

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

England & Wales · Charity number 1134612

Details

Other names	ST PETER'S, LECKHAMPTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Glebe Cottages Church Road Leckhampton Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL53 0QJ
Phone	01242513647
Email	parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com
Website	www.stpetersleck.org

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Taking of religious assemblies in schools. The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£179,716	£186,423	-	-
2024-12-31	£170,975	£243,160	-	-
2023-12-31	£164,234	£197,688	-	-
2022-12-31	£190,913	£208,070	-	-
2021-12-31	£146,299	£139,237	-	-
2020-12-31	£125,342	£129,403	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Gary Grady	Chair	2016-09-20
ANNE WEBBER		
Andrea Margaret Hughes		2025-05-08
Arthur Webb		2019-03-26
BRADLEY JONATHAN COATES		2013-09-27
CHRISTINE ELIZABETH BROWN		
DAVID ROBERT WEBBER		
Dereck Freeman		2019-03-26
Duncan Richard Hughes		2025-05-08
Helen Shill		2015-04-21
JENNIFER ELEANOR HAWDON		2013-09-27
Jade Scholes		2024-05-16
MIKE RILEY		2013-05-23
Melissa Kate Webb		2024-05-16
PATRICIA LONG		2025-05-08
PETER DAVIES		
Peter John Court Marlow		2013-05-23
Richard Henry James Kerr-Wilson		2021-07-27
Rosemary Baillie		2015-04-21
Sally Patricia Marlow		2012-05-28
Sarah Kathleen Wood		2021-07-27

Accounts



St Peter's

Leckhampton
Parish Church

*Parochial Church Council
Annual Report for 2025*

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton exists to love and worship God,
to serve its neighbours and to share the love of Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you
and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location:	St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence:	The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 0QJ.

Members

Following the 2025 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows:
(the years elected are shown in brackets)

Clergy	Revd Canon Gary Grady (Team Rector) Rev Jade Scholes (Associate Priest)
Readers	Dereck Freeman Melissa Webb

EX-OFFICIO

Churchwardens	David Webber (2025) Sally Marlow (2025)
Deputy Churchwardens	Arthur Webb (2025) Duncan Hughes (2025)
Deanery Synod Members (2023-2026)	Peter Davies * Mike Riley Brad Coates

LAY MEMBERS

Lay Members elected 2023-2026 (one year of service remaining)	Jennie Hawdon Penny Piggott Christine Brown (Secretary) Anne Webber
Lay Members elected 2024-2027 (two years of service remaining)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill *† Sarah Wood Pat Long Andrea Hughes
Lay Member elected 2025-2028 (three years of service remaining)	Peter Marlow (Treasurer)
Co-opted Member	Richard Kerr-Wilson 2025 (Eco Officer)

* SCTM Representatives (2025-2026)

† Youth Representative (2025-2026)

Totals: PCC members: 10, Ex officio 7, co-opted 1

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- **Electoral Roll**: Currently there are **142** on our electoral roll, so we can have up to 15 lay members on the PCC as well as two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members**: The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The Secretary and Treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of Office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM, Youth Representative	1 year
Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr Daryl Burns
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The following Committees promote the life of St Peter's:

Social Committee:	Revd Canon Gary Grady, Ro Baillie, Helen Yates
Pastoral Team:	Revd Canon Gary Grady, Revd Jade Scholes, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Sally Marlow, Anne Webber, Steve Whittington, Penny Williams

Ministry Report

Revd Canon Gary Grady, Team Rector

Thank you to all at St. Peter's for another good year.

We have continued to worship both in-person and on-line, with the 10am Sunday Service and Morning Prayer (Mon-Thu) being live-streamed throughout the year; we will continue to do this in 2026 where possible.

Our beautiful church building and churchyard continues to attract people to 'come and see' and we have once again shared God's love through the many baptism, wedding and funeral services we have conducted, and through the special services and music of our wonderful choir.

I continue to look ahead with optimism. Our numbers and finances (and church building) are all in good shape, our relationship with the local schools is excellent, and we continue to reach out in many ways to the local community through the different groups and events we offer.

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2025, every blessing for 2026 and beyond.

Revd Gary

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2025

Peter Marlow, Hon. Treasurer

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2025;
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2025;
- Notes that explain the detail.

Overall, St Peters remains in a good financial position with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £176,046, an increase of £8,759 over 2024. Disappointingly our voluntary income from giving was down by 7% but our funds were boosted by a generous £9,000 legacy. Our employment costs increased by £1,200 due to the National Insurance changes in the Budget. However, in 2026 we will be able to claim these costs back through the Employment Allowance.

We had set a deficit budget on our Running Costs for 2025 of £10,074 but we ended the year with a smaller deficit of £6,533. We actually had a surplus of £6,128 in 2024.

Following the damage inflicted by the September 2024 storms, the organ was repaired at a cost of £21,706, with Ecclesiastical Insurance covering the cost except for our excess of £1,000. We also had to replace two ladders in the organ chamber at a cost of £1,604 which were not covered by insurance.

The music at St Peters continues to go from strength to strength. We purchased music books and choir robes at a cost of £2,309.

We supported the South Cheltenham Youth Project (£3,006) and Little Pebbles (£2,646). Carol Singing and Friday lunches raised £894 for the Childrens' Society.

We currently have 70 regular givers, 67 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme (down from 76). Regular giving massively helps St Peters to plan its finances.

The Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton scheme continues to thrive and currently has 55 members.

In December we purchased a new and improved card reader in church to supplement the existing one. Over the past year there were 802 transactions through the card readers to a value of £5,321 (in 2024 there were 611 transactions to a value of £3,770). The terminal fees were £258 over the year with a 2.5% transaction cost.

Policy on Reserves

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2025. The Churchwardens and PCC are setting aside unrestricted reserves of £25,000 minimum to cover liabilities. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of at least 4 months running costs (£50,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences.

Expenses Payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2025. Also, thanks to Daryl Burns, Treasurer of St Christophers Warden Hill, for acting as our Independent Examiner.

ST PETER LECKHAMPTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2025

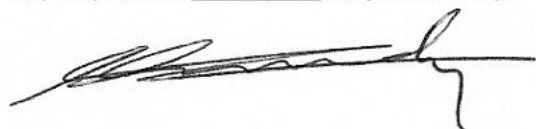
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 73,698	£ 250	£ -	£ 73,948	£ 75,848
Other planned giving		£ 4,822	£ -	£ -	£ 4,822	£ 9,411
Collections at Services		£ 10,634	£ -	£ -	£ 10,634	£ 8,155
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 7,207	£ 3,218	£ -	£ 10,424	£ 14,404
Gift Aid recovered		£ 20,453	£ 38	£ -	£ 20,491	£ 20,963
Legacies		£ 9,450	£ -	£ -	£ 9,450	£ 3,968
Grants	11	£ 374	£ -	£ -	£ 374	£ 12,117
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 3,999	£ 164	£ -	£ 4,163	£ 4,938
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 15,326	£ -	£ -	£ 15,326	£ 13,613
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	5	£ 9,378	£ -	£ -	£ 9,378	£ 7,557
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/ receipts not already listed	10	£ 20,706	£ -	£ -	£ 20,706	£ -
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 176,046	£ 3,669	£ -	£ 179,716	£ 170,975
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations	3	£ 39	£ 894	£ -	£ 933	£ 1,102
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 76,522	£ -	£ -	£ 76,522	£ 76,522
Salaries, wages and honararia		£ 12,665	£ -	£ -	£ 12,665	£ 9,777
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,091	£ -	£ -	£ 2,091	£ 2,132
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6	£ 6,707	£ 365	£ -	£ 7,072	£ 4,310
Church running expenses	7	£ 43,963	£ 2,543	£ -	£ 46,507	£ 43,330
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 11,239	£ -	£ -	£ 11,239	£ 8,106
Cost of trading	8	£ 1,783	£ -	£ -	£ 1,783	£ 1,084
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building	9	£ 22,638	£ -	£ -	£ 22,638	£ -
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property	9	£ 4,367	£ -	£ -	£ 4,367	£ 96,046
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other outgoing resources	10	£ 606	£ -	£ -	£ 606	£ 752
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 182,621	£ 3,802	£ -	£ 186,423	£ 243,160
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ (6,574)	£ (133)	£ -	£ (6,707)	£ (72,186)
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ (6,574)	£ (133)	£ -	£ (6,707)	£ (72,186)
Gains on investment assets		£ 9,879	£ -	£ (11,935)	£ (2,056)	£ 5,342
Net movement in funds		£ 3,304	£ (133)	£ (11,935)	£ (8,763)	£ (66,843)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2025		£ 131,173	£ 4,797	£ 11,934	£ 147,904	£ 214,748
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2025		£ 134,477	£ 4,664	£ 0	£ 139,141	£ 147,904

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
PCC CAF Bank Account 00006604	£ 16,013	£ 4,664	£ -	£ 20,677	£ 27,377
PCC Lloyds Bank Account 00124049 (Flower Fund)	£ 834	£ -	£ -	£ 834	£ 760
Flower Fund Cash	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 81
PCC Lloyds Bank Account 02170803 (inactive)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
PCC CCLA Deposit Account CB3025973	£ 62,578	£ -	£ -	£ 62,578	£ 62,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Deposit Account (inactive)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
PCC CCLA Investment CB3025974	£ 49,599	£ -	£ -	£ 49,599	£ 39,720
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 129,024	£ 4,664	£ -	£ 133,688	£ 130,516
PCC CCLA Investment CB3025975 (Gloucester Trust Funds) *	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 11,935
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 11,935
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,454
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,454
				£ 139,141	£ 147,904

* £11,900 shares moved from Gloucester Trust Funds to PCC Investment account to cover churchyard maintenance costs.

Adopted by the PCC on 13 January 2026 and signed on behalf by:



Rev Canon Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Rector

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted.

The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 6,142		
Little Pebbles donations	£ 406		
Coffee Pig	£ 442		
Freewill Offering	£ 217		
Childrens' Society		£ 894	Friday Lunches & Carol Singing
Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton		£ 1,689	Excluding Gift Aided Donations
Quiet Day		£ 259	
Refugee Project refund		£ 10	
Youth Work		£ 365	
TOTAL	£ 7,207	£ 3,218	

4 Income from fundraising activities

See Note 3 above

	£ -
TOTAL	£ -

5 Income from Trading

	2025	2024
Flower income	£ 1,777	£ 981
Magazine income	£ 528	£ 979
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 1,161	£ 513
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 5,912	£ 5,085
TOTAL	£ 9,378	£ 7,557

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs		Unrestricted	Restricted
Little Pebbles		£ 2,646	
Youth Project		£ 3,006	£ 365
Other (Parish Cards)		£ 1,055	
TOTAL		£ 6,707	£ 365

7 Church Running Expenses		2025	2024
General Church Running Expenses		£ 10,376	£ 11,494
General Church Maintenance		£ 6,455	£ 3,580
Churchyard Maintenance		£ 10,893	£ 10,066
Music costs		£ 12,332	£ 12,173
Administration costs		£ 136	£ 121
Insurance costs		£ 6,314	£ 5,896
TOTAL		£ 46,507	£ 43,330

8 Cost of Trading			
Flower costs		£ 1,783	£ 1,084
Magazine costs*		£ -	£ -
TOTAL		£ 1,783	£ 1,084

* The Magazine is produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'.

9 Major capital expenditure		Unrestricted	Restricted
Organ Repair 1st Payment (Nicholson)		£ 2,171	
Organ Repair 2nd Payment (Nicholson)		£ 3,256	
Organ Repair 3rd Payment (Nicholson)		£ 9,768	
Organ Repair 4th Payment (Nicholson)		£ 6,512	
Organ Repair - Ladders (Nicholson)		£ 1,604	
Quinquennial Report (Bartosch)		£ 932	
Music Books (Norwich Books)		£ 1,999	
Cassocks & Surplices (Croft)		£ 410	
Card Reader (CollecTin)		£ 354	
TOTAL		£ 27,005	£ -

10 Other Incoming/Outgoing Resources

Incoming		
Insurance Claim for Organ Repair		£ 20,706
Total incoming		£ 20,706
Outgoing		
South Cheltenham Team costs		£ 606
Total outgoing		£ 606

11 Grants		Unrestricted	Restricted
Listed Places of Worship Grant (APP-00033633)		374	£ -
TOTAL		£ 374	£ -

12 Restricted Funds carried forward		
Churchyard maintenance		£ 164
Quiet Day		£ 259
Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton		£ 3,889
Cottages Fabric Legacy		£ (754)
Charities (balance)		£ 51
Churchyard Seat (Scott)		£ 400
Organ Scholarship		£ 203
Magazine Binding		£ 25
Audio-Visual		£ 393
Music Festival		£ 8
Piano Appeal		£ 25
TOTAL		£ 4,664

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: Daryl Burns

Address: Rose Tree Cottage, Sunnyfield Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6JD

Date: 14/2/26

Churchwardens report for the 2026 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Sally Marlow, Deputy Wardens: Arthur Webb and Duncan Hughes

David Webber and Sally Marlow continued as Churchwardens for a further year with Arthur Webb and Duncan Hughes as Deputy Wardens. David and Sally have met regularly with Rev Gary to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, and to pass on pastoral concerns that may have come to their attention. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese. This year we had the 5-yearly Inspection of Registers and Records where we had to present all the records or show that they had been archived. A couple of records were missing, including an Inventory from 1969, but these were all located and accounted for later.

We attended the annual Archdeacon's Visitation service where the wardens were officially admitted to their office, and David was able to attend Bishop Rachel's Garden Party. Unfortunately it clashed with our choir singing evensong in the cathedral, which Sally had already committed to.

The altar servers have continued to assist with the smooth running of services. Thanks are due to them and to the readers, intercessors, welcomers, junior church leaders, bell ringers, choir and organist who all make a valuable contribution to services, and to the flower arrangers for their inspirational displays. Thanks also to Liz in the office for keeping day to day life of St Peter's running smoothly.

The Church Building and Grounds

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by the architects in July 2025 with the report received in November. It was very thorough, totalling 56 pages, and for the first time with the help of drones. The architects have now been commissioned by the PCC to oversee urgent and 'within 12 months' work. Unfortunately the government has withdrawn VAT relief for Places of Worship so all repair works will have the 20% added.

We also had the 4/5 yearly Ecclesiastical Insurance Survey to assess our level of risk. I'm pleased to report that the assessor was impressed as we had everything in place and all the required electrical testing and regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies.

During a tremendous storm in September 2024 water entered the organ chamber damaging the organ. The repairs, paid for by Ecclesiastical Insurance, were carried out in 2025 by Nicholson Organs Ltd of Malvern.

We are grateful to Mohammed who continues to keep the churchyard neat and trim, and to Brad Coates for coordinating any churchyard work, including checking the safety of grave stones, tree maintenance and dry stone walling

Social activities continue to flourish at St Peter's from regular chats over coffee on Sunday mornings to refreshments served after occasional concerts in church, special services and celebrations of festivals. We are grateful to the catering committee, led by Helen Yates, who undertake the organisation of many of these events.

The lights on the Christmas tree in the churchyard and round the lychgate during Advent have become a tradition. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who organises the lighting.

There are plans afoot for the Cottages, and although we are kept in the loop, the wardens are not involved with this. More information is available from Richard Kerr-Wilson and/or the Eco Group Report.

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Livvy Niblett

15th Cheltenham Brownies currently have 20 girls at the unit. We have been working towards both programme and challenge badges during some of our Brownie meetings.

Our unit enjoyed an Autumnal themed activity day in October 2025 at Cowley Adventure. The Brownies took part in a range of Autumnal themed activities. We also enjoyed taking part in a joint Thinking Day event with 37th Cheltenham Rainbows in February 2026 to mark 100 years of Thinking Day celebrations. We enjoyed an activity day at Cowley Adventure where both Rainbows and Brownies took part in a range of activities all linked to our 5 world centres in Girlguiding. We ended the event with a very delicious afternoon tea!

We have a Brownie Sleepover planned for May 2026. This will be the second one we have organised for the unit. Our Brownies are very excited! We are looking forward to once again making use of the outside space at the cottages and spending some meetings outdoors next term.

CCP (Caring for Communities and People) Donations

Gilly Whittingham

CCP relies on the generosity of supporters in the local community to donate food items for those living in poverty and struggling to provide food for themselves and/or their families. The foodbank has recently been refurbished and is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

The congregation at St Peters continues to give generously to the foodbank throughout the year donating food and toiletry items. I am aware that some also make regular monetary donations. Each time that I visit to deliver donations to CCP I am always met with thanks by the members who work there.

During 2025, the now regular Lent appeal brought in over 100kgs of donations. The donations at the Harvest Festival service amounted to over 140kgs. The annual Hamper Scamper in the run up to Christmas appeal continues and added a further 26kgs. With the regular weekly donations collected in the porch the total for 2025 amounted to 819kgs.

