

The Parish of Belper St Peter

Incorporating the churches of
St Peter's, St Mark's and St Swithun's

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity No 1132878



Parish Church

St Peter's Church
 Chesterfield Road
 Belper
 Derbyshire

Other Churches in the Parish

St Mark's Church
 Over Lane
 Openwoodgate
 Derbyshire

St Swithun's Church
 Holbrook Road
 Belper
 Derbyshire

Correspondence should be addressed to c/o The Vicarage, 6 Chesterfield Road, Belper, DE56 1FD.

Legal Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Belper, St Peter's is a registered charity, number 1132878

PCC Membership (Trustees)

Ex Officio Members:

Clergy

Vacancy	(Vicar)
Charles Beresford	Retired Priest

Churchwardens

David Skelton
 Julian Hodgson

Deanery Synod Representatives

John Hastings -Thompson	St Peter's
Anne Clark	St Peter's
Chris Craddy	St Peter's
Dorothy Hunt	St Mark's

Elected Members:

Steve Bennett	St Peter's	Deputy Warden
Judie Fogarty	St Peter's	Deputy Warden
Patience Atkinson-Gregory	St Peter's	PCC and St Peter's Treasurer
Julian Hodgson	St Peter's	Parish Warden and Lay Chair

Margaret Goddard	St Peter's	
Tracy Drake	St Peter's	
Helen Hodgson	St Peter's	
Derek Adams	St Mark's	Deputy Warden
Geraldine Comery	St Mark's	Deputy Warden
Chris Gregson	St Mark's	Treasurer

Linda Clark	St Mark's	
Joan Foster	St Mark's	
Christine Catherall	St Mark's	
David Fox	St Mark's	
Dorothy Hunt	St Mark's	
David Anderton	St Swithun's	Treasurer
Keith Wollerton	St Swithun's	Deputy Warden
Philip Thomas	St Swithun's	Deputy Warden
Barbara Anderton	St Swithun's	
Tracy Comber	St Swithun's	

Co-opted

Sian Kellogg	St Peter's	
Charles Beresford	St Mark's	Retired Clergy

Sue Allen		Safeguarding
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Jane Carter		PCC Secretary non-member
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AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in this ecclesiastical Parish.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church House, known as St Mark's House in Openwoodgate, Belper.

1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Peter's Parish falls within the Dove and Derwent Deanery, within the Church of England Diocese of Derby and serves an area with a population of approximately 18,000 adults making it one of the largest single Parishes in the Diocese. The Parish participates ecumenically through Churches Together in Belper and Hope for Belper.

The Parish Mission Statement is "Jesus at the Centre – transforming our community". The PCC promotes this vision and is committed to enabling people to grow in discipleship through worship and teaching and to be active in supporting the community both local and worldwide and allowing people of all race, gender, learning level, sexuality to be an active part. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how the services at our three churches can involve the many groups that live within the Parish.

To facilitate the above work, it is important that the fabric of the churches of St Peter's, St Mark's and St Swithun's and the church hall at St Mark's is maintained. During this year each church building had a Quinquennial Survey carried out by Blair Gratton architects.

The Parish greatly benefits from the help of several active retired clergy and three fully trained Readers. They all assist in different ways in the daily life of the Church. There are currently three additional people at various levels of training.

However, the bulk of the work and activities is carried out by the many lay volunteers who give freely of their time and effort and without whom nothing would be achieved to promote the gospel, encourage people to follow Jesus and be an active presence within the local community.

In particular Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and Treasurers work tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly, safely and efficiently. The Parish also has an administrative team and two cleaners who are paid employees.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church Statistics

	Parish Total		St Peter's		St Mark's		St Swithun's	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Electoral Roll	174	180	117	125	38	32	19	23
Sunday attendance (adults)	115	116	65	70	35	30	15	16
Baptisms	13	19	10	17	3	2	0	0
Thanksgivings	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Weddings	5	4	5	4	0	0	0	0
Renewal of Wedding vows/Marriage blessing	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Funerals at Church	29	29	23	21	5	5	1	0
Funerals at Crem only	3	9						
Thanksgiving for life	1	0						
	2024	2023						
Burial of Ashes St P	4	1						
Burial of Ashes Cem	1	0						
Confirmation	6	8						
Admittance to HC	0	0						

Worship and prayer

Services are held in all three churches each Sunday. The pattern of worship ensures that there is a communion service each Sunday within the Parish.

Morning services include Common Worship, Holy Communion and Service of the Word. At times these have been taken by Wardens and people on the Diocesan Discipleship Training Course. A more relaxed style of worship was introduced in autumn 2023 at St Peter's led by a varied team of people.

Communion is now fully available in each church. An additional Communion Service takes place on a Wednesday morning at St Swithun's Church.

Main services at St Peter's are live streamed via YouTube with the appropriate licenses. This is also available for a small fee for weddings and funerals.

There are around four Parish combined services during the year.

Weekly Prayer meetings are held at St Mark's Church.

Service Patterns across the Parish

Week	St Peter's			St Mark's			St Swithun's	
1	10.00am	MW with Baptism		10.00 am	HC		11.00 am	MW
2	10.00 am	HC		10.00 am	MW		11.00 am	MW
3	10.00 am	Relaxed Worship		10.00 am	MW		11.00 am	HC
4	10.00 am	HC		10.00 am	MW		11.00 am	MW
5	Flexible						11.00 am	MW may be led by Warden
	In addition, a few joint parish services in any year.							

