

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, ELWORTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1130803

Details

Other names ST PETER'S PCC, ELWORTH

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-07-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Elworth PCC exists to further the work of the Church of England by proclaiming the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£187,109	£185,141	-	-
2023-12-31	£174,122	£246,691	-	-
2022-12-31	£197,935	£238,036	-	-
2021-12-31	£155,463	£209,954	-	-
2020-12-31	£190,653	£203,215	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew John Clee		2022-05-14
Catherine Edmonds		2023-05-21
Dr Heather Savvides		2021-05-26
Elizabeth Jane Hills		2023-05-21
Fiona Catherine Mary Cooper		2020-10-19
HELEN JONES		2013-04-28
Helen Jane Coppenhall		2019-04-27
John Cargill		2019-04-27
Lynda Christine Wisbey		2022-05-14
MARK CHARLES BARKER		
MICHELLE LESLEY WALKER		
MR BILL CHAPMAN		
Margaret Ann TAYLOR		2022-05-14
Nicole Simone Archer		2022-05-14
PAUL DIMITRI SAVVIDES		2016-04-24
Rev Anthony Paul Rigby		2020-10-01
Rev Harry Frost		2025-06-29
Stephen John Richard Parfitt		2019-05-12

Accounts

St Peter's Church Elworth

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2024

No incumbent during
Interregnum

Associate Minister
Anthony Rigby

Registered Charity No. 1130803

Contents

2. The P.C.C.
3. Associate Minister's Report
4. The Church Office
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Church Wardens' Report Speak
7. P.C.C. Report The Foyer
8. Church Flowers Church Attendance
9. Welcome Team

Church Organisations

10. Baby Group Acorns
11. Adventurers
12. Lego Church Xplore
13. Encounter Safeguarding
14. ABC All Age Team
15. Slavic Gospel Association St Peter's Football
16. Mission Support Group Worship Group
17. Church Prayer Life Supper Night Book Group
18. Shoe Box Appeal Residential/Nursing Homes
19. Messy Church Chaplaincy
20. Church Christmas Card Church Choir
21. Churchyard Sewing Machine Group

Home Groups

22. Monday House Group Kairos
23. Monday Small Group Koinonia
24. Fuyin Ezekiel

Accounts

25. Balance Sheet
26. Reserves Policy Notes to Financial Statement
27. Receipts and Payments by Report Group
28. Analysis of income and expenditure
32. Examiner's Statement

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Rev. David Page (*Until the end of October*)

Associate Minister Rev. Anthony Rigby

Church Wardens:

Mr Stephen Parfitt

Mrs Helen Coppenhall

Miss Rebecca Holland (*Assistant Warden*)

Mrs Helen Jones (*Assistant Warden and
Safeguarding Officer*)

Treasurer: Mr Andrew Clee

Secretary: Mr John Cargill

Elected Members

Ms Nicole Archer

Mr Daniel Chan

Mr Mark Barker

Mrs Fiona Cooper (*Co-opted - Legacy Officer*)

Ms Catherine Edmonds

Mrs Liz Hills

Dr Heather Savvides (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Mrs Margaret Taylor

Mrs Jennie Coppenhall

Mr David Topping (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Mrs Lynda Wisbey

Ex-officio:

Mr William Chapman (*Parish Evangelist and Deanery
Synod representative*)

Mrs Kathleen Cliffe (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Mrs Michelle Walker (*Pastoral Worker*)

Mr Paul Savvides (*Diocesan Synod representative*)

By Office: Pastoral Workers, Lay Readers and Parish Evangelists
are entitled to serve on the P.C.C.

Associate Minister's Report

The past year at St. Peter's has been a period of transition, growth, and immense grace. We began the year with some uncertainty, facing a significant financial deficit from 2023 and also the departure of Gareth to Knutsford to explore new challenges and to aid their growth in family ministry. Despite these challenges, God's faithfulness has shone through, enabling us to witness His blessings in numerous ways.

Growth in Worship and Ministry

Attendance at our Sunday services, particularly the 10:30 am service, has continued to grow, reflecting a renewed enthusiasm and engagement within our church family. Weekday activities for children and families have also seen a significant resurgence, reaching levels of participation not experienced in recent years. This growth has been supported by the arrival of Josephine, whose contributions to the children and family team have been a true blessing. Even during the time of vacancy since David's retirement we have not seen a dip in numbers. Statistics show that during these times it is likely that congregation numbers may drop by up to 20%. We have remained consistent in worship numbers across all services and all Christmas services and events were up slightly.

February marked a special moment as Bishop Sam conducted a confirmation service for two elder members of our congregation. This intimate and meaningful occasion was deeply appreciated by all who attended. Later in the year, we launched a new football group, which, despite a few injuries, has brought great joy, fellowship, and even a little sweat to its participants.

Leadership Transitions

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held early this year, during which Helen Coppenhall joined Steve Parfitt as Churchwarden. David's retirement was announced during the APCM, marking the beginning of a transition in leadership. His departure was celebrated with heartfelt gratitude, culminating in a wonderful afternoon tea attended by around 250 members of the community. Kate also retired from her office role in September, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service. These milestones were accompanied by thanksgiving services that honoured their contributions. During September we also welcomed Jenny Drain to the office team with both Lucy and Jenny supporting us all and ensuring a smooth running of the hall etc.

The departure of David in October brought about a shift in leadership responsibilities. This year I have stepped into a more prominent leadership role, particularly in overseeing sacramental services and serving as the liaison with Church House. I am deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our Churchwardens, office team, lay workers, and volunteers, whose dedication has made this transition possible whilst we are in a period of vacancy and as we look for a new incumbent minister.

(Continued overleaf)

My ministry continues to include a unique focus within my workplace, providing pastoral care as a Self-Supporting Minister (SSM). At St. Peter's, I have been privileged to lead various forms of worship and not only the usual Sunday services, going out into the community to do home communions, participating in churches together events and the Remembrance Day parade with the Air Cadets. Serving as Padre to Sandbach Air Cadet Squadron (1873 Sqn.) has been particularly rewarding, as we organised an enrolment service for new members. This year, Jenny Coppenhall's growing leadership in this role has been invaluable, especially as the squadron continues to flourish.

In January, we hosted our second annual Burns Supper, seeing over 60 people attend, building on the success of the previous year's event. This joyful evening brightened the dark winter nights and raised funds for Cancer Research, St Luke's Hospice, and the church fund. By the time of the APCM, we will have celebrated our third Burns Supper, further cementing this tradition as a cherished part of our community life.

Looking Ahead

Balancing the roles of husband, father, full-time employee, church minister, and Padre has been a challenge at times. Yet, in every struggle, the Lord's presence has been a source of reassurance and guidance. As we move forward, I am confident that God's continued faithfulness will lead us to new opportunities to serve and grow as a church family.

May we enter the coming year with hearts full of gratitude and a steadfast commitment to serving our Lord and our community.

Revd Anthony Rigby

The Church Office

It has been a busy year in the office. We are here 9am till 2pm, Monday to Friday and are the first port of call for a lot of enquiries. More groups are using the hall on a regular basis and the rota for letting people in and locking up afterwards grows ever more complicated! We are very grateful for the volunteers who perform these duties.

The biggest change we have seen is Kate's retirement. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her luck and God's blessings as she and David move into the next chapter of their lives.

Lucy has had to reduce her hours due to ongoing family commitments. We welcomed Jenny to the office team, and at the moment she works Monday afternoons, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We have a small team of volunteers who cover Tuesday afternoons. Lucy is very appreciative of the support, flexibility and understanding that the Church Wardens have given her.

Lucy Kelly & Jenny Drain

Treasurer's Report

The PCC had a successful financial year and recorded a surplus of £1,967 during 2024. This is compared to the deficit of £72.6K in 2023 and a deficit of £40.1K in 2022.

Income for the year in total was £187.1K which was up £13K from 2023. Total giving and donations was £103.2k which was down £13.1k from 2023 which mainly came from regular gift aid bank giving being down by £15.2K. However, gift aid returns were £23.5K and no money was withdrawn from the deposit account which therefore managed to generate interest of £6.3K. Church Hall lettings were up by £3.2K, recording £33.3K of income, and most other sources of income were fractionally higher than the previous year. ABC income is now also recorded in the main church account figures, during 2024 ABC generated £3.6K of income.

Additional giving for David and Kate's leaving gift is not included in here, but people were extremely generous, and it allowed them to have a really good send off.

Expenditure £185.1K which was £61.6K less than in 2023. This money was saved by not having any significant major work required during the year, such as the church heating, which was done in 2023 and although we missed out on a lot of non-financial aspects by not having an assistant minister during the whole of 2024 after Gareth left, it did result in us saving money on wages and housing allowances.

We had set a budget for 2024 to break even which seemed optimistic at the time, but of course God is a grade A* math's student, and we managed to do this with a small surplus. So, thankfully we have been able to get back on track, thanks to everyone's generosity, efficiency, prayer and God's miraculous abacus.

As of the 31st December 2024, the current account contained £9K and the deposit account contained £157.7K.

Thank you to all of you who help with the finances and for making my job as easy as possible, it really is a team effort and please continue to pray that the finances going forward will remain stable.

Andrew Clee

Church Warden's Report

Well – it's been a busy year hasn't it! At the end of last year's report Steve wrote that he was sure that "in 2024 we will continue to face many new challenges so we must continue to give thanks to God for his provision in the past year and to seek his guidance as we face forthcoming issues in the future."

With David announcing his decision to retire in October the challenges facing us as a church have certainly increased! Thankfully, David gave us a lot of notice and did a lot of forward planning before his departure which has eased the transition into the current vacancy. However, no matter how much you plan, you never really know what it takes to run a church and what the vicar does until you try to do it without one!

We are really appreciative of the support we've been given in ensuring St Peter's services and other activities have run as usual. There are too many involved to name everyone, but we're blessed with an associate minister and two lay readers whose skills, with the help of others, have ensured we haven't had to ask for help from other ministers to conduct our Sunday worship.

Our office staff have been superb not only dealing with routine admin work but also keeping us up to date with daily reports concerning the day's happenings and bringing to our attention anything that needs our input. With their and Anthony's assistance we think we've just about kept on top of most of the jobs!

Looking ahead, we are committed to embracing new opportunities to serve our Church and community. With God's guidance and your continued support may we continue to grow in love and service and we thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement.

Helen Coppenhall and Steve Parfitt

Speak

The Church has had a magazine for as long as I can remember! It is a great source of information and keeping up to date with the life of the Church.

'Speak' is the magazine for the Church family. It is distributed online via our website and as a paper copy. Please contact the Church Office for more information on office@stpeters-elworth.org.uk.

Currently it is bi-monthly with a couple of information sheets throughout the year. As a team we work hard to ensure that the articles we provide are interesting and factual. If you have anything that fits that description let us know, we would love to chat with you.

Bethany Jones, Jenny Drain and Lucy Kelly

PCC Report

The PCC membership increased to 24 at the time of the APCM in March which is the highest number in our recent history. The electoral roll at the time of the APCM was confirmed as 149, a net increase of 4 over the previous year. This year, under diocesan rules, we will hold a complete renewal of the roll so there may be a significant change in the number at this point.

After Gareth Davies resigned and Becky left as a result, Helen Coppenhall stepped up to replace her as Warden and Steve Parfitt kindly agreed to continue. We therefore have two committed and experienced wardens at this crucial time.

At the APCM David announced his forthcoming retirement in October thus triggering a recruitment process to select a new incumbent. The PCC elected the wardens, Steve and Helen, to serve as PCC representatives on interview panel along with Bishop Mark, Archdeacon Jane and Rev Bee Boyde of St Mary's Sandbach, our patron church. At the time of writing the position has been advertised and the process is ongoing.

In the meantime, and with the various specific recruitment procedures continuing, the PCC continues to manage the life of the church entirely without interruption or constraint. Additional meetings to consider the recruitment have been held as required with either Steve or Helen chairing.

After careful consideration the PCC approved the under-pew heating. This was installed and we now have a full year's operating experience of using it and we can now confirm that the new system provides a good level of comfort in the church at lower cost than the old boiler system even allowing for the increase in energy costs in recent years.

John Cargill

The Foyer

The Foyer provides a wonderful space within the Church Hall, a place where we can all take the opportunity to meet with others, especially on a Sunday morning before and after Services. We are grateful for 'those in the kitchen' for serving in this ministry.

There is also the opportunity to browse through several Christian publications that are available and to catch up on upcoming church events.

The Foyer is open as the 'Foyer Café' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 11.30 am for the use of the wider local community, and for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together, perhaps with a friend, neighbour or with your small / home group.

On a Friday morning the always popular Coffee and Company is open in the Foyer.

This coming year may provide more opportunities to use the Foyer Café / space as we continue to look forward to reconnecting with one another and the wider community.

Michelle Walker

Church Flowers

We are a friendly group of 27 people that come together in fellowship to purchase, arrange and maintain the flower displays used to decorate the Church Hall and Church Building. These flowers are often paid for by members of the congregation as an offering of thanksgiving to God. Flowers at Church celebrate God's goodness and gifts to us all and they are a fitting reminder of his glory and grace. Flowers can help to enhance services and uplift spirits.

Some of our members also work together to decorate the church windows according to the Liturgical calendar with fresh flowers during Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Some of these flower displays are moved between the Church and Church Hall for the 10.30am service. When services are over church flowers can give further pleasure, because (upon request), they can be given to people in need of pastoral care within the Church Family and wider community.

Arrangements have also been provided for baptisms, weddings, and funerals as well as for the Burns supper ceilidh and the retirement celebration for David and Kate Page. Tracy Rigby and Fiona Cooper demonstrated the arrangement of Christmas table decorations at the ladies' craft event held in December, with fifty arrangements made possible by the kind donation of oasis from the Colville family. This year, with a focus on sustainability and the environment, we are moving away from the constant use of oasis foam in flower arrangements and will trial alternatives. This has been aided by the generous donation of a dozen crystal glass vases by the Barker family following the wedding of Rebecca and Mathias in October.

A new quarterly Church Newsletter for the flower arranging team was launched in November to keep all involved with St Peter's flowers up to date with news and events. The next edition is due in March.

We are always looking for willing volunteers to join the team and no experience is necessary. If you feel able, please sign up on the 2025 flower rota displayed on the notice boards in the Church and Church Hall.

Tracy Rigby and Joyce Foster.

Church Attendance

The attendance at each of the Sunday services hovered fairly close to their averages with occasional lows at holiday times and highs at Baptisms and on special days but have shown a pleasing increase over last year.

The figures for the 9.00 service are between 22 and 25, averaging 17. The 10.30 service averaged at 25 under 16's and 79 adults (including babies).

And, just for comparison with last year, the average total per week was 125. This actually shows very little since it includes babies and people who attended more than one service.

Jim Watson

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team at the 10.30am service, along with the sides-people at the 9.00am and 6.00pm service would often be the first contact for those who are new to the church. For an occasional visitor, and even those who come regularly, a warm welcome can make a big difference.

The ‘welcomers’ have grown in number over the year. At the 10.30am service there are now more nominated people welcoming at the door in the foyer and also in the main hall.

We have continued with our twice a year ‘Welcome Tea’ in March and October for anyone who joined the church community in the previous 6 months. These have been well attended and there have been a good number of church family members present in support. The buffet tea has been very much appreciated, thank you Liz. The intention is to continue with these two events into 2025.

How we welcome is much more than just on a Sunday. We provide a welcome in many areas:

- By outreach with Publicity and Communication, either a poster, our website or Facebook and other media

- Our personal and pastoral contacts

- Coffee & Company

- The welcome provided to church hall users by the office staff

- The church grounds team to those visiting the churchyard,

- The three ladies events held throughout the year

Please pray for all who welcome in these ministries recognising how we are all to be welcomers and welcoming.

Anybody who feels called to this particular ministry at any of the events or any of the church services please speak to one of the team you will be most welcome.

Welcome Team: Lynda Wisbey, Martin Hathaway, Daniel Chan, Michelle Walker

Welcomers: Allan Walker, Steve & Cathryn Houghton, Jo Burton, Helen Jones, Jennie Coppenhall, Wendy Woods, Pauline Thornton

Church Organisations

Baby Group

St Peter's Baby Group was set up in February 2016 in response to the growing number of parents/carers in the local community with babies under the age of 12 months. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am term time. We meet in the church hall.

Soft play is provided and refreshments are offered to the parents/carers who attend. This format provides a great opportunity for new parents/carers to connect with each other and to form lasting friendships. Christian hospitality is a real driver for those serving at Baby Group. Each week we welcome on average between 20-30 parents/carers and their babies to the group.

During 2024 we have introduced a singing time at the end of the session. Nursery rhymes are sung and sensory play is offered using a range of age appropriate musical instruments, a play parachute and sensory scarves.

The group is currently served by Cathryn Houghton, Josephine Chow and one of the grandparents, Lynn Fairhurst. The serving role for this group involves making refreshments, serving hot toast and making everyone feel as welcome as possible.

If you would like to offer your time supporting Baby Group in a serving capacity, please do get in touch with the Children and Families Outreach Leader,

Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Acorns 2024

Acorns continues to be available to any child aged between 3 and 6 years of age whether they attend on a regular basis or come along to a baptism service or any other special occasion. We are thrilled to share that we currently have 20 children registered with a weekly regular attendance of around 6-10 children. We continue to meet in the Meeting Room in the church hall and are grateful to the staff of Elworth Preschool for the loan of various toys.

Over the past year we have tried to teach the same themes followed in the 10.30 am Church service and across the Junior Church groups. We continue to use age appropriate material produced by the on line resource called *Energize*. Within each session we have a story, craft activities, prayer, a small snack and time to play. The themes for the past year have been around "Love, Forgiveness, Friendship, God's gifts and Acting Justly". We also enjoyed looking at Characters in the Bible including Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Joshua, Gideon, Mary and Joseph.

Contd

In October we said farewell to Kate who has led Acorns (previously Lego) for 22 years. Kate was an enormous part of the life of our church as well as this group. She will be missed terribly but we surround her with love and prayers as she and David prepare for new ventures. Thank you Kate for your dedication, leadership and support not only to us as leaders of Acorns but from all the children with whom you have had the pleasure of sharing Gods word.

Tracy, Lucy and Denise are thrilled to welcome Bethany and Jess to join our team of “leaders”. There is always a minimum of two of us taking it in turns to either lead or support this Sunday morning group.

For any further information please contact the church office but if anyone feels called to serve God by joining the Acorns Team do speak to one of the current Leaders / helpers.

Written on behalf of Denise, Kate, Tracy, Lucy, Bethany and Jess

Adventurers (Age 6 – 11)

The Year began with a selection of subjects from the Scripture Union ‘Energize’ resource website selected from the New Testament: No sin too hard, Merciful God, Full of Grace, Friend of Sinners, Here Comes the King, Always there and Mighty God.

After Easter we looked at different themes, drawing on appropriate scriptures: Looking after God’s creation, One Body Many Parts, Social Justice and Brotherly Love.

In September we said au revoir to Martin and welcomed Libby, even though Martin thankfully filled the breach at a moment’s notice when Alex sustained a footballing injury (at the St Peter’s Wednesday football!). In this term we explored the Old Testament, focusing on the big stories and big characters of the OT: Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Gideon. Advent allowed a change with separate sessions on Mary and Joseph. The term ended with Messy Christmas to which all Sunday school as well as Friday night Explorer families were all invited.

Our numbers are enough to warrant having three adults: long may we be so blessed. In a year or two we may need to be thinking about restarting the Sunday youth church.

*Paul Savvides on behalf of Alex, Andy, Jess, Josephine, Jennie,
Libby, Martin, and Mary.*

Lego Church

Lego Church was initially trialled at the end of 2019 with a couple of sessions before the Christmas period. The sessions ran once a month on a Wednesday in the church hall from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and were open to primary aged children attended by a parent/carer. Due to Covid-19 restrictions during 2020 Lego Church became a virtual club available monthly. During this time lots of family engaged with our Lego builds which were uploaded to St Peter's Church Website.

Post Covid-19, Lego Church has seen a continuous rise in popularity and attendance. At our most recent session, over 60 people attended and this is broadly average for all our sessions.

The first half hour of Lego Church involves free building with Lego. After that there are refreshments and then a Lego bible story, a song and a prayer. The children are given a challenge to build something from the story which they have just heard.

Lego Church has become part of the embedded Christian outreach of St Peter's Church. Children from both Elworth C of E School, Elworth Hall School and further afield attend.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore

Xplore is a children's club for primary aged children which meets each Friday evening during term time from 6:00pm – 7:15pm in the church hall. The club was set up in April 2013 and is now nearly twelve years old. Each week the children take part in a range of activities based around a bible theme. This includes a bible story, a time of worship and sharing of news plus crafts, games and a time of prayer. Simple refreshments are also provided.

Xplore has a regular attendance of between 30 - 40 children the majority of whom do not attend church. It is a real privilege to be able to forge positive relationships with local families and to engage them in other church related events such as Messy Church, Lego Church, Schools Projects and Church Holiday Clubs.

Xplore can only happen because of a very committed team of adult helpers who come along each Friday and serve the Lord in this very important outreach to the children in the local community.

If you feel that you can help at Xplore please email Cathryn Houghton on children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Encounter Youth Hub

Encounter is a youth group for Years 5 – 11 (10 - 16years). The group meets in the church hall on a Friday evening from 7:30pm – 9:00pm term time. Encounter was originally set up in 2014 as 'Xplore+' to provide fun activities and a short Christian based discussion for those young people who were moving on from the Xplore group age range. The name and age range was modified during 2023 to encompass the Year 5 children. During 2024 the group has continued to grow and between 30 and 50+ young people now attend. This has meant that we have had to increase the number of adults supporting and serving at this group and it has been most encouraging to see members of the church family coming forward to help.

During 2023 we purchased a set of Good News Youth Bibles for Encounter. These bibles have proved invaluable to our bible studies each week as our young people are learning how to study God's word. They ask questions and many good biblical discussions have been had this year for which we must thank God. 19 young people have now received bibles of their own. This means that in 2025 we will need to buy more! This is a wonderful position to be in and we are very grateful to God that our young people want to know more about Jesus.

During the summer we took the group to Urban Air trampolining park as an end of term social and it was well attended.

Encounter can only happen because of a group of committed voluntary helpers. We are seeking more adult help and if you feel that you could support the work of Encounter please contact Cathryn: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Safeguarding

St Peter's Church, Elworth takes its duty and obligation to protect all, extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines and are grateful to all those who have undergone Safeguarding training and completed their DBS checks in a timely manner. This enables us to feel supported and that many people recognise the importance of Safeguarding within a Church community.

During 2024, Cathryn and I have met on a monthly basis to discuss a range of matters related to Safeguarding, including training, DBS checks and role descriptions. We have attended two Diocesan Safeguarding network meetings, facilitated by Chester Diocese, which have enabled us to meet with people from other parishes and learn from their experiences. We recognise the importance of our role and ask that you would keep us in your prayers as we seek to carry it out to the best of our ability.

*Helen Jones (Lead Safeguarding Officer),
Cath Houghton (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)*

ABC

St Peter's ABC is a parent/carer toddler group which meets on Thursday mornings. Due to the popularity of the group, two sessions were introduced during 2023, Session one starts at 9:00am and finishes at 10:20am. Session two starts at 11:00am and finishes at 12:20pm term time. This important outreach provides an opportunity for the children to experience different types of play including role play, dressing up, small world play, physical play and story corner. It also provides an opportunity for the adults to catch up over coffee. A healthy snack is provided for the children and hot toast is available for the parents/carers to purchase at a small cost. Each session is concluded with a singing time when nursery rhymes are chosen by the children and the singing of these is coordinated by a member of the ministry team. The ABC sessions provide important opportunities to build lasting relationships with our local families. It is always a priority to invite the families to other church events such as Messy Church, Lego Church and our Friday night children's group.

A team of regular helpers come along each week to set up the hall with a variety of play opportunities and our refreshments team works hard to provide refreshments from the hatch. ABC can only happen because members of the church family are willing to give up their own time to help with this very important work.

The ABC year ended with our annual Christmas Party sessions which were attended by 75 children and their parents/carers in total. We were entertained by Rhythm Time. The children were given a Christmas gift and a party tea and parents/carers were served seasonal fayre.

ABC is supported by voluntary helpers. If you feel that you could support this work, please do contact Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

All Age Team

In the past year, a group of us has had the privilege of planning and leading the All Age services which take place usually once a month. It is always a challenge to find different ways to try to ensure that there is something for everyone and we are constantly reflecting on the services which have taken place. We want to be able to communicate God's Word clearly to all who are there, as well as providing opportunities to try different formats during the service, for example the use of Prayer Stations and puppets. We look forward to continuing to serve God in this way at St Peter's in the year to come.

*Jenny Drain, Rebecca Douglas, Nicola Hathaway, Helen Jones,
Paul Savvides, Denise Shone*

Slavic Gospel Association

St Peter's supports the Slavic Gospel Association. The focus of the work is in making disciples by cross cultural witness of the good news of Jesus Christ and S.G.A. works by supporting local churches in their initiatives and needs. S.G.A. is active across an area stretching from Poland and Slovakia in the west to Kazakstan and far east Russia in the east. S.G.A. activities and ministry includes biblical leadership training and supporting leaders, Hope Centres aiding people in central Asia, medical mission, christian literature, pioneering mission in far east Russia and Mongolia and children's camps in Europe.

S.G.A. is supporting churches in Ukraine, who are helping many bereaved families as well as serving soldiers. The news about perished soldiers reaches every town and village and everyone is affected by the sorrow and exhaustion of war. Many people are turning to Christ, so there are thousands of new believers. The effect of the suffering is to encourage people to share the gospel. New churches have been planted by leaders who have been forced out of their ministries in the war zone.

St. Peter's sponsors Stefan Zarevi who is minister at churches in Velingrad and the village of Rakitovo in south west Bulgaria. Both fellowships have a full range of activities. A mission school is based at Velingrad church. Stefan leads children's camps in summer. Many of the members of Velingrad and Rakitovo churches come from the Roma community, as the churches reach out into those communities.

Bill Chapman

St Peter's Football

Set up in the spring of 2024, St Peter's Football was set up simply to enjoy the game and get to know people in and out of church better. It is open to everyone (+14) and any ability. We currently have a good mix of people, including several church members, friends, friends of friends and people who have happened to hear about us through other means.

We play each Wednesday 8-9pm at Sandbach Boys School (3G) and usually have between 10-16 players to get at least a 5-a-side game going. It is played in a good, friendly, competitive spirit and we have seen some spectacular own goals and are averaging a self-inflicted injury once a week! Football is the most popular game in the world, so let's use it as a platform to build on and show that Christianity isn't just about visiting Church on a Sunday. If you want to know more please get in touch, dust off those boots and come along.

Andy (The Gaffer)

Inter Church Mission Support Group

St Peter's Church commits to giving 10% of its voluntary income to support Mission communities and good causes in Sandbach, the UK and around the world. How that income is distributed is decided by the Inter-Church Mission Support Group. The total available for distribution in 2024 was **£9,178** and we decided to support the following charities :

- Compassion Child Survival Project, Delmas Haiti; £1,000
- Dalit Freedom Network; £1,000
- Slavic Gospel Association; £2,000 (*£1,000 supporting the ministry of Pastor Zarev in Velingrad, Bulgaria, and £1,000 supporting churches in Ukraine*)
- SYCAM; £1,000
- Tearfund; £1,000
- Barnabas Fund; £400
- Bible Society; £400
- Christian Aid; £400
- Childrens Society; £400
- Christian Vision for Men; £400
- Lifeline Debt Advice; £400
- Scripture Union; £400
- WaterAid; £400

The total agreed actually amounted to £9,200 so the extra £22 came out of General Funds.

Mark Barker

Worship Group

The St Peter's Worship Group lead the sung worship at the 10.30am service every week. We have been so encouraged this year as more people have joined the group and are picking up instruments, some for the first time and others after a break or are joining us with their voices. We are also very thankful for the amazing technical support from Anthony and the rest of the team as we could not do the services without this. We are always looking to have new members, remembering that a worshipping heart is more important than musical skill. We meet at 9.30am before the service to practise and pray. Please continue to pray for the group, that we will stay focused on Jesus, keep worship at the forefront of everything that we do, and not just Sundays, and that we will enable all who join on Sundays to connect with God in a real and relevant way.

Heather Savvides

Church Prayer Life

There are a number of ways that the church prayer life has been encouraging this year.

The monthly prayer meetings led by different house groups continue each month, usually on the first Monday of the month unless it is a Bank Holiday when it is usually held on the Tuesday. We now hold the prayer meeting face to face in the church hall, having previously met on Zoom during the pandemic. The majority of people feel that this encourages both prayer and fellowship together. The prayer meeting is led by one of the house groups each month.

Also there has been an increase in the numbers of people joining the Connect network and praying for other members of the church, as well as outside of the church community and national and international events. People have said how supported they have felt by knowing that the church is praying for them and how helpful they have found this.

Some church members pray together weekly in small groups at a time which suits them. Others have continued to join in with a large national prayer group connected to one of the missions that we support working in Ukraine. Thanks to Zoom they are able to join internationally with Ukrainian Christians and supporters in Poland and Moldova to hear and pray for events on the ground.

After the 10.30am service there is now a team of people who are available to pray with individuals who have something or someone on their hearts.

Private or group prayer is an essential part of our Christian Life in developing our relationship with God through Jesus and underpins all our work.

Norma Chapman

Supper Night

While this year has been more challenging, I am glad that I have been able to carry on with the Supper Nights. This year we have had some extra help, and I am very grateful for that. God really does provide.

I hope to be able to carry on with these evenings in 2025.

Lucy Kelly & Gail Dell

Book Group

We have continued to meet on a monthly basis, in the Church Hall. Unfortunately, this year, we have reduced in number! Your prayers are appreciated as we really would like to grow. We read fiction books, from a variety of genres, some light, some a bit more challenging. One thing is guaranteed though, we don't all have the same opinion!

Lucy Kelly

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

We had a massive response for this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Enormous thanks to the St. Peter's church family, Elworth Primary School and members of the wider community. The generosity and support was fantastic. We collected 143 gift filled shoeboxes.

In addition to individually packed "shoeboxes" we ran a similar campaign to last year whereby for the 12 weeks leading up to National Collection week we encouraged people to donate specific items. These items were then prayerfully placed into a total of 13 age appropriate Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Thank you for your support. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Particular thanks to Bethany and Carolyn for their unwavering practical support and for Cathryn who always enthusiastically leads the organising, planning and collection from Elworth C. E. School. This year the children of Elworth C. E. School had two fundraising events and sourced the contents of 65 shoeboxes. It was wonderful to see members of staff and some of the School Prefects from Elworth C. E. Primary School presenting their boxes during our "Shoebox Sunday service".

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. It is a hands-on way to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, through the gift of their shoebox and through the opportunity of children participating in a bible study called "The Greatest Journey" the word of God is shared.

In 2023 many of us got notification that our shoeboxes were sent to Belarus. We wait patiently to hear the destination of this year's shoebox gifts.

If you would like any more information please contact Denise via St Peter's Church office.

Denise Shone

Residential / Nursing Homes

It has been our pleasure to be able to continue visits to our local Residential / Nursing Homes, Turnpike Court, St Stephens Nursing Home and Elworth Grange.

We join with the Residents once a month for a short service of Worship, celebrated the festivals, reconnected with familiar local and church families and made some delightful friendships.

Following David Page's retirement in October our Readers, Steve Coppenhall and Paul Savvides, have been taking the services, enabling us to continue this ministry in our community, and have been welcomed and appreciated by the Residents and Staff

If you would like to know more about our visits, please speak to Steve, Paul or myself.

Michelle Walker

Messy Church

St Peter's Messy Church takes place on average twice each term in the church hall. It is held on a Sunday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ethos of Messy Church is to provide a relaxed craft and activities based approach to bible themes for the whole family. There is always a time of worship and celebration followed by a hot snack for everyone. For many people Messy Church is the only contact they have with church and so it is vital that the gospel message is presented in a clear and vibrant way.

