

St Peter's Church, Oundle

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Annual Report Contents

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Section 1:

Vicar's Report for 2024

“You give them something to eat,” said Jesus.
“But that ~~would~~ take almost a year’s wages!” They exclaimed.
Mark 6:37

In *Mark 6* Jesus’ disciples are faced with a significant problem: a hungry crowd of upwards of 5000 people. Their sensible proposal of sending the multitude back home so that they can eat is met with Jesus’ baffling proposal, “You give them something to eat.” How could they possibly do that? They have 5 loaves and 2 fish between them. They simply do not have the resources to solve the problem. Yet we know the end of the story. The multitude do get fed, with baskets left over. How? The disciples hand over their meagre resources, the bread and the fish to Jesus. Through Him God provides. He turns their little, faithfully and prayerfully given, into a feast for a multitude. The disciples perhaps learn a lesson that day about dependence of God. In the face of a challenge the key question is not what resources we have – but rather our willingness to depend on a faithful almighty God.

At times through 2024 as we sought to serve our own community (a ‘crowd’ of perhaps 7000 in the town of Oundle) there were times when we worried about our resources. However, we learnt again that God is good and provides for our needs. One key way He does this is through you – the St Peter’s Church community. We recently did a rough calculation of the amount of volunteering that happens through St Peter’s. We very quickly got to a figure of 100 hours per week being given in volunteering by the Church family. All of this generous giving of time and expertise enabled us through 2024 to serve our town in many ways. There was the regular friendship and support offered to older members of our community through Tuesday Club, Hymns of Praise, Market Day communion and coffee, regular worship in care homes and the annual Holiday at Home. There was the weekly West Porch Café for young people as well as discipleship groups. The successful Chattabox and Chattabox+ events for children and young people in the summer led to ongoing gatherings (both for children and young people) through the Autumn and beyond. Through volunteers we were able to continue provision for children and young people on Sundays and the monthly Messy Café Church reached out to new people otherwise unconnected to Church. One highlight in 2024 was St Peter’s participation in the Vintage Festival and activities and Church, tower tours and the parachuting of teddies from the Church tower. This is just a glimpse of so much more that goes on. Foodbank volunteers, people who cook and provide food to enable all of the above, those who lead small groups, those who help with sound and screens for services, who welcome at the door and serve refreshments, those who quietly come in and clean the Church and polish brass, those who work pro-actively behind the scenes to ensure that our building is well maintained. It’s quite likely I have omitted the volunteering you do. If so I apologise. Behind everything that happens is a huge amount of generous giving of time and expertise. I’ve only been able to mention a small part of it.

Behind all this activity there lies a key purpose. Our aim is that through St Peter’s Church the people of our town and beyond hear the good news of Jesus Christ and put their faith in Him. We want people to know God’s love, to live a life in response to it and so become a people who give generously. (*God’s Love: Know it. Live it. Give it.*) 2024 saw a successful Alpha Course and it was joy to accompany the 12 people who came on the course as they came to faith and grew in faith. It was wonderful to celebrate in May as Joe Gray became the first person in the Diocese to be confirmed by Bishop Debbie at a service organised by St Peter’s Church in Luton. We were again able to celebrate with three more candidates confirmed in December in our morning service by Bishop John. 2024 also saw St Peter’s send two of our own Church family off to train for ordination. Nadine Brown has been part of our Church family since she was a toddler. Joe Gray joined us part-time on the staff-team during Covid, got baptised by full-immersion on Easter Day 2023 and was accepted for ordination training in 2024. At a time when

the Church of England faces lots of challenges it is a real encouragement to be able to send two young people in their early twenties to train for ministry. It is also an encouragement to us that we can remain closely connected to Joe and Nadine through their training. It means that over the past 5 years 4 people from St Peter's have headed for ordination training.

As the PCC, during the Autumn of 2024, came to consider 2025's budget we realised we faced a significant challenge. We were potentially facing a very large and unsustainable deficit. We felt a little like those disciples with their 5 loaves and 2 fish facing the crowd of 5000. It felt like we did not have the resources to do the work we felt God was calling us to. However, we prayed; anxiously we prayed. In November we approached the Church community explaining our challenges. Almost everything that happens at St Peter's is enabled and paid for by the voluntary financial giving of the Church community. To be honest my faith had been weak when I prayed. Yet the response of the Church community was very generous. Through you God provided. Through you He answered our prayers. There remain some ongoing challenges; we will need to keep prayerfully addressing these. We look after our beautiful ancient building for the town and for the country. It is very expensive and we need to keep on finding others to help us with this heritage task (and the *Friends of the Parish Church* are excellent friends in this regard). But what looked like it was going to be a large deficit is now a small one.

In *Mark 6* the disciples are faced with an apparently impossible problem. They don't have the resources. They have to turn to Jesus. When we were faced with what at times looked like an impossible problem we could only turn to prayer. When we realise that we can but depend on God – we find that He is dependable. I sometimes think that a Church which felt able to say, "We have all the resources we need to for the year ahead. We have no concerns. We can do this," would be a Church not depending on God, but depending on its own resources.