A very big thank you to everyone who has donated in 2025 and is continuing to do so into 2026.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a Deanery Synod is convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members.

Those elected to represent St Peter's Leckhampton with the Cheltenham Deanery are Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley. The Area Dean for the Cheltenham Deanery is The Reverend James White.

Reports containing minutes of deanery Synod meetings are reported to the PCC at St Peter's. During 2025 meetings were held as follows:

- March 18 at St Paul's Church, St Pauls Rd Cheltenham.
- June 25 at Emmanuel Church, Naunton Park, Cheltenham.
- October 23 Cornerstone Community Centre, Severn Rd, Cheltenham.

2026 Meeting for 2025:

- February 24 at St Christopher's Church Lincoln Avenue.

This was the Ninth Meeting of the Cheltenham Deanery Synod 2023 - 2026.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

The churchyard continues to be a haven of tranquillity and beauty thanks to Mohammed and the gang of volunteers. This year we have engaged a tree surgeon to survey the lime trees and a maintenance plan will span the next 3 years. Recently, the yew over the North door has been trimmed, the Cottage garden hedge has had a considerable trim and Iain's Elbow has been removed.

The main task this year will be to repair the dry stone walls. Cutting is due to start soon.

As ever, any extra volunteers will be warmly welcomed.

Cottages Bookings

Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator

We have had steady bookings over the past year where the Cottages have been used by various church and community groups as well as private hirers. St Peter's groups include Little Pebbles, Julian Group, Ladies Fellowship, the Choir, the Flower Guild, the Social Committee, the PCC and the Craft Group. Other hirers include private parties, receptions and lunches, primary school tuition, Clergy Network, Gloucestershire Spiritual Direction Trust, Art and Play Therapy, the Confraternity of St James, other church's away days and Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council. We have Brownies and Rainbows each week during term time.

To comply with our Eco Church ethos, I try where possible to order sustainable and Fair Trade supplies for the Cottages. We encourage all hirers and church groups to use the recycling boxes and food bin in the Cottages: please help in this by squashing tins/plastic/cardboard where possible, only putting clean items into the boxes and changing the liner in the food bin after use.

Craft-T-Time

Helen Shill

The Craft group met every Wednesday morning from 10-12 this year, apart from Christmas Eve! We currently have 5-10 members and we enjoy our time in the Cottages making our Craft, chatting and having a tea/coffee with biscuits the members bring.

This year we have; knitted Christening blankets for the Christening services for young children at St Peter's, knitted premature baby clothes for Gloucester Hospital, Twiddle Muffs for people with Dementia, Blanket squares for the Homeless, jumpers and cardigans for relatives, Embroidery, Painting, Drawing, making cards and crocheting. We have knitted Christmas Stars and Easter pockets for tissues with 'God Bless You' written on for the Anna Chaplaincy Care Home projects. These are distributed to people in Care Homes in Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve, and are very well received.

We held a Craft Show in the Autumn at the Cottages after the 10am Sunday Service and displayed some of our work; Greeting cards, knitted Christmas trees and Angels from previous Anna Chaplaincy projects, Embroidery and Premature Baby Clothes.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings, come along to make some Craft or just for a cuppa and a chat!

Eco-Church

Richard Kerr-Wilson

We met nine times during 2025. Over the year, we were sorry to say goodbye to Jacqui Dunlop, Penny and Andrew Piggott but welcomed Sara Scorey, Tracey Lockstone and Tim Foulger.

Most of the meetings were discussing policies and requirements before we could submit our application to A Rocha for an Eco Church Gold award. These included a plan to achieve carbon net zero and a land

management plan. Policies were all submitted to the PCC for approval. We finally submitted our application to A Rocha at the beginning of December. Follow-up will involve an on-line discussion and a site visit before we can be considered for Gold.

In early May, a plant share and give away was held in the Cottages' garden after the 10:00am service. This proved to be popular and will be repeated next year on a similar date.

A further plant survey in the churchyard was carried out by Ben Gilchrist, which is now the fifth consecutive survey that he has carried out. A visit to the churchyard from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust took place in July with very positive comments about what we have done in rewilding. This was a result of a tie-up with a member of the eco group at St Philip & St James. An evening 'Wildlife Gardening Event' was organised by both groups at Pip & Jim's in October, when talks were given by both Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association. Over 100 people attended and a similar event is planned for next year.

An illustrated PowerPoint presentation informing the congregation about Eco Church was prepared and shown on the screens in church. We hope this will be repeated on a future occasion.

In 2026, we hope to move closer to achieving carbon net zero and the A Rocha Gold award.

Thanks to all members of the Eco group for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Chrissie Brown

This is my first year as your Electoral Roll Officer and my thanks go to Eric Miller for his smooth handover. My thanks also for Liz Johnson's assistance. Last year the six yearly renewal of the Electoral Roll was completed with 146 applications. This year was a simple renewal of the Roll, after which the number stands at 142.

There are several reasons to be on the Electoral Roll, firstly you are identifying yourself as an active member of the church which enables you to vote at the APCM or be nominated for election to the PCC. The number of Deanery Synod representatives and Lay members of the PCC elected is also based on the number on the Electoral Roll. In particular, our Deanery Synod representatives enable St Peter's to contribute to the Deanery Synod so our voice can be heard. Anyone on the Electoral Roll will also be contacted with any essential information. Further applications can be made at any time, and regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names. The current numbers on the Roll are an under representation of the size of our congregation.

Flower Guild

Averil Murray

Well, we have had a very busy year and have produced lovely flowers for all the seasons and using the right colours. We are now small in number and yet we continue to fulfil all our festival arrangements and produce very good wedding flowers. This Easter will be tricky because quite a few of us will be doing at least 2 arrangements. We are not going to decorate the pulpit or the Lenten Cross, but we will manage everything else.

I realise that we are all getting older, but let us not be daunted or downhearted. We will go on for as long as we can and deliver flowers to the glory of God and the adornment of our lovely church.

Thank you to all of you for your hard work, loyalty and help in all you do. Thank you, Sally for your work as treasurer and to Kathy for all your secretarial expertise. I do appreciate you all, thank you.

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

Our monthly meetings in the Cottages have continued throughout the year. 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46) is essential to us in the busy-ness of our own lives. Indeed we believe it is relevant for people throughout the world in these times of turmoil and uncertainty. We are currently six from different areas of Cheltenham who share in a time of prayerful stillness and silence with God. As we come from different religious backgrounds and experiences, we have enjoyed some interesting discussions over tea and biscuits afterwards.

If you would like to join us for half an hour of quiet togetherness and reflection, we meet in the Cottages on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact: Jennie Hawdon or the Parish Office for more details.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church provides activities for the children's area in church each week, with special activities for the First/Special Sunday services set out on a table at the front of church. We send email invitations to First Sundays to all baptism families and give paper invitations to those attending Little Pebbles. First/Special Sundays are also advertised on the website, in the newsletters and on our notice boards, and we give out bookmarks which list the year's First/Special Sundays.

It has been wonderful to see a full church for many of the First/Special Sundays in particular Christingle, '40 Acts' at the beginning of March, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with the children's areas bursting at the seams! It is encouraging to see an increasing number of families with young children at all Sunday services; a sign that they feel comfortable at St Peter's and are feeling that they are part of the church family.

A lively group of families met in the Cottages to make Christingles for Candlemas and a more select group to make posies for Mothering Sunday. Based on the popularity of these Saturday afternoon activities, we are planning a Spring Planting crafts and activities afternoon in May to complement the Sunday Spring Planting service the following day.

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

We've had another enjoyable year with a variety of events. In March we joined the Men's Group for what has become our yearly Skittles evening. It was a lovely evening with lots of chatting and support when it was your turn to play. Then in April we had a talk from the Children's Society, one of the charities St Peter's supported. It was a very informative evening and it was good to know how the money we raise is being used. In June a few of us visited Highgrove. We had a wonderful tour of the Gardens on a very warm day and much needed cuppa afterwards plus a glass of Bubbly provided by Suzy's friend who works there. In August we visited St John's in Churchdown. Jacqui, who was at St Peter's, is the Vicar there. We were warmly welcomed by her Church Wardens and after an interesting and amusing talk about St John's history from Jacqui we were given a nice tea.

In October I called a special meeting to ask if some members could help me arranging our events going forward. In response, four ladies offered their help. So, in early December we met and set up a team, each agreeing to arrange at least two events. I had not been very well and was finding life a challenge so this was a great weight off my mind. Our other events have been an Afternoon Tea in the Cottages garden and meal at Morans, which almost everyone attended, we nearly took over the restaurant. To round off the year we gathered together in the Cottages to make Christmas wreaths, ably assisted by Sue Lawrence and myself. It was a fun evening and great way to round off the year.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

We currently have 19 ringers at Leckhampton, of which approx 16 are actively ringing. This is a good number for an eight-bell tower. However, like most towers, we do have a high proportion of older ringers. So, whilst we currently don't need to recruit, we do need to keep this under review.

We have continued to start our Monday practice with a learner's focused session at 7:00pm, with the main practice starting around 7:30pm. We often have 16+ ringers with a broad range of ringing abilities, making for a busy and varied practice. Lawrence Jackson started learning with us in February. He and our other learners are making good progress.

Sunday Service ringing is well attended and usually we have enough to ring on all eight bells. We continue to attempt a quarter peal most Sunday evenings. We remain a leading quarter peal tower and this year rang a total of 44. This included successful quarter peals prior to the 8am services on Easter Sunday and on Christmas Day. Congratulations to Brad Coates who rang his first quarter and to Jacob Coates who rang his first inside.

We only had one Peal attempt this year – Lessness Surprise Major in June, which was successful. I continue to annually book roughly 10 Saturday morning peal dates with Gary but since there are now fewer Peal requests, I am using more of these as extra training sessions.

We had a successful spring outing to Thornbury, Olveston, Hawkesbury, Wickwar and Cromhall, expertly organised by Gilly. Then a four-day trip to Dorset in July, ringing at 16 towers between Lyme Regis and Swanage, organised by Stuart, Gilly and Keith. Finally, a Quarter Peal Day in October organised by Chris. We successfully rang quarters at Hartpur, Ashchurch, Prior's Norton and Eckington.

I visit the belfry roughly every six-eight week's (sometimes with Keith) to do a visual check of the bells and fittings. The bells, frame and main fixtures are all in good order. However, some of the ropes need replacing (after seven busy years of use) and I have placed an order for a complete new set with Avon Ropes – this will cost just over £2,000 (including VAT) and it has been agreed that we will equally split the cost with the PCC. We may jointly recover some of this cost from donations – a Just Giving page is being set up and an article has appeared in the first new quarterly church newsletter.

We are also considering getting greasing points drilled to make future clapper lubrication easier. This would cost a few hundred pounds and would be funded fully by the bellringers.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Susan Laurence

As a maintained voluntary controlled school Leckhampton Primary school is built upon a strong Christian foundation with a vision for 'Open Hearts, Open minds and Open doors'. It has an inclusive approach with all pupils encouraged to reach their potential in learning and personal development in order to fulfil their potential to live life in all its fullness.

The school provides places for just over six hundred children. New pupils adapt to school life and quickly begin to work within their age-related expectations. A broad and balanced curriculum is provided. Pupils' attainment regularly exceeds national averages in the key curriculum subjects. For the low number of children in the school who have some form of disadvantage or who may have learning challenges their individual needs are identified in partnership with parents and teaching staff. This is overseen by the SENCo (Special Educational Needs) and all teachers and teaching partners provide ongoing support to pupils. Staff receive training to support the areas identified in the School Improvement Plan and are encouraged to develop their learning and leadership skills. A priority for 2025/26 is to embed the Gloucestershire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Worship at the school is threaded through all key stages and delivered both in the classroom and for the whole school in the school hall. For twelve times during the school year the latter is led by Reverends Gary Grady and Jade Scholes. It has included themes such as hope, respect, truthfulness, thankfulness and forgiveness and is linked to scripture. Whole school worship is also led once a week by a different class of pupils. This is open to parents and other visitors and is well received.

Parents are invited to participate in the life of the school. As well as the half termly parents' evenings, there are 'drop in' morning sessions to look at the work in pupil's books, and invitations to 'coffee morning' talks to keep parents informed. For example, in January 2026, the local authority's educational psychologist attended to discuss ways of helping children deal with anxiety and worry. The fortnightly school Bulletin newsletter informs parents about what is happening in the school and extra school activities. It also highlights a 'Value for the Term' with encouraging notes about how that value can be discussed and shared in the home. For example, in the Spring term it has been 'Thankfulness' as a means to encourage kindness and recognition of diversity and each person's unique strengths.

The school encourages children to consider the wider community around the school and to get involved in ways to engage with the community. Children are encouraged to bring in Christmas foods to share with others for the annual 'Hamper Scamper' and to support various charity promotions across the year such as Children in Need and Comic Relief. Individual pupils and small groups have also made visits to people at the Sue Ryder Hospice and to sing carols at the Hampton's Care Home. In 2025, a year six pupil took a leadership role to campaign for the local authority to provide a pedestrian crossing. Pupils are encouraged to walk or bike to school to reduce car pollution outside the school.

The school's financial position is positive. The annual school premises inspection was completed in November 2025 together with the regular assessment of fire and health and safety policies. The safeguarding GSCP/KCSiE Audit and declaration was completed in November 2025. All school policies are regularly reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to publication.

The SIAMS inspector visited the school on 12th March 2026. The assessment was very positive and noted the strengths of the whole school family and how its Christian vision was lived out each day.

SIAMS - stands for the Strategic Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.

Men's Group

John Laurence

There are currently 33 members of the Men's Group. There is no cost of membership. The majority of meetings are simply social events, and we meet in the Wheat Sheaf public house, on the first Thursday in the month, alternating between a lunch time meeting at 12:30 pm and an evening one at 7:30 pm. Three of the meeting however, are reserved for discussion of a particular topic. The most recent meeting of this type discussed the role of the Anglican Church in politics. Between five and ten members attend regularly. Some events such as the skittles evening attract more (about 20) but this includes members of the Ladies Group too. A recent meeting was shared with the visiting guests from Ramallah and their hosts from St Philip and St James, which again doubled numbers. This year an events schedule has been released, including two planned walks and a joint event with the Ladies Group taking place on 12th December.

Music

Kit Perona-Wright, Director of Music

Music continues to flourish at St. Peter's, and there is much to look back on and be proud of in the last year. In addition to our usual round of morning services where the musical contribution has been to a consistently high standard, complementing the liturgy, we have held a number of special services throughout the year also. These include evensongs for Harvest, Candlemas and the Patronal Festival, a special service for Remembrance (with brass and cello), an Advent Carol service, 9 Lessons and Carols (with brass), St. Mark Passion by Wood for Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and a visit to Gloucester Cathedral to sing evensong in the summer as well. The repertoire continues to grow and develop, ensuring a mix of well known and newer items, and this is being well received by members of the choir and congregation. The special services continue to attract large congregations - including visitors to St. Peter's specifically for the music - and music serves as a really important part of the outreach of the church.

Tribute should be paid to the members of the choir and those other musicians who come to play/sing and support us throughout the year. We have welcomed additional new members, and - when at full strength - are approaching around 40 members! However, the work is never done, and we will always need to replace those people who leave for various reasons (young and old), so marketing and having an online presence is really important for both church and choir.

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor;

Sue Marlow, Business Manager; Peter Davies, Distribution Manager; Liz Johnson, Printing

The Parish Magazine began in 1888 when Rev R E Trye wrote that he proposed launching a Record of Parish News and a 'kind of Parish Register'. It continued for 137 years until December 2025.

Having been editor for the past 16 years I decided it was time to 'retire' hoping that someone else would take it on. Unfortunately it was not to be so the magazine in its current format is no more. However, it has given Rev Gary the opportunity to have a rethink and bring it up to date. It will be replaced with a Quarterly online newsletter, with some printed copies available on request.

Thanks are due to everyone who has supported and contributed in any way towards the magazine over many years. Past copies, back to about 1895, can be viewed at Gloucester Archives, and recent copies have been lodged with the British Library.

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

The St. Peter's 'Pastoral Team' continues to support the clergy in the following areas:

- Keeping up to date with those who are ill, absent, or in need.
- Visiting the sick and housebound.
- Taking Home Communion to those unable to get to church in the short or longer term.
- Care Home ministry – leading a communion service (using the reserved sacrament) twice monthly at Hampton House and monthly at Middleton House. At Lilleybrook Care Home we lead a monthly service of hymns and prayers. Carol Services were held in all three homes this Christmas and were greatly appreciated and well attended.
- Bereavement visiting.
- Monthly Friday Lunch with Friends regularly brings 12-20 people together for a shared lunch.

Wedding Preparation is now organised by the South Cheltenham Team. Baptism preparation is negotiated by Rev Gary with individual families.