A team of helpers serve the Lord Jesus at Messy Church. This is a really important outreach to our local community and if you feel that you might be able to offer your support, please contact Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E School

Since September 2020 I have had the privilege of serving Elworth C of E School as School Chaplain. This extension to my normal Children and Families Outreach Work has been introduced to extend and hopefully enrich the outreach work of the church within the local school community making us one Christ centred worshipping community.

During 2024 we have seen ever increasing numbers of Elworth C of E children attending events such as Lego Church, Messy Church, Xplore, Encounter and our annual holiday club.

The role involves a thirteen hour commitment to the school, three hours of which are funded by the church and ten hours funded by Elworth C of E School.

The role has several component parts. These are:

- Collective Worship with the school community
- Class based prayers
- Coordination of charity events between school and church
- One to one work with those in need of spiritual encouragement and support
- Leading the children of the Worship Warrior Team to coordinate their active input into the development of Christian based activities around school
- Offering support to walk alongside staff, parents and children and to offer pastoral support where appropriate.
- Helping to plan and implement Whole School Prayer Space days
- Leading the Rights Respect Award - UNICEF

Cathryn Houghton

Church Christmas Card

As a Church Family we have, over several years, had a church 'Christmas Card' which gives us all the opportunity to write a Christmas Message or New Year greeting to one another as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The other opportunity we have is to donate to a named charity, whilst perhaps saving the cost of individual cards.

For several years the large 'Christmas Card' displayed in the Church Hall from the first Sunday of December (Advent) until the first week of January (Epiphany) has been designed and produced by Sue, giving free reign to her amazing talent.

The last few years all donations have gone to the Dianne Oxberry Trust. This was set up following the passing of Dianne Oxberry, a BBC television presenter who died in 2019 from Ovarian cancer. Her family, friends and supporters set this up with the aim of spreading awareness of the illness and helping patients and families affected. They have been extremely grateful for donations, and you can find out more by visiting www.dianneoxberrytrust.org

I myself (Sue) have been going through ovarian cancer treatment for the last 3 years and I have been so grateful for the medical care from Christies Hospital, and for the love and support from family and friends, and the church family at St Peter's. I am trusting God in his answers to prayers as I continue to have treatment.

We ask that you take time during the Christmas Season 2025 to write your greeting to each other, and take this opportunity to say thank you to all that have supported the Charities and the Church family 'Christmas Card'

If you would like more information, please speak to us.

Sue Podhorodecka & Michelle Walker

Church Choir

We currently have five permanent and regular members of the Church Choir and although we are approximately half of the number of members we used to have before the pandemic struck, we are very happy to continue in this important aspect of worship at the evening service. We have a very loyal congregation at the evening service and when all our regulars are present, this number can reach up to between twenty-five to thirty attendees.

The Choir is always very happy to sing in our wonderful and beautiful Church building because the acoustics are perfectly designed to enhance the singing voice and this is so important when we are seeking to encourage more people to attend the traditional evening service. It is such a privilege to use the voice which the Lord has been gracious enough to give to us, in his service.

Margaret Taylor

Churchyard

The gardening team has experienced another challenging year, mostly due to weather conditions. However we have tried to maintain the churchyard to the best of our ability, by grass cutting, path edging and repairing where necessary, together with hedge and tree base trimming where necessary.

Two small trees have been planted in memory of church members and the large trunk of the copper beech tree on the cremation area has been removed. Also a real Christmas tree was purchased this year and planted near to the church entrance which should become a welcoming festive feature in future years when decorated.

The more green fingered members of the team have been busy on the flower beds and shrubberies around the church and car park areas so we should see these become a real show of colour in the spring.

During the winter we service the machinery ready for the cutting season starting in the spring, and I am very grateful to the team for their help in keeping all the kit in good order. We are looking forward to the new growing season and hope the Lord will bless us with guidance and good weather.

My thanks to all the gardening team for their help and knowledge throughout the past year.

Bill Morrison

Making the most of your Sewing Machine

There is nothing quite so much fun as joining together with friends to share a hobby that you love. Sewing with like minded friends is such a lovely way to spend time. We offer each other, ideas, support, encouragement and occasionally expertise. Sometimes we are known to do a little more chatting than sewing.

We like to think we are a friendly, welcoming bunch but the only way to find out will be to come along and join in. Some of us have been sewing for years, whilst others are less experienced.

From quilting to dressmaking to soft furnishings, if it can be done on a sewing machine we will have a go, and we are always happy to help beginners to have a go too.

We meet three times a month, on the second Wednesday in the evening from 7.00 - 9.00 and on the second and last Fridays during the day from 10.00 – 2.00. There is a notice on the board in the church hall giving exact dates.

If you are keen to come and join us but machine sewing is not your thing, then do please just come and share the space and do some hand sewing, knitting or crochet. We assure you that you will be made very welcome.

Do pop in and see what we are up to and, maybe, to find out if you would like to join us.

COME AND MEET US, HAVE A BREW AND A CHAT.

Gail Dell

Home Groups

Monday Home Group

This year we moved back to meeting face to face, usually twice a month, providing much valued fellowship, support and prayer for each other during what has sometimes been difficult times for group members. We have undertaken a number of Scripture based studies during the year including a series on Timothy in parallel with the autumn sermon programme and the Bible Society's excellent Romans studies. Apart from our meeting nights, we have also led the monthly Prayer Meeting and provided Sunday morning tea & coffee before and after the 10.30 service. Anyone who wishes to try joining a Home Group will be made welcome with us.

Mark Barker, on behalf of Anne, Bill, Carolyn, Cherie, Deon, Derek, Joyce, Michelle and Norma

Kairos

Kairos continued to meet fortnightly throughout the year.

From February to July we covered the seven studies of *Real Prayer: Connecting with our Heavenly Father*.

Meetings were less frequent during the summer as members enjoyed holidays.

In the autumn we began Phillip D Jensen's study: 1 & 2 Timothy: Guard the gospel.

In October we were sad to say goodbye to Kate Page who had led the group for many years. We wish her well in the future. Happily Helen Jones has now taken on leadership of the group and we look forward to continuing to explore more illuminating studies.

Christine Saucedo

Monday Small Group

The Monday Small Group (MSG) is aimed at those with young families and/or busy working lives. We continue to meet via Zoom, thus removing the need for additional childcare arrangements. We met fortnightly throughout 2024, starting at a slightly later time, to allow young children to be put to bed. We have recently welcomed another couple into the group, which means we have 14 regular attenders.

Our studies continue to be varied. In the period up to Easter we used an evangelistic video course called ‘321 – Speak Life’, devised and led by Glen Scrivener. Between Easter and the summer break, we explored the challenges in the book of Revelation, using home-grown material. During the autumn term we followed the ‘Wellbeing Journey’ video material, derived from a book by Dave Smith, entitled ‘God’s Plan For Your Wellbeing’.

We always make time in our meetings to pray together. We also have a dedicated WhatsApp group for mutual support, sharing prayer requests and other information. Finally, we meet together in person a couple of times each year, with the children, for food and games.

If you want to find out more about this group, please contact us through the St Peter’s church office.

Lynda and Simon Wisbey

Koinonia Small Bible study Group (meets Monday evenings fortnightly)

Our small Bible study group comprises both those who are actively working and some who have just reached retirement age but remain very active.

Our year started with a series from Krish and Miriam Kandiah on the Passion which saw us through Lent and up to Easter. After Easter we spent time looking at a few of the Psalms and after the summer, as the time of Vicar David’s retirement approached, we joined other small groups in looking at Paul’s letters to Timothy.

The series on Timothy was quite challenging and raised some important questions as we grappled with questions around faithfulness to the Gospel and handing on the baton in church leadership.

Paul Savvides on behalf of Heather, Anthony, Daniel, Dave, Fiona, Zoe, Julia, Stephanie, Kath, Simon and Lynda.

Fuyin

It is wonderful to report that we are still a group of “11 ladies”. We meet weekly, Wednesday mornings between 09.30-11.30 ish in the upstairs room in St Peter’s Church Hall where we worship, pray and study scripture. There is always a welcome brew and tasty treats to enjoy. Two members of our group continue to live overseas but we are delighted when they can join us on Zoom.

We continue to enjoy occasional trips out for breakfast. We are also very grateful to members of the group who on occasions host our mornings in their homes.

We began the year continuing to study the Gospel of Mark which we had started in September 2023. Following this we then completed a study called “Growing Older & Wiser” a Life Builder Study guide written by Dale and Sandy Larsen. We then studied the books of Ruth, Titus and Philemon. From October through to December we followed the teaching in Church and completed the study of 1 & 2 Timothy with the aid of the study guide written by Philip D Jenson (The Good Book Guide to 1&2 Timothy “Guard the Gospel”).

In May we led the monthly prayer meeting where we focused our prayers around the theme of **“Pentecost, Ascension and Thy Kingdom Come”**, the global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost. The idea is conceived from the fact that in the life of the church calendar the month of May sees us remember Ascension day and Pentecost.

I just want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of this home group. Their support, kindness, unwavering prayer and shared faith have been such a blessing to us all. The way we come together to encourage one another and study God's word is invaluable.

If you would like any more information please have a chat to Denise or any member of our group.

*Denise Shone on behalf of Andrea, Catherine, Elsy, Helan, Helen,
Julie, Mary, Pat, Rachel and Sue*

Monday evening group – Ezekiel

We meet on a Monday evening, alternating between the homes of three of our group members. During 2024 we continued to study Christianity Explored from Advent 2023, and we looked at Lamentations alongside the sermon series which we did as a church family during Lent.

We went on to study The Lord’s Prayer, which was very thought provoking for us all, and gave us time to reflect on each section and apply that to how we live today, and how it challenges and inspires our faith journeys. In the autumn we started to study 1.Timothy along with other home groups, and in line with the autumn sermon series.

Barbara, Cecilia, Helen, Kath, Margaret, Nicole, Rebecca

Balance Sheet

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Current assets	£	£
Bank current account	9,001	12,893
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	157,709	151,414
Fairtrade Bank Account	-	890
Total Current Assets	<u>166,711</u>	<u>165,197</u>
 Liabilities		
Agency Collections	104	558
Accounts Payable	40	40
DBF Creditor	60	60
CEC Loan	107,540	107,541
Total Liabilities	<u>107,744</u>	<u>108,199</u>
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	<u>58,966</u>	<u>56,999</u>
 Reserves		
Excess/(deficit)	1,967	(72,570)
Starting Balances	56,998	129,569
Total Reserves	<u>58,966</u>	<u>56,999</u>
 Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	39,794	35,754
Designated	4,007	2,618
Restricted	11,221	14,684
Endowment	3,943	3,943
Total	<u>58,966</u>	<u>56,999</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Stephen Parfitt (P.C.C. Chairman)

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St Peter's Church Elworth to hold unrestricted cash in reserve for three months operating costs including salaries and parish share, anticipated building and equipment works. It will also hold restricted cash reserves for the Benevolent, Outward Giving, Church Hall Development and Endowment funds. At 31st December 2024, the amounts held in reserve are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	Item £	Total £
Operating Costs	46,285	
CEC Loan repayment 2016 – 2024 inc	56,000	
Building Work & Equipment reserves	30,301	132,586
Restricted Reserves		
Church Hall Development	9,060	
Outward Giving	9,960	
Benevolent	2,160	21,180
Endowment Funds	3,943	£3,943
Total Reserves		157,709

The cash reserves in the deposit account meet the Reserves requirement.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment Funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investments of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest,

and (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 each 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.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received for the year 2023-24. For tax year 2024-25 tax refunds will be recognised on receipt. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

The freehold land and buildings now comprise of the Church Hall, toolstore/garage, railings, car park gates and refurbished footpath. Church and Hall equipment comprises of the Church AV system, new lights, a piano keyboard, a ride-on mower and other gardening equipment. In the Church Hall, the security system, interim PA, tables, chairs, defibrillator, acoustic panels, artificial turf, AV system, foyer furniture, replacement corridor lighting and dishwasher, a camera system in the Hall and Church with a cabled link between the two and Wi-Fi in the Church.

Receipts & Payments by Report Group

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary Donations	123,874	4,157		128,032	116,389
Church activities	15,298	-	-	15,298	16,811
Trading Activities	37,415	67	-	37,482	34,552
Investments	6,295	-	-	6,295	6,247
Other income	-	-	-	-	118
Total Income	182,884	4,224	-	187,109	174,120
Expenditure:					
Charitable Giving	-	9,200	-	9,200	12,375
Diocese	75,344	-	-	75,344	71,801
Ministry	27,685	-	-	27,685	53,416
Administration	25,796	-	-	25,796	33,367
Mission & Evangelism	7,716	1,878	-	9,595	10,615
Church & Churchyard	7,624	-	-	7,624	6,632
Trading costs	-	-	-	-	449
Church Hall	26,433	-	3,462	29,895	32,162
Major Church Work	-	-	-	-	25,871
Total Expenditure	170,601	11,078	3,462	185,141	246,691
Excess of Receipts over Payments	12,283	(6,854)	(3,462)	1,967	(72,571)

Analysis of income and expenditure **1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

Income	Restricted			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations					
Gift Aid: Bank	50,551	-	-	50,551	65,788
Envelopes	7,642	-	-	7,642	6,245
Other planned giving	7,777	-	-	7,777	6,861
Loose plate collections	2,834	-	-	2,834	3,068
QRcode/Electronic	6,564	.-	-	6,564	5,918
One off Gift Aid gifts	21,883	.-	-	21,883	-
Donations sundry	1,855	500	-	2,355	3,907
ABC donations	.	3,657	-	3,657	3,926
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	23,511	.-	.-	23,511	19,190
Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Recurring grants	240	-	-	240	330
Non-recurring one off grants	-	-	-	-	567
Other funds generated	16	-	-	16	587
Subtotals	123,874	4,157	-	128,032	116,389
Income from Church Activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,485	-	-	4,485	4,592
Chaplaincy Elworth C of E School	6,640	-	-	6,640	6,024
Photocopying recharges	642	-	-	642	410
Heat & Light	422	-	-	422	1,150
Coffee Money	287	-	-	287	122
Outreach Catering Donations	2,821	-	.-	2,821	4,513
Subtotals	15,298	-	-	15,298	16,811
Other trading activities					
Church hall lettings - fund raising	33,320	-	.-	33,320	30,120
E.ON FIT Receipts	4,094	-	.-	4,094	3,774
Fair Trade Sales	.	67	.-	67	657
Subtotals	37,415	67	-	37,482	34,552
Investments					
Bank and Building Society interest	6,295	-	-	6,295	6,247
Other income					
Easy Fundraising / Amazon Smile	-	-	-	-	118
Grand Total	182,884	4,224	-	187,109	174,120

Expenditure	Restricted			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on Church Activities					
Outward Giving	-	9,200	-	9,200	11,110
Messy Church	1,408	-	-	1,408	925
Holiday Club	686	-	-	686	841
Youth	1,838	-	-	1,838	961
Benevolent Donation	-	-	-	-	1,265
Ministry parish share etc	75,344	-	-	75,344	71,801
Assistant staff costs	-	-	-	-	24,422
Assistant Minister Housing	-	-	-	-	3,180
Assistant Minister Expenses	-	-	-	-	887
Family & Child Worker	17,423	-	-	17,423	16,250
Youth Worker	6,497	-	-	6,497	4,880
Administration staff salaries	14,299	-	-	14,299	12,970
Payroll Administration	540	-	-	540	725
HMRC PAYE	2,851	-	-	2,851	10,102
Pension Fund	2,082	-	-	2,082	4,037
Working expenses of incumbent	450	-	-	450	509
Vicarage Council tax	2,715	-	-	2,715	2,588
Vicarage Water	599	-	-	599	696
Training and Courses	-	-	-	-	601
Study Materials & Books	419	-	-	419	99
Junior Church	236	-	-	236	332
ABC & Baby Group	-	1,878	-	1,878	1,617
Outreach Catering costs	2,566	-	-	2,566	4,632
Extra Services	560	-	-	560	604
Church running - insurance	2,107	-	-	2,107	2,053
Church office - telephone	953	-	-	953	875
Music expenses	426	-	-	426	626
Church maintenance	361	-	-	361	258
Services expenses (non-music)	1,795	-	-	1,795	1,407
Upkeep of churchyard	1,118	-	-	1,118	425
C/f to page 31	137,273	11,078	-	148,351	181,693

Expenditure (contd.)	Designated				
	Unrestricted	Restricted		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
B/f from page 30	137,273	11,078	-	148,351	181,693
Photocopying & Printing	2,646	-	-	2,646	2,660
Stationery	64	-	-	64	1,093
Publicity	143	-	-	143	222
General Expenses	2,214	-	-	2,214	679
Church running - electric	1,469	-	-	1,469	1,135
Church running - gas	345	-	-	345	724
FairTrade Cost of Sales	-	-	-	-	449
Hall running - electricity	11,004	-	-	11,004	13,460
Hall running - gas	2,564	-	-	2,564	2,224
Hall running - insurance	2,107	-	-	2,107	2,053
Hall running - maintenance	3,562	-	3,462	7,024	7,639
Cleaning Staff	4,843	-	-	4,843	4,445
Sanitary services and cleaning	493	-	-	493	572
Hall running - water	1,383	-	-	1,383	891
Hall miscellaneous	474	-	-	474	876
Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	24,821
Hall, interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	1,050
Expenditure Grand totals	170,601	11,078	3,462	185,141	246,691

Independent examiner's report to Elworth P.C.C.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 25 to 31, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b) to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr S. Valentine ACMA
Independent Examiner

Accounts

St Peter's Church Elworth

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent:
Revd David Page
The Vicarage
2, Taxmere Close,
Sandbach

Registered Charity No. 1130803

Contents

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2. The P.C.C. | |
| 3. Vicar's Report | |
| 4. Assistant Minister | |
| 5. Associate Minister | Church Flowers |
| 6. Church Warden | The Church Office |
| 7. Treasurer's Report | |
| 8. P.C.C. Report | The Foyer |
| 9. Welcome Team | Church Attendance |

Church Organisations

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 10. Acorns | Adventurers | |
| 11. Baby Group | Lego Church | |
| 12. Xplore | Encounter | |
| 13. Youth Hub | Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E | |
| 14. ABC | All Age Team | |
| 15. Youth Church | Slavic Gospel Association | |
| 16. Mission Support Group | Fair trade | Supper Night |
| 17. Church Prayer Life | Worship Group | Church Choir |
| 18. Shoe Box Appeal | Residential/Nursing Homes | |
| 19. Messy Church | Speak | Book Club |
| 20. Churchyard | Church Christmas Card | |

Home Groups

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 21. Monday House Group | Kairos | Lighthouse |
| 22. Monday Small Group | Koinonia | |
| 23. Fuyin | Monday Home Group | |
| 24. ABC Accounts | | |

Accounts

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 25. Examiner's Statement | |
| 26. Receipts and Payments by Report Group | |
| 27. Balance Sheet | |
| 28. Reserves Policy | Notes to Financial Statement |
| 30. Analysis of income and expenditure | |

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Rev David Page

Associate Minister Rev Anthony Rigby

Church Wardens:

Mr Stephen Parfitt

Mrs Rebecca Davies

Mrs Helen Coppenhall (Assistant Warden)

Miss RMebecca Holland(Assistant Warden)

Treasurer: Mr Andrew Clee

Secretary: Mr John Cargill

Elected Members

Ms Nicole Archer

Mr Mark Barker

Mrs Fiona Cooper (Co-opted - Legacy Officer)

Ms Catherine Edmonds

Mrs Liz Hill

Mrs Helen Jones (Co-opted - Safeguarding Officer)

Dr Heather Savvides (Deanery Synod Representative)

Mrs Margaret Taylor

Mr Steven Thorley

Mr David Topping (Deanery Synod Representative)

Mrs Lynda Wisbey

Ex-officio:

Mr William Chapman (Parish Evangelist and Deanery Synod representative)

Mrs Kathleen Cliffe (Deanery Synod Representative)

Mrs Michelle Walker (Pastoral Worker)

Mr Paul Savvides (Diocesan Synod representative)

By Office: Pastoral Workers, Lay Readers and Parish Evangelists are entitled to serve on the P.C.C.

Vicar's Report

2023 was a year when God, through His Holy Spirit, was very active in the life of the Church at St Peter's. Across the year we saw all our main Worship Services and activities grow. New members from across the world, especially Hong Kong, have joined the church family through out the year. This has given the church a much more multi-cultural dynamic and feel. As somebody who leads and preaches, this has given me a new dimension to develop in reaching out to everyone.

The National Context remained difficult for the Church. COVID affected many of our activities, high energy prices and the cost of living also impacted our church income and expenditure, leading to a large deficit at the end of 2023. The Church of England position on same-sex marriage was also not satisfactorily resolved. All these issues will continue to have an impact on us during the forthcoming year.

We began the year with a full compliment of paid ministry staff, and this gave us the leadership and vision to take on outreach with all ages across the whole parish. Jennie Copenhall moved on to a new role in September and Gareth Davies left us just before Christmas. They both gave us new ideas and ways of working which we will, as a whole church, need to consolidate during 2024.

Cathryn Houghton has continued to inspire and develop our work with families and children, including through her role as School Chaplain.

After completing his Curacy, Anthony Rigby was licensed as our Self-supporting Associate Minister, and he continues to encourage and lead us in worship and preaching.

Hopefully in 2024 Paul Savvides will complete his training and join Steve Copenhall as a Reader at St Peter's.

Just before Christmas, the new heating system was installed in Church, and we have already started to feel its benefit. It would not have come to completion without the tenacious and dedicated work on this project by Steve Parfitt, our Church Warden, and we all owe him a big thank you.

Looking through the year, we had many celebrations including a Confirmation Service, several eating events from Burns Supper to Christmas Supper Night, walks, Renewal of Wedding Vows, and a 'Good' OFSTED Report at Elworth School. We also shared in sadnesses across the year, most notably the sudden deaths of both Tom and Karen who were friends to many at St Peter's. Several church members have also moved on to other parts of the country, and to new roles.

We continue to be supported by a dedicated administrative team, and volunteers, without whom our impact for the Gospel in the parish would be very much diminished.

For us as a family, 2023 has been a year with challenges and great joys and we continue to be thankful for all who have prayerfully supported us, and the work of the church, over the last year.

What will 2024 bring? We don't know! However, what we do know is that Jesus will guide us, through His Holy Spirit, as we seek to be faithful to our Heavenly Father's Word and, as the prophet Isaiah reminds us :

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you;" Isaiah 43 : 5a

Rev. David Page

Assistant Minister's Report

2023 was a varied and busy year, where God's blessings were in abundance.

Part of my role was supporting the Children and Families work alongside Cathryn, and we saw great growth with ABC moving to two sessions, and thanks to an effective booking system, we were able to ensure both sessions weren't over-subscribed. We also saw a lot more families from ABC and other family activities at more church centred activities and services.

Away from that, there were several other areas I focused on throughout the year. These include:

1) Safeguarding

Cathryn Houghton, Helen Jones and I spent the year working through the requirements we needed to adhere to to ensure we carried out good safeguarding practice. Working together was really enjoyable, and we made big steps, meaning that we were in a much better place at the end of the year than we were at the start.

2) Schools work

I continued to support the year 5/6 work in Elworth C of E School, and also got involved in other ways, including speaking at services and running the annual staff quiz.

I also visited the 2 main secondary schools at Easter and Christmas, running sessions over a 2-week period. It was great to explain the Christian truth, whilst also taking questions from the students.

3) Social Media/ Mailing lists

I took on the digital output for the church in 2022/2023, and focused on us being a church which communicates as effectively as we can do on-line. We had a steady flow of social media presence throughout 2023, and we ended the year with a mailing list of 84 people, including the 2 local primary schools who, in-turn, forwarded any mail-outs to all their families.

4) St Peter's @ 4

'St Peter's @ 4' changed from 'Illuminate' at the start of the year, and although it took a while to find its feet, we ended the year well. Due to a diligent team and amazing blessings from God, the last three services of the year had an average of 67 people attending, most of whom were new to Church. The format of the service also became stronger throughout the year, and it was lovely to see some members of Youth Hub helping to lead the service.

5) Home group

Our home group grew in the year, with eight people regularly coming along. We studied Mark for most of the year, and then merged with the Christianity Explored course later on. Although we couldn't fully dive into the course due to the group not running on some weeks, we were still able to focus on Christian foundations on a level which seemed to help both those that came regularly, and those that were new.

Gareth Davies

Associate Minister's Report

This year saw my title change to associate minister, after finally completing my years of training. I remain in my fulltime job running a number of laboratories and supporting the entire worship team here at St. Peters. This year I have continued supporting local churches, especially Astbury and Smallwood as well as Church Lawton, who had been without a vicar for some considerable time. As a self-supporting minister I have a very specific ministry within my workplace, which is predominantly pastoral. The majority of my church ministry work this year has been in the participation of leading established forms of worship at St Peters. That said, it has been good to participate in diverse forms of ministry such as Messy Church and the annual Remembrance Day parade with the Air Cadets. I am also fortunate to be Padre to the local Sandbach Air Cadet Squadron (1873 Sqn.) and share a ministry with them on a monthly basis and we are organising an enrolment for the entire squadron since King Charles III became the reigning monarch. This year I have been fortunate to be supported by Jenny Coppenhall in this role who has been a huge help as Sandbach is a large squadron of cadets. In January we will be undertaking our second annual building on the success of last year's Burns Supper which brought considerable light and joy into those dark January nights. We will again be raising money for Cancer Research, St Luke's Hospice and also the church fund. Being a Self-Supporting Minister there has been much juggling of hats between husband and father, Church minister, full-time employment, and Sqn Padre duties, but each time I have struggled in any of these aspects of life, the Lord reassuringly reveals himself to me and is my comforter and guide always.

Rev. Anthony Rigby

Church Flowers

We are a friendly team of 25 volunteers of men, women and children of all ages that come together in fellowship to contribute to the purchase, arrangement and maintenance of flowers in various areas of the Church and church hall. We arrange live, dried and silk flowers and greenery to make decorative displays and to ensure that weekly flowers are placed on the Lord's table. These flowers are often paid for by members of the congregation as an offering of thanksgiving to God. A team made up of approximately 14 of our members also works together to decorate the church according to the Liturgical calendar with fresh flowers during Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Special Flower arrangements have also been placed in church throughout 2023 for funerals and weddings. This year, for the first time, a small flower arrangement has also been presented to each baptismal party. We are always looking for willing volunteers to join the team and no experience is necessary.

Tracy Rigby and Joyce Foster

Church Warden's Report

This past year saw Paul Savvides stand down as a churchwarden to be able to concentrate more on his reader training. At the APCM, Becky Davies was voted in to replace Paul. Sadly, with Gareth moving on to take up a new post in Knutsford, Becky felt she should resign as churchwarden and so I will be the solo warden until the next APCM in 2024. Thank you, Paul and Becky, for all your hard work and commitment. I am supported by two deputy wardens, Helen Coppenhall and Rebecca Holland and, of course, the sterling work of the churchyard team must not be forgotten.

Aside from routine maintenance to the church buildings, the standout event must be the installation of under-pew heating in the church. As I write it has just been installed and we are pleased to have our church building back in comfortable use in time for Christmas and for the coming years. Other major items included the five yearly full electrical check of the hall which included some rectification work and an inspection of the lightning conductors on the church and hall. Whilst these items are expensive, they are required to keep everyone safe and to meet our obligations whilst hiring out the hall. Additionally, in the main hall carpet tiles that had lifted over the hearing loop were replaced.

Earlier in the year we were chosen as one of the churches in the diocese to receive a CollecTin contactless donation device and this has been in use to receive donations since September. It is an easy-to-use, touch-sensitive device that gives the choice of making a contactless donation as nowadays many of us no longer routinely carry cash. Together with the SumUp device which is used at coffee stop and various other events in the hall, these provide a useful alternative to expecting donations only in cash.

In 2024 I'm sure we will continue to face many new challenges so we must continue to give thanks to God for his provision in the past year and to seek his guidance as we face forthcoming issues in the future. We give thanks also for all our fellow Christians in the church and we value your continued support and prayers. Let us continue to further God's Kingdom together here at St Peters.

Steve Parfitt

The Church Office

Again, another full year of activity in the Church Office. We are here Monday to Friday, 9am till 2pm and are glad to be the first port of call for any enquiries and assistance with the day to day running of the Church. Usage of the Church Hall has continued to grow over the last year, and it has been good to welcome back "old" friends and new groups.

Lucy works Monday and Tuesday, Kate covers the rest of the week, but you may notice us swapping around occasionally to cover holidays.

We continue to carry out a variety of tasks and are grateful to the volunteers who provide assistance, most notably on a weekly basis with the Church banking.

Lucy Kelly and Kate Page

Treasurer's Report

The PCC recorded a deficit of £71.6K in 2023, compared to a deficit of £40.1k in 2022.

Income at £174.1k was down by £23.8k from 2022. Total giving and donations from all accounts was £116.3k which was down by £18.4k from 2022. £19.1k was received via tax returns from gift aid donations. The ABC account was closed at the end of September and will now be incorporated into the main current account, although the separate fund will remain for ABC.

Church hall lettings were £30.1k, which was £6.5K up from 2022.

Expenditure at £245.7k was up £7.7k higher than in 2022. The major investment of 2023 was the heating for the church, which cost £24.8k. The hall electricity cost of £13.4K was £9.3k higher than in 2022 which was to be expected. £7.2k was saved on housing costs for the assistant minister following his move in the early part of the year. 2024 will also result in a cost saving following Gareth's role in his new church.

It is worth noting that in September 2022, the Out of School Club closed. In 2022, this recorded a total deficit of £16.7k. As the OOSC is no longer running, this should be taken into account for any comparisons between 2022 and 2023.

As of the 31st December 2023 the deposit account contained £151.4k and the current account was at £12.9k.

Thank you to everyone who has generously given to support the church financially, we could not operate as we do without this money.

Thanks again to all the people who help crunch the numbers with me. From everyone who counts and banks the money from each Sunday to Kate and Lucy in the office. Thanks again to Mark for his support, I genuinely could not have done this without him and thanks to Jess, Seth, Heidi and Polly for sustaining me with snacks and drinks as try to figure out where I put that missing £500!? (I've found it now by the way!)

Although it has been a difficult year financially, we have a God who can multiply a few loaves and fishes into thousands, so I think we can trust him with our numbers.

Andrew Clee

PCC Report

PCC membership increased to a total of 22 members, including ex officio members, following the APCM in May. In addition, our expanded roll numbers entitled us to elect an additional member to the Deanery Synod.

For the first time in many years, there was a contested election for our second Churchwarden with Becky Davies being elected to replace Paul Saviddes who had stepped down due to his increased commitment to his Readership training.

Meetings returned to the more familiar face to face format in the church hall following the two-year gap during the pandemic which had obliged us to hold meetings via Zoom.

Meantime, at an extraordinary PCC meeting in March, we agreed to proceed with electric under-pew heating to replace the gas boiler system which had been out of action for over two years. We submitted this scheme to the Diocesan Architectural Committee (DAC) for approval which was eventually granted in May. However, there was a additional delay whilst a further Diocesan process was undertaken to confirm the approval, and which took until late September to be completed. We were fortunate to be able to hold onto the preferred contractor at the quoted price and the heaters were installed just in time for the Christmas services.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the year, Gareth Davies our assistant minister resigned to take up another appointment, and his wife Becky also stepped down from her position as Churchwarden. Steve Parfitt kindly agreed to continue on his own, for which we give thanks.

John Cargill

The Foyer

The Foyer provides a wonderful space within the Church Hall a place where we can all take the opportunity to meet with others.

There is also the opportunity to browse through or order from the Fairtrade catalogue and several Christian publications are available.

The Foyer is open as the 'Foyer Café' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 11.30am for the use of the wider local community, and for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together perhaps with a friend, neighbour or with your small / home group.

On a Friday morning the always popular Coffee and Company is open in the Foyer.

This coming year may provide more opportunities to use the Foyer Café/space as we continue to look forward to reconnecting with one another and the wider community.

Michelle Walker

Welcoming Group

The welcoming group for most of the year consisted of Michelle Walker, Lynda Wisbey and Gareth Davies. We recognised that this area of the life of the Church was very important as it would often be the first contact for those who are new to church. Even for those that come regularly, a warm welcome can make a big difference. In the most recent meeting on the 6th November there was a real strategic focus on how we welcome people to the church. This can be split into three sections.

