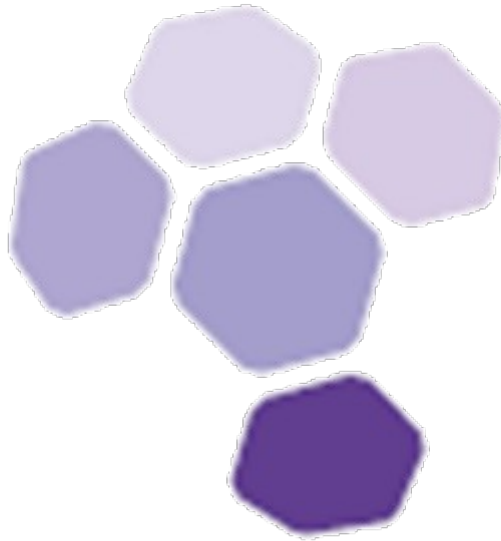


**AGM/APCM REPORTS
ST PETER'S CHURCH, FROGWELL
FOR YEAR 2023
(Registered Charity No 1131473)**



***Journeying together to share our Christian
faith and the love of God with all'***

5th May 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PCC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE APCM

- Appendix A – FoodBox Report
- Appendix B - Electoral Roll Report
- Appendix C - Church Warden’s Fabric Report
- Appendix D - Pastoral Care Report
- Appendix E - Financial Report & accounts
- Appendix F - Free Will Giving Report
- Appendix G- Deanery Synod Report
- Appendix H - Safeguarding Report

Annual Report 2023 of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Frogwell

Aim and Purposes

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Priest-in-charge, Reverend Andrew Martin Gubbins (until March 2023), shared the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's, Frogwell. With the departure of the priest-in-charge, responsibility devolved upon the PCC Transition Team, generously supported by clergy from the diocese and deanery and loyal members of the congregation, to maintain this mission. We remain committed to enabling as many people as possible to 'journey together to share the Christian faith and the love of God with all'. We want to keep in step with God's Spirit in our worship, activities and future plans. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Peter's Church and Church Community Centre, Lordsmead.

Objectives

Any person is welcome to worship at our church and to become part of the St Peter's community. Our site brings people together for Christian worship, education and fellowship from diverse Christian cultures, including liberal, evangelical, sacramental/catholic and charismatic traditions or none.

Led by the priest-in-charge, church wardens, and leadership team, the PCC maintain an overview of life at St Peter's Church to better serve our wider community. Acts of worship include prayer and scripture, music, sacrament, preaching and interaction. In the rest of our Church's activities, we seek to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our Christian community through:

- Worship, prayer; and discipleship for children and adults;
- Partnerships with a C of E Academy, hirers, churches, charities & people of goodwill
- Pastoral care and social action for people of church and parish, including our FoodBox ministry.
- Mission and outreach work.
- Stewardship of St Peter's physical, financial & human resources, especially the Church Community Centre.

Achievements in 2023

- The maintenance of a rich and varied pattern of worship during the period of vacancy with the help of diocesan and deanery clergy and members of our lay community. All have been essential in ensuring a seamless transition and a positive response in the face of change.
- Moving the Cornerstone/Peter Window, project forward to a tender exercise to reveal the full cost of replacement on a like-for like basis revealing that the outcome was likely to prove unsustainable and seeking Diocesan Advisory Committee advice on the way ahead in the light of cost and manufacturing constraints.
- Continued enhancement of our building and facilities in: recognition of the wider church's net-zero commitment by further replacement of lights with energy saving LED bulbs; improving user experience with the provision of a new projector screen

in the meeting room and installation of a range cooker in its kitchen; and rapid responses to our maintenance issues arising throughout the complex.

- Support for the growth ambition of the Lordsmead playgroup(now with 80 children) through the creation of a new door into the Harris Room, allowing them to become fully secure and self-contained in line with Ofsted requirements, and the installation of new toilets.
- ‘St Peter’s FoodBox’ continued weekly doorstep deliveries to some 110 households which was only possible with the support of 55 volunteers. Governance of the Foodbox operation has now been regularised under the PCC umbrella with approved Terms of Reference for its Strategy Group and letters of appointment to all volunteers. **(A separate report on FoodBox operations in 2023 is at Appendix A)**
- Our Pastoral Support Team maintained their commitment to those in need, physically, spiritually or psychologically.
- Continued support of St Peter’s Academy in worship & governance throughout the vacancy with the help of members from the Deanery.
- Maintaining positive partnerships with all hirers & users of Church & Centre community centre.
- Continuing generosity from the congregation via planned giving, including the Parish Giving Scheme.

Activity in 2023

Worship and prayer

St Peter’s Church has offered a range of services on a weekly, monthly and seasonal basis during the inter-regnum:

- a service of Holy Communion with sermon and hymns on Wednesdays at 10am offered a welcome community for 30 people at a time;
- on Sundays a weekly 10am Parish Communion, except for a lay-led Service of the Word when clergy were unavailable to maintain the previous pattern of worship. (40 people)

Anyone is welcome to attend any services. In 2023 there were 115 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, a small increase of 2 on last year. 85 were resident in the Parish and 30 were non-resident. **A full report is at Appendix B.** Attendance at Easter stood at 67 and Christmas at 98.

Regrettably the Kingfisher Messy Church initiative, which was revived post-Covid, had to be suspended with the departure of the priest-in-Charge due to a scarcity of human resources for its continuance and the need to focus on other core activities. It is hoped to reinstate this means of outreach once the new priest-in-charge takes up post.

Again, there were no weddings in the church, although we read banns for weddings in other churches. There were 3 baptisms. Six funeral services were conducted in the church.

Ministry

The combining of lay and ordained leadership matters at St Peter’s in pastoral care, missional initiatives such as FoodBox has maintained services with or without a clergy presence.

LIGHT (monthly worship led by an ecumenical team for people with special needs) has continued led by Revd Canon Alice Kemp as the co-ordinating minister with attendance of 20-30. This is now a recognised activity for St Peter's, although its status in accountability terms remains somewhat opaque.

Cornerstone Project

The PCC has continued to monitor closely all our options relating to the significant challenges of concrete cancer throughout the church structure. More detail on this is contained in the **Fabric Report of the Church Warden at Appendix C.**

Partnerships and Centre Users

The Lord's Mead Pre-School successfully transitioned into the Hall while also retaining use of the Harris Room and the meeting room when required. It continues to thrive in its new setting with some 80 children now enrolled.