The team meets every other month to share updates on all of the above areas and is made up of Rev Gary, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Anne Webber, Steve Whittingham and Sally Marlow. Rev Jade attends and supports the team when time allows.

PCC Report

Chrissie Brown – PCC Secretary

Following last year's APCM, St Peter's PCC consisted of our Clergy, Readers, ten Lay members, one co-opted member and six Ex-Officio members. At the first PCC meeting after the APCM we elected our PCC officers. Revd Canon Gary Grady continuing in his role as Chair. David Webber and Sally Marlow were elected to be our Church Wardens. Arthur Webb and Duncan Hughes were elected as Deputy Church Wardens. Peter Marlow was elected as Treasurer, Christine Brown as PCC Secretary and Richard Kerr-Wilson as our Eco Officer.

Peter Davies, Brad Coates, and Mike Riley represent the PCC at Deanery Synod meetings and report any relevant information back to the PCC. Peter Davies and Helen Shill represent the PCC at South Cheltenham Team meetings and report any relevant information to the PCC. Helen Shill is also our Youth Representative.

The PCC have met five times during the last PCC year. At our meetings, the agenda has covered, Communications, Building and ground maintenance, Finance, Safeguarding, South Cheltenham Team update, Health and Safety, Mission Planning and Eco Matters. Any other business can be added to the agenda as needed. The Standing Committee have met three times, and reports of any discussions were received by the PCC, discussed where necessary and recorded in PCC Minutes.

The highlights of the year have included a successful insurance claim for the storm damage which allowed completion of the repair of the organ and roof. The successful insurance claim meant that the money set aside for the work is now available for other projects approved by the PCC. Our Safeguarding Policies have been reviewed and approved by the PCC. With the assistance of Sally, our Safeguarding Officer, we have completed a Safeguarding worksheet with the aim of promoting a healthy and safe church culture. Several actions were identified, some of which have already been implemented. All PCC members have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training.

The PCC have agreed a Net Zero plan and Waste and Recycling policy and support Richard and his committee as we seek the Gold Eco award.

Gary presented the PCC with his analysis of the discussions at our Mission planning day, and the PCC have agreed on our Mission Priorities.

Rainbows (37th Cheltenham (Leckhampton) Rainbows)

Maggie Ansell – Rainbow Leader

The Rainbows have had a busy time since Spring last year working on and completing our unit meeting activities and skills builders which make up our Rainbow programme.

Our theme for the Summer term was 'Skills for My Future' the Rainbows had fun learning about themselves, working as a team and how to gain leadership skills. We ended the Summer term with our annual Teddy Bears Picnic in the cottages garden.

At the start of the Autumn term, we welcomed 2 new Rainbows and started working on our 'Express Myself' topic, exploring how we communicate. The girls enjoyed story making activities, a monster themed evening and our annual 'Indoor Camp'. We ended the term with a celebration evening to celebrate 3 Gold Awards and a Christmas party.

We began the Spring term welcoming 3 new Rainbows. We will be working on the 'Feel Good' topic. Activities to include healthy eating, well-being and being active.

Throughout the year I have been able to present several interest badges, theme awards and bronze, silver and gold awards.

Our staffing levels for this term have dropped as we have two volunteers who will be unable to attend due to health issues.

Safeguarding

Sally Campion

St Peter's continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Any causes for concern are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy. Sally Campion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Liz Johnson continues to act as Evidence Checker.

Sally Campion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Campion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary, Sally Campion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

Invites to complete safeguarding training continue to be sent out to those who carry out roles which require it. Liz Johnson as Parish Administrator keeps a record of all training completed. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained.

Sally Campion has set up and begun to use the St Peter's Parish Dashboard. This is an online system that gives assurance to parishes that they are complying with statutory requirements and Church of England policies. It gives an overview of the parish which can be shared with Rev Gary, Churchwardens and the PCC. The PCC have recently agreed to Sally Campion setting up a Safeguarding Hub which runs alongside the Dashboard. Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator, will also have access to the Hub. It is hoped that this system will provide an easier means of keeping track of DBS renewals and Safeguarding Training.

Sally Campion has continued to support Andrew Mallin-Jones, Safeguarding Officer at St Philip and St James, with delivering the Basic Awareness Safeguarding Course. Mr. Mallin-Jones is trained to deliver the course face to face. A requirement of delivery is that a second safeguarding officer is present to support anyone who finds the content of the course distressing. Places on courses are offered to anyone from St. Peter's who needs to complete the Basic Awareness Safeguarding training and would prefer to do it face to face rather than online.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social Committee continued to support the Church Calendar in 2025 – with the following taking place:

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday – Suzy kindly made her delicious Simnel cake once again which was enjoyed with coffee after the service.

Sunday 6th April – Fizz was served following the 10 am service to celebrate Gary's installation as an Honorary Canon at the Cathedral earlier in the week – congratulations Gary!

Hot cross buns were served following the Good Friday service and on Easter Day "fizz" was served along with coffee following the 10 am service.

On the evening of Ascension Day 28th May "fizz" was served after the service – which was held in the church as it was too windy to hold in the Cottage gardens. Fingers crossed for 2026!

Sunday 22nd June – more fizz!! This time following the confirmation service with Bishop Rachel – this was served in the cottage gardens alongside an ice cream van which was very popular!

Sunday 6th July – "Petertide" was celebrated – this was a "bring your own picnic" at 12 noon in the cottage gardens - with the committee providing strawberries (grown locally at Primrose Vale).

Pimms was served after the Choral Evensong for Harvest on Sunday 5th October.

All Souls service was held in the afternoon of Sunday 3rd November and well attended. Refreshments were served at the back of the church – giving the worshippers an opportunity to socialise together along with Rev Gary and Dereck.

The Carol service held on 21st December was followed by mulled wine, mince pies etc in the cottages – always a popular event.

My special thanks to Ro, Anna, Sally, Andrea, Penny, Helen S and Tracey and to our own "Star Baker" Suzy ... and not forgetting our friends who help us out – Val, Annelies, Averil, Duncan and Jim. Also thanks to Rev Gary for his ongoing support.

Our group enjoy playing a part in the "Ministry of Hospitality" - welcoming our family of St Peters and visitors at various events throughout the year... which could include a glass of "fizz"!!

South Cheltenham Churches

Revd Canon Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team is made up of St. Peter's, Leckhampton, St. Philip and St. James, Leckhampton, St. Christopher's, Warden Hill, St. Stephen's, Tivoli, and Emmanuel, Naunton Park, the latter of which is in partnership with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC), who hold a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for the Cheltenham Deanery, and work together as Emmanuel Network Church (ENC).

Our shared vision is:

'Our team will be joyful, prayerful and engaged with our communities. We will be thriving, growing congregations reflecting a vivid mosaic of spirituality. Shaped by our communities and working together with our ecumenical partners, we will offer a prophetic, Kingdom challenge. As a result, South Cheltenham will know itself to be loved and supported. Intrigued by what we do, they will have a growing awareness of our team and our Churches as the spiritual hubs of inclusive communities.'

During the past year we have said goodbye to Revd Dr Sarah Haden as the leader of ENC and welcomed Revd Adrian Beere as her replacement; thank you Adrian for saying yes to God and to the team.

The South Cheltenham Team Council meets 2-3 times per year, with representatives from each church working together to discern how we can share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in this area. Please continue to pray for the diversity and unity of the team, we are stronger together.

St Peter's Little Pebbles

Amie Lidbetter

In the summer we said goodbye to several of our regular families and also gave our heartfelt thanks to Lara Skinner who had run the group for several years. There are currently 15 families "on the books" with about ten attending on average each week. A significant proportion of regular attendees are grandparents and this gives the group a lovely multigenerational dynamic. Most families are from the local area whilst a few travel across Cheltenham (one Grandmother commutes regularly from Kent).

Each week we provide an art or craft activity linked to something in the Christian calendar, a season/national awareness day or nursery rhyme. We also provide a snack as well as hot teas and coffees, water/squash. Singing, using a small bag of "props" for the children to choose from brings everyone together and provides an opportunity to explain what family friendly activities and services are on offer at St Peter's. Most recently, the Christingle making family activity proved very popular.

There continues to be a pool of wonderful helpers who come along on a rota basis, special thanks to the regulars - Penny, Ro, Andrea and Joey who do a fantastic job of welcoming our families, offering pastoral support and serving snack at 11am. Administrative support from Liz Johnson has also been invaluable. Rev Jade comes along when she is able and this provides a great opportunity for deeper pastoral support and theological exploration.

Everyone is very welcoming to newcomers and the group is an inclusive, caring and nurturing environment. Families continue to choose their nursery/preschool days around LP so that they can attend and we are frequently told, "I don't know what we would do without our Tuesday mornings". Members of the group meet up outside the regular sessions and there is a wonderful feeling of community.

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

The year has continued much as it has in the past. Numbers vary a little but those who join us for a cup of coffee or tea seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The "team" support each other well and generally speaking there isn't a problem filling the rota. Having had a really lovely summer refreshments were often taken out into the garden but without any shade protection some found it a little too warm! We have had a couple of people join the team which is excellent but as always we could do with yet more people to assist.

If anyone would like to join the team please do get in touch with either Ro Baillie 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson 07990 813122. The more people that can help the fewer times it is necessary for people to add their name to the list!

Youth Update

Abbie Marsh – South Cheltenham Team Youth Worker

It has been a good year in the Youth Ministry with pockets of young people meeting across many different spaces in the team. Our biggest gathering continues to be SCT youth on a Tuesday. Current improvements being made to the building at ENC is making a difference to the youth work happening there, with cosier spaces to meet and with better storage for the youth equipment. Smaller groups continue at ENC and P&J on Sunday mornings, a Boy's group on Sunday evenings (new), and HSL (new), Bournside (partnered with YFC and Salvation Army) (new partnership), and Balcarras (partnered with Methodist Circuit, Charlton Kings Baptist, St Mary's and Holy Apostles) school groups during the week. Each space looks different but seeks to provide friendship, fun and intentional discipleship for young people in our team.

A highlight from the year was our Youth Weekend Away this February. This was well attended by almost all our young people in SCT Tuesday group. We had support from Barrie Voyce (Diocese) and Victoria Orr

(Sportily) who helped us run some of our talks and activities. A smaller group of us also joined in with Satellites Youth Camp in August (partnered with St Catharine's and Holy Trinity Tewkesbury).

Another highlight was the confirmation service in June where over a dozen young people took part in a day exploring baptism and confirmation, some then later choosing to be baptised and most confirmed. It was a joy to be a part of young people exploring and taking steps in their discipleship.

A smaller area of youth ministry is supporting our clergy in work with Year 6s in our local primary schools. In June we ran 'It's Your Move' in Warden Hill and St James' schools which is a faith based session exploring moving to secondary school. It is also the opportunity for Abbie to meet the young people and tell them about youth work in our Churches and local secondary schools.

Other ministry with young people happening in the team includes youth music and worship, and also through our choir ministries which engage young people with faith through music and sacramental tradition. In October we had a Joint Youth Social (partnered with Methodist Circuit, West Chelt and Holy Apostles) (new partnership). This was well attended and gave the Church youth groups an opportunity to meet and think about coming to our planned joint youth weekend for next year. P&J hosted a summer youth club in the summer, and there have been two joint youth sessions between P&J and Bethesda youth. Abbie ran some youth leader's deaf awareness training for St Paul's Church. And there are many other smaller pockets of youth ministry that happen throughout the year.

Abbie is at ENC most regularly on Sundays leading Sunday youth and also involved in wider service leading, and leads Sunday youth at P&J once a month. Abbie visits St Peter's and St Christopher's on a bi-monthly basis, which recognises how the youth ministry is a team vision and gives these Churches the opportunity to receive updates about the youth ministry and/or for Abbie to contribute to their service as a member of the SCT leadership team.

We have an amazing team of volunteers from across our team who have grown in confidence to serve young people using their unique giftings. Most of our session leaders and some helpers are on their final few sessions of the 10-session course that Abbie is running of 'Youthscape Essentials Training' for volunteer youth leaders. This is helping our team to know one another better, to hold shared values for what we do, and to build our practical skills.

We continue to host termly youth reps and young leaders meetings where young people from our Churches come together both to feedback on the youth ministry and for mutual support in their roles as young leaders in their Churches. We have an adult youth rep in each Church to support these young people and to strengthen the partnership between our team youth ministry and their Sunday Churches.

Abbie continues to be a member of the SCT and ENC leadership teams, and the children and youth working group at P&J. Revd Sarah left the team in April and Revd Gary became Abbie's interim line-manager. Abbie has had the opportunity to build on her skills through attending the National Youth Ministry Weekend in November, continuing to be a Youthscape Innovator brainstorming and piloting new youth ministry resources with young people, and completing a certificate in Youth Mental Health First Aid. She also continues to engage with Deanery Youth Ministry connect meetings run by Barrie Voyce, and YFC prayer meetings.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the youth ministry with their time, prayer and finances. The work goes a long way for each young person we engage with.

Accounts



St Peter's

**Leckhampton
Parish Church**

Parochial Church Council Annual Report for 2024

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton exists to love and worship God,
to serve its neighbours and to share the love of Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you
and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location:	St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence:	The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 0QJ

Members

Following the 2024 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows (the years elected are shown in brackets):

Clergy	Revd Canon Gary Grady (Team Rector) Rev Jade Scholes (Associate Priest)
Readers	Dereck Freeman Melissa Webb

EX-OFFICIO

Churchwardens	David Webber (2024) Sally Marlow (2024)
Deputy Churchwardens	Arthur Webb (2024) Duncan Hughes (2024)
Deanery Synod Members (2023-2026)	Peter Davies * Mike Riley Brad Coates

LAY MEMBERS

Lay Members elected 2022-2025 (one year of service remaining)	Margaret Kyffin Peter Marlow (Treasurer)
Lay Members elected 2023-2026 (two years of service remaining)	Jennie Hawdon Penny Piggott Christine Brown (Secretary) Anne Webber
Lay Members elected 2024-2027 (three years of service remaining)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill *† Sarah Wood Pat Long Andrea Hughes
Co-opted Member	Richard Kerr-Wilson 2024 (Eco Officer)

* SCTM Representatives (2024-2025)

† Youth Representative (2024-2025)

Totals: PCC members: 11, Ex officio 7, co-opted 1

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- **Electoral Roll**: Currently there are **146** on our electoral roll, so we can have up to 15 lay members on the PCC as well as two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members**: The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The Secretary and Treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of Office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM	3 years
Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr Daryl Burns
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The following Committees promote the life of St Peter's:

Social Committee:	Revd Gary Grady, Ro Baillie, Helen Yates
Pastoral Team:	Revd Gary Grady, Revd Jade Scholes, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Sally Marlow, Anne Webber, Steve Whittington, Penny Williams

Ministry Report

Revd Gary Grady, Team Rector

Thank you to all at St. Peter's for another good year.

We have continued to worship both in-person and on-line, with the 10am Sunday Service and Morning Prayer (Mon-Thu) being live-streamed throughout the year; we will continue to do this in 2025 where possible

At the start of 2024, on Epiphany Sunday, we said goodbye to Revd Jacqueline Henson and family, Jacqueline having completed her curacy with St. Peter's and moved on to a new role as Team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team.

The church was then closed for 8 weeks as we undertook the final phase of the ordering project to rebuild the wooden dais at the front, install a new set of movable communion rails, and lay put down a new (red) carpet. The result has been excellent and thanks must go to our Architects and Contractors for keeping the works to schedule, and enabling us to come back to worship on Passion Sunday.

During that time, we held an 8am service in the Church Cottages every other week and worshipped at St. Stephen's on the other Sundays. Thank you for your patience and support; special thanks go to David Webber for all of his support, and to Peter Davies for his practical advice.

At this time, we were blessed with the arrival of Revd Jade Scholes, who joined St. Peter's as an Associate Priest and has fully supported the life of the church over the past year, regularly leading and preaching, attending Little Pebbles, and becoming a valued member of the Pastoral Team, as well as a Foundation Governor at the local primary school.

I continue to look ahead with optimism. Our numbers and finances (and church building) are all in good shape, we have a new Friends of St. Peter's Scheme, our relationship with the local schools is excellent, and we continue to reach out in many ways to the local community through the different groups and events we offer.

Our beautiful church building and churchyard continues to attract people to 'come and see' and we have once again shared God's love through the many baptism, wedding and funeral services we have conducted, and through the special services and music of our wonderful choir.

Towards the end of the year, we started to think about our vision and mission for the next 5 years and met, as a PCC over 2 separate days, to plan what this might be. This is now being drawn together into a plan!

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2024, with special thanks going to our churchwardens, David and Sally, our Readers, Dereck and Melissa, to all who have served on our PCC, to Peter Davies, our Sacristan, to Kit Perona-Wright, our Director of Music, and to Liz Johnson, our Administrator.

