, we consider it vital we maintain and, if possible, improve the fabric of the church of St. Peter's and also the Church Room.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

By January 2022 Sunday services and Wednesday Communions were back to normal with no need for booking seats or wearing masks and the church was comfortable again with kneelers and cushions back in place. However when the government announced Plan B in early December 2021 we had to revert to communion in the pews and cancel our much appreciated sociable coffee sessions after church until the end of February.

We did change the time of our evening service to 5pm in September in the hope of encouraging more members of the congregation to attend as the evenings grew darker.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals have taken place throughout this year and special services have been held including Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Friends Remembered, Christingle and Nine Lessons and Carols.

All is now back to normal with regular meetings of Mothers Union, the Knit and Natter group, the Keep Fit group, the Film Club, the Bereavement Group, the Hand Bell Ringers, the SACRED groups and the SPOGS - a group of older gentleman who have monthly dinners at local pubs for fellowship and goodwill. There is also a monthly meeting on Sunday evenings of SPYG the St Peter's Youth Group aged 10 and over building friendships and learning more about our faith.

Mission and Evangelism

The weekly Welcome to Worship leaflets continue to be an important means of communication with the congregation and other interested parties. They are available at all services and the email circulation has now increased to 163 addresses plus some printed copies passed on to those who do not have email.

The What's On at St Peter's leaflet giving details of all regular services, activities and events has been updated and will be available in strategic places around the parish as well as in church.

We continue our close connection with Pathways - the domestic and sexual abuse charity in Lichfield. They receive donations throughout the year especially from our harvest festival and when members of the congregation give 25 small gifts through our reverse advent calendar scheme.

Pastoral Care

The team meets regularly and discusses members of the congregation who may need help and support. They also arrange visits with home communion.

Monthly coffee mornings were introduced by the team in 2022 which then became weekly Winter Warmer Coffee mornings in the Autumn to encourage members of the congregation and any friends or acquaintances to meet together for relaxed, informal socialising in a warm welcoming space. These have been very successful and it has been requested that they continue through the summer.

Baptisms	0	Weddings.	7	Church Funerals	20	Crematoria	1
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The electoral roll contains 233 names but 70% live outside the parish

The Church Building

St. Peter's is a listed Victorian Building and any repairs have to conform to regulations and are invariably expensive.

Lock repairs involved intricate work undertaken by a skilled blacksmith with the costs partially covered by an insurance claim.

Our whole enterprise relies on the many willing volunteers that make this church the friendly and responsive community so appreciated by all concerned. This was especially important given the requirements placed upon us conforming to Covid-19 regulations. The social context of our church cannot be underestimated and those opportunities have been missed by all. The Churchwardens have continued their extraordinary efforts to ensure our Vicar is supported at all times. After service coffee recommenced in November.

Safeguarding

The safety and security of children is of the utmost importance and guidelines and policies are part of the processes that have been adopted to ensure that all children taking part in activities in our churches may do so in a loving, caring and safe atmosphere. There is a Protection Policy in respect of children and vulnerable adults. recognised by the PCC who appointed Mrs Deborah Hartland as Safeguarding Officer.

A formalised programme of serious learning and certification has been undertaken by the Ministry team and members of the Church identified as having contact with children and vulnerable adults. It was undertaken on-line and intended to highlight any possible signs of risk that need reporting. The programme is monitored by Lichfield Diocese.

COVID-19 restrictions have necessitated suspension of a Sunday School during this year but meetings are held via Zoom in the meantime ensuring that all children have adult accompaniment on screen.

C3 Certification Ministry Team 4

C2 Certification Churchwardens and 2 others

C1 Certification 34 Church member

Risk Management

St.Peters use the Health and Safety Ecclesiastical Proforma (Small Churches) taken from their website www.ecclesiastical.com/healthandsafety in conjunction with www.hse.gov.uk

The PCC approved an annual review covering the church, the church room, the churchyard and car park.

Any possible hazards are dealt with immediately. Headstones are inspected half yearly and any that are loose are laid down to avoid possible accidents unless repairs can be made speedily.

Communicants who have mobility problems have been considered, bearing in mind the multiple steps to be negotiated.

Fire extinguishers are tested and certified. PAT testing has been completed on all electrical equipment. Both certificates are displayed.

First Aid box has been checked and is up to date. Food and Hygiene rules have been updated and are displayed in the kitchen.

All trees within the church grounds have been monitored and work carried out by Chris Peake, registered tree surgeon. Continued on an annual basis.

We continually adjust our Covid protocols in line with the Church of England guidelines.

We consider we have done everything practical to ensure the safety of anyone visiting the church.

To date we have no incidents to report

Financial Review

The major constraints of Covid-19 have now passed and some sort of normality has returned with congregation numbers recovering slowly that affects the Church's finances.

Gift Aid Income has held up reasonably well and no major fund-raising exercise was considered necessary during the year.

22 contributors now use the Direct Giving facility through the Diocese that speeds up the Tax Relief recovered and also saves a great deal of administration on our part. This system of Direct Debiting is far more efficient than the Standing Orders still used by the majority.

