

# St Peter's Church, Oundle

## ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

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## Section 1:

Registered Charity 1132677  
 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL



## Vicar's Report for 2023

"I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple."

*Ezekiel 47:1*

As part of the PCC Vision morning in June 2023 members of the PCC were invited to spend time as individuals in prayer listening to God. During that time and quite independently some PCC members drawn to *Ezekiel 47* where Ezekiel, in exile far from home, has given a vision of the temple back in Jerusalem. At the time of his vision the temple is in ruins but in his vision he sees a restored temple. And out of it flows water. At first a little trickle flowing from under the altar, which soon becomes a stream and then a broadening and deepening river; a river that waters a parched land – a river that brings life and transforms the desert whose banks grow trees whose leaves 'are for the healing of the nations.' From the temple comes life and healing and transformation of surrounding parched lands.

Just as land can be parched and thirsting so can human beings. We can thirst for God's presence and for renewed spiritual life. In Ezekiel's vision the temple becomes the source of God bringing healing and new life to people far and wide. At the vision day this passage prompted us to reflect on our calling as St Peter's Church. That as we encounter the life-transforming presence of God so we might share His transforming love with others; that out of the community that is St Peter's there might flow a river bringing healing and transformation to our friends and neighbours in Oundle and the world beyond.

There are many ways in which we continued to seek to do this through 2023. St Peter's provides a number of volunteers for Oundle Foodbank which is overseen by our Churchwarden Siân Fytche. Through this involvement, and because of our Friends-in-Need Fund, we have been able to be of very direct and practical help to people in real need in our community. Through the wonderful work of our Lay Chaplain Louise Foote (and her team of committed volunteers) Tuesday Club (and Tuesday Club extra for those living with dementia) has continued to meet a need for some older people in our town. This goes alongside a rich wider ministry among older people.

We were delighted in September to welcome Emma Kirby as our new Benefice Youth Minister. She was licensed by Bishop John on a Sunday in October. Through Emma and our partnership with the Souster Youth Trust we have a daily presence in the largest school in our town: Prince William School. The opportunities this brings to share the Christian faith with young people is really encouraging. West Porch Café (our Tuesday after school drop-in in St Peter's) continues to thrive under Emma's leadership as it did under the brilliant team of volunteers who kept it going for the many months when we had no Youth Minister.

As we emerged from Covid one vital focus for us has been being 'Together'. The New Testament tells us that we are 'the body of Christ' and every part of the body needs the other parts. There are many different ways we can think of grouping the members of the body of Christ. One lens we can look at Church through is that of 'generations.' We are a community of different generations. And we all need one another. Churches that are effective at fostering good relationships across generations are Churches that are also good at helping young people develop faith that flourishes in adulthood. During any given month we have continued to have a wide range of services with various styles – from Book of Common Prayer Communion, Choral Evensong and Hymns of Praise through to Messy Café Church. We have different preferred styles of worship and our range of services reflects this. Sunday morning at 10:30 is one service where it's really good to worship 'together' in a way that reflects a wide range of styles and preferences. It has been good in 2024 to begin to hear from different members of the Church community about favourite hymns and worship songs and so to learn from one another.

It was a great joy in 2024 to see the completion of the Holdich Organ Project. Thanks go to Malcolm Winder for securing this wonderful gift for the Church. It's arrival not only enhances our worship. It also makes possible all kinds of changes to our Church building which we are now just beginning to explore with our architects.

Another key focus that the PCC has identified is that we need to "Tell it out!" St Peter's seeks to be good news to our community with our actions. However, more than this we want to tell of the good news of Jesus with our words. We want to share our faith. It's vital that our lives and actions match our words. And it is also vital that we speak of our faith. Out of the work that was done in 2023 a "Tell it Out!" approach has been adopted by the PCC. In

essence we need to be able to say of everything that we do as a Church, "we do this because...". And what we say after 'because' each time needs to reflect our desire to 'Tell it out!' Early 2024 began with several small groups following the "Talking Jesus" course helping us think about how we share our faith. This has been followed by an Alpha Course..

This is just a snapshot. Read more in the reports that follow. In every area of Church life there are hard-working committed volunteers. Sincere thanks need to go to each and everyone. Thankyou. Ongoing thanks to our Church team – to Andrew Hawkins our administrator and Mark Pearcey our Facilities Co-ordinator and Joe Gray our online administrator and ministry intern. They continue provide an excellent and essential support for all that happens at St Peter's. In addition I am enormously grateful to Emily Taylor and Siân Fytche who have been extremely committed and effective Churchwardens and to Annabel Copeland who has been an outstanding support as Associate Vicar.

God is faithful and good. We look back with thankfulness and we look forward with faith.

## Section 2:

### 2.1 Churchwardens' Report, St Peter's Church, Oundle- May 2024

We have come to the end of another busy and exciting year in the life of St Peter's Church. We have very much to thank God for and, inevitably, a report like this can only touch on all that has happened. It is an enormous privilege to be Churchwardens at St Peter's and we would want to start by saying a huge thank you to Stephen and Annabel for their wisdom, energy and leadership over the past year. As always, they have been very well supported by those involved in lay ministry. Particular thanks goes to Louise Foote, our Lay Chaplain, and the work she does supporting and encouraging those of increasing age.

2023 was a year of exciting developments. It was particularly good to be able to appoint Emma Kirby as our Youth Minister in September 2023. We have been so grateful to the team who had continued to work with our young people whilst we were without a youth minister. After several years of significant work and negotiations the Holdich Organ became functional just before our Christmas services. What a beautiful instrument it is and a great new asset for the church

As church wardens we continue to be very much grateful for our office team- Andrew Hawkins as Administrator , Mark Pearcey as Facilities Coordinator and Joe Gray as our Tech lead. Their work, often done behind the scenes, greatly helps the general smooth running of the church. Thank you to you all! Of course, no church can work well without the numerous volunteers who bring their time and talents to the life of the church. There are so many involved in the various rotas and we thank everyone for their willingness to serve in these many and varied ways. Usually it is not possible to mention individuals in a short report, but we would like to thank Margaret Dowd especially as she steps down , after many years, from organising the team of flower arrangers . Thank you Margaret!

As we look back over the past year, we have seen much blessing. We pray that as a church family, we would continue to deepen our love for Jesus and each other - and that this love would be a witness to our town and beyond.

## 2.2 PCC Report

During most of 2023, the PCC was made up of eight elected members, up to five Deanery Synod Representatives, two Churchwardens and up to three Clergy Team members. It was chaired by the incumbent (Rev Canon Stephen Webster and Annabel Copeland – Associate Vicar) and met five times in 2023 (7 February, 22 March, 18 May, 12 September and 15 November).

During these meetings, the PCC discussed a wide range of issues reflecting the life, mission and ministry of St Peter's. These have included Finance, Giving, Mission, Repairs to Building, installation of the Holdich organ, Development of NE side of Church Building, Green issues and Safeguarding.

As well as discussing practical matters of Church Life, each PCC meeting starts and ends with prayer. The PCC has established committees and project teams to help it with its work and receives regular reports from these groups. The established committees which helped PCC discharge its various duties and responsibilities during 2023 were: -

**Standing Committee** which is required by law, sets the agenda for PCC meetings and has delegated power to transact certain PCC business in between meetings. Membership in 2022 was made up of the Clergy team, the Churchwardens, the Vice Chair of the PCC, and an elected PCC Member. The Treasurer is entitled to attend.

**Treasury Committee** exists to support the work of the Treasurer in some of their key tasks: VAT recovery, Gift Aid and Giving, Insurance, Grant applications being amongst them. It also exists to provide scrutiny of the Church's finances and to assist with budget preparation and monitoring. In 2022 it met quarterly in advance of PCC meetings as part of a regular cycle of financial reporting and monitoring.

Lindsey Wallis is thanked for all her hard work on the accounts. Lindsey is a volunteer who is currently acting as St Peter's Finance Administrator.