Thank you also to all who have supported our social events, made music, rung bells, arranged flowers, tended our churchyard, welcomed at the door, served at the front, or have simply showed your love for God through worship and what you do for others.

Every blessing for 2025 and beyond.

Revd Gary

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2024

Peter Marlow, Hon. Treasurer

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2024
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2024
- Notes that explain the detail.

Overall, at the completion of the Reordering Project, St Peters remains in a good financial position with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £131,173. Total funds carried forward, which includes restricted income and investments, is £147,904, a decrease of £66,844 over 2023. We paid our Parish Share contribution in full. We benefited from the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme which enabled us to claim back the VAT on our Reordering work. A cost breakdown of the Reordering Project is contained in the Annual Report.

We had set a deficit budget for Running Costs for 2024, but we have ended the year with a surplus of £6,128. This great result was due to several generous donations. The Church was closed for over 2 months for Reordering at the beginning of 2024 which reduced running costs but also potentially reduced income.

We currently have 76 regular givers, 73 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme. Regular giving massively helps St Peters to plan its finances.

We launched a Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton scheme in September and it currently has 44 members.

We supported the South Cheltenham Youth Project (£2,354) and Little Pebbles (£1,956). Carol Singing and Friday lunches raised £1006 for the Children's Society.

Over the past year there were 611 transactions through the card reader in church to a value of £3,770 (in 2023 there were 487 transactions to a value of £3,160). The terminal fees were £258 over the year with a 2.5% transaction cost.

Policy on Reserves

In preparation for the Quinquennial Inspection Report of 2025 the Churchwardens and PCC are setting aside unrestricted reserves of £25,000 minimum to cover liabilities. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of at least 4 months running costs (£50,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences. This policy was agreed by the PCC on 16 January 2024. The PCC has also agreed to set up a Designated Fund of £40,000 from Reserves to help cover the repair of the Organ which suffered water damage in the September 2024 storms.

Expenses Payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2024. Our Independent Examiner, David Evans, is having to retire on health grounds. We are very grateful for his support in this role for many years. Thanks to Daryl Burns, Treasurer of St Christopher's Warden Hill, for stepping in as our new Independent Examiner.

ST PETER LECKHAMPTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2024

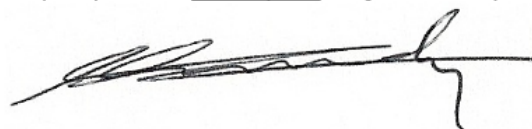
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 75,498	£ 350	£ -	£ 75,848	£ 71,639
Other planned giving		£ 9,411	£ -	£ -	£ 9,411	£ 8,219
Collections at Services		£ 8,155	£ -	£ -	£ 8,155	£ 8,168
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 11,517	£ 2,887	£ -	£ 14,404	£ 11,076
Gift Aid recovered		£ 20,875	£ 88	£ -	£ 20,963	£ 20,202
Legacies		£ 3,968	£ -	£ -	£ 3,968	£ 12,000
Grants	11	£ 12,117	£ -	£ -	£ 12,117	£ 4,240
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 4,575	£ 363	£ -	£ 4,938	£ 8,120
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 13,613	£ -	£ -	£ 13,613	£ 10,623
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	5	£ 7,557	£ -	£ -	£ 7,557	£ 9,897
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/ receipts not already listed	10	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 50
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 167,287	£ 3,687	£ -	£ 170,975	£ 164,234
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations	3	£ 95	£ 1,007	£ -	£ 1,102	£ 1,257
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 76,522	£ -	£ -	£ 76,522	£ 71,516
Salaries, wages and honararia		£ 9,777	£ -	£ -	£ 9,777	£ 11,467
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,132	£ -	£ -	£ 2,132	£ 2,811
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6	£ 3,960	£ 350	£ -	£ 4,310	£ 4,631
Church running expenses	7	£ 41,441	£ 1,889	£ -	£ 43,330	£ 42,284
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 8,106	£ -	£ -	£ 8,106	£ 8,775
Cost of trading	8	£ 1,084	£ -	£ -	£ 1,084	£ 1,556
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property	9	£ 83,593	£ 12,453	£ -	£ 96,046	£ 52,728
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other outgoing resources	10	£ 752	£ -	£ -	£ 752	£ 662
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 227,462	£ 15,698	£ -	£ 243,160	£ 197,688
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ (60,175)	£ (12,011)	£ -	£ (72,186)	£ (33,454)
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ (60,175)	£ (12,011)	£ -	£ (72,186)	£ (33,454)
Gains on investment assets		£ 12,153	£ -	£ (6,811)	£ 5,342	£ 191
Net movement in funds		£ (48,021)	£ (12,011)	£ (6,811)	£ (66,843)	£ (33,263)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2024		£ 179,194	£ 16,808	£ 18,746	£ 214,748	£ 248,011
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		£ 131,173	£ 4,797	£ 11,934	£ 147,904	£ 214,748

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
PCC CAF Bank Account 00006604	£ 22,580	£ 4,797	£ -	£ 27,377	£ 39,460
PCC Lloyds Bank Account 00124049 (Flower Fund)	£ 760	£ -	£ -	£ 760	£ 874
Flower Fund Cash	£ 81	£ -	£ -	£ 81	£ -
PCC Lloyds Bank Account 02170803 (inactive)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
PCC CCLA Deposit Account CB3025973	£ 62,578	£ -	£ -	£ 62,578	£ 122,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Account & Petty Cash (Flowers) (inactive)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 70
PCC CCLA Investment CB3025974	£ 39,720	£ -	£ -	£ 39,720	£ 27,567
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 125,719	£ 4,797	£ -	£ 130,516	£ 190,549
PCC CCLA Investment CB3025975 (Gloucester Trust Funds) *	£ -	£ -	£ 11,935	£ 11,935	£ 18,746
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ 11,935	£ 11,935	£ 18,746
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,454
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,454
				£ 147,904	£ 214,748

* £9,000 shares moved from Gloucester Trust Funds to PCC Investment account to cover churchyard maintenance costs.

Adopted by the PCC on 14 January 2025 and signed on behalf by:



Rev Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Rector

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted.

The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 10,211		
Little Pebbles donations	£ 505		
Coffee Pig	£ 482		
Freewill Offering	£ 319		
Childrens' Society		£ 1,006	Friday Lunches & Carol Singing
Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton		£ 1,476	Excluding Gift Aided Donations
Special collections		£ 55	
Youth Work		£ 350	
TOTAL	£ 11,517	£ 2,887	

4 Income from fundraising activities

See Note 3 above	£ -
TOTAL	£ -

5 Income from Trading

	2024	2023
Flower income	£ 981	£ 1,430
Magazine income	£ 979	£ 894
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 513	£ 1,314
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 5,085	£ 6,260
TOTAL	£ 7,557	£ 9,897

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs	Unrestricted	Restricted
Little Pebbles	£ 1,956	
Youth Project	£ 2,004	£ 350
TOTAL	£ 3,960	£ 350

7 Church Running Expenses	2024	2023
General Church Running Expenses	£ 11,494	£ 10,954
General Church Maintenance	£ 3,580	£ 3,991
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 10,066	£ 10,994
Music costs	£ 12,173	£ 10,695
Administration costs	£ 121	£ 82
Insurance costs	£ 5,896	£ 5,568
TOTAL	£ 43,330	£ 42,284

8 Cost of Trading		
Flower costs	£ 1,084	£ 1,210
Magazine costs*	£ -	£ -
TOTAL	£ 1,084	£ 1,210

* The Magazine is now produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'. The total costs are £733.

9 Major capital expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted
Sheeting of Organ (Nicholson)	£ 685	
Archaeological Investigations (Nash)	£ 442	
Deposit for Barrier (Waywood)	£ 2,220	
Cottage Carpet (Corinium)		£ 1,440
Altar Rails & Chairs (makes 50% balance)	£ 6,150	
Cabling (Watkins-liles)	£ 594	
Chairs balance - Waywood	£ 7,896	
Unsheet & Retune Organ (Nicholson)	£ 685	
Sanctuary Carpet (50% balance) Rapport	£ 2,893	
Underlay for bellringing area (Rapport)	£ 135	
Altar rails balance - Waywood	£ 5,724	
Misc - Waywood	£ 804	
Gifford Memorial Display Panel (Jazmedia)	£ 59	
Architect fee (Bartosch)	£ 5,520	
Phase 5 Building Work (Loxstone)	£ 48,187	£ 10,678
Bell ringing area carpet (Rapport)	£ 102	
Pew Handrails (Asher Collins)	£ 645	
Choir Cassocks (Croft Design)	£ 853	£ 334
TOTAL	£ 83,593	£ 12,453

10 Other Incoming/Outgoing Resources

Incoming	
None	£ -
Total incoming	£ -
Outgoing	
South Cheltenham Team costs	£ 606
Transfer of Harvest Loaf to Flower Fund	£ 146
Total outgoing	£ 752

11 Grants	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cottage Carpet (Vicar's Fund)	940	
VAT refund for Reordering	£ 11,177	
TOTAL	£ 12,117	£ -

12 Restricted Funds carried forward	
Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton	£ 1,913
Cottages Fabric Legacy	£ 1,789
Charities (balance)	£ 51
Churchyard Seat (Scott)	£ 400
Organ Scholarship	£ 203
Magazine Binding	£ 25
Audio-Visual	£ 393
Music Festival	£ 8
Piano Appeal	£ 25
Refugee Project	£ (10)
TOTAL	£ 4,797

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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.

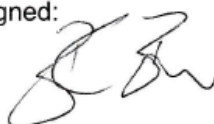
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: Daryl Burns

Address: ROSETREE COTTAGE, SUNNYFIELD LANE, CHELTENHAM GL51 6JD

Date: 22/2/2025

St Peter's Leckhampton Reordering Project – February 2022 - March 2024

Peter Marlow, Treasurer

The reordering project at St Peter's Leckhampton has finally completed! Long in planning, work started in February 2022 and was completed in March 2024. The total cost was £160,000 as detailed below. The funding came from generous donations, grants and reserves built up over many years from legacies. Our Reserves are still healthy but we are looking to rebuild them to fund more projects. **It's still possible to donate to the Reordering Fund**, perhaps by funding one of the fine acolyte chairs (two have already been funded and dedication plaques provided). Please contact me if you would like further details.

Phase 0 VESTRY RECONSTRUCTION

Reconfigure & Reconstruct Vestry (Tim Beck)	£	3,640	
TOTAL			£ 3,640

Phase 1 HEATING SYSTEM

Heaters (Electric Heating Solutions)	£	26,376	
3-phase provision (Western Power)	£	15,333	
Old heating system decommission (Tradecraft)	£	3,109	
Less Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(7,470)	
TOTAL			£ 37,348

Phase 2 GIFFARD TOMB

Remove 2 rows pews (Baxter)	£	1,028	
Enclosure (Waywood)	£	5,355	
VAT on Enclosure	£	1,071	
Timeline printing	£	59	
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Grant	£	(2,500)	
Donation for Timeline	£	(50)	
Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(171)	
TOTAL			£ 4,792

Phase 3 AV

Equipment Design & Fitting	£	30,735	
Wifi installation	£	366	
Donation	£	(250)	
Gift Aid Recovered	£	(63)	
TOTAL			£ 30,789

Phase 4 FURNITURE

Acolyte Chair (5 * £1,850)	£	9,500	
Priest Chair	£	2,250	
Credence Table	£	3,219	
VAT on furniture	£	2,994	
Plaques for Chairs inc VAT	£	288	
Upholstery Costs @ £85/chair inc VAT	£	612	
Funds donated & Gift Aid	£	(9,901)	
TOTAL			£ 8,962

Phase 5 FRONT

Works (Loxstone)	£	58,865	
Contractor 'hold-back' (payable March 2025)	£	1,509	
Altar Rails & Kneelers	£	11,100	
Sundaries (Fabric costs & Carpet Edging Frame)	£	690	
Carpet	£	5,242	
Sheeting & Unsheeting & Re-tuning Organ (Nicholson)	£	1,370	
Architect's fees (Bartosch)	£	6,235	
Electrical work (Watkins-liles)	£	594	
Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(11,555)	
TOTAL			£ 74,051

REORDERING GRAND TOTAL

£ 159,582

Churchwardens report for the 2025 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Sally Marlow, Deputy Wardens: Arthur Webb and Duncan Hughes

David Webber continued as Churchwarden for a further year and was joined by Sally Marlow. Arthur Webb continued as Deputy Warden and we welcomed Duncan Hughes. David and Sally have met regularly with Rev Gary to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, and to pass on pastoral concerns that may have come to their attention. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings. Rev Jade Scholes joined St Peter's as Associate Priest.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese. We attended the annual Archdeacon's Visitation service where the wardens were officially admitted to their office.

The altar servers have continued to assist with the smooth running of services. Thanks are due to them and to the readers, intercessors, welcomers, junior church leaders, bellringers, choir and organist who all make a valuable contribution to services, and to the flower arrangers for their inspirational displays. Thanks also to Liz in the office for keeping day to day life of St Peter's running smoothly.

The Church Building and Grounds

Regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies.

The Reordering was completed before the last APCM but it became evident that the exposed flooring by the front pews was creating a trip hazard so Asher Collins, Blacksmith, was commissioned to design and install wrought iron guards. These blend in well with the existing design and have minimised the risk.

The congregation are getting used to the under-pew heating system, but the church is unheated when not in use.

The main room of the Glebe Cottages was redecorated by a volunteer working party. Thanks are due to them and to Martyn Shill, who decorated the entrance lobby and toilets.

During a tremendous storm in September which overwhelmed the north gulley, water entered the organ chamber damaging the organ. At the time of writing an insurance claim has been submitted but the outcome is not yet known. It is complicated by evidence of some subsidence, which will involve a separate claim.

Following a tragic event where a visitor collapsed and died during a memorial service a Defibrillator has been acquired, courtesy of the Fire Service, and this will be installed on the Glebe Cottages wall. It will be unlocked and un-coded to be instantly available to all. Thanks are due to numerous people who made this possible.

The church will undergo a Saturday morning Spring Clean before Easter and we look forward to a good number of the congregation coming to help out.

We are grateful to Mohammed who continues to keep the churchyard neat and trim, and to Brad Coates and the churchyard maintenance team.

Social activities continue to flourish at St Peter's from regular chats over coffee on Sunday mornings to refreshments served after occasional concerts in church, special services and celebrations of festivals. We are grateful to the catering committee, led by Helen Yates, who undertake the organisation of many of these events.

The lights on the Christmas tree in the churchyard and round the Lych Gate during Advent have become a tradition. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who organises the lighting.

We are delighted that Rev Gary has been invited by Bishop Rachel to be an Honorary Canon. The installation service will be part of Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral on Wednesday 2 April. We can be sure that St Peter's will be well represented at that service, supporting Rev Gary.

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Livvy Niblett

15th Cheltenham Brownies currently have 22 girls at the unit. We have been working towards both programme and challenge badges during some of our Brownie meetings.

We've had a busy year! The Brownies enjoyed taking part in our annual indoor camp evening. Just before Christmas, we ran another Christmas games evening. The Brownies worked together in small groups to create a Christmas themed game. We invited families along at the end of the meeting to play some of the games for a small fee. The money raised was donated to charity. In February, we celebrated 'World Thinking Day'. The Brownies took part in a range of activities all linked to our 5 world centres in Girlguiding.

This last year we have attended a District trip to Cattle Country farm park and a District disco. We have a Brownie Sleepover planned for May 2025. It will be the first one we have organised for the unit. We are looking forward to once again making use of the outside space at the cottages and spending some meetings outdoors next term. We are also excited to be taking part in the 'Lions at Large' project taking place in both Cheltenham and Gloucester this summer.

CCP (Caring for Communities and People) Donations

Gilly Whittingham

CCP are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of the St Peter's congregation towards their foodbank. This is demonstrated on a weekly basis by the amount of donations left in the porch for collection. The demands on CCP continue to rise and I am met with thanks each week when I take these items down to the CCP shop.

At the start of 2024 donations to CCP were reduced as a result of St Peter's being closed for refurbishment. Once the church reopened donations picked up. The now regular Lent appeal had a very positive response. I will again encourage parishioners to 'giving something' rather than 'giving up something' for Lent in 2025.

The Harvest Festival again was very generously supported with over 150kgs donated. There was also support for the Hamper Scamper appeal in the lead up to Christmas. The grand total for 2024 amounted to 881.9kgs.

A very big thank you to everyone who has donated, either with physical items or regular monetary donations.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

A Deanery Synod consists of all clergy and ministers licensed to a benefice within a deanery, plus elected lay members of each church in the deanery.

Each synod is elected for 3 years, known as a triennium, during which there are 9 meetings (3 per year) usually convened by the Area Dean (or Lay Chair) before a Diocesan Synod, so that any matters arising can be taken onto that meeting.