Grant income was also not required during the year as, thankfully, no major maintenance expense was incurred.

Statutory Fees are revised annually and we had to account for £6107 to the Diocese via the Agency Collections Suspense Account.

Total Income £119727

A revised formula for the Common Fund, previously known as the Parish Share, recognised past inequalities between parishes within the Diocese and resulted in a welcome reduction in our contribution by £13394. This is our necessary major expense of £66376 and meant we finished the year with a welcome surplus. HSBC, along with other banks, started charging Charity Accounts at a cost to us of £200 for the year.

Expenses of £1274 were incurred in connection with the Jubilee celebrations for the late Queen Elizabeth.

We continued to give modest support to the Leprosy Mission of £987.

There have been increased costs in Printing as the weekly and very effective Welcome to Worship has been expanded.

Whilst we have fixed our electricity tariff until September 2024, the bill fluctuated according to weather conditions experienced. Other expenses are subject to inflationary factors.

Total Expenditure £109049

Surplus £10678

Helen Baker and John Tait have handled cash received using Post Offices during the year. Margaret Pye and Annie Stretton have organised the fee income from funerals and marriages keeping the Treasurer informed and Paul Eveleigh has again very successfully attended to the important Tax reclaims. Our thanks are very much due to all of them for their efforts on our behalf.

St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Balance Sheet Year Ended 31 December 2022	2022		2021	
Fixed Assets				
Land and Buildings	1.00		1.00	
Total Fixed Assets		1.00		1.00
Current Assets				
HSBC Current Account	69958.58		72855.78	
HSBC Friends of St.Peter's Current Account	25216.36		22536.36	
CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account	20000.00		9000.00	
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15	
Total Current Assets	116096.09	116096.09	105313.29	105313.29
Assets		116097.09		105314.29
Current Liabilities				
Agency Collections		105.00		0
Total Current Liabilities				
Nat Assets		115992.09		105314.29
Reserves				
Balance brought forward		105314.29		102013.66
Surplus / Deficit		10677.80		3300.63
Balance carried forward		115992.09		105314.29
Represented by Funds				
Land and Buildings		1.00		1.00
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund	68170.17	68170.17	71172.37	71172.37
<i>Restricted</i>				
Agency Collections	535.00		535.00	
Charity Appeals & Fundraising	425.41		425.41	
Churchyard Maintenance				
Friends of St. Peter's	25216.36		22536.36	
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15	
Special Projects Fund	20000.00		9000.00	
Teaching & Evangelism Fund	723.00		723.00	
	47820.92	47820.92	34140.92	34140.92
		115992.09		105314.29

St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Income & Expenditure Year Ended 31 December 2022	2022	2022	2021	2021
Income				
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>				
Gift Aid	77041.16		80833.41	
Non Gift Aid	1182.00		4201.44	
Loose Plate Collections	4942.07		1539.36	
Legacies			500.00	
Church Boxes	195.64		79.00	
Donations Appeals Grants	1519.59		4356.00	
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	19095.24	103975.70	18827.49	110336.70
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>				
PCC Fees	12145.00	12145.00	12030.00	12030.00
<i>Other Trading Activities</i>				
Parish Room Lettings				
Other Funds Generated	1603.15		590.91	
Rummage Sales etc	1548.93		933.00	
Insurance Claim	340.97	3493.05		1523.91
<i>Investments</i>				
Bank Interest	113.33	113.33	8.89	8.89
		119727.08		123899.50
Expenditure				
<i>Raising Funds</i>				
Stewardship Campaign & Fete Costs	1274.48	1274.48		
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Donations	987.70			
Common Fund	66376.00		79770.00	
Organist	3600.00		3600.00	
Vicar's Expenses	1665.12		1341.07	
Vicarage Expenses	768.87		577.50	
Telephone	655.88		671.88	
Education & Sunday Club	113.22		43.99	
Insurance	3700.65		3574.06	
Church Maintenance	3003.16		485.50	
Cleaning	2024.40		687.39	
Upkeep of Services	2396.86		2091.11	
Upkeep of Churchyard	9680.27		11335.98	
Administration	385.50		337.08	
Printing	2800.00		966.20	
Electricity	9298.87		7625.93	
Water	198.30		75.18	
Parish Room Maintenance	120.00			
Major Repairs & Installations		107774.80	7416.00	120598.87
		109049.28	120598.87	120598.87
Balance Income - Expenditure		10677.80		3300.63
		119727.08		123899.50

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022

1. Notes to the Accounts

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included from the Accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property listed in the Church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For any acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Other tangible assets fixed assets are valued at cost.

3. Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

Restricted funds comprise two elements

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to discretionary power to spend capital as income and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted.

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of the PCC of St. Peter's Church, Little Aston.
Registered Charity 1128819**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out in the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

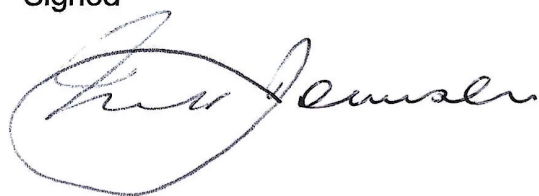
Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Date

31 st February 2023