### Membership of PCC

#### (A) 01/01/23 – 14/05/23 (APCM)

Rev Stephen Webster (Chair), Sian Fytche (Churchwarden), Emily Taylor (Churchwarden), Rev Annabel Copeland (Associate Vicar), Rev Josh Jackson (Assistant Curate)

**Deanery Synod:** Annabel Copeland, Louise Foote, Angela Newell, Peter Taylor, Pam Weatherington

**Elected Members:** Mark Elkington, Siân Fytche, Ian Goldsmith, David Gooda, Sally Saunders, Kim Treverton, Elizabeth Mace, Ben Treverton, Sarah Vogt

#### (B) 14/05/2023 – 31/12/2023

Rev Stephen Webster (Chair), Siân Fytche (Churchwarden), Rev Annabel Copeland (Associate Vicar), Rev Joshua Jackson (Assistant Curate), Emily Taylor (Churchwarden).

**Deanery Synod:** Louise Foote, Angela Newell, Emily Taylor, Pam Weatherington, Peter Taylor

**Elected Members:** Mark Elkington, Ian Goldsmith, David Gooda, Sally Saunders, Peter Taylor, Kim Treverton, Ben Treverton, Pam Weatherington, Sarah Vogt, Angela Newell, Elizabeth Mace, Louise Foote, Claire Weston.

Honorary PCC Secretary: Andrew Hawkins

## 2.3 Electoral Roll Report

### APCM Report Electoral Roll Summary

Year	TOTAL	Died	Moved Away	Addition
2019 (Full review)	262	n/a	n/a	n/a
2020 (Covid)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	237	11	21	7
2022	243	5	9	20
2023	230	17	4	8
2024	235	2	3	10
2025 (Full Review)				

Peter Taylor

## Section 3

### 3.1 Safeguarding Report

During 2023 the Benefice Safeguarding Team comprised Revd Annabel Copeland (Clergy Safeguarding Lead) and Louise Foote (Benefice Safeguarding Officer) and Kim Treverton (Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer). The PCC are continuing to use the Benefice Safeguarding Policy which was written in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meets statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to activities within the Benefice; it was reviewed and updated as required during 2023, safeguarding concerns will continue to be responded as described in this policy and it will continue to be reviewed annually. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at all PCC meetings.

In line with the Church of England's safeguarding policy statement 'Promoting a Safer Church' the Diocese of Peterborough provides access to an online application called 'Safeguarding Dashboards' to enable parishes to produce a safeguarding Action Plan. The Benefice Safeguarding Officer has used the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard tool throughout the year to audit and inform safeguarding practice, identify training needs, and manage the safeguarding aspects of church activities.

Safeguarding concerns raised during the year were responded to in line with the Benefice Safeguarding Policy, with additional advice and guidance sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as appropriate. The PCC has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

By Louise Foote



### 3.2 Reference and Administrative Details

#### Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Parochial Name</b>	St Peter's, Oundle in the Rural Deanery of Oundle, Diocese of Peterborough
<b>Postal Address</b>	North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL
<b>Telephone Number</b>	01832 275675
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:administrator@stpetersoundle.co.uk">administrator@stpetersoundle.co.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.oundlestpeters.org.uk">www.oundlestpeters.org.uk</a>
<b>Bank</b>	NatWest Bank, 25 Corporation Street, Corby NN17 1NR
<b>Investment Bank</b>	CCLA Investment Management Ltd, The CBF Church of England Funds, 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DZ
<b>Independent Examiners Staff Receiving Remuneration</b>	Graham Darbourne at Bulley Davey, 6 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL
<b>Through Parish Share</b>	
Vicar	Rev Canon Stephen Webster
Associate Vicar	Rev Annabel Copeland
Assistant Curate	Rev Joshua Jackson
<b>Through Salary</b>	
Youth Minister	Emma Kirby
Administrator	Andrew Hawkins
Facilities Coordinator	Mark Pearcey
Intern/ Online Specialist	Joe Gray

### 3.3 Structure, Governance and Management

#### Legal Status

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. Its governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 (as amended). It became a registered charity on 12 November 2009 (No. 1132677).

#### Appointment

Appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

**Risks** which concern this busy and active church include:-

- a) **Safe Usage of the Church Site by all.** Legislative requirements are closely followed, e.g. the Health & Safety Act and Food Hygiene Regulations. There is regular inspection by a specialist fire protection agency, and displays of notices relating to fire, health and safety and first aid. Defects to plant are reported to the Chair of Resources Group, Adrian Christmas and remedied quickly according to the level of risk. Training is given, e.g. in first aid and food hygiene. One-off events are assessed for risk before being run.
- b) **Financial:** Prudent policies for the handling of money are in place. Major expenditure has to be approved by the PCC, which also approves an annual budget and receives quarterly monitoring reports. Cash flow is carefully managed, bills are paid promptly, and investment of any short-term funds carefully placed to ensure maximum return compatible with ready access.
- c) **Reputation:** Equal opportunities legislation is followed in relation to staff appointments, use of voluntary workers, and site lettings. We actively encourage people to come to join our activities and make use of our facilities.

### 3.4 Objectives and Activities

The primary object of the PCC and the St Peter's Church as a whole, is to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Our purpose as a Church is that when it comes to God's love all might *know* it, *live* transformed lives in response, and become a people who *give*. God's Love: Know it. Live it. Give it. We seek to proclaim this by our words and through our actions, to the people of our community and to the world beyond. We seek to grow in numbers as a fellowship of believers as more people respond to the good news of Jesus. We seek to grow in faith as together we explore what it is to be Jesus' disciples. This involves: Bible teaching, nurturing, developing new Christians, and equipping all Christians, studying, praying together, enjoying fellowship together and supporting one other. None of these initiatives or activities could happen without the commitment of dedicated volunteers.

It is also PCC policy for the church building to be made available for wider community use.

## Section 4

### 4.1 Mission Support report for APCM 2024

We have continued to support the same missions which work across the range of church activity from evangelism and discipleship, to social action, justice advocacy and creation care. We also like to spread our support both locally, nationally and globally. We promote our chosen societies and missions through the church newsletter, noticeboards, prayer and special Sunday morning services held twice per year. The monthly focus in the calendar is:

Jan - USPG  
Feb - Sat-7  
Mar - Place of Grace, Robinson family  
Apr - Hope into Action  
May - Christian Aid  
June - Mothers Union  
July - USPG  
Aug - Chattabox  
Sept - Sat-7  
Oct - Place of Grace, Robinson family  
Nov - TearFund  
Dec - Feedback from all the above

This last year we have had two special services. In July, Gillian Robinson was with us and spoke in church and at a lunch hosted by Angie and Tim Newell. In Nov, Jonathan Moulding from Sat-7 spoke in church and we again shared a lunch with him hosted by the Newells.

For many years, St Peter's has followed the principal that 10% of church income is set aside as our offering for God's work elsewhere and becomes the Mission Support budget. Until this year the "10%" has been 10% of the regular pledged monthly giving. One-off non-pledged gifts have risen over the years as a proportion of total church income. A significant change has now been agreed by the PCC and that is that the mission budget will be based on 10% of both pledged giving and one-off gifts. As a consequence, the church has increased its support this year from £16985 to £20051. This is a very great help for our societies and a practical outworking of the principal that our church is part of a mutually supportive worldwide body of Christ. Thank you everybody!

By Peter Taylor  
Mission Support Group

## 4.2 Building and Resources

### Building and Resources Report

St Peter's is a Grade 1 listed building most of which dates back to the 13th century, although some sections are slightly older. Because of its historic nature all work must be sensitively carried out, mostly with like for like materials and using traditional methods. Work on the church building therefore tends to be both costly and time consuming. Limited direct income means that we are severely constrained in what we can do and are heavily reliant on grants to achieve much of what we do. We would like to thank The Friends of Oundle Parish Church, The Oundle Feoffees, The Worshipful Company of Grocers and various donors for their generous grants. Without their support much of the essential work to retain the appearance of our beautiful church would not be possible.

#### **During the last year the following work has been undertaken:**

##### **Grant and Donor Funded**

- Installation of the new organ on the balcony below the tower.
- A detailed survey of both the interior and exterior of the church. This is essential work needed to facilitate future developments, please refer to the section on work planned for the coming year.
- Removal, repair and refurbishment of the blue gates in the south porch. We have discovered that these are from the late Georgian period and are of historical significance.
- Repair the heating system to remedy the cold radiators at the west end of the church. This is a continuation of the work started in 2022. There has been a problem with these radiators for some time and unfortunately this continues to be the case. The cause is proving to be very difficult to track down and it remains a work in progress.

