



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

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2023

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

Ray Boyland

stpeterslittleaston.co.uk



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

Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2023

(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	Richard Paxton
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 Elisabeth Paxton Lynne Gibson Emma Paxton Helen Garbett Nina Diaper

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

After the vagaries of Covid 2023 was a normal year with three services on Sundays at 8am, 10am and 5pm and Holy Communion at 9.30am on Wednesdays.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals took place throughout the year and special services were held for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Friends Remembered, Christingle and Nine Lessons and Carols.

In our Welcome to Worship publication we list family and friends of the congregation currently in need of prayer and who have been bereaved. We also have a facility for private prayer during the 10am service on a Sunday and run a prayer chain for people requiring emergency prayers which is completely confidential.

Mission and Evangelism

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

The What's on at St Peter's leaflet giving details of contacts, regular services, activities, and events is available in strategic places around the parish as well as in church.

There are 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 gentlemen who have monthly dinners at local pubs for fellowship and goodwill. A band of volunteers meet very regularly to help with maintenance of the churchyard and every Tuesday there is a coffee morning with entertaining quizzes which is well supported.

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.

We also support The Leprosy Mission.

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 were so successful, they continue on a weekly basis.

The vergers for the formal occasions of baptisms, weddings and funerals are meeting those in need with great skills of guidance, organisation and, when required empathy. They have our particular grateful thanks when undertaking the occasional difficult aspects encountered.

Baptisms	21	Weddings.	7	Church Funerals	20	Crematoria	1
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The electoral roll contains 186 names but 69% 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.

New notice boards have been installed that meet the criteria set by the Diocese.

Our whole enterprise relies on the many willing volunteers that make this church the friendly and responsive community so appreciated by all concerned. The aged demographic of the congregation places added expectations of and responsibilities to those involved. The social context of our church cannot be underestimated.

The Churchwardens have continued their extraordinary efforts to ensure our Vicar is supported at all times.

After service coffee forms an increasing opportunity for social dialogue and thanks are due to those who offer to cater to meet the demand.

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.

The lockdown in the past caused the physical closure of the Sunday School but meetings have been 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 Pro-forma (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, church room, churchyard and carpark.

We ensure that any possible hazards are dealt with immediately by the appropriate group of people.

Headstones are inspected every six months and any that are loose are laid flat to avoid possible accidents unless repairs can be made speedily.

Fire extinguishers are tested and certified PAT testing is completed on all electrical equipment annually. Both certificates are displayed on the noticeboard in the church room.

There are two First Aid boxes with accident books. One is kept in the church and one in the church room and both storage cupboards are clearly labelled with a green cross.

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

All trees within the church grounds have been monitored and any necessary work carried out by Chris Peake, registered tree surgeon. The trees are monitored annually.

We consider we have done everything practical to ensure the safety of anyone visiting St. Peter's Church. To date we have no incidents to report.

Financial Review

2023 was an unexceptional year financially with planned income holding up although there have been concerns lately owing to the sad demise of some generous supporters.

No major fund-raising exercise was considered necessary during the year.

20 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 who are generally averse to alter their existing arrangements.

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

Statutory Fees for Weddings and Funerals are revised annually and we had to account for £6876 to the Diocese via the Agency Collections Suspense Account.

Total Income £118358

We met our commitment to the Common Fund of £66376 that is considered essential.

Expenses of £1483 were incurred in connection with the Coronation celebrations for King Charles III and the purchase of celebratory jigsaw puzzles for our 150th Anniversary in 2024. This latter expense has now been covered by sales and future income is pure profit.

We continued our support to the Leprosy Mission of £1000.

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.

The Friends of St. Peter's account is included in our overall figures. They have very kindly covered the costs of CCTV and additional lighting for the carpark as well as marking parking spaces. Their total contribution under these headings was £4267