Occasional Offices

Thirty - eight funerals or burial of ashes or thanksgiving for a person's life were conducted during the year by clergy from the Parish, both in the Churches and at Markeaton or Amber Valley Crematorium. Burials take place at Belper cemetery and burial of ashes is available in the Garden of Remembrance at St Peter's.

During the last year, five weddings were conducted in the Parish.

There were ten Baptisms at St Peter's, three at St Mark's and none at St Swithun's. Preparation sessions are held for parents and Godparents. The parish policy is not to book baptism dates before families have attended preparation which is called 'First Steps'. Families are also expected to attend at least one worship service and a baptism or thanksgiving service within the Parish before coming to preparation. This period of preparation helps families to decide whether Thanksgiving for the birth of a child or Baptism is more appropriate for them.

3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Sunday Club

There is a regular Sunday Club at both St Peter's and St Mark's. Safeguarding, clearly defined roles and rotas, are well established.

At St Peter's, there are eight adults involved with Sunday Club; four session leaders and four session helpers. Young people attending in 2024 ranged from 24 months to 16 years. There are currently approximately fifteen children on the Sunday Club register, and most weeks average six to eight children attending. On the first Sunday of each month, St Peter's holds its Baptisms and there are often additional children as they are attending as guests of the baptism family.

Due to limited numbers of leaders and helpers, the children are currently working as one group with the adults doing their best to differentiate the session content where appropriate. The sessions are planned using the Roots resources and follow along similar content to that which is delivered in the main sermon each week. Over the summer, Sunday Club takes a break, however this year children were offered the opportunity to bring a parent with them to learn children's worship action songs during the weeks spanning the summer break, which worked well.

St Mark's Sunday club meets in the Vestry area and has a rota of helpers. Between 0 and 4 children or young people gather each week.

YPF

The aims of YPF are to provide a safe, accepting and fun environment where young people from the church and beyond can feel comfortable to be themselves, make meaningful friendships and develop their relationship with God.

The group meet regularly throughout the year, each Friday during school term times, in St Peter's West End. The usual evening programme includes a bunch of silly games alongside a Bible based teaching session, with time for tuck shop and chats thrown in. Special events during the last twelve months have included the annual Christmas party with a bouncy castle, Bonfire night fireworks and the residential weekend away to the Peak Centre in Edale, bowling and a glass making workshop.

The young people also enjoyed a Good Friday Walk at Black Rocks with other family members and dogs that wanted to join in. They stopped half way to reflect on the Easter story and share chocolate before heading back to Belper.

It is encouraging to see numbers stay in the high teens each week with the young people inviting their school friends to come and join the fun. It is a genuine privilege to spend time together, creating community, discovering more about faith and watching friendships flourish.

Messy Church

Messy Church started at St Swithun's church in September 2014 and takes place on the second Saturday of each month (except August) from 4pm to 6pm. It is a monthly event for families to come together to enjoy learning about God through craft activities, games and stories and by eating a meal together with friends.

The first hour of each session is spent on a variety of craft activities around that month's Bible theme. We have a team of helpers who assist with the craft activities. After the craft activities, we have a time of celebration during which we sing, have a Bible story and pray. Then we sit down to eat a hot meal together.

The number of attendees varies considerably from month to month – averaging between 10 and 20 children plus adults and helpers.

St Mark's Messy Church began in February 2022 and takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month (except August) from 4pm to 6pm. Each session follows a similar format to the one at St Swithun's. Attendance similarly varies with an average of 6 to 16 children plus adults and helpers.

Little Church and Prams and First Shoes

These meet at St Peter's and St Mark's respectively for pre-schoolers and their parents one morning a week during term time.

School links

The Vicar, until her retirement in October, plus two additional members of the congregation - Patience Atkinson - Gregory and Rachel Kenning, are elected by the PCC as Foundation Governors at St John's Primary School and Nursery.

The Foundation Governors meet regularly in addition to full governors' meetings to encourage and support the spiritual life of the school and to pray regularly. The school regularly visits the church for worship, learning and musical activities. Up until October, the vicar provided a weekly online Collective Worship and a face to face one on a half termly basis.

Pottery School came to St Peter's for their annual Christmas service.

Herbert Strutt School attends St Swithun's for their Christingle and Nativity services.

4. PCC SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

PCC Meeting	Attendance
PCC 26 th March 24	20
APCM 23 rd March 24	35
PCC 17 th June 24	15
PCC 20 th August 24	19
PCC 15 th August 24	20
PCC 10 th December 24	16
PCC 18 th March 24	22

PCC meetings this year were all in person. All members attended at least one meeting.

Patience Atkinson-Gregory continues in the role of PCC Treasurer. One PCC Away Day has been held during the year to look at strengths and weaknesses in the Parish and work was started on the Parish Profile in preparation for interviewing potential new incumbents.

Individual churches held many concerts. Concerts included: Explosive Light Orchestra, Alchemy, Andy Kind, St Agnes Fountain, Fab 4, Desperados, Fleetwood Bac, Barbara Dickson, Cloudbusting and the Bohemians.

Outside spaces have again been utilised. The trees at St Peter's regularly being covered in thought provoking attire. The Woollen Woods were again in St Peter's churchyard, and an Easter Garden has become an annual event.

Indoor events or meetings are flourishing: craft evenings, board games afternoons, warm spaces. Summer fairs and Winter markets. Operation Orphan knitting groups, Harvest suppers, Holiday at Home. St Mark's hosts Prams and First Shoes and many others.

John Hastings-Thomson edits our magazine 'Three in One'. Our online newsletter 'Enfold' via email, is edited by Pamela Gough. Both have kept people informed and included throughout the year.