Thankyou to everyone in the Church family – for your generous, sometimes sacrificial, giving of time, expertise and money. You enable us to answer God's call to love the people of our town in word and action. Ongoing thanks also to our Church team; to Louise Foote (through 2024 our wonderful voluntary Lay Chaplain for work amongst older people), Andrew Hawkins our administrator and Mark Pearcey our Facilities Co-ordinator and to Joe Gray who was for most of 2024 our online administrator and ministry intern. They continue to provide an excellent and essential support for all that happens at St Peter's. In addition I am enormously grateful to Louisa Baker and Siân Fytche who have been extremely committed and effective Churchwardens and to Emma Kirby our excellent Youth Minister 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.

Rev Canon Stephen Webster
Vicar of Oundle, Benefield and Glapthorn

Section 2:

2.1 Churchwardens' Annual Report 2024

Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18 May 2025

Our grateful thanks to Emily Taylor, who stepped down as Churchwarden after many faithful and dedicated years of service. Siân Fytche continues as a Churchwarden, and we welcomed Louisa Baker newly appointed.

Worship and Church Life

Our church continues to be a place of active worship and growing community. We record over 100+ adults and children into church across our Sunday services. Our services at Christmas were a true highlight, especially the Carol Singing in Oundle Market Place which attracts a huge crowd and to all who make the Christmas services deeply meaningful.

Growing Together: Intergenerational Vision

Our church's commitment to intergenerational worship and community was explored more deeply in the PCC's Vision Morning. What does it mean to be intentionally intergenerational; to learn, grow, serve, and worship across all ages? Out of that day came many creative ideas, standout examples include the Barn Dance Night and Beetle Drive, which brought together people of all ages, both regular churchgoers and newcomers alike.

We continue to uphold Joe and Nadine in prayer as our recent college ordinands and look forward to seeing how God works through them in year ahead. Thank you for the involvement of Dan and Kerenza who represent the youth voice at PCC, they have shared their reflections and ideas for our church life.

Finance and Stewardship

We bid farewell to Mark as Treasurer, and welcomed Rob Dillarstone into the role. Rob has guided us thoughtfully through some financial challenges, particularly during our Giving Focus in September. This season reminded us of our shared calling to be generous and intentional in supporting the ongoing ministry and outreach of the church - to continue being a beacon of God's love in Oundle.

Buildings and Fabric

Our heartfelt thanks to the RAG Committee, who meet regularly to steward the practical and structural needs of our church and churchyard. A special thank you to John Grubb, who has continued as our RAG chair throughout 2024.

Closing Thoughts

We are grateful for all those who give their money, time, energy, prayers, and love to the life of this church - seen and unseen. We rely on all volunteers who offer Welcome, Refreshments, Prayers, Sound and AV, Readers, Flowers and much more and we are always keen to hear from any new recruits (contact us below).

Praise God for all our paid clergy and the office support that keep everything turning. We look forward with faith, hope, and expectation, trusting in God's continued guidance and provision.

Louisa Baker

Siân Fytche

Churchwardens

Contact us churchwardens@oundlestpeters.org.uk

2.2 PCC Report

During most of 2024, 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 six times in 2024 (6 February, 20 March, 15 May, 23 June, 12 September and 13 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 2024 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 2024 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) 01/01/24 – 12/05/24 (APCM)

Rev Stephen Webster (Chair), Sian Fytche (Churchwarden), Emily Taylor (Churchwarden), Rev Annabel Copeland (Associate Vicar).

Deanery Synod: Stephen Webster, 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) 12/05/2024 – 31/12/2024

Rev Stephen Webster (Chair), Siân Fytche (Churchwarden), Rev Annabel Copeland (Associate Vicar), Louisa Baker (Churchwarden).

Deanery Synod: Stephen Webster, Annabel Copeland, Louise Foote, Claire Weston, Pam Weatherington, Peter Taylor

Elected Members: Rob Dillarstone, Ian Goldsmith, David Gooda, Sally Saunders, Peter Taylor, Kim Treverton, Ben Treverton, Pam Weatherington, Sarah Vogt, Angela Newell, Claire Weston, Louise Foote, Claire Weston, John Grubb.

Honorary PCC Secretary: Andrew Hawkins

2.3 Electoral Roll Report

Electoral Roll statement for APCM 2025

As required by Church of England legislation, the Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed every 6 years. In consequence all people on the old roll (which was devised afresh in 2019 and has been revised annually since) have been contacted by email and /or letter to ask if they wish to continue on the new roll. All slow responders have had follow up messages by email, letter and /or personal contact. There have been notices in the church services and in the weekly newsletter. In addition the church suite database has been reviewed to see if there were any individuals worshipping at the church who are not on the roll but might respond to an invitation to join it. As a consequence of this process, it can be seen that there has been a more significant "churn" in names this year compared to the previous annual revisions. The following table describes the numbers of those that have "died", have "moved away" and are "new joiners". The category of "moved away" includes those who have moved address geographically, those who have not responded to the invitation to rejoin the electoral roll, as well as those who may have moved spiritually and decided for varied reasons to worship elsewhere. The identification of the "Moved Away" people reflects decisions that have happened at any time during the last 6 years and not just the last calendar 12 months. It is a recognised national phenomenon that the Covid Pandemic lead to many people changing their worship pattern and this may not have been picked up in the Electoral Roll figures until now when there has been the first complete revision since the pandemic.