The 'Distinctively Christian' input to St Peter's C of E Academy continued with Collective Worship in the church led by visiting clergy. Clergy participation in the governance of the academy ended with the departure of the priest-in-charge.

Our hirers have included Chippenham Male Voice Choir, CLOGs, WWT, Deanery & Diocese, as well as parents & toddlers, uniformed groups and exercise classes as well as family community events.

Pastoral care

A separate report on our pastoral care activities have been submitted for the APCM (Appendix D). Other groups who contribute to our pastoral support, such as Friendship Lunch and the Ladies Guild, men's activity over meals, coffee and walking; and the Choir remain active. Other pastoral initiatives included the church BBQ, a further great success despite being driven in doors by the weather. We also hosted a Harvest Lunch funded by donations and a craft afternoon where the raised some additional funds for the church.

Mission

In a continuing demonstration of our faith, we responded directly to need this past year, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, through our award-winning FoodBox initiative. We also maintained support for many charities: Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid, Send-a-Cow, Stroke Association, Doorway, Food Bank, Cancer Research, Sightsavers, Embrace the Middle East and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church remains a participating member of Chippenham Churches Together, but the organisation remains fragile post-Covid with the focus remaining on the recovery of individual churches from its aftereffects.

Volunteers

We thank all who have worked so hard over a difficult year as we awaited the appointment of a new Priest-in-Charge. The pool of those able to actively support events and initiatives is limited but they have given freely of their time and energy, sustaining the welcoming and friendly character of the church and encouraging a positive attitude to the impending change in ministry. This has

resulted in a hopeful and expectant community ready to embrace the future. We greatly appreciate all involved from: administrators, rota members, cleaners, flower-ladies, sacristy/servers, the PA team, welcomers, music & arts, treasury, and other unnamed contributions that are nonetheless so very valuable for our community. We could not have done it without you!.

Charitable Status

The PCC takes note of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion in setting the framework of its public accountability, and in particular this annual report.

Financial Review

A full financial report together with audited accounts for 2023 have been submitted and are incorporated at Annex E. These represent that translation of church activities into financial terms. **The Freewill Offering Report is at Appendix F.**

We have maintained our policy of keeping a £8,000 minimum reserve in line with Diocesan and Charity Commission guidance. Given the impact of Covid, and the unknown overall cost of rectifying the concrete cancer issues inherited by the church since its construction, the PCC maintained its position that it could no longer commit to a gift to the level suggested by the diocese. As the scale and range of uncertainties faced by the church remained unabated, it remained the financially prudent course of action. However, when the diocese's request for 2024 was received, it was agreed to meet their request in full. This was because a much-reduced request was made, reflecting the fact that the church would now be part of a benefice and share ministerial costs with Lacock and Bowden Hill.

Structure, governance and management.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Peter's the membership of the PCC consists of the clergy, churchwardens, any licensed lay minister, deanery synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All the baptised who attend services at St Peter's are encouraged to register on our Electoral Roll and are welcome to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the church and parish. New members receive initial briefing and support as to the workings of the PCC and sign standard terms of reference. All are required to undertake the national church's mandatory safeguarding training.

Officers of the PCC include a church warden, treasurer, and parish secretary and they are ably assisted by any other members of a Leadership Team, that in addition to clergy, can consist of assistant wardens or other nominees of the PCC each year.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has various ways of dealing with particular aspects of parish life. Groups and individuals address worship, safeguarding, Cornerstone, finance, premises, outreach and pastoral issues, all responsible to the PCC and reporting back to it as necessary.

The PCC met 5 times in 2023, The Leadership team met on 6 occasions. The AGM/APCM was held on 12th March 2023.

Links

The Priest-in-charge participated in Diocesan and Deanery life as well as in Chippenham Churches Together and was the PCC's link as Ex-officio Governor for St Peter's C of E Academy.

Deanery Synod

The church had no Deanery Synod representatives during the year. Our Church Warden has, however, remained in her role as Deanery Secretary and member of the Deanery Leadership Team. This has continued to ensure necessary information flows and co-ordination with wider deanery thinking and planning, especially in regard to the development of the Chippenham Deanery Mission Area Plan. **The work of the Synod is covered in a separate APCM report (see Appendix G).**

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding and Inclusion is informing every aspect of our ministry at St Peter's as we have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance. Information of who to contact in case of a Safeguarding Concern, or for advice about procedures and good practice in the parish and the diocese is published in the foyer of the Church. St Peter's Church had only one Parish Safeguarding Officer at the start of the year: Bev Webb. Thankfully, we were able to return to our previous complement of two when Joan Taylor- Gunston joined the team as Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Caroline Masters has continued as our DBS Validator.

St Peter's PCC has agreed policy guidance for parish safeguarding, safer recruitment, and response to safeguarding concerns or signs of domestic abuse. The PCC has also adopted the national statement of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement' in our parish safeguarding policy. A regular report by the PSO is made 3 times a year to the PCC. **A safeguarding report for the APCM is at Appendix H).**

St Peter's PSOs input to the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to monitor performance and progress against national standards and requirements. Whilst progress has been made, much still remains to be done. However, during the course of the year all active PCC members completed the mandatory basic and foundational training on safeguarding. We shall continue to work towards full compliance in 2024.

Administrative Information

St Peter's Church is situated at Frogwell, Chippenham. It is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Peter's Church, Lordsmead, Chippenham SN14 0LL. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Reg No. 1131473)

PCC members who served at any time from 1 January – 31 December 2023:

Ex-Officio members:	
Priest in charge:	Revd. Andrew Gubbins (Chair) (until March 2023)
Church warden:	Mrs Vivienne Fuller
Deanery Synod representatives:	No representatives.
Elected members:	Mrs. Daphne Brindle (Deputy Chair) Mrs Sue Burt Mrs Elisabeth Davies Mr. Ivan Hurcum Mr Matthew Hurcum (Secretary until June 2023 and Treasurer from June 2023) Mr. Christopher Gough (Treasurer until June 2023)
Co-opted Member	Nigel Fuller (Secretary from June 2023) Bev Webb (Safeguarding Officer)
Former Charity Trustees who served during the financial year.	Ms Colleen McDuling (Until November 2023)

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Revd. Simon Dunn (PCC Chair)

Revd. Simon Dunn

May 2023



FoodBox: Review of 2023

Background:

The FoodBox project collects surplus food from local stores, supplements this with purchased food, and distributes these to those in need throughout the area. The project runs under the auspices of the PCC and operates in partnership with the wider community across Chippenham and its surroundings. It is wholly run and supported by volunteers from many churches across the area, as well as volunteers from the local community with no church affiliation.