Jane Carter – PCC Secretary

5. ST PETER'S PARISH FABRIC REPORT

All churches now have maintenance schedules drawn up so that no activity is missed during the year. Quinquennial surveys were carried out during the year and the urgent work identified addressed.

No major problems were found at any of the three churches.

All three churches had a minor electrical work carried out and some remedial work done.

All three churches had their annual PAT tests done on appliances.

The fire extinguishers were serviced at all the churches.

St Swithun's

- Gullies cleaned out to help drainage.
- Part of guttering had to be replaced.
- St Swithun's garden is undergoing restoration work to make it more green
- A new water heater was fitted over the kitchen sink.
- The electric cooker was replaced with a second hand one.
- A new microphone was purchased.

Keith Wollerton, Deputy Warden, St Swithun's

St Mark's

(Comprising church, vestry, church hall, kitchen and outside play area)

Church

- Quinquennial report – remove weeds from roof areas – 4.01, 4.02. Completed again February 2024.
- Quinquennial report – refix loose / dislodged slates – 4.02, 7.01. Loose slates fixed. Quote being obtained to review coping stones
 - Quinquennial report – check metal windows, make good putty where necessary then paint. Paint sills – 10.01. Very large job – not yet commenced.
 - Quinquennial report – check stain patches / flaking paint to the Nave, identify causes and re-paint with damp proof paint – 14.01, 18.03. Boarded and painted at same time as ceiling.
- Church ceiling painted. Metal roof ties repainted and crumbling old plaster replaced with boarding where old organ loft had been. Gaps properly sealed at internal roof apex sides
- Carpet cleaned
- Church windows cleaned
- Church vents checked to ensure remain free of obstructions
- PAT testing conducted throughout building
- Fire extinguishers serviced throughout building
- Ceiling fans regularly checked

Vestry

- Carpets cleaned
- Gutters to north side cleared
- Boiler serviced
- Defibrillator regularly checked

Church Hall / Kitchen

- New vinyl flooring laid over the wooden flooring
- Toilet doors adjusted to new flooring height. Hinges replaced on basement hatch doors
- Carpet cleaned
- Internal door lock workings replaced
- Boilers serviced

Damp proof paint applied to hall and kitchen walls

Outside

- Quinquennial report – replace cracked manhole cover – 6.04. New manhole cover fitted February 2024.
- Quinquennial report – re-fix weather drip to bottom of kitchen exit door – 9.03. Completed and painted January 2024
- Drains regularly checked and kept clear
- Gutters and roof checked and cleared
- Garden, planters and borders kept weed free, bark chip replenished on south bed of church
- Hedges bordering the car park and front path of the church significantly reduced in height
- Paths pressure washed
- Some paths and lower walls treated with algae remover
- Gates, fences and shed painted
- Play area cleaned
- Steps in church yard repainted
- Handrail in church yard repainted
- Gate replaced to kitchen access
- Perspex replaced in external noticeboards
- Outside windowsills painted

Derek Adams & Geraldine Comery - Deputy Wardens St Mark's

St Peter's

- The guttering and down pipes were cleaned out.
- A leak on the South side ceiling was identified as slipped slates which were repaired.
- Other loose slates on the roof were replaced/put back
- The gullies and downpipes were cleaned out
- A tree which was growing in the drain above the North choir vestry was removed.
- The flat roof was inspected and found to be ok with no leaks.
- New drive lights were fitted.
- The slabs outside the main door were power washed.
- The notice boards in the West End were taken down, cleaned and the walls repainted with damp proof paint.
- The fire extinguishers were serviced.
- All the equipment was PAT tested.
- The doorplate in the door leading to the toilets came adrift, a mobile ramp has been made to be put in place for major events.
- Quotes were being sought for repair/replacement of the North side choir vestry window as per the Quinquennial inspection.
- A new dehumidifier was purchased for the vestry to help combat damp.

David Skelton – Parish Warden

St Marks House

St Mark's House, a property owned jointly by St Peter's Parish and the Derby Diocesan Board of Finance. Following completion of remedial work, a new tenant moved in on 2nd Feb 2024. This tenant gave notice at the end of 2024 and left on 13 Jan 2025. A new tenant moved in on 28th Feb 2025. The rental is managed by Matthew Thomas Residential and with church oversight by Patience Atkinson-Gregory. From 2025 the property is being let for about £1100/month with a net income to the church of £994.40 /month.

Patience Atkinson-Gregory

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Accidents and Near Misses

All three churches carry out Health and Safety inspections and have accident books. Completed forms are retained securely.

St Peter's

- A full H & S walkabout was done along with regular checks
- Over the year there were four reported minor accidents
- A new H & S procedure was introduced for concerts
- The kitchen underwent a deep clean at least twice during the year
- The fire extinguishers were serviced
- All the equipment was PAT tested
- Risk assessments were done for all events

St Mark's

- Play area cleaned
- Fire extinguishers serviced
- No accidents reported
- All equipment PAT tested
- Risk assessments were done for all events

St Swithun's Church

- There were two accidents at St Swithun's, both were reported in the accident book
- PAT testing has been done, and fire extinguisher checks carried out by O'Heap fire service
- Regular checks carried out by the wardens

7. SAFEGUARDING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This is a large and very busy parish comprising three churches, and we have many activities for children, young people and some adults who may be considered to be vulnerable.

We provide a Sunday Club on most Sundays for children under 16 in two of our churches. When there is a baptism during the service, we offer a welcome to all visiting children and provide the appropriate number of qualified Sunday Club staff.