First, there was intentional drive to increase the number of people who were on the ‘welcoming team’ at the 10.30am service, whilst also recognising that this was of equal importance at the 9am and 6pm services (where sides-people over-saw that role).

This entailed having more people at the door when people arrived, and also having nominated people to generally be around in the hall and chat to newcomers. By the end of 2023, Helen Jones, Gareth Davies, Becky Davies, Lynda Wisbey, Michelle Walker, Jo Burton and Allan Walker were all involved in welcoming at the door in some capacity, with Martin Hathaway joining the team towards the end of the year. .

Secondly, we invested a lot of energy in Men’s and Women’s events. These proved successful, and in both cases, there was a team for each event who met with each other to plan them. They were inventive, popular and clearly a much-needed provision.

Lastly, we organised a Welcome Tea. In the future, this would be for anyone who joined the church community in the previous 6 months. However, for the first one, that time frame was extended slightly. Although a great effort was made to ensure we invited as many people as possible and there was a healthy number on the initial list who had confirmed they were coming, illness and other issues meant that attendance was smaller than we thought. However, those that came really enjoyed it, and there was a good number of church family members present to support it. The intention is to continue running these events twice a year, with the first two dates being March 17th and October 13th 2024.

We are currently a small team and would ‘welcome’ anybody who felt called to this particular ministry at any of our church services or when the church is open for Prayer.

Gareth Davies

Church Attendance

The attendance at the 8.45 services varies between 7 and 23 (on Carol Service Sunday) but are fairly steady averaging 14. At the 10.30 family service the averages are 24 under 16’s and 69 adults. The evening services have an average of 16. Of course, all the service numbers had a few lows and highs, especially for baptism services.

Since the 9.00 service is only held twice each month, the attendance at the 10.30 service might be slightly inflated on the other two or three Sundays. Also baptism and special services increase the averages, but I have not included the Carol Service of 155!

And, for what it’s worth, the weekly average attendance at 9.00, 10.30 and 6.30 was 111, though some people may be included more than once.

Jim Watson

Church Organisations

Acorns

Acorns continues to be available to any child aged between 3 and 6 years of age whether they attend on a regular basis or come along to a baptism service or any other special occasion. Four volunteers (names below) alternate leading the group.

We are thrilled to share that we have seen an increase in the numbers of children attending in this age range and currently have 10 children registered with a weekly regular attendance of around 5-7 children. We continue to meet in the Meeting Room in the church hall. Over the year we have taught the same themes followed in the 10.30 am Church service and across the Junior Church groups. We continue to use age appropriate material produced by the on line resource called *Energize*. Within each session we have a story, craft activities, prayer, a small snack and time to play.

For any further information please contact the church office..

Denise, Kate, Lucy and Tracy

Adventurers (Age 6 – 11)

In line with the rest of Junior Church, numbers have been boosted this year thanks to the hard work put in by Cathryn and Gareth towards children and families work during the week, as well as the wonderful arrival of so many new families from Hong Kong.

In line with best safeguarding practice, all leaders and helpers have received the most up to date training and have been DBS checked.

We started the year with key characters from the Bible, including Mary Magdalene, Solomon and Samson.

After completing the Easter story, we looked week by week at each of Jesus' miracles.

After the summer holidays, in parallel with St Peter's Sunday sermons, we ran with the themes in Christianity Explored 'Good News', 'Identity', 'Sin' and 'the Cross'.

At the end of the summer, we sadly said goodbye to Cherie who is standing down as helper and from the production of the Sunday School rotas after many years of faithful service, for a well-earned rest. Thank you, Cherie.

Likewise, with Gareth and Becky called to pastures new outside of the parish, we consequently have several vacancies and would love to hear from you if you God has given you a heart for children's outreach.

Paul Savvides on behalf of Jennie, Martin, Becky, Mary, and Cherie.

Baby Group

St. Peter's Baby Group was set up in February 2016 in response to the growing number of parents/carers in the local community with babies under the age of 12 months. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am term time. We meet in the church hall.

Soft play is provided and refreshments are offered to the parents/carers who attend. This format provides a great opportunity for new parents/carers to connect with each other and to form lasting friendships. Christian hospitality is a real driver for those serving at Baby Group. Each week we welcome on average between 15-20 parents/carers and their babies to the group.

The group is currently served by Cathryn Houghton, Gareth Davies and one of the grandparents, Lynn Fairhurst. The serving role for this group involves making refreshments, serving hot toast and making everyone feel as welcome as possible.

If you would like to offer your time supporting Baby Group in a serving capacity, please do get in touch with the Children and Families Outreach Leader, Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Lego Church

Lego Church was initially trialled at the end of 2019 with a couple of sessions before the Christmas period. The sessions ran once/month on a Wednesday in the church hall from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and were open to primary aged children attended by a parent/carer. Due to Covid-19 restrictions during 2020 Lego Church became a virtual club available monthly. During this time lots of family engaged with our Lego builds which were uploaded to St. Peter's Church Website.

Post Covid-19, Lego Church has seen a continuous rise in popularity and attendance. At our most recent session, 50 people attended and this is broadly average for all our sessions.

The first half hour of Lego Church involves free building with Lego. After that there are refreshments and then a Lego bible story, a song and a prayer. The children are given a challenge to build something from the story which they have just heard.

Lego Church has become part of the embedded Christian outreach of St. Peter's Church. Children from both Elworth CE School and Elworth Hall School attend.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore

Xplore is a children's club for primary aged children which meets each Friday evening during term time from 6:00pm – 7:15pm in the church hall. The club was set up in April 2013 and is now nearly eleven years old. Each week the children take part in a range of activities based around a bible theme. This includes a bible story, a time of worship and sharing of news plus crafts, games and a time of prayer. Simple refreshments are also provided.

Xplore has a regular attendance of between 20 - 30 children the majority of whom do not attend church. It is a real privilege to be able to forge positive relationships with local families and to engage them in other church related events such as Messy Church, Lego Church, Schools Projects and Church Holiday Clubs.

Xplore can only happen because of a very committed team of adult helpers who come along each Friday and serve the Lord in this very important outreach to the children in the local community. If you feel that you can help at Xplore please email Cathryn Houghton on children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Encounter

Encounter is a youth group for Years 5 – 7 (10 – 12 years). The group meets in the church hall on a Friday evening from 7:30pm – 9:00pm term time. Encounter was originally set up in 2014 as 'Xplore+' to provide fun activities and a short Christian based discussion for those young people who were moving on from the Xplore group age range. The name and age range has been modified during 2023 to encompass the Year 5 children. During 2023 it has been most encouraging to see the Encounter group grow in number. Between sixteen and twenty+ children now regularly attend.

This year we have purchased a set of Good News Youth Bibles for Encounter. These bibles are proving invaluable to our bible studies each week as our young people are learning how to study God's word. They ask questions and many good biblical discussions have been had this year for which we must thank God. Seven children have now requested bibles of their own and the Good News Youth Bibles have been distributed to them. This means that in 2024 we will need to buy more! This is a wonderful position to be in and we are very grateful to God that our young people want to know more about Jesus.

During 2023 we have taken the Encounter children on a number of external visits including a visit to Laser Quest and more recently a visit Ten Pin Bowling. Both of these outings were well attended.

Encounter can only happen because of a group of committed voluntary helpers. We are seeking more adult help and if you feel that you could support the work of Encounter please contact Cathryn: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Youth Hub

As with all the Friday night groups, Youth Hub grew significantly throughout 2023. As the year ended, we had 8 regular attendees coming along. This hadn't been the only form of growth, with the Bible discussions seeming to be the strongest they had ever been. There seemed to be a real sense of depth, and in the future, there is potential to do a separate study group to go deeper with those that would enjoy that opportunity.

Another encouragement was seeing some of those that came along helping in other activities. Two attendees helped to lead services (as part of St Peter's @ 4) by taking on the readings, and another attendee helped on the team at Xplore.

Jenny Coppenhall and Jenny Drain were fantastic team members and did an amazing job of working alongside those that came, and giving them some much needed encouragement.

At a time when churches are struggling to capture this age-bracket effectively, we are blessed to have such a vibrant group.

Gareth Davies

Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E

Since September 2020 I have had the privilege of serving Elworth C of E School as School Chaplain. This extension to my normal Children and Families Outreach Work has been introduced to extend and hopefully enrich the outreach work of the church within the local school community and indeed, during 2023 we have seen ever increasing numbers of Elworth C of E children attending events such as Lego Church, Messy Church, Xplore, Encounter and our annual holiday club.

The role involves a thirteen hour commitment to the school, three hours of which are funded by the church and ten hours funded by Elworth C of E. School.

The role has several component parts. These are:

- Collective Worship with the school community
- Class based prayers
- Coordination of charity events between school and church
- One to one work with those in need of spiritual encouragement and support
- Leading the children of the Worship Warrior Team to coordinate their active input into the development of Christian based activities around school
- Offering support to walk alongside staff, parents and children and to offer pastoral support where appropriate.
- Helping to plan and implement Whole School Prayer Space days
- Leading the Rights Respect Award - starts in 2024

Cathryn Houghton

ABC

St. Peter's ABC is a parent/carer toddler group which meets on Thursday mornings. Due to the popularity of the group, two sessions have been introduced during 2023: Session one starts at 9:00am and finishes at 10:20am. Session two starts at 11:00am and finishes at 12:20pm term time. This important outreach provides an opportunity for the children to experience different types of play including role play, dressing up, small world play, physical play and story corner. It also provides an opportunity for the adults to catch up over coffee. A healthy snack is provided for the children and hot toast and sausage baps are available for the parents/carers to purchase at a small cost. Each session is concluded with a singing time when nursery rhymes are chosen by the children and the singing of these is coordinated by a member of the ministry team. The ABC sessions provide important opportunities to build lasting relationships with our local families. It is always a priority to invite the families to other church events such as Messy Church and our Friday night children's group.

A team of regular helpers come along each week to set up the hall with a variety of play opportunities and our refreshments team works hard to provide refreshments from the hatch. ABC can only happen because members of the church family are willing to give up their own time to help out with this very important work.

The ABC year ended with our annual Christmas Party which was attended by fifty children and their parents/carers. We were entertained by Rhythm Time. The children were given a Christmas gift and a party tea and parents/carers were served seasonal fayre.

ABC is supported by voluntary helpers. If you feel that you could support this work, please do contact Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

All Age Team

All Age services are held monthly in the Church Hall, with a less formal atmosphere providing the opportunity to try different ways of sharing in praise and worship whilst remaining faithful to the Gospel.

The services contain elements which many other services have - such as songs, intercessions, a Bible reading and a talk but the aim is to look for opportunities to express these in fresh ways which reach out to all the different age groups that attend.

Some words from Psalm 100, "For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations". We feel privileged to lead the All Age services and trust that God will continue to inspire us to find ways to engage all those who attend in a relevant and meaningful way.

*Rebecca Douglas, Gareth Davies, Nicola Hathaway, Jenny Drain,
Paul Savvides, Denise Shone, David Page, Helen Jones*

Youth Church

Youth Church was steady and fruitful over the past year. We had 4 children/teenagers regularly coming along, and through working as a team, we ensured that it had become a group that was enjoyable, as well as having a strong biblical feel.

We started upstairs in the youth room for 30 minutes, then moved to the office or foyer. We would have a catch up on the week, followed by a maximum of 20 minutes teaching and ended the session by playing some games. This combination seemed to work well, and as the year went on, the sessions seemed to flow more successfully.

Although we would welcome the group being bigger, those that attend get on well with each other, and also get on with those leading the groups as well.

Having Cathryn Houghton and Alex Tsang join the team this year has added a fresh dynamic, which works well alongside the established leadership.

It's felt a very productive year, and with the church welcoming more families, the hope is that this group will continue to flourish.

Gareth Davies

Slavic Gospel Association

St. Peter's has continued to support the Slavic Gospel Association which is active in 17 countries stretching from Poland and Slovakia in the west to Kazakstan and far east Russia in the east. S.G.A. works by supporting local churches in their initiatives and needs. The focus of the work is in making disciples by cross cultural witness of the good news of Jesus Christ. S.G.A. activities and ministry includes biblical leadership training and supporting leaders, Hope Centres aiding people in central Asia, medical mission, christian literature, pioneering mission in far east Russia and childrens camps in Europe.

S.G.A. is supporting churches in Ukraine, who are helping many people affected by the war. The death and destruction reaches everyone and fellowships are helping at every level, materially and spiritually. Many people are turning to Christ, so there are thousands of new believers. The effect of the suffering is to encourage people to share to gospel. New churches have been planted by leaders who have been forced out of their ministries in the war zone.

St. Peter's sponsors Sefan Zarevi who is minister at churches in Velingrad and the village of Rakitovo in south west Bulgaria. Both fellowships have a full range of activities. A mission school is based at Velingrad church. Stefan leads childrens camps in summer. Many of the members of Velingrad and Rakitovo churches come from the Roma community, as the churches reach out into those communities.

Bill Chapman

Inter-Church Mission Support Group

St.Peter's Church commits to giving 10% of its voluntary income to support Mission, communities and good causes in Sandbach, the UK and around the world. How that income is distributed is decided by the Inter-Church Mission Support Group. The total available for distribution in 2023 was £11,080, and we decided to support the following charities

- SYCAM : £2,000
- Slavic Gospel Association: £2,000 *for their work in Ukraine and Pastor Zarev's ministry in Velingrad, Bulgaria*
- Dalit Freedom Network : £1,000
- Compassion Child Survival Project, Delmas Haiti £1,000
- Tearfund: £635
- Lifeline Debt Advice: £635
- Christian Vision for Men: £635
- WaterAid: £635
- Scripture Union: £635
- Bible Society: £635
- Barnabas Fund: £635
- Childrens Society: £635

The group consists of church family members who support particular charities/ good causes and is chaired by the Vicar and administered by myself. Anyone who is interested in this aspect of the Church's work is welcome to join us. We meet once or twice per year.

Mark Barker

Fair Trade

15

2023 did not start well with the demise of Traidcraft. I tried sourcing items from various other companies, but their delivery charges made them not viable in the end. I have therefore sold the majority of my stock and the last few items have gone to Charity. By the time you read this I will have wound up the Fair Trade bank account and donated to the general Church fund. This is in the region of £800. Many thanks to all my supporters over the last 11 years.

Carolyn Barker

Supper Night

I am very pleased to have been able to carry on with Supper Night, with the support of my Mum, Gail. We consistently serve around 40 people every other month and 60 for the Christmas meal. I am pleased that we are able to serve in this way and strengthen the bonds within the Church Family.

Lucy Kelly

Church Prayer Life

There are a number of ways that the church prayer life has been encouraging this year.

The monthly prayer meetings held on Zoom and led by different housegroups continue each month, usually on the first Monday of the month unless it is a Bank Holiday when it is usually held on the Tuesday. In December 2023 we held the first face to face prayer meeting since the beginning of the Covid pandemic and will discuss soon whether we should return to this as the norm or continue on Zoom especially during the winter months. The prayer meeting is led by one of the housegroups each month.

Also there has been an increase in the numbers of people joining the Connect network and praying for other members of the church, as well as outside of the church community and national and international events. People have said how supported they have felt by knowing that the church is praying for them and how helpful they have found this.

Some church members pray together weekly in small groups at a time which suits them. Others have continued to join in with a large national prayer group connected to one of the missions that we support working in Ukraine. Thanks to Zoom they are able to join internationally with Ukranian Christians and supporters in Poland and Moldova to hear and pray for events on the ground.

Private or group prayer is an essential part of our Christian Life in developing our relationship with God through Jesus and underpins all our work.

Norma Chapman

Worship Group

The Worship Group lead the sung worship at the 10.30 contemporary service in the church hall on Sundays. We meet to practise and pray at 9.30 on Sundays before the start of the service. We would encourage you to pray for others to come forward to hone their musical worship skills and to join us on Sundays, as well as considering that it might be you! A worshipping heart is the most important thing and we can help with learning music. We have been grateful to those who have suggested new songs to us through the year and would ask that you continue to do this please and continue to offer your suggestions as well as praying for us.

Heather Savvides on behalf of the Worship Group

Church Choir

The Choir continues to meet faithfully at each Sunday service in Church, however unfortunately since Covid, our core members are now only five in number.

We are happy to continue to meet and support the traditional evening service, and it is encouraging to see that the numbers attending are rising, if a little slowly. We hope that now we have the heating installed in Church our numbers will continue to grow so that we can continue to offer a, literally, warm welcome to all who love the traditional worship service.

Margaret Taylor

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2022

Once again we had terrific support for this year's campaign with a total of 90 boxes collected. Donations were received from the Church Family, Elworth C.E Primary School, Elworth Preschool, 2nd Elworth Rainbows, Elworth Methodist Church and individual members of the community of Elworth and beyond.

In addition to individual packed "shoeboxes" we also ran a similar campaign to last year whereby for the 12 weeks leading up to National Collection week (13-20th November) we encouraged people to donate specific items. These items were then prayerfully placed into age appropriate Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We also had a cake sale to help fund the passage of the completed boxes and were thrilled to raise £207.32. Enormous thanks to the fabulous "bakers and buyers" as their support was invaluable.

A reminder that since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, which is run by Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. We will not witness the individual impact that our gifts and prayers have but we are reminded that every shoebox makes a difference in the life of a child, their families and their communities. The purpose remains the same - to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through a gift filled shoebox. Through prayer, through the gift of their shoebox and through the opportunity of children participating in a bible study called "The Greatest Journey" the word of God is shared.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Particular thanks to Bethany for her unwavering practical support, to Carolyn for her help at the cake sale and for Catherine who facilitated the collection from Elworth C.E. School.

In 2022 many of us got notification that their shoeboxes were sent to Central Asia.

If you would like any further information please contact Denise Shone.

Denise Shone

Residential/Nursing Homes

It has been our pleasure during the past 18 months to be able to resume our visits to our local Residential / Nursing Homes, Turnpike Court, St Stephens Nursing Home and Elworth Grange.

We have joined with the Residents once a month for a short service of Worship, celebrated the festivals, reconnected with familiar local and church families and made some delightful friendships.

If you would like to know more about our visits' please speak to Revd David Page or myself.

Michelle Walker

Messy Church

St. Peter's Messy Church takes place on average twice each term in the church hall. It is held on a Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ethos of Messy Church is to provide a relaxed craft and activities based approach to bible themes for the whole family. There is always a time of worship and celebration followed by a hot meal for everyone. For many people Messy Church is the only contact they have with church and so it is vital that the gospel message is presented in a clear and vibrant way.

More recently, Messy Church has become part of the St. Peter's @4:00pm Service and this is now under review for 2024.

A team of helpers serve the Lord Jesus at Messy Church. This is a really important outreach to our local community and if you feel that you might be able to offer your support, please contact Cathryn Houghton: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Speak

'Speak' is the magazine for the Church family. It is distributed online and as a paper copy. Please contact the Church Office for more information on office@stpeters-elworth.org.uk.

The Church Office staff and myself edit the magazine. We work hard to ensure that the information is correct (at the time of printing) and we would really appreciate your thoughts and comments on the magazine!

We are always looking for new articles and suggestions for content. We would be more than happy to chat with you.

Bethany Jones, Lucy Kelly and Kate Page

Book Club

It has been a successful year for our small group. We grew in number and read and discussed a wide variety of fiction books. We hope to sustain our current numbers and would welcome any new members from within the Church Family or even better if we can encourage non-members to come along.

Your prayers are appreciated.

Lucy Kelly

Churchyard

This year has proved to be quite a challenge for the churchyard team due to the unpredictable weather. However we have managed to mow and strim the grass when conditions allowed. To this end the team are very grateful to Ken Lever who agreed to come out of retirement to drive the ride on tractor mower. The crocus lawn has been treated to reduce the moss and sown with fertiliser and grass seed to encourage new growth. The team have also trimmed all the hedges tree bases and overhanging branches where necessary. The flower bed and shrubbery areas have also been carefully maintained during the year. Several of the slabs on parts of the paths have been relayed to avoid them becoming trip hazards. Two small trees have been planted in the churchyard in memory of two church members.

The usual repairs and servicing of the churchyard machinery has been carried out as required during the year.

On behalf of the churchyard team we are very encouraged by the complimentary comments received from members of the church family, it is very much appreciated.

Bill Morrison.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

As a Church Family we have, over several years, had a church 'Christmas Card' which gives us all the opportunity to write a Christmas Message or New Year greeting to one another as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The other opportunity we have is to donate to a named charity, whilst perhaps saving the cost of individual cards.

For several years the large 'Christmas Card' displayed in the Church Hall from the first Sunday of December - Advent – until the first week of January - Epiphany has been designed and produced by Sue giving free reign to her amazing talent.

The last couple of years, all donations have gone to the Dianne Oxberry Trust. This was set up following the passing of Dianne Oxberry, a BBC television presenter who died in 2019 from Ovarian cancer. Her family, friends and supporters set this up with the aim of spreading awareness of the illness and helping patients and families affected. They have been extremely grateful for donations, and you can find out more from visiting www.dianneoxberrytrust.org

I myself (Sue) have been going through ovarian cancer treatment for the last 2 years and I have been so grateful for the medical care from Christies Hospital and for the love and support from family and friends, and the church family at St Peter's. I am trusting God in his answers to prayers as I continue to have treatment.

We ask that you take time during the Christmas Season 2024 to write your greeting to each other, and take this opportunity to say thank you to all that have supported the Charities and the Church family 'Christmas Card'.

If you would like more information, please speak to us.

Sue Podhorodecka & Michelle Walker

Home Groups

Monday House Group

We have met both by zoom and face to face during the year. We usually meet twice a month, providing much valued fellowship, support and prayer for each other during what has continued to be difficult times for group members. We have undertaken a number of Scripture based studies during the year including a study of David, 'Busyness; Finding God in the Whirlwind', and a series on Mark in parallel with the Christianity Explored sermon series. Apart from our meeting nights, we have also led the monthly Prayer Meeting and provided Sunday morning tea & coffee before and after the 10.30 service. Anyone who wishes to try joining a Home Group will be made welcome with us.

Mark Barker, on behalf of Bill, Carolyn, Cherie, Deon, Joyce, Michelle and Norma

Kairos

Kairos continued to meet fortnightly throughout 2023.

At the beginning of the year we finished the study BUSYNESS (Finding God in the Whirlwind).

This was followed by a set of 8 studies called THE STORY OF GOD'S JUSTICE.

In September we began 6 studies from 1 PETER called LIVING WELL ON THE WAY HOME.

Also in September Kairos led the monthly Prayer Meeting where we talked about the lives of several important and influential Christian Women.

Christine Saucedo

Lighthouse Home Group

We have met every fortnight on a Thursday evening where possible. As we meet our friendships have become deeper as we study, share and pray together. A couple of the studies we have done include 'Money and Work' and 'Loving Justice'. More recently, as life events have changed the group, we have met more regularly for socials like bowling and even winning a Pub Quiz!

New members are always welcome, please do contact the office.

Bethany Jones

Monday Small Group

The Monday Small Group (MSG) met fortnightly throughout 2023. We meet on Monday evenings at a slightly later hour to allow young children to be put to bed. The group, which is aimed primarily at those with young families, continues to meet via Zoom, thus removing the need for additional childcare arrangements. We have recently had the pleasure of welcoming two more couples into the group, bringing our regular attenders to a total of 14.

Our studies this year have been quite varied. In the period up to Easter we studied the book of 1 Corinthians. Between Easter and the summer break, we focused on character studies, looking at major events from the lives of Peter, Moses, Esther and Elijah. During the autumn term we followed the 'Christianity Explored' material from the gospel of Mark, alongside the sermon series.

We always make time in our meetings to pray together, and we reserve occasional Monday gatherings for social 'chat time'. We try to meet together in person when possible, and we have a dedicated WhatsApp group for mutual support, sharing prayer requests and other information.

If you want to find out more about this group, please contact us through the St Peters church office.

Lynda and Simon Wisbey

Koinonia

Koinonia small group meets at 8.15pm on alternate Monday evenings at Paul and Heather's. We are a busy but friendly group and always ready to welcome new people.

We started the year with Be Still, a five-session series based on Brian Heasley's book, 'Be Still: A Simple Guide to Quiet Times'. Be Still helped us to explore together how to grow and develop a regular quiet time with God.

www.24-7prayer.com/podcast_series/be-still

After Easter, staying with the 24-7 prayer resources, we embarked on the Lectio Divina series presented by Pete Greig.

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/podcast/introducing-lectio-divina/>

In the autumn, in parallel with St Peter's Sunday sermons, we ran with Christianity Explored presented by Rico Tice, to better appreciate how this programme works for seekers and new Christians. The series looks at Jesus's life in Mark's gospel, meeting the man who claimed to be God and discovering how he changed history.

<https://www.christianityexplored.org/courses/christianity-explored/>

*Paul Savvides
on behalf of Heather, Stephanie, Fiona, Anthony,
Kath, Daniel, Dave, Simon and Lynda.*

Fuyin

We are thrilled to share that we are now a group of 11 ladies as this year we welcomed Catherine to our group. We continue to meet face-to-face in the upstairs room in St Peters Church Hall every Wednesday morning between 09.30 – 11.30 ish when we worship, pray and study scripture. There is always a welcome brew and tasty treats to enjoy. Two members of our group live overseas but we are delighted when they can join us on zoom.

We enjoy occasional trips out for breakfast. We are also very grateful to members of the group who on occasions host our mornings together.

Throughout the year we have used a variety of study books starting with a Cover-to-Cover series called “Great Prayers of the Bible applying them to our lives today”. During Lent we looked at “Waiting Patiently” using notes taken from Stuart Townsend’s internet series plus some bible hopping and prayers for Easter. We continued the year with an eight session Life Builder Bible Study by Dale and Sandy Larsen titled “Images of the Spirit” followed by “Bible Genres – Hearing what the bible really says” a Cover-to-Cover series written by Andy Peck. We ended the year looking at the Gospel of Mark. We got to Mark chapter 10 so may well continue this in the New Year.

In July we led the monthly prayer meeting where we focused our prayers on the theme of “Doubt”. The idea conceived from the fact that “The Feast of St Thomas” is celebrated on July 3, and observed across the world.

I thank every member of our group for their friendship, support and the unwavering prayer they offer each other. If you would like any more information please have a chat to Denise or indeed any member of our group.

Denise Shone on behalf of Andrea, Catherine, Elsy, Helan, Helen, Julie, Mary, Pat, Rachel, and Sue

Monday Homegroup

We are a group of 7 who began to meet during Lent 2023. Following which we have continued to meet on a regular basis.

We have studied three texts firstly “A Place for Us”, a Lent course linked to the recent production of West Side Story. As a group we completed the 5 sessions entitled. Through the sessions we reflected upon fear, love, betrayal, death and reconciliation by studying Bible passages and how the key messages are relevant in today’s society.

We went on to study “Just 10” by J. John, a series looking at the Ten Commandments and their relevance today. We considered the issues at the heart of each of the Ten Commandments within a 21st-century context and how each of us can live by these timeless principles today. We invited David to discuss further with us questions that were raised based on the Church of England’s viewpoints particularly linked to advancements in science and changes to society viewpoints.

(Continued overleaf)

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St. Peter's ABC Group

Income and Expenditure Statement for for the year ended 31 December 2023

	£	£
Income		
Sum up Payments	677.40	
Donations	2,498.47	3,175.87
Expenditure		
Refreshments	841.35	
Crafts / Equipment	117.32	
Christmas Party	-	
Donation to St Peter’s P.C.C.	500.00	
Donation to St Peter’s P.C.C. for Support Worker	500.00	
Donation to Operation Christmas Child	-	
		1,959.07
Net Income for the year		1.216.80
Balance b/f 1 January 2023		419.41
Balance c/f 29 September 2023		1,636.21
Cheque paid to Elworth P.C.C. Account		(1,636.21)
Total at 31 December 2023		0.00

Independent examiner's report to Elworth PCC

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 24 to 32, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b) to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Valentine', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Mr S. Valentine
Independent Examiner

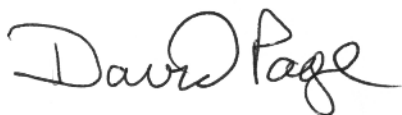
Receipts & Payments by Report Group

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Voluntary donations	110,664	4,526	1,200	116,390	135,317
Church activities	16,812	-	-	16,812	15,818
Trading activities	33,896	657	-	34,553	43,769
Investments	6,248	-	-	6,248	2,993
Other Income	119	-	-	119	39
Total Income	167,738	5,183	1,200	174,121	197,936
Expenditure:					
Raising funds:					
Church activities	-	-	-	-	211
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	109
SubTotal: Raising funds	-	-	-	-	321
Charitable activities:					
Giving	30	11,080	1,265	12,375	10,823
Diocese	71,802	-	-	71,802	69,667
Ministry	52,916	500	-	53,416	53,245
Administration	33,368	-	-	33,368	29,114
Mission & Evangelism	8,998	1,618	-	10,615	9,430
Church & Churchyard	6,632	-	-	6,632	8,013
Trading costs	-	449	-	449	35,688
Church Hall	32,163	-	-	32,163	20,706
Major Work	25,271	600	-	25,871	1,030
SubTotal: Charitable activities	231,180	14,247	1,265	246,691	237,716
Total Expenditure	231,180	14,247	1,265	246,691	238,036
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(63,442)	(9,063)	(65)	(72,570)	(40,101)

Balance Sheet

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Current assets	£	£
Bank current account	12,893	5,411
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	151,414	230,166
ABC Bank Account	-	419
Fairtrade Bank Account	890	682
Accounts Receivable	-	917
Total Current Assets	<u>165,197</u>	<u>237,596</u>
Liabilities		
Agency collections	558	386
Accounts Payable	40	40
DBFCreditor	60	60
CEC Loan	107,541	107,541
Total Liabilities	<u>108,199</u>	<u>108,027</u>
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	<u>56,999</u>	<u>129,569</u>
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit)	(72,570)	(40,101)
Starting Balances	129,569	169,670
Total Reserves	<u>56,999</u>	<u>129,569</u>
Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	35,754	109,676
Designated	2,618	1,101
Restricted	14,684	14,849
Endowment	3,943	3,943
Total	<u>56,999</u>	<u>129,569</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 31st Jan 2024 and signed on its behalf by



The Revd David Page (PCC Chairman)

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St Peter's Church Elworth to hold unrestricted cash in reserve for three months operating costs including salaries and parish share, anticipated building and equipment works. It will also hold restricted cash reserves for the Benevolent, Outward Giving, Church Hall Development and Endowment funds. At 31st December 2023, the amounts held in reserve are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	Item	Total
Operating Costs	£61,443	
CEC Loan repayment 2016 – 2024 inc	£50,400	
Building Work & Equipment reserves	£11,766	
		£123,609
Restricted Reserves		
Church Hall Development	£12,522	
Outward Giving	£9,179	
Benevolent	£2,161	
		£23,862
Endowment Funds	£3,943	£3,943
Total Reserves		£151,414

- The cash reserves in the deposit account meet the Reserves requirement.
- The PCC will continue to hold additional funds within the Fairtrade, though this will be closing in January. This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment Funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investments of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (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 each 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.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received for the year 2022-23. For tax year 2023-24 tax refunds will be recognised on receipt. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

The freehold land and buildings now comprise of the Church Hall, tool store/garage, railings, car park gates and refurbished footpath. Church and Hall equipment comprises of the Church AV system, new lights, a piano keyboard, a ride-on mower and other gardening equipment. In the Church Hall, the security system, interim PA, tables, chairs, defibrillator, acoustic panels, artificial turf, AV system, foyer furniture, replacement corridor lighting and dishwasher, a camera system in the Hall and Church with a cabled link between the two and Wi-Fi in the Church.