Timeline

- Jan 2023: Andrew Gubbins who originated the scheme announces his departure, leading to the gradual handover of FoodBox to volunteers.
- Apr 2023: An emergency volunteers' meeting called to discuss FoodBox's future, leads to the establishment of a guiding Strategy Team.
- May 2023: Moves continued to regularise the administration and accountability of the scheme, determining an agreed organisational structure with safer recruitment procedures, formal appointment letters and terms of reference.
- Jul 2023: A volunteer recruitment drive is launched to sustain the initiative into the future.

Operational numbers

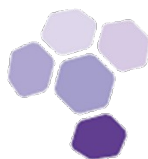
- By the end of the year, FoodBox had grown from c. 30 volunteers to at least 55 volunteers. This followed a successful recruitment campaign which introduced 21 new volunteers, with a further 5 planning to contribute when circumstances allowed.
- FoodBox was operational for 6 days each week, from Sunday to Friday.
- On average c. 110 households received deliveries each week, split into 50 adults-only and 60 with children. Those households total 179 adults and 128 children.
- During 2023, 63 households were added to the list, and 37 ceased needing help.
- Surplus food was collected from 9 supermarkets each week.
- During 2023, FoodBox planned to pack/deliver c. 5,400 bags, but due to emergency additions and occasions when a surplus of food was collected, the number was closer to 6,000 bags.
- In January 2023 it was planned to pack/deliver 93 bags/week, but by years end it approached 115 bags/week. The highest number reached was 119 bags the week before Christmas.

Finances

- FoodBox depends on receiving grants and other donations to enable the purchasing of staple foods. In 2023 grants totalling nearly £16K were received from local authority, charity and public sources.
- Like everyone, FoodBox has been impacted by food inflation costs. A year ago FoodBox's weekly spend was c. £250, it is now c. £300 for just the basic foods.

On behalf of the FoodBox Strategy Team

March 2024



**REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL
FOR
ST PETER'S, FROGWELL
AGM/APCM 2024**

At the time of the AGM last year there were 113 names on the roll.

Since then we have lost 5 people: Two have died; and
Three have moved away.

We have added seven people to the roll, six of whom are resident, and one is non-resident.

Therefore, the new electoral roll will have 115 names on it.

The new electoral roll will be displayed in the narthex dated 2024. It shows only names; no addresses are shown in accordance with confidentiality rules.

Should you wish to see your full entry, please speak to me and I will show you your entry on the master list which is never on display.

**Mrs Angela Hurcum
Electoral Roll Officer**

18 April 2024

APCM CHURCH WARDEN'S (PREMISES) REPORT: INCLUDING CORNERSTONE – 2023

Introduction

Maintaining our church and its associated community facilities, despite its relative youth, is always a challenge. Last year I commented that 2023 would prove even more demanding with only myself as church warden. This has proved an understatement as additional calls on time and effort resulted from new approval requirements for a listed building, the period of vacancy working with the transition team, liaising with deanery and diocese, participating in the recruitment process and co-ordinating with our sister churches of Lacock and Bowden Hill as we move towards partnership in a new benefice. Despite often feeling like a full-time job, rather than a volunteer post, with the aid and assistance of many colleagues, it has been possible to continue to move the Cornerstone project forward and respond effectively to the frequent maintenance issues that have arisen over the course of the year.

Long Standing Problems: The Peter Window:

At the end of 2022, following the Diocesan Advisory Committee's final recognition that repair was not a viable option, we had progressed the cornerstone to the preparation stage for tender documentation. The tender process proved rather protracted for several reasons. The preparation of the technical documentation, especially for the bespoke concrete mullions proved time consuming. Alan Keiller was particularly helpful in providing advice to our architects on specification details subsequently incorporated into the brief and I am most grateful for his expert advice. The identification of suitable contractors willing to undertake the task, and a specialist manufacturer for the mullions, proved difficult. Ultimately only one firm was found to be capable of the casting task, and even then our architects suggested a trial cast to prove their capability before letting any contract. In April 2023 the tender papers were issued to three contractors each required to use the specialist casting firm as a subcontractor. The time for responses had to be extended to allow full consideration of the requirements. Only two of the contractors ultimately responded in June and one of those indicated that their price was reliant on there being no asbestos being present in the structures to be removed and with an open ended 'cost-plus' contract approach. To try and firm up pricing we commissioned an asbestos survey which was carried out in August, with a report received in September which demonstrated no asbestos was present. A final tender report was received from our architects in November which indicated that on cost grounds there was only one contractor to be recommended at a cost of some £300K including fees. This compares with previous estimates when the project first started some 12 years ago of £65K, subsequently raised to £160K with the passage of time and experience. The PCC were understandably concerned at the scale of costs and the continuing uncertainties surrounding the like-for-like replacement requested by the DAC. It was therefore decided to request an onsite meeting with the DAC to consider the following questions:

- a. What would happen if the only contractor prepared to meet the technical specification failed the trial required to prove technical proficiency?
- b. What would happen if the required grants could not be obtained?
- c. Was there any more affordable option for replacement, other than like-for-like, that the DAC would contemplate if the only other option was closure on H&S grounds?

The DAC agreed to a meeting in January 2024 and we continue to press for consistent advice which will result in an affordable and sustainable solution that does not leave a toxic legacy for our successors.

New Projects to Improve Facilities

Following the transition of the Lordsmead Playgroup into the Hall at the end of last 2022. We had recognised the need for a new door to be cut between the Harris Room and the Hall entrance lobby to assist the groups future expansion and to allow them to meet Ofsted safeguarding requirements for a secure environment for their charges. A faculty was needed from the diocese to permit this, which involved an extended consultation period. This was obtained in April 2023 and the contract let with local company NuFlu. The delay between obtaining the quote and obtaining the faculty resulted in a small cost increase due to inflation. Given the contractors other commitments, the need to undertake the work only during school holidays, it did not prove possible to commence and complete the work until October.

The Hall toilets, now used by the Playgroup were becoming old, tired, stained and unhygienic with repeated repairs being required to cistern syphons etc. Indeed, one cubicle partition collapsed onto a playgroup staff member albeit no injuries were sustained beyond shock. We were fortunate that a child was not involved. Replacement offered a long-term cost-effective solution, and these were fitted in November

The Playgroup also sought our help in replacing the railings around their play area with purpose designed fencing matching that used by the school. This would improve the security of the group and have the added benefit of deterring vandals from accessing the flat roof of the complex from this area as they had done in the past. The PCC were therefore happy to obtain the necessary approval from the diocese needed for this work given the proximity to a listed building. The cost will be born in full by the Playgroup.