We also hold a monthly Messy church in two of the churches and two activities weekly in term time for the under-5s. In addition, we have a Young People's Fellowship one evening weekly in term time.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is based at St Peter's: there are Safeguarding Links at St Mark's and St Swithun's. In 2024 we also appointed a DBS Administrator.

We had no specific safeguarding incidents in 2024. Our congregation is, however, very committed to maintaining good safeguarding practices and raises possible concerns if necessary. These are dealt with appropriately and tactfully. When necessary, these can be escalated to the diocesan safeguarding advisors for more expert advice. All written documentation relating to concerns is securely stored on the office pc.

After two very busy post - Covid years DBS applications and renewals fell slightly in 2024 to 19. This number will rise significantly when the 3 - year renewal cycle ends in 2025. The total number of non-clergy with DBS certificates was over 50.

All PCC members and majority of activity leaders have a current DBS certificate and have completed online Basic and Foundation online training courses. If required, they have also attended other courses i.e. Domestic Abuse and Leadership.

Every member of the Pastoral Group who visit those in their own homes because they can no longer attend services in person has a current DBS certificate.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy v7 was issued in May 2024.

The policy, plus photos and contact details of the safeguarding contacts, is displayed on notice boards in the three churches.

A Safeguarding File is located in a prominent place in all three churches. This contains blank copies of the following forms:

- Incident record form
- Registration forms for all regular children's activities e.g. Sunday Clubs and Messy Church.
- Registration forms for occasional children's activities
- Reference forms for new activity leaders and helpers.

Completed copies of forms, which are confidential, are given to the PSO and are scanned, stored on the parish office pc and the originals then shredded.

The PSO supplies a safeguarding report for every PCC meeting.

In 2024 our Safeguarding Parish dashboard attained the highest level (Level 3) with 97% at its highest. Maintaining this level is always a challenge.

Sue Allen
Parish Safeguarding Officer
15 April 2025

9. FINANCE REPORT

Accounts for the individual churches may be found at each church.

The accounts for St Peter's Parish are made up of the funds of the PCC and those of the three individual churches. Within the Parish accounts the funds of each church are shown as a restricted fund for that particular church, although they may be made up of several separate funds, both restricted and unrestricted, within the accounts of the individual church.

During 2023 a piece of land which was held in a trust was jointly owned by the Diocese of Derby and St Peter's Parish was sold at auction for £70,524 net. This money was placed in a high interest account operated via Insignis. The income from this is to be used as per PCC resolution 13. This resolution requested that the Derby Diocesan Board of Finance (the Custodian Trustees for the land):

- Sell the land
- Authorise the use of income from the proceeds to be used for essential maintenance, upkeep and improvement of :
 - St Marks church
 - St Mark's House
 - Missional work for the whole parish of Belper St Peter

Operational Matters

The expenses of Parish ministry continue to be shared among the three churches using a formula based on attendance and electoral roll to contribute to the Diocesan Common Fund and Parish expenses. St Peter's and St Mark's make use of contactless giving via Sum Up and donations can be made using the linked Give a Little account. Donations and payments can also be made using a Pay Pal account. During 2023 the PCC agreed that money that arose due to the rental of the St John's Car Park should be used for Children and Family work across the Parish. During 2024 £1600 was used from the fund to pay towards one teacher from St John's School visiting Scot Lane School in Kolkata (January 2025).

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held in the Church of England Deposit Fund which is regularly reviewed to ensure that the best possible interest rate is being obtained. In addition, the PCC agreed that money be deposited in Derbyshire Community Bank, in line with the mission of the church as allowed by the Charity Commission. The Parish seeks to find the highest return for reserves. The sale money from the Allotment land is being invested via Insignis which has a variable high rate of interest and easy access.

As shown in the balance sheet on page 20, the total funds for the PCC at the end of the year amounted to £178,861 with a further fixed asset in St Mark's House valued at £265,000.

The house, following the completion of the refurbishment and was let until January 2024 at £1000/month, a further tenancy started on 28th February 2025 at £1100/month, and the rental is handled by Matthew Thomas Residential as our agent.

The St John's land is also owned by the Parish but there is no corresponding asset fund as this asset is fully depreciated and has a "nil" book value. It is held in trust jointly by the Derby Diocesan Board of Finance and the Church Commissioners of the Church of England on behalf of the Parish, who have now been appointed the managing trustees. The land is now leased to Belper Town Council for use as a car park. The rent was reviewed in 2023 to £8021/year with a review due in 2028. The PCC agreed that this income should be ring fenced for use on Children, Young people, families and schools work across the Parish.

Funds held by the individual churches are treated as restricted funds for the purposes of the particular church within the context of the Parish accounts.

Reserves at St Peter's Church amounted £51660. £40358 is in the general fund, £3654 is in the belfry fund, £133 designated to Pop UK for October 2023, during 2024 this fund was transferred to the ring fenced St John's Car Park fund. £7645 is restricted for future work on the organ, the Church Fabric fund has been zeroed following competition of the boiler and electrical works.

Reserves at St Mark's Church amounted to £19610, the Church Hall designated fund is £4146, the music fund is £155.

Reserves at St Swithun's Church amounted to £14000.

St Swithun's is supported by the Hanson Trust an independent Trust Fund established by the founder Mrs Hanson to maintain a Christian presence in the area of 'Cow Hill' Belper. This Trust contributes to major repairs and renovations and pays the annual insurance on the building. Noted in the accounts as a recurring grant.