Key messages:

- It is a major encouragement to see a record number of new joiners this year.
- In addition there are 7 more individuals who have expressed a willingness to join the roll but haven't actually got round to completing forms yet.
- So the roll this year should be viewed as simply a snapshot of our congregation. The congregation is fluid and has been growing in the last year.
- The ministry of St Peter's is very varied and few people are involved in every aspect. Most people who see St Peter's as their spiritual home are connected through mainly one part of its ministry and that may be mid week rather than a formal Sunday service.

Year	TOTAL	Died	Moved Away	New Joiners
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)	220	5	44	32

Peter Taylor
Electoral Roll Officer

Section 3

3.1 Safeguarding Report

During 2024 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 2024, safeguarding concerns will continue to be responded to 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.

Louise Foote
Benefice Safeguarding Officer

3.2 Reference and Administrative Details

Reference and Administrative Details

Parochial Name	St Peter's, Oundle in the Rural Deanery of Oundle, Diocese of Peterborough
Postal Address	North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL
Telephone Number	01832 275675
Email	administrator@stpetersoundle.co.uk
Website	www.oundlestpeters.org.uk
Bank	NatWest Bank, 25 Corporation Street, Corby NN17 1NR
Investment Bank	CCLA Investment Management Ltd, The CBF Church of England Funds, 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DZ
Independent Examiners	Graham Darbourne at Bulley Davey, 6 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL

Staff Receiving Remuneration

Through Parish Share

Vicar	Rev Canon Stephen Webster
Associate Vicar	Rev Annabel Copeland

Through Salary

Youth Minister	Emma Kirby
Administrator	Andrew Hawkins
Facilities Coordinator	Mark Pearcey
Intern/ Online Administrator	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

St Peters Mission Support statement for APCM 2025

Mission is a fundamental expression of our response to the church motto: *God's Love - Know it, Live it, Give it*. From being involved in mission we find that our faith is deepened and enriched through the experience. Mission activity is broadly grouped as: (a) Gospel Proclamation & Discipleship, (b) Social Justice, Creation care & Humanitarian Aid. This work is carried out locally, nationally and internationally. The breadth of St Peter's ministry is "mission" carried out within Oundle. The aim of the Mission Support Group is to help the church family to be involved in mission that reaches beyond the confines of Oundle town itself. In the last year we have continued a similar pattern of activities to previous years. A paper outlining St Peter's Mission Support was discussed at PCC and is available for wider reading from the office. For many years it has been PCC policy that 10% of "unrestricted" giving income for the church is given as mission support and the PCC has confirmed that this will continue in the future. We give financially to Crosslinks (- John & Gillian Robinson working at The Place of Grace, Bangkok), Sat 7, USPG, Hope into Action and Tearfund. The mission giving in 2024 was £21793 and was split between the societies in the same ratio as previous years. We supported these societies in prayer regularly through the year. In June 2024 John & Gillian Robinson visited us and lead a Sunday service as well as meeting church supporters for lunch. In Nov 2024 Hope into Action's Martin Oldaker preached and was hosted for lunch too.

In 2025, the mission focused services will include USPG in June and TearFund in November.

In 2025 there will be a need for volunteers to replace two members of the mission support group who are moving away from Oundle.

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

- Maintenance work on the bells in the tower
- Upgrading of lighting within the Nave and Chancel
- Repairs to stonework at the junction of the tower and church roof.
- Replacement of hand driers in the toilets

PCC Funded

- During the year the Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out by the Church Architect. The building is generally in good repair with essential work being identified, however, the Architect has advised that major repairs to the roof are likely to be necessary towards the end of the five year period. Further investigations are required to identify the extent of necessary work.
- It has been noted that the steeple has not been surveyed in detail for several years.
- Further investigatory work has been carried out on the heating system, and we are now in a position to instruct remedial works to be carried out, subject to funding.
- Annual inspection of the lead on the church roof, cleaning of all gutters and rainwater hoppers.
- Repairs to various areas of roof.
- Minor day to day building and equipment maintenance.

During the coming year the following work is planned:

- Design and implementation of improvements to the kitchen, subject to confirmation of funding.
- Replacement of radiators at the rear of the Church together a new thermostatically controlled control system subject to confirmation of funding.
- Detailed inspection and survey of the church spire by specialist steeplejacks.
- Removal of the blockages in the surface water drainage system and commencement of the detailed design of improvement works.
- Completion 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.
- Annual inspection of the church roof, cleaning of all gutters and rainwater hoppers.
- Minor day to day building and equipment maintenance.
- Essential that research into potential funding organisations is carried out for which we are seeking assistance.

John Grubb

Chair of Resources Action Group (RAG)

May 2025

4.3 Senior Adults

Ministry Among Older People ('Anna Chaplaincy')

St Peter's 'Senior's Ministry' had developed during the year. In February 2025 we joined the growing number of churches in the Diocese of Peterborough who are part of the nationwide Anna Chaplaincy network. This demonstrates our commitment to offering spiritual care to those in later life, helps raise the profile of this ministry within our Diocese and gives Louise Foote access to a network of people who feel called to ministry amongst older people.

Activities and services in our local residential and nursing homes have developed this year, Home Communion services have continued with the addition of 'Messy Vintage' type activities which enables residents to enjoy time together with a spiritual theme in a less formal way than a service. The combination of both types of activities has enabled people with a wider range of needs and backgrounds to be part of the church body through familiar services creative gatherings.