Representing St Peter's Leckhampton within the Cheltenham Deanery is: Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley. The Area Dean for Cheltenham Deanery is The Reverend Andrew Blyth.

Reports containing minutes of deanery Synod meetings are regularly reported to the PCC at St Peter's. During 2024 meetings were held as follows:

- March 7 at St Mary's, Charlton Kings.
- June 25 at St Philip and St James, Leckhampton.
- November 13 at Holy Apostles, Charlton Kings.

The next election for Deanery Synod members takes place in 2026.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

This year we have been continuing to increase the biodiversity through selective rewilding. We have also engaged with Bartletts the tree surgeons for a multi year plan of maintenance of the Yews, all of which are looking healthy. Again, many thanks to Mohammed and the Team for their efforts in keeping the churchyard so tidy and such a pleasure to visit.

Cottages Bookings

Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator

We have had steady bookings over the past year where the Cottages have been used by various church and community groups as well as private hirers. Church groups include Little Pebbles, Julian Group, Ladies Fellowship, the Choir and the Craft Group. Other hirers include private parties, receptions and lunches, primary school tuition, Quiet Days, QiGong, other church's away days and Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council. We have Brownies and Rainbows each week during term time.

To comply with our Eco Church ethos, I try where possible to order sustainable and Fair Trade supplies for the Cottages. We encourage all hirers and church groups to use the recycling boxes and food bin in the Cottages: the recycling fairy (Liz) would welcome your help in this – please squash tins/plastic/cardboard where possible, only put clean items into the boxes and change the liner in the food bin after use.

Craft-T-Time

Helen Shill

We have enjoyed each other's company on Wednesday mornings at the Cottages, chatting, doing our Craft and drinking teas and coffees with biscuits that our members bring along!

This year St Peter's Leckhampton Craft Group have knitted Christening Blankets, which are given to young children at the Christening Service in St Peter's, crosses, Christmas trees and Easter eggs for the Anna Chaplaincy projects, which give them to local Care Homes. We have made Greeting Cards, jumpers and a Quilted Runner. One of our group even knitted a beaver which was auctioned for a Wildlife Charity! We also showed our Craft at the Cottages last summer and received a lot of support from the Congregation.

We regularly have 5-10 members, one of whom has joined recently and comes from Twigworth. We welcome everyone to our group and would love to see you, if only for a cuppa and a chat.

EcoChurch

Richard Kerr-Wilson

The church eco group met in alternate months in 2024. This year they have agreed to meet monthly and divide the work for members to do in pairs between meetings.

During the year, A Rocha, who give the Eco church awards, updated their survey criteria. We have therefore started looking at the new survey before applying for their gold award. This consists of five sections: Worship and teaching; Buildings and energy; Land and nature; Community and global engagement, and Lifestyle. So far, we can only achieve gold in the first category.

Nevertheless, we have had some successes during the year. Under Worship, prayers for the planet and those affected by the climate crisis are now included regularly in the intercessions. In Buildings category, we now have LED lighting in both church and cottages and we have insulated the roof in the cottages. An environmental policy and climate resilience policy has been written. In the Land section, we have installed a box for hedgehogs and a bird feeder in the Cottages' garden, planted another rowan and carried out another plant survey in the churchyard, as well as joining the bat conservation trust. Thanks to Ben Gilchrist, who carries out the plant surveys, our policy of re-wilding sections has shown an increase in the number and variety of plants in the churchyard.

More generally, attendance at an online carbon literacy course has been undertaken, as well as zoom meetings with A Rocha and the diocese. A climate emergency declaration has been passed by the PCC, as well as articles written by members of the group for the parish magazine. We now have an eco notice board in the Cottages and a section on the website.

In the coming year, we plan to ask members of the congregation what they do already as individuals in the way of eco activities, such as what relevant charities they support. This will help us to complete the survey section on Community and global engagement.

Thanks to all members of the Eco group for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Eric Miller

This year the Roll has been due for its six-yearly renewal and all parishioners have been asked to submit a fresh application. There has been a steady trickle of entries, the majority by email. At the time of writing there have been 146 applications, of which 15 are for the first time. Later applications can of course be made and are encouraged, since being on the Roll is a sign that you regard yourself as a full member of the church. The Roll ought to be an accurate reflection of the size of the congregation.

I have served as ERO on and off for many years and now wish to retire. Normally little work is entailed, except each sixth year. I shall be very happy to ensure a smooth handover to whoever takes over.

Flower Guild

Averil Murray

As I look back over this year it seems to me that at the beginning of 2024 we were concerned about finances. However, as the year has gone on I feel much more sanguine about our position. People gave generously at Christmas when I put the basket for donations out, and we have had donations throughout the year. We recognise that it is now a fact that brides are careful with money and don't automatically request special flowers, and there are fewer church weddings, although we now have 8 this year.

I have now sourced biodegradable oasis from an online company and they say they have an inexhaustible supply of it, so I no longer have to rely on C&G Flowers whose supply is intermittent at best.

We have learned to cope with only two cupboards, and we are being as tidy as we can, however I do have several items that now reside in my garage.

Once again, I would like to place on record my grateful thanks for all that you do to support our Guild.

Kathy is proving to be a treasure as Secretary, her efficiency is amazing and she keeps me on the straight and narrow. Thank you.

Sally is an excellent treasurer and I don't have to worry about balancing books. Thank you.

Veronica is still interviewing brides and coping with all their various requirements and it is a big job in itself, so thank you to her.

And last of all, thank you to all our members who give of their time and gifts to beautify our church.

Last of all, I would just like to remind us all, we do not do all we do to please the Vicar, although we are glad that he is pleased. We do not do what we do to please the congregation and cheer everybody up, we don't even do what we do to please ourselves, no, it is much more than that, quite simply we do it for the glory of God and to beautify this sacred place which is gifted to us in this generation. We offer our gifts of flower arranging to the One who said "Consider the lilies of the field...."

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

We have continued to meet together monthly in the Cottages. There are currently six of us from different areas of Cheltenham to share a time of prayerful stillness and silence with God. We feel this is especially necessary in these troubled times, and would encourage others to join us. As we come from different religious backgrounds and experiences, we have enjoyed some interesting discussions over tea and biscuits afterwards.

If you would like to join us, we meet in the Cottages on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact: Jennie Hawdon for more details.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church provides activities for the children's area in church each week, with special activities for the First/Special Sunday services. We continue to send out baptism anniversary cards which now contain an invitation to come along to First Sundays. We send email invitations to First Sundays to all baptism families and give paper invitations to those attending Little Pebbles. First/Special Sundays are also advertised on the website and on our notice boards.

Groups met in the Cottages to make Christingles for Candlemas and posies for Mothering Sunday. It was lovely to see a full church for Mothering Sunday with the children's areas bursting at the seams! It is encouraging to see an increasing number of families with young children at all Sunday services; a sign that they feel comfortable at St Peter's and are feeling that they are part of the church family.

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

In January and February we looked at different passages from the Old and New Testament and discussed them; two very enjoyable and interesting events.

In March we joined the Men's Group for a Skittles evening, our first joint event. It was such an enjoyable evening that we plan to repeat it this year.

In May we visited Beckford Silks and had a very informative tour, which we all enjoyed. Later in the year a group of us visited St Christopher's where we were given an informative talk and looked their wonderful windows by John Denny followed by a lovely tea laid on by some of their ladies.

In October Eric Miller gave us a fascinating talk on the *History of Leckhampton*. I think we all felt that by the end we had learnt something new about Leckhampton. Other events were an enjoyable visit to Tewkesbury Abbey, some theatre trips and a 'bring and share' dinner.

Another busy and enjoyable year for the Ladies' Fellowship.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

From early January through to mid-March we couldn't ring at Leckhampton due to the building work taking place inside the church. Since we didn't want to lose 10 weeks of ringing (especially for our learners), we continued with our Monday evening practice at a variety of local towers – Badgeworth, Brockworth, Cheltenham Minster, Elkstone, Painswick and Upton St Leonards.

We have a good number of enthusiastic learners in the band and are continuing with our learners practice at 7:00pm, with the main practice starting around 7:30pm. Monday practice nights are often busy with 15-20 ringers present. This is great but can be hard work, trying to give everyone something they want to ring. We now have a rota so others run the practice once or twice a month – helps share the load and is good experience. Richard While has joined us from St Marks and we warmly welcome him to the band.

Sunday Service ringing is well attended, and we usually have enough to ring all eight bells, which is excellent. Most Sunday evenings we continue to attempt a quarter peal, with assistance from other local ringers.

In July we had a successful ringing trip to Somerset – where Jon Hill learnt to ring 60 years ago. We rang at 18 towers over four days. Chris Hickey organised a quarter peal day for us in August. We rang at Ripple, Twynning, Pershore Parish Centre and Ashchurch.

In September Stuart completed 50 years ringing at Leckhampton and he was presented with some lovely gifts by Gary at the Sunday morning service.

I continue to visit the belfry roughly every six weeks to check the bells and fittings. I don't anticipate any significant work being required this year. We have had a few stays made this year (due to breakages) to ensure we have a minimum of two replacements for each bell. The stay is made of Ash and roughly two feet long and 2 inches in diameter. It works with the slider in allowing us to ring the bells full circle. With Keith's help we adjusted all the ropes to reduce the wear at the point it passes through the bell wheel.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Susan Laurence

Leckhampton C of E school is a large primary school with a pupil roll of nearly 630 pupils. There are three form classes for each year group. The quality of education is outstanding and attainment results above national figures. There is evidence of exceptional commitment to education shown by staff and pupils. The school embraces a collective approach to leadership across all levels and in partnership with parents and the wider community. The focus on training and development of all staff means that quality is embedded into teaching and learning. Attention is given to the needs of all pupils including those with specific needs. For example, training has been provided to all staff in order to achieve the 'ADHD for Schools Award'.

In addition to the prioritisation of educational achievement there is an equal focus given to fostering the wellbeing of the children and to their development as '*rounded*' individuals able to '*live life in all its fullness*' (John 10:10). The aims of the school fitting well within the diocese of Gloucestershire's vision; '*for education, knowledge and skills, aspiration and, living well together with dignity and respect*'. The children have lots of opportunities to participate in extra- curricular cultural and sporting activities supported by teaching staff and in association with partners from the community. The parents' association raises substantial funds to support enhanced activities for the benefit of all pupils.

Reverend Gary and Reverend Jade lead Thursday worships at the school and Christian values are highlighted in all school policies. St Peter's welcomes all children and their parents in the church when they start school at the Reception service in September each year. As well as the Christmas Nativity services held at the church there will be an '*Experience Easter*' event in 2025 led by Reverend Gary and the Foundation Governors for pupils in year four.

Thanks are due to Sue Marlow and Mark Hambling who resigned as foundation school governors in 2024 owing to other commitments. Two new Foundation school governors have been appointed, Duncan Hughes and Jade Scholes.

Men's Group

John Laurence

The Men's Group continues to meet on the first Thursday of every month alternating between a lunchtime gathering (12:30) and an evening one (7:30). We meet in the Wheatsheaf public house and enjoy good fellowship (and excellent food!) in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Regular attendees find this most rewarding. There is no cost of membership, and it is open to all. Numbers participating have stayed relatively stable over the year, but there has been an increase in the numbers attending in recent months. New members are always welcome, and we have had several who have joined us for the first time since Christmas. Reverend Gary is generally present and supports the group well. We have joint events to which the Ladies Group have been invited, and this includes the skittles evening, and a hill walk later in March. There is also a future proposed visit to the Javelin Park Incinerator, which promises to be interesting.

Music

Kit Perona-Wright, Director of Music

This is now my first 'full' year as Director of Music, and there is much to look back on during that time. Gary and I have put in place a programme of additional services spread throughout the church/calendar year to compliment the regular pattern of worship and to enhance the liturgical seasons. This has included a Harvest Evensong, Faure's Requiem for Remembrance Sunday, an Advent Carol service, our traditional 9 Lessons & Carols (with brass), a Choral Compline by Candlelight for Candlemas, a special service for Passiontide, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, the Patronal Festival Evensong, and a visit to Gloucester Cathedral to sing Evensong in the summer as well. These have all been well received by congregation and choir, and we have been able to enhance the repertoire of the choir with the introduction of lots of pieces new to most. These services have also seen a number of visitors to our church who have come for the music and/or special occasion, several of whom have become repeat visitors as a result. Music is, and should be, a vital part of the mission and outreach of a church as it both enhances the liturgy but also speaks to some where words simply cannot. It provides a connection to something intangible and spiritual because of the way it moves us, and I am so pleased that it seems to be having such a positive impact at St. Peter's.

It is important to pay tribute to the wonderful members of the choir. We have been able to welcome several new members to the choir – both adults and young people – but the work is never done (!), and I will be contacting local schools again to continue to get the word out there. A lovely event in the autumn was our informal chorister coffee concert in church. All the young people played instruments and sang together to an appreciative audience, and we will look to repeat this later in the year. The word is also spreading about the music at St. Peter's – near and far - due to increased social media usage and the choir YouTube channel (which posts musical items each week).

The organ suffered some serious water damage during some of the significant stormy weather (and due to blocked drains on the roof of the church) in the autumn. These things take a long time to assess, and it has involved structural engineers as well as insurance companies and the organ builders themselves. As I write this report, the cost of repair to the organ is currently with the insurance company – and we are waiting to find out what they will be prepared to cover. There is a significant amount of work needed to repair the damage (around a third of the organ is not currently working as a result...), not including other general wear and tear that will need work at some stage further down the line as well. We will keep everyone posted as and when we know more. The other change of musical instrument is the electronic piano positioned in front of the choir stalls. We traded in the upright piano (that was unable to be moved for practical use due to being too heavy and on a raised platform at the side of the church) for this modern, versatile instrument – and this has greatly enhanced our weekly worship as a result.

I am grateful to the whole church community for the ongoing support of the music programme at St. Peter's, and to Gary, Peter Marlow and the church wardens in particular. Standards are high, but we aspire to even greater things – so watch this space!

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor;

Sue Marlow, Business Manager; Peter Davies, Distribution Manager; Liz Johnson, Printing

The Parish Magazine has continued to be published every month both in printed form and on the website. We have continued to maintain the integrity of the magazine by insisting that all articles are apolitical and, in accordance with Diocesan policy, the editor reserves the right to reject any contribution that he considers inappropriate.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine, whether as a reader/subscriber, a contributor, distributor, deliverer or advertiser. As we print in-house costs are reduced and more colour has been used in the magazine. Although we have lost some advertisers the magazine accounts are healthy. The cover price has remained at 50p for several years. The value of the magazine is in its outreach and contact with the wider community. It remains a Church Magazine, not a Community magazine, though contributions from community organisations will be duly considered.

As printed is each issue: *The contents of the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the PCC or the editor, but are those of the individual contributors and whilst pleased to welcome adverts and grateful for the support St Peter's PCC cannot offer endorsement of any specific advertiser or event.*

As a legal requirement, a hard copy is posted to the British Library.

An electronic copy is sent every month, at their request, to the Diocesan Press Office, and the editor makes a point of drawing their attention to any particularly noteworthy stories, just in case the magazine is archived without being read! Members of the Press Office staff have commented that they can always rely on the St Peter's magazine to have an interesting story.

Each year the magazines are bound into a hard copy, which is stored in the Parish Office and eventually in the Diocesan Archives.

Having been the editor for 16 years, since 2009, David has decided to make 2025 his final year. He will continue until December as subscribers and advertisers have paid for the whole year, but if a successor comes forward he would be happy to hand over earlier, and will assist the new editor to settle in. This also gives time for Rev Gary and a new editor to consider a different format if they so wish.

David Webber, Editor 2009-2025

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

The St. Peter's 'Pastoral Team' continues to support the clergy in the following areas:

- Keeping up to date with those who are ill, absent, or in need.
- Visiting the sick and housebound.
- Taking Home Communion to those unable to get to church in the short or longer term.
- Care Home ministry – leading a communion service (using the reserved sacrament) twice monthly at The Hamptons and monthly at Middleton House and Lilleybrook Care Home. Carol Services were held in all three homes this Christmas and were greatly appreciated and well attended.
- Bereavement visiting.
- Monthly Friday Lunch with Friends regularly brings 15-20 people together for a shared lunch.

Wedding Preparation is now organised by the South Cheltenham Team. Baptism preparation is negotiated by Rev Gary with individual families.

The team meets every other month to share updates on all of the above areas and is made up of Rev Gary, Rev Jade, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Anne Webber, Steve Whittingham and Sally Marlow.

PCC Report

Chrissie Brown – PCC Secretary

Following last year's APCM, St Peter's PCC consisted of our Clergy, Readers, eleven Lay members, one co-opted member and six Ex-Officio members. At our first PCC meeting following the APCM we elected our PCC officers. Rev Gary Grady continued in his role as Chair. David Webber and Sally Marlow were elected to be our Church Wardens and Arthur Webb and Duncan Hughes were elected as Deputy Church Wardens. Peter Marlow was elected as Treasurer and Christine Brown as PCC Secretary. Richard Kerr-Wilson was elected to serve as our Eco Officer. We have also welcomed Revd Jade Scholes, Associate Priest to the PCC.