Analysis of income and expenditure
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Income	Restricted			2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations					
Gift Aid: Bank	63,988	600	1,200	65,788	62,219
Envelopes	6,245	-	-	6,245	6,147
Other planned giving	6,861	-	-	6,861	24,254
Loose plate collections	3,068	-	-	3,068	3,211
QRcode/Electronic	5,919	-	-	5,919	904
One off Gift Aid gifts	-	-	-	-	10,100
Donations sundry	3,907	-	-	3,907	3,961
ABC donations	-	3,926	-	3,926	3,416
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	19,190	-	-	19,190	19,710
Recurring grants	330	-	-	330	390
Non-recurring one off grants	567	-	-	567	1,007
Other funds generated	587	-	-	587	-
Subtotals	110,664	4,526		116,390	135,317
Income from charitable activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,592	-	-	4,592	5,716
Chaplaincy Elworth C of E School	6,024	-	-	6,024	5,796
Photocopying recharges	411	-	-	411	486
Heat & Light	1,150	-	-	1,150	1,335
Coffee Money	122	-	-	122	485
Outreach Catering Donations	4,513	-	-	4,513	1,999
Subtotals	16,812	-		16,812	15,818
Other trading activities					
Church hall lettings - fund raising	30,121	-	-	30,121	23,598
Out of School Club Fees	-	-	-	-	16,051
E.ON FIT Receipts	3,775	-	-	3,775	2,708
Fair Trade Sales	-	657	-	657	1,412
Subtotals	33,896	657		34,553	43,769
Investments					
Bank and Building Society interest	6,248	-	-	6,248	2,993
Other income					
Easy Fundraising / Amazon Smile	119	-	-	119	39
Grand Total	167,738	5,183	1,200	174,121	197,936

Expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted		2023	2022
	£	Designated	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations					
Costs of fetes & other events	-	-	-	-	211
Envelope Scheme	-	-	-	-	109
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	321
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Outward Giving	30	11,080	-	11,110	10,580
Messy Church	926	-	-	926	1,002
Holiday Club	841	-	-	841	676
Youth	961	-	-	961	1,625
Benevolent Donation	-	-	1,265	1,265	20
Other Donations	-	-	-	-	224
Ministry parish share etc	71,802	-	-	71,802	69,667
Assistant staff costs	24,423	-	-	24,423	20,636
Assistant Minister Housing	2,324	-	-	2,324	9,540
Assistant Minister Expenses	827	-	-	827	2,019
Curate's expenses	-	-	-	-	181
Family & Child Worker	16,251	-	-	16,251	15,144
Youth Worker	4,380	500	-	4,880	2,000
Administration staff salaries	12,971	-	-	12,971	12,104
Payroll Administration	725	-	-	725	714
HMRC PAYE	10,102	-	-	10,102	7,092
Pension Fund	4,038	-	-	4,038	3,716
Working expenses of incumbent	510	-	-	510	617
Vicarage Council tax	2,589	-	-	2,589	2,470
Vicarage Water	696	-	-	696	638
Training and Courses	601	-	-	601	94
Study Materials & Books	99	-	-	99	440
Junior Church	332	-	-	332	435
ABC & Baby Group	-	1,618	-	1,618	3,155
Outreach Catering costs	4,633	-	-	4,633	1,421
Illuminate and Extra Services	605	-	-	605	582
Church running - insurance	2,054	-	-	2,054	2,294
Church office - telephone	875	-	-	875	580
Music expenses	626	-	-	626	1,726
Church maintenance	258	-	-	258	641
Services expenses (non-music)	1,408	-	-	1,408	105
Upkeep of churchyard	426	-	-	426	728
Subtotals (interim)	166,283	13,198	1,256	180,776	172,866

(Continued overleaf)

Expenditure (contd.)	Designated			2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted			
	£	£	£	£	£
Subtotals from page 31	166,313	13,198	1,265	180776	172,866
Photocopying & Printing	2,661	-	-	2,661	2,639
Stationery	1,093	-	-	1,093	403
Publicity	223	-	-	223	110
General Expenses	680	-	-	680	1,188
Church running - electric	1,136	-	-	1,136	1,272
Church running - gas	725	-	-	725	1,247
Out of School Club Staff costs	-	-	-	-	32,704
Out of School Club other expenses	-	-	-	-	1,526
FairTrade Cost of Sales	-	449	-	449	1,458
Hall running - electricity	13,460	-	-	13,460	4,098
Hall running - gas	2,225	-	-	2,225	3,037
Hall running - insurance	2,053	-	-	2,053	2,294
Hall running - maintenance	7,639	-	-	7,639	3,592
Cleaning Staff	4,445	-	-	4,445	4,112
Sanitary services and cleaning	573	-	-	573	1,198
Hall running - water	891	-	-	891	724
Hall miscellaneous	876	-	-	876	1,651
Church major repairs - installation	24,221	600	-	24,821	-
Hall, interior and exterior decorating	1,050	-	-	1,050	1,030
Subtotals	63,951	1,049-2	2222	65,000	64,283
Expenditure Grand totals	230,263	14,247	1,265	245,774	237,470

Accounts

St Peter's Church Elworth

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2022

Incumbent:
Revd David Page
The Vicarage
2, Taxmere Close,
Sandbach

Registered Charity No. 1130803

Contents

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2. | The P.C.C. | | |
| 3. | Vicar's Report | | |
| 4. | Assistant Minister's Report | | |
| 5. | Curate's Report | The Church Office | |
| 6. | Church Wardens' Report | | |
| 7. | Treasurer's Report | | |
| 8. | P.C.C. Report | | |
| 9. | The Foyer | Welcome team | Church Attendance |

Church Organisations

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 10. | Acorns | Adventurers | |
| 11. | Baby Group | Lego Church | |
| 12. | Xplore | Encounter | |
| 13. | Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E | | Out of School Club |
| 14. | ABC | All Age Team | |
| 15. | Youth Church | Slavic Gospel Association | |
| 16. | Mission Support Group | Church Choir | |
| 17. | Church Prayer Life | Worship Group | |
| 18. | Shoe Box Appeal | Fair Trade | |
| 19. | Messy Church | Speak | Book Club |
| 20. | Churchyard | Sewing Machine Group | |

Home Groups

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------------|--|
| 21. | Monday House Group | Kairos | |
| 22. | Monday Small Group | Koinonia | |
| 23. | Fuyin | Lighthouse | |
| 24.. | The Loft Group | | |

Accounts

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 25. | Examiner's Statement | | |
| 26. | Receipts and Payments by Report Group | | |
| 27. | Balance Sheet | | |
| 28. | Reserves Policy | Notes to Financial Statement | |
| 30. | Analysis of income and expenditure | | |
| 33. | ABC accounts | | |

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Rev David Page

Assistant Minister: Mr Gareth Davies

Curate: Rev Anthony Rigby

Church wardens:

Mr Steven Parfitt

Mr Paul Savvides *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Helen Jones *(Assistant Warden)*

Mrs Helen Coppenhall

Treasurer: Mr Andy Clee

Secretary: Mr John Cargill

Elected Members

Mrs Nicole Archer

Mr Mark Barker *(Co-opted member)*

Mrs Fiona Cooper

Mrs Becky Davies

Ms Rebecca Holland

Dr Heather Savvides

Mrs Margaret Taylor

Mrs Lynda Wisbey

Ex-officio:

Mr Bill Chapman *(Parish Evangelist and Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Kath Cliffe *(Diocesan Synod Representative)*

Mr Steve Thorley *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Michelle Walker *(Pastoral Worker)*

By Office: Pastoral Workers, Lay Readers and Parish Evangelists are entitled to serve on the P.C.C.

Vicar's Report

As I begin my report, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life and witness of St Peter's over the last year, and to acknowledge God's faithfulness to us in ever changing times.

This Annual Report, covering the whole life of the Church, demonstrates that God is alive and working in the parish and that the Gospel is as essential today as it has ever been.

We have seen several changes across the year, some things we have had to stop doing, while other fields of work have started up. It has become even more apparent to many of us that the opportunities and need for the Gospel are possibly greater in our community today than in previous years. Over the last year, we as a nation have been rocked by the continuing impact of Covid-19, the war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis driven by high energy prices, inflation and, for many, the drop in real income. The death of Queen Elizabeth II has also knocked our sense of certainty and many feel anxious at this time, especially those who work in our over stretched public services. This anxiety has also impacted the wider church as it seeks to chart its way through the Living in Love and Faith process, which is now drawing to a conclusion.

Even in such a challenging year there has been much to celebrate. Our Assistant Minister, Gareth Davies, has settled into and driven an expansion of our work, especially with young people. With Cathryn Houghton and Jennie Coppenhall (who joined the team in the Autumn), we have been able to cope with the increase in people attending our weekly children's and families activities. We also celebrate that our worshipping community has developed and become more diverse this year with a number of new people joining us from across the world, notably Hong Kong.

Anthony Rigby has continued supporting the ministry of the church during his final year of training as self-supporting Assistant Curate. His work, especially with the ATC in Sandbach, has developed well throughout the year.

We, as a church, are committed to everybody ministry, and I am so thankful for all the volunteers who serve in so many ways, most of whom go unnoticed in the life of the church.

Financially we did better than budgeted, but we recognise that 2023 will be financially challenging as, like all organisations, we face significantly increasing costs.

I would like to express my thanks for, and celebrate all the work that has been done through St Peter's Out of School Club across the last two decades. When we started this work, the local schools did not offer this provision. However, this situation has now changed and, at the end of July, the Out of School Club completed its work and closed. I am sure that we will continue to see the positive impact of all their efforts for many years to come.

Our work in the community continues and the Church Hall is now a major hub in the parish, supporting activities for all ages. The church heating problem remains unresolved but, hopefully, during 2023 a new system will be installed and some forms of Sunday worship can return to the building.

We as a family have experienced a number of challenges and changes through the year and continue to appreciate all your prayerful support to us. Without this we could not be all that we are to the church community and wider. Our prayerful hope for 2023 is that we will continue in self-giving, loving partnership worshipping our Lord Jesus and seeking to faithfully grow His church through all that we are and do in Christ.

David Page

Assistant Minister's Report

2022 has been an incredibly encouraging year. I had two main aims at the start of the year.

The first was to ensure we were as strategic as possible. I have worked alongside Cathryn Houghton (Children and Families Outreach), Michelle and Allan Walker (Baptism Preparation), Junior and Youth Church leaders and others to ensure there is as much of a strategic edge as possible. It was this strategic thinking that led to the appointment of Jennie Coppenhall as our Ministry Assistant (with children and youth). Jennie has been an incredible blessing, and has both helped us look at starting new things, and also allowed Cathryn and me to be more available to serve in other ways.

The second aim was to try and spot gaps that could be filled to ensure we offer something for anyone, no matter how they saw church, and where they were in their faith. Some examples of this include social events for men, country walks, quizzes that are linked with our Friday night children and youth groups (that families could come to), a new home group and getting to know more families through school activities (playing a part in gate duty at the end of the school day).

The biggest example of filling a gap was Illuminate, a service which took place on a Sunday afternoon to capture those that couldn't come at other times, and offered something slightly more different in style. Although numbers for this service weren't huge, there were some that enjoyed that style of service. The two biggest positives from it were that it provided a healthy environment for the team to feel ownership and be an integral part of its development, and also that it was the foundation of a slightly reworked service, which would start at the beginning of 2023.

Lastly, I have had the privilege of working with Elworth C of E School (year 5 = 6), Sandbach School and Sandbach High School this year, and our involvement with all three has increased from previous years, and looks to increase more next year.

All glory should be given to God, who has done many amazing things throughout the year.

Gareth Jones

Curate's Report

Would you believe that this is my last report as curate here at St. Peters, after that my title will change to associate minister. I will remain in my fulltime job running a number of laboratories and supporting the entire worship team here at St. Peters. This year has seen me supporting local churches, especially Astbury and Smallwood as well as Church Lawton, who have been without a vicar for some considerable time. This has allowed me to experience the wider Anglican tradition from a different perspective and gaining experience in wedding ministry, the wearing of robes and even sung evensong. Whilst I am a self-supporting curate and have a ministry within my workplace, which is very pastoral. The majority of my church ministry work this year has been in the participation of leading established forms of worship at St Peters. That said, it has been good to participate in diverse forms of ministry such as Messy Church, Remembrance Day with the Air Cadets, memorial services for those who lost friends and family during COVID and the re-dedication of the Elworth War Memorial, which was postponed also due to COVID. I am also fortunate to be Padre to the local Sandbach Air Cadet Squadron (1873 Sqn.) and share a ministry with them on a monthly basis and we are organising an enrolment for 21 cadets which will be held in St. Peters Church later this spring. In January with some considerable help, I organised our first Burns Supper to bring some light and joy into those dark January nights. Hopefully we can make this an annual event, we raised money for Cancer Research, St Luke's Hospice and also the church fund. Being a Self-Supporting Minister there has been much juggling of hats between husband and father, Church minister, full-time employment, and Sqn Padre duties. But each time I have struggled in any of these aspects of life, the Lord reassuringly reveals himself to me and is my comforter and guide always.

Anthony Rigby

The Church Office

It has been great to have a full year, uninterrupted by lockdowns and restrictions. We are here Monday to Friday, 9am till 2pm and are glad to be the first port of call for any enquiries and assistance with the day to day running of the Church. Usage of the Church Hall has increased over the last year, and it has been good to welcome back "old" friends and new groups.

Lucy continues to work Monday and Tuesday, Kate covers the rest of the week. Though you may notice us swapping around occasionally to cover holidays.

Our biggest change this year has been taking on the Church banking. Michelle Walker and Helen Jones covered this for many years, and we are grateful to Michelle for how smooth the transition has been. Several volunteers give assistance with the banking on a rota basis and for this we are most grateful.

Lucy Kelly and Kate Page

Church Wardens' Report

2022 started with a sense of hope as we were able to celebrate Christingle together once more. For those still shielding at home from Covid, the cameras installed in 2021 have allowed services to be live streamed on the church's own dedicated YouTube channel. Later in the year, as the threat of infection receded with the arrival of Spring, policy shifted more towards encouraging people back into the church buildings, something that has been generally welcomed.

Initiatives taken in 2021 have continued to bear fruit in 2022. Last year, through our membership of Welcome Churches, we welcomed two families from Hong Kong and this year several more have been making their way to St Peter's. We are richly blessed by their spiritual energy and love of Jesus. Our greater online presence has also brought new members whom we welcome similarly. And assistant minister Gareth Davies who arrived in autumn 2021 has brought a new heart into our community outreach, especially among young people, a ministry that has blossomed under his and Kathryn's leadership and enthusiasm.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, particular focus for the wardens has been on the cost of heating. We are once more grateful to John, Mark, and Andy for keeping a close eye on the price of energy and on usage. With no central heating in the church, our plans to replace the gas boiler, declared beyond repair last year, have been at the mercy of an emerging zero carbon policy from the Church of England and the Diocese's Faculty process. Thankfully, with Steve's careful guidance [Paul is writing this bit!], we now have an all-electric plan that has full PCC backing. Also, during the colder months, it has been possible to use our modern church hall for nearly all our services.

Outside, grass and hedge cutting continues through the marvellous efforts of our church yard heroes especially Bill, John, Howard and Ray, and indoor maintenance has resumed thanks to Matthew's diligence. We are also indebted to Steve P-A, Lucy and Kate for their vigilance and prompting.

There are so many more to thank that it may be fitting to quote St Paul, 'we have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in our prayers' (Ephesians 1:18).

Steve Parfitt and Paul Savvides

Treasurer's Report

The PCC recorded a deficit of £40.1K in 2022, compared to a deficit of £54.5K in 2021. Some of this difference is likely to be down to life getting back to normal after the pandemic.

Income at £197.9K was up by £42.5K from 2021. Total giving, including gift aid of £19.7K, was £135.3K in total. Specific gift aid banking, envelope and one-off gifts were £78K, on top of £24.2K of other planned giving, with the rest being loose plate collections, other donations, grants and a designated ABC donation. This included £900 from just a few months use of the new card reader. Out Of School Club closed in September and as a result the remaining £4.6K in the OOSC account was transferred into the general unrestricted fund in the current bank account.

Church hall lettings were £23.5K, which was £6.3K up from 2021.

Expenditure at £238K was up by £25.3K from 2021. The church itself was not used a lot during 2022 due to the heating issue, which is still to be resolved. Costs for the Church and churchyard maintenance was £8.9K, whilst the Hall running and maintenance costs were £20.7K. In 2023 we can expect this to increase due to the increase in energy prices.

Mission and evangelisms costs were £9.4K, up from £4.3K the previous year, which is to be expected due to more activities following the easing of covid restrictions. There was also an increase in staff costs with a full year of the Assistant Minister and an additional part time Youth/Children's Worker.

As of the 31st December 2022 the deposit account contained £230.1K and the current account was at £5.4K.

Thank you to all the people who help with the banking and all aspects of financing in church and for providing me with the figures to try and make sense of it all. Special thanks to Mark Barker for all of his continued help and support and for pointing me in the right direction. Thanks to Jess, Seth, Heidi and Polly for providing me with extra digits when I have run out of fingers and toes to count on.

Andrew Clee

PCC Report

The PCC was strengthened by several additional members who kindly agreed to serve at the APCM in May. The PCC now stands at 20 members plus the vicar.

During the year and following the restrictions of the pandemic, the meetings returned to face to face in the church hall. The ability to use video conferencing by Zoom, however has been retained for occasional use when members are unable to attend in person and this flexibility remains a long-term lesson which the covid emergency has taught us.

The electoral role was reported at 126 at the time of the APCM which is a net three less than the previous year. Alan Walker has kindly agreed to continue as Electoral Role Officer for this year.

The year also saw Mark Barker step down as treasurer after many years service. He will nonetheless remain a co-opted member of the PCC. The treasurer position has been taken by Andy Clee who has reported the finances throughout the current year using the new cloud-based software specially set up for charities such as ours.

The PCC confirmed a decision in May to close the Out of School Club after attendee numbers did not fully recover following the pandemic closure. The OOSC had been set up over ten years ago before local schools offered any similar provision. This had now changed, and it was evident that it would be better to close the Club in a controlled manner while the existing club funds still allowed. This would also allow us to concentrate on the expansion of our various new activities for children and young persons.

A further key decision reached in March this year was to opt for under-pew heating for the church. The old church gas boiler had been out of action for quite some time and Steve Parfitt had carried out extensive research with potential suppliers against a background of very unstable and unpredictable energy charges. Work is now in progress to select the preferred supplier and obtain Diocese approval to proceed. The option of re-ordering the church building interior has had to be reduced in scope due to this decision but in the meantime, it has become evident that having the majority of our services in the church hall has been a success and has helped to encourage new families to join us.

David thanked the various officers and PCC members for their enthusiastic support and hard work over another challenging year even as we started to get back to pre-pandemic conditions. There will be a number of vacancies for new PCC members this year and it would be wonderful if church members could devote some additional time to St Peter's in this way.

John Cargill

The Foyer

The Foyer provides a wonderful space within the Church Hall a place where we can all take the opportunity to meet with others.

There is also the opportunity to browse through or order from the Fairtrade catalogue and several Christian publications are available.

The Foyer is open as the 'Foyer Café' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (including the Baby Library) and Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 11.30am for the use of the wider local community, and for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together perhaps with a friend, neighbour or with your small / home group.

This coming year may provide more opportunities to use the Foyer Café / space as we look forward to reconnecting with one another.

Michelle Walker

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team at the 10.30am service, along with the sides-people at the 9.00am and 6.00pm services' maybe the first contact for those who come into Church, may that be to a newcomer or those who attend regularly.

We are currently a small team and would 'welcome' any who feel called to this particular Ministry at any of our church services or when the church is open for Prayer.

We are usually in the Foyer or front door when services are held in the Church Hall or just inside the Church Porch for services in church.

How we Welcome is much more than Sunday. We provide a welcome in many areas, our personal and pastoral contacts, Coffee & Company and the Office Team providing a welcome to Church Hall users and the Church grounds team to those visiting the churchyard.

By outreach with Publicity and Communication be it a Poster, our website or Facebook and other media.

During this last year we have also been able to welcome through additional social events and also as a 'Warm Space'

Pray for all who welcome in these ministries, and recognise how we are all to be welcomers and welcoming.

Michelle Walker

Church Attendance

The attendances at the 8.45 service vary between 8 and 17 but are fairly steady at about 12. At 10.30 the averages are 18 under 16's and 66 adults. The evening service had an average of 17. Of course, all the service numbers had a few lows and highs, especially for baptism services. Since the 8.45 service is only held twice each month the attendance at the 10.30 service might be slightly inflated on the other two or three Sundays. Also baptism services increase the averages.

And, for what it's worth, the average attendances at all Sunday meetings is 104.

Jim Watson

Church Organisations

Acorns (Previously Lego)

It came to light that visitors to our morning church service may have confused the name of the Lego young person's group with "playing with lego toys". Hence the change of name. Acorns continues to be available to any child aged 3 to 6 years of age whether they attend on a regular basis or come along to a baptism service or any special occasion.

There is a regular attendance of around 2 to 6 children. We continue to meet Sunday mornings in the Church Hall Meeting Room. We follow the themes suggested by Gareth Davies which, in the main, will be the teaching themes followed in the 10.30a.m. church service and across the Junior Church groups. We use age appropriate material produced by the on line resource called Energize. Within the session we have a bible related story, sing a few songs, listen to children's Christian music, craft activities, prayer time, a small snack and time to play.

For any further information please contact the church office.

Lucy, Kate, Tracy, Karen and Denise

Adventurers (Age 6 – 11)

With the resumption of Sunday School in autumn 2021, Adventurers continued to meet in 2022 with a group of up to six children. We also very much welcomed Gareth's supervision of all the Sunday School groups and were especially grateful to Becky for agreeing to become an Adventurer leader.

During the year we have explored traditional Bible stories - Jonah, Jesus, John the Baptist, Mary and Martha, the Easter story, and also looked at some abstract topics - the character of God, Peace, heavenly messengers.

Leaders have sought to engage the children in a variety of ways from launching a genuine ship's inflatable life raft (Jesus calming the storm) to making and decorating some very delicious cakes (Noah's Ark).

*Paul Savvides
on behalf of Martin, Fiona, Cherie, Mary and Becky*

Baby Group

St. Peter's Baby Group was set up in February 2016 in response to the growing number of parents/carers in the local community with babies under the age of 12 months. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and during half terms. We meet in the church hall.

A range of soft play is provided and refreshments are offered to the parents/carers who attend. This format provides a great opportunity for new parents/carers to connect with each other and to form lasting friendships. Christian hospitality is a real driver for those serving at Baby Group. Each week we welcome on average between 25 – 30 parents/carers and their babies to the group.

The group is currently served by Cathryn Houghton, Gareth Davies and one of the grandparents, Lynn Fairhurst. More recently our Ministry Assistant, Jennifer Coppenhall has joined the team. The serving role for this group involves making refreshments, serving hot toast and making everyone feel as welcome as possible. Based on the gradual increase of numbers attending this group, and due to the increase of new housing in the area, I would envisage numbers attending to continue to rise during 2023.

Cathryn Houghton

Lego Church

Lego Church was initially trialled at the end of 2019 with a couple of sessions before the Christmas period. The sessions ran once/month on a Wednesday in the church hall from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and were open to primary aged children attended by a parent/carer. Due to Covid-19 restrictions during 2020 Lego Church became a virtual club available monthly. During this time lots of family engaged with our Lego builds which were uploaded to St. Peter's Church Website.

Post Covid-19, Lego Church has seen a continuous rise in popularity and attendance. At our most recent session, 68 people attended and more Lego base boards have had to be ordered!

The first half hour of Lego Church involves free building with Lego. After that there are refreshments and then a Lego bible story, a song and a prayer. The children are given a challenge to build something from the story which they have just heard.

It is clear that Lego Church has become part of the embedded Christian outreach of St. Peter's Church.

My thanks go out to Gareth Davies and Jennifer Coppenhall for their continued support with Lego Church.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore

Xplore is a children's club for primary aged children which meets each Friday evening during term time from 6:00pm – 7:15pm in the church hall. The club was set up in April 2013 and is now nearly ten years old. Each week the children take part in a range of activities based around a bible theme. This includes a bible story, a time of worship and sharing of news plus crafts, games and a time of prayer. Simple refreshments are also provided.

Xplore has a regular attendance of between 25 - 40 children the majority of whom do not attend church. It is a real privilege to be able to forge positive relationships with local families and to engage them in other church related events such as Messy Church, Lego Church, Schools Projects and Church Holiday Clubs.

Xplore can only happen because of a very committed team of adult helpers who come along each Friday and serve the Lord in this very important outreach to the children in the local community.

If you feel that you can help at Xplore please email Cathryn Houghton on children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Encounter

Encounter is a youth group for Years 5 – 8 (10 – 13 years). The group meets in the church hall on a Friday evening from 7:30pm – 9:00pm term time. Encounter was originally set up in 2014 as 'Xplore+' to provide fun activities and a short Christian based discussion for those young people who were moving on from the Xplore group age range. The name and age range has been modified during 2023 to encompass the Year 5 children.

This year we have purchased a set of Good News Youth Bibles for Encounter. These bibles are proving invaluable to our bible studies each week as our young people are learning how to study God's word. They ask questions and many good biblical discussions have been had this year for which we must thank God.

The Encounter year ended with our annual Christmas Party which was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Encounter can only happen because of a group of committed voluntary helpers. We are seeking more adult help and if you feel that you could support the work of Encounter please contact Cathryn: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E

Since September 2020 I have had the privilege of serving Elworth C of E School as School Chaplain. This extension to my normal Children and Families Outreach Work has been introduced to extend and hopefully enrich the outreach work of the church within the local school community and indeed, during 2022 we have seen ever increasing numbers of Elworth CE children attending events such as Lego Church, Messy Church and Xplore with their families.

The role involves a thirteen hour commitment to the school and includes a range of outreach activities. These include:

Collective Worship with the school community, smaller group worship activities, coordination of charity events between school and church; one to one work with those in need of spiritual encouragement and support; leading the children of the Worship Council : Worship Warriors to coordinate their active input into the development of Christian based activities around school and opportunities to walk alongside staff, parents and children and to offer pastoral support where appropriate. The role also includes regular worship planning sessions including input to the termly Prayer Spaces Days.

Cathryn Houghton

Out of School Club

This is the final report for the Out of School Club.

St Peter's out of School club was opened to meet the child care needs of the community.

We offered afterschool care to Elworth Church of England School and Elworth Hall, and post pandemic, Wheelock School.

We then offered breakfast club to Elworth C of E and Wheelock. Over the years, our numbers grew and the club went from strength to strength.

Then the pandemic struck. We went into lockdown and we had to close temporarily on a couple of occasions. Although we re-opened fully with a few new children, we lost some of our regulars, mostly due to parents working from home, or because of redundancies. As our numbers dwindled, it looked more and more likely that we were no longer a viable business.

The decision to close us was taken, and parents and carers were notified. It was with great sadness that we said our final goodbyes to the children and their families on the 22nd July 2022.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club over years, especially those whom I've worked with during my time there.

Catherine Edmonds (Temporary Manager)

ABC

St. Peter's ABC is a Parent/Carer Toddler Group which meets on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am – 11:30 am term time in the church hall. Currently we provide places for a maximum of 70 children/parents and carers to attend the group although we are currently discussing ways of making an increased provision for this very popular group. This important outreach provides an opportunity for the children to experience different types of play opportunities including role play, dressing up, small world play, physical play and story corner. It also provides an opportunity for the adults to catch up over coffee. A healthy snack is provided for the children and hot toast and sausage baps are available for the parents/carers to purchase at a small cost. Each session is concluded with a singing time when nursery rhymes are chosen by the children and the singing of these is coordinated by a member of the ministry team.

A team of regular helpers come along each week to set up the hall with a variety of play opportunities and our refreshments team works hard to provide refreshments from the hatch. ABC can only happen because members of the church family are willing to give up their own time to help out with this very important work.

The ABC year ended with our annual Christmas Party which was attended by forty children and their parents/carers. We were entertained by Rhythm Time. The children were given a Christmas gift and a party tea and parents/carers were served seasonal fayre.

Cathryn Houghton

All Age Team

The All Age services occur once a month, often coinciding with significant events in the Church calendar and this can present a challenge to find new ways to convey what for some may be a familiar message, whilst for others it may be completely new!

As the services are planned by the team, care is taken to include all the component parts such as a Bible reading, prayers and songs, together with opportunities for the children to share in a craft activity, which can be done on an individual basis or as part of a larger group.

We are thankful that we have the opportunity to serve St. Peter's in this ministry and we pray that as 'One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.' (Psalm 145:4), we may continue in the coming year to find fresh ways to convey the Good News of Jesus to all.

*Rebecca Douglas, Gareth Davies, Nicola Hathaway, Jenny Drain,
Paul Savvides, Denise Shone, David Page, Helen Jones*

Youth Church

Youth Church has been a small but steady group for most of the year. We recognised the frustration of using the office for each session, and therefore started using the youth room upstairs for 30 minutes (starting at 10.15am) and then moving to the office after that. This also meant we could make hot drinks for those that came if needed.

We still use energize to help create the teaching material, but what did change a little bit was that we started to do our own thing in regards to what we taught, meaning that if we created a session, and no-one was there, we had the flexibility to use that material again.

There was a strategic edge to the way the group was run, and despite the small numbers, those that came not only got fruitful teaching, but there was also room for relationships to be grown as well.

Gareth Davies

Slavic Gospel Association

St. Peter's continues to support the Slavic Gospel Association. SGA has been able to help people in Ukraine through its network of partner churches who have been able to help people who have fled the violence losing their homes and people who have been bereaved. SGA has been able to organise large prayer meetings using zoom with direct connection to church leaders in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Ukrainian churches have been very busy offering pastoral support throughout society and in the military and many people have joined churches and come to faith in Christ.

St. Peter's continues to support Stefan and Mira Zarev leading the church in Velingrad and Rakitovo, Bulgaria. They have run a childrens mission and adventure camps during the summer and distributed 200 Samaritans Purse shoeboxes at Christmas. The churches at Velingrad and Rakitovo have been able to meet regularly after covid disruption and theological training for ministers at Velingrad has resumed. SGA has been able to resume its program of bible teaching and training for ministers with partner churches throughout Eastern Europe.

SGA continues to reach out with the gospel and has begun to reach and distribute bibles in Mongolia in partnership with others. Half of the population lives in the capital city Ulaanbaatar and others live as nomadic herdsmen in a very large area. 98% of people in Mongolia have not heard of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bill Chapman

Inter-Church Mission Support Group

The Group had a budget of £10,579.80 to spend supporting the work of The Lord locally, across the UK and the World. This represents 10% of the Church's voluntary income. We have continued to donate to causes that have received long term support from us as well as responding to immediate needs in the world. The causes supported were as follows:

- £2,000 Slavic Gospel Association; £1,000 for Ukraine, £1,000 for Pastor Stefan Zarev, Bulgaria
- £1,979.80 SYCAM, India. *This amount was exceeded by personal donations by individuals*
- £1,000 Dalit Freedom Network
- £1,000 Compassion Child survival project, Haiti
- £1,100 Tearfund; £500 for Ukraine, £600 for Somalia
- £ 600 Children's Society
- £ 600 Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- £ 600 Church Mission Society
- £ 600 Christian Vision for Men (CVM)
- £ 600 Lifeline Debt Advice, Sandbach
- £ 500 The Pantry @ Sandbach Hub

Mark Barker

Church Choir

The Choir Report this year is quite short, mainly because of the ongoing difficulties following the lockdowns during the pandemic situation.

For a number of years before the pandemic struck, we were fortunate enough to have approximately nine members of the choir. This gave us a very solid base to assist in all of the evening services, even if members were absent for holidays etc. However our numbers have been decimated for the reasons indicated above, and our average attendance is now four members, and if we manage to have five members this is now unusual. However, those core members we do have, are happy to continue supporting the evening service by leading the singing in the name of the Lord. Also, we very much look forward to singing in our wonderful Church building at the earliest opportunity.

Margaret Taylor

Church Prayer Life

There are a number of ways that the church prayer life has been encouraging this year.

The monthly prayer meetings held on Zoom and led by different housegroups continue each month, usually on the first Monday of the month. Also there has been an increase in the numbers of people joining the Connect network and praying for other members of the church, as well as outside of the church community and national and international events. People have said how supported they have felt by knowing that the church is praying for them and how helpful they have found this.