Note to accounts - PCC resolution 13

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Belper St Peter, as Administrative Trustees of the trusts established by a Conveyance dated 26th November 1942 ('the 1942 Conveyance') in relation to a piece of land situate at Openwoodgate in the parish of Belper St Peter and more particularly described in a Conveyance dated 31st December 1912 ('the 1912 Conveyance') hereby resolve to request the Derby Diocesan Board of Finance Limited, as Custodian Trustees: 1. In accordance with the authority and subject to obtaining the consents set out in clause 2(b) of the Schedule to the 1942 Conveyance, to extend by means of a formal Deed of Variation of Trusts the trusts set out in clause 1 of the said Schedule to incorporate also: a. essential maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the building and curtilage known as St Mark's Church, Openwoodgate b. the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the property known as St Mark's House, 11 Openwoodgate, Belper, DE56 0SD and c. missional work as defined by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 for the benefit of the whole of the parish of Belper St Peter including, but not exclusively for, the district of St Mark's Openwoodgate which is part of the parish of Belper St Peter. 2. To sell the land comprised in the 1912 Conveyance which is presently used as casual allotments and which is edged green on the plan now presented to the PCC and attached to this resolution 3. To authorise the use of the net capital proceeds of sale of the land referred to at 2) of this resolution in accordance with the trusts set out in clause 1 of the Schedule to the 1942 Conveyance as will be extended by a Deed of Variation of Trusts of the 1942 Conveyance The original conveyance indicates that income should be used for the purpose of insuring both the church and the house at 11 Openwoodgate.

Churchwardens' Acknowledgements: APCM 2025

The past twelve months have been a time of considerable change for the Parish of St Peter's. This time last year we were still comfortable knowing that Revd Anne Stratton had everything (well most things) well under control. Energies were put into making the last few months of her tenure memorable and planning for the 200th Anniversary of the opening of St Peter's Church. The service on 29th September, which coincided with Anne's last Sunday, was a wonderful occasion and a fitting start to the acknowledgements that David and I want to record in this report. I believe we gave Anne a good send off, but it would not have been possible without the good will and enormous efforts of everyone working behind the scenes to make it go smoothly.

The parish showed yet again what it can do when everyone pulls together. And this has been the theme throughout the vacancy, which David and I believe stands us in good stead while awaiting the next Priest in charge to arrive. I said that Anne had most things covered but it was only after she had left that we began to realise just how much she had been doing which David and I suddenly had to get our heads around. Who knew how complicated a heating controller could be, an empty and then not so empty a vicarage, or that a faulty socket at the front of the church could blow a fuse for the organ at the back? A steep learning curve and we no doubt muddled through on more than one occasion. A bit like so many good partnerships, David and I soon worked out each other's strengths and as such we have been able to cope with most things that have arisen with little need to seek guidance from the Area Dean or the Archdeacon. A personal thanks has to go to David who has taken on the majority of tasks while I have been at work in the week. Thank you, David, for your patience too as I have got up to speed. I still don't think that I fully understand faculties, but I do know that they are needed for almost every suggestion

that we have to discuss! The parish was and still is in a good financial position and thanks to Patience as she, probably more than most, has had to learn quickly how the accounting actually worked.

A huge thank you is needed for Tracy and Mary in the office. I have had the privilege of supporting the office staff since September and have seen at first-hand how dedicated they are and how much they do for the running of the parish, often beyond their contractual hours, either to support events or just to get a particular piece of work completed on time. This is even more remarkable given that Mary only started in the summer and had been with us just a matter of weeks before having to cover Tracy's leave. Thanks too for the response to the plea made by David and I when the office was getting swapped with requests for things that lay outside of their duties. While always willing to help, Mary and Tracy needed some protection to allow them to get on with their tasks. Thanks to the Church - watch volunteers who have assisted in responding to visitors or undertaking simple tasks that have freed up the office staff to better prioritise their work. Another example of the willingness of everyone to pull together. As mentioned, Mary joined the staff in the summer after replacing Julie Meredith who retired after nine years of service. While we said farewell to Julie at the time, it is right to thank her for her hard work and dedication over the years, and we wish her and her husband David, well in their retirement.

Our Mission is to spread the Gospel Message with Jesus at the centre of our community and that would not have been possible without services running so smoothly. I think it is an amazing achievement that the service patterns across the three churches have remained unchanged and only one service had to be altered when we had a Baptism but no member of clergy able to take the service. Had it not been due to illness, I am sure the service leaders would have been able to come up with an alternative, but there was just not enough time. All those who have led services have maintained their commitment to the rotas and while not wanting to point out individuals, it is important to congratulate, and thank, Helen, Linda and Patience for completing their Licenced Lay Ministry (Reader) training. We also welcome Revd Philip Waller as a new retired member of clergy who has been granted Permission to Officiate. This stands us in good stead for the coming year as we thank Jonathan Tillin who has retired as a Reader after over 35 faithful years of service at both St Peter's and mostly at St Swithun's.

As we look to the future, we hope to build on the work and fellowship that has been established over the past few years. The sense of community established over the variety of different gatherings will stand us in good faith as we journey. We have already booked the next parish weekend away (July 2026) after yet another successful visit to Wydale in June 2024, where we were able to explore what it meant to be living fruits and vines of the tree of life. The last seven months have been a hive of activity. We set ourselves an ambitious target of getting the Parish Profile completed by the end of February. There was some slippage here, but the document is now with the Diocese for final editing and approval by the Archdeacon and Bishop, prior to the vacancy being formally advertised. The profile group worked really hard to pull together a document that reflected and celebrated the different traditions within St Peter's, St Mark's and St Swithun's, while still retaining a unity of purpose and commitment to togetherness. This has been illustrated in the formation of the social committee to organise and coordinate social events across the three churches, so that each can support the efforts of the others. While still learning and forming, this is an important group and one which exemplifies our commitment to supporting and caring for each other; a huge thanks to all those involved. The profile will shortly be returned for us to consider along with the advert, and David and I wanted to thank all those who contributed to the formulating of that document, participating in the exercises with the Archdeacon, completing the various questionnaires and actively praying for the process at each stage. Truly a team effort that has brought us closer as a church family in the process.