Peter Davies, Brad Coates, and Mike Riley represent the PCC at Deanery Synod meetings and report any relevant information back to the PCC. Peter Davies and Helen Shill represent the PCC at South Cheltenham Team meetings and report any relevant information to the PCC. Helen Shill is also our Youth Representative.

The PCC have met five times during the last PCC year. At our meetings, the agenda has covered, Building and ground maintenance, Reordering, Finance, Safeguarding, a South Cheltenham Team update, Health and Safety and Eco Matters. Any other business can be added to the agenda as needed. The Standing Committee have also met five times, and reports of any discussions were received by the PCC, discussed where necessary and recorded in PCC Minutes.

The highlights of the year have included endorsing the applications of Revd Jade Scholes and Duncan Hughes as Foundation Governors at Leckhampton School and setting up the Friends of Leckhampton Scheme. The PCC has supported improvements in both the Church and Cottages, these will be referred to in the Churchwardens report. The PCC have agreed a Climate Emergency Declaration and are supporting Richard and his committee as we seek the Gold Eco award.

In November we had a Mission Planning Day to discuss these Mission areas; Buildings, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Children and families, Discipleship, and what opportunities there are to enable St Peter's to grow. There was real energy and commitment from the PCC with many ideas and suggestions. Two of the suggestions have already been implemented; a slight change to our Mission Statement and bookmarks with upcoming services given out at the Crib service. We look forward to Gary's analysis of the discussions and a list of items to focus on.

All PCC members have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training.

Rainbows (37th Cheltenham (Leckhampton) Rainbows)

Maggie Ansell – Rainbow Leader

The Rainbows have had a busy time since spring last year working on and completing our unit meeting activities and skills builders which make up our Rainbow programme.

Our theme for the Summer term was 'Have Adventures' the Rainbows learnt to develop outdoor skills such as how to care for nature, cooking without a kitchen, choosing clothes for different weathers and making dens. We ended the summer term with a lovely Teddy Bears Picnic in the garden.

At the start of the autumn term, we welcomed 5 new Rainbows and started working on our 'Know Myself' topic, exploring and learning how to be brave, getting creative and practicing sharing, how we can learn new things and working as a team. We ended the term with a District Disco and a Christmas party.

We began the spring term welcoming 4 new Rainbows. This term we are working on our 'Take Action' topic. Activities include discovering different ways we can support charities, thinking about changes we would like to see in the world and exploring the things that we care about.

Throughout the year I have been able to present lots of interest badges, theme awards and bronze, silver and gold awards. We have also been fortunate to welcome a new adult helper to the Rainbow Team.

Safeguarding

Sally Campion

St Peter's continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. There have been no serious causes for concern. Any issues are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy.

Sally Campion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Liz Johnson continues to act as Evidence Checker.

Sally Campion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Campion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary Grady, Sally Campion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

Invites to complete safeguarding training continue to be sent out to those who carry out roles which require it. Liz Johnson as Parish Administrator keeps a record of all training completed. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained.

Sally Campion has continued to help Andrew Mallin-Jones, Safeguarding Officer at St Philip and St James, with delivering the Basic Awareness Safeguarding Course. Mr. Mallin-Jones is trained to deliver the course face to face. A requirement of delivery is that a second safeguarding officer is present to support anyone who finds the content of the course distressing. Sally Campion has supported Mr. Mallin-Jones in this role during the year. There may be places available on future courses for anyone from St. Peter's who needs to complete the Basic Awareness Safeguarding training and would prefer to do it face to face rather than online.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social Committee continued to support the Church Calendar in 2024 – with the following taking place:

Epiphany Sunday 7th January – This was the last Sunday Rev Jacqueline would be attached to St Peters, before moving on to North Cheltenham Churches. Following a special service there was Fizz in the cottages with a celebration cake kindly made by Suzy.

As St Peters was closed for 7 weeks for re-ordering work to be carried out there was no special Mothering Sunday service – some of the committee visited Rev Jacqueline's church at Swindon Village who made us most welcome.

Sunday 17th March – Following a wonderful performance of John Stainer's "The Crucifixion" by our choir, Fizz etc was served in the church to about 80 people.

Hot cross buns were served following the Good Friday service and on Easter Day "fizz" was served along with coffee following the 10 am service.

On Ascension Day – Thursday, 7th May – fizz was served outside following a Eucharist service in the Cottage gardens.

Sunday 7th July – "Petertide" was celebrated – this was a "bring your own picnic" at 12 noon – with the committee providing strawberries (grown locally at Primrose Vale Farm, Shurdington) and cream. After a rainy start the weather cleared up so that everyone could enjoy fellowship and lunch in the sunshine!

Pimms was served after the Choral evensong for Harvest on the 6th October.

Sunday 3rd November – All Souls service – this was very well attended and refreshments were served at the back of the church following a very moving service – this gave worshippers the opportunity to socialise together along with both Rev Gary and Dereck.

The Carol service was held on Sunday 22nd December and we welcomed about 60 people to the cottages following the service for mulled wine, mince pies etc.

My special thanks to Ro, Andrea, Anna, Sally, Penny, Pat and Helen "S" and Suzy our "Star Baker". Additional help was also appreciated from Val, Anneliese, Jim, Peter and Duncan.

Thanks also to Rev Gary for his lead support. We all enjoy our contribution to the life of St Peter's in our support role of the "Ministry of Hospitality" and in helping to welcome our church family and visitors.

South Cheltenham Churches Team Council

Reverend Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team is made up of St. Peter's, Leckhampton, St. Philip and St. James, Leckhampton, St. Christopher's, Warden Hill, St. Stephen's, Tivoli, and Emmanuel, Naunton Park, the latter of which is in partnership with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC), who hold a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for the Cheltenham Deanery.

Our shared vision is:

'Our team will be joyful, prayerful and engaged with our communities. We will be thriving, growing congregations reflecting a vivid mosaic of spirituality. Shaped by our communities and working together with our ecumenical partners, we will offer a prophetic, Kingdom challenge. As a result, South Cheltenham will know itself to be loved and supported. Intrigued by what we do, they will have a growing awareness of our team and our Churches as the spiritual hubs of inclusive communities.'

During the past year we have welcomed Revd Ruth Edmonds as the new Team Vicar of St. Philip & St. James and St. Stephen's, with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC) and Emmanuel Church, who have been working in partnership since 2021, calling themselves as 'Emmanuel Network Church' (ENC).

At the time of writing, we have sadly said farewell to Revd Dr Sarah Haden McDonald, who is leaving ENC on Easter Sunday to focus her time on family life; she leaves with our blessing and we wish her well.

The South Cheltenham Team Council meets quarterly, with representatives of each church working together to discern how we can share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in this area. Please continue to pray for the diversity and unity of the team, we are stronger together.

Little Pebbles

Lara Skinner

This has been another successful year for Little Pebbles. Each week we have about 15 families attending some with multiple children. Most families come from the local area whilst a few travel across Cheltenham. Each week we provide an art and craft activity which is aimed to be reflective of an upcoming Christian festival/event, the season or a national awareness day, and provide a snack (usually fruit, cucumber, a savoury biscuit and a cake option) as well as hot teas and coffees, squash etc.

There is a pool of wonderful helpers who come along on a rota basis who extend the hospitality and welcome out to all the families and then serve the refreshments at 11 o'clock.

Rev Jade has been coming regularly, which has been a great way to encourage more theological conversations, particularly around baptism, and also provide extended pastoral support. Last week we enjoyed an Easter story from Rev Gary in the sunshine. Whilst we try to encourage church attendance as much as possible this is still an area that can be developed.

In addition, the group has become a small community, who often meet up outside of Tuesday mornings. They are very welcoming to newcomers and there is a real sense of friendship amongst families and helpers alike! We regularly hear comments such as "this group is a life saver for me" and I've heard that some families chose their nursery/preschool days around LP so they can attend on Tuesday mornings!

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

We started the year with a service saying farewell to Jacqueline, followed by refreshments, on 7th January. St Peter's then closed for 10 weeks for the reordering to take place and the refreshments team were stood down - a well deserved break was taken.

Services resumed on 17th March and the team have worked tirelessly since then. I would like to thank all those who make up the team for all their hard work. During the year our dishwasher "died" and is not going to be replaced. Consequently it has been necessary to add a 3rd person to the regular weekly refreshments team to take on the washing up. This too has been much appreciated.

We could, of course, do with a few more willing helpers. If anyone would like to join the team please do get in touch with either Ro Baillie 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson 07990 813122. The more people that can help the fewer times it is necessary for people to add their name to the list!

Youth Update

Abbie Marsh – South Cheltenham Team Youth Worker

South Cheltenham Youth is a partnership of Emmanuel Network Church, Pip and Jim's, St Peter's, St Christopher's, and St Stephens; working together to support young people. Abbie is employed as full-time youth worker to oversee the youth work projects and to support each Church in engaging with young people in their worship and community.

Tuesday Youth Group

Our joint youth group continues to run on Tuesday evenings, meeting at Emmanuel. Around 50% of the evening is a relaxed space with drinks and snacks, organised games, card games and chatting. The other 50% is designed to help young people explore Christian faith in relevant and interactive ways. This has been a mixture of exploring different ways to pray, activities or craft based on a topic, a 4-week interactive Bible study on a single passage, and the new Youth Alpha series. We also have a few socials a year which have included funky laser tag, pizza nights, summer BBQ, movie night, and Christmas party. These socials help to build friendship and group memories, and are an invite to our local community to join in a fun evening with us.

Youth Reps and Young Leaders

An exciting initiative this year has been appointing youth reps from each church, inviting both a young person and an adult youth team member to represent their Church. This has been a bit of a learning year, seeing how these roles could look but has increased the voices feeding into the youthwork. Alongside this we have seen some young people become young leaders in their churches including creative design and kids work. Many of our young people are already involved with worship groups and choir and this alongside volunteering in other gifts helps to give them a sense of belonging in church life.

Residentials and camps

One of the Highlights of this year has been our youth weekend away where we spent the time in Bridgewater. For our faith content, we did the 'Holy Spirit Day' part of our Youth Alpha course and had our Diocesan youth connector Barrie Voyce from the Diocese come and speak to us about the Fruit of the Spirit. Victoria Orr from Sportily came along to run games and sports for us. Alongside this we had archery, chocolate making, escape rooms, kintsugi, tie-dye and so many more fun activities together. It was a really special time of building group memories and growing in faith. You can see the young people's reflections on the weekend by following this link: <https://shorturl.at/oDbcg>.

We also went to Satellites youth camp last summer, and will go again with a small number of young people; however this has had low take up due to the camping element!

Schools work

We run a weekend Christian lunch group at Balcarras on Mondays and are starting a new group at High School Leckhampton after Easter on Wednesdays. This relationship with local secondary schools is a valued and important part of what we do. Bournside already has a group led by YFC that several of our young people are a part of, as do Pates, and other grammar schools in Gloucester where some of our young people attend.

Local Partnerships

We were part of Fabric worship night for a while, a joint project led by local youth workers, which was a really positive experience both for Abbie and the young people. This has sadly had to stop due to changes of staff at Trinity Church where it was held, but Abbie has been part of conversations with Barrie Voyce and others about doing something different to bring local youth groups together for worship and connections. Hopefully we can find other ways to join together and be part of the bigger picture.

Youth Team

Our youth work couldn't happen without our wonderful youth team made up of volunteers from our churches. This year Abbie has been hosting the Youthscape Essentials training aimed at helping volunteers in their understanding of young people, building youth work skills, and growing in our character as leaders. This is proving to be insightful and it is also great to spend time together and learn from one another. We always encourage Churches to think about how they can contribute the gift of time to our young people, and would particularly appreciate some new male volunteers as our team is majority female.

Thank you

We really appreciate each Church's prayers and support as we support young people in our churches and community. To find out more, you can visit our youth Instagram and Facebook by typing @southchellyouth to hear more updates throughout the year. You can sign up to our newsletters on this link: http://eepurl.com/iyh_FQ

Accounts



St Peter's

**Leckhampton
Parish Church**

Parochial Church Council Annual Report for 2023

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church Leckhampton exists to love and worship God,
to serve our neighbours and to pass on the faith in Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you
and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location:	St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence:	The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 0QJ

Members

Following the 2023 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows (the years elected are shown in brackets):

Team Vicar and Chair	Revd Gary Grady
Curate	Revd Jacqueline Henson
Readers	Dereck Freeman Melissa Webb

EX-OFFICIO

Churchwardens	David Webber (2023) Sally Marlow (2023)
Deputy Churchwarden	Arthur Webb (2023)
Deanery Synod Representatives (2023-2026)	Mike Riley Peter Davies * Brad Coates

LAY MEMBERS

Lay Members elected 2021-2024 (one year of service remaining)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill * Sarah Wood
Lay Members elected 2022-2025 (two years of service remaining)	Mike Riley Margaret Kyffin Peter Marlow (Treasurer)
Lay Members elected 2023-2026 (three years of service remaining)	Jennie Hawdon Penny Piggott Christine Brown (Secretary) Anne Webber
Co-opted Member	Richard Kerr-Wilson 2023 (Eco Officer)

** SCTM Representatives (2023)*

Totals: PCC members: 10, Ex officio 6, co-opted 1

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- **Electoral Roll**: Currently there are **158** on our electoral roll, so we can have up to 15 lay members on the PCC as well as two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members**: The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The Secretary and Treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of Office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM	3 years
Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr David Evans
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The following Committees promote the life of St Peter's:

Social Committee:	Revd Gary Grady, Ro Baillie, Helen Yates
Pastoral Team:	Revd Gary Grady, Revd Jade Scholes, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Anne Webber, Sally Marlow, Steve Whittington, Penny Williams

Ministry Report

Thank you to all at St. Peter's for another great year.

We have continued to worship both in-person and on-line, with the 10am Sunday Service and Morning Prayer (Mon-Thu) being live-streamed throughout the year; we will continue to do this in 2024.

A decision was made to return to the Common Cup after Easter, with each communicant given the choice of whether to accept the bread and wine, or just the bread (which itself is fully sufficient as the sacrament). House of Bishop Guidelines no longer permits the dipping of bread by the communicant, so this has now stopped.

We continued to make good progress with the reordering. A new audio visual system was installed just before Easter, new furniture ordered, and a date in early 2024 (just after Epiphany Sunday) agreed with the contractors to complete the final phase of reordering at the front, to rebuild the wooden dais, install communion rails and lay a new carpet (at the time of writing, this has now been completed).

Thank you for your patience and support for this scheme; special thanks go to David Webber for his support, and to Peter Davies for his practical advice.

On a personal note, it was a privilege to take up the role of Team Rector for the South Cheltenham Team during 2023 and look forward to how we can be stronger as a team by working together. I will continue to hold pastoral oversight and responsibility for St. Peter's as part of this, but will no longer be the Area Dean for Cheltenham, having stepped down following the completion of 5 years in the role.

I continue to look ahead with optimism. Our numbers and finances (and church building) are all in good shape, our relationship with the local schools is excellent, and we continue to reach out in many ways to the local community through the different groups and events we offer. Our beautiful church building and churchyard continues to attract people to 'come and see' and we have once again shared God's love through the many baptism, wedding and funeral services we have conducted.

During 2023, we were blessed to welcome Kit Perona-Wright as our new Director of Music. There has already been a noticeable increase in choir numbers and repertoire, and we are exploring new settings and looking at additional evening services for 2024.

As the year turned to 2024, we had to say goodbye to Revd Jacqueline Henson and family, Jacqueline having completed her curacy with St. Peter's and moving on to a new role as Team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team. We send her and her family on their new adventure with grateful thanks and blessings, albeit I will miss her support, friendship and presence hugely.

Next year we will be blessed with the arrival of Revd Jade Scholes, who will join St. Peter's as an Associate Priest, having completed her curacy in Churchdown. Revd Jade is a Minister in Secular Employment (MSE) and I am looking forward to working with her as the year unfolds.

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2023, with special thanks going to our churchwardens, David and Sally, our Readers, Dereck and Melissa, to all who have served on our PCC, to Peter Davies, our Sacristan, and to Liz Johnson, our Administrator. Thank you also to all who have supported our social events, made music, rung bells, arranged flowers, tended our churchyard, welcomed at the door, served at the front, or have simply showed your love for God through worship and what you do for others.

Every blessing for 2024...

Revd Gary Grady, Team Rector

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2023

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2023
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2023
- Notes that explain the detail.

Overall, St Peters remains in a good financial position with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £179,194, a decrease of £30,264 over 2022. This is a better-than-expected result given that we have spent unrestricted funds of £49,717 on reordering this year. Total funds carried forward, which includes restricted income and investments, is £214,748, a decrease of £33,263 over 2022.