Some church members pray together weekly in small groups at a time which suits them. Others have joined in with a large national prayer group connected to one of the missions that we support working in Ukraine. Thanks to Zoom they are able to join internationally with Ukrainian Christians and supporters in Poland and Moldova to hear and pray for events on the ground.

Private or group prayer is an essential part of our Christian Life in developing our relationship with God through Jesus and underpins all our work.

Norma Chapman

Worship Group

The worship group meet to practise and pray at 9.30am on Sundays in the church hall, so that we're all ready to go for the service at 10.30. We are indebted to those who point us in the direction of new songs. Please do continue to send songs in our general direction! Many thanks also to Gareth for making the coffee and especially Anthony and the team for sorting out the sound system every week. We would love more of you to join us – if you have a heart for worship, come early on Sundays to praise and pray and see what you think, you are always welcome.

Heather Savvides,

*on behalf of Paul, Miriam, Cathryn, Bethany, Carolyn,
Steve, Stephanie, Bill, Matthew, Emily, Lynda and Simon.*

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2022

Despite the difficult economic climate it was absolutely wonderful to witness the support for this year's campaign. This year we run our local shoebox collection a little different. For the 13 weeks leading up to National Collection week (14-21st November) we encouraged people to donate specific items. On Saturday 12th November we enjoyed an afternoon making up a total of 50 boxes with the donated items supplied. I am thrilled to report that with contributions collected at Elworth C.E Primary School together with the contributions from St Peter's Church family, Elworth Pre-School and the community of Elworth the total number of shoeboxes collected in 2022 was **103**.

Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts to children worldwide for nearly three decades. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. In 2022 Operation Christmas Child were set to reach milestone of 200 million shoeboxes

We will not witness the individual impact that our gifts and prayers have but we are reminded that every shoebox makes a difference in the life of a child, their families and their communities. The purpose remains the same - to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through a gift filled shoebox. Through prayer, through the gift of their shoebox and through the opportunity of children participating in a bible study called "The Greatest Journey" the word of God is shared.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Please can I urge you to continue to pray for the young person in receipt of our shoeboxes. Pray they may come to know Jesus as a real friend.

May I take this opportunity to report that in 2021 many of us got notification that their shoeboxes were sent to Liberia. We are still waiting notification for 2022 destination.

If you would like any further information please contact Denise Shone.

Denise Shone

Fair Trade

2022 started well and sales continued to grow all through the year. It was noticeable how sales of food declined but gifts, and especially socks, increased. All in all 2022 was a good year. The start of 2023 has not however got off to a good start. Just after I submitted my first Report, I was informed by Traidcraft that unfortunately they were going into Administration. I will therefore have to review the situation going forward. I still have stocks in hand, which I will be able to sell off, but obviously the future is at present uncertain. I will let you all know in due course what my plans are.

Many thanks to all my supporters.

Carolyn Barker

Messy Church

St. Peter's Messy Church takes place on average twice each term in the church hall. It is held on a Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ethos of Messy Church is to provide a relaxed craft and activities based approach to bible themes for the whole family. There is always a time of worship and celebration followed by a hot meal for everyone. For many people Messy Church is the only contact they have with church and so it is vital that the gospel message is presented in a clear and vibrant way.

Post Covid-19 Messy Church is as popular as ever with the local community. Messy Christmas saw attendance of around 100 and the most recent Messy Christingle saw an attendance of 98 people.

A team of ten helpers serve the Lord Jesus at Messy Church. This is a really important outreach to our local community.

Cathryn Houghton

Speak

For those new to the Church, Speak is our bimonthly church magazine and is distributed online. If you would like a paper copy or to be added to the distribution list please email the Church Office on office@stpeters-elworth.org.uk.

I, along with the office staff edit the magazine taking it in turns. We would really appreciate your thoughts and comments on Speak, after all we produce it for the Church family!

We are always looking for new content and if you have anything, please

Bethany Jones

Book Club

We have very much enjoyed being able to meet inside, in the warmth and we are fully back to 'normal'. We meet once a month and discuss a variety of fiction books, from many different genres. There are 6 of us who attend regularly but we would love to welcome new members. Keep an eye out for the poster going up on the Church Hall noticeboard which tells you the current book and the date and time of our next meeting.

Lucy Kelly

Churchyard

Another year has come and gone in the never ending but enjoyable and rewarding tasks involved in keeping the churchyard looking neat and tidy. During the year the team have edged all the footpaths which had become rather untidy and some of the slabs required relaying as they were a trip hazard. Quite a number of graves which had become uneven have been levelled with new top soil and seeded, also the headstones secured where necessary.

Our long serving and experienced ride on tractor driver Ken Lever has sadly retired at the end of the cutting season this year. He still comes along and makes the brew for us. Due to the hedges not being trimmed for some time the job was contracted out to a tree firm. Another very essential job of keeping the shrub and flower beds weeded and looking nice has also been done by members of the team. On the more technical side, all the machines have been cleaned and serviced ready for the 2023 season. All that remains for me to add is my thanks to all the team, John, Ray, Howard, Ken, Paul, Heather, Mark and Carolyn, for their continuing support.

Bill Morrison

Sewing Machine Group

There is nothing quite so much fun as joining together with friends to share a hobby that you love.

Sewing with like-minded friends is such a lovely way to spend time. We offer each other, ideas, support, encouragement and occasionally expertise. Occasionally we are known to do a little more chatting than sewing.

We like to think we are a friendly, welcoming bunch but the only way to find out will be to come along and join in. Some of us have been sewing for years, whilst others are less experienced.

From quilting to dressmaking to soft furnishings, if it can be done on a sewing machine, we will have a go and we are always happy to help beginners to have a go too.

We meet twice a month, on the second Wednesday in the evening from 7.00 -9.00 and on the last Friday during the day from 10.00 - 2.00. There is a notice on the board in the church hall giving exact dates.

Do pop in and see what we are up to and maybe to find out if you would like to join us.

COME AND MEET US, HAVE A BREW AND A CHAT.

Gail Dell

Home Groups

Monday House Group

We have continued to meet by Zoom throughout the year as Covid and other ailments have been ever-present throughout the year. We usually meet twice a month, providing much valued fellowship, support and prayer for each other during what has continued to be unsettling times. We have undertaken a number of Scripture based studies during the year including Spiritual Warfare, The Beatitudes, Psalms and aspects of living the Christian Life. Apart from our meeting night, we have also led the monthly Prayer Meeting and provided Sunday morning tea & coffee before and after the 10.30 service. Anyone who wishes to try joining a Home Group will be made welcome.

Mark Barker

Kairos

The KAIROS group continued to meet throughout 2022, mainly on a fortnightly basis.

Our studies throughout the year consisted of the following:-

- In January 2022 we finished the 8 studies of THE HOLY SPIRIT: UNDERSTANDING HIS WORK IN OUR LIVES by Peter and Anne Woodcock.
- Between February and June we looked at the 9 studies of GROWING OLDER AND WISER by Dale and Sandy Larsen.
- In September Kairos led the Monthly Prayer Meeting with NEW BEGINNINGS as the theme.
- Our next study was BUSYNESS: FINDING GOD IN THE WHIRLWIND by Juanita Ryan. We suspended this study in the autumn in order to follow the sermon series of 321 THE STORY OF GOD, THE WORLD AND YOU by Glen Scrivener, returning to BUSYNESS after this.

Christine Saucedo

Monday Small Group

The Monday Small Group (MSG) met fortnightly throughout 2022. The group, which is aimed primarily at those with young families, has decided to continue to meet via Zoom, thus removing the need for additional childcare arrangements. We meet on Monday evenings at a slightly later hour to allow young children to be put to bed. We have a dedicated WhatsApp group for mutual support, sharing prayer requests and other information.

Our studies this year have made significant use of video resources. In the period up to Easter we looked at the 'Creation Care' material produced by A Rocha. Between Easter and the summer, we focused on developing a sustainable quiet time routine, using the 'Be Still', resource from Lectio 365. During the autumn term we completed the Church of England 'Living in Love and Faith' material.

We have recently had the pleasure of welcoming three more young parents into the group. We try to meet together in person when possible, but busy schedules and ongoing health issues again meant only a single full group social was possible this year.

We always make time in our meetings to pray together, and reserve occasional Monday gatherings for social 'chat time'. If you want to find out more about this group, please contact us through the St Peters church office.

Lynda and Simon Wisbey

Koinonia

Koinonia small group meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. At the start of the year we were still on Zoom but have since moved back to meeting in-person at Paul and Heather's, still taking sensible precautions against Covid. Our group consists of working and recently retired people with a heart for sharing the gospel by getting involved with activities in the local community.

In January we concluded our series on the Lausanne Movement's 'Creation Care' and during spring/summer covered the 'Be Still' series with Brian Heasley. In the autumn we embarked on the Church of England's series on Living in Love and Faith.

This has been another hard year for many of us as the repercussions of Covid have continued to affect us all. Frequency of meetings has inevitably been impacted as folk have taken advantage of new freedoms to reconnect with family and friends, to return to more normal living and to start new jobs which require working away.

Paul Savvides

*on behalf of Heather, Julia, Stephanie, Fiona, Simon,
Lynda, Anthony, Daniel, Kath and Kath*

Fuyin

We remain grateful that our Lord Jesus Christ has bought a group of 10 ladies together who are not only committed to supporting each other in their Christian faith but will offer practical help and unwavering prayer for each other.

We are currently meeting in the upstairs room in St Peters Church Hall every Wednesday morning between 09.30 – 11.30 ish when we worship, pray and study scripture. We are delighted that with the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions we were able to resume meeting face-to-face. There is always a welcome brew and plenty of cake or maybe a slice of toast. Two members of our group have now moved overseas. The provision of “zoom” means they can join us whenever possible. It is truly a blessing to have such technological means to keep in touch.

We have occasional visits to New Life café in Congleton for breakfast

During the year we have used a range of resources to guide our study. We completed our study of the Minor Prophets which we started in 2021. We used a 9 week study guide produced by Life Builder titled “Spiritual Warfare by Jack Kuhatschet.” We followed this with a 7 session guide produced by Cover to Cover titled “The Divine Blueprint – Gods extraordinary power in ordinary lives” written by Gary Pritchard. We ended the year looking at a couple of paintings in the book produced by Jane Williams called “The Art of Advent – A painting a day from Advent to Epiphany.

In May we led the monthly prayer meeting. We used a few themes gleaned from our study of the Minor Prophets, to be the focus of our intercessions.

I thank every member of our group for the invaluable care and support they offer each other. If you would like any more information please have a chat to Denise or indeed any member of our group.

*Denise Shone on behalf of Andrea, Elsy, Helan, Helen, Julie,
Mary, Pat, Rachel and Sue.*

Lighthouse Home Group

We meet on a Thursday evening every 2 weeks. We have tried to meet in person for most of the year for fellowship and on there is average 6 of us. As we meet our friendships have become deeper as we study, share and pray together. One of the things we have done this year is the 'Pastoral Principles for living and learning well together', This was a discussion based study and we spoke openly regarding different and often difficult topics. The group also still have socials. New members are always welcome! New members are always welcome!

Bethany Jones

The Loft Group

During this year, I was involved in starting a home group that was aimed at those who weren't in a home group already, and wanted something that wasn't too theological, and was a bit shorter than a home group would normally be. We have also had a lot of social events such as theatre trips and meals out.

The group has grown into a lovely group of 6 of us of various ages, who enjoy the fellowship as much as the bible study. We pray for each other and have a chance to update each other on how things are going.

We started off studying some of Paul's letters and ended the year studying the Gospel of Mark which we have all really enjoyed.

We are actively looking for a few more people to join the group.

Gareth Davies

St. Peter's ABC Group

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

	£	£
Income		
Donations	3,415.75	
		<u>3,415.75</u>
Expenditure		
Refreshments	677.42	
Crafts / Equipment	584.38	
Christmas Party	693.47	
Donation to St Peter's P.C.C.	500.00	
Donation to St Peter's P.C.C. for Support Worker	500.00	
Donation to Operation Christmas Child	<u>200.0</u>	
		<u>3155.27</u>
Net Income for the year		260.48
Balance b/f 1 January 2022		158.93
Balance c/f 31 December 2022		419.41
Bank Balance as at 31 December 2022		606.38
Less unrepresented cheque		<u>(186.97)</u>
Total		<u>419.41</u>

Independent examiner's report to Elworth P.C.C.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 26 to 34, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b) to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Chartered Accountant

Receipts & Payments by Report Group

Expenditure	Restricted			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Voluntary Donations	131,902	3,416	-	135,317	96,045
Church activities	15,818	-	-	15,818	9,738
Trading Activities	26,306	17,464	-	43,769	36,297
Investments	2,993	-	-	2,993	129
Other income	39	-	-	39	16,843
Total Income	177,056	20,879	-	197,936	159,051
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds: Church activities	211	-	-	211	
Fundraising costs	109	-	-	109	92
SubTotal: Raising funds	321	-	-	321	92
Charitable activities: Giving	224	10,580	20	10,823	829
Diocese	69,667	-	-	69,667	68,132
Ministry	53,245	-	-	53,245	27,714
Administration	29,114	-	-	29,114	19,942
Mission & Evangelism	5,693	3,155	-	8,848	4,480
Mission & Evangelism0	582	-	-	582	-
Church & Churchyard	8,013	-	-	8,013	11,683
Trading costs	-	35,688	-	35,688	39,499
Church Hall	20,706	-	-	20,706	40,409
Hall decorating	1,030	-	-	1,030	-
SubTotal: Expenditure on charitable activities	188,273	49,423	20	237,716	212,689
Total Expenditure	188,594	49,423	20	238,036	212,781
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(11,537)	(28,544)	(20)	(40,101)	(53,730)

Balance Sheet

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
	£	£
Current assets		
Bank current account	5,411	10,767
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	230,166	242,673
Out of School Club Account		22,811
ABC Bank Account	419	159
Fairtrade Bank Account	682	728
Accounts Receivable	917	917
Total Current Assets	237,596	278,055
Liabilities		
Agency collections	386	-
Accounts Payable	40	447
DBFCreditor	60	398
CEC Loan	107,541	107,541
Total Liabilities	108,027	108386
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	129,569	169,670
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit)	(40,101)	*
Starting Balances	169,670	169,670
Total Reserves	129,569	169670

* Due to changing of accounting system no figure is available.

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	109,676	116,581
Designated	1,101	34,278
Restricted	14,849	14,868
Endowment	1,943	3,943
Total	129,569	169,670

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
behalf by

2023 and signed on its

The Revd David Page (P.C.C. Chairman)

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St.Peter's Church Elworth to hold unrestricted cash in reserve for three months operating costs including salaries and parish share, anticipated building & equipment works, principally for replacing the church heating system, for funding employment costs of the Assistant Minister for 2022 and 2023. It will also hold restricted cash reserves for the Benevolent, Outward Giving, Church Hall Development and Endowment funds. At 31st December 2022, the amounts held in reserve are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	Item	Total
Operating Costs	£59,500	
CEC Loan repayment 2016 – 2023 inc	£44,800	
Building Work & Equipment reserves	£54,937	
Assistant Minister provision 2023-24	<u>£45,000</u>	£204,237
 Restricted Reserves		
Church Hall Development	£12,022	
Outward Giving	£11,080	
Benevolent	£2,226	
Music Donation	<u>£600</u>	£25,448
Endowment Funds	£3,943	£3,943
Total Reserves		<u>£234,108</u>

- The cash reserves in the deposit account meet the Reserves requirement.
- The PCC will continue to hold additional funds within the Out of School Club, Fairtrade and ABC accounts. This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment Funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investments of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (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 each 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.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received for the year 2021-22. For tax year 2022-23 tax refunds will be recognised on receipt. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

The freehold land and buildings now comprise of the Church Hall, toolstore/garage, railings, car park gates and refurbished footpath. Church and Hall equipment comprises of the Church AV system, new lights, a piano keyboard, a ride-on mower and other gardening equipment. In the Church Hall, the security system, interim PA, tables, chairs, defibrillator, acoustic panels, artificial turf, AV system, foyer furniture, replacement corridor lighting and dishwasher, a camera system in the Hall and Church with a cabled link between the two and Wi-Fi in the Church.

Analysis of income and expenditure
1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Income	Restricted			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations					
Gift Aid: Bank	62,219	-	-	62,219	51,154
Envelopes	6,147	-	-	6,147	9,430
Other planned giving	24,254	-	-	24,254	26,006
Loose plate collections	3,210	-	-	3,210	1,091
QR code/Electronic	903	-	-	903	-
One off Gift Aid gifts	10,100	-	-	10,100	-
Donations sundry	3,960	-	-	3,960	2,632
ABC donations	-	3,416	-	3,145	769
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	19,709	-	-	19,709	4,130
Recurring grants	390	-	-	390	831
Non-recurring one off grants	<u>1,006</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>-</u>
Subtotals	131,901	3,416	-	135,317	96,044
Income from charitable activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,716	-	-	5,716	5,348
Chaplaincy Elworth C of E School	5,796	-	-	5,796	3,602
Photocopying recharges	486	-	-	486	401
Heat & Light	1,335	-	-	1,335	368
Coffee Money	485	-	-	485	18
Outreach Catering Donations	<u>1,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,999</u>	<u>-</u>
Subtotals	15,818	-	-	15,818	9,738
Other trading activities					
Church hall lettings - fund raising	23,598	-	-	23,598	17,046
Out of School Club Fees	-	16,051	-	16,051	15,592
E.ON FIT Receipts	2,708	-	-	2,708	2,977
FairTrade Sales	<u>-</u>	<u>1,412</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,412</u>	<u>682</u>
Subtotals	26,306	17,464	-	43,769	36,297
Investments					
Bank and Building Society interest	2,993	-	-	2,993	129
Other income					
Easy Fundraising / Amazon Smile	39	-	-	39	71
HMRC Job retention Scheme	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,722</u>
Grand Total	177,056	20,879	-	197,936	159,051

Expenditure	Restricted			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations					
Costs of fetes & other events	211	-	-	211	-
Envelope Scheme	109	-	-	109	92
Subtotals	321	-	-	321	92
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Outward Giving	-	10,580	-	10,580	-
Benevolent Donations	-	-	20	20	829
Other Donations	224	-	-	224	-
Ministry parish share etc	69,667	-	-	69,667	68,132
Assistant staff costs	20,636	-	-	20,636	6,775
Assistant Minister Housing	9,540	-	-	9,540	3,975
Assistant Minister Expenses	2,019	-	-	2,019	63
Curate's expenses	181	-	-	181	187
Family & Child Worker	15,144	-	-	15,144	13,066
Youth Worker	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Administration staff salaries	12,104	-	-	12,104	8,709
Payroll Administration	714	-	-	714	959
HMRC PAYE	7,092	-	-	7,092	3,403
Pension Fund	4,284	-	-	4,284	2,029
Working expenses of incumbent	617	-	-	617	609
Vicarage Council tax	2,470	-	-	2,470	2,396
Vicarage Water	638	-	-	638	643
Training and Courses	94	-	-	94	-
Study Materials & Books	440	-	-	440	103
Messy Church	1,002	-	-	1,002	682
Holiday Club	676	-	-	676	285
Youth	1,625	-	-	1,625	369
Junior Church	435	-	-	435	175
ABC & Baby Group	-	3,155	-	3,155	853
Nexus	-	-	-	-	2,013
Outreach Catering costs	1,421	-	-	1,421	-
Illuminate and Extra Services	582	-	-	582	-
Church running - insurance	2,294	-	-	2,294	4,269
Church office - telephone	580	-	-	580	598
Music expenses	1,726	-	-	1,726	256
Church maintenance	641	-	-	641	1,775
Services expenses (non-music)	105	-	-	105	1,347
Upkeep of churchyard	728	-	-	728	712
Photocopying & Printing	2,639	-	-	2,639	1,897
Stationery	403	-	-	403	189

(Contd.)

Expenditure (contd.)	Designated			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted			
	£	£	£	£	£
Publicity	110	-	-	110	-
General Expenses	1,188	-	-	1,188	2,157
Church running - electric	1,272	-	-	1,272	540
Church running - gas	1,247	-	-	1,247	538
Depreciation Church & Churchyard	-	-	-	-	1,246
Out of School Club Staff costs	-	32,704	-	32,704	36,658
Out of School Club other expenses	-	1,526	-	1,526	2,017
FairTrade Cost of Sales	-	1,458	-	1,458	823
Hall running - electricity	4,098	-	-	4,098	2,941
Hall running - gas	3,037	-	-	3,037	1,515
Hall running - insurance	2,294	-	-	2,294	2,880
Hall running - maintenance	3,592	-	-	3,592	2,537
Cleaning Staff	4,112	-	-	4,112	4,162
Sanitary services and cleaning	1,198	-	-	1,198	624
Hall running - water	724	-	-	724	398
Hall miscellaneous	1,651	-	-	1,651	-
Depreciation Hall, Fixtures & Equipment	-	-	-	-	25,351
Hall, interior and exterior decorating	1,030	-	-	1,030	-
Subtotals	188,273	49,423	20	237,716	212,689
Expenditure Grand totals	188,594	49,423	20	238,036	212,781

Accounts

St Peter's Church Elworth

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Incumbent:
Revd David Page
The Vicarage
2, Taxmere Close,
Sandbach

Registered Charity No. 1130803

Contents

2.	The P.C.C.		
3.	Vicar's Report		
4.	Church Wardens' Report		
5.	Treasurer's Report		
6.	P.C.C. Report	The Church Office	
7.	The Foyer	Welcome team	Church Attendance

Church Organisations

8.	Lego	Junior Church	Crèche
9	Baby Group	Lego Church	
10.	Xplore	Xplore+	
11.	Out of School Club		
12.	ABC	All Age Team	
13.	Elworth C of E School	Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E	
14	Youth Church	Curate's Report	
15.	Mission Support Group	Church Choir	
16.	Joseph	Slavic Gospel Association	
17.	Church Prayer Life	Worship Group	
18.	Shoe Box Appeal	Fair Trade	
19.	Messy Church	Speak	
20.	Churchyard	Sewing Machine Group	Book Club

Home Groups

21.	Monday House Group	Kairos
22.	Monday Small Group	Koinonia
23.	Fuyin	Philia
24.	Lighthouse	Middlewich Road Group

Accounts

25.	Examiner's Statement	
26.	Statement of Financial Activities	
27.	Balance Sheet	
28.	Reserves Policy	Notes to Financial Statement
36.	ABC accounts	

The Parochial Church Council

The members of the Parochial Church Council are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Rev David Page

Assistant Minister: Mr Gareth Davies *(from September 2021)*

Curate: Rev Anthony Rigby

Church wardens:

Mr Stephen Parfitt *(Assistant Chairman)*

Mr Paul Savvides *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Helen Jones *(Assistant Warden)*

Mrs Helen Coppenhall *(from June 2021)*

Treasurer: Mr Mark Barker

Secretary: Ms Jen Paddison *(to June 2021)*

Mr John Cargill *(from June 2021)*

Elected Members:

Mrs Miriam Astley

Mrs Fiona Cooper

Mr Stash Podhorodecki

Dr Ruth Pollard

Mrs Heather Savvides *(from June 2021)*

Ex-officio:

Mr Bill Chapman *(Parish Evangelist and Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Kath Cliffe *(Diocesan Synod Representative)*

Mr Steve Thorley *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Mrs Michelle Walker *(Pastoral Worker)*

By Office: Pastoral Workers, Lay Readers and Parish Evangelists are entitled to serve on the P.C.C.

Vicar's Report

At the end of last year's report, I quoted the often-repeated phrase from the Bible, "Do not be afraid, I am with you" (Isaiah 43 : 5 for example) and urged us to take it to heart during 2021. I have had to do this on many occasions during, what felt to me, an even more challenging year than 2020.

As I reflect at the end of year on why I feel this way, my overriding emotion is that of being left unsupported by those who should be demonstrating leadership in our country and the National Church. On many occasions over the last 12 months, as we have dealt with a myriad of issues including COVID-19 and reaching Carbon Zero by 2030, I have felt a lack of guidance and have been left feeling isolated and thinking what should we be doing? However, praise be to God that He never deserts us: His word is clear and His Holy Spirit, working through the church, is always present. I am especially thankful to the sacrificial giving of so many who have taken on roles in our church throughout the year.

Many people have worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the church, but without the commitment of Paul and Steve (our Church Wardens), Mark (our Treasurer), Anthony (our self-supporting Curate), Cathryn (our Children and Families Worker) and, in the last few months, Gareth our Assistant Minister, I am not sure how we would have coped.

We have achieved much over the last year as we have kept the proclamation of the Gospel with truth and love at the heart of all that we do. The mixed economy of on-line and in-person events has meant that we have kept contact with our worshipping communities. The Pastoral Care Co-ordinators have done a sterling job in keeping people connected to the wider life of the church. Our website Co-ordinator, Stash, has also been pivotal in the work we have done this year.

The national challenges that we faced in 2021 do not look as if they will pass quickly and, as a local Church of England Church, we have many issues to address in 2022.

On the national scale, as a church, issues of safeguarding and the directive to engage with the "Living in Love and Faith" debate will be challenging and will require prayerful, patient, positive engagement. There are also more local challenges for us as this report will highlight on finances, a replacement church heating system as well as other key issues. However, the Bible and history teaches us that it is often at the most challenging times that God is able to act boldly, when His people remain faithful and trust in Him. This truth should spur us all on as we commit all that we are and all that we have to the work of St Peter's in the coming year because it is easy to become passive and disengaged when the world seems to turn against us.

Finally, I think from the tone of this report, you can see how personally challenging I have found the last year and I would especially like to thank my family for all their support, and the church family for their prayerful and practical support across the year.

May we truly, intentionally and with all our resources, commit in 2022 to making the words that we declare in the Lord's Prayer, "Lord, Your will be done", true in our lives.

David Page

Church Wardens' Report

2021 started with services remaining online and 'coffee time' via Zoom. A highlight in January was the live-streaming performance of Joseph the musical – see the separate report.

In Q1, new cameras allowed certain services, particularly funerals and even a wedding, to be live-streamed. With numbers in church being limited, there was much demand for this new facility.

In Q2, the Dangerous Faith sermon series saw church members exploring the plight of Christians experiencing hostility around the world. St Peter's signed up to 'Hong Kong Ready Churches' (UKHK), an initiative to welcome BN(O) visa holders from that city. To date, two families have been in contact with us, one of which arrived in July.

In Q3, following a change of regime in that country, church members welcomed Afghan families who are likewise relocating to this country. These acts of friendship are in addition to the many kindnesses that our congregation showed to their friends and neighbours throughout the pandemic.

A huge blessing in September was the start of our new Assistant Minister. Gareth has already made a big impact and the church has warmly welcomed him and his wife, Becky, to the parish.

Special mention should be made for a core team who have continued to keep the churchyard neat and tidy through the pandemic. This year we have been requesting our wider church members to support the seasonal maintenance work and the response has been very pleasing – thank you to all who have contributed.

Although Covid omicron did curtail some activities, this year's Christmas services were able to take place in safety and, once again, the carol service was held outdoors facing London Road and was extremely well attended.

As Covid restrictions are lifted, we can now deal with the church heating system. Several companies have presented proposals including some for heat pumps. We will select an affordable system that fits our needs and is carbon neutral. With the rising price of energy affecting us all, the church energy bill will be significantly higher in 2022. A special thanks is due to John and Mark for their vigilance on energy.

Steve and Paul would like to thank all who have helped to support the work of St Peter's through another difficult year, but we remember the encouragement from James: *'whenever we face trials of many kinds, we know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance. .'* James 1:2-3

Paul Savvides and Stephen Parfitt

Treasurer's Report

2021 proved to be a difficult year financially as well as in many other aspects, and the PCC recorded a deficit of £54.5k compared to a deficit of £12.5k in 2020.

Income, at £155.4k was down by £35k. Planned Giving at £86.6k was just £2k off last year. Donations at £2.6k were down by £7k and Grants down by £2k. Gift Aid was down by £16k, (see below). Hall lets at £17k were **up** by £3.3k and PCC Fees at £5.3k were also **up** by £0.6k. There was no income from other Churches compared to the £2.6k last year. Out of School Club fees at £15.5k were almost £6k down. 'Other' income was down by £11k, with no bank switch incentive (£4k in 2020) or transfers from OOSC or ABC (£8.2k in 2020). Job Retention Scheme payments to PCC and OOSC were £16.7k, **up** by £3k from last year.

Expenditure, at £210k was up by almost £7k on last year. This is primarily due to increased staff costs with the Assistant Minister and additional admin staffing accounting for a £9.3k increase, pension & HMRC payments by £3.3k and rent by £4k. Hall and Church repairs and maintenance were both up by around £1k each, reflecting a rise from the very low costs of 2020. Mission & Evangelism at £4.3k was slightly up. This included payments of £829 from the Benevolent Fund. OOSC costs were down by £3.5k.

We are changing our accounting procedures from January 2022 which means recognising income and expenses as they occur instead of phasing them over the period to which they relate using 'accruals' and 'prepayments'. This has required a one-time adjustment in the 2021 accounts of -£5.5k caused by: Gift aid income not recognised until it is received -£11.4k, Outward Giving not recognised until donations are made +£10.6k, Expenses fully charged out in 2021 -£4.7k.

It should be noted that cash at bank and on deposit at 31st December 2021 at £278k was £21k down on a year ago. Tangible assets have been reduced by Depreciation charges of £26k. In future such assets will simply be recorded as a list.

However, there will be further pressure on our reserves in 2022 as staff costs incur full year values, and we embark on a heating scheme for the Church. Resolving the church hall 'loan' repayments to Cheshire East Council would release almost £40k. New income streams will be needed.

Finally, I would like to thank Michelle and Allan for banking, which has required more work as we have adapted to new banking arrangements, John as Assistant Treasurer for looking after the utilities which has been no small job this year, Jim for managing the Envelope Scheme and the Gift Aid claim to HMRC and Carolyn for her support at home.

Mark Barker

PCC Report

For a second year, the PCC adapted to the pandemic by meeting exclusively online; what started as an experimental short-term response, has now become the norm, and this way of virtual working has become an established routine which has helped us to continue the work of the church without pause or interruption.

The year's APCM was held by Zoom on the 12th of May 2021 with 40 church members in attendance. The meeting unanimously approved the re-appointment of the church wardens, Stephen Parfitt and Paul Savvides. Helen Jones also continued as assistant churchwarden.

The meeting also unanimously approved the nomination of Bill Chapman to membership of the Deanery Synod.

The electoral role of the church was confirmed as 129 by Allan Walker, the Electoral Role Officer, this being 4 names down on the previous year.

Allan Walker and Steve Valentine agreed to continue for this year in their roles of Electoral Role Officer and Independent Examiner respectively. Jen Paddison stepped down as secretary to the PCC to be replaced by John Cargill.

David thanked the various officers and PCC members for their enthusiastic support and hard work over the course of a particularly challenging year. There are some places available on the PCC and it would be wonderful if church members could devote some additional time to support St Peter's in this way.

John Cargill

The Church Office

For the first few months of 2021, Church Office activity continued in much the same way as 2020, supporting the clergy, staff and church family in a hybrid format from home and physically in the Church Hall itself, hopefully continuing to be 'the Hub' for church communication and to deal with day to day enquiries.

Kate Page continued to work a reduced number of hours until July when Lucy Kelly joined her and Office opening hours returned to 9.00am – 2.00pm each day. Lucy works Monday and Tuesday, with Kate covering the other three days. A new computer was installed in July which has made our tasks much easier. Many thanks to Steve Parfitt for organizing and installing it.

As we continue to experience the effects of the Pandemic some of the work has changed and, from September, the church hall started to be used by outside groups once more. From September, the Church Office took over church hall bookings. We are grateful to Michelle for all her work on bookings over the last ten years and for her patience with us as we get to grips with it all!

We thank everyone for their patience, understanding and support during another challenging year.

Lucy Kelly and Kate Page

The Foyer

The Foyer provides a wonderful space within the Church Hall a place where we can all take the opportunity to meet with others.

There is also the opportunity to browse through or order from the Fairtrade catalogue and several Christian publications are available.

The Foyer is open as the 'Foyer Café' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (including the Baby Library) and Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 11.30 am for the use of the wider local community, and for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together perhaps with a friend, neighbour or with your small / home group.