Total Expenditure £117946

Surplus £412

Helen Baker and John Tait have continued to handle 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 2023	2023		2022	
Fixed Assets				
Land and Buildings	1.00		1.00	
Total Fixed Assets		1.00		1.00
Current Assets				
HSBC Current Account	72174.07		69958.58	
HSBC Friends of St.Peter's Current Account	23393.83		25216.36	
CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account	20000.00		20000.00	
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15	
Total Current Assets	116489.05	116489.05	116096.09	116096.09
Assets				116097.09
Current Liabilities				
Agency Collections	20.00	20.00		105.00
Total Current Liabilities				
Nat Assets		116510.05		115992.09
Reserves				
Balance brought forward		115992.09		105314.29
Surplus / Deficit		412.96		10677.80
Balance carried forward		116405.05		115992.09
Represented by Funds				
Land and Buildings		1.00		1.00
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund		70511.66	68170.17	68170.17
<i>Restricted</i>				
Agency Collections	535.00		535.00	
Charity Appeals & Fundraising	425.41		425.41	
Friends of St. Peter's	23383.83		25216.36	
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15	
Special Projects Fund	20000.00		20000.00	
Teaching & Evangelism Fund	723.00		723.00	
	45988.39	45988.39	47820.92	47820.92
		116501.05		115992.09

St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Income & Expenditure Year Ended 31 December 2023	2023	2023	2022	2022
Income				
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>				
Gift Aid	69499.96		77041.16	
Non Gift Aid	1967.70		1182.00	
Loose Plate Collections	6492.56		4942.07	
Legacies				
Church Boxes	737.33		195.64	
Donations Appeals Grants	1828.00		1519.59	
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	18943.62	99469.17	19095.24	103975.70
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>				
PCC Fees	12946.00	12946.00	12145.00	12145.00
<i>Other Trading Activities</i>				
Other Funds Generated	2526.29		1603.15	
Rummage Sales etc	2652.28		1548.93	
Insurance Claim		5178.57	340.97	3493.05
<i>Investments</i>				
Bank Interest	764.98	764.98	113.33	113.33
		118358.72		119727.08
Expenditure				
<i>Raising Funds</i>				
Stewardship Campaign & Fete Costs	1483.16	1483.16	1274.48	1274.48
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Donations	2284.76		987.70	
Common Fund	66376.00		66376.00	
Organist	3600.00		3600.00	
Vicar's Expenses	2087.11		1665.12	
Vicarage Expenses	764.80		768.87	
Telephone	479.88		655.88	
Education & Sunday Club			113.22	
Insurance	3836.97		3700.65	
Church Maintenance	922.01		3003.16	
Cleaning	1265.38		2024.40	
Upkeep of Services	5244.38		2396.86	
Upkeep of Churchyard	12648.73		9680.27	
Administration	1015.39		385.50	
Printing	3036.00		2800.00	
Electricity	11252.83		9298.87	
Water	263.82		198.30	
Parish Room Maintenance	1384.54		120.00	
		116462.60		107774.80
		117945.76		109049.28
Balance Income - Expenditure		412.96		10677.80
		118358.72		119727.08

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2023

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.

Friends of St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Restricted Fund	2023		2022	
Income & Expenditure				
Year ended 31st December 2023				
Income				
Gift Aid - Regular Giving	2315.00		2990.00	
Gift Aid - One Off Giving	290.00		250.00	
Non-Gift Aid - Regular Giving	355.00		60.00	
Church Boxes	49.83		20.00	
Donations				
Income Tax Refunds	777.82		924.03	
Total Income	3787.65		4244.03	
Expenditure				
Upkeep of Churchyard	533.64		189.91	
Small Tools etc	348.10		129.00	
Tree Maintenance			1180.00	
Car Park Markings	420.00			
Car Park CCTV	852.00			
Car Park Lighting	2994.76			
Garden waste collection	380.00			
Administration	16.32			
Bank Charges	65.36		65.12	
Total Expenditure	5610.18		1564.03	
Balance Brought Forward	25216.36		22536.36	
Excess Income / <i>Expenditure</i>	<i>-1822.53</i>		2680.00	
Balance Carried Forward	23393.83		25216.36	

Little Aston S Peters
Monthly Income / Expenditure totals - Details
As at: 31 December 2023