##### **PCC Funded**

- Annual inspection of the church roof, cleaning of all gutters and rainwater hoppers.
- Repairs to various areas of roof.
- Replacement of up/down light units in the nave and chancel with energy efficient LED units. The original units installed around 18 years ago were starting to fail. The opportunity has been taken to install new, more energy efficient units. Externally the lights look the same as the original casings have been retained.
- Survey of the foul and surface water drainage systems for the church building and removal of a large stone blocking the surface water sewer. The Friends of Oundle Parish Church contributed to this work. As with the internal and external surveys of the church this was essential work needed to facilitate future developments, please refer to the section on work planned for the coming year.
- Minor day to day building and equipment maintenance.

#### **During the coming year the following work is planned:**

- The Quinquennial Inspection of the church during September. This is a formal requirement and involves an appropriately qualified architect examining and reporting on the internal and external condition of the church building and immediate surroundings. Following the inspection a detailed report is submitted to the PCC. The report will form the basis for much of the essential work needed on the church building over the next five years.
- Development and implementation of an action plan to resolve the long-standing damp problems at the west and north sides of the church building.
- Development of a strategy for the removal of the old organ and the redevelopment of the north transept, vestry and the present office to make better use of the space available for current and potential future church needs.
- Linked with the above two developments, consideration of how we can make better use of the space around the church, particularly the south side, for the Oundle community.

- Updating much of the present lighting which was installed at the same time as the nave and chancel up/down lights and is starting to fail.
- Continue with trying to resolve the heating problems at the west end of the church building.
- Annual inspection of the church roof, cleaning of all gutters and rainwater hoppers.
- Minor day to day building and equipment maintenance.

### **The Holdich Organ at St Peter's Church**

Some three years ago, St Peter's was alerted that a very special pipe organ could be made available to a suitable recipient. This organ - located in St Luke's Chapel in the grounds of the former Brompton Hospital, Chelsea - was entirely original and historically important having been made by George Maydwell Holdich (1816 - 1896 ) who lived at Maidwell Hall, Northamptonshire. He built many fine organs in the late Victorian period including the organs at Lichfield Cathedral and the English Cathedral in Jerusalem. The St Luke's organ was build circa 1890 and regularly played until recent times. A Property Developer planned to convert St Luke's Chapel into a very grand residential unit and the terms of the Planning Permission was that the Holdich organ should be relocated prior to any construction work starting. This initiated very intense and protracted negotiations with the Kensington and Chelsea Council, ourselves, the Diocesan legal team, the Developer's team, the final purchaser of the chapel and several others ( we were in competition with other organisations who also wanted the organ ).

The successful result was that the Holdich organ should come to Oundle with all the costs paid by the owner of the Chapel together with an additional sum for the longer term maintenance. This was opportune since the existing St. Peter's organ required repairs and refurbishment. The Holdich organ was then legally transferred into the ownership of St Peter's Church. The organ was then removed from Brompton to the extensive workshop of Richard Bower and Company, Norwich who are organ builders and Holdich Organ specialists. The whole organ with its 700 pipes was totally refurbished, restored and rebuilt over many months and then taken down and re-erected on the St Peter's balcony - the balcony having been specially designed and built some years before to receive a pipe organ. The organ stands before you at the West end of the church looking resplendent with its restored display pipes and it has been carefully commissioned to take forward the musical traditions of the church for very many years ahead.

Malcolm Winder



## 4.3 Senior Adults

### Ministry Among Older People

Tuesday Club has continued to meet twice a month throughout the year and is an opportunity for older members of our community to gather to play scrabble or other games, jigsaws or just enjoy the company of others; there is a 'thought for the day' from one of our clergy, a hot drink and home-made cake. We are very thankful for the team of volunteers who help with transport to enable people to get to the club, for those who bring home-made cakes and those who help with refreshments and activities. We also hold a monthly Tuesday Club Extra- a similar session to Tuesday Club but quieter and tailored to the needs of people with dementia or memory difficulties.

In partnership with Pink House Arts we have also run a monthly craft session which gives an opportunity for adults of any age to enjoy a variety of crafts led by Caroline and Charlotte from Pink House Arts with the aim of reducing isolation and boosting wellbeing.

Holiday at Home, a 'Trip to Provence' was held in June, this was fun day of activities related to the region including making lavender bags, flower arrangements, a film tour with guidebooks, art in the style of great artists and a new popular activity - cheese and wine tasting from the Provence region. Lunch was delicious and followed by musical entertainment an mix of listening to and joining together to enjoy well known songs. Planning is well underway for this years' 'Visit to Florence'.

Although not strictly a 'senior's activity', the Thursday @10.30 Holy Communion service followed by refreshments has been a weekly opportunity to meet for worship and to enjoy time together. During Lent, some of us finished the morning by attending the Lent Lunches in aid of Christian Aid run by the churches in town and hosted at the Methodist Church.

Hymns of Praise is a monthly meeting on a Tuesday morning where around 20 people gather in the North Transept to sing familiar hymns accompanied by the organ this is followed by refreshments and fellowship.

The pattern of monthly Home Communion and pastoral visiting in supported living facilities has continued. This has enabled us to ensure that those who are unable to come to services in the building are part of our church family.

Monday Munch Club met for a meal once a month during term time at Oundle Primary School until Christmas. Numbers of people attending had dropped significantly following the Covid period and it was no longer viable to continue running this group; thank you to the Munch Club Committee who gave their time and skills to run this activity.

A monthly printed newsletter has continued to be produced and distributed for those who are 'offline' or unable to access the weekly e-newsletter.

**By Louise Foote**

## 4.4 Youth Work

### Youth Work Report 2023 by Annabel Copeland and Emma Kirby

We continue to be a church that places a high priority on the outreach to and discipleship of young people within the church and the town.

We started this year without a youth minister despite a couple of rounds of advertising. We are delighted that in the third round we were successful in appointing Emma Kirby as our new youth minister. Emma started work with us in partnership with Souster at the beginning of September. She has been a fantastic appointment and has quickly build good relationships with the young people and the volunteer leaders.

The rest of the report is written by Emma to give an update on what youth activities are taking place. We have a small but fantastic group of committed, reliable and talented young people at St. Peter's. Not only do they regularly attend our weekly discipleship groups (details below) but they are keen to use and develop their gifting in our Sunday services. Several are part of the worship team, others look after siblings in Kids Church and are also being trained to use the sound system. It is very encouraging and rewarding to journey with them as they grow into young church leaders and valuable members of our church community.

It has been an easy transition for me due to the commitment and passion that our youth leaders have for caring for our young people. They have been faithfully running these groups with Annabel's support in their own time. I am very thankful that our young people are so keen to continue meeting and this is largely due to our leaders' hard work.

#### **Discipleship Groups**

The aim of our discipleship groups is to create a space where our young people can explore the Christian faith so that they learn to follow Jesus independently and continue doing so when they leave secondary education.

**Breathe-** this is a small group of young people who meet during the main Sunday service to build friendships and discuss the meaning and application of Bible passages. With some of the young people being involved in worship or in sport but we still want to continue the group. I am very grateful to Louisa and Ian Baker who head up this group and continue to care for the young people.

**West Porch Café-** This runs on a Tuesday afternoon from 3.15 to 5.45 as a drop-in youth group and continues to thrive and grow with new people coming most weeks, averaging at 40 people at each session. Each week there is the opportunity to play games, do craft, chat to friends and have snacks. We have had a number of outside companies visit to do special activities such as drumming and NAYC (Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs) did the ever-popular Sumo Wrestling.

Whilst Dave was on holiday for 2 months, a number of church members helped out which was very much appreciated. We had a taster session for Year 6 in July which was very successful and has resulted in about half of the current group being Year 7s. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with friendships forming between young people from different schools and year groups. Leaders are getting to know them through chatting and doing activities together which has led to some sharing of personal issues. 18 West Porchers attended Chattabox Plus in August, enabling us to build stronger relationships.

Thank you to Pam Weatherington, Dave Harding, Sally Hopkins and Charles Ogden for their commitment to this group. Their enthusiasm, energy and love for young people is evident in the growth of this group.

