



*The Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and
St Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Graham Hamilton, in promoting the whole mission of the church- pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical, within the boundaries of the ecclesiastical parish. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church and the Church Rooms.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Mission Statement was agreed in 2008:

'We believe that God's great purpose is to bring all creation to enjoy the peaceful rule of Jesus. We believe that as a network of churches in the Bovey area we are called to:

- **Enable** people of every age and background to become disciples of Jesus Christ
- **Engage** with God through the Bible, Prayer, and Sacrament
- **Encourage** one another to live Christ-like lives
- **Enhance** loving unity among Christians at every level
- **Empower** every disciple to fulfil their calling, exercise their gifts in God's world and thus
- **Exalt** God's name in our lives and our praises.'

A shortened version of this Mission Statement is:

'Our mission is to enable all people to know Jesus and to enjoy His rule in their lives.'

When planning our activities, our incumbent and PCC seek to enable as many people as possible to live out their faith as part of our community through (i) worship and prayer, learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus; (ii) provision of pastoral care for people living in the benefice, and (iii) mission and outreach. This is in accordance with the guidance from the Charity Commission on public benefit and particularly the specific guidance on the advancement of the Christian faith. To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of PPT and the church Room which provides facilities for many people and community groups.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2024 was a stormy year - more Atlantic hurricanes than any year since naming began in 2015. The political weather was also stormy, with the threat of war spreading from Ukraine to Europe and from Gaza to the wider middle East. The General Election in July brought a change of UK government and the US Presidential Election in November saw the return of Donald Trump.

The Church of England continued to wrestle with the controversial 'Prayers of Love and Faith'. The publication of the Makin Review into sexual abuse by John Smyth led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Justin Welby, and calls for the resignation of the Archbishop of York for his role in other cases. These national controversies have undoubtedly had an impact locally, with two families leaving because they no longer wanted to be associated with the Church of England in any way, and disagreements within the congregation and PCC on the best way to respond. There was a clear reduction in donations to the church, and the appeal for volunteers in the autumn did not produce much response.

Our parish life was significantly impacted by the absence of the vicar, Rev Graham Hamilton, for 5 months (Feb-June) while he underwent chemotherapy for an aggressive lymphoma. He was able to work from home for much of the time, pre-recorded some sermons and wrote two papers about the national church situation ("A lament for the Church of England" and "For such a time as this" which are available on the church website). We give thanks to God for his recovery and gradual

return to public duties from July and want to express our gratitude to the retired clergy (Rev David Harris, Rev Paul Reynolds and Canon Michael Sansom) and licensed lay ministers, especially Mrs Carolyn Laycock and Mr Graham Whittle, who sustained regular Sunday services, funerals and weddings, supported by many other local and retired ministers and volunteers during his absence. We were sad to say farewell to Rev Paul Reynolds, who moved to Taunton in September, but we were delighted to welcome two new licensed lay ministers to the parish: Mr David Robinson (from Oxford Diocese) and Mr Richard Orr (from Dawlish). We also enjoyed the ministry of Mr Jon Bealey, who did a placement at PPT as part of his ordination training, and we started a training group for four potential preachers, who have preached at the 5pm evening service.

This year we conducted 12 funerals, sadly including many members of the congregation: Mrs Theresa Samuels, Mrs Cilla Turner, Mr John Rickett, Mrs Rose White, Mr David Risdon and Sir Jonathan Clarke. We also conducted three weddings, one wedding blessing, and two baptisms.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

We sustained three Sunday services through the year. Rev Alex Sharp from Chudleigh led the St Georges Day service for youth organisations, and Graham was able to take the Remembrance Sunday parade and Christmas services. There were united services for Pentecost and Harvest. The sermons this year have expounded the gospels of John and Matthew, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and the OT book of Numbers.

Midweek, prayer meetings are held on Zoom on Monday and Friday, and a Wednesday Communion in the Church Room. The monthly prayer meeting is held on the first Wednesday evening of the month.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Our mission statement emphasises that the church exists to make disciples for Jesus Christ, each of whom has a responsibility to give a reason for the hope that is within them. The vicar's illness disrupted plans to repeat the door-to-door visitation after Easter. In January 2024 The vicar ran a 'Hope Explored' course in the Church Room with several participants, and a course preparing 7 children to receive Communion before confirmation, and a 'Simply Christianity' course in January 2025, but this is an area of weakness for which the whole congregation has a responsibility.