This coming year may provide more opportunities to use the Foyer Café / space as we look forward to being able to reconnect with one another.

Michelle Walker

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team, along with the sides-people, may be the first contact for those who come into Church, may that be to a newcomer or those who attend regularly.

We are currently a small team and would 'welcome' any who feel called to this particular Ministry,

We are usually just inside or at the Church Porch for Sunday Services and at the front door or in the Foyer when services are held in the Church Hall.

We have been able to be present this year mainly at the 10.30am Service and at the arranged Outdoor Services.

How we Welcome is much more than Sunday. We provide a welcome in many areas, our personal and pastoral contacts, the Office Team providing a welcome to Church Hall users and the Church grounds team to those visiting the churchyard. Also by outreach with the distribution of Nexus, Publicity and Communication be it a Poster, our website or Facebook.

Pray for all who welcome in these ministries, and recognise how we are all to be welcomers and welcoming.

Michelle Walker

Church Attendance

Since the size of the congregation in church is so limited the figures for this year do not bear any significance at all. So they are not recorded.

Jim Watson

Church Organisations

Lego

We were pleased to be able to recommence Lego in September 2021. We have a steady group of around 4 to 6 children and they are settling in well to the regular session that is in the meeting room within the church hall. The session usually consists of a story, craft activities, prayer, a little snack and time to play. We often follow the same theme as that in church but occasionally a stand-alone session may be more appropriate. Lego is available to any child aged 3 to 6 years of age whether they attend on a regular basis or come along to a baptism service or any special occasion.

For any further information please contact the church office.

Written on behalf of Lucy, Kate, Tracy, Karen and Denise.

St Peter's Junior Church – Adventurers (Age 6 – 11)

Following over a year of being unable to meet up with the children, Adventurers resumed on 5th September 2021. At the end of the summer, “goody bags” were dropped off at the children’s homes as a welcome back for the children – together with photos and information about the leaders so they could see familiar faces. This year we have said goodbye to Fiona who has helped with Adventurers for 20+ years – we thank her for her enthusiasm and invaluable support and have welcomed Mary to our small team. We have covered parables such as The Good Samaritan and The Lost Sheep and have had around 5/6 children in attendance.

*Cherie,
on behalf of Fiona, Mary, Martin and Paul*

Crèche

Crèche is a provision offered to parents/carers with babies and toddlers up to the age of two years who attend the 10:30 am morning service at St. Peter’s. It takes place in the church hall and offers age appropriate play using a range of toys and books. We have a small group of people who support the delivery of crèche and I would like to extend an invitation for more people to join this team. A small number of babies and toddlers attend. If you would like more information about volunteering please contact children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Baby Group

St. Peter's Baby Group was set up in February 2016 in response to the growing number of parents/carers in the local community with babies under the age of 12 months. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and during half terms, and this year, during the summer holidays. We meet in the church hall.

A range of soft play toys is provided and refreshments are offered to the parents/carers who attend. This format provides a great opportunity for new parents/carers to connect with each other and to form lasting friendships. Christian hospitality is a real driver for those serving at Baby Group.

The year started with the group meeting virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions but from March, a small group met initially outside and then within the church hall. At that time, a booking system was in place. From September, the group was fully opened once again and currently there are between twenty and twenty five parents/carers attending on a regular basis with their little ones.

The group is currently served by Cathryn Houghton, Gareth Davies and one of the grandparents, Lynn Fairhurst. The serving role for this group involves making refreshments, serving hot toast and making everyone as welcome as possible. Based on the gradual increase of numbers attending this group, and due to the increase of new housing in the area, I would envisage numbers attending to continue to rise during 2022.

Cathryn Houghton

Lego Church

Lego Church was initially trialled at the end of 2019 with a couple of sessions before the Christmas period. The sessions ran once/month on a Wednesday in the church hall from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and were open to primary aged children attended by a parent/carer. Due to Covid-19 restrictions during 2020 Lego Church became a virtual club available monthly. During this time lots of family engaged with our Lego builds which were uploaded to St. Peter's Church Website.

Since September 2021 Lego Church has once again been able to meet face to face with three sessions taking place in the Autumn. Unfortunately due to rising Covid-19 cases in December 2021, a virtual Lego Christmas was filmed and uploaded to the church you tube channel with links on the website.

The first half hour of Lego Church involves free building with Lego. After that there are refreshments and then a Lego bible story, a song and a prayer. The children are given a challenge to build something from the story which they have just heard. Since September 2021 we have seen attendance grow rapidly. At the last face to face session in November 2021 in excess of thirty children and their parents/carers attended. It is clear that Lego Church is becoming a firmly established worship event in the lives of our local families.

My thanks go out to Stephen Parker-Aiken and Gareth Davies for their support with Lego Church.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore

Xplore is a children's club for primary aged children which meets each Friday evening during term time from 6:30pm – 7:45pm in the church hall. The club was set up in April 2013 and is now nearly nine years old. Each week the children take part in a range of activities based around a bible theme. This includes a bible story, a time of worship and sharing of news plus crafts, games and a time of prayer. Simple refreshments are also provided.

Xplore has a regular attendance of between 20 and 30 children, the majority of whom do not attend church. It is a real privilege to be able to forge positive relationships with local families and to engage them in other church related events such as Messy Church, Schools Projects and Church Holiday Clubs.

Earlier in the year during the Covid-19 restrictions, every endeavour was made to keep in touch with our Xplore families. This included invitations to our half termly virtual holiday clubs where up to fifty children joined us for games, challenges, songs and stories. Craft packs were delivered to members' homes prior to the club week so that those children taking part could have the necessary materials needed to complete the craft tasks set during the clubs.

Contact was been maintained with our Xplore families via regular email updates, phone calls and more recently via our Facebook page.

Xplore can only happen because of a very committed team of three adult helpers who come along each Friday and serve the Lord in this very important outreach to the children in the local community. We do need at least one more adult helper going forward.

If you feel that you can help at Xplore please email Cathryn Houghton on children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore+

Xplore+ is a group for young people of Year 6 and above which meets in the church hall on a Friday evening from 7:30pm – 9:00pm in term time. The group was set up in 2014 to provide fun activities and a short Christian based discussion for those young people who were moving on from the Xplore group age range. Each term we take the group out on a social evening and in October 2021 we visited Laser Quest in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This trip was well attended with twenty one young people taking part, supervised by our team of helpers. Around twenty young people regularly attend the group.

Earlier in the year when Covid-19 restrictions were in place, Xplore+ met virtually for quizzes, games, crafts and challenges. Seven young people attended every week throughout this period. As restrictions eased, we were able to meet on the Crocus Lawn outside the church for socially distanced games, hot chocolate and short discussions.

From September 2021 Xplore+ has been meeting face to face once again. We have benefitted greatly from the addition of Gareth Davies, our new Assistant Minister to the team. Going forward Gareth will be responsible for the planning and delivery of the group. He has already made a huge impact to our weekly sessions. Gareth has brought with him a wealth of experience which he has already demonstrated in the planning and delivery of the sessions with our young people.

The Xplore+ year ended with our annual Christmas Party which was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Xplore+ can only happen because of a group of committed voluntary helpers. We are seeking more adult help and if you feel that you could support the work of Xplore+ please contact either Cathryn or Gareth on: children-family@stpeters-elworth.org.uk or gareth@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Cathryn Houghton

Out of School Club

The Out of School Club has now been in operation for over 19 years and continues to offer afterschool care for children from Elworth Hall, Elworth Church of England School and Wheelock Schools. We also offer breakfast club for Elworth Church of England School and Wheelock from the time of 7.15 to 9 am every weekday morning.

We have an average fifteen children a day registered in afterschool club and an average of eight children registered in the morning. We also have ten extra places for occasional use by children for morning and afternoon. We still have plenty of availability, but we have been limited with numbers due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We have again been closed from January to March 2021 and are now slowly picking numbers up again and hopefully by September 2022 numbers will be back up to pre-covid.

The club offers a full range of fun activities and games. Painting, film days, working with clay, construction, cooking, and storytelling. We have a gardening club with a small garden, also a bird club and we very much promote recycling. We encourage the children to bring their own ideas to us on all these subjects.

We will arrange visits from Rev Page, the outreach worker, Red Cross and Police when available. We welcome anyone with a skill to come and share this with the children when COVID-19 is safe to do so again.

The Staff this year have attended the regular courses that are required. These have been online and we are all fully COVID-19 safe and following all the Government and Cheshire East guidance. I would like to thank all the staff for their demanding work and support in an exceedingly difficult year, and the church for all their support in these very hard times.

Nicola Broomhead

ABC

St. Peter's ABC is a Parent/Carer Toddler Group which meets on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am – 11:30 am term time in the church hall. Between thirty five and sixty children and their parents/carers are normally welcomed through the doors each week. This very important outreach provides an opportunity for the children to experience different types of play opportunities including role play, dressing up, small world play and there is always a craft activity available for the children to complete with their parent/carer. It also provides an opportunity for the adults to catch up over coffee. A healthy snack is provided for the children and hot toast is available for the parents/carers to purchase at a small cost. Each session is concluded with a singing time when nursery rhymes are chosen by the children and the singing of these is coordinated by a mum volunteer helper.

A team of regular helpers come along each week to set up the hall with toys and a craft and our refreshments team works hard to provide refreshments from the hatch. ABC can only happen because members of the church family are willing to give up their own time to help out with this very important work.

Earlier in the year ABC could not meet face to face due to the Covid-19 restrictions but from September 2021 we have been fully open once again and the group has been very well attended. The ABC year ended with our annual Christmas Party which was attended by fifty one children and their parents/carers. We were entertained by Nick Barnes, a well known local magician. The children were given a Christmas gift and a party tea and parents/carers were served seasonal fayre.

Cathryn Houghton

All Age Team

As with many activities throughout 2021, the All Age team was not able to plan services until the latter part of the year, which began with Harvest in September. As the team welcomed Gareth, it was good to consider different parts of the service, so that hopefully there was something for all ages to reflect upon. Although each service has the same component parts, the focus is always on God's word and how that can be brought to life.

As a team we feel privileged to lead these services and we recognise that we have a responsibility to continue to try to keep the services fresh and relevant for all ages. We pray that God will continue to lead us in this ministry in 2022 and thank Him for his guidance throughout the past year.

*Rebecca Douglas, Gareth Davies, Nicola Hathaway, Jenny Drain,
Paul Savvides, Denise Shone, David Page, Helen Jones*

Elworth Church of England Primary School

Once again I have to report on a very difficult year for the staff and children of Elworth C of E, but thank our Lord Jesus Christ that we have such a dedicated team within the school.

I have been fortunate to visit the school, not as often due to restrictions, Governor meetings have been a mixture of online and in person. During the in person meetings I was able to look around the school and see for myself the Christian distinctiveness of the school, being able to speak to staff and get from them just how the children and staff understand Christian values of the school.

The school is blessed to have a school chaplain. I know of only one other at a Secondary school in the region. Her input is so valuable and I am sure you will read about this in another report.

I can confirm with you that the schools RE policies are upto date and that collective worship takes place every day as a whole school in the main hall and also in class. These are lead by the HT, Rev. Page, Chaplain or class teacher

The school is due a SIAMS visit within the next 2 years. It is in a very strong position as Christian values, teachings and understanding by both staff and pupils is very high.

I would ask all who read this report to support the school with your prayers and to understand just how difficult school life is during this pandemic.

Stephen Parker-Aiken, Foundation Governor

Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E

Since September 2020 I have had the privilege of serving Elworth CofE School as it's School Chaplain. This extension to my normal Children and Families Outreach Work has been introduced to extend and hopefully enrich the outreach work of the church within the local school community.

The role involves a thirteen hour commitment to the school and includes a range of outreach activities. These include: Collective Worship with the school community, smaller group worship activities, coordination of charity events between school and church; one to one work with those in need of spiritual encouragement and support; leading the children of the Worship Council, Worship Warriors, to coordinate their active input into the development of Christian based activities around school and opportunities to walk alongside staff, parents and children and to offer pastoral support where appropriate. The role also includes regular worship planning sessions including input to the termly Prayer Spaces Days.

Cathryn Houghton

Youth Church

Youth Church restarted in September, meeting during the 10.30am Service. We comprise of a leadership team of five, with Gareth Davies and Nicola Hathaway joining our team over the past six months, which has been a real blessing.

On a Sundays we have up to six young people who attend. Due to COVID-19, we have had to adapt our sessions, but have continued to have fun and play (socially distanced) games, whilst learning more about our faith and each other. Our young people have blossomed over the last term, and have really enjoyed returning to Youth Church. We are looking forward to finding out what the next term brings.

Ruth Dave

Curate's Report

My first six months as the curate here at St. Peters despite COVID and all its restrictions has been filled with joy. Unlike many of my fellow curates throughout the diocese I have not needed to spend time in getting to know new faces and forming new friendships within a new church and we as a family didn't have to uproot and move into a draughty church house. This is one of the good things in doing your curacy in the church you have worshipped in and still worship in. Though there are also difficulties associated with this approach especially when you are also a 'Self-Supporting Minister' (SSM) having a fulltime job outside the church. The transformation into deacon and curate becomes more subtle as the only change people often see is the strange new shirt and clerical collar worn, to which thankfully there are now some quite trendy and interesting options.

One of the most significant parts of my curacy has been my ordination to the priesthood. This would not have been possible without the help and support of my family and David Page. The day in Chester cathedral was absolutely special from beginning to end, unfortunately numbers were again restricted due to the COVID pandemic, but thanks to technology the ordination was live streamed across the globe. Thankfully God isn't limited by COVID, and The Holy Spirit filled the space and allowed for grace to abound.

This year I have also had the opportunity to initiate with David a weekly staff meeting and prayer time. This has become a time of focus and quiet each Monday morning where we can reflect and give thanks for the previous week and plan mission and ministry for the oncoming week.

Over the last 12 months it has been great to work as part of a ministry team and being involved with baptism and wedding preparation and funeral planning. Many thanks to all and especially Lucy and Kate for keeping us administratively in order and on task.

St. Peters is a place of many blessings for me and many and I am encouraged by the thought of continuing my curacy amongst you all and our community.

Anthony Rigby

Inter-Church Mission Support Group

The Inter-Church Mission Support Group consists of Church Family members who represent and support different charities. The Group determines how our Outward Giving budget is spent – and ideas for this are always welcome. Our policy is to ‘tithe’ St.Peter's voluntary income, with the amount accrued in one year being spent in the next to give some clarity in our budgeting. Each year we are supporting some charities on an ongoing basis to give certainty of funding to them for particular projects. Thus £2,000 was given to Compassion UK's project for pregnant women and babies under a year old in Delmas, Haiti .£1,000 was given to each of Cornerstone Church, Crewe, Lifeline Debt Advice in Sandbach, SYCAM in Chennai, India, Dalit Freedom Network to sponsor the education of Dalit children, Tearfund, and Slavic Gospel Association to sponsor a church and its pastor in Vilengrad Bulgaria. £500 was given to North West Partnership for church planting and evangelism. The rest of our £11,405 budget was shared between Christian Aid (£750), Bible Society, Barnabas Fund (£308 each), Childrens Society, Christian Vision for Men, CMS, WaterAid and Scripture Union, (£307.90 each). Additionally, we co-ordinated donations for SYCAM from Church family members and remitted £2,760 direct to SYCAM as Friends of SYCAM who previously channeled UK donations have ceased operating. Any ideas for sponsorship of worthy charities, particularly those that are Christian based, will always be considered.

Mark Barker

Church Choir

Due to the ongoing disruption caused by the Covid situation, there is not a lot to report on the Choir activities at St. Peter's Church during 2021. However the situation has been slightly better than we experienced in 2020. Our Vicar David, said that the Choir could get together from approximately May/June 2021 to record some traditional hymns with the organ accompaniment, which could then be added to the on line services which were available for the congregation to download during the various periods of lockdown.

This information was passed on to all nine members of the Choir, but due to the on-going fear of the virus, only three of our members were prepared to make themselves available on a regular basis. These were Helen and Steve Coppenhall and myself, together of course with our wonderful Organists, Barry and Karen. It was nice too, to have Karen join us to sing when Barry was able to play the organ, and it was also nice to welcome Paul Savvides to join us on occasions when he was able to do so, to add further volume when needed, and I would like to express my thanks to Karen and Paul for their willingness to assist in this matter.

As we now seem to be getting closer to the end of this virus, I sincerely hope that 2022 will see a return to some form of normality in the near future.

Margaret Taylor

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – January 2021

Following a decision to move Christingle from January 2021 to December 2020, some of us looked at what we might do to fill the void, particularly during what would become one of the bleakest months of the pandemic. The answer was a world premiere of Joseph the musical on Zoom!

Having obtained special permission from the various licensing authorities, St Peter's in association with Church4All and Churches Together in Sandbach were able to 'stage' a feast for the eyes and the ears. Each song was performed by a separate household with costumes produced by an ever active wardrobe department, green screen backdrops and a backing musical track pre-recorded by our very own musicians. There were many stars in the making: who can forget Matthew as Joseph in prison or Simon as Joseph before a very stern Pharaoh (Lynda)? Thanks to the twenty or so households who worked so hard to make the production a success and which drew an estimated audience of over two hundred.

Paul,

on behalf of Judith, Mary, Gayle, Liz, Steve, Helen, Andrew, Helen, Isla, Sophie, Chloe, Hannah, Matthew, Martha, Anthony, Tracy, Cathryn, Bethany, Steve, Ellis, Keira, Chris, Sam, Mary, Helen, Katy, Libby, Martin, Stephanie, Greg, Heather, Bethany, Helen, Nina, Mark, Kath, Pat, Andrea, Ella, Anna, Amber, Emily, Jane, Rebecca, Jenny, David and Kate.

Slavic Gospel Association

St. Peter's has supported the Slavic Gospel Association including Stefan and Mira Zarev during 2021.

Training and support for pastors and leaders has continued with courses carefully planned around Covid outbreaks. Summer camps and church based childrens ministry has been successful in different eastern european countries. Many churches have supported people in their areas in different ways during the Covid pandemic.

We continue supporting Stefan and Mira Zarev and their family at churches in Velingrad and Rakitovo in Bulgaria.

Bill Chapman

Church Prayer Life

There are a number of ways that the church prayer life has been encouraging this year during this time of the Covid pandemic.

More people have joined in the monthly prayer meetings held on Zoom and led by different housegroups each month. Also there has been an increase in the numbers of people joining the Connect network and praying for other members of the church, as well as outside of the church community. Because of the Covid Pandemic there has been a marked increase in the requests for prayer for individuals and families who have been affected or have other needs, and this increased awareness of needs within our community has, I feel, brought people closer together. People have said how supported they have felt by knowing that the church is praying for them, and how helpful they have found this. We also prayed for the new Bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead who were appointed during the year. Most of the housegroups now incorporate a time of joint prayer as part of their Zoom meetings.

When able to, and around covid procedures, the church building has been opened for private prayer on Sunday mornings on the first and third Sundays of each month when there has not been a scheduled service .

Private or group prayer is an essential part of our Christian Life in developing our relationship with God through Jesus.

Norma Chapman

Worship Group

The worship group lead the singing-part of the worship at the 10.30am service. We have experienced a few changes as we have started to meet face-to-face again following the many periods of lockdown over the last year or so. At the time of writing, we are now able to meet in the church hall on a Sunday at 9.30am to practise and pray together, and we are grateful to Anthony, Mitch and Allan for their support in setting up the electrical equipment before we start. We have so appreciated being able to worship together again 'in real life' and one lasting result of our experiences this last year is that we have a renewed sense of privilege and purpose, and do not take for granted the strength that is gained through worshipping our amazing God collectively.

Please pray for us in this year ahead that we will continue to find new sources of worship music and inspiration, that we will again be able to join with Christians from the wider church community to encourage each other and share ideas to 'wake up' the church for this new season. Please pray as always that we will be able to 'make a joyful noise' in Jesus's name as we grow in our love and service of Him. And if you want to join us, as a musician, singer or sound technician, but most of all as a worshipper of Jesus, come and talk to us.

Heather Savvides,

*on behalf of Paul, Miriam, Cathryn, Carolyn, Steve,
Stephanie, Bill, Matthew, Emily, Lynda and Simon.*

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the Covid 19 global pandemic it was once again wonderful to see the response to this year's campaign. We are absolutely thrilled to report that with the 51 shoeboxes collected at Elworth C.E Primary School together with the contributions from St Peter's Church family, Elworth Pre-School and the community of Elworth the total number of shoeboxes collected in 2021 was **125**.

We will not witness the individual impact that our gifts and prayers have but we are reminded that every shoebox makes a difference in the life of a child, their families and their communities. Every shoebox is important. The purpose remains the same - to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through a gift filled shoebox. Through prayer, through the gift of their shoebox and through the opportunity of children participating in a bible study called "The Greatest Journey" the word of God is shared.

It is incredible to learn that in 2020 a total of 265,975 shoeboxes were collected in the UK with an amazing worldwide total of 9,113,853. Individuals, communities, schools and churches worked relentlessly and innovatively to ensure that the shoeboxes were packed and distributed.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Please can I urge you to continue to pray for the young person in receipt of our shoeboxes. Pray they may come to know Jesus as a real friend.

May I take this opportunity to report that in 2020 many of us got notification that their shoeboxes were sent to Central Asia. We are still waiting notification for this year's destination.

If you would like any further information please contact Denise Shone.

Denise Shone

Fair Trade

2021 was another difficult year for everyone and especially Fair Trade. Due to lockdown I didn't have a stall until July, when I had a sale of the remaining items I had in stock. Services started up again outside and in the Church Hall, but I didn't have another sale until the Harvest Service at the end of September, when I restocked with gifts and food items to see how things went. Interest and sales picked up and I started having sales twice a month on the run up to Christmas.

I am hoping that 2022 will be a better year and that I can continue to have sales at the All Age Services once a month. I am open to taking orders in between and will increase frequency again on the run up to Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this difficult year.

Carolyn Barker

Messy Church

Under normal circumstances, St. Peter's Messy Church would take place twice each term in the church hall. It would usually be held on a Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ethos of Messy Church is to provide a relaxed craft and activities based approach to bible themes for the whole family. There is always a time of worship and celebration followed by a hot meal for everyone. For many people Messy Church is the only contact they have with church and so it is vital that the gospel message is presented in a clear and vibrant way.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions earlier in the year St. Peter's Messy Church sessions took the form of Messy Church uploads on our church website or Messy Church in a Bag, which proved very successful with bags being delivered to households or collected from the church hall. Also some Messy Church sessions took place at Elworth CE School with Messy Easter and Messy Pentecost being enjoyed by KS2 classes.

From September 2021 we have been able to hold one face to face Messy Harvest session. This was well attended with around one hundred attendees. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 cases rising during December, Messy Christmas had to be cancelled. However, forty craft packs were made available to our Messy Church families, the majority of which were collected and enjoyed.

At the time of writing, it is hoped that we can resume face to face Messy Church sessions in the new year.

A team of ten helpers serve the Lord Jesus at Messy Church. This is a really important outreach to our local community.

Cathryn Houghton

Speak

What a strange year! We have still been producing Speak, which is our bimonthly church magazine and is distributed online, as often as possible.

The magazine is for the church family. Please email office@stpeters-elworth.org.uk to add your name and email to the distribution list.

Do you read Speak? Please let me know what you think. As ever the magazine needs new material and someone to help put the magazine together so contact editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk. I would be more than happy to chat with you.

Bethany Jones

Churchyard

This year has been rather a challenge again due to the continuing restrictions in place regarding social distancing. All the machines have been serviced and repaired as necessary. Several more grave sites have been restored and grave headstones straightened and secured. During the course of this season we gained four new and very able volunteers, Heather and Paul Savvides, Howard and Ray.

Unfortunately Jenny Haddon has moved away and we miss her company.

Bill Morrison

Sewing Machine Group

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SEWING MACHINE BACK TOGETHER AT LAST

Sewing together with like minded friends is such a lovely way to spend time. We offer each other, ideas, support, encouragement and occasionally expertise.

We have discussed at length how important it was to us during lockdown to be able to meet online to discuss what projects we were working on, and how being sewers helped to get us through the difficulties of lockdown.

Thankfully we are now meeting again in person, which is wonderful. We like to think we are a friendly, welcoming bunch but the only way to find out will be to come along and join in. Some of us have been sewing for years, whilst others are less experienced.

From quilting to dressmaking to soft furnishings, if it can be done on a sewing machine we will 'have a go' and we are always happy to help beginners to 'have a go' too.

We now meet twice a month, on the second Wednesday in the evening from 7.00 -9.00 and on the last Friday during the day from 10.00 - 2.00 (bring your own lunch). There is a notice on the board in the church hall giving exact dates.

Do pop in and see what we are up to and to maybe find out if you would like to join us.

COME AND MEET US, HAVE A BREW AND A CHAT

Gail Dell

Book Club

It has been a better year for book club this year as we were able to meet in person again. We met outside for most of the year, with the weather being relatively kind to us, then at last we were able to move back to the church hall. We have covered a wide range of fiction books, some modern, some not so. Not every book has been enjoyed by all but that's the challenge, to read something we would not usually pick up and I hope that we have all discovered new authors that we now enjoy.

Do come along and join us. We now meet on a Tuesday at the beginning of the month, at 4.30pm.

Lucy Kelly

Home Groups

Monday House Group

With the pandemic continuing throughout the year, we continued to meet by Zoom and we are all more comfortable with the technology now. We have been meeting typically three times a month to continue providing fellowship, support and prayer for each other which has been so necessary during these troubled times. During the year we have undertaken a variety of studies including the Lausanne Foundation “Creation Care”, Open Doors “Dangerous Faith” about the persecuted Church as well as a number of Bible studies including Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times, Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearances and Psalm 119. Outside our meeting nights, we led the March prayer meeting. We have been a source of fellowship and spiritual support to each other in this difficult year. Anyone who wants to try experiencing a Home Group will be welcome.

Mark Barker

Kairos

The KAIROS group had hoped to return to face-to-face meetings during 2021. Sadly, that was not to be, although in the summer we managed to gather outside for a social evening.

KAIROS led the July Prayer Meeting, taking PSALMS as the theme.

Our studies throughout the year consisted of the following:-

- THE KING’S CHOIR: Singing the Psalms with Jesus (January to March 2021)
- SOUL SONGS: Exploring love, guilt, fear and temptation from the psalms (March to June 2021)
- THE HOLY SPIRIT: Understanding His work in our lives. We began this study in June, but suspended it in the autumn in order to follow the studies corresponding to the CREATION CARE sermons, returning to the study in November.

Christine Saucedo

Monday Small Group

The Monday Small Group (MSG) met throughout 2021, weekly during the lockdown restrictions period up to the summer break, and then fortnightly during the autumn.

To date we have met mostly via Zoom, tuning in at a slightly later hour to allow young children to be put to bed. We make significant use of a dedicated WhatsApp group for mutual support, sharing prayer requests and other information.

Our studies have been quite varied. Early in the year we made use of material prepared by the Bible Project, then enjoyed a detailed 4-week study of the Easter events. During the autumn term we completed the excellent 8 session 'Introduction to the Bible', which has been made available to online groups by Bible Society.

We were really pleased to be able to meet together in person on a warm August evening for a barbecue. It was particularly welcome, as it turned out to be the only time in the whole year that we were all together, with the children, in person.

We always make time in our meetings to pray together, and reserve occasional Monday gatherings for social 'chat time'. If you want to find out more about this group, please contact us through the St Peters church office.

Lynda and Simon Wisbey

Koinonia

Koinonia continued to meet on line via Zoom weekly through the pandemic and then moving to fortnightly in September. In October we welcomed our newest member, Daniel.

Q1 - We started the year using a Spring Harvest resource: Trust, Enduring Hope by Eric Gaudion with sessions drawn from the stories of Joseph in Egypt, Gideon, Peter's reaction to Jesus walking on the water, Paul's shipwrecked voyage to Rome, Hebrews and Romans. These studies provided reassurance and allowed people to reflect on the nature of our trust in our Lord.

Q2 - Dangerous Faith by Open Doors was a series looking at the persecuted church in the world today. The series helped us to appreciate the great sacrifices that many Christians make each day in remaining steadfast in their faith in the face of opposition and great hardship. During this series St Peter's became involved in two outreach initiatives, as described in the Church Warden's report.

Q3 and Q4 - Creation Care by Lausanne Movement and A Rocha was a series exploring how our Christian faith makes us stewards of God's creation. Our timetable took us up to the COP26 Climate Change intergovernmental panel conference in Glasgow which one church member was able to attend and to provide his personal experience of being there. In November, there were two well attended local nature walks, one led by local naturalist and member of A Rocha, Dr George Hill.

*Paul,
on behalf of Daniel, Fiona, Anthony, Stephanie, Simon,
Lynda, Kath, Katherine, Heather and Karen.*

Fuyin

Another unprecedented year when we remained in the grips of the Covid 19 pandemic but despite this, this wonderful group of ladies continued to support each other both spiritually and practically. We are so grateful that our Lord Jesus Christ has bought a group of 11 ladies together who are committed to growing in their Christian faith. On a Wednesday morning between 09.30 – 11.30 ish we worship, pray and study scripture. The continued presence of Covid has meant that in the main we have met in the virtual world via zoom but wherever possible face-to face meetings did take place. We were particularly thankful for the use of Mary and Pat's gardens where we could meet for a brew whilst safely following national guidelines.

Helan helped us start the year sharing a super poem: T.S. Eliot's Journey of the Magi with a reflection by Janet Morley. During the year we used a range of resources to guide our study. We used the Interactive bible study guide titled "Enduring Hope" by Eric Gaudion. We studied the Gospel of Luke with the aid of the Cover to Cover study guide "7 session Bible Study for Small Groups and individuals" by John Houghton. We also used a resource called "Christian Character study guide" by Andrea Sterk & Peter Stazzero.

We followed the teaching from Church using resources produced by Open Doors "Dangerous Faith" and in light of COP 26 which was held in Glasgow we took the opportunity to study the material by Lausanne Global Classroom called "Creation Care Study Guide." The latter end of the year we started to look at the Minor Prophets.

In June we led the monthly prayer meeting and used the lessons learnt from Barnabas to be the focus of our intercessions.

All in all a challenging but special year. We look forward to 2022 and hopefully a year without Covid restrictions.

*Denise Shone on behalf of Andrea, Elsy, Helan, Helen, Julie,
Mary, Pat, Rachel, Sue and Susan.*

Philia

Philia is a home group who meet every Monday evening from 7.30- 9pm on Zoom. We are an international group! Our members are in the UK, Switzerland, Scotland and Barbados. Over the last year we have looked at study guides such as *Fruit of the Spirit* (Selwyn Hughes) which investigates the Holy Spirit through a variety of bible readings, *Praying the Psalms* (Juanita Ryan), nine studies that show how to use the psalms in our daily prayers, and we are currently looking at the *Lausanne Creation Care* study guide. Leading the group is Jennifer Drain. There are nine members altogether having just welcomed a new member, Becky. We are a chatty group who like challenging subject matter and often probe what the Bible means and how we can interpret and use the teachings in our everyday lives.

Jenny Drain

Lighthouse Home Group

Lighthouse Home Group meets once a week on a Thursday. This year we have had a combination of online and in person meetings. On average 6 of us meet. We study the bible together and support one another in prayer. This year we used the Dangerous Faith materials and as a group we read and discussed Mere Christianity. We have also maintained the social element of our group through Zoom quiz and game nights.

Miriam Astley

‘Middlewich Road’ Home Group

This group, unfortunately, has not been meeting this year, though we have been keeping in touch. We look forward to renewing our fellowship as soon as conditions make us feel safe.