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 memory difficulties or dementia.

During 2024 we hosted Pink House Arts who ran a monthly craft session with the aim of reducing isolation and boosting wellbeing. This was attended by older and younger adults, people enjoyed a variety of crafts led by Caroline and Charlotte from Pink House Arts.

Our annual Holiday at Home, a 'Trip to Florence' was held in June, this was fun day of activities related to the region, delicious lunch, afternoon entertainment, interspersed with regular hot drinks and cake, chatter and company. Planning is well underway for this years' 'Visit to Amsterdam'.

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, we ran a 24-7 'Unanswered Prayer' Course following the service which was a wonderful opportunity to explore some difficult faith questions and get to know each other better, we 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.

The Hymns of Praise monthly hymn singing session co-ordinated by Anthony and Barbara Eddy has continued to grow with around 30 people regularly attending. This it a time to gather around the piano and sing favourite hymns chosen by those attending, followed by refreshments (including Barbara's speciality rockbuns!).

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

Louise Foote
Benefice Anna Chaplain

4.4 Youth Work

Youth Ministry Report for 2024

It's been an encouraging year for our work with our young people! We've built on the enthusiasm created at Chattabox + and provided space to explore faith whilst developing community. We have young people playing in the Chattabox+ band as well as on Sunday mornings and others have been practising leadership skills by leading and planning group events.

Research has shown that there is a growing desire for spirituality and discipleship amongst young people and we have seen instances of this over the year and hope to build on this as we plan this year's Chattabox +. Rooted meets every Monday afternoon in the Lady Chapel. This year, The Way and Rooted have combined groups. The young people have grown in their willingness to share, study and pray together as well as have a lot of fun! It is always a blessing for us adult leaders – we are often struck by how they go from playing a game to discussing issues and biblical truths to praying for each other. They are a special group of young people.

West Porch Café has continued to be as popular as ever –about 40 young people regularly attend. There are often new people each week as the young people bring their friends: we now have most of the Oundle football team! It is a relaxed place to go after school – the young people are encouraged to put down their phones and take part in the activities such as table tennis, snooker, board games and craft.

We have a great group of leaders who make the young people feel valued and work hard each week encouraging them to participate in activities or simply chat and listen to them. We are also grateful to our church community who have provided opportunities to try new skills. Northampton Association for Youth Clubs visit 6 times per year, bringing fun activities such as archery, sumo and dodge ball. Last term, Oundle Community First Responders came to teach CPR which the young people took part in.

We have started to meet with Years 7-9 one Sunday morning a month. We wanted to disciple those young people who cannot make Rooted during the week. Chattabox + last year was an amazing success! 45 young people joined and spent the mornings serving at Chattabox. In the afternoons, we enjoyed activities such as Water Games and Laser Quest. In the evenings, Souster Youth lead talks on the theme of Being Me – looking at how following Jesus enables us to be secure in who we are.

On the last night, when the young people were asked who wanted to carry on exploring their faith, most people said that they did. As a result, we introduced a Sunday night group for the Autumn term. We also have had 3 bigger evening events, co-lead with some of the older group, loosely based on the Chattabox + style – worship, talk, discussion and games.

Working in partnership with Souster Youth at Prince William School has been very useful in developing relationships with young people and teachers. The work has consisted of lunchtime games club, lunchtime faith club, group therapeutic interventions and lessons. There have been numerous overlaps with PWS and St. Peter's work, including young people starting to attend West Porch Café and then going to the Chattabox + events.

Helping at the Year 6 Moving On Day in July has also been helpful in encouraging Year 6 to try out West Porch Café as well as linking with them at PWS this year.

Emma Kirby
Youth Minister

4.5 Children and Families

Children and Families Ministry

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 three Sunday groups- Breathe for young people in years 7-9 which during this year has become a once a month meeting for Milkshakes and discussion about Christian faith, Launchpad for children in years 3-6, Powerpack for children in Years reception to Year 2. The groups meet twice a month and so on the other two Sundays there is an All-In service and Lego Church. During the year we have seen new families join which has been encouraging. 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.

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 Deep Sea Divers through which we found out more about Jesus through, singing, prayers, craft, games and discussion. We also ran a one-day Chattabox Easter Holiday Club which was very well received and was combined with a short Easter Service for families. This acted as a good introduction to Chattabox for new Reception aged children, many of whom then had the confidence to come along in the summer.

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, Leavers service, Easter 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. Our pastoral support at both schools has continued throughout the year and Annabel continues to act as a Governor at Oundle Primary school. Ben Treverton continues to be the other Foundation Governor and act as Chair of the Governing Body. Annabel is part of the Church Group at Glapthorn looking at church school ethos.

Messy Café Church

This new congregation continues to develop and we are beginning to see some very regular families attend each month as well as most months there are new people. This year we have been exploring the Miracles of Jesus through craft, songs, Bible story and creative prayer. This format provides an informal way to grow faith as a family and across the generations. In July we held our first baptism in Messy Café Church which was very exciting. I am as always very grateful to the wonderful team who plan and lead the service and for many who pray and make sandwiches and cakes-thank you.

Intergenerational Ministry

We continue to celebrate the expressions of intergenerational community developing at St Peter's- these are opportunities for us to learn, grown, serve and socialise from other generations so that we all grow in our faith.