We continued to pray and raise funds for a variety of local, national and international mission agencies. We welcomed several guest speakers -Jane Gillis from Falcon Camps in May, James Sandels from YWAM and Rob Fowler from Compassion UK in July, Choices Pregnancy Network in September and a special presentation by the Christian Institute in October on a range of topics, especially the Assisted Dying Bill which received its second reading in Parliament in November 2024.

PASTORAL CARE

There are now eleven small groups meeting regularly for bible study, fellowship and prayer including the men's weekly 7am prayer breakfast.

Camilla Matheson stepped down from leading the 'First Steps' toddlers group at Easter, after 14 years service, and the group continues under a new name "Friday Friends" and the leadership of Rosie Stephens and Shirley Codner. They also oversee the children's Sunday Club, whose numbers have remained healthy. Rosie led a team of adults and 13 children to attend the Spree camp in June and organised a wonderful 'Light Party' at Halloween and co-ordinated school visits and Christingle.

The number of young people in youth groups grew under the energetic leadership of Angie Blanche: she resigned her post in February 2025 to take up a new role as Family Worker in Ashburton and will be greatly missed.

Jill Hosford continues to lead the Anna Chaplaincy team and recruit new members. The team regularly visits and holds services at Mulberry House. The Friendship Lunch held monthly through the winter at Stover Golf Club continues to provide Christian fellowship and encouragement to those who struggle to attend church on Sundays, and a lovely tea party was held in the summer.

Jill also launched a monthly 'Good Grief' (Bereavement) cafe at Bovey Methodist church. The Men's Curry night, organised by Jon Evans, has alternated between PPT and Bovey Baptist in the winter months.

FABRIC & ADMINISTRATION

The church building and church room have been in full use throughout the year, and the Monday maintenance group work hard to keep the grounds and buildings in good order. Mrs Cheryl Newport is employed to clean the church room. The marquee provided valuable service for the summer season, especially for Sunday Club and First Steps, though the grass is wearing badly.

Significant progress was made with two fabric projects. The South Porch glass doors were finally installed in September, and work began in November on a new LED lighting system (completed in February 2025), as well as emergency repairs to the church electrical systems, new lights in the church room and along the path in the Courtenay memorial garden. A new shed was erected in the church room garden, to replace the storage bunkers and preserve the marquee. An AED defibrillator was installed outside the church room. Two surveys of the steel subframe for the bells in the tower were made, and major remedial work may be needed in the next few years.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment and election of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. At the APCM in 2020 the electoral roll renewed its decision of 2015 to reduce its elected representation on the PCC from 12 to 9. This took effect from the APCM in 2021. All those who regularly attend church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC and to the Deanery Synod. A revision to the way that PCC members are elected was approved by the PCC during 2017 as a result of the need for a postal ballot in 2017.

The PCC met 6 times in 2024. (once outdoors to allow Graham to attend while immune-compromised). An average of 14 PCC members attended each meeting, with 2 apologies. At the APCM held on 23 May 2024, Mr Mark Alexander stepped down as church warden, and Mrs Sue Nickels and Mr Barry Newport stepped down from the PCC. Mr Peter Chesterman and Mr Michael Codner were elected as churchwardens, and after a contested election Mrs Katie Law, Mrs Karen Chesterman and Mr Steve Matheson were elected.

Three members of the PPT congregation were elected unopposed in the Diocesan Synodical Elections in the summer, and become members of the PCC *ex officio*- Mr Roy White, Mr Mark Alexander and Mrs Dawn Hamilton. In September the PCC co-opted Mr Greg Wilgar to fill the casual vacancy on Deanery created by Mr Roy White's election to Diocesan Synod.

The PCC spent much time and attention on the door and lighting fabric projects, as well as planning for a replacement heating system, as the oil boiler will soon be beyond repair.

The PCC has also been considering the impact of PLF on people's confidence in the church, and their willingness to serve and give. The PCC requested 'Alternative Spiritual oversight' from the CEEC, and a special congregational meeting was held on Sat 28 September, supported by Bishop Rod Thomas to consider the use of the Ephesian Fund as a channel to pay Common Fund to the Diocese while expressing our concern about the direction of national and diocesan leadership. After lively debate and wider consultations, the PCC agreed in January to provide two accounts, enabling individuals to decide whether to give to the PCC and Common Fund directly or via the Ephesian Fund, and this has produced a noticeable rise in income.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Roy Pitchford has served throughout the year as Church Treasurer and has continued to provide detailed financial reports month by month. The accounts for 2024 were independently examined by Mrs. Clare Lillington.