**The Way-** this meets on a Wednesday evening 5.30-7pm for young people in Year 7-9. There is a group of very committed young people and a team of leaders who meet to enjoy a meal together, play some games and focus on an aspect of how to live as a Christian. Much of the year was spent exploring questions about faith that the young people were asking, with a different topic being chosen each week. Joe Gray led this group up until August with Louisa Baker, Pam Weatherington and Judith Hodgson.

The group dynamic has changed since September with a smaller group meeting in Beans with Pam, Judith and myself. Each week, we play games and study Mark's gospel together. It is quite a witness to Oundle people with our bibles on the table!

**Rooted** - this group meet on a Monday 5-6pm in The Coffee Tavern for young people in Year 10-13. Although small in number this group has an important place in supporting our young people in their faith journey. The group spend time discussing topics that are relevant to the young people as well as building friendships together. A big thank you to Sally Saunders and Sally Jackson for leading this group. Since November, Louisa and I have been running this group and we have enjoyed spending time with the young people. We are encouraged to see the young people growing in confidence and faith.

**Chattabox Plus-** (written by Dave Harding) Complimentary to the Chattabox morning sessions, Chattabox+ provides the young people who volunteer to help the children in the mornings with their own programme of activities in the afternoons and evenings. This is all done within a 'summer-camp' environment on the Oundle Primary School playing field, with most of the Young People camping in tents for the week. CB+ comes under the OCYA umbrella, and once again Martin Hills (Baptist Minister) assumed overall responsibility for the camp, with Dave Harding and Susie V-P fulfilling the roles of 'Camp Dad' and 'Camp Mum'. They were very capably supported by an amazing team of 9 further adult volunteers, including Lindsay Hipwell, Sally Hopkins, Lin Harding and Peter Taylor from St Peter's, all who were able to commit to a full-on week of activities at the Oundle Primary School. The 35 Young People who attended had a fantastic time helping with Chattabox in the mornings, always returning to the CB+ camp with a buzz. After a sandwich lunch, they were then able to enjoy their own activities for the afternoons and evenings. The evening theme for the week, 'Beyond Limits' was led by Tim & Bex from Souster Youth, which provided the Young People with opportunities to think and engage with others about limitations they may put on themselves, and how believing that God does not impose limits on us can provide us so much more freedom. The evening sessions were supported with wonderful worship music from our 'on-camp' worship band led by Sally Hopkins. The rest of the time on camp focused on friendships, team-building and fun with a variety of brilliant afternoon activities and late evening activities organised by the very gifted leadership team. These included a variety of field and indoor team games, craft sessions, a 'hunt-the-leader' wide game in Oundle town centre, a water-games afternoon (supported by the Northampton Association of Youth Clubs and blessed by glorious sunshine) and an afternoon 'surprise event' when a 'Zorbing' arena was set-up on the playing field! These activities were complimented by the ever popular 'Night Games', 'Silent Disco' and Thursday evening 'Campfire' with S'mores and singing. Chattabox+ relies on the support and commitment of many adults from St Peter's, OBC and the Methodist Church to make it happen; particular thanks must go to Angie + Tim Newell for coordinating helpers to provide us with evening meals (and for providing an outstanding Hog Roast), the Wallers for providing camp-security while we were all away on the wide-game, the set-up and set-down teams, and Lorraine for her willingness to share her amazing felting skills.

**Snack and Chat-** Meredith Roberts and Joel Waller have been running this monthly discussion group as a follow on from Chattabox Plus. It includes games, food and discussion around a chosen topic with some input from a Christian perspective. It is a great opportunity to invite young people who wouldn't normally come to church.

**Other Events-** we have also enjoyed a Christmas Film afternoon and an Easter Party.

**Prince William School and Souster-** Since September, I have been involved with running the lunchtime Christian Union group, together with Anna Freij and also the lunchtime games club.

I am also co-leading a weekly group, offering therapeutic support for young people who are struggling with their mental health and other issues.

Some of our youth work leaders and myself also regularly attend the monthly youthwork training led by Souster which is of a high standard and hugely valued.

Thank you again to our lovely leaders for all your hard work in caring for our young people. If anyone else would like to bless the wonderful young people we have at St Peter's and in our town by getting involved in any of these activities, please speak to Emma.



## 4.5 Children and Families

### Children and Families Ministry Report 2023 by Annabel Copeland

#### Kids Church

Kids Church groups have continued during the year. I am very grateful to a fantastic team of volunteers who so willingly serve our children in leading sessions to enable them to grow in faith. There are four Sunday groups- Breathe for young people in years 7-9, Launchpad for children in years 3-6, Powerpack for children in Years reception to Year 2 and God Tots for pre-school children. The groups meet twice a month and so on the other two Sundays there is an All-In service and Praise Party-this is an opportunity for the children to worship together, to explore more creative ways to prayer and explore the Bible as well as giving an opportunity for some of our older children to be involved in planning and leading sessions. During the year we have seen some new families join us but also the frequency of families attending church has changed due to other commitments on Sunday.

As always I am so grateful to the many volunteers who make our Kids Church sessions a great place for our children to be and a place where they can discover more about how to know Jesus, live in his love and give God's love away to others.

#### Messy Café Church

In February we launched a new service at 4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month called Messy Café Church. The service is aimed at encouraging intergenerational worship to explore and grow in faith together. The service involves a chance to enjoy refreshments, be creative, sing and listen to a Bible story together and engage in a time of response often through prayer spaces. This service was aimed at encouraging families who may not come to another service to find a relaxed place to worship and for families for whom Sunday morning was a difficult time to gather. It has been really encouraging to see new families begin to make this service their regular place to worship. We are averaging about 60 people each month and most months there are new families who come along. Each month we have explored one of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus as we discover more of what Jesus is like.

I am very grateful to the wonderful team who work alongside me to prepare and lead the service plus the team that help set up, prepare crafts, pray and provide refreshments-this new growing congregation has felt like a step of faith that God is blessing in many ways.

#### Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots is a weekly session run on a Wednesday afternoon for pre-school children and their parents and carers. We meet in the Community Room at Oundle Primary School and continue to see a steady growth in numbers and depth of friendship. Each week there is a chance for the children to play and parents to chat followed by a snack and Bible story, prayer and singing time. I want to give a huge thank you to the team of volunteers from St Peters who faithfully serve each week and have offered pastoral support to many parents through timely conversations. I have also been encouraged to begin to see families from Tiny Tots come along to church and discover more about faith in Jesus. We are also blessed each week to be joined by young people from Oundle School who play a vital role helping run Tiny Tots.

#### Chattabox

It was a delight this summer to be able to run Chattabox and a huge thank you to all those volunteers, adults and young people, who made this possible and especially to Sian who led it all so well. The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed with lots of fun and discovery about Jesus happening. Our theme was The Restoration Station where we explored how Jesus restored the lives of different people and how he can restore our lives too.

#### Schools Ministry

Each week a member of the clergy team has delivered a Collective Worship assembly in both Oundle Primary and Glapthorn schools. We also hosted a Carol Service, Easter Service, Leavers service and Harvest service for each school. We also had a special service for the Oundle Primary School Reception class during which we presented them each with a Bible as they start their journey through the school. We were also able through the support of OCYA to partner with Souster Youth to lead a Moving On morning for Year 6 leavers. Our pastoral support at both schools has continued throughout the year and Annabel continues to serve as a Governor at Oundle Primary school. Lesley Gooda has continued to be linked with the school in a new role supporting the Governing Body in listening to children's views on a variety of topics which she fulfils with great diligence as it is

hugely appreciated by the Governing Body. Ben Treverton continues to be the Chair of the Governing Body and fulfils this role really well. Annabel is part of the Church Group at Glapthorn looking at church school ethos.

In March this year Glapthorn was graded good in their OFSTED inspection with many positive comments about the wonderful place the school is and how staff have high expectations of the children. In February 2023, Oundle Primary School had a SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) where they received the highest grading of '**excellent**'. The inspection recognised the strong ethos, vision and values of the school that unite them as a community and enable all to flourish. It was particularly noted how strong the connection was between the school and the church.