In the meeting room we have installed a new projector screen to enhance its facilities for hirers and in January obtained an Area Board Grant to purchase a range cooker for the kitchen to support the friendship lunches.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to clean the upholstery of the chairs in the church, significantly improving their appearance.

Delayed/Deferred Projects

The securing of the hall area for the Playgroup's use during the week in term time meant the loss of the accessible toilet for other users during its operation. We pursued the idea of converting the ladies' conveniences in the link to a unisex one with a fully accessible toilet. Two interested contractors were found but, despite giving quotes, both ultimately withdrew from the process. In any event, obtaining the necessary faculty was proving problematic given the space requirements mandated for disabled access. Waivers might have been possible, but the withdrawal of the contractors and absence of detailed plans prevented this. Conscious of other calls on our resources it was decided to put this project into abeyance, but we will return to it in more propitious times. The accessible toilet in the hall remain available to other users at all other times.

EcoChurch

The national church's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 came with the incentive of £10K grants to individual churches if they agreed to an energy audit. St Peter's signed up to this initiative and an audit was undertaken in October and a report with various recommendations was received in December. This suggested improvements, via major projects costing a total of £230K with breakeven points being reached in many cases decades in the future. Given the potential call on church funds for the Peter Window project, further capital investments on this scale simply could not be achieved. The contents of the report have been noted and we may take up some minor improvements from their list in due course. Our hope of installing better roof installation in the church hall was also set back by the audit in which it did not feature due to the low payback envisaged in its implementation. Again, this will not be pursued given other pressures.

In the meantime, we have had a new electricity supply SMART meter installed which in turn necessitated an improvement to the power supply system. Neither involved cost to church funds being covered by the national Grid and Southern electric respectively. The replacement of light bulbs and strip lighting with LED equivalents has also moved on apace. The Area Board grant that paid for the new cooker for the meeting room kitchen was also used to refund replacement LED fittings to the neighbouring toilets and kitchen.

Ongoing tasks

Other ongoing areas of maintenance covered during the year included:

- Completion of the external redecoration of the exterior of the complex to improve its welcome and weatherproofing as far as was possible.
- The professional repair of potholes in the church car park entrance by CCL surfacing. We sought a contribution to this from the Diocesan Board of Academy Trusts but this was rejected. As the academy's heavy delivery vehicles exacerbated the erosion of the surface across our property it was decided to seek an easement for the use of this access via a modest annual fee. After a long delay from DBAT this was also rejected and a requested onsite visit failed to materialise. News has recently

emerged of the winding up of DBAT due to an adverse OFSTED report and an inheritor Trust is being identified. We will pursue our claim with them in due course.

- Gutter repair to the main church roof, and a similar incident with the EDPM cover to the corridor, resulting in leaks.
- Lightning conductor test;
- Maintenance and repair of the new automatic doors;
- Identification and remedy of an electrical issue causing frequent tripping to the Hall facilities;
- A Health and Safety audit;
- Stripping of carpet from the Harris room and its rewaxing.

Conclusion

The cost of general maintenance over the course of 2023, not including Cornerstone, amounted to just under £14K. This reflected a conscious decision to reinstate long overdue maintenance needs to maintain our rental income and remain an attractive venue for users. Total running expenses including maintenance came to nearly £44K. Since its inception the various activities required to identify a solution to the Peter Window issue have amounted to some £45K. These are not inconsiderable sums when taken alongside Parish share and we could not have sustained them without the income generated from our community complex.

The length of this report demonstrates the range and complexity of task facing church wardens and their PCC colleagues. We should not expect them to diminish with the continuing uncertainties over a solution to the Peter Window and the rise in prices faced from a variety of external sources. Looking to the year ahead, we can expect to face continuing challenges with our buildings. I would certainly welcome the continuing active support of everyone within the church community in taking issues forward and the appointment of a fellow Church warden to share the load would be greatly appreciated.

**Vivienne Fuller
Church Warden**

5 May 2024

Pastoral Work at St. Peter's Church Chippenham for year 2023.

At St. Peter's the Pastoral Team aim to co-ordinate the care of the St. Peter's Church Family.

During the year our team has comprised five members. In compliance with Diocesan requirements, all have completed three online Safeguarding Courses and DBS checks. Four members have completed Volunteer Driver's Agreement forms and Passenger Consent Forms have been agreed for Pastoral lifts.

What do we do?

We meet each month to review and plan our actions. Communication between, commitment to and support for each other is essential for us as a team. Confidentiality is stressed at all times.

Our work is very varied. We aim to respond promptly to those who contact us. People may need support for a short while or it may be over a prolonged period, or just need someone to talk to. We continue to support those who are no longer able to attend church services, our message being 'we the church still care about you and have not forgotten you'. The important ministry of Home Communion is available, monthly, to those who are unable to attend church.

As we can spend a considerable amount of time, visiting people in their own homes, it is vitally important to be able to develop 'trusting relationships' not only with them but also with their families/carers.

We take people regularly for Doctors', Dentists' and Hospital Appointments.

Wherever possible we visit people in hospital, send cards and inform the Hospital Chaplain of their stay.

Regular visits are made to Care Homes (Cepen Lodge and Middlefields).

We provide support where necessary for bereaved families by visiting and sending cards. In October/November we organise a 'tea' (immediately before a Remembering Service) for families who have held a funeral in church during the previous 3 years. This is well received and sometimes it is the first time the families have re visited the church since the funeral took place.

We would like to thank all who have supported us during the year.