As a parish with three TLC's reporting to the one PCC, we work together well, despite the occasional disagreement or hiccup, which is only to be expected in any large family. David and I have shared the charring of the TLC's, and we want to thank the deputy wardens in each of the three churches who help run the business side of the parish. Making sure that everything is ready for whoever is leading the services, counting the money, maintenance issues reported in the Fabric Reports to name just a few of the tasks, all done in people's own time, often done un-noticed, until of course when someone is not

there to do it. Thankfully there have been no significant issues and each of the churches continues to be a part of the local community. Across the parish there are a wealth of activities that the church organises, for young children, youth, the elderly, and further afield into our community providing care and practical support for initiatives like the Food Bank, where we have an opportunity to live out the Gospel message. Thank you all for the different parts you play in the life of the parish.

And finally, a personal thanks from David and I as your parish wardens. I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have come up to me and checked out that we are alright and to say they have been praying for us. Thank you and keep the prayers coming. The next year will be challenging and exciting as we journey on in God's time to see the next vicar appointed. We will continue to do our best but that is made all the more manageable knowing people are supporting us through prayer.



Julian Hodgson
Parish Warden

Administrative and other statutory information

The Parish of Belper St Peter is made up of the churches of St Peter's, St Mark's and St Swithun's. It forms part of the Deanery of Dove and Derwent in the Diocese of Derby. It is a member of Churches Together in Belper.

The PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England and is the actual governing body within the framework of the Parish and is a registered charity. Representatives from the PCC form the Trustee Local Committee for each Church; the PCC delegates the day to day decision making of the individual churches to those TLC's.

The PCC is also required to operate under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended. This Measure states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

The property of St Swithun's Church is owned by the independent charity "St Swithun's Church or Mission Hall" (registered charity no. 217994), also previously known as the "Hanson Trust". This Charity also makes grants to the St Swithun's Church TLC for major repairs and alterations in the Church and exists to serve the "social, spiritual and educational needs of the people of Cow Hill". Ex-officio members of this trust are the Vicar and the two Churchwardens of St Peter's Parish.

Under Charity Law and Church Accounting Regulations, the PCC is required to present an Annual Report together with a set of Consolidated Accounts for the whole Parish, prepared on an accruals basis and examined by an Independent Examiner.

PCC members who have served during 2024 and at the date this report was approved, are as shown in this booklet.

Will be approved by the PCC on 6th May 2025.

PCC Sec Signature



PCC Lay Chair



PCC

Consolidated Financial Statement

For year ended

31 December 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/
members of

St Peter's Parish, Belper

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any) 1132878

Set out on pages

19-27

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Martin Coe

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

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address: 49 Sandbed Lane, Belper DE56 0SJ

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

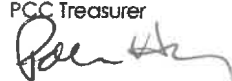
		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds			TOTAL PARISH FUNDS	
		P.C.C.	P.C.C.	St Peter's	St Mark's	St Swithun's	2024	2023
				Church	Church	Church		
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources								
Activities for generating funds	2	1,427		28,633	3,093	3,399	36,552	26,638
Church activities	3	4,786		6,533	540	495	12,353	13,024
Income from investments	4	18,787		916	15,790	197	35,689	29,327
Other incoming resources	5	-		550	-	2,328	2,878	84,715
Voluntary income	6	-		94,999	46,426	19,898	161,324	144,655
Total Incoming Resources		24,999	-	131,631	65,848	26,317	248,796	298,359
Resources Used								
Cost of church activities:								
Cost of generating funds	7	243		107	2,802	366	3,518	976
Cost of generating voluntary income	8	49,187		28,847	12,575	9,127	99,735	110,243
Redevelopment works	9	-		7,171	-	-	7,171	11,744
Governance costs	10	1,156		100	50	30	1,336	612
Investment management costs	11	1,442			9,767	-	11,209	10,360
Mission and charitable giving	12			7,252	3,324	1,800	12,376	11,360
Other	13	-					-	-
Parish Share	14	-		46,023	19,020	10,344	75,387	78,695
Resources Used before transfers		52,028	-	89,500	47,537	21,667	210,733	223,990
Allocation of parish expenditure	14	(33,312)		25,029	7,980	4,344	4,041	1
Total Resources Used		18,716	-	114,529	55,517	26,011	214,774	223,990
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		6,284	-	17,103	10,331	306	34,022	74,368
Balances brought forward		87,309	265,000	34,557	9,278	13,693	409,836	335,468
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		93,593	265,000	51,660	19,609	13,999	443,858	409,836

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	16		265,000		265,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	17	4,871		4,576	
Cash at bank and in hand	18	179,546		150,567	
			184,417		155,143
Current Liabilities - falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	19		(5,559)		(10,307)
Net Assets			443,858		409,836
FUNDS					
Income Funds					
Unrestricted - general	20		592		(31)
- designated	20		100,955		92,436
Restricted	20		342,310		317,431
			443,858		409,836

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

(PCC Member)


PCC Treasurer


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

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2016, together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting for Charities, issued in 2019 (SORP for Charities (FRS102)).