They also had their first Ofsted Inspection in November 2023, since the school converted to a primary school in 2015. It achieved the overall grading of 'Good' but was graded 'outstanding' for the personal development of pupils. This year Annabel has also been supporting Polebrook and Titchmarsh Primary schools in the Deanery while both parishes do not have a vicar. The support involves leading Collective worship once a fortnight and end of term services as well as both Annabel and Stephen supporting with some RE lessons. This year Annabel has also been invited to lead an assembly at Laxton Junior School once a term and Reception class and Year 2 visited the church for an RE lesson about baptism and Easter respectively.

We also hosted the Deanery Pentecost service in May for the Year 4 class from our 10 Deanery Schools. This was a fantastic celebration with each school leading a part of the worship and a special recorded message being given by Archdeacon Alison.

### **Other Events**

At Christmas we were able through generous donations to our Friends in Need fund to give a Christmas Meal hamper to 9 families in Oundle who otherwise may not have had a Christmas dinner this year. We also ran a one-day Chattabox Christmas and Easter Holiday Club which was very well received and gave a chance to reconnect with families whose children came in the summer.

In summary can I thank everyone who is involved in serving and blessing our children and families, without your commitment none of what has been achieved this year would have been possible. During this year Annabel has been part of the Growing Faith Strategi Leadership programme of study organised by the Church of England to help develop local leaders who want to explore and develop how we grow faith in children and young people and their families through connecting home, school and church. The course has been very stimulating and equipped Annabel to help the church explore how we become an intentionally intergenerational community, learning and growing from each other of all ages. Ideas are beginning to be developed that will grow through next year. If reading what has been going on has excited you and you'd like to join the team then please do contact me and we can have a chat about possibly getting involved.

Report by Annabel Copeland

## Section 5

### Report on PCC Financial Activities – Treasurer's Report

This report is on the 2023 financial year and is based on the examined accounts as issued at the APCM.

It was a year when we can again thank God for His faithfulness to us. Ultimately everything we have comes from God (and when we give it comes from what He has given us). He is the one who has more than provided for all our needs. 2023 has seen our Church blessed with a new organ that is now fully operational.

During a normal week when the Church is open it costs circa £5,398 per week to cover the on-going expenses that enable us to be St Peter's Church. This number continues to rise every year as a result of inflation and other cost pressures.

We rely solely on generous giving to allow us to continue as we receive no funding from the Church of England or the state. We encourage everyone who feels part of the St Peter's community to give, as they feel able, to enable us to continue as a Church.

### Giving

Total income for the Church during 2023 was £319,289. This is £147,819 less than income for 2022 (£467,108). This is largely as a result of the 2022 income having been bolstered by a large grant of £126,000 for refurbishment of the new Holdich organ.

In 2023 there was a total income of £319,289, the key elements of which were: £154,969 planned giving; £24,504 one-off donations; £15,987 legacies; £55,538 grants. We recovered tax under the Government's Gift Aid scheme of £37,499.

Planned giving for 2023 was slightly more (£518) than 2022. It is worth noting that since this was first tracked in 2018, every year has seen a reduction in planned giving with this being the first reversal of that trend. Planned giving does not cover all of St Peter's expenses and we continue to rely on one-off donations to 'close the gap' with our planned expenditure.

We continue to be grateful for the generosity of the members of the St Peter's Church community. We ask, where possible, that those giving do so through the Parish Giving Scheme that has now been in operation successfully for the last three years and relieves our Giving Officer of much administrative work. Planned giving enables St Peter's to be more confident in its decisions about using funds to grow the Church and serve God and the community.

During any year there will be members of our Church Family who move away, are unable to give as much or in some cases, sadly, pass-on. The underlying decline in planned giving has recently averaged at least £7,000 per annum. In order to show a net increase, it is necessary for donations from new givers and increased donations from existing givers to outstrip any decline.

There are two further funding challenges:

First, our Youth Minister role relies on seed-funding to make up the difference between pledged giving and the cost of the role's salary. During 2023, we received a further £5,100 towards the seed-funding taking the total to £27,838. This will allow us to fund the role until March 2025. After this we will need to find £24,168 per annum to fully fund the role.

Second, a previous review of our spending on the Church building has highlighted that, historically, we have too often reacted to problems, rather than having a programme of planned maintenance. Although the situation is better than at the time of review this, to some extent, continues to be the case. While some reactive work will always be needed, we expect that carrying out more planned maintenance will, over time, both reduce the number of problems and the intensity of problems when discovered. A planned maintenance programme has been costed at £18,000 per year (up from £17,500 previously due to inflation). Of this we now spend circa £14,000 per year.

This leaves a gap of £4,000. We will always, where possible, use grants to fund one-off pieces of maintenance work. The planned maintenance programme does not include the replacement of significant assets, for example the up/down lights in the nave and chancel that needed replacing recently at a cost of £9,000. These require separate funding.

We are very grateful for one off donations and grants that supplement our income; and are also very fortunate to be supported by the Friends of St Peter's Church Charitable Trust for help in maintaining our beautiful church building. In addition to anonymous donations from individuals we received grants of £1,500 from the Worshipful Company of Grocers that will be used to pay for heating and stonework repairs and £1,900 from FEOFFEES.

During 2022 a Holdich pipe organ was donated to the church. During 2023, the organ has been refurbished and was commissioned in early 2024. The cost of the organ, refurbishment and installation has been donated to the church in full at a figure of £126,000 including VAT. The organ will be a fixed asset of the Church and this cost will be depreciated over a 100 year period.

### **Spend**

The 2023 spend of £306,626 was £5,253 more than 2022 spend of £301,373. In 2023 we carried out £15,294 of capital projects compared to £41,305 in 2022. Excluding capital projects, 2023 spend was £31,264 more than 2022 spend largely as a result of inflationary increases in wages and maintenance.

The largest item of spend is the Diocesan Parish Share (£128,728 in 2023) being our contribution to the Stipends, Housing and Training both of the current clergy, and of future clergy (ordinands in training) in the Diocese and their Pension and National Insurance costs. Oundle is a 'two-clergy' benefice with the roles of Vicar and Associate Vicar supporting the benefice. It is worth noting that there was no increase in the Diocesan Parish Share from 2022 to 2023.

During 2023, in addition to £15,294 of capital projects, we spent a further £13,192 on the care, maintenance and development of our church building. This expenditure covers everything from fixing the windows to keeping the heating working.

During 2023, St Peters gave £25,939 to our mission partners.

Other major spend areas for the Church include non-Clergy salaries at £54,973 and utility payments at £6,294. In December 2023 the favourable gas tariff that the Church has enjoyed for a number of years came to an end. The new gas tariff is circa 4 times higher. We expect in 2024 to see the Church spending circa £20,000 on gas.

### **Reserves and Funds**

The current reserves stand at £20,812 for buildings and £57,862 for general reserves. The level of buildings reserve is set based on a historical view of replacement costs. The general reserves level is set at three months of running costs. The PCC plan to review our reserves policy during 2024 based on guidance from the Charities Commission. The General Fund has risen from £191,407 in 2022 to £193,169 in 2023.

Of the £193,169 it should be noted that £52,530 is our tangible fixed assets and investments such as organ, AV equipment, boiler, etc., £36,167 is our working capital and £27,838 is seed funding for our Youth Minister. The remaining £76,634 is in surplus and the PCC is currently prayerfully considering its potential uses.

### **Governance**

The PCC sets financial policies for the Church. The Treasury team operates within the financial policies set by the PCC and consists of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer/Giving Officer and the Finance Co-ordinator. This voluntary team reports to the Treasury Committee which includes one member of the Clergy and one lay member. It is this committee's responsibility to scrutinise the detail of the Treasury team's work. The Treasurer updates every PCC meeting with a summary accounts position. Annual accounts are independently examined.

I continue to thank God for the support of all who have helped me in my role as Treasurer and to trust God that through the generosity of all who give He will provide all that we need to do the things He has called us to as St Peter's continues to seek to be a community of worship, mission, outreach and service to our town and the world beyond.