**Daphne Brindle
Pastoral Team Leader.**

March 2024



St. Peters Church

LORDS MEAD, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 0LL

Journeying together to share our Christian faith and the love of God with all.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023

CHARITY NUMBER 1131473

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name:		St. Peter's Church Chippenham
Charity number:		1131473
Principal office address:		St. Peter's Church Lord's Mead Chippenham Wiltshire SN14 0LL

Charity trustees at date of approval:	Ex-Officio members: Priest in charge: Dep. Chairperson: Church wardens: Treasurer: Deanery Synod representatives: Elected members: Co-opted members:	Rev. Simon Dunn Mrs. Daphne Brindle Mrs. Vivienne Fuller Mr. Matthew Hurcum none Mrs. Daphne Brindle Mrs. Sue Burt Mr. Ivan Hurcum Mr. Chris Gough Mrs Lis Davis Mr Nigel Fuller (Secretary) Bev Webb (Safeguarding Officer)
Former charity trustees who served during the financial year:		Colleen McDuling

Financial Review

Summary: Last year it was reported that the loss of the Tom Metcalf Centre as one of our regular hirers would have a bigger effect on our income this year than in 2022. I am pleased to report that the fall in income from the hiring of our rooms has been limited to less than 8%. This is almost entirely down to the increased provision we've been able to provide to Lords Mead Playgroup who have been able to increase their numbers. The addition of a doorway from the Link to the Harris Room, and other modifications, has allowed this to happen. We have also continued with the upkeep of our premises in line with the Quinquennial Report, with a threefold increase in spending on Repairs and Maintenance. With these investments put in place, the PCC have had the confidence to increase the standard rent for our rooms by approximately 10%, which still represents excellent value for money.

Making comparisons with previous years needs to be made with some caution, as last year we sold a 50% share in a property, netting us approximately £110,000 which has been put to the Cornerstone Fund (90%) and to the Repairs and Maintenance budget (10%). In the years before that we were, of course, severely restricted by Covid regulations.

Income: Our income sources are primarily from voluntary giving and the renting out of our rooms. As stated earlier, our rental income has fallen by 8%. In 2022 it was reported that our voluntary giving fell by some 9%

on 2021. This year it has fallen by a further 4% primarily due to the passing away and leaving of members of our congregation. Given the rate of inflation over recent years, this has had a significant impact on what we are able to do as a church.

Expenditure: Our big expenditure items were Parish Share (£39,600), electricity (£9,700), repairs and maintenance (£16,200) and cleaning costs (£13,400). The outlook for the coming year is to maintain and hopefully increase our income from room rentals, due to the investments that we've made in our facilities. We continue to look at ways we can reduce our exposure to energy costs, such as by fitting radiator thermostatic valves and LED bulbs to our lighting.

Parish Share: In the past two years, the PCC took the difficult decision to pay a reduced Parish Share from that requested by the Diocese, although 2023 saw us pay 10% more than in 2022. For 2024, the Diocese have requested a sum which equates to a further 8% increase on what we paid in 2023. This is a significant drop in what was requested in previous years reflecting that the parish will now form part of a benefice with Lacock and Bowden Hill, thereby sharing clergy costs. As such, it was felt by the PCC that we should show goodwill and strive to meet the requested amount (approx. £43,000).

FoodBox at St. Peter's: It is unfortunate to report that the current economic situation means that this service remains necessary. This year saw a recruitment drive which increased the number of volunteers. Income from grants and donations topped £15,800 in the past year, although down on last year. Their finances remain healthy.

Cornerstone Fund: The Cornerstone fund has remained static over the year, earning a modest amount of interest, balanced by various professional fees.

Conclusion: The most concerning aspect is the ongoing reduction in Voluntary Giving, in both absolute and real terms. With the inevitable increase in costs due to the global financial situation it will continue to be a challenge for St Peters to maintain a healthy budget. Close consideration of all costs, and increased promotion of the building as a hireable venue, should enable St Peters to continue operating successfully.

I would like to thank all those who have helped the Treasury team this year, with particular thanks to Ivan Hurcum for his continued weekly processing of any income to St Peters and to Chris Gough for his ongoing guidance and advice from when I took on the role of Treasurer.

Matthew Hurcum PCC Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: Donations and Legacies Regular giving Receipts from donors

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 8)	Total 2023	Total 2022
Planned giving	£24,364		£100	£24,464	£27,677
Collections other than planned giving	£5,851			£5,851	£3,981
Income tax recovered	£8,080		£25	£8,105	£8,274
Grants	£4,104			£4,104	£970
	<u>£42,399</u>		<u>£125</u>	<u>£42,524</u>	£40,902

Other Donations and Legacies (note 2)	£2,717		£16,717	£19,434	£130,310
Income from Charitable Activities (note 3)	£3,922			£3,922	£4,361
Other Trading Activities (note 4)	£34,074			£34,074	£38,471
	<u>£40,713</u>		<u>£16,717</u>	<u>£57,430</u>	£173,142

Total Deposited into Bank	<u>£83,112</u>		<u>£16,842</u>	<u>£99,954</u>	£214,044
Income from Investments (note 5)	£143		£3,894	£4,037	£1,523
Total Income and Endowments	<u>£83,255</u>		<u>£20,737</u>	<u>£103,992</u>	<u>£215,567</u>

EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 8)	Total 2023	Total 2022
Expenditure on Charitable Activities (note 6)	£2,754			£2,754	£2,099
Parish Share	£39,600			£39,600	£36,000
Other Expenditure (note 7)	£52,345		£12,173	£64,518	£159,093
Total Expenditure from Bank Account	<u>£94,699</u>		<u>£12,173</u>	<u>£106,872</u>	<u>£197,192</u>

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 8)	Total 2023	Total 2022
Net income/(expenditure)	(£11,443)		£8,563	(£2,880)	£18,375
Transfers between funds					£87,023
Net movement in funds	(£11,443)		£8,563	(£2,880)	£105,399
Add back net movement in unrepresented cheques (note 8)	£0	£0	£0	£0	-£241
Cash at bank 1st January	£23,812	£0	<u>£133,134</u>	£157,031	£51,873
Cash at bank 31st December	<u>£12,368</u>		<u>£141,697</u>	<u>£154,151</u>	<u>£157,031</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 8)	Total 2023	Total 2022
Cash Funds					
HSBC current account	£1,568		£17,489	£19,057	£26,052
HSBC deposit account	£11,250			£11,250	£6,806
CBF Cornerstone Fund			£123,759	£123,759	£123,989
Cash floats				£85	£184
Total Assets	£12,818		£141,248	£154,151	£157,030
Liabilities					
Net Assets	<u>£12,818</u>		<u>£141,248</u>	<u>£154,151</u>	<u>£157,030</u>

The attached notes on pages 5 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Prepared by Matthew Hurcum (PCC Treasurer)



Approved by the PCC to the Priest in Charge and PCC Secretary at its meeting of 18th April 2024



Rev Simon Dunn (PCC Chair)



Nigel Fuller (PCC Secretary)

1. Notes

- (i) The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. These financial statements have also applied the guidance from the new Charities SORP (FRS102) that is effective for all year ends from 31 December 2015 onwards and replaces the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005).
- (ii) These financial statements are prepared using the receipts and payments basis and as such exclude income earned during the financial year that have not been received as at 31 December as well as amounts owing from obligations entered into during the financial year for which payments have not been raised. In particular this applies to donations towards Sightsavers and Embrace The Middle East which were received during December 2023 but had not been forwarded to the charities until January 2024.
- (iii) The funds specified on page 4 represent all the funds of the PCC including those which are subject to special restrictions regarding their use.