Part of this focus was to appoint two Young Voices on PCC- Dan Saunders and Karenza Treverton. They have helped the PCC understand further the thoughts and feelings of young people at St Peter's which has been really valuable. The PCC made this their focus on a Vision Morning in June during which time we celebrated what we are doing well and considered how we could growth further in being an intergenerational community- the main areas to focus on now were encouraging cross-generational friendships to support and learn from each other and to redevelop our All-In service into a Café style service.

Pastoral Support

At Christmas we were able through generous donations to our Friends in Need fund to give a Christmas Meal hamper to 10 families in Oundle who otherwise may not have had a Christmas dinner this year. 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.

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.

Rev Annabel Copeland
Associate Vicar

Section 5

Treasurer's Report

This report is on the 2024 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.

As mentioned during my presentation to the church in November, it costs approximately £6,000 each week to cover the on-going expenses that enable us to be St Peter's. 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 in this amazing community in which we serve.

Giving

Total income for St Peter's during 2024 was £325,811 (a 2% increase on 2023). As mentioned during my presentation to the church in November, 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. Where possible, please give through the Parish Giving Scheme (Home - Parish Giving Scheme) that has now been in operation successfully for several years and which 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 to serve God and our community.

During any year there will be members of St Peter's who move away, are unable to give as much or in some cases, sadly, pass-on. In order to show a net increase in income each year, it is necessary for donations from new givers and increased donations from existing givers to outstrip any decline.

We are very grateful for one off donations and grants that supplement our income. We 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, including £17,581 from the Listed Places of Worship VAT reclaim scheme, £1,500 from the Worshipful Company of Grocers and £1,900 from Feoffees.

Expenditure

The 2024 spend of £359,293 was a 17% increase on the figure for 2023 (£306,626). However, the 2024 budget anticipated a £64K loss, so the actual loss for 2024 of £33,482 was better than budgeted.

The largest item of expenditure is the Diocesan Parish Share of £115,534 (an unexpected, but welcome, reduction of 9% from the 2023 figure) being our contribution to the Stipends, Housing and Training, both of the current clergy, and of future clergy (curates and 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.

Other major items of expenditure (i.e. >£20,000) were:

	2024	2023
Staff salary costs/ pensions	£74,561	£54,973
Building ministry projects	£34,100	£15,294
Utilities	£25,852	£6,294
Maintenance and repairs	£20,160	£11,919

As can be seen, there has been an enormous (410%) increase in the cost of utilities.

St Peter's has a longstanding policy of giving 10% of unrestricted income to mission. This meant that during 2024, St Peter's gave £21,793 to our mission partners.

Reserves and Funds

The current reserves stand at £23,427 for buildings and £69,972 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 2025 based on guidance from the Charities Commission. The General Fund has fallen from £193,169 in 2023 to £180,390 in 2024.

Of the £180,390, it should be noted that £67,144 (2023: £52,530) is our tangible fixed assets and investments such as organ, AV equipment, boiler, etc., and c.£36,000 is our working capital. The remaining £77,246 is in surplus. In years such as 2024 where expenditure outstrips income and we exit the year having spent more than we received, this surplus is called upon. The Treasurer and PCC are prayerfully wishing to work towards a situation where increased giving means we match expenditure, and that additional regular income can be used in creative, exciting and missional ways.

Governance

The PCC sets financial policies for St Peter's. 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.

Robert Dillarstone
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 2024.

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.



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

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 2024.

Oundle Deanery Synod has met three times during 2024.

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

We continue to be grateful for the energetic and engaging leadership provided by Archdeacon Alison.

St Peter's is represented at all the Deanery Synod meetings and takes an active part in the scheduled meetings throughout the year.

Section 9

The Friends of Oundle Parish Church is a charity entirely separate from St Peter's Church. We are extremely grateful to them for their support in enabling us to cherish the heritage of our ancient building. We include a report from the FOPC Chair Ian Goldsmith.

The Friends of Oundle Parish Church

Registered Charity No.1168165

Report of the Trustees for the calendar year 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024

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. The concert was "Sold out" and those attending were most appreciative and "Wished for more!". In the year ahead we look forward to our annual Jazz Concert and to our second concert performed by the GUS Band.

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

- Sewer survey
- Full refurbishment of the South Porch doors.
- Installation of hand dryers.
- Contribution towards additional staging
- Upgrading of the Nave lighting.
- On going Architect's fees.

In total **£35714.25** 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 being planned. 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 thanks to David Gooda who has worked tirelessly to ensure our projects represent best value and further enhance and care for our beautiful church.

Donations by Bankers Order accounted for £915. A Tax Rebate (Gift Aid reclaim) provided additional income of £446.62, income from the solar panels was £3467.18. sundry donations £1000, bequest £2000, profit from our Jazz Evening £3495.40. Interest on the COIF account amounted to £14426.85. Trustees have reviewed organisation, expenditure and pricing ready for the next Jazz Evening.

Year-end accounts and balance sheet are available. Please ask the Chairman or Treasurer.