Total receipts were £127,133 in 2024 (£161,897 in 2023, including £15,404 from Gift Aid, but no legacies.

Total expenditure for the year was £157,186 (£149,290 in 2023), plus £30,782 on the glass door

and church lighting projects.

This year we continued the policy for **outward (charitable) giving** (dedicating all cash and contactless payments received on Sundays and any BACS payments so marked) to the mission focus for the month. This raised £6,202 (£11,969 in 2023).

The final accounts for 2024, when compared with 2023 show a significant reduction in planned giving. Fee Income from weddings and funerals was also lower. With no legacies, this produced a deficit of £45,010 on general funds. This is clearly unsustainable, and the PCC launched an appeal for funds in January 2025, which seems to have been successful.

The Common Fund contribution requested by the Diocese for 2024 was £84,760 (£83,831 in 2023). The PCC renewed its resolve to pay at least the cost of clergy figure, and in 2024 we paid £71,280 (£68,195 in 2023) (the estimated cost of a Vicar's stipend, pension, NI, and housing, and share of central costs). With income from funeral and wedding fees and Hennock's contribution of £7,433, this still makes us a net contributor to the Diocese, though giving £13,480 less than requested by the Common Fund formula,

Total cash reserves on 31 December were £96,169 (£157,004 in 2023), a reduction we forecast last year as we planned to meet the cost of the glass doors and new church lighting from our reserves and contributions from parishioners.

The General (unrestricted) Fund stands at £83,641 (£128,651 in 2023).

Restricted Funds (use specified by donors- cannot be changed)

The Youth & Children's Fund has been reduced from £10,984 to £2,902.

The glass door fund is now closed, and the Fabric Fund has been reduced to £270.

Designated Funds (use specified by PCC - can be changed)

The organ fund stands at £4,989,

The vicar's discretionary fund is now £2,179.

Each mission agency has its own designated fund, and these are paid in full each year.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our general (unrestricted) funds which equates to at least three months' salaries for all our staff, Common Fund payments and regular bills, but to include funds in the Local Ministry Fund and Youth & Children's Fund to local staff costs.

STAFF

In December 2024 the PCC employed four part-time local staff - the Family Worker, Youth Worker, Church Cleaner and Office Administrator. Their purpose is to co-ordinate and support the work of the many volunteers who continue to provide the backbone of church life.

VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful to all those volunteers who continue to maintain the worship, mission, and community life of the church. The range of tasks includes visiting, supporting groups for young and old, playing or singing music, welcoming, reading, and leading prayers at services, providing and serving refreshments after services, cleaning and maintaining the fabric of our buildings and grounds, supporting the sick and housebound. We give thanks for the growing number of enthusiastic bell ringers and 11am choir members.

We have endeavoured to ensure that all volunteers have access to the relevant health and safety policies and risk assessments, and these are available to all on the PPT website, www.pptbovey.church.

We remain very grateful to the Monday Maintenance Group for keeping the church buildings and grounds in good condition and for undertaking all routine maintenance and repair work. This essential work is always carried out promptly and efficiently and saves much expenditure of the church's funds.

Safeguarding

Mrs Shirley Codner has maintained safeguarding administration, and Mr Tim Stephens has sustained the role of Safeguarding representative.

Administration

Mrs Camilla Matheson works as church administrator, producing weekly notice sheets, service sheets and updating the laptop for projecting services. She and Jill Hosford have played a vital part in the glass door and new lighting faculty process, and in the forthcoming heating project.

Mrs Jane Midgley has continued to serve as church room booking secretary.

Mr Mike Limb photocopies and posts notice sheets, service orders, assists the treasurer and regularly acts as warden at most funerals and weddings.

The volunteer rotas for the three services are organised by Shirley Codner at 9.30am, Camilla Matheson at 11am and Mark Alexander at 5pm.

DEANERY SYNOD

The Newton Abbot Deanery met twice, at Kingskerwell on 5 June 2024, and Ashburton on 23 October.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Bovey Baptist Church and PPT continued to work together in shared youth and children's events, but the ministers have not met regularly this year. The vicar maintains contact with other church leaders in the town and area.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The parish church of St Peter, St Paul, and St Thomas of Canterbury (PPT) is situated on East Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon. It is a parish in the Diocese of Exeter, within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is The Church Rooms, East Street, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9EN.