The PCC is committed to maintaining an £8,000 minimum reserve representing three months essential expenditure, which is held within the HSBC current and deposit accounts. The level of the minimum reserve will be decided annually by the PCC. It is a requirement to have a contingency plan to restore funds to the minimum reserve level should ever the situation arise.

- (iv) Assets recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities include:

- Moveable church furnishings held by the Church Warden on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment of which the PCC is free to dispose of without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

- (v) Expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion that relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

2. Other donations and legacies

	2023	2022
To Restricted Funds:		
Cornerstone Fund donations via current a/c		£110,143
Wednesday Coffee Fund	£495	£343
LIGHT service	£448	£1,460
Friendship Lunch	£100	
Wiltshire Council for "Foodbox"	£5,000	£4,936
Borough Lands for "Foodbox" (3 grants)	£3,500	£0
Chippenham Lions for "Foodbox"	£1,520	£0
Sutton Benger Beer & Sausage Festival for "Foodbox"	£1,500	£0
St Andrews PCC for "Foodbox"	£500	£500
Neighbourly Grant for "Foodbox"	£1,000	£1,000
Other donors for "Foodbox"	£2,654	£10,726
Pastoral Committee		£40
	£16,717	£129,148
To Unrestricted Funds:		
Craft Day	£37	£0
Angela Hurcum (Marmalade sales)	£57	£127
Daphne Field (cards)	£103	£44
Bev Webb (Sale of Christmas Cakes)	£165	
Sale of Votive candles	£91	
Keynenburg & Morgan	£100	
Collection for Andrew's Leaving Presentation	£606	
Bequests (Terry Bate)	£1,000	£0
Sunday Coffee Fund net	£485	£325
Sally Powell (piano/organ tuning)		£169
Other donations	£73	£398
	£2,717	£1,163
Total	£19,434	£130,310

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	2023	2022
Fundraising for general purposes		
Summer fete (BBQ)	£730	£1,455
Funeral collections for St. Peter's Church (Kath Bollen)	£80	£458
Use of photocopier	£1	
Tradewinds BBQ		£510
Other		£365
	<u>£811</u>	<u>£2,787</u>
Fundraising for specific purposes		
Children's Society		£50
Christian Aid	£25	£187
Sight Savers	£195	£122
Send a Cow (The Ripple Effect)	£409	£166
Leprosy Mission	£308	£271
Embrace The Middle East	£75	£0
Funeral donations for charities	£515	£0
Wiltshire Historic Churches	£236	£15
Dorothy House (D. Pitchford)	£251	£137
Guide Dogs Blind		£143
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute		£168
McMillan Cancer		£260
Action on Poverty		£55
Cancer Research	£296	
Ride & Stride	£473	
Alzheimers Research (V. Adcock)	£278	
Stroke Association	£50	
	<u>£3,111</u>	<u>£1,573</u>
Total	<u>££3,922</u>	<u>£4,361</u>

4. Other trading

	2023	2022
Tom Metcalfe Centre rent		£6,747
Lord's Mead Playgroup rent	£20,052	£16,960
Other Hall Lettings	£12,098	£11,182
Wedding fees	£99	£434
Funeral fees	£1,825	£3,148
	<u>£34,074</u>	<u>£38,471</u>

5. Income from investments

	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
Interest on CBF Account		£3,894	£3,894	£1,503
Interest on Deposit Account	£143		£143	£20
			<u>£4,037</u>	<u>£1,523</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023	2022
Send a Cow (The Ripple Effect)	£409	£166
Sight Savers	£120	£122
Children's Society		£210
Christian Aid	£25	£187
Embrace Middle East		£0
Prostate Cancer UK (John Webb)	£202	£0
Leprosy Mission	£308	£271
MacMillan Nurses	£296	£260
Wiltshire Historic Churches	£473	£0
Dementia UK (Jean Robbins)	£55	£0
Deanery Synod subscription	£30	£0
Dorothy House (Jean Robbins/Dorothy Pitchford)	£306	£137
Guide Dogs Blind		£143
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute		£168
Action on Poverty		£55
Alzheimer's Association (Violet. Adcock)	£278	£45
Forever Friends Appeal (RUH)		£168
Wiltshire Air Ambulance (John Webb)	£202	£168
Stroke Association	£50	
Total	<u>£2,754</u>	<u>£2,099</u>

7. Other expenditure

	2023	2022
Clergy Expenses		
Expenses	£111	£1,334
Visiting preachers	£1,366	£29
	<u>£1,477</u>	<u>£1,363</u>
Benefice fees	<u>£393</u>	<u>£1,183</u>
Church Maintenance and Running Expenses		
Electricity	£9,827	£4,997
Gas	£0	£2,030
Water rates	£0	£0
Insurance	£2,121	£2,004
Grass cutting	£650	£650
Repairs and maintenance	£13,882	£5,386
Imperial Cleaning Services	£14,666	£13,871
Refuse collection	£975	£880
Fire extinguishers	£642	£437
Chair Cleaning	£520	£0
Boiler Servicing	£102	
LED Replacement Lighting	£234	
Lightening Conductor Test	£72	
	<u>£43,690</u>	<u>£30,256</u>

Church Management and Administration

Photocopier costs	£1,135	£935
Postage		£9
Stationery	£110	£8
Computer and software	£848	£1,476
Telephone	£717	£646
Contactless processing fees	£1	
Bank charges	£157	£226
Total	<u>£2,967</u>	<u>£3,300</u>
Support costs		
Altar Requisites	£241	
Service books/music	£95	
Candles/batteries etc	£145	
Flowers expenses	£23	
Copyright fees	£416	£224
Organ and Piano tuning		£169
Organist fees		£120
Verger fees		£120
Kitchen Equipment purchases	£394	£249

First Aid Courses	£24	£0
Other	£421	£306
Pastoral Committee expenses		£15
LIGHT service (H) expenses	£712	£899
Foodbox (I) expenses	£7,732	£12,313
Cornerstone Expenses	£4,124	
Presentation to Rev Andrew Gubbins (outgoing incumbent)	£614	
Church Times Advertisement	£1,050	
Transfer to CBF Cornerstone Fund		£108,576
	<u>£15,597</u>	<u>£122,990</u>
	<u>£64,124</u>	<u>£159,093</u>

8. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds year-ended 31/12/2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
	Cornerstone Fund	Foodbox	LIGHT Service	Wednesday Coffee Fund (AED)	Friendship Lunch	Flower Fund	Totals
Balance at 01/01/2023							
HSBC accounts	£0	£6,349	£1,768	£628	£400	£0	£9,146
CBF deposit account	£123,989	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£123,989
Cash floats	£0	£0	£0	£40	£122	£22	£184
	£123,989	£6,349	£1,768	£667	£522	£22	£133,318
Donations	£0	£15,799	£443.00	£584	£1,651	£0	£18,550
Other Voluntary Receipts	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Interest received	£3,894	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3,894
Expenses	-£4,124	-£7,732	-£712	£0	-£1,521	£0	-£14,088
Transfers from/to unrestricted funds	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	-£200
Total movements in year	-£229	£8,068	-£269	£584	£130	£0	£8,083
Balance at 31/12/2023							
HSBC accounts	£0	£14,417	£1,499	£1,123	£500	£0	£17,339
CBF deposit account	£123,759	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£123,759
Cash floats	£0	£0	£0	128	£153	£22	£303
Total Restricted Funds	123,759	£14,417	£1,499	£1,251	£653	£22	£141,401

Notes:

Restricted Funds in St. Peter's are set out above. All the figures have been provided and confirmed by the designated organisers of the respective funds.

- A. Cornerstone Fund:** This Central Board of Finance account comprises various donations and fund-raising proceeds specifically for the "Cornerstone Project". Proceeds from the sale of Sheldon Road were deposited into this account. Note: 10% of the Sheldon Road proceeds (£10,974.29) are earmarked for the Fabric Fund. Professional fees incurred for Cornerstone are paid from this account.
- B. Foodbox:** Various donations received from Wiltshire Council and others exclusively for Foodbox expenses for purchase of food.
- C. LIGHT service:** Administered via HSBC account. Donations received fund the expenses incurred, primarily for transport for the disabled.
- D. Sunday Coffee Fund:** Both cash transactions and contactless. Donations to Church funds less expenses.
- E. Wednesday Coffee Fund:** Cash received for refreshments. £384 for future Defibrillator costs only (payment due in February 2024). Propose to rename fund Defibrillator Fund as it should reflect the use of the fund, not the source of funding.
- F. Friendship Lunch Club:** Cash transactions only. Self-funded by members of the congregation for various social events.
- G. Flower Fund:** Cash donations and transactions. There has been no activity on this fund, proposal to dissolve the fund and flower expenses to be met out of church general funds.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St. Peter's Church, Chippenham, Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St. Peter's Church, Chippenham, Parochial Church Council



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the
accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
PCC OF ST PETERS CHURCH
CHIPPENHAM.

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST DECEMBER 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1131473 .

Set out on pages

1 - 12

(insert here to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity
("the Trust") for the year ended 31ST DECEMBER 2023 .

Responsibilities and basis of
report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in
accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under
section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all
the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b)
of the Act.

Independent examiner's
statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

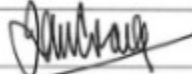
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:



Date:

2nd May 24.

Name:

IAIN CRAIG.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

FELLOW - CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTANTS (RETIRED) .

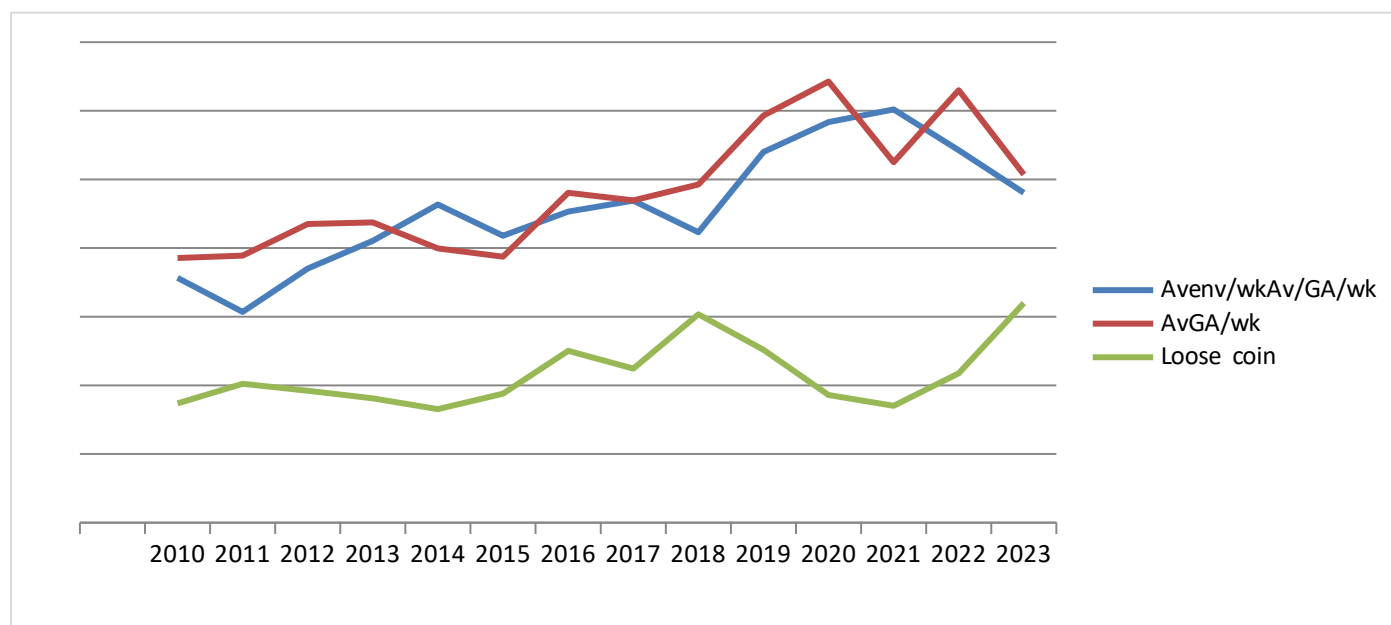
Address:

TYTHE BARN. HIGH STREET
SUTTON BINGER WILTSHIRE
SN15 4RE.