Nominal code	Jan_23	Feb_23	Mar_23	Apr_23	May_23	Jun_23	Jul_23	Aug_23	Sep_23	Oct_23	Nov_23	Dec_23	Code total
Income													
0101: Gift Aid - Bank (Regular Giving)	6,078.44	4,943.50	6,507.20	5,607.00	5,308.20	6,477.80	5,427.20	3,428.00	7,860.00	5,764.26	5,448.85	5,469.51	68,319.96
0120: Gift Aid - One Off Giving	-	-	-	20.00	300.00	-	-	-	240.00	500.00	120.00	-	1,180.00
0201: Non Gift Aid - Bank (Regular Giving)	45.00	170.00	170.00	45.00	295.00	170.00	170.00	158.00	182.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	1,915.00
0210: Non Gift Aid - Envelopes (Regular Giving)	-	-	-	-	52.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52.70
0301: Loose plate collections	497.28	321.30	288.58	509.00	409.00	320.10	262.00	368.57	292.60	509.70	694.08	662.80	5,135.01
0310: Loose plate collections at weddings and	3000	34.70	39.57	337.76	40.00	83.00	55.00	44.00	344.80	129.00	219.72	-	1,357.55
0410: Giving through church boxes	14930	25.00	-	49.00	24.83	-	-	-	-	288.00	-	201.20	737.33
0510: One-off Non Gift Aid gifts	-	-	-	120.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120.00
0550: Donations appeals etc	-	-	220.00	958.00	-	50.00	-	-	-	-	480.00	-	1,708.00
0601: Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	2,835.07	518.50	414.80	3,905.08	457.30	1,209.62	2,738.42	-	874.52	2,953.34	1,669.48	1,367.49	18,943.62
0901: Other funds generated	121.78	162.85	146.30	227.33	171.69	170.05	501.60	250.89	192.10	202.90	176.90	201.90	2,526.29
0910: Rummage sales etc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	942.50	1,629.78	80.00	2,652.28
1020: Bank and building society interest	130.66	-	-	180.52	-	-	205.32	-	-	248.48	-	-	764.98
1101: PCC Statutory Fees for Weddings and Fune	618.00	627.00	1,047.00	1,364.00	1,354.00	632.00	1,085.00	1,335.00	592.00	468.00	493.00	629.00	10,244.00
1102: Local PCC Fees for Weddings & Funerals	80.00	80.00	160.00	180.00	351.00	140.00	120.00	587.00	339.00	435.00	148.00	82.00	2,702.00
Income totals	10,585.53	6,882.85	8,993.45	13,502.69	8,763.72	9,252.57	10,564.54	6,171.46	10,917.02	12,611.18	11,249.81	8,863.90	118,358.72
Expenditure													
1730: Costs of fetes & other fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	77.00	-	-	374.16	-	1,032.00	-	1,483.16
1801: Giving to missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
1830: Giving - relief and development agencies	-	-	200.00	1,084.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,284.76
1910: Ministry parish share etc	5,535.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	5,531.00	66,376.00
2040: Organist Fees	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	3,600.00
2101: Working expenses of incumbent	129.90	174.50	170.50	166.02	-	439.39	180.95	159.50	178.40	162.00	163.50	162.45	2,087.11
2130: Parsonage house expenses	70.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	144.80	50.00	50.00	50.00	100.00	764.80
2150: Vicar's telephone	39.99	39.99	39.99	39.99	-	79.98	39.99	39.99	39.99	39.99	39.99	39.99	479.88
2301: Church running - insurance	313.35	313.35	313.35	313.35	322.92	322.95	322.95	322.95	322.95	322.95	322.95	322.95	3,836.97
2320: Organ / Pano tuning & repair	-	-	135.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	135.00	-	135.00	405.00
2330: Church maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	6.24	141.66	-	290.11	-	79.00	-	517.01
2331: Cleaning	86.40	86.40	135.95	129.60	89.40	152.85	86.40	86.40	129.60	86.40	86.40	109.58	1,265.38
2340: Upkeep of services	61.75	276.03	337.33	337.15	66.80	225.34	-	178.53	-	534.26	215.10	1,152.21	3,384.50
2345: Funeral and Wedding Costs	-	-	-	235.88	200.00	200.00	112.00	100.00	750.00	262.00	-	-	1,859.88
2350: Upkeep of churchyard	180.00	750.00	650.00	1,100.00	1,040.99	650.00	697.95	1,810.06	667.58	780.00	786.15	3,536.00	12,648.73
2360: Administration	57.66	51.08	39.31	41.68	83.84	67.06	41.29	40.57	443.02	42.38	43.91	63.59	1,015.39
2365: Printing	82.00	-	400.00	-	-	550.00	307.00	-	82.00	-	-	1,615.00	3,036.00
2401: Church running - electric	1,726.20	1,523.75	1,968.94	-	2,645.44	714.50	367.41	1,031.00	1,031.00	184.00	-	60.59	11,252.83
2420: Church running - water	-	107.28	-	-	20.29	-	-	116.01	-	-	20.24	-	263.82
2560: Church Room running - maintenance	-	-	404.00	-	980.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,384.54