The parish website can be accessed via www.pptbovey.church

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and has been registered with the Charity Commission (Charity #1128849, since 27th March 2009).

Those who served from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 May 2024 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio Members (by right of office)

Incumbent	Revd. Graham Hamilton Chairman
Churchwardens	Mr Peter Chesterman (Vice-Chair) Mr Mike Codner
Diocesan Synod	Mrs Dawn Hamilton Mr Roy White Mr Mark Alexander
Deanery Synod	Mr Greg Wilgar Mr Jack Knightly Mr Mathew Percy

Elected Members

Mrs Sharon Alexander	Mr Mike Limb	
Mrs Katie Law	Mrs Jill Hosford	
Mrs Karen Chesterman	Mrs Shirley Codner	(secretary)
Mr Tim Stephens	Mr Roy Pitchford	(treasurer)
Mr Steve Matheson		

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev Graham Hamilton (PCC Chairman)

Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury - Charity Number 1128849
For the year ending 31st December 2024
Receipts and Payments Account

	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
RECEIPTS					
Donations and Legacies					
Collection - Church	1,225	20	0	1,245	1,211
Collection - Planned Giving	83,278	500	50	83,828	90,876
Collection - PPT Charities	236	5,916	50	6,202	11,969
Gift Aid HMRC	15,404	0	0	15,404	24,414
Donations Received	1,043	570	6,912	8,525	3,584
Legacies	0	0	0	0	15,000
	101,186	7,006	7,012	115,204	147,055
Other Voluntary Receipts					
Sundry Income	360	0	0	360	29
Deeper Youth Camp	0	0	0	0	905
Opening balance adjustment	0	0	0	0	921
	360	0	0	360	1,855
Income from Church Activities					
Letting - Church Rooms	2,731	0	0	2,731	1,968
Fees - Funerals	3,653	0	0	3,653	5,443
Fees - Weddings	1,078	0	0	1,078	2,990
Fund Raising	0	0	0	0	1,110
Publication Costs Recovered	370	0	0	370	251
	7,832	0	0	7,832	11,762
Receipts from Investments					
Interest - Lloyds Savings Account	1,006	0	0	1,006	428
Interest - Lloyds Deposit Account	1,344	0	0	1,344	0
Interest - CCLA	1,386	0	0	1,386	798
	3,737	0	0	3,737	1,226
TOTAL RECEIPTS	113,115	7,006	7,012	127,133	161,897

Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury - Charity Number 1128849
For the year ending 31st December 2024
Receipts and Payments Account

	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities					
Administration	6,278	0	0	6,278	6,381
Bank Charges	179	0	0	179	184
Catering & Cleaning	2,103	0	0	2,103	1,637
Diocesan Contribution	71,280	0	0	71,280	68,195
Donations given	28	0	0	28	153
Fabric Costs	8,864	6,024	1,225	16,113	11,797
Expenses - Administrator	420	0	0	420	1,732
Expenses - Clergy & Lay Workers	1,969	0	0	1,969	1,301
Expenses - Family Worker	2,529	0	0	2,529	0
Expenses - Youth Worker	(11)	0	1,133	1,122	2,674
Insurance Premiums	5,391	0	0	5,391	5,210
Outward Giving	384	5,071	0	5,455	11,881
Outreach - General	1,363	0	190	1,553	862
Outreach - Anna Chaplaincy	0	75	0	75	0
Outreach - Spree	869	0	0	869	0
Publications - Magazines - Books	538	0	0	538	274
Staff Salaries	25,388	0	7,060	32,448	29,636
Sundry Expenses	1,447	0	0	1,447	374
Training	592	0	0	592	274
Utilities	5,207	0	0	5,207	3,857
Worship Expenses	1,589	0	0	1,589	2,867
	136,407	11,170	9,608	157,185	149,290
Other expenditure					
Project - Glass Doors	3,742	0	3,240	6,982	1,794
Project - New Church Lighting	17,976	927	4,897	23,800	270
	21,718	927	8,137	30,782	2,064
TOTAL PAYMENTS	158,125	12,097	17,745	187,967	151,354
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(45,010)	(5,092)	(10,733)	(60,835)	10,543
Surplus brought forward	128,651	14,718	13,635	157,004	146,461
Surplus carried forward	83,641	9,626	2,902	96,169	157,004

Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury - Charity Number 1128849**For the year ending 31st December 2024****Movement in Funds in the year****Designated**

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Carried Forward
Anna Chaplaincy	-	602	75	527
Bell Ringing	212	20	-	232
Bovey Social Fund	150	-	-	150
Church Flowers Fund	212	-	-	212
Christian Institute	-	317	317	-
Compassion UK	-	736	736	-
Choices Pregnancy Centre	-	406	406	-
Fabric Fund	6,951	270	6,951	270
Falcon Camps	-	378	378	-
Heatree Activity Centre	-	405	405	-
Leprosy Mission	-	459	459	-
Open Doors	25	475	364	135
Organ Fund	4,989	-	-	4,989
Peninsula Gospel Partnership	-	299	299	-
Royal British Legion	-	455	455	-
Sandels YWAM	-	789	789	-
Tear Fund	-	462	462	-
Vicar's Fund	2,179	-	-	2,179
Youth Cafe	-	932	-	932
	14,718	7,006	12,098	9,626

Restricted

Fabric Fund	1,434	4,688	6,122	-
Glass Door Fund	1,216	2,024	3,240	-
Youth Work Fund	10,984	300	8,383	2,902
	13,635	7,012	17,746	2,902

General

General - General Fund	128,651	113,115	158,125	83,641
	157,004	127,133	187,968	96,169

ST PETER, ST PAUL and ST THOMAS of CANTERBURY - Charity Number 1128849

For the year ending 31st December 2024

Fund Movement Summary

Fund	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Carried Forward
Anna Chaplaincy - Designated	-	602	75	527
Bell Ringing - Designated	212	20	-	232
Bovey Social Fund - Designated	150	-	-	150
Church Flowers Fund - Designated	212	-	-	212
Christian Institute - Designated	-	317	317	-
Compassion UK - Designated	-	736	736	-
Choices Pregnancy Centre - Designated	-	406	406	-
Fabric Fund - Designated	6,951	270	6,951	270
Fabric Fund - Restricted	1,434	4,688	6,122	-
Falcon Camps - Designated	-	378	378	-
Glass Door Fund - Restricted	1,216	2,024	3,240	-
General - General Fund	128,651	113,115	158,125	83,641
Heatree Activity Centre - Designated	-	405	405	-
Leprosy Mission - Designated	-	459	459	-
Open Doors - Designated	25	475	364	135
Organ Fund - Designated	4,989	-	-	4,989
Peninsula Gospel Partnership - Designated	-	299	299	-
Royal British Legion - Designated	-	455	455	-
Sandels YWAM - Designated	-	789	789	-
Tear Fund - Designated	-	462	462	-
Vicar's Fund - Designated	2,179	-	-	2,179
Youth Cafe - Designated	-	932	-	932
Youth Work Fund - Restricted	10,984	300	8,383	2,902
Totals	157,004	127,133	187,968	96,169

Century Gothic 18 portrait

96,169

Outward Giving 2024

	2024	2023
Christian Institute	317	50
Compassion UK	736	604
Choices Pregnancy Centre	406	398
Falcon Camps	378	832
Heatree Activity Centre	405	-
Leprosy Mission	459	1,714
Open Doors	364	949
Outward Giving Fund	-	371
Peninsula Gospel Partnership	299	499
Royal British Legion	455	463
Sandels YWAM	789	642
Tear Fund	462	2,602
Youth Cafe	932	473
	5,071	9,597

Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury - Charity Number 1128849

For the year ending 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets

Cash Funds	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
Lloyds Business Account	61	-	-	61	-
Lloyds Business Account	6,397			6,397	30,630
Lloyds Savings Account	51,159	8,132	2,902	62,193	22,242
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	-	-	-	-	78,000
Cash	13	-	-	13	13
	57,630	8,132	2,902	68,664	130,885
Investments					
CBF Investment	26,010	-	-	26,010	24,699
CBF Vicar's	-	1,495	-	1,495	1,420
	26,010	1,495	-	27,505	26,119
	83,640	9,627	2,902	96,169	157,004

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Peter, St Paul and St
Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Parochial Church Council
Charity number 1128849**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Church for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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

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

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

C.W. Lillington

Clare Lillington FMAAT
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2nd May 2025