



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

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
Year Ended 31 December 2024

### **Incumbent**

Interregnum 30.12.24

### **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

<https://www.stpeterslittleaston.co.uk/>



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

### **Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2024**

(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 also 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	Interregnum from 30.12.24
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 Elisabeth Paxton Lynne Gibson Emma Paxton Helen Garbett Deborah Hartland Annie Horton

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, 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**

There are usually 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. The Bishop of Lichfield assisted in our celebration of 150 years of worship at St. Peter's and a drone flypast marked the occasion. [https://youtu.be/Scq6p6gGLOE?si=euZsUFR52civtqf3\\$](https://youtu.be/Scq6p6gGLOE?si=euZsUFR52civtqf3$)

A special mention must go to Nina Diaper and Lynne Gibson for running a series of very meaningful and inspiring early evening services during Lent and Advent.

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 meet monthly dining 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.

A Historical Talk organised by Emma Paxton was a sell-out and Elisabeth Paxton researched and published a booklet incorporating details of Vicars past and present to raise both interest and funds for our 150th celebrations.

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 that became weekly Winter Warmer Coffee mornings and these continue to encourage members of the congregation and any friends or acquaintances to meet together for relaxed, informal socialising in a warm welcoming space.

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 7      Weddings. 7      Church Funerals 21      Crematoria 2

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.

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

The Churchwardens have continued their extraordinary efforts to ensure the Vicar was supported at all times. In view of his very recent loss their responsibilities have suddenly expanded enormously. It will mean others in the congregation will need to assist wherever possible.

## **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. Mrs Deborah Hartland is the 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 highlights any possible signs of risk that need reporting. The programme is monitored by Lichfield Diocese. There has been one report to the police by the Vicar during the year and they took responsibility.

A mission is to support children and young people. A monthly Breakfast Club offers families an opportunity to be supported by our church community. Monthly prayer groups focus on children and young people's needs. The aim is to broaden and open up further services to support families.

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](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/healthandsafety) in conjunction with [www.hse.gov.uk](http://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

2024 started as a celebratory year of 150 years and there was a good deal of positivity that has reflected in the financial results.

Regular giving has remained largely static but we have gained Legacies of £11000 (2023 Nil) with One-off Gifts and Donations £12811 (2023 £1828). A Historical Talk and the Christmas Fayre produced income of £3459 (2023 £2652) which offset expenses in connection with the 150th celebration of £1938.

With BT Broadband now available to the congregation, a contactless card reader has been installed in the Church foyer and is slowly gaining support alongside a QR code for donations via smart-phones. There are still a number of the congregation giving with cash but the system for handling this and paying in to a Post Office is in place although at a cost.

Total Income £141,405

We met our commitment to the Common Fund of £67704 that is considered essential.

Expenses of £1938 covered the 150th celebrations that included the Historical Talk and also the production of a You-Tube video using a drone that flew past the congregation during a visit from the Bishop of Lichfield.

After many months of emails and phone calls with our electricity supplier, EDF, they have yet to instal a smart meter that they requested. However, we persuaded them that, as we are a charity, the lower 5% VAT would be appropriate and this resulted in a reduction covering the then existing 3 year contract of £3788. As a consequence 2024 Electricity costs have been £7,245 (2023 £11252)

As we have been fortunate to maintain good liquidity, it has not been necessary so far to raid reserves for the major expense of renovating the toilets in the Church Room and the electrical circuits within both the Church and the Church Room. These needed to conform to modern standards and the electrical work in particular was quite complex and expensive Costs £11726. We anticipate expenditure on Church repairs following the quinquennial examination and the reserves may well be needed.

Total Expenditure £124,769

The sudden death of our Vicar, Philip Daniel put a deep gloom on the end of the year and we will all need to retain and, if possible, increase our support for the very valuable social work undertaken by the Churchwardens and many other members of St. Peter's.

# St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Balance Sheet Year Ended 31 December 2024		2024		2023	
Fixed Assets					
Land and Buildings		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total Fixed Assets					
Current Assets					
HSBC Current Account	88123.19		72240.07		
HSBC Friends of St.Peter's Current Account	24575.25		23403.83		
CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account	20000.00		20000.00		
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15		
Total Current Assets		133619.59	116565.05	116565.05	
Assets					
Current Liabilities					
Agency Collections	-398.00		20.00	20.00	
Total Current Liabilities		-398.00			
Nat Assets		133222.59			116586.05
Reserves					
Balance brought forward		116586.05			116097.09
Surplus / Deficit		16636.54			488.96
Balance carried forward		133222.59			116586.05
Represented by Funds					
Unrestricted					
General Fund		82501.52			70577.66
Restricted					
Agency Collections	535.00		535.00		
Charity Appeals & Fundraising	425.41		425.41		
Friends of St. Peter's	24575.25		23403.83		
Interior Decorating Scheme	921.15		921.15		
Special Projects Fund	23541.26		20000.00		
Teaching & Evangelism Fund	723.00		723.00		
		50721.07			46008.39
		133222.59			116586.05



# St. Peter's Church, Little Aston

Income & Expenditure Year Ended 31 December 2024	2024	2024	2023	2023
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Gift Aid	70913.11		69499.96	
Non Gift Aid	2050.00		1967.70	
Loose Plate Collections	7404.85		6492.56	
Legacies	11000.00			
Church Boxes	155.71		737.33	
Donations Appeals Grants	10661.35		1828.00	
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	18061.38	120246.40	18943.62	99469.17
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
PCC Fees	13380.00	13380.00	12946.00	12946.00
<b>Other Trading Activities</b>				
Other Funds Generated	2976.77		2526.29	
Rummage Sales etc	3761.52		2652.28	
<b>Investments</b>				
Bank Interest	1041.26	7779.55	764.98	764.98
		<b>141405.95</b>		<b>113180.15</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Raising Funds</b>				
Stewardship Campaign & Fete Costs	1938.07	1938.07	1483.16	1483.16
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>				
Donations	1000.00		2284.76	
Common Fund	67704.00		66376.00	
Organist	3600.00		3600.00	
Vicar's Expenses	2334.51		2087.11	
Vicarage Expenses	899.60		764.80	
Telephone	1025.32		479.88	
Insurance	3975.43		3836.97	
Church Maintenance	3855.72		922.01	
Cleaning	1323.38		1265.38	
Upkeep of Services	6063.42		5244.38	
Upkeep of Churchyard	10260.10		12648.73	
Administration	678.75		1015.39	
Printing	878.00		3036.00	
Electricity	7245.61		11252.83	
Water	231.37		263.82	
Church Room Maintenance & Major Repairs	11756.07	122831.34	1384.54	116462.60
		124769.41		117945.76
<b>Balance Income - Expenditure</b>		16636.54		412.96
		<b>141405.95</b>		<b>118358.72</b>

## **Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2024**

### **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 2024 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 07/02/2025