Planned Events: Saturday 26th April – GUS Band Concert
Friday 6th February 2026 OSJO Concert (provisional date)

Local correspondent and principal address: Neil Underwood. 9, Scotney Way, Thrapston NN14 4SA

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 I. Baker, Mr. D. Webb, Ms. J. Pearson . Ms. J Ray. Ms L. Davies Mrs P. Weatherington

.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

Ian Goldsmith, Chairman

Section 10

Green Group Report

Part of the Church of England official policy is "Creation Care". The fifth mark of Mission is **"to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation; to sustain and renew the life of the earth"** (Lambeth conference 1988). The Green Group's aim is to help the church community, together and as individuals, to translate these ambitions into practice.

Thanks

During this last year Judy and Jeremy Rusher, who have led the group for fifteen years, have retired. We need to thank them for all the time, creative energy and patient dedication that they have shown throughout that time.

Conservation and Bio-diversity

One of their most important achievements is the creation, in conjunction with the Northants Wildlife Trust Conservation Scheme, of a managed conservation area in the north-west part of the churchyard. As well as leading the work they have kept detailed records of plants and animals identified there, and the church has won several environmental awards. This area is now part of the Rockingham Forest Parish Nature Recovery Plan for Oundle, which aims to provide a wildlife corridor through Oundle from Heron Rogers Wood in the West to the river Nene in the East. Judy Potts is our representative.

During the last few months we have been advertising for volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard, and I am very pleased to report that several people have come forward, including Charles Clay who has agreed to lead this group during the next year.

Environmental Policy

Another major part of the Green Group agenda over the years has been to consider the environmental footprint of the church and the congregation. One of the major achievements was getting the PCC to approve, in February 2022, "Our Vision for a Green Church Community" which recognises that almost every area of church life is involved in environmental issues. Thus, church buying policy (like Fairtrade), minimising pollution, reducing waste, encouraging recycling, reducing our carbon footprint, promoting healthy life-styles are all areas to be considered. Sarah Vogt is the Green Group representative on the PCC.

The next step

In the early days we based our discussions on Eco Church materials, using their excellent surveys and questionnaires to discover

- (a) what church practice was and
- (b) how it might be made more environmentally sustainable.

As most companies and organisations have realised, it helps to have a specific group to focus on this and to suggest ideas. The C of E is encouraging churches to review their present practices using this newly revised material. At present, this fascinating and important part of the Green Group work is not being done at St Peter's, and we very much hope that a few people might come forward to reconvene such a group.

Alan Rayden
Green Group Acting Secretary
5th May 2025

St Peter's Church, Oundle

Our Vision for a Green Church and Community

"For the church of the 21st 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 5th 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 2024

Page 1

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	3(a)	256,065	46,272	-	302,337	295,960
Fund generating activities	3(b)	3,467	1,059	-	4,526	4,074
Income from investments	3(c)	8,829	-	578	9,407	7,841
Church activities	3(d)	9,441	100	-	9,541	11,414
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		277,802	47,431	578	325,811	319,289
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church activities: Grants/Donations	4(a)	21,793	-	-	21,793	25,939
Church activities: Relating directly to Church work	4(b)	287,704	49,557	-	337,261	280,687
Governance costs	4(c)	240	-	-	240	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		309,737	49,557	-	359,294	306,626
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(31,935)	(2,126)	578	(33,483)	12,663
Revaluation reserve						
Fixed assets	5(a)	-	-	-	-	(660)
Gains / (Losses) on fair value revaluation						
Investments	5(b)	762	-	322	1,084	1,030
		762	-	322	1,084	370
Fund Transfers		26,140	(23,378)	(2,762)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(5,033)	(25,504)	(1,862)	(32,399)	13,033
BALANCES B/FWD 1ST JANUARY 2024		302,350	147,090	17,701	467,141	454,108
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER 2024		297,317	121,586	15,839	434,742	467,141

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	5(a)	65,467	103,950	-	169,417	135,615
Investment	5(b)	1,677	-	14,409	16,086	15,002
		<u>67,144</u>	<u>103,950</u>	<u>14,409</u>	<u>185,503</u>	<u>150,617</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock	6(a)	180	-	-	180	182
Debtors	6(b)	18,063	-	-	18,063	14,234
Short term deposits		132,851	5,860	1,430	140,141	193,568
Cash at bank and in hand		94,118	12,789	-	106,907	125,038
		<u>245,212</u>	<u>18,649</u>	<u>1,430</u>	<u>265,291</u>	<u>333,022</u>
LIABILITIES						
Creditors falling due in one year	7	(15,039)	(1,013)	-	(16,052)	(16,498)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>230,173</u>	<u>17,636</u>	<u>1,430</u>	<u>249,239</u>	<u>316,524</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>297,317</u>	<u>121,586</u>	<u>15,839</u>	<u>434,742</u>	<u>467,141</u>
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	11	297,317	-	-	297,317	302,350
Restricted		-	121,586	-	121,586	147,090
Endowment		-	-	15,839	15,839	17,701
TOTAL		<u>297,317</u>	<u>121,586</u>	<u>15,839</u>	<u>434,742</u>	<u>467,141</u>

We hereby approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

R Dillarstone (Treasurer)

Date:

Rev'd Canon S Webster

Date:

9 June 2025

4th June 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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.