Funds

Unrestricted general funds represent the funds of the parish that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for use, at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council, for the general purposes of the parish.

Designated funds are unrestricted but are amounts which have been put aside at the discretion of the Church Councils.

Restricted funds are either subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or they represent the funds of the individual churches. Funds within the individual churches themselves may be unrestricted, unrestricted but designated, or restricted. They are, however, treated as restricted in the accounts of the parish as they relate to the particular local church.

The accounts include all known transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Parochial Church Council is responsible. 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.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and capital sources

Collections, grants and income from fund raising efforts are recognised when received by or on behalf of the local Church Councils. All non gift aided giving is now under the heading Small Gift Aided giving. Small Gift Aid is reclaimed up to the HMRC limit of £8000 of this total for each building.

Planned giving receivable under Gift aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift aid donations is recognised when donations are received.

Statutory fees from funerals and weddings are accounted for on a receivable basis.

Grants to the individual churches are accounted for as soon as that church is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Sales of books and the Church magazine are accounted for gross.

Income from Investments

Bank interest is accounted for when received.

Land owned jointly by the Parish and Diocese of Derby was sold at Auction with a net income of £70,524. This money is invested via Insignis. The income is to be used for insurance and major fabric works at St Mark's Church. The rest available for Mission and Ministry across the whole Parish.

Related Party Transactions

No member received remuneration except for the bona fide reimbursement of expenses.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when payable.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Amounts due to the parish by the three churches are accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from these accounts by virtue of Section 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

St Mark's House was revalued to a gross value of £265000 in 2020. No Depreciation is applied

Items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish of St Peter, Belper

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds			TOTAL PARISH FUNDS	
		P.C.C.	P.C.C.	St Peter's Church	St Mark's Church	St Swithun's Church	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2	Activities for generating funds							
	Fundraising events	21		25,727	673	1,897	28,318	18,245
	Fund raising events Gift Aided			-	-	-	-	60
	Building rental			2,906	2,420	1,502	6,828	5,639
	Magazines	1,407					1,407	2,164
	Photocopying income						-	530
		1,427	-	28,633	3,093	3,399	36,552	26,638
3	Church activities							
	Fees - Weddings and funerals	2,147		4,092	440	280	6,959	5,988
	certificates etc	108					108	362
	- organ			625	100	75	800	520
	Mission, Ministry & Discipleship	1,192		515			1,707	330
	Contributions to refreshments						-	98
	Belfry income			1,181			1,181	1,659
	Bookstall			117			117	172
	Organists' fees donated back						-	1,750
	Children & Young People	1,212		3			1,215	1,266
	Miscellaneous Income	127				140	266	880
		4,786	-	6,533	540	495	12,353	13,024
4	Income from Investments							
	Interest received	1,096		916	205	197	2,414	708
	Car Park rental	8,021					8,021	8,021
	St Mark's house rental	9,670					9,670	8,480
	Hall rental				15,584		15,584	12,118
		18,787	-	916	15,790	197	35,689	29,327
5	Other incoming resources							
	Sale of land						-	70,524
	Grants			500		1,105	1,605	10,630
	Donation for Insurance (Hanson)					1,223	1,223	1,173
	Flowers and misc			50			50	138
	VAT refund						-	2,250
		-	-	550	-	2,328	2,878	84,715
6	Voluntary							
	Gift Aided donations			29,375	15,485	4,024	48,884	40,246
	Small Gift Aid scheme			9626.11	8,449	5,884	23,959	23,766
	Non gift aided donations			14,335	4,700	1,100	20,135	21,533
	Parish Giving Scheme			25,076	7,850	4,401	37,327	27,346
	Income tax recoverable			16,269	9,942	3,490	29,701	21,699
	Project Donations GA			170			170	4,405
	Project Donations non-gift aided						-	2,660
	Legacies and bequests			147		1,000	1,147	3,000
		-	-	94,999	46,426	19,898	161,324	144,655
	Total Incoming resources	24,999	-	131,631	65,848	26,317	248,796	298,359

Parish of St Peter, Belper

Outgoing Resources

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		
	P.C.C.	P.C.C.	St Peter's Church	St Mark's Church	St Swithun's Church	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 Costs of generating funds							
Fayres and other fund raising events - expenses			-		366	366	352
Use of Church costs			-			-	110
Hall Maintenance				2,802		2,802	-
Website Costs	243					243	243
Publicity costs			107			107	270
	243	-	107	2,802	366	3,518	976
8 Cost of generating vol income							
Parish ministry:							
Clergy expenses	513					513	1,209
Parish Support Staff	29,531					29,531	25,511
Vicarage water rates	380					380	632
Children & Young People	4,595		224			4,819	9,357
Mission, Ministry & Discipleship	4,116		1,838	883		6,837	4,443
Education and outreach	251					251	660
Miscellaneous expenses	179				357	536	264
Individual churches:							
Church premises -							
- heat, light, water & insurance			17,734	2,984	2,989	23,706	25,677
- PCC cleaning			1,702	293	1,135	3,129	7,194
- maintenance			394	387	1,520	2,301	4,096
-local cleaning expenses			275			275	628
- major repairs	5,668			4,920	135	10,723	3,498
- equipment purchased			607	1,864	497	2,968	308
-professional fees			990	50		1,040	4,930
- churchyard			136		940	1,076	4,580
Corporate worship costs			1,187	117	316	1,620	831
Organists' honoraria & fees			70		525	595	2,170
Music and AV Costs			1,608	419	310	2,336	1,617
Subscriptions			70	60	60	190	200
Miscellaneous costs					110	110	5,499
Church bookstall costs			100			100	143
Church belfry costs			446			446	550
Organ upkeep			456		234	690	1,277
Printing, postage, stationery and telephone	1,114		670	557		2,341	2,335
Photocopier	2,680					2,680	2,340
Bank Charges other	160		342	40		542	293
	49,187	-	28,847	12,575	9,127	99,735	110,243