By Mark Elkington (Treasurer)



## Section 6

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle St Peter's Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of Oundle St Peter's Parochial Church Council, charity number 1132677, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, subject to not having seen the Trustees Report, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. *GDarbo*

Graham Darbourne FCA  
TC Group  
6 North Street  
Oundle  
Peterborough  
PE8 4AL

28/06/2024

## Section 7

Financial Report (Yearly Accounts)

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE FINANCIAL REPORT

## Section 8

Report on Deanery Matters: an annual review of business

### Report for Oundle Deanery 2023.

Oundle Deanery Synod has met three times during 2023. In March we welcomed Revd Hayden Spencley, newly appointed Diocesan Director of Ordinands. In June 2023 we had a presentation from Peter Cantley, Diocesan Director of Education. In November, those present shared ideas and events that were being done in the Deanery, designed to engage folks during Advent and Christmas.

Rev Eddie Smith was welcomed as Vicar of Kings Cliffe and Rural Dean for the Oundle Deanery in June 2023.

By the end of 2023, three Benefices (Warmington Benefice, the Seven Churches Benefice and Barnwell Benefice) were all in vacancy. We continue to be grateful for the energetic and engaging leadership provided by Archdeacon Alison.

By Emily Taylor  
Lay Chair, Oundle Deanery

## Section 9

**The Friends of Oundle Parish Church 2016**  
Registered Charity No.1168165

**Report of the Trustees for the calendar year 1st January 2023 ----- 31st December 2023**

Objective of the charity:

The Friends were formed in 1983 to help maintain the Church of St. Peter in Oundle and restore it where necessary. Until then this task fell solely upon the Parochial Church Council supported by members of the congregation. Donations, sale of electricity produced by the solar panels and fund-raising are the principal income sources of the charity, supplemented by income from COIF investments and the annual Income Tax refund for donations qualifying for Gift Aid.

The objective of the charity as stated in the Constitution is as follows: "To promote for the benefit of the public, including the widest access and use especially for the inhabitants of the parish of Oundle in the county of Northamptonshire, the permanent preservation and enhancement of Oundle Parish Church as a building of architectural and historical interest."

Activities and Achievements:

We are pleased to report that the annual submission of our Accounts and Trustee Report for last year to the Charity Commission was accepted without query.

Trustees met to consider the annual Jazz evening, courtesy of Oundle School Jazz Orchestra and this was held in January. In October we organised a concert performed by the GUS Band – one of the top brass bands in the country. Both ventures were "Sold out" and the two differing events meant that new audiences were attracted. Those attending both events were most appreciative and "Wished for more!"

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in the Church and the following have been supported from Friend's funds:

- Considerable repairs to stonework
- Full survey of the Church fabric carried out by newly appointed Church Architects.
- Planning works for perimeter drainage work (Currently under way)
- Planning and tendering for full refurbishment of the South Porch main entry doors. (Currently under way.)

In total £24,303.80 has been paid to the Church to enable these projects to proceed, with further funds already allocated to cover the costs of those projects that are currently under way.

Trustees look forward to reporting on the successful completion of those works next year. Support for a number of other projects have been requested. Trustees look forward to reporting these ventures in their next Annual Report.

Our income consisted of donations by Bankers Order - £1120.00; a Tax Rebate (Gift Aid reclaim) - £344.51; income from the solar panels - £4074.32; sundry donations - £500 and our concerts raised £6813.85. Interest on the COIF account amounted to £9320.70.

Trustees have reviewed organisation, expenditure and pricing ready for the next Jazz Evening.

Officers:

Chairman: Ian Goldsmith	Secretary: David Webb.
Treasurer: Neil Underwood	Independent Reviewer: T.C. Bulley Davey

Trustees:

Mr. I. Goldsmith, Mr N Underwood, Ms. J. Turton, Mr. D. Gooda, Mr H. Cartwright, Mr. D. Webb, Ms. J. Pearson . Mrs. J Ray

Bankers and Policies:

- Lloyds Bank current account - utilised for all day to day banking and holding funds for any regular transactions.
- CCLA Investment Management Ltd (COIF Charity Funds) - high interest account utilised by many registered charities.



Acknowledgements:

Trustees wish to thank all associated with our ventures and notably Oundle Bookshop for the sale of tickets..

The Friends also thank St Peters Church staff for the continued support of all fundraising events at the church. Thanks also to T. C. Bulley Davey for arranging the Independent Review of the annual accounts.

New Trustees

We would be pleased to welcome new trustees to the Friends. Being a trustee is not onerous - we meet about 6 times a year and arrange 1 or 2 fundraising concerts each year

For further information on any aspect of the Friends

please contact Ian Goldsmith,

Chairman of the Friends of Oundle Parish Church

Telephone 07885663935 email [ian.goldsmith@myepost.co.uk](mailto:ian.goldsmith@myepost.co.uk)

## Section 10

### Green Group 2023 – 2024 - Report to APCM

The Green Group is a small group of volunteers (mostly attached to St Peter's), under the leadership of Jeremy and Judy Rusher which has been operating for over 15 years. It looks at ways in which the church as a community and as individuals can reduce their carbon footprint, reduce waste, increase biodiversity and live more sustainably.

Some of the members are involved in regular working parties managing (together with the Oundle Town Council) the north-west area of the churchyard to increase biodiversity. The plans on the noticeboards in church and in the churchyard show details of this. Over the years the church has gained several awards under the Northants Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Scheme.

Recently the Rockingham Forest Vision Project has been launched and Oundle have formed a Group to deliver a Parish Nature Recovery Plan involving a number of sites in the Parish, one of which is the churchyard. Judy Potts is our representative on this. The careful records kept by the Green Group over the past 15 years showing the species living in the Churchyard have been recognised as a model of good practice.

In February 2022 the PCC approved "Our vision for a Green Church and Community" (attached) which recognises that almost every area of church life is involved in environmental issues. Members of the Green Group meet regularly to try to suggest ways in which this vision can be realised in practice. Recently we have been focussing on our buying, recycling and waste disposal policy, trying to reduce the amount we send to landfill.

#### The Future

The Church of England recognises that climate change and biodiversity loss are among the great challenges of our time. It aims to be carbon neutral by 2030, and supports efforts to reduce waste, increase biodiversity and encourage sustainable life-styles. If this is to happen at St Peter's a working group (such as the Green group) reporting to the PCC is vital to provide leadership and focus for our efforts.

The present group is mostly elderly. Jeremy and Judy Rusher have been providing the leadership and inspiration for the group since its inception and they feel that they should step down in the next few months, though obviously would continue to offer their full support. There is a real need for younger people to take over and provide the vision and energy to help guide the church community through these revolutionary times.

AGR (1<sup>st</sup> May 2024)

## St Peter's Church, Oundle Our Vision for a Green Church and Community

"For the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century good ecology is not an optional extra but a matter of justice. It is central to what it means to be a Christian" (Rowan Williams)

"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth" (The Church of England's 5<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission)

Our vision is summarised under the following headings, each of which contributes to the impact St Peter's has on the environment.

- **Worship and Teaching** will include our responsibility for caring for creation and will be celebrated especially in Creationtide\*
- **Management of Church Buildings** including maintenance and use should, as far as is practical, minimise any adverse effect on the environment
- **Management of church land** is an opportunity for St Peter's to show how we care for creation by supporting wildlife, encouraging biodiversity and enhancing the natural environment
- **Community and Global Engagement** means that St Peter's community will recognise, encourage & participate in eco projects in our community and the wider world where these align with St Peter's Vision and Strategy and any costs incurred are within approved budgets
- **Our personal lifestyle** will show awareness of our responsibility for the impact on the environment of our actions

Living this vision challenges every person and organisation in St Peter's to recognise God's love and encourages us to Know It in Creation, Live It in Wonder and Give It by Caring

\*Originally an Eastern Orthodox initiative, which has now spread widely among Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, bringing Christians together to pray and work for the protection of the environment that sustains everyone

Green Group/28.02.2020



**ST PETER'S CHURCH: OUNDLE PCC ACCOUNTS**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
For the year ending 31 December 2023