Jim Watson

Independent examiner's report to Elworth P.C.C.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 26 to 34, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b) to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr S. Valentine ACMA
Chartered Accountant

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2021

Funds	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary income	2(a)	84,695	10,580	-	95,275	122,813
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	20,808	-	-	20,808	18,358
Income from investments	2(c)	129	-	-	129	1,008
Church activities	2(d)	22,479	-	-	22,479	30,779
Other incoming resources	2(e)	16,772	-	-	16,772	17,695
Total Incoming Resources		144,883	10,580	-	155,463	190,653
Resources Expended						
Church activities	3(a)	198,210	10,829	-	209,039	202,615
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	92	-	-	92	87
Fund raising trading costs	3(c)	823	-	-	823	513
Investment management costs	3(d)	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		199,125	10,829	-	209,954	203,215
Net Incoming (Expended) Resources Before Transfers						
		(54,242)	(249)	-	(54,491)	(12,562)
Transfers	10	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement In Funds		(54,242)	(249)	-	(54,491)	(12,562)
Total Funds brought forward		1,291,664	25,697	3,943	1,321,304	1,333,866
Total Funds Carried Forward		1,237,422	25,448	3,943	1,266,813	1,321,304

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible	6(a)	1,097,144	1,124,517
Investments	6(b)	-	-
		<u>1,097,144</u>	<u>1,124,517</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	917	16,639
Short term deposits	11	242,673	250,544
Cash at bank and in hand	11	34,465	49,090
		<u>278,054</u>	<u>316,273</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year			
	8	845	11,945
Net Current Assets		<u>277,209</u>	<u>304,328</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>1,374,354</u>	<u>1,428,845</u>
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	107,541	107,541
Total Net Assets		<u>1,266,813</u>	<u>1,321,304</u>
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted		1,237,422	1,291,664
Restricted	10	25,448	25,697
Endowment	10	3,943	3,943
		<u>1,266,813</u>	<u>1,321,304</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by



The Revd David Page (P.C.C. Chairman)

The notes on pages 28 to 34 form part of these accounts.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St.Peter's Church Elworth to hold unrestricted cash in reserve for three months operating costs including salaries and parish share, anticipated building & equipment works, principally for replacing the church heating system, for funding employment costs of the Assistant Minister for 2022 and 2023. It will also hold restricted cash reserves for the Benevolent, Outward Giving, Church Hall Development and Endowment funds. At 31st December 2021, the amounts held in reserve are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	Item	Total
Operating Costs	£45,000	
CEC Loan repayment 2016 – 2022 inc	£39,200	
Building Work & Equipment reserves	£45,082	
Assistant Minister provision 2022-3	<u>£84,000</u>	£213,282
 Restricted Reserves		
Church Hall Development	£12,022	
Outward Giving	£10,580	
Benevolent	£2,246	
Music Donation	<u>£600</u>	£25,448
Endowment Funds		£3,943
Total Reserves		<u>£242,673</u>

- The cash reserves in the deposit account meet the Reserves requirement.
- The PCC will continue to hold additional funds within the Out of School Club, Fairtrade and ABC accounts. This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.1. Funds

Endowment Funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investments of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (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 each 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.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

1.2. Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received for the year 2020-21. For tax year 2021-22 tax refunds will be recognised on receipt. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

1.3. Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

1.4. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which required a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment, fixtures and furniture used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over an appropriate number of years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. The Church Hall building will be depreciated over 75 years with plant & machinery, toolstore and railings depreciated over 25 years.

2. Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned Giving	76,010	10,580	86,590	88,729
Tax recoverable	4,131	-	4,131	20,048
Cash Offertories	1,091	-	1,091	1,631
Other Donations	2,577	-	2,577	1,234
Specific Donations	55	-	55	8,310
Other Grants	831	-	831	2,861
Legacies	-	-	-	-
	84,695	10,580	95,275	122,813
2(b) Activities for generating Funds				
Church Hall Lettings	17,046	-	17,046	13,704
Fair Trade Sales	682	-	682	646
Miscellaneous	3,080	-	3,080	4,008
	20,808	-	20,808	18,358
2(c) Income from Investments				
Interest	129	-	129	1,008
2(d) Income from Church Activities				
Wedding and Funeral Fees	5,348	-	5,348	4,718
Out of School Club Fees	15,592	-	15,592	21,128
ABC Door Collections	770	-	770	859
Income from other churches	-	-	-	2,686
Heat & Light, photocopying	769	-	769	1,388
	22,479	-	22,479	30,779
2(e) Other incoming resources				
Bank account switch incentive	-	-	-	4,000
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	16,772	-	16,772	13,695
Others	-	-	-	-
	16,772	-	-	16,772

3. Resources Expended

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Outward Giving	255	-	255	11,476
Parish Share	68,132	-	68,132	67,668
Ministerial Expenses	796	-	796	541
Vicarage Rates	3,039	-	3,039	2,782
Assistant Minister	1,915	8,898	10,813	-
Family & Child Outreach	9,464	-	9,464	10,321
Church Running expenses	6,406	-	6,406	5,993
Church Repairs	1,775	-	1,775	623
Depreciation AV system & lights	1,246	-	1,246	1,246
Church yard expenses	653	-	653	786
Music and Service expenses	1,603	-	1,603	1,178
Administration and Publicity	18,840	1,102	19,942	13,968
Education and Training	103	-	103	237
Mission and Evangelism	4,123	829	4,952	4,433
Out of School Club – Wages	36,658	-	36,658	38,791
Out of School Club – Equipment	-	-	-	23
Out of School Club - Running Costs	2,017	-	2,017	3,428
Church Hall Running costs	41,185	-	41,185	39,121
	<u>198,210</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>209,039</u>	<u>202,615</u>
3(b) Cost of generating voluntary income				
Giving envelopes	92	-	92	87
3(c) Fundraising trading costs				
Fair Trade Purchases	823	-	823	513

4. Staff Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	57,266	5,144	62,410	54,645
HMRC, Pension & Admin	7,752	1,101	8,853	6,156
	<u>65,018</u>	<u>6,245</u>	<u>71,263</u>	<u>60,801</u>

Five staff are employed by the Out Of School Club; a Manager, Deputy Manager and up to two assistants. The PCC has employed a Church Hall cleaner, Family & Child Outreach worker, and up to two Office Administrator staff, and from September, an Assistant Minister in 2021.

5. Payment to PCC members

During the year various PCC members have at times purchased items on behalf of the church and have been re-imbursed by the PCC. The PCC therefore considers that these amounts are exempt from disclosure.

6. Fixed Assets

6(a) Tangible (all unrestricted)		Freehold land and buildings	Church & Hall equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Actual Cost	At 1 January 2021	1,317,784	80,404	1,398,188
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals at cost	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2021	<u>1,317,784</u>	<u>80,404</u>	<u>1,398,188</u>
Depreciation	At 1 January 2021	209,263	64,408	273,671
	Charge for the year	23,634	3,739	27,373
	At 31 December 2021	<u>232,897</u>	<u>68,147</u>	<u>301,044</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2020	1,108,522	15,995	1,124,517
	At 31 December 2021	<u>1,084,887</u>	<u>12,257</u>	<u>1,097,144</u>

The freehold land and buildings now comprise the Church Hall, toolstore/garage, railings, car park gates and refurbished footpath. Church & Hall equipment comprises the Church AV system, new lights, a piano keyboard, a ride-on mower and other gardening equipment. In the Church Hall, the security system, interim PA, tables, chairs, defibrillator, acoustic panels, artificial turf, AV system, foyer furniture, replacement corridor lighting and dishwasher. a camera system in the Hall and Church with a cabled link between the two and wi-fi in the church.

6(b) Investments

All unrestricted		£	Total £
Cost	At 1 January 2021	0	0
	At 31 December 2021	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. Debtors (Unrestricted Funds)

	2021 £	2020 £
Tax recoverable	-	12,853
Insurance prepayment	-	2,828
Other prepayments	-	958
Other debtors	917	-
	<u>917</u>	<u>16,639</u>

8. Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year (unrestricted)

	2021 £	2020 £
DBF Creditor	398	425
Outward Giving	-	11,405
Accruals	-	-
Rental prepaid	-	-
Other Creditors	447	115
	<u>845</u>	<u>11,945</u>

9. Creditors - Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Church Hall Loan	107,541	107,541

The Church Hall Loan is repayable in equal annual instalments of £5,660 over a period of 22 years starting in 2013. The first three year's repayments have been waived by Cheshire East Council and taken to account in 2016. A review regarding future repayments was started with Cheshire East Council during that year, with no outcome at the time of publication of these accounts.

10. Funds

The restricted funds comprise the Church Hall Development, Benevolent, New Minister, Outward Giving, Organ (dormant), Churchyard (dormant), and a music donation. The Endowment funds relate to four legacies on which only the interest may be used by the PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard. Out of School Club, Fair Trade and ABC Group are accounted as Unrestricted.

Fund movements

	Balance at 1 Jan 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Church Hall Development	12,022	-	-	-	12,022
New Minister	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Benevolent	3,075	-	(829)	-	2,246
Outward Giving	-	10,580	-	-	10,580
Churchyard	-	-	-	-	-
Organ	-	-	-	-	-
Music Donation	600	-	-	-	600
Total	25,697	10,580	(10,829)	-	25,448

11. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,097,144	-	-	1,097,144
Investments	-	-	-	-
Debtors	917	-	-	917
Short term deposits	213,282	25,448	3,943	242,673
Cash at bank and in hand	34,465	-	-	34,465
Liabilities:				
Amounts falling due in one year	(845)	-	-	(845)
Amounts falling due in over one year	(107,541)	-	-	(107,541)
Total	1,237,422	25,448	3,943	1,266,813

St. Peter's ABC Group

Income and Expenditure Statement for for the year ended 31 December 2021

	£	£
Income		
Donations	769.86	
		769.86
Expenditure		
Refreshments	101.76	
Crafts / Equipment	376.28	
Christmas Party	120.00	
Donation to Operation		
Christmas Child	255.00	
Other	0.00	
		853.04
 Net Income for the year		(83.18)
Balance b/f 1 January 2021		242.11
Balance c/f 31 December 2021		158.93
Bank Balance as at 31 December 2021		244.43
Less unpresented cheque		(120.00)
Add cash not paid in for 01/12/2021		34.50
Total		158.93

Accounts

St Peter's Church Elworth

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent:
Revd David Page
The Vicarage
2, Taxmere Close,
Sandbach

Registered Charity No. 1130803

Contents

2.	The P.C.C.		
3.	Vicar's Report		
4.	Church Wardens' Report		
5.	Treasure's Report		
6.	P.C.C. Report	The Church Office	
7.	The Foyer	Welcome team	Church Attendance

Church Organisations

8.	Lego	Junior Church	Crèche
9.	Baby Group	Lego Church	
10.	Xplore	Xplore+	
11.	Out of School Club		
12.	ABC	All Age Team	
13.	Elworth C of E School	Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E	
14.	Coffee Stop	Book Club	
15.	Mission Support Group	Church Choir	
16.	Nexus	Slavic Gospel Association	
17.	Church Prayer Life	Fair Trade	
18.	Worship Group	Shoe Box Appeal	
19.	Messy Church	Sewing Machine Group	
20.	Churchyard	Speak	

Home Groups

21.	Monday House Group	Lighthouse	Kairos
22.	Monday Small Group	Koinonia	
23.	Fuyin	Middlewich Road Group	Philia
24.	Thought for the day	Advent Windows	

Accounts

25.	Examiner's Statement	
26.	Statement of Financial Activities	
27.	Balance Sheet	
28.	Reserves Policy	Notes to Financial Statement
36.	ABC accounts	

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the PCC.

Incumbent: Rev David Page

Curate: Rev. Anthony Rigby *(From October 2020)*

Church Wardens:

Mr Stephen Parfitt *(Assistant Chairman)*
Mr Paul Savvides *(Deanery Synod representative)*
Mrs Helen Jones *(Assistant Warden)*
Mr Ian Cooper *(Assistant Warden
until October 2020)*

Treasurer: Mr Mark Barker

Secretary: Ms Jen Paddison

Elected Members:

Mrs Miriam Astley
Mr John Cargill *(Assistant Treasurer)*
Mrs Norma Chapman
Mrs Fiona Cooper *(From October 2020)*
Mrs Helen Coppenhall
Mr Stash Podhorodecki
Dr Ruth Pollard

Ex-officio:

Mr Bill Chapman *(Parish Evangelist)*
Mrs Kath Cliffe *(Diocesan Synod Representative)*
Mr Anthony Rigby *(Deanery Synod Representative
until October 2020)*
Mr Steve Thorley *(Deanery Synod representative
from October 2020)*
Mrs Michelle Walker *(Pastoral Worker)*

By Office: Pastoral Workers, Lay Readers and Parish Evangelists
are entitled to serve on the P.C.C.

Vicar's Report

2020 didn't turn out to be the year that we expected. So many hopes and plans were thwarted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We were forced out of our churches, confined to home and had to change in a myriad of ways. But yet, through all this, God has been faithful to us as we have walked in obedience to God's Word and Holy Spirit as this Annual Report bears testimony to.

As I write my contribution, we have entered a third national lockdown and the vaccination programme has begun. Our context seems similar to the people of God throughout Bible times, living in a challenging and hurting world, but with a hope that is steadfast and certain in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Across the year, we have had to change and adapt many of our usual events. No longer able to gather face-to-face, we have engaged with new technology and formats to continue to worship, study and share fellowship. Zoom, YouTube, Facebook have all become platforms that we have embraced. Our on-line presence in 2020 has extended from our website to a YouTube Channel (now containing nearly 200 videos) of services and reflections, and an active presence with almost daily posts on the Church Facebook page. In December a new camera system was installed into the church and hall to enable us to record and transmit services as we adapt to the new Post Pandemic world in 2021. I would like to thank all who have contributed so much to enable us to continue to be the voice of God during this challenging time.

The overwhelming feeling of 2020 has been one of bereavement. Not only have we lost the ability to sing and pray together in church, but in so many other ways, notably the limitations on the occasional offices of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Over the year a number of faithful members of the church family have died and we have (not yet) been able to gather together to thank God for all that they mean to us, and for their faith.

However, even in such a challenging year, there has been much to celebrate. We have learnt that we have a wonderful outdoor facility which can be used for open-air services and events. Cathryn's role has extended and, through her appointment as School Chaplain at Elworth (CE) Primary School, our sharing of the Good News has been enhanced. Anthony Rigby was (eventually) ordained Deacon in October, and has now joined the ministry team as a self-supporting Assistant Curate. Our ecumenical relationships with the other churches in Sandbach have continued to develop. As part of the changes that have occurred in the Methodist Church, both nationally and locally, our formal LEP with The Church on Ettiley Heath came to an end in the Summer, although during the Autumn we have continued to share together in new ways.

COVID has hit our community hard, as evidenced by the doubling of the number of funerals that we were involved with in 2020, compared to previous years. Yet, as we enter 2021, there is a spirit of hope and trust in the God who has been so faithful to us in our fellowship, that I pray will impact our community and the wider world in the coming year.

Finally, can I personally thank all of you who have prayerfully supported the work of the church, and also us as a family, over the last year.

One of the repeating phrases in the Bible is “Do not be afraid, I am with you.” (Isaiah 43 : 5). I hope that we can take this to heart this year as we remember that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

David Page

Church Wardens’ Report

Despite all, it feels that our faith and our fellowship as a Christian community has sustained us through these difficult times of virus pandemic. In terms of care for the fabric and maintenance of our buildings and churchyard, the wardens can report that all is well. Significant items of expenditure have been where it was necessary to implement virus mitigation measures such as the camera system that will be used to broadcast services from the church to the hall and beyond, in 2021. Usage of buildings has been limited to those periods where lockdowns have been lifted during June to October and December but otherwise things were effectively mothballed, especially in the period March to May. The churchyard continues to be well looked after and the wardens would once again like to extend their thanks to the churchyard team.

The year has seen creative use of our assets to ensure that, where regulations allow, the Gospel has been preached and that worship has continued to take place. In this regard our thanks go out to those who conceived and facilitated the YouTube on-line services, buying appropriate equipment for people to make videos in their own homes and for sorting out broadcasting licences. Also thanks to the army of faithful church members who provided content for the services and Thoughts and to those who edited the videos and balanced the sound. As regulations allowed partial resumption of access to the buildings, we saw services restart in the church and the hall but with careful observance of social distancing, restrictions on singing, use of masks and availability of hand sanitiser. Three services were conducted outside the church, including a Christmas carol concert, making use of existing portable PA equipment.

Certain weekday activities in the hall were also restarted with similar provisions, but these were restricted to the children's services for Preschool (client) and Out of School (managed by St Peter's PCC) and, for adults, Slimming World (client), Cheshire Police PCSO public liaison and temporary collection and storage of items for the Sandbach food bank, which has greatly increased its provision during the year. The employment of our hall cleaner during these periods has enabled appropriate new standards to be deployed to keep mitigate the virus risk.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported and continue to support the important work of keeping the Light of Jesus shining brightly in our community at this time.

Paul Savvides and Stephen Parfitt

Treasurer's Report

The Lord has provided! When the first lockdown began in March it was clear that there was going to be a severe impact on the Church's finances. In the event, this proved not to be the case with both income and expenditure falling, leading to a deficit of £12,563 for the year compared to over £23,000 in 2019.

Although Income was down £21,000 overall on last year, Voluntary income, especially planned giving remained strong increasing by more than £10,000 on last year which is most encouraging. A donation of £5,000 to support childrens work was received, with others amounting to £3,500 to create a Benevolent Fund to help people facing financial problems due to the pandemic. A grant of £2,000 were received from Chester Diocese, and a useful £4,000 incentive payment was received for switching our bank account from RBS to the Co-operative. Not surprisingly, church hall letting income was halved, as was support from other parishes due to the end of the Local Ecumenical Partnership with Ettiley Heath. PCC fees for weddings and funerals held up well. Our hall cleaner was furloughed for several months on full pay for which we received an 80% grant from HMRC.

Expenditure decreased by over £31,000. Principal areas of reduced expenditure were Admin staff costs following reduced numbers from March, by £5,000, utilities by £3,000, hall repairs & maintenance by £8,000, Church repairs by £1,500, churchyard maintenance by £800 and stationery by £750. Mission & Evangelism was also down by some £3,800 but activity has been maintained online by YouTube and Zoom. Three issues of Nexus were produced and one outpayment made from the Benevolent Fund.

We invested £7,123 in a camera system in the Church and Hall including a cabled link between the two buildings and wifi in the church. This will enable us to stream services in the church to the hall to create an 'overflow' facility there. Events in both church and hall can be streamed live via the internet using platforms such as YouTube. This was mostly funded by the bank account switch incentive and the Diocesan grant.

Out of School Club were severely affected by the pandemic, being closed from late March to early September resulting in Fee income being more than halved. Staff were furloughed on full pay for varying periods resulting in Job Retention Scheme payments from HMRC amounting to almost £13,000. The contribution from OOSC to the Family & Child Worker's employment costs was stopped during the year. Overall, a deficit of just over £15,000 was recorded, but a substantial balance remains to see OOSC through 2021 if needed.

So Church finances remain sound, and in much better shape than could have been expected last Easter. We have over £250,000 in reserves with which we can fund the appointment of an associate minister for an initial period and begin to make changes to the church including replacing the heating system when the time is right, provide support to the needy in our parish and continue our outward giving programme.

Maintaining the church's finances needs team work and I would like to thank Helen, Michelle and Allan for banking, which has required more work as we have adapted to new banking arrangements, John as my assistant for looking after the utilities, Jim for managing the Envelope Scheme and the Gift Aid claim to HMRC and Carolyn for her support at home.

PCC Report

This year, one new member joined the PCC, replacing one member who stood down. There remain two spaces on the PCC membership for the year. Both Paul Savvides and Stephen Parfit were re-elected as Church Wardens, with Helen Jones continuing in the role of Assistant Warden for another year.

The PCC continues to encourage members of the church congregation to prayerfully consider if they could be a part of the decision making body of the church; the PCC aims to represent all age groups and the breadth of worship and acts of service that the church offers and so all are encouraged to join us.

The global pandemic has meant that for most of this year, the PCC has met virtually, via zoom, as did the APCM which was exceptionally held in October this year. This however has not impeded our work and we have continued to discuss a broad range of practical issues that have needed attention, agreed funding for works, such as the new audio visual installation, as well as receiving training on safeguarding and hearing about the encouraging and inspirational role Cathryn Houghton is playing in her role as School Chaplain at St Peter's Church of England School.

Although it has been a difficult year for many reasons, the PCC has been able to continue working together to serve the church and the Lord in these difficult times and we look forward to doing so again in 2021.

Jen Paddison

The Church Office

For the first couple of months of 2020, Church Office activity continued in much the same way as previous years, supporting David Page, the Treasurer, the Church Hall Bookings Officer, the Church Wardens and the Children and Families Outreach Worker, as well as the whole church family at St Peter's and The Church on Ettiley Heath and, even though the way that the office has functioned since March has changed, it continues to be 'the Hub' for church communication and to deal with day to day enquiries.

As soon as the first national lockdown was announced, we moved the Office to our homes. Carolyn Barker had already decided to step down at the end of March 2020, we are immensely grateful to Carolyn for all her hard work, and she continues to support the Office and the church family in many activities. Kate Page has worked a reduced number of hours since April providing support as necessary. To some degree the work has changed, but some tasks remain, rotas are still needed to ensure a variety of people carry out tasks for the on-line activity of St Peter's!

The Church Office has adapted to the different situations and restrictions that have been imposed on us as a nation over the year, but we look forward to returning to some degree of "normality", being able to share fellowship as a church family and to welcome people to the church hall once more.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding during a challenging year.

Carolyn Barker and Kate Page

The Foyer

The Foyer provides a wonderful space within the Church Hall a place where we can all take the opportunity to meet with others. It is well used on Sunday for fellowship together between the two morning services and on a Friday home to our popular Coffee Stop Café, although since March this year we have been unable to meet together in either setting.

There is also the opportunity to browse through or order from the Fairtrade catalogue and several Christian publications are available.

The Foyer is open as the 'Foyer Café' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 11.30am for the use of the wider local community, and for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together perhaps with a friend, neighbour or with your small / home group.

This coming year may provide more opportunities to use the Foyer Café / space as we look forward to being able to reconnect with one another.

Michelle Walker

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team, along with the sides-people, maybe the first contact for those who come into Church, may that be to a newcomer or those who attend regularly. We are currently a small team and would 'welcome' any who feel called to this particular Ministry,

We are usually just inside or at the Church Porch for Sunday Services and at the front door or in the Foyer when services are held in the Church Hall. We have been able to be present this year at the arranged Outdoor Services.

How we Welcome is much more than Sunday. We provide a welcome in many areas; our personal and pastoral contacts, the Office Team providing a welcome to Church Hall users and the Church grounds team to those visiting the churchyard. And by outreach with the distribution of Nexus, Publicity and Communication be it a Poster, our website or Facebook.

Michelle Walker

Church Attendance

Since the size of the congregation in church is so limited the figures for this year do not bear any significance at all. So they are not recorded.

Jim Watson

Church Organisations

Lego

Lego, for children ages 3-6, met on a Sunday morning in the Church Hall during the 10.30 service (term-time only).

We managed to have a few months before coronavirus stopped our regular Sunday meetings. During that time we had introduced an all age Sunday school, collaborating with the other groups, one Sunday a month which was working very well. We were doing craft and activities based on different characters from the Bible.

We hope everyone is safe and well and that we will be able to welcome children back to Lego soon.

Karen Wright

St Peter's Junior Church – Adventurers (Age 6 – 11)

The year began with a program of bible story based sessions. Since March, with the suspension of services, we have not met. Instead, support has been given to the collective arrangements for children's outreach by the St Peter's children and family worker, Cathryn Houghton.

Paul Savvides on behalf of Martin, Fiona and Cherie.

Crèche

Crèche is a facility offered under normal circumstances to parents/carers with babies and toddlers up to the age of two years who attend the 10:30 am morning service at St. Peter's. It takes place in the church hall and offers age appropriate play using a range of toys with a short bible story. We have a small group of people who support the delivery of crèche and I would like to extend an invitation for more people to join this team. A small number of babies and toddlers attend. Since March 2020, Crèche has been unable to operate due to Covid-19 restrictions, but as soon as is appropriate, this service will once again be offered to church family and visitors.

Cathryn Houghton

Baby Group

St. Peter's Baby Group was set up in February 2016 in response to the growing number of parents/carers in the local community with babies under the age of 12 months. Under normal circumstances, (pre Covid-19 restrictions) it would take place on a Wednesday morning from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and during half term in the church hall.

A range of soft play toys is normally provided and refreshments are offered to the parents/carers who attend. This format provides a great opportunity for new parents to connect with each other and to form lasting friendships. Christian hospitality is a real driver for those serving at Baby Group. Pre March 2020 the group comprised of between fifteen – twenty two adults each week together with their little ones. It was anticipated that this number would grow during 2020 due to the increase of new housing developments in the local area.

During the first lockdown of 2020, and continuing to date, a virtual Baby Group meeting has been offered to the local community. Between two and four mums have met up on line with myself for a chat and catch up each week via zoom. One of these members is a new mum who has had her baby during lockdown.

The group is staffed by Matthew Dell and myself and it is a privilege to serve the local community in this important outreach.

Cathryn Houghton

Lego Church

Lego Church was initially trialled at the end of 2019 with a couple of sessions before the Christmas period. The sessions ran once/month on a Wednesday in the church hall from 3:30pm – 4:30pm and was open to primary aged children attended by a parent/carer. It is a free club.

The first half hour of the club involves free building with Lego. After that there are refreshments and then a Lego bible story, a song and a prayer. The children are given a challenge to build something from the story which they have just heard. On our first taster session nine children attended and six adults and on our second taster, eighteen children attended with nine adults. It is anticipated that when restrictions are lifted, the club will become an established outreach to families in the community.

Since Covid-19 restrictions, Lego Church has become an online activity. Each month, Stephen Parker-Aiken and I produce a video session of the club and invite our families to send in photos of their Lego builds which are then displayed on our church website and Facebook page with prior permission from parents/carers. The session also goes out to the children of Elworth C of E School and so far, there has been a great response from the children at school producing Lego builds. It is hoped that when circumstances return to normal, those children who have engaged with the club from school might like to join the club over in the church hall on a Wednesday hence providing a great outreach opportunity.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore

Xplore is a children's club for primary aged children which, pre-Covid-19 restrictions would normally meet each Friday evening during term time. The club was set up in April 2013 and is now nearly eight years old. Each week, the children take part in a range of activities based around a bible theme. This includes a bible story, a time of singing and sharing of news plus crafts, games and a time of prayer. Simple refreshments are also provided.

Under normal circumstances, we would have a regular attendance of between twenty two - thirty children many of whom do not attend church. It is a real privilege to be able to forge positive relationships with local families and to engage them in other church related events such as Messy Church, Schools Projects and the Light Party.

During Covid-19 restrictions, every endeavour has been made to keep in touch with our Xplore families. This has included invitations to our half termly virtual holiday clubs where up to thirty three children have joined us for games, challenges, songs and stories. Craft packs have been delivered to members' homes prior to the club week so that those children taking part could have the necessary materials needed to complete the craft tasks set during the clubs.

Contact has been maintained with our Xplore families via regular email updates, phone calls and also by providing the children with a summer holiday gift from Xplore and a Christmas gift from the church delivered in a socially distanced manner. As restrictions continue, it is anticipated that the half termly holiday clubs will continue and the first one is already being planned for 2021.

Xplore can only happen because of a very committed team of three adult helpers who come along each Friday and serve the Lord in this very important outreach to the children in the local community. We do need at least one more adult helper going forward, and when restrictions permit.

If you feel that you can help out at Xplore, please contact the Church Office on 762213.

Cathryn Houghton

Xplore+

Xplore+ is a group for eleven to fifteen year olds which would normally meet in the church hall on a Friday evening from 7:45pm – 9:15pm term time. The group was set up in 2014 to provide fun and creative activities for those young people who were moving on from the Xplore group age range. There is always a theme for the week and a short discussion based upon the Christian message. Under normal circumstances, we would take our young people on an activity based trip each term. The last trip we were able to do prior to Covid-19 restrictions was back in February 2020 when we visited 'Laser Quest' in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Prior to Covid-19, we had between 15 - 25 young people who attended on a regular basis.

Since March 2020, Xplore+ went 'virtual' and has been meeting on a Friday evening

Since March 2020, Xplore+ went 'virtual' and has been meeting on a Friday evening for quizzes, games, challenges and a gospel message via zoom. The number of young people attending has ranged from seven to twelve young people but we now regularly have seven who join zoom each week plus two adult helpers. We have made it our aim to engage with the Xplore+ families as much as possible through regular email updates, delivery of fun activity packs etc. A couple of our members volunteered to be part of the St. Peter's Virtual Crib Service this year, which was very encouraging, and they made a valuable contribution to this event.

This year our virtual Christmas Party was a great success with party bags being delivered beforehand and which included: a cracker, a gift, chocolate, a craft activity and, most importantly a short gospel message. We then met online for fun and games.

Xplore+ can only happen because of a group of committed voluntary helpers some of whom attend each week and some on a rota basis. These people have continued to support during these unprecedented times and my thanks goes out to them.

If you feel that you could support the work of Xplore+ please contact the church office on 01270 762213.

Cathryn Houghton

Out of School Club

St. Peter's Out of School Club has now been in operation for over eighteen years and continues to offer afterschool care for the children from Elworth Hall, Elworth Church of England and Wheelock Primary Schools. We also offer a Breakfast Club. The addition of offering our services to Wheelock School during 2020 has proved to be a successful venture and one which meets the needs of our local families.

We have on average fifteen children/day registered in Afterschool Club and eight children/day registered for our Breakfast Club. We also have ten extra places for occasional use by children for morning and afternoon sessions. This year has been challenging due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Consequently we were closed from April until September 2020 with staff furloughed. As I write in January 2021 we are currently closed due to lockdown restrictions. However, we look forward to a time in the near future when the club can get up and running again.

St. Peter's Out of School Club offers a full range of fun activities and games. We have a Gardening Club which includes a small garden, and also a Bird Club. We encourage the children to be part of our planning of activities. In addition and under normal circumstances, we arrange visits from local community workers e.g. the Fire and Police Service. Reverend Page and St. Peter's Outreach Worker also visit the club.

I would like to thank all of the St. Peter's Out of School Club staff for their continued support. Our Club continues to be a success because of the hard work of the staff, their dedication to the club and the backing of the church and community.

Nicola Broomhead

ABC

St. Peter's ABC is a Parent/Carer Toddler Group which under normal circumstances would take place each Thursday from 10:00 am – 11:30 am term time in the church hall. Between thirty five and sixty children and their parents/carers are normally welcomed through the doors each week. This very important outreach provides an opportunity for the children to experience different types of play opportunities including role play, dressing up, small world play and there is always a craft activity available for the children to complete with their parent/carer. It also provides an opportunity for the adults to catch up over coffee. A healthy snack is provided for the children and toast is available for the parents/carers to purchase at a small cost. Each session is concluded with a singing time when nursery rhymes are chosen by the children and the singing of these is coordinated by a mum volunteer helper.

A team of regular helpers would normally come along each week to set up the hall with toys and a craft and our refreshments team works hard to provide refreshments from the hatch. ABC can only happen because members of the church family are willing to give up their own time to help out with this very important work.

During the first Lockdown, a virtual ABC session was set up and attended by one of the mums and myself. Parent/Carers expressed the view that for this kind of group, face to face contact is what the children really needed and so they preferred not to join via zoom.

The current situation is that we cannot meet together, but as soon as restrictions allow, it is hoped that the group will resume and continue to flourish as before.

Cathryn Houghton

All Age Team

The All Age team was only responsible for one service in 2020 and that was the Christingle service at the end of January. Everyone had the opportunity to make a 'Christingle' to use as a visual prompt of the different elements represented, with 'Jesus Light of the World' at the centre. The work of the Children's Society was featured and this important work was briefly outlined.

The All Age team is looking forward to resuming the opportunity to plan and share the services for all ages in the months to come. We pray that it will not be too long before the following verse from Psalm 145:4 is once more at the heart of these services – 'One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.'

*Rebecca Douglas, Nicola Hathaway, Jenny Drain, Paul Savvides,
Denise Shone, David Page, Helen Jones*

Elworth Church of England Primary School

The year started off as any other year did, full of expectations, school residential, preparation for SATS, The Easter Story. It seemed that before the year had really started, BANG, it stopped, the school was thrown into chaos, and schooling as we had known it for decades had ceased to exist.