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
IT	Straight line over 3 years
Lighting & Boiler	Straight line over 10 years
Church Assets	Straight line over 50 years
Staging	Straight line over 15 years
Holdich Organ	Straight line over 100 years

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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, David Gooda, Trustee
(iii) William Walcot's Foundation: Chairman of Trustees, Revd Canon Stephen Webster, Sian Fytche, Trustee
(iv) Feeoffee or Town Estates: Ian Goldsmith, Sian Fytche, Stephen Webster, Trustees

3 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	139,680	60	-	139,740	135,911
Other	17,285	-	-	17,285	19,058
Sundry donations:					
Grants	18,231	5,350	-	23,581	55,538
Gift Aid donations	2,106	1,740	-	3,846	4,073
Cash collections	2,231	453	-	2,684	2,363
Thanksgiving Campaign	18,225	-	-	18,225	1,000
Legacies	5,447	-	-	5,447	15,987
Youth Minister Seed Funding	5,100	-	-	5,100	5,100
Other giving	6,152	38,219	-	44,371	19,431
Tax recoverable	41,608	450	-	42,058	37,499
	<u>256,065</u>	<u>46,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>302,337</u>	<u>295,960</u>
(b) Fund generating activities					
Oundle Vintage Festival	-	1,059	-	1,059	-
Feed in Tariff income	3,467	-	-	3,467	4,074
	<u>3,467</u>	<u>1,059</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,526</u>	<u>4,074</u>
(c) Income from investments					
	8,829	-	578	9,407	7,841
	<u>8,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>9,407</u>	<u>7,841</u>
(d) From operating activities					
Bookstall	20	-	-	20	73
Lettings	5,140	-	-	5,140	4,839
Munch Club meals	-	-	-	-	1,231
Fees for weddings/funerals	4,281	100	-	4,381	5,271
	<u>9,441</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,541</u>	<u>11,414</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>277,802</u>	<u>47,431</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>325,811</u>	<u>319,289</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

4	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
(a)	Grants/Donations(see note 9)					
	Missionary and charitable giving					
	Church overseas - missionary societies	16,070	-	-	16,070	20,115
	Other	5,723	-	-	5,723	5,824
		21,793	-	-	21,793	25,939
(b)	Relating directly to church work					
	Ministry Expenditure					
	Diocesan parish share	115,534	-	-	115,534	128,728
	Clergy expenses	2,191	-	-	2,191	1,992
	Training	228	228	-	456	1,503
	Church Expenditure					
	Maintenance and minor repairs	12,094	8,066	-	20,160	11,919
	Quinquennial	7,500	-	-	7,500	-
	Building ministry projects	2,658	31,442	-	34,100	15,294
	Building cleaning and sanitation	1,277	-	-	1,277	1,273
	Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	1,090
	Holdich Organ Project	(3,200)	-	-	(3,200)	590
	Utilities	25,852	-	-	25,852	6,294
	Worship	5,732	-	-	5,732	6,769
	Outreach (including Friends in Need)	2,361	7,160	-	9,521	8,721
	Pastoral	12	20	-	32	58
	Youth	1,077	987	-	2,064	2,192
	Staff costs: Salaries and pensions	73,959	603	-	74,562	54,973
	VAT reclaimable under LPWS	19,173	-	-	19,173	18,895
	Depreciation	3,612	1,050	-	4,662	3,294
	Management & Administration					
	Insurance	6,447	-	-	6,447	6,051
	Parish Office	10,656	-	-	10,656	10,878
	Other admin costs	541	1	-	542	173
		287,704	49,557	-	337,261	280,687
(c)	Governance costs					
	Independent Examination fee	240	-	-	240	-
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	309,737	49,557	-	359,294	306,626

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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(a) FIXED ASSETS**Tangible**

	CHURCH ASSETS	AUDIO	IT	LIGHTING & BOILER	HOLDICH ORGAN	STAGING	PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Cost/Valuation	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At cost/valuation at 1 January 2024	43,500	46,821	6,893	84,517	-	5,765	84,000	271,496
Additions	-	-	-	17,464	-	-	21,000	38,464
Transfers	-	-	-	-	105,000	-	(105,000)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(14,400)	-	-	-	(14,400)
Revaluation in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 1 January and 31 December 2024	43,500	46,821	6,893	87,581	105,000	5,765	-	295,560

Depreciation

At 1 January 2024	1,400	46,821	3,047	84,517	-	96	-	135,881
Charge for the year	200	-	1,923	1,105	1,050	384	-	4,662
On disposals	-	-	-	(14,400)	-	-	-	(14,400)
At 31 December 2024	1,600	46,821	4,970	71,222	1,050	480	-	126,143

Net Book Value

At Jan 1st 2024	42,100	-	3,846	-	-	5,669	84,000	135,615
At Dec 31st 2024	41,900	-	1,923	16,359	103,950	5,285	-	169,417

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 & Holdich Organ 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 2024	915	-	14,087	15,002
Revaluation gain/(loss)	762	-	322	1,084
Market value at 31 December 2024	1,677	-	14,409	16,086

Holdings at 31 December 2024	Fund	£ Opening value	£ Movement	£ Value at 31/12/24
417 New Ord Shares in NatWest Group	General	915	762	1,677
Chancel: 428 Income units in CBF Investment Fund	Chancel	9,676	221	9,897
Jesus Church: 195.15 Income units in CBF Investment Fund	Jesus Church	4,411	101	4,512
		15,002	1,084	16,086