Page 1

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	FUNDS 2022 £
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>						
Voluntary Income	3(a)	277,685	18,275	-	295,960	448,480
Fund generating activities	3(b)	4,074	-	-	4,074	3,986
Income from investments	3(c)	7,304	-	537	7,841	2,594
Church activities	3(d)	10,063	1,351	-	11,414	12,048
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>299,126</b>	<b>19,626</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>319,289</b>	<b>467,108</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>						
Church activities: Grants/Donations	4(a)	25,939	-	-	25,939	20,256
Church activities: Relating directly to Church work	4(b)	258,439	22,248	-	280,687	281,052
Costs of generating voluntary income	4(c)	-	-	-	-	65
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>284,378</b>	<b>22,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>306,626</b>	<b>301,373</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		<b>14,748</b>	<b>(2,622)</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>12,663</b>	<b>165,735</b>
Revaluation reserve						
Fixed assets	5(a)	(660)	-	-	(660)	-
Gains / (Losses) on fair value revaluation						
Investments	5(b)	(191)	-	1,221	1,030	(1,619)
		(851)	-	1,221	370	(1,619)
Fund Transfers		-	683	(683)	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>13,897</b>	<b>(1,939)</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>13,033</b>	<b>164,116</b>
<b>BALANCES B/FWD 1ST JANUARY</b>		<b>288,453</b>	<b>149,029</b>	<b>16,626</b>	<b>454,108</b>	<b>289,992</b>
<b>BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER</b>		<b>302,350</b>	<b>147,090</b>	<b>17,701</b>	<b>467,141</b>	<b>454,108</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	FUNDS 2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible	5(a)	51,615	84,000	-	135,615	65,034
Investment	5(b)	915	-	14,087	15,002	13,972
		<u>52,530</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>14,087</u>	<u>150,617</u>	<u>79,006</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Stock	6(a)	182	-	-	182	54
Debtors	6(b)	12,245	1,989	-	14,234	19,234
Short term deposits		184,094	5,860	3,614	193,568	164,556
Cash at bank and in hand		69,392	55,646	-	125,038	243,159
		<u>265,913</u>	<u>63,495</u>	<u>3,614</u>	<u>333,022</u>	<u>427,003</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Creditors falling due in one year	7	(16,093)	(405)	-	(16,498)	(51,901)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>249,820</u>	<u>63,090</u>	<u>3,614</u>	<u>316,524</u>	<u>375,102</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>302,350</u>	<u>147,090</u>	<u>17,701</u>	<u>467,141</u>	<u>454,108</u>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>	11					
Unrestricted		302,350	-	-	302,350	288,453
Restricted		-	147,090	-	147,090	149,029
Endowment		-	-	17,701	17,701	16,626
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>302,350</u>	<u>147,090</u>	<u>17,701</u>	<u>467,141</u>	<u>454,108</u>

We hereby approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

M Elkington (Treasurer)

Date:

12.5.24

Rev'd Canon S Webster

Date:

12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements 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 AND RESERVES**

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment 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 separated investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

The unrestricted funds are general funds which are used for purposes defined by the PCC :-

**GENERAL FUND**

The Fund's aim is to contain at least three months running costs of the church, with the PCC allocating any surplus.

**BUILDING FUND**

This contains monies reserved by the PCC to cover specific future projects related to the upkeep of infrastructure, including monies allocated for Quinquennial repair costs.

**PARVIS ROOF**

This contains monies designated for the Parvis Roof repairs.

**ORGAN FUND**

This contains monies being donated specifically to be spent on the organ.

**QUINQUENNIAL FUND**

This contains monies earmarked for quinquennial repair cycle expenditure.

**INCOMING RESOURCES**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. The PCC is not registered for VAT, however the equivalent to the cost of VAT is reclaimable as a grant under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for qualifying costs related to the fabric of the building.

**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

**FIXED ASSETS**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated as follows:

Audio/CCTV	Straight line over 5 years
Projector	Straight line over 5 years
Lighting	Straight line over 10 years
Boiler	Straight line over 10 years
Church Assets	Straight line over 50 years
Staging	Straight line over 15 years

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December 2023.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

**2 ASSOCIATED CHARITIES**

- (i) The Oundle Church Clock Fund: Chairman of Trustees, Revd Canon Stephen Webster, Sian Fytche, Trustee  
(ii) The Friends of Oundle Parish Church: Chairman of Trustees, Ian Goldsmith  
(iii) William Walcot's Foundation: Chairman of Trustees, Revd Canon Stephen Webster, Sian Fytche, Trustee

**3 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	FUNDS 2022 £
<b>(a) Voluntary Income</b>					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	135,851	60	-	135,911	136,656
Other	19,058	-	-	19,058	17,795
Sundry donations:					
Grants	51,895	3,643	-	55,538	147,478
Gift Aid donations	2,936	1,137	-	4,073	22,971
Cash collections	1,603	760	-	2,363	1,851
Thanksgiving Campaign	1,000	-	-	1,000	26,570
Legacies	15,987	-	-	15,987	-
Youth Minister Seed Funding	5,100	-	-	5,100	15,400
Other giving	7,055	12,376	-	19,431	28,352
Tax recoverable	37,200	299	-	37,499	51,407
	<b>277,685</b>	<b>18,275</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>295,960</b>	<b>448,480</b>
<b>(b) Fund generating activities</b>					
Feed in Tariff income	4,074	-	-	4,074	3,986
	<b>4,074</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>3,986</b>
<b>(c) Income from Investments</b>	<b>7,304</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>7,841</b>	<b>2,594</b>
	<b>7,304</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>7,841</b>	<b>2,594</b>
<b>(d) From operating activities</b>					
Bookstall	73	-	-	73	326
Lettings	4,839	-	-	4,839	4,989
Munch Club meals	-	1,231	-	1,231	1,583
Fees for weddings/funerals	5,151	120	-	5,271	5,150
	<b>10,063</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,414</b>	<b>12,048</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>299,126</b>	<b>19,626</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>319,289</b>	<b>467,108</b>



Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

4	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
(a)	Grants/Donations(see note 9)					
	Missionary and charitable giving					
	Church overseas - missionary societies	20,115	-	-	20,115	14,600
	Other	5,824	-	-	5,824	5,656
		<u>25,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,939</u>	<u>20,256</u>
(b)	Relating directly to church work					
	Ministry Expenditure					
	Diocesan parish share	128,728	-	-	128,728	128,728
	Clergy expenses	1,992	-	-	1,992	869
	Training	1,503	-	-	1,503	220
	Church Expenditure					
	Maintenance and minor repairs	6,785	5,134	-	11,919	8,656
	Quinquennial	-	-	-	-	21,688
	Building ministry projects	5,990	9,304	-	15,294	19,617
	Building cleaning and sanitation	1,273	-	-	1,273	1,953
	Insurance claim	1,090	-	-	1,090	-
	Holdich Organ Project	590	-	-	590	1,800
	Utilities	5,584	710	-	6,294	8,632
	Worship	6,769	-	-	6,769	4,663
	Outreach	2,487	6,234	-	8,721	6,617
	Pastoral	58	-	-	58	100
	Youth (including salaries)	12,518	397	-	12,915	14,661
	VAT reclaimable under LPWS	18,895	-	-	18,895	12,573
	Depreciation	3,294	-	-	3,294	5,008
	Management & Administration					
	Insurance	6,051	-	-	6,051	5,402
	Parish Office	10,409	469	-	10,878	5,196
	Other admin costs	173	-	-	173	406
	Staff costs: Salaries and pensions	44,250	-	-	44,250	34,263
		<u>258,439</u>	<u>22,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280,687</u>	<u>281,052</u>
(c)	Fund-raising costs					
	Costs of fundraising campaigns and events	-	-	-	-	65
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65</u>
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>284,378</b>	<b>22,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>306,626</b>	<b>301,373</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

5

**(a) FIXED ASSETS****Tangible**

	CHURCH ASSETS	AUDIO	IT	LIGHTING	BOILER	STAGING	PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Cost/Valuation	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At cost/valuation at 1 January 2023	44,160	46,821	1,124	48,750	35,767	-	21,000	197,622
Additions	-	-	5,769	-	-	5,765	63,000	74,534
Revaluation in year	(660)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(660)
At 1 January and 31 December 2023	43,500	46,821	6,893	48,750	35,767	5,765	84,000	271,496
<b>Depreciation</b>								
At 1 January 2023	1,200	45,747	1,124	48,750	35,767	-	-	132,588
Charge for the year	200	1,074	1,923	-	-	96	-	3,293
At 31 December 2023	1,400	46,821	3,047	48,750	35,767	96	-	135,881
<b>Net Book Value</b>								
At Jan 1st 2023	42,960	1,074	-	-	-	-	21,000	65,034
At Dec 31st 2023	42,100	-	3,846	-	-	5,669	84,000	135,615

The church assets were revalued during 2017 in accordance with transition to SORP FRS 102 (note 13).