Unrestricted Funds

Restricted Funds

TOTAL PARISH FUNDS

Parish of St Peter, Belper

	P.C.C.	P.C.C.	St Peter's Church	St Mark's Church	St Swithun's Church	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
9 Redevelopment works			7,171			7,171	11,744
		-	7,171	-	-	7,171	11,744
10 Governance							
Independent examination and other accountancy fees	520		100	50	30	700	-
Governance costs	348					348	324
Payroll preparation costs	288					288	288
	1,156	-	100	50	30	1,336	612
11 Investment mangement costs							
Building running costs	1,442			9,767		11,209	10,360
	1,442	-	-	9,767	-	11,209	10,360
12 Mission and charitable giving							
Open Doors			1,400			1,400	1,400
Heartlink						-	325
Church Army					450	450	325
Smiles			1,400			1,400	1,400
St Crispins, Pune			1,400			1,400	1,400
Home for Good			1,400			1,400	1,400
Hope for Belper			1,400	831	450	2,681	2,415
Cottage Project				831		831	690
Blue Box					450	450	325
Air Ambulance				831		831	690
Link for Hope			252			252	300
MAF				831		831	690
water aid					450	450	
			7,252	3,324	1,800	12,376	11,360
13 Other							
Depreciation - St. Mark's House		-				-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Parish Share							
Diocesan Parish Share			46,023	19,020	10,344	75,387	78,695
Proportion of Parish expenses	(33,312)		25,029	7,980	4,344	4,041	1
	(33,312)	-	71,052	27,000	14,688	79,428	78,696
Total Outgoing Resources	18,716	-	114,529	55,517	26,011	214,774	223,990

The expenditure of the Parochial Church Council is apportioned among the three churches in the ratio of the average Sunday adult attendance and electoral roll of the churches. During the year St Peter's was levied 63.03%, St Mark's 23.95% and St Swithun's 13.03% Parish share.

					St Mark's House	
					£	
					265,000	

(Restricted in the individual churches' accounts)

	PCC	St Peter's	St Mark's	St Swithun's		
Parish Asset fund	265,000				265,000	265,000
Organ Maintenance		7,645	-		7,645	5,727
Music Fund					-	-
Church Redevelopment fund		(0)			(0)	5,267
I Sing Pop UK		-			-	133
Flower Fund				4	4	(22)
Churchyard				-	-	(42)
	265,000	7,645	-	4	272,649	276,064
Total Restricted funds	265,000	51,657	19,454	13,999	342,310	317,431

	Balance at 1st Jan 2024	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Fund transfers	Balance at 31st Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Movement in Funds					
P.C.C - non TLC element					
Unrestricted - general funds					
General fund	-31	5,018	6,287	1,891	592
Unrestricted but designated funds					
St Mark's House Account	8,000	9,670	2,142	(1,912)	13,616
St. John's Property Account	8,816	9,233	4,459	20	13,610
Parish asset fund	70,524	1,078	5,828		65,774
	87,309	24,999	18,716	0	93,592

Parish Asset Fund
Restricted

St. Mark's House	265,000	-			265,000
	265,000	-	-	-	265,000
	352,309	24,999	18,716	-	358,592

	Balance at 1st Jan 2024	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Fund transfers	Balance at 31st Dec 2024
St Peter's Church					
Unrestricted - general funds					
General fund	20,514	127,424	104,765	(2,816)	40,358
	20,514	127,424	104,765	(2,816)	40,358
Unrestricted but designated funds					
Church Belfry fund	2,914	1,181	446	5	3,654
	2,914	1,181	446	5	3,655
Restricted					
Organ Maintenance Stat fees	5,726	625	456	1,750	7,645
Church Fabric fund	5,267	2,401	8,862	1,194	(0)
I sing pop	133			(133)	-
	11,127	3,026	9,318	2,811	7,645
	34,556	131,631	114,529	(0)	51,658

	Balance at 1st Jan 2024	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Fund transfers	Balance at 31st Dec 2024
St Mark's Church					
Unrestricted - general funds					
General fund	7,123	49,282	41,097		15,309
	7,123	49,282	41,097	-	15,309
Unrestricted but designated funds					
Church Hall fund	2,155	15,943	13,953		4,146
Music Fund	(0)	623	468		155
	2,155	16,566	14,421	-	4,301
Restricted					
	-	-	-	-	-
	9,278	65,848	55,517	-	19,610

	Balance at 1st Jan 2024	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Fund transfers	Balance at 31st Dec 2024
St Swithun's Church					
Unrestricted - general funds					
General fund	13,756	25,399	24,728	(432)	13,995
	13,756	25,399	24,728	(432)	13,995
Restricted					
	-				-
Flower Fund	(22)	31	110	105	4
Churchyard	(41)	813	940	168	-
Organ Fund	1	75	234	159	1
	(62)	918	1,284	432	5
	13,694	26,317	26,011	-	14,000

Specific collections and donations are treated as agency funds and go directly to the charity or organisation for which they are intended and therefore do not form part of the Parish income or expenditure.