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CURRENT ASSETS**(a)**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Stocks					
Communion supplies, cups	180	-	-	180	182
	180	-	-	180	182

(b)

Debtors					
Income tax recoverable	1,193	-	-	1,193	1,489
Other debtors and prepayments	16,870	-	-	16,870	12,745
	18,063	-	-	18,063	14,234

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LIABILITIES

Creditors falling due within one year					
Accruals and Deferred Income	4,886	-	-	4,886	12,245
Other creditors and accruals	10,153	1,013	-	11,166	4,253
	15,039	1,013	-	16,052	16,498

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

8	GRANTS RECEIVABLE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Listed Places of Worship Grant Claims	17,581	-	-	17,581	18,895
	Worshipful Company of Grocers	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
	Feeoffees	-	1,900	-	1,900	1,900
	Anonymous for Munch Club	-	-	-	-	243
	Diocese of Peterborough	650	-	-	650	3,000
	Oundle & District Care for West Porch Café	-	600	-	600	-
	Oundle & District Care for Holiday at Home	-	600	-	600	-
	Oundle Churches Youth Association for West Porch Café	-	750	-	750	-
	Holdich Organ Grant	-	-	-	-	30,000
	TOTAL	18,231	5,350	-	23,581	55,538

9 MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING

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

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
CHURCH OVERSEAS				
Missionary Societies				
Crosslinks	2,814	-	2,814	8,935
SAT7	5,525	-	5,525	4,240
Tearfund	2,206	-	2,206	1,700
Christian Aid	-	-	-	1,000
United Society	5,525	-	5,525	4,240
	16,070	-	16,070	20,115
Other				
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	50	-	50	50
Hope into Action	2,206	-	2,206	1,700
FIT to friends of St Peter's Church	3,467	-	3,467	4,074
	5,723	-	5,723	5,824
TOTAL	21,793	-	21,793	25,939

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

10 CBF DEPOSIT FUNDS

	GENERAL £	BUILDINGS £	ORGAN £
OPENING BALANCE	149,045	27,620	13,289
Interest	6,647	1,424	686
From / (To) Current Account	(60,000)	-	-
CLOSING BALANCE	95,692	29,044	13,975

	Endowment CHANCEL £
OPENING BALANCE	3,614
Dividends	269
Interest	187
Accumulated income transferred for expenditure on Chancel	(2,640)
CLOSING BALANCE	1,430

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

11 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£		£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds:						
Building Fund	22,003	1,424	-	-	-	23,427
General reserve	63,225	6,647	-	-	-	69,872
Quinquennial reserve	13,864	-	(4,210)	-	-	9,654
Organ Fund	10,089	686	3,200	-	-	13,975
General fund	193,169	269,045	(308,727)	26,140	762	180,389
	<u>302,350</u>	<u>277,802</u>	<u>(309,737)</u>	<u>26,140</u>	<u>762</u>	<u>297,317</u>
Restricted funds						
Feeoffees	1,900	1,900	(3,800)	-	-	-
Servery Project	5,860	-	-	-	-	5,860
Worshipful Company of Grocers	1,500	1,500	(3,000)	-	-	-
Holiday at Home	618	950	(609)	-	-	959
Cremated Remains Area	297	-	(297)	-	-	-
Holdich Organ Project	128,500	-	(1,560)	(17,590)	-	109,350
Oundle Vintage Festival	-	1,059	(1)	-	-	1,058
Friends of Oundle Parish Church	-	35,714	(29,804)	(5,910)	-	-
Clock & Bells Fund	2,988	200	(2,897)	-	-	292
OCYA for Youth Minister	31	-	(31)	-	-	-
Tiny Tots & Messy Church	-	60	(60)	-	-	-
Friends in Need	3,534	4,623	(6,491)	122	-	1,788
Bereavement Fund	50	-	(20)	-	-	30
West Porch Café	1,812	1,425	(987)	-	-	2,250
	<u>147,090</u>	<u>47,431</u>	<u>(49,556)</u>	<u>(23,378)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,586</u>
Endowment funds						
Chancel compounding fund	13,291	456	-	(2,640)	221	11,328
Jesus Church income fund	4,410	122	-	(122)	101	4,511
	<u>17,701</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,762)</u>	<u>322</u>	<u>15,839</u>
Total funds	<u>467,141</u>	<u>325,811</u>	<u>(359,293)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,084</u>	<u>434,742</u>

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.

The Oundle Vintage Festival fund represents funds raised at the Vintage Festival by running church tower tours. Funds are to be spent on church work as designated by the PCC.

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.

Tiny Toys and Messy Church Fund is a donation to be spent on Tiny Tots and Messy Church outreach work.

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

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

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 transfer of £5910 from Friends of Oundle Parish Church to General fund represents Friends' funds spent on general fixed assets.

A transfer of £2640 from Chancel Fund to General Fund represents accumulated income in the Chancel fund expended on Chancel fixed assets.

A transfer of £122 from Jesus Fund represents accumulated income transferred to the Friends In Need fund.

A transfer of £17,590 from Holdich Fund represents grant made in previous year to the church not to be spent on the organ.#

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 of £40,276 (2023: £46,371).

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 was 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. It is being depreciated over an estimated life of 100 years and is shown as a restricted fixed asset on the balance sheet.