We had set a balanced budget for Running Costs for 2023 but we have ended the year with a deficit of £5,027. An increase in Energy costs and a reduction in Fees income contributed to this. To counter this in part was an increase in Giving, with a record Christmas collection, and an increase in interest payments from our investments. We did get an energy grant from the Diocese for £1,200 which is not shown in Running Costs, so the final deficit was £3,827.

We currently have 78 regular givers, 75 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme. Regular giving massively helps St Peters to plan its finances. The reordering furniture appeal raised £4,438. Carol Singing and Friday lunches raised £1116 for the Childrens' Society. The Afternoon Tea organised by the Leckhampton Local History Society raised £105 for Family Space.

Over the past year there were 487 transactions through the card reader in church to a value of £3,160 (474 transactions to a value of £2,822 in 2022). The terminal fees were £258 over the year with a 2.5% transaction cost.

We pressed on with the reordering project in 2023 completing the Gifford Tomb enclosure, installing a new Audio-Visual System, and paying deposits for the Sanctuary Furniture and Sanctuary Carpet. The cost was £52,768 offset by grants of £2,500 from the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and £534 VAT refund from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

Policy on Reserves

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection Report of 2020 the Churchwardens and PCC propose to set aside unrestricted reserves of £20,000 to cover liabilities, as has been previous policy. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of 6 months running costs (£65,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds are earmarked for the continuing reordering project in 2024.

Expenses Payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2023. Also many thanks to the Independent Examiner, David Evans.

Peter Marlow
Hon Treasurer

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2023

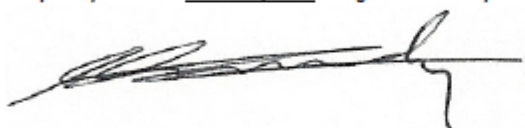
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 71,629	£ 10	£ -	£ 71,639	£ 72,262
Other planned giving		£ 8,219	£ -	£ -	£ 8,219	£ 7,525
Collections at Services		£ 8,168	£ -	£ -	£ 8,168	£ 7,163
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 3,934	£ 7,143	£ -	£ 11,076	£ 14,839
Gift Aid recovered		£ 19,751	£ 451	£ -	£ 20,202	£ 20,778
Legacies		£ 12,000	£ -	£ -	£ 12,000	£ 11,597
Grants	11	£ 1,740	£ 2,500	£ -	£ 4,240	£ -
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 7,305	£ 815	£ -	£ 8,120	£ 2,350
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 10,623	£ -	£ -	£ 10,623	£ 14,249
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	5	£ 9,897	£ -	£ -	£ 9,897	£ 11,070
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/ receipts not already listed	10	£ 50	£ -	£ -	£ 50	£ 29,081
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 153,316	£ 10,919	£ -	£ 164,234	£ 190,913
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations	3	£ 20	£ 1,237	£ -	£ 1,257	£ 7,695
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 71,516	£ -	£ -	£ 71,516	£ 71,516
Salaries, wages and honoraria		£ 11,467	£ -	£ -	£ 11,467	£ 9,927
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,811	£ -	£ -	£ 2,811	£ 2,909
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6	£ 4,281	£ 350	£ -	£ 4,631	£ 2,028
Church running expenses	7	£ 41,459	£ 825	£ -	£ 42,284	£ 37,957
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 8,775	£ -	£ -	£ 8,775	£ 5,289
Cost of trading	8	£ 1,556	£ -	£ -	£ 1,556	£ 1,210
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,565
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property	9	£ 49,717	£ 3,011	£ -	£ 52,728	£ 35,535
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other outgoing resources	10	£ 662	£ -	£ -	£ 662	£ 29,440
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 192,265	£ 5,423	£ -	£ 197,688	£ 208,070
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ (38,949)	£ 5,496	£ -	£ (33,454)	£ (17,157)
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ (38,949)	£ 5,496	£ -	£ (33,454)	£ (17,157)
Gains on investment assets		£ 8,685	£ -	£ (8,494)	£ 191	£ (7,450)
Net movement in funds		£ (30,264)	£ 5,496	£ (8,494)	£ (33,263)	£ (24,607)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		£ 209,459	£ 11,312	£ 27,240	£ 248,011	£ 272,618
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		£ 179,194	£ 16,808	£ 18,746	£ 214,748	£ 248,011

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
PCC Main Bank Account (CAF)	£ 22,652	£ 16,808	£ -	£ 39,460	£ 46,212
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Treasurer)	£ 874	£ -	£ -	£ 874	£ 883
PCC Lloyds Bank Account	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 691
PCC Deposit Account with CCLA	£ 122,578	£ -	£ -	£ 122,578	£ 147,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Account & Petty Cash (Flowers)	£ 70	£ -	£ -	£ 70	£ 1,071
PCC Investment with CCLA	£ 27,567	£ -	£ -	£ 27,567	£ 18,882
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 173,741	£ 16,808	£ -	£ 190,549	£ 215,316
Gloucester Diocesan Trust (consolidated) *	£ -	£ -	£ 18,746	£ 18,746	£ 27,240
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ 18,746	£ 18,746	£ 27,240
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,455
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,454	£ -	£ -	£ 5,454	£ 5,455
				£ 214,748	£ 248,011

* £9,000 shares moved from Gloucester Diocesan Trust to PCC Investment account to cover churchyard maintenance costs.

Adopted by the PCC on 16 January 2024 and signed on behalf by:



Rev Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Rector

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted.

The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 2,445		
Little Pebbles donations	£ 557		
Coffee Pig	£ 477		
Freewill Offering	£ 455		
Audio-Visual equipment		£ 250	
Childrens' Society		£ 1,116	Friday Lunches & Carol Singing
Furniture appeal for reordering		£ 4,438	
Special collections		£ 758	
Organ Scholarship		£ 125	
Youth Work		£ 350	
LLHS Teas		£ 105	To Family Space
TOTAL	£ 3,934	£ 7,143	

4 Income from fundraising activities

See Note 3 above	£ -
TOTAL	£ -

5 Income from Trading

	2023	2022
Flower income	£ 1,430	£ 856
Magazine income	£ 894	£ 1,482
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 1,314	£ 1,462
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 6,260	£ 7,270
TOTAL	£ 9,897	£ 11,070

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs		Unrestricted	Restricted
Little Pebbles		£ 2,458	
Youth Project		£ 1,823	£ 350
TOTAL		£ 4,281	£ 350

7 Church Running Expenses		2023	2022
General Church Running Expenses		£ 10,954	£ 11,440
General Church Maintenance		£ 3,991	£ 4,039
Churchyard Maintenance		£ 10,994	£ 8,920
Music costs		£ 10,695	£ 8,450
Administration costs		£ 82	£ 206
Insurance costs		£ 5,568	£ 4,902
TOTAL		£ 42,284	£ 37,957

8 Cost of Trading			
Flower costs		£ 1,556	£ 1,210
Magazine costs*		£ -	£ -
TOTAL		£ 1,556	£ 1,210

* The Magazine is now produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'. The total estimated costs are £764.

9 Major capital expenditure		Unrestricted	Restricted
Sanctuary Furniture & Gifford Barrier (1/3 deposit, Waywood)		£ 7,176	
AV Installation deposit (Hilltop)		£ 12,163	
Credence Tab/Barrier balance (Waywood)		£ 4,627	
Gifford Tomb Barrier (Waywood)			£ 2,500
Radiator removal etc (Tradecraft)		£ 2,175	
Wifi Equipment (General)		£ 366	
AV Installation completion (Hilltop))		£ 15,985	
Removal of pews (J A Baxter)		£ 1,028	
AV Installation completion (Hilltop)		£ 2,587	
Power feed (Watkins-Iles)			£ 511
Sanctuary Carpet (50% deposit, Rapport)		£ 2,893	
Tender review (Bartosch)		£ 716	
TOTAL		£ 49,717	£ 3,011

10 Other Incoming/Outgoing Resources

Incoming		
Sale of Church Bench		£ 50.00
Total incoming		£ 50.00
Outgoing		
South Cheltenham Team costs		£ 606.00
Transfer of Harvest Loaf to Flower Fund		£ 56.00
Total outgoing		£ 662.00

11 Grants		Unrestricted	Restricted
Energy Grant from Diocese		£ 1,206	
Donation for Giffard Memorial (GHCT)			£ 2,500
VAT refund for Reordering		£ 534	
TOTAL		£ 1,740	£ 2,500

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: D G Evans ACIB

Address: 13 Leckhampton Views, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0AR

Date: 25th January 2024

St Peter's Leckhampton Reordering Project – February 2022 - March 2024

Peter Marlow, Treasurer

The reordering project at St Peter's Leckhampton has finally completed! Long in planning, work started in February 2022 and was completed in March 2024. The total cost was £160,000 as detailed below. The funding came from generous donations, grants and reserves built up over many years from legacies. Our Reserves are still healthy but we are looking to rebuild them to fund more projects. **It's still possible to donate to the Reordering Fund**, perhaps by funding one of the fine acolyte chairs (two have already been funded and dedication plaques provided). Please contact me if you would like further details.

Phase 0 VESTRY RECONSTRUCTION

Reconfigure & Reconstruct Vestry (Tim Beck)	£	3,640	
TOTAL			£ 3,640

Phase 1 HEATING SYSTEM

Heaters (Electric Heating Solutions)	£	26,376	
3-phase provision (Western Power)	£	15,333	
Old heating system decommission (Tradecraft)	£	3,109	
Less Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(7,470)	
TOTAL			£ 37,348

Phase 2 GIFFARD TOMB

Remove 2 rows pews (Baxter)	£	1,028	
Enclosure (Waywood)	£	5,355	
VAT on Enclosure	£	1,071	
Timeline printing	£	59	
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Grant	£	(2,500)	
Donation for Timeline	£	(50)	
Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(171)	
TOTAL			£ 4,792

Phase 3 AV

Equipment Design & Fitting	£	30,735	
Wifi installation	£	366	
Donation	£	(250)	
Gift Aid Recovered	£	(63)	
TOTAL			£ 30,789

Phase 4 FURNITURE

Acolyte Chair (5 * £1,850)	£	9,500	
Priest Chair	£	2,250	
Credence Table	£	3,219	
VAT on furniture	£	2,994	
Plaques for Chairs inc VAT	£	288	
Upholstery Costs @ £85/chair inc VAT	£	612	
Funds donated & Gift Aid	£	(9,901)	
TOTAL			£ 8,962

Phase 5 FRONT

Works (Loxstone)	£	58,865	
Contractor 'hold-back' (payable March 2025)	£	1,509	
Altar Rails & Kneelers	£	11,100	
Sundaries (Fabric costs & Carpet Edging Frame)	£	690	
Carpet	£	5,242	
Sheeting & Unsheeting & Re-tuning Organ (Nicholson)	£	1,370	
Architect's fees (Bartosch)	£	6,235	
Electrical work (Watkins-Iiles)	£	594	
Listed Places of Worship Grant	£	(11,555)	
TOTAL			£ 74,051

REORDERING GRAND TOTAL **£ 159,582**

Churchwardens report for the 2024 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Sally Marlow, Deputy Warden: Arthur Webb

David Webber continued as Churchwarden for a further year. Sally Marlow replaced Jennie Hawdon, who had expressed her intention to stand down having served as warden since 2018. Many thanks to Jennie for her commitment during those years.

David and Sally have met regularly with Rev Gary to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, particularly in what has been a difficult year, and to pass on pastoral concerns that may have come to their attention. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings. We have been pleased, as wardens, to be able to work with Rev Jacqueline and thank her for her ministry and support, and we wish her, and her family, well as she takes on a new role as team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team. Several members of the congregation attended her service of Licensing and Installation.

During the year David and Sally participated in the interview panel which resulted in Gary's appointment as Team Rector and later in the year contributed to his 5-yearly Episcopal Review. One of our 'recommendations' was that he ensures that he takes sufficient time off for his own well-being and interests outside church life.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese. We attended the annual Archdeacon's Visitation service where the wardens were officially admitted to their office.

The altar servers have continued to assist with the smooth running of services. Thanks are due to them and to the readers, intercessors, welcomers, junior church leaders, bellringers, choir and organist who all make a valuable contribution to services, and to the flower arrangers for their inspirational displays. Thanks also to Liz in the office for keeping day to day life of St Peter's running smoothly. Following Simon Gibson's sudden and unexpected resignation a new Director of Music, Kit Perona-Wright, was appointed. In the relatively short time he has been with us he has developed the music of St Peter's and the choir has grown in numbers. We congratulate him on being awarded his doctorate.

The Church Building and Grounds

Regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies.

Following concerns expressed by Ecclesiastical Insurance a safety rail was installed on the external steps leading to the tower, plus a safety gate at the top of the boiler room steps. (Both designed and made by a local blacksmith, a former pupil of Leckhampton School.)

The congregation are getting used to the under-pew heating system.

A faculty application for reordering was finally approved by the Chancellor and all of this work has now been completed. More detailed information will be given in a separate report. Bishop Rachel gave permission for the church to be closed during this period, and Archdeacon Phil gave permission for 'occasional services' to be held in the Glebe Cottages at 8.00am most Sundays. Members of the congregation were encouraged to attend other churches in the SC Team during the time of closure.

Following the completion of the reordering work a church cleaning morning was organised ready for reopening in mid-March, and further work party decorated the Cottages before new carpet was laid. It was heartening to see so many members of the congregation come and support both working parties.

We are grateful to Mohammed who continues to keep the churchyard neat and trim, and to Brad Coates and the churchyard maintenance team.

In March we welcomed Rev Jade Scholes who was licensed to the South Cheltenham Team as an associate priest on 27 February. Jade will worship at St Peter's and support Rev Gary on an occasional basis while continuing her nursing career.

Social activities continue to flourish at St Peter's from regular chats over coffee on Sunday mornings to refreshments served after occasional concerts in church, special services and celebrations of festivals. We are grateful to the catering committee, led by Helen Yates, who undertake the organisation of many of these events.

The lights on the Christmas tree in the churchyard and round the lychgate during Advent have become a tradition. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who organises the lighting.

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Livvy Niblett

15th Cheltenham Brownies currently have 24 girls at the unit. We have been working towards both programme and challenge badges in some of our Brownie meetings. We have recently completed a food themed challenge badge. Our Brownies love any food related activities! We finished the Spring Term with a 'Bring and Share' picnic and enjoyed a lovely spread! This year we presented our unit's first Brownie Gold Award. This is awarded to girls who have completed all six Theme Awards from our programme. It is a huge achievement in Girlguiding!

We ran our own mini Christmas Tree Festival in December. The Brownies worked together in small groups to make decorations for a mini Christmas tree. We invited families along at the end of Brownies to vote for their favourite tree for a small fee. We were very pleased to raise a total of £60.00 for Winston's Wish and Deer Park Cowley.

We attended a District trip to Noah's Ark Farm Park in September 2023 and a cinema trip in January 2024. We are once again looking forward to making use of the outside space at the cottages and spending some meetings outdoors next term.

CCP (Caring for Communities and People) Donations

Gilly Whittingham

CCP relies on the generosity of supporters in the local community to donate food items for those living in poverty and struggling to provide food for themselves and/or their families. The demand for the CCP pantry has continued to increase over the last year, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis. Members of the congregation at St Peters have again, given generously to the foodbank over the last year. As well as the food and toiletry items left in the porch each week, I am aware that others make regular monetary donations. I visit CCP to drop off the donations, and I am always met with thanks by the staff members.

I endeavor to highlight, in the weekly newsletter, ways to increase donations at particular times of the year. The Lent appeal, which has now been going on for a few years, brought in a massive 143kgs of donations in 2023. At our Harvest Festival service in September the donations amounted to 111.2kgs. The Hamper Scamper appeal in the run up to Christmas brought in a further 24.6kgs. Together with the regular weekly contributions the total for 2023 amounted to 969.3kgs, only very slightly down on 2022.

A very big thank you to everyone who has donated, either with physical items or regular monetary donations.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a Deanery Synod is a synod convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/ or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members. Representing St Peter's Leckhampton with the Cheltenham Deanery are Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley.

The Area Dean for Cheltenham Deanery was The Reverend Gary Grady for part of the year and is now The Reverend Andrew Blyth. Reports containing minutes of deanery Synod meetings are regularly reported to the PCC at St Peter's. During 2023 meetings were held as follows:

- March 29 at St. Nicolas, Swindon Lane.
- July 19 at Christ Church, Malvern Road.
- November 22 at St. Matthews, Cheltenham.

2024 Meetings to date:

- March 7 at St Mary's Charlton Kings.