Freewill Offering – 2023

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Envelopes & Stdng Orders	81	76	71	68	68	57	53	53	50	40
Total Contents £ *	39035	33027	33466	33175	29922	31971	32176	33180	28202	19997
Av/env/week	9.27	8.36	9.06	9.38	8.46	10.8	11.67	12.04	10.85	9.61
No. regular Gift Aid	61	58	56	52	52	49	51	50	43	37
Av GA / wk	7.99	7.75	9.61	9.39	9.85	11.86	12.85	10.5	12.60	10.14
Yellow GA *	3683	3240	4012	3530	3900	3424	2306	355	680	620
Tax Rebate *	8214	8346	7864	8453	8640	8881	7874	8114	7774	7346
Loose coin in Plate £ *	3306	3757	5004	4488	6069	5036	3717	3402	4355	6394
Parish Giving Scheme										4046
<i>* Total FWO Income</i>	54238	48370	50346	49646	48531	49312	46073	45051	41011	38403

AVERAGE GIVING



Comment

These figures give a mixed message: we have lost a number of regular givers, consequently the gift aided average has gone down. Also, although the plate cash giving has increased, and the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme has tended to improve the picture, it remains that the overall giving has decreased noticeably. We need to increase our attendance, and to raise our individual giving. *Ivan Hurcum, FWO Secretary*

Appendix G

APCM - 2023 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

1. **General:** The Deanery Synod met three times in 2023: 23rd March; 22nd June; and 23rd November. Attendance averaged 25 representatives from the 7 benefices of the deanery. St Peter's currently has no lay Deanery Synod representative, and this report is provided in my role as secretary to the Deanery Synod and its Leadership Team.

2. **23rd March Synod** – The meeting was primarily taken up with a series of presentations made by diocesan staff:

- a. **Chris Dobson**, was occupying a new post as adviser to the parishes on discipleship and evangelism. He wished to hear from parishes about how he could best help to support them in this important area of growth.
- b. **Stephanie Hayton**, Warden of Readers, spoke on the vision and support for lay ministry.
- c. **Liz Townend**, the Director of Education at the Diocese, was introduced as their senior link leadership team link to the deanery. This was part of a new initiative to improve dialogue and co-ordination.

Julia Childerhouse, the Deanery Lay Chair gave an update to Synod on the continuing development of the Chippenham Deanery Mission Area bid. Dick Spencer, the Deanery Eco Champion, gave a brief update on the development of the EcoChurch initiative.

Following a recent General Synod decision on the blessing of gay marriages, it was announced that the planned establishment of a new relationship with Kigezi Diocese through the Uganda Link, to replace that with Mukono, was in abeyance. The intention was to keep links open and rekindle a positive relationship over time.

3. **22nd June Synod** – The Synod was primarily focused on an update of the developing Deanery Mission Area Proposal: A revised version had been put to the Diocese for discussion resulting in some further refinements before submission to the Bishops Council for approval. This current draft responded directly to the four outcomes which had emerged from the Diocesan Transforming Church Together (TCT) strategy:

- A form of church in every community in which all can participate & thrive.
- People who worship God in every aspect of their lives.
- The local church recognised as a powerful force for Gospel change.
- Environmentally and financially sustainable.

It would aim initially to deliver transformative cultural change in six of the twelve strategic activities identified in the Diocesan strategy:

- Ensuring our forms of church best serve our communities.
- Releasing ministers to flourish and support their wellbeing.
- Build pathways into a deep lived-out Christian faith.
- Develop our volunteers.
- Engaging under-18s.
- Building partnerships for gospel change.

It was also announced that the establishment of a new link with Kigezi Diocese was now increasingly unlikely given the church in Uganda's opposition to the General Synod decision on the blessing of gay marriages, which they believed undermined the teachings of the church.

4. **24th November Synod** – Ven Christopher Bryan announced that the Chippenham Mission Area Plan had been approved.

Revd. Canon Alice Kemp reported on the General Synods of July & November 2023: The York Synod in July had acknowledged and deeply regretted the safeguarding failures of the Church of England and especially their effect on victims and survivors. In discussions of the church's response to the climate emergency it was agreed that The November Synod had focussed on the controversial questions involved in Living in Love and Faith and same sex relationships. After a difficult debate it had been agreed that Bishops would be free to make space for prayers for same sex relationships. This would be in the form of stand-alone services for blessing same-sex couples. This would be for a trial period. It was for each Diocese to decide whether they pursued the proposal for same-sex blessings.

Revd. Canon Alice Kemp (in her role as Diocesan Disability Adviser) and Leanne Parkes from the Diocese's Disability and Mental Health Team, gave a presentation on the issues involved and helpful initiatives and resources to address them. Bristol Diocese had signed up to the Sunflower Lanyard scheme, as a discreet means for people to signal that they might need support. The scheme would help churches to be more inclusive and PCCs were encouraged to sign up.

Amy Dartington spoke on the aim to support the reduction of carbon emissions from energy used in churches, schools, cathedrals, houses and other buildings through a series of energy audits with a £30M grant fund for improvements. The ambition was to achieve net zero by 2030. Individual audits would result in recommendations which could draw down grants of up to £10K for each church from the fund. She urged churches to seek an audit and to appoint an eco-champion to share information on this area of activity.

Vivienne Fuller
Chippenham Deanery Secretary

May 2024

2023 Safeguarding Report for APCM meeting of St Peters Church

Despite the fact that I have been too unwell to physically attend St Peters over the past 6 months – I am totally committed to serving you all within the Safeguarding management & policies necessary to protect both children & adults.

Any Safeguarding policies needing to be addressed or reviewed, have been agreed & passed by our PCC. I have advised the PCC regarding all necessary Modules & Courses needed by all the people involved within the areas of their Safeguarding responsibilities for both children & adults - & to date, all necessary modules/courses have been completed by people within the requirement of their role.

I also very much appreciate Joan Taylor-Gunston joining me as Assistant Safeguarding Officer after completing the necessary training for the role, & also Caroline (Masters) who has completely & regularly managed the DBS requirements – for which I thank them both.

I have updated the PCC for each of their Meetings (either in person, or through a written report) on any reports/safeguarding matters that I had been made aware of. Thankfully, there have been none of any gravity that needed to be redirected to any outside Agencies – other than discussion with the relevant person within the Diocese Office, for confirmation & support within the actions & support needed. I have been able to manage them “remotely” - & trust that you will all have the faith in me to continue this service, both to any vulnerable person in need of protection or help. & especially for our Church.

Bev Webb.
Parish Safeguarding Officer

17.02.2024