All assets are unrestricted except the Payment on Account of Fixed Asset which is part of the Restricted Holdich Organ Fund.

The last full revaluation of church assets took place on the 4 February 2022 by Ian Goldsmith of Goldsmiths Auctioneers. The valuables were valued at £34,160.

The valuation was based upon the fair value which could be reasonably expected to be received under normal market conditions. The valuation required research of items sold at auction and insurance values.

The revaluation in 2017 resulted in a fair value adjustment to the revaluation reserve of £40,087.

The revaluation in 2018 resulted in a reduction of £2,587.

The revaluation in 2019 resulted in an increase of £7,500. There was no change to values at 31 December 2020.

The revaluation in 2021 resulted in a decrease of £840. An informal valuation at 31/12/23 reduced the value by £660.

(b)

Investments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2023	1,106	-	12,866	13,972
Revaluation gain/(loss)	(191)	-	1,221	1,030
Market value at 31 December 2023	915	-	14,087	15,002
Holdings at 31 December 2023		£	£	£
	Fund	Opening value	Movement	Value at 31/12/23
417 New Ord Shares in NatWest Group	General	1,106	(191)	915
Chancel: 428 Income units in CBF Investment Fund	Chancel	8,837	839	9,676
Jesus Church: 195.15 Income units in CBF Investment Fund	Jesus Church	4,029	382	4,411
		13,972	1,030	15,002

6 **CURRENT ASSETS**

(a)

**Stocks**

Communion supplies, cups

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Communion supplies, cups	182	-	-	182	54
	182	-	-	182	54

(b)

**Debtors**

Income tax recoverable

Other debtors and prepayments

Income tax recoverable	1,400	89	-	1,489	6,261
Other debtors and prepayments	10,845	1,900	-	12,745	12,973
	12,245	1,989	-	14,234	19,234

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**LIABILITIES**

Creditors falling due within one year

Accruals and Deferred Income

Other creditors and accruals

Accruals and Deferred Income	12,245	-	-	12,245	10,725
Other creditors and accruals	3,848	405	-	4,253	41,176
	16,093	405	-	16,498	51,901

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

8	GRANTS RECEIVABLE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Listed Places of Worship Grant Claims	18,895	-	-	18,895	12,573
	Worshipful Company of Grocers	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
	Feeoffees	-	1,900	-	1,900	1,900
	Feeoffees for Munch Club	-	-	-	-	750
	Anonymous for Munch Club	-	243	-	243	-
	Diocese of Peterborough	3,000	-	-	3,000	4,755
	Holdich Organ Grant	30,000	-	-	30,000	126,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,895</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,538</b>	<b>147,478</b>

9 **MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING**

UK and overseas. This is reviewed by the Missions Group who recommend any changes to the PCC.

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>CHURCH OVERSEAS</b>				
Missionary Societies				
CMS	-	-	-	-
Crosslinks	8,935	-	8,935	4,860
SAT7	4,240	-	4,240	4,060
Tearfund	1,700	-	1,700	1,620
Christian Aid	1,000	-	1,000	-
United Society	4,240	-	4,240	4,060
	<b>20,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,115</b>	<b>14,600</b>
Other				
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	50	-	50	50
Hope into Action	1,700	-	1,700	1,620
FIT to friends of St Peter's Church	4,074	-	4,074	3,986
	<b>5,824</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,824</b>	<b>5,656</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,939</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,939</b>	<b>20,256</b>

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

## 10 CBF DEPOSIT FUNDS

	GENERAL £	BUILDINGS £	ORGAN £
OPENING BALANCE	119,922	26,429	15,008
Interest	5,363	1,191	671
From / (To) Current Account	23,760	-	(2,390)
CLOSING BALANCE	149,045	27,620	13,289

	Endowment CHANCEL £
OPENING BALANCE	3,197
Dividends	264
Interest	153
CLOSING BALANCE	3,614

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

**11 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£		£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Designated funds:						
Building Fund	20,812	1,191	-	-	-	22,003
General reserve	57,862	5,363	-	-	-	63,225
Quinquennial reserve	8,364	-	-	5,500	-	13,864
Organ Fund	10,008	671	(590)	-	-	10,089
General fund	191,407	291,901	(283,788)	(5,500)	(851)	193,169
	288,453	299,126	(284,378)	-	(851)	302,350
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Feeoffees	4,105	1,900	(4,105)	-	-	1,900
Servery Project	5,860	-	-	-	-	5,860
Worshipful Company of Grocers	438	1,500	(438)	-	-	1,500
Holiday at Home	573	782	(737)	-	-	818
Cremated Remains Area	297	-	-	-	-	297
Holdich Organ Project	128,500	-	-	-	-	128,500
Heating repairs fund	591	-	(591)	-	-	-
Friends of Oundle Parish Church	-	9,304	(9,304)	-	-	-
Clock & Bells Fund	2,868	120	-	-	-	2,988
OCYA for Youth Minister	500	-	(469)	-	-	31
Munch Club	1,924	1,474	(3,398)	-	-	-
Friends in Need	2,729	2,221	(2,099)	683	-	3,534
Bereavement Fund	50	-	-	-	-	50
Heating costs fund	-	710	(710)	-	-	-
West Porch Café	594	1,615	(397)	-	-	1,812
	149,029	19,626	(22,248)	683	-	147,090
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Chancel compounding fund	12,035	417	-	-	839	13,291
Jesus Church Income fund	4,591	120	-	(683)	382	4,410
	16,626	537	-	(683)	1,221	17,701
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>454,108</b>	<b>319,289</b>	<b>(306,626)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>467,141</b>

The Feeoffees was grants received for expenditure on the fabric of the building and for youth minister costs.

The Servery Project Fund contains donations to be spent on the Servery Project.

Worshipful Company of Grocers - grants to be spent on the fabric of the building.

Holiday at Home Fund is donations received specifically for the running of the Holiday at Home Event.

The Cremated Remains Area fund was a legacy to be used on the cremated remains area.

Holdich Organ fund - see note 13 below.

Heating repairs fund - monies donated specifically for the cost of making urgent repairs to the heating system.

The Friends fund consists of donations from the Friends of Oundle Parish Church to be spent on projects as agreed between the PCC and the Friends.

The Clock & Bells Fund is funding for the Phase 2 Clock Tower and Bell works.

OCYA for Youth Minister is a donation received for the costs related to the Youth Minister.

The Munch Club came under St Peters umbrella from December 2018. The funds are administered separately. It ceased to operate in 2023.

Friends in Need Fund - donations received to be allocated at the Vicar's discretion for parishioners in need.

PDBF for Heating - a grant from the Diocese of Peterborough towards the cost of heating the church building.

The Bereavement fund is a donation specifically for the use of the bereavement team.

Heating costs fund - donation made towards the increased costs of heating the church building.

The West Porch Café fund - funds raised to be expended on youth.

The Jesus Church fund consists of an investment to be held in perpetuity, the income of which is to be applied to the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical parish of Oundle. The PCC has allocated accumulated income to the Friends in Need Fund.

The Chancel fund consists of an investment to be held in perpetuity, the income of which can be expended on the Chancel.

A designated reserve for Quinquennial repairs has been established to ring-fence unspent annual budget set aside for Quinquennial repairs.

**12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the year the Trustees made aggregate donations to St Peter's Church totaling £46,731 (2023: £56,517).

**13 HOLDICH ORGAN PROJECT**

During 2022 a pipe organ was donated to the church. The organ was refurbished off-site and was installed in 2023. It will be commissioned in early 2024. The cost of the refurbishment and installation has been donated to the church in full at a figure of £126,000 including VAT.

There will be some legal and architectural charges in the region of £10,000. These charges are being funded by the church from the existing organ fund. As the funds are to be expended on a fixed asset the monies spent do not appear in the expenditure section. During 2023 a further £63,000 plus VAT was spent on refurbishment of the organ, which appears as a payment on account on fixed assets on the balance sheet. It is expected that the organ will be fully commissioned in 2024.