As a Governor at Elworth C of E for many years I have never been involved in so many email correspondences and all off sudden new technology was taking over, ZOOM was the buzz word.

Elworth C of E is so blessed to have such dedicated staff from the Head Teacher to the staff who ensure the school is spick and span ready for the next day.

Governors have been very limited to visiting the school and much of my communication has been done through social media.

March through to August my communication to the school was that of support where and when and whenever until things became a little easier and I found out how I could be of better use to the school through social media.

In October Half Term I, along with other lay workers and Cathryn, set up a Holiday Club online via youtube with a Zoom meeting to follow later. This was run over three days, the title being Mission Possible. It was great to meet with some familiar faces from the school. During December we produced an online Meet the Characters. Usually this is done in church, however COVID changed this. 60 yr 1-2 children watched this and later met with some character via Zoom for a Q and A time.

2021 has seen the school in a tough situation. There is a fantastic team fighting very hard to keep school open and teaching flowing. More than ever the school needs your prayerful input and understanding during these difficult times.

Stephen Parker-Aiken, Foundation Governor

Chaplaincy at Elworth C of E

Since September 2020 I have had the privilege of serving Elworth C of E School as its School Chaplain. This extension to my normal Children and Families Outreach Work has been introduced to extend and hopefully enrich the outreach work of the church within the local school community.

The role involves a six hour commitment to school and includes a range of outreach activities ranging from collective worship (all either pre-recorded or live via Google Meet), to the school community; smaller group worship activities, coordination of charity events between school and church; one to one work with those in need of spiritual encouragement and support; leading the children of the Worship Council to coordinate their active input into the development of Christian based activities around school and opportunities (under normal circumstances) to walk alongside staff, parents and children and to offer pastoral support where appropriate.

Cathryn Houghton

Coffee Stop

Coffee Stop Café is enjoyed by a steady, regular clientele. We are delighted that the local volunteers from the former St. Luke's Fund- Raising Group are willing to continue to open the café on the first Friday of each month.

Fair Trade goods are available on the third week of each month, when items can be bought or ordered with grateful thanks to Carolyn Barker for making this possible.

It has to be said that Coffee Stop is much more than 'just a Café'. It is a place where the bustle of everyday life can slow for an hour or so whilst relaxing over refreshments of choice. A place where relationships can be strengthened and new friends made. Someone is always there to have a chat or alternatively it is somewhere to sit and gather thoughts in peaceful surroundings.

Then in March with the impact of the Covid:19 virus the Coffee Stop Café, like so many, had to close for the 'foreseeable future' what will that future be like and what will it mean, we do not know. Our hope is for the Coffee Stop Café to re-establish itself as a meeting place within the community.

There is perhaps an opportunity for a time of reflection, for new ideas, a new way of communicating and connecting or even a new name! All ideas are welcome.

As always, the age-old cry will go out for more and new volunteers. Please give serious consideration to whether you have an hour or so to spare on Friday mornings, however often or infrequently, or would you like to bake occasionally, to help with this invaluable outreach into our community.

When we are able to open our doors once more and you would like just to come along and see if it would be something you would enjoy then please do.

The Coffee Stop Team

Book Club

This year has definitely been a year of adapting, changing and then adapting and changing again! We are a steady 6 of regular readers and have read a wide variety of fiction books this year. As always some books are more successful than others but I think that is the joy of a book club. We read things that are sometimes a challenge, maybe because it's not a subject we would normally choose to read about, a different style or just something we haven't heard of before.

When we were in full lockdown we met over Zoom and then once restrictions eased off we were able to meet outside, nicely distanced and grateful for the large garden of one of our members. We carried this on for as long as we could, wrapping up against the cold, but once again we find ourselves in lockdown. We will persevere though, and I will get choosing the next book!

Thanks.

Lucy Kelly

Inter-Church Mission Support Group

The Inter-Church Mission Support Group consists of Church Family members who represent and support different charities. The Group determines how our Outward Giving budget is spent – and ideas for this are always welcome. Our policy is to ‘tithe’ St.Peter's voluntary income, with the amount accrued in one year being spent in the next to give some clarity in our budgeting. Each year we are supporting some charities on an ongoing basis to give certainty of funding to them for particular projects. Thus £2,000 was given to Compassion UK's project for pregnant women and babies under a year old in Delmas, Haiti .£1,000 was given to each of Cornerstone Church, Crewe, Lifeline Debt Advice in Sandbach, SYCAM in India, Dalit Freedom Network to sponsor the education of Dalit children, and Slavic Gospel Association to sponsor a church and its pastor in Vilegrad Bulgaria. £500 was given to North West Partnership for church planting and evangelism. The rest of our £10,758 budget was shared between Christian Aid and Tearfund (£750 each), WaterAid (£338), Scripture Union, Bible Society, Barnabas Fund, Christian Vision for Men (£330 each) and Samaritans Purse for Christmas shoebox transport costs (£100). Any ideas for sponsorship of worthy charities, particularly those that are Christian based will always be considered.

Mark Barker

Church Choir

As you are all aware, this year has been one of the strangest and most difficult years we have ever had to contend with, certainly in my lifetime, and I am not going to tell everyone at this stage how long that actually is !!!! Because of this the Choir Report this year is quite short.

We only managed to sing together at the evening service until mid-March, when we entered the first lockdown. However, as the year progressed and we all came to terms with the legal requirements of our situation, the on-line services began, and David Page asked us to prepare some hymns to be sung at the end of these services. So a much reduced choir, comprising of Helen, Steve and myself, and enhanced by our two organists, Karen and Barry and Paul Savvides, met several times to record various hymns in the Church, from which David could choose the one which would most suitably enlighten his message.

Naturally this year, we were unable to sing at any weddings. We look forward, therefore to a much better year, God willing, in 2021.

Margaret Taylor

Nexus

The majority of 2020 saw us in lockdown and fighting against the COVID-19 Coronavirus, which completely turned everything on its head. As Nexus is St Peter's outreach to the local community, we saw it as even more important at this time to let our Parish know we were still here for them, and give them information of how they can still get involved with our Church.

We have always struggled to get articles written for Nexus, and so the team decided the format needed a re-vamp; a new style 'card' version was created with less articles and a more in-depth testimonial. The ownership also transferred as a joint publication with The Church on Ettiley Heath to a sole St Peter's offering.

Our Christmas edition was a blend of the new style with a traditional Christmas card, and this worked well to re-emphasise that we continue to live in faith and to be there for our community.

As always thanks go to the team the help compile it; David Page, Anthony Miller and Bethany Jones. Our thanks also go to Stephen Parker-Aiken who has been a part of the team for some years now from The Church on Ettiley Heath.

We hope that Nexus continues to reach out to all Parish residents and invites them to connect with St Peter's.

Diane Noble

Slavic Gospel Association

St. Peter's has continued to support the Slavic Gospel Association including support for Stefan and Mira Zarev at Velingrad in Bulgaria.

Partnership with local churches has been restricted and has required careful planning around covid19 restrictions. Training and support for leaders and pastors has continued, sometimes in person, sometimes on line. The anniversary target of commissioning seventy new pastors is nearly complete and mission in Eastern Russia continues. S.G.A. and partner churches have responded to peoples different practical needs in different areas during the covid pandemic. Moldova has been badly affected by a poor harvest and covid outbreaks.

Stefan and Mira Zarev and the churches in Velingrad and Rakitovo have been affected by covid19. Worship services and meetings have been suspended from time to time and visits and contact between people have been restricted so that the fellowship has needed to adapt as we have at St. Peter's.

Bill Chapman

Church Prayer Life

There are a number of ways that the church prayer life has been more encouraging this year during this time of the Covid pandemic.

More people have joined in the monthly prayer meetings held on Zoom and led by different housegroups each month. Also there has been an increase in the numbers of people joining the Connect network and praying for other members of the church as well as outside of the church community. Because of the Covid Pandemic there has been a marked increase in the requests for prayer for individuals and families who have been affected and this increased awareness of needs within our community has, I feel, brought people closer together. People have said how supported they have felt by knowing that the church is praying for them and how helpful they have found this. The Archbishops of York and Canterbury have encouraged us to pray initially during November and then on going for our nation as a whole as we live together and support each other in community through this crisis. We also prayed for the appointment of a new Bishop of Chester who was appointed earlier in the year. Most of the housegroups now incorporate a time of joint prayer as part of their Zoom meetings.

When able to and around lockdown and tier procedures, the church building has been opened for private prayer on Sunday mornings and evenings as well as mid week on a Wednesday.

Private or group prayer is an essential part of our Christian Life in developing our relationship with God through Jesus.

Norma Chapman

Fair Trade

2020 was a very difficult year for everyone and especially Fair Trade. I traded until Mothers Day and then we were all in Lockdown. The remaining food items were then sold via the Church Facebook page. Everything was sold with some items being donated to the Sandbach Food Bank. I did not sell any more items until the two outdoor Church Services in August and September.

A final sale then took place at the Shoebox Service in November, selling gifts and Christmas Cards left over from last year. Consequently sales were substantially down on last year. I am just left with mainly gifts and non-food items. If, and when, I can resume any Fair Trade sales remains uncertain, but perhaps by the end of the year things will pick up. Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this difficult year.

Carolyn Barker

Worship Group

This has been an extraordinary year indeed for the worshipping life of St. Peter's Church and the worship group and its ministry has been affected in many ways that we would not have imagined a year ago but there have been so many things to be thankful for.

In March, with St Peter's producing online services, each of us learned how to make home recordings and we are indebted to the Frobisher family for showing us how: Libby editing and adding the song words and Martin providing the equipment. Later, with Libby returning to her studies in Manchester, Steve took over the editing and Mitch provided useful expertise in sound mixing.

With a relaxation of rules, it was great to take part in safe outdoor events such as the Harvest service on the crocus lawn in September and the carol service at the front of church in December.

We have new faces and voices in the group and we wish to extend a huge thank you and a warm welcome to Lynda and Simon.

Please continue to pray for the group, for perseverance in the strangest of circumstances, that God will use this 'pause button' on our usually musical contributions to worship to help us to reflect on what is most important in supporting others to draw closer to Him.

Heather, for and on behalf of Paul, Greg, Pete, Stephanie, Libby, Martin, Steve, Mitch, Miriam, Matthew, Martha, Simon, Lynda, Carolyn and Bill.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Despite the challenges of the Covid 19 global pandemic it was terrific to see the positive response to this year's annual campaign. We are absolutely thrilled to report that with the 59 shoeboxes collected at Elworth C.E Primary School together with the contribution from St Peter's Church family and the community of Elworth the total collected was 130 gift filled shoeboxes.

Thank you for packing an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and standing by children in need in what has been such a tough time for families all across the World. Thank you for showing children around the World that love was not in lockdown.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions which resulted in delaying National Collection Week for England from November (9th -16th) to December (5th -14th) and not being able to have as many processing centres open, the processing of some shoeboxes this year took a little longer. As a result we may not receive our final destination emails until February 2021.

May I take this opportunity to report that in 2019 many of us got notification that their shoeboxes were sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

If you would like any further information please contact Denise Shone.

Denise Shone

Messy Church

Under normal circumstances, St. Peter's Messy Church would take place twice each term in the church hall. It would usually be held on a Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ethos of Messy Church is to provide a relaxed craft and activities based approach to bible themes for the whole family. There is always a time of worship and celebration followed by a hot meal for everyone. For many people Messy Church is the only contact they have with church and so it is vital that the gospel message is presented in a clear and vibrant way.

We were able to hold one Messy Church session face to face this year before Covid-19 restrictions came into force. This was 'Messy Mothering', and attendance was normal for the time of year at ninety attendees. Our subsequent Messy Church sessions have been either online uploads on the church website each month for our Messy families to follow and share within their own homes, or they have been 'Messy Church in a Bag' where sessions have been pre-prepared and craft packs/ideas delivered to them or collected by families from church. In addition, I have been able to deliver one 'Messy Christingle' session with the Year 2 children of Elworth C of E School, as a face to face session under my new Chaplaincy role (see separate report).

A team of between ten and twelve helpers would normally support the provision of Messy Church on a regular basis and each event is heavily dependent upon people coming forward to serve God at Messy Church.

Cathryn Houghton

Sewing Machine Group

Making the most of your Sewing Machine

We are still a small group of enthusiastic sewers who unfortunately cannot meet at the moment. We do however still meet regularly on zoom (how would we have coped without technology over the last year?)

We do chat about what we have been sewing and how we try to keep busy but mostly we just put the world to rights.

Hopefully we will be able to meet again in the none too distant future. We like to think we are a friendly, welcoming bunch but the only way to find out will be to come along and join in.

We will meet more or less fortnightly on Monday evenings, from 7:30 – 9:30. There will be a notice on the board in the church hall giving dates.

We have been asked about the possibility of also meeting during the day for those who are not keen to come out in the evening. We hope to give this a try when we are allowed to get together again.

COME AND JOIN US

Gail Del

Churchyard

Unfortunately there is not much to report this year due to the ongoing restrictions which we have to observe.

Early in 2020 Steve Jones was no longer able to assist us because of other more pressing family commitments. His help in organising and managing the work in the churchyard was a great asset and the other members of the volunteer team would like to thank him for all he has done and wish him well.

We also lost the help of the Community Pay Back team due to the Covid restrictions. Their input to the maintenance of the churchyard was also very much appreciated. Hopefully we may be able to welcome them back when things return to something near normality.

On a more positive note John Stables, Ken Lever and myself managed to keep doing grass cutting, hedge trimming and general maintenance whilst keeping social distancing. Jenny Haddon is also a valued member of the team. During the year she has tirelessly tended the flower beds and shrubs around the church and hall car park. She also does sterling work keeping the paths clear of leaves etc.

During the year we took delivery of a new petrol hedge trimmer which has proved to be a huge help in keeping the hedges in check. All the machines have been serviced with new drive belts fitted to the ride on mower.

I think it only remains for me to thank the members of the volunteer team, especially Ken who still comes over from Holmes Chapel where he now lives. Without their help and continuing commitment the churchyard would not be as well maintained.

Bill Morrison and the churchyard volunteer team

Speak

What a strange year! We have still been producing Speak, which is our bimonthly church magazine and is distributed online, as often as possible.

The magazine is for the church family. Please email office@stpeters-elworth.org.uk to add your name and email to the distribution list.

Do you read Speak? Please let me know what you think. As ever, the magazine needs new material and someone to help put the magazine together, so contact editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk. I would be more than happy to chat with you.

Bethany Jones

Home Groups

Monday House Group

When the pandemic struck, we quickly switched from meeting at home to Zoom meetings once we had all got to grips with the new technology and in some cases, upgraded our internet connection. We also increased the frequency of our meetings in order to provide fellowship, support and prayer for each other which has been so necessary during these troubled times. We continue to seek inspiration from the Bible for living our daily lives by undertaking a number of Bible studies including 'Meeting Jesus', 'Psalms: Prayers of The Heart' and sermon series.

Mark Barker

Lighthouse Home Group

Lighthouse Home Group (formerly 18-30's Homegroup) meets once a week on a Thursday. This year we have continued to meet, but from March onwards this has been virtually via "Zoom". On average 7 of us meet. We study the bible together and support one another in prayer. This "virtual" face to face contact has been so valued by us all as we have sought to support one another in an uncertain and difficult year. Some themes of our bible study this year have been Revelation, Promises: Kept the Whole Story of the Bible, The Cross. We have also maintained the social element of our group through Zoom quiz and game nights. Regular members are Miriam Astley, Ruth Dave, Bethany Jones, Jen Paddison, Chloe Page, Greg Savvides and Steve Thorley. New members are always welcome, just speak to any member!

Miriam Astley

Kairos

The group's last face to face meeting took place early in March 2020. Since then circumstances have obliged us to meet on Zoom. We have continued to meet almost weekly throughout the year, sometimes just to keep in touch and support and encourage one another during this testing time. We have completed our six session study of ZECHARIAH: God's big plan for struggling Christians. After this we took on the seven studies of ACTS: Building a people of Faith. This was followed by the seven sessions of PHILIPPIANS: Shining with joy. In July Kairos led the monthly Prayer Meeting.

We are all hoping that we will soon be able to meet again in person.

Christine Saucedo

Monday Small Group

This new small group was born digitally in September 2020, in response to interest from several ‘young parents’. We started by meeting weekly on Monday nights, via Zoom, tuning in at a slightly later hour to allow young children to be put to bed (they don’t always stay there, and we sometimes see small faces peering into the camera!). We also communicate frequently through our dedicated WhatsApp group, seeking to support each other through lockdown, sharing prayer requests and other information.

We started our studies by adapting the Alpha follow up material, based on the book of Philippians, and spent several weeks working our way through that encouraging portion of the Bible. Just before Christmas we used some seasonal material from Jeff Lucas, and we have recently embarked on a series of topical studies using web-based material from ‘The Bible Project’ by Tim Mackie. As we approached Christmas, all five households that make up the small group participated in the ‘Advent Windows’ scheme! We always make time in our meetings to pray together, and reserve one Monday gathering each month for social ‘chat time’. If you want to find out more about this group, please contact us through the St Peters church office.

Lynda and Simon Wisbey

Koinonia

Koinonia small group started the year as per usual on alternate Tuesday evenings at Paul and Heather's but, since March, this moved to weekly Zoom calls on line. It has been a tough year, but the weekly Zooms appear to be a source of comfort and focus for many in the group and, as COVID has taken us all by degrees through its twists and turns, we have certainly become closer to each other spiritually.

We started the year with *There Are No Strong People* (A Study of Samson) by Jeff Lucas (CWR) which took us up to the start of the first lockdown and into Lent and Easter, where there we one off studies around Holy Week: ‘What can we learn from the events in the last week of Jesus life?’

After Easter, a study on Pentecost heralded a series on the Book of Acts up to chapter 15 where Paul and Barnabas decide to part company. We drew on Spring Harvest online resources for this series and in particular on the videos of Malcolm Duncan. In 2021, matching the St Peter’s sermon series, we’ll be covering the later chapters of Acts.

After the summer holidays, we covered the Book of Ruth and then moved to some studies on Ecclesiastes, again matching the sermon series. We concluded the year by investing in a series on Advent made during lock down by Jeff Lucas and the Searchlight Theatre Co called *All Wrapped Up* (for Christmas).

*Paul Savvides on behalf of Heather, Julia, Stephanie, Fiona,
Simon, Lynda, Anthony, Kath and Kath.*

Fuyin

Little did we know that January – March 2020 was “normal” compared to what the rest of the year was going to bring. The Global pandemic of Covid 19 required a rapid change to the way we communicated with each other. Enormous respect to the ladies in the home group. Either through phone contact, WhatsApp messaging or having mastered the art of the social platform Zoom we were able to maintain “virtual support” and continue our Bible Study. We met in the “virtual world” on Wednesday mornings and alternated between a “brew and natter” and study of the scriptures. During a brief period of the easing of restrictions (still adhering to social distance guidelines) we were able to enjoy meeting together in Mary’s garden which was a real joy.

Over the course of the year we have used an interactive Spring Harvest bible workbook – Trust: Enduring Hope written by Eric Gaudion. We studied Thessalonians 1 & 2 with the aid of Life Builder Study guide written by Donald Baker. We looked at a couple of standalone studies: “Perseverance” from a study guide called Christian Character by Andrea Sterk & Peter Scazzero and “Courage” by Penelope Wilcock. During Advent Helan shared a poem by Rachel Mann called “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that mountains would quake at your presence” Isaiah 64:1. We also completed a few of the studies from the Advent resource “The Time is Now” written by Amy Orr-Ewing, part of the Cover to Cover material.

In June we took our turn to lead the monthly church prayer meeting which we facilitated through Zoom. As it was Pentecost we structured our prayers around Pentecost and four of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; Preaching, Healing, Hospitality and Faith.

With the challenges of the past 12 months the prayer support, encouragement and practical help that each member of the group has given has been invaluable.

If you would like any more information please have a chat to any member of our group.

Denise Shone

‘Middlewich Road’ Home Group

This group, unfortunately, has not been meeting since lockdown started at the beginning of the year. We look forward to renewing our friendship as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Jim Watson

Philia

The Monday evening group is now called Philia and is led by Jenny Drain and Pat Parfitt. We are a group of 7 with two further members joining us when they are not at university. This last year has been particularly tricky due to Covid restrictions, but thanks to technology we have still met once a week via zoom. This also includes a member who now lives in Barbados!

This year we have studied: Ruth, Isaiah, James and are currently studying Acts.

Jenny Drain

Thought For the Day

Whilst Covid 19 has meant a different year for the church it did give us the opportunity to expand how we reach members of our community. One of the new initiatives was “Thought for the Day”. Members of the church family shared a “thought” with a Christian message. These were based around bible verses, poems and hymns and songs. They were filmed using smart phones and tablets and then shared via the church Facebook page and YouTube channel. The idea was to share encouragement with not only our church family members but also the local community. A wide variety of members of the church family shared a thought with participants ranging in age from nine. The Thought for the Day outreach still continues now and it has been a highly successful way of encouraging one another in our faith.

Miriam Astley

Advent Windows

During the November lockdown, our home group discussed ways we could try and brighten up people’s Christmas. One of my suggestions was to have 24 different Advent windows around Elworth; it would involve the church family and would also get people out on walks to look at each window. Luckily, we had 24 volunteers, including a Pre-school window and a window created by the children at Elworth C of E. Although we kept the theme simple – Christmas – it was wonderful to see such different talents and ideas especially when children got involved. A new window was revealed each day and the address of each one was available on the church website as were the photographs of the windows.

The event also provided a great outreach opportunity and we were able to shine a light on the true meaning of Christmas.

I would like to thank every family who volunteered to create an Advent window and for everyone who supported us by viewing them and being so positive about the idea.

This could become an annual event!!

Julia Cargill

Independent examiner's report to Elworth P.C.C.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 26 to 34, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b) to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr S. Valentine ACMA
Chartered Accountant

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2020

Funds	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary income	2(a)	119,313	3,500	-	122,813	112,605
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	18,358	-	-	18,358	31,988
Income from investments	2(c)	1,008	-	-	1,008	1,654
Church activities	2(d)	30,779	-	-	30,779	65,555
Other incoming resources	2(e)	17,695	-	-	17,695	30
Total Incoming Resources		187,153	3,500	-	190,653	211,832
Resources Expended						
Church activities	3(a)	202,190	425	-	202,615	233,081
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	87	-	-	87	104
Fund raising trading costs	3(c)	513	-	-	513	1,689
Investment management costs	3(d)	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		202,790	425	-	203,215	234,874
Net Incoming (Expended) Resources Before Transfers						
		(15,637)	3,075	-	(12,562)	(23,042)
Transfers	10	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement In Funds		(15,637)	3,075	-	(12,562)	(23,042)
Total Funds brought forward		1,307,301	22,622	3,943	1,333,866	1,356,908
Total Funds Carried Forward		1,291,664	25,697	3,943	1,321,304	1,333,866

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible	6(a)	1,124,517	1,143,912
Investments	6(b)	-	-
		1,124,517	1,143,912
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	16,639	12,722
Short term deposits	11	250,544	234,536
Cash at bank and in hand	11	49,090	61,517
		316,273	308,775
Liabilities			
Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year			
	8	11,945	11,280
Net Current Assets		304,328	297,495
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		1,428,845	1,441,407
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	107,541	107,541
Total Net Assets		1,321,304	1,333,866
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted		1,291,664	1,307,301
Restricted	10	25,697	22,622
Endowment	10	3,943	3,943
		1,321,304	1,333,866

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by



The Revd David Page (P.C.C. Chairman)

The notes on pages 28 to 34 form part of these accounts.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St Peter's Church Elworth to hold unrestricted cash in reserve for three months operating costs including salaries and parish share, anticipated building & equipment works within the next one-two years, for funding the employment costs of an Assistant Minister from autumn 2021 until end 2022 beyond what is held in the Assistant Minister Restricted reserve, and accrued Outward Giving payments. It will also hold restricted cash reserves for the Assistant Minister, Benevolent, Church Hall Development and Endowment funds.

At December 2020, the amounts to be held in reserve are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	Item	Total
Operating Costs	£35,000	
Outward Giving	£11,405	
CEC Loan repayment 2016 – 2021 inc	£33,600	
Building Work & Equipment reserves	£85,900	
Assistant Minister provision 2021	£5,000	
Assistant Minister provision 2022	<u>£50,000</u>	£220,905
Restricted Reserves		
Assistant Minister	£10,000	
Church Hall Development	£12,022	
Benevolent	£3,075	
Music Donation	<u>£600</u>	£25,697
Endowment Funds		£3,943
Total Reserves		£250,544

- Anticipated building & equipment works include repairs or replacement of the central heating boiler or re-ordering the front of church (£60,900), church hall renewals/repairs (£10k), Quinquennial anticipated repairs in next 18 months (£5k) and a contingency of £10k.
- The Church hall Development fund accounts were closed in 2019 and a balance of £12,022 transferred to a Restricted Fund in the main account.
- The cash reserves in the deposit account meet the Reserves requirement.
- The PCC will continue to hold additional funds within the Out of School Club, Fairtrade and ABC accounts. This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.1. Funds

Endowment Funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investments of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (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 each 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.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

1.2. Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

1.3. Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

1.4. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which required a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment, fixtures and furniture used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. The Church Hall building will be depreciated over 75 years with plant & machinery, toolstore and railings depreciated over 25 years.

2. Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned Giving	88,529	200	88,729	77,278
Tax recoverable	20,048	-	20,048	16,927
Cash Offertories	1,631	-	1,631	5,441
Other Donations	1,234	-	1,234	5,697
Specific Donations	5,010	3,300	8,310	6,001
Other Grants	2,861	-	2,861	261
Legacies	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>119,313</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>122,813</u>	<u>112,605</u>
2(b) Activities for generating Funds				
Church Hall Lettings	13,704	-	13,704	25,665
Fair Trade Sales	646	-	646	1,650
Miscellaneous	4,008	-	4,008	4,673
	<u>18,358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,358</u>	<u>31,988</u>
2(c) Income from Investments				
Interest	1,008	-	1,008	1,654
2(d) Income from Church Activities				
Wedding and Funeral Fees	4,718	-	4,718	5,607
Out of School Club Fees	21,128	-	21,128	49,666
ABC Door Collections	859	-	859	3,387
Income from other churches	2,686	-	2,686	5,371
Heat & Light, photocopying	1,388	-	1,388	1,524
	<u>30,779</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,779</u>	<u>65,555</u>
2(e) Other incoming resources				
Bank account switch incentive	4,000	-	4,000	-
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	13,695	-	13,695	-
Others	-	-	-	30
	<u>17,695</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,695</u>	<u>30</u>

3. Resources Expended

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Outward Giving	11,476	-	11,476	11,058
Parish Share	67,668	-	67,668	65,975
Ministerial Expenses	541	-	541	843
Vicarage Rates	2,782	-	2,782	2,186
Assistant Staff	-	-	-	-
Family & Child Outreach	10,321	-	10,321	10,399
Church Running expenses	5,993	-	5,993	5,536
Church Repairs	623	-	623	2,156
Depreciation AV system & lights	1,246	-	1,246	1,246
Church yard expenses	786	-	786	1,592
Music and Service expenses	1,178	-	1,178	2,022
Administration and Publicity	13,968	-	13,968	20,923
Education and Training	237	-	237	333
Mission and Evangelism	4,008	425	4,433	8,239
Out of School Club – Wages	38,791	-	38,791	41,492
Out of School Club – Equipment	23	-	23	244
Out of School Club – Running costs	3,428	-	3,428	5,172
Church Hall Running costs	39,121	-	39,121	53,665
	<u>202,190</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>202,615</u>	<u>233,081</u>
3(b) Cost of generating voluntary income				
Giving envelopes	87	-	87	104
3(c) Fundraising trading costs				
Fair Trade Purchases	513	-	513	1,689
3(d) Investment management costs	-	-	-	-

4. Staff Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	54,645	-	54,645	61,958
HMRC, Pension & Admin	6,156	-	6,156	7,712
	<u>60,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,801</u>	<u>69,670</u>

Five staff are employed by the Out Of School Club; a Manager, Deputy Manager and up to three assistants. A Church Hall cleaner, Family & Child Outreach worker, and up to two Office Administrator staff have been employed by the PCC throughout 2020.

5. Payment to PCC members

During the year various PCC members have at times purchased items on behalf of the church and have been re-imbursed by the PCC. The PCC therefore considers that these amounts are exempt from disclosure.

6. Fixed Assets

6(a) Tangible (all unrestricted)		Freehold land and buildings	Church & Hall equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Actual Cost	At 1 January 2020	1,317,784	73,281	1,391,065
	Additions at cost	-	7,123	7,123
	Disposals at cost	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2020	<u>1,317,784</u>	<u>80,404</u>	<u>1,398,188</u>
Depreciation	At 1 January 2020	185,629	61,524	247,153
	Charge for the year	23,634	2,884	26,518
	At 31 December 2020	<u>209,263</u>	<u>64,408</u>	<u>273,671</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2019	1,132,155	11,757	1,143,912
	At 31 December 2020	<u>1,108,522</u>	<u>15,995</u>	<u>1,124,517</u>

The freehold land and buildings now comprise the Church Hall, toolstore/garage, railings, car park gates and refurbished footpath. Church & Hall equipment comprises the Church AV system, new lights, a piano keyboard, a ride-on mower and other gardening equipment. In the Church Hall, the security system, interim PA, tables, chairs, defibrillator, acoustic panels, artificial turf, AV system, foyer furniture, replacement corridor lighting and dishwasher. This year a camera system was installed in the Hall and Church with a cabled link between the two and wi-fi in the church.

6(b) Investments

All unrestricted

		£	Total £
Cost	At 1 January 2020	0	0
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2020	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. Debtors (Unrestricted Funds)

	2020 £	2019 £
Tax recoverable	12,853	8,620
Insurance prepayment	2,828	3,184
Other prepayments	958	918
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>16,639</u>	<u>12,722</u>

8. Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year (unrestricted)

	2020 £	2019 £
DBF Creditor	425	175
Outward Giving	11,405	10,758
Accruals	-	-
Rental prepaid	-	240
Other Creditors	115	107
	<u>11,945</u>	<u>11,280</u>

9. Creditors - Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Church Hall Loan	107,541	107,541

The Church Hall Loan is repayable in equal annual instalments of £5,660 over a period of 22 years starting in 2013. The first three year's repayments have been waived by Cheshire East Council and taken to account in 2016. A review regarding future payments was started with Cheshire East Council during that year, with no outcome at the time of publication of these accounts.

10. Funds

The restricted funds comprise the Church Hall Development Fund, Organ Fund (now closed), the Churchyard Fund (now closed), and a music donation. The Endowment funds relate to four legacies on which only the interest may be used by the PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard. Out of School Club and ABC Group are accounted as Unrestricted.

Fund movements

	Balance at 1 Jan 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Church Hall Development	12,022		-	-	12,022
New Minister Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Benevolent Fund	-	3,500	(425)	-	3,075
Churchyard Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Organ Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Music Donation	600	-	-	-	600
Total	22,622	3,500	(425)	-	25,697

11. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,124,517	-	-	1,124,517
Investments	-	-	-	-
Debtors	16,639	-	-	16,369
Short term deposits	220,904	25,697	3,943	250,544
Cash at bank and in hand	49,090	-	-	49,090
Liabilities:				
Amounts falling due in one year	(11,945)	-	-	(11,945)
Amounts falling due in over one year	(107,541)	-	-	(107,541)
Total	1,291,664	25,697	3,943	1,321,304

St. Peter's ABC Group

Income and Expenditure Statement for for the year ended 31 December 2020

	£	£
Income		
Door Collections	858.57	
Toast Donations	0.00	
		858.57
Expenditure		
Refreshments	182.51	
Crafts / Equipment	89.22	
Christmas Party	0.00	
Donation to Water Aid	70.00	
Other	0.00	
		341.73
Transfer Donations to St Peter's PCC		
Donation	1,200.00	1200.00
Net Income for the year		(683.16)
Balance b/f 1 January 2020		925.27
Balance c/f 31 December 2020		242.11
Bank Balance as at 31 st December 2020		312.11
Less unrepresented cheque		(70.00)
Total		242.11