There is to be a Supplementary meeting at St. Christopher's, Warden Hill, on April 17 to learn about the new system of calculating Parish Share scheduled to be introduced in 2025.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

This year we have joined by 2 new volunteers who are very welcome additions to our dedicated gang. We will be continuing to rewild as much of the churchyard as possible, so if you see the grass looking long, it is most likely intentional. Big thanks to all who continue to give up their time to keep our acre so beautiful.

Cottages Bookings

Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator

We have had steady bookings over the past year where the Cottages have been used by various church and community groups as well as private hirers. Church groups include Little Pebbles, Julian Group, Ladies Fellowship, the Choir and the Craft Group. Other hirers include private parties, primary school tuition, QiGong, other church's awaydays, Gloucestershire Spiritual Directors and Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council. We have Brownies and Rainbows each week during termtime.

To comply with our Eco Church ethos, I try where possible to order sustainable and fairtrade supplies for the Cottages. We encourage all hirers and church groups to use the recycling boxes and food bin in the Cottages: the recycling fairy (Liz) would welcome your help in this – please squash tins/plastic/cardboard where possible, only put clean items into the boxes and change the liner in the food bin after use.

Craft-T-Time

Helen Shill

We spent an enjoyable productive and creative year in excellent company making many craftworks! We made gift cards, knitted Baptism blankets for those getting baptised at St Peter's and premature babies clothes.

At Easter we knitted Decorative Baskets that could hold small Easter eggs for Care Homes nearby who look after the Elderly and were distributed by Anna Chaplaincy. We discussed and shared environmentally friendly cleaning products, embroidered, made window wreaths, paper card Easter cards and baskets which the children used to collect chocolate eggs in the Cottage gardens on Easter Sunday.

At Petertide, bookmarks were crafted and given to the Congregation. These were received with appreciation and reports of them being sent as far away as America and Australia to family members were made.

We began planning and preparing for Christmas in October, sewing and assembling Christmas tree decorations, making cards and knitting dozens of Christmas Stockings for local Care Homes, again for the Anna Chaplaincy . We even made our own ' Craft-t-time Christmas Pudding ' which we all stirred , let mature and ate together on the last week before Christmas which was jolly seasonal fun!

We were fascinated by Silk Painter Angela Tomkins , her display of finely produced scarves and paintings in February and were intrigued by her inspirational journey from unemployment during the pandemic to successful artist, surely bearing witness to God's wonderful creative intervention and love. Presently we are knitting 'springtime flower' coloured Easter Crosses which will be distributed to Care Homes for the Elderly within the next few weeks.

Having enjoyed sharing ; ideas, companionship and lively conversation along with a ' cuppa' , we are looking forward to more projects, welcoming newcomers and furthering interests.

EcoChurch

Richard Kerr-Wilson

The Ecogroup met six times during the year. We increased our numbers from eight to nine during this time. We had a talk to the group by Dr Peter Bonait from Bethesda Methodist church on how they had achieved their A Rocha Gold award, and a talk in church by Petra Crofton from A Rocha on 'Climate Change for All.' Articles were written in the Parish magazine on climate topics. Prayers in church are now included regularly for climate change and how it is affecting people, especially the poor.

The group continued to go through the A Rocha EcoChurch survey and discussed how we can progress to a Gold award.

In the church cottages, there is now an EcoChurch notice board. We agreed that we will install roof insulation, LED lighting and solar panels when funds are available.

In the churchyard, Ben Gilchrist carried out a second plant survey and we planted a rowan tree (*Sorbus acuparia*) in the southeast corner.

In future, we will be showing the film "The Letter – a message for our earth" in church on July 9th.

Thanks to all members of the group for their enthusiasm. New members are always welcome!

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Eric Miller

The total number of names on the roll is 158, an increase of 13 on last year's figure. Further applications can be made at any time and regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names so that they can be contacted speedily with any important information. It is also the case than only those whose names are on the Roll may vote at the Parish Annual Meeting.

Flower Guild

Averil Murray

Well, this has been the first year under new management! I want to place on record my thanks to Kathy who is proving to be an exceptional secretary and to Sally for making the money situation so easy. Last year Veronica stepped down as co-ordinator after sterling years of service, but thank goodness she still interviews brides and deals with the weddings. As a mark of our thanks, we gave gifts of plants to Veronica and Margaret Kyffin who also resigned from the guild.

All our festivals went well and I particularly want to mention Advent. Putting the greenery into Oasis made it last longer and it had a better shape, so thank you everyone for your extra efforts. We are continuing to use the biodegradable Oasis, but since we have started using it, twice now Kathy and I have had to clear out mouse-induced mess where we have left old Oasis in black plastic bags. I think they like chewing it. We are going to have to find a hard plastic container with a lid to prevent the mice from having a field day.

We have now rationalised a lot of our flower mechanics, i.e. stands and vases, but it is still a tight fit and we need to be super tidy when putting stuff away in the cupboard.

I am pleased that the colour schemes have been adhered to throughout our festivals.

In conclusion, once again my heartfelt thanks to you all for your support and hard work, and I look forward to another successful year.

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

We have continued to meet together monthly in the Cottages. We are pleased to report that in the course of the year several new members have joined our original core group of four. There are now nine of us who come from all over Cheltenham to share a time of stillness and silence with God away from the clamour and demands of our busy world. As we come from different religious backgrounds and experiences, we have enjoyed some interesting discussions over tea and biscuits afterwards.

If you would like to join us, we meet in the Cottages on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact: Jennie Hawdon for more details.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church provides activities for the children's area in church each week, with special activities for the 1st Sunday services. We continue to send out baptism anniversary cards which now contain an invitation to come along to 1st Sundays. We did not meet to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies as St Peter's was closed for these services due to reordering. We have still not resumed Sunday sessions, but intend to do so.

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

It's been another enjoyable year for the Ladies Fellowship with more Ladies joining us. In April, Gary gave us an enlightening talk on prayer. Then in June we again visited North Cerney Gardens and while there were fortunate enough to see some Scottish dancing. Later in the year a group of us enjoyed an evening at the Tuckwell Theatre watching "The Great Gatsby" a good time was had by all. In December we had a lovely evening making Table Decorations, which due to the snow last year we'd had to cancel. As I write this report, tomorrow, for the first time, we are joining the Men's Group to play Skittles.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

This year we warmly welcome Ed Wicks and Jon Hill to our band. Ed started in September and will soon be ringing with us unaided in rounds. Jon is an experienced lapsed ringer and is proving very helpful at the top end of our band. I must also mention Peter Aylott, another experienced lapsed ringer. Although his home tower is Charlton Kings, he helps us out regularly at our Monday practices.

We continue to start our practice at 7pm with the focus being on our learners until soon after 7:30pm. This is working well. For the more experienced ringers, we aim to ring a different Surprise or Delight minor method each month.

We have good attendance for Sunday Service ringing and usually have enough to ring on eight, which is great. Most Sunday evenings we attempt a quarter peal, with assistance from other local ringers.

At the end of September, most of us plus several ex-Leckhampton ringers and friends spent a long weekend visiting The Lake District, where we rang at 17 towers. The trip was a great success, and we rang a wide variety of bells in some amazing churches. Chris kindly wrote an article about this, which was featured in the Ringing World magazine.

Early in the year Keith and Stuart dismantled, cleaned, and re-greased all eight clappers. Now, all the clappers swing more freely. The back bells are easier to chime and now rarely go up wrong stroke.

This year we purchased and built a hearing aid loop. This means that Bob can hear instructions from whoever is wearing the headset, without them needing to raise their voice. Thus, creating a calmer atmosphere and with less confusion. Bob can also hear the striking more clearly.

Stuart continues to visit the belfry roughly every 6-8 weeks to do a visual check of the bells and fittings. Everything is in good order, and we don't anticipate any significant work being required this year.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Mark Hambling, Susan Laurence, Sue Marlow and Revd Gary

Jane Allison and Gilly Whittingham have now stood down from the role of Foundation Governor. They were both thanked at a ten o'clock service with a bunch of flowers. Mark Hambling and Susan Laurence have been approved by the PCC to take on the role.

The Foundation Governors attended various committees which meet regularly including the Main Governing Body meetings three times a year. We have also supported in interviewing process for a variety of posts in the school.

We also are responsible for a curriculum subject and we visit teachers and the children to see it being taught in the classroom.. This was then reported back to the Governing Body.

They celebrated King Charles' Coronation by wearing red, white and blue and receiving a commemorative pin badge from the school.



In July we attended a B/Q with the staff. It was our way of saying thank you for all they have done during the year.

In February this year a working party met to lay a few bags of gravel on the childrens' Ows, Wows and Nows Garden and it is hoped the special space would be open soon for them to use.

Once a week each class leads worship for the whole school. Pine Class told the story of A Hundred Dresses which helped to further develop the children's understanding of forgiveness. Hornbeam class showed how important it is to show encouragement to others.

Children support many charities such as Red Nose Day, Pens4Kids and The Animal Shelter.

Children are encouraged to be Agents of Change and projects have been litter picking, encouraging walking to school and encouraging reading.

In March '24 the school is supporting a special fundraising day for Blue Skye Thinking, a brain tumour charity, which was set up by parents of pupils at Leckhampton School.

Sue and Mark were invited to visit the school in February '24 to review the Christian Distinctiveness in the C of E school. They took part in Y5 and Y6 worship plus a Y4 class worship. They talked to the Pupil

Parliament and observed how Christian values are integrated into the curriculum, school policies and peaceful places within the classrooms.

Both Rev Gary and Rev Jacqueline regularly led assemblies during 2023, including special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and for the Year 6 leavers in July. It was also wonderful to welcome all of the new Reception Year pupils to St. Peter's in October for a special welcome service, during which each child placed a hand drawn picture of themselves onto the altar.

Men's Group

John Laurence

The Men's Group continues to meet every first Thursday of the month, alternating between an evening session and a lunchtime session. We usually have between five and ten members attending, as we share good fellowship in the Wheatsheaf Inn. It is a very informal gathering although church matters often come into conversation.

In 2024 a joint St Peter's Men's Group and St Peter's Ladies Group, skittles evening has been organised. Later in the year, John Laurence plans to give a talk about the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, to which the Ladies will also be invited.

Those of us who attend regularly value the group highly, although we would encourage other members to come along more often, work and family commitments permitting.

Music

Kit Perona-Wright, Director of Music

Having been appointed as Director of Music in July 2023, formally starting during August (when the choir does not sing) whilst planning and preparing for the new choir year to resume in September with regular rehearsals and services – I am unable to comment on the first part of the year since the previous APCM. However, I am aware that the musical tradition at St. Peter's continued for those few months due to the loyal dedication of the choir members, various visiting organists, and particularly Tabitha Gilchrist and Laurence Jemetta. I am grateful to them all.

Coming to St. Peter's and returning to a Director of Music post within a local church environment has very much felt like a vocational calling. The warmth of the welcome from choir and congregation alike has been tangible, and Emma, Molly, Toby and I all felt very much part of this wonderful community within a short period of time. My thanks to everyone for that.

The music tradition at St. Peter's is clearly strong. However, there is always work to do with choir recruitment (adults and children), and there are always new ways to approach the enhancement of liturgy through musical means. My aim is only ever to build upon the strengths of what already exists, and seek to improve it further.

In terms of recruitment, we have welcomed a number of new faces into the choir since September 2023 – both children and adults, and work is underway to attract and recruit additional members through various avenues/links. Both Gary and I are working closely together to build links with various schools in the hope that we may establish fruitful relationships which might lead to new choir members. This is an important area of growth for the whole church community (not just the choir), and all possible support is much appreciated!

With regards to the choir, the repertoire has been purposefully expanded with new communion settings and anthems appearing alongside familiar favourites. This has been appreciated by singers and congregation alike, and we will continue to introduce new items during the rest of the year. This has required additional investment by the church, and I am grateful to both Gary and Peter M for their support.

We have performed a number of special services, which includes choral evensong for Harvest, 9 Lessons & Carols at Christmas (featuring brass quintet with organ and choir) and Stainer's Crucifixion on Passion Sunday (with James Gilchrist singing the tenor solo). We are also scheduled to sing evensong at Gloucester Cathedral in June 2024, which marks a new venture for the choir (performing at a Cathedral).

There are various exciting plans under discussion, ranging from considering new hymnbooks for the church, examining the possibility of commissioning a piece of music for the choir from a well-known composer, and reinstating some kind of music festival in the summer of 2025 (exact format to be decided in due course). There is enormous potential for the music at St. Peter's to not simply exist as it currently is – but to flourish and blossom into something truly special. I am very much looking forward to continuing this journey with the choir and church as a whole in the months and years to come.

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor

The Parish Magazine has continued to be published every month both in printed form and on the website. We have continued to maintain the integrity of the magazine by insisting that all articles are apolitical and, in accordance with Diocesan policy, the editor reserves the right to reject any contribution that he considers inappropriate.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine, whether as a reader/subscriber, a contributor, distributor, deliverer or advertiser. As we print in-house costs are reduced and more colour has been used in the magazine. Although we have lost some advertisers the magazine accounts are in surplus. The value of the magazine is in its outreach and contact with the wider community. It remains a Church Magazine, not a Community magazine, though contributions from community organisations will be duly considered.

As a legal requirement, a hard copy is posted to the British Library.

An electronic copy is sent every month, at their request, to the Diocesan Press Office, and the editor makes a point of drawing their attention to any particularly noteworthy stories, just in case the magazine is archived without being read! Members of the Press Office staff have commented that they can always rely on the St Peter's magazine to have an interesting story.

Each year the magazines are bound into a hard copy, which is stored in the Parish Office and eventually in the Diocesan Archives.

David Webber remains as editor, Sue Marlow as Business Manager and Peter Davies as Distribution Manager, and Liz Johnson as printer.

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

The St. Peter's 'Pastoral Team' continues to support the clergy in the following areas:

- Keeping up to date with those who are ill, absent, or in need.
- Visiting the sick and housebound.
- Taking Home Communion to those unable to get to church in the short or longer term.
- Care Home ministry – leading a communion service (using the reserved sacrament) twice monthly at Hampton House and monthly at Middleton House and Lilleybrook Care Home. We resumed services at Lilleybrook in the autumn following the appointment of a new Activities Co-ordinator and have been encouraged by the warmth of the welcome we have received. Carol Services were held in all three homes this Christmas and were greatly appreciated and well attended.
- Bereavement visiting.

- Monthly Friday Lunch with Friends – restarted in September 2022 after a long Covid break and regularly brings 20+ people together for a shared lunch.

Wedding Preparation is now organised by the South Cheltenham Team. Baptism preparation is negotiated by Rev Gary with individual families.

The team meets every other month to share updates on all of the above areas and is made up of Rev Gary, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Anne Webber, Steve Whittingham and Sally Marlow. We have been pleased to recently welcome Rev Jade Scholes to our group.

PCC Report

Chrissie Brown – PCC Secretary

Following last year's APCM, St Peter's PCC consisted of our Clergy, Readers, ten Lay members, one co-opted member and six Ex-Officio members. At our first PCC meeting following the APCM we elected our PCC officers. Rev. Gary Grady continuing in his role as Chair. David Webber and Sally Marlow elected to be our Church Wardens, Arthur Webb elected as Deputy Church Warden, Peter Marlow elected as Treasurer and Chrissie Brown elected as PCC Secretary. Richard Kerr-Wilson was co-opted onto the PCC to serve as our Eco Officer and has successfully steered St Peter's to achieve the Silver Eco Award.

Peter Davies, Brad Coates, and Mike Riley represent the PCC at Deanery Synod meetings and report any relevant information back to the PCC. Peter Davies and Helen Shill represent the PCC at South Cheltenham Team meetings and report any relevant information to the PCC. Helen Shill is also our Youth Representative.

The PCC have met five times during the last PCC year. At our meetings, the agenda has covered, building and ground maintenance, reordering, finance, safeguarding, a South Cheltenham Team and Youth update and Health and Safety. This year we have added a new agenda item of Eco Matters. Any other business can be added to the agenda as needed.

The highlights of the year have been the completion of a Lone Working Policy to enable people to work safely at St Peter's, welcoming our new Director of Music Kit Perona, endorsing the applications of Sue Laurence and Mark Hambling as Foundation Governors at Leckhampton School and finally endless discussions about the reordering project in church which has finally come to fruition. Melissa Webb also gave a presentation about St Peter's becoming Prison prayer champions for a six-month period.

The Standing Committee have met twice, and reports of any discussions were received by the PCC, discussed where necessary and recorded in PCC Minutes.

All PCC members have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training.

Rainbows (37th Cheltenham (Leckhampton) Rainbows)

Maggie Ansell – Rainbow Leader

The Rainbows have now been at the cottages for 18 months and we are really enjoying having our weekly meetings here. We have had a busy time since Spring last year working on and completing unit meeting activities and skills builders which make up our Rainbow programme.

Our theme for the Summer term was 'Live Smart', the Rainbows started to develop key skills in areas such as money management, personal safety, cooking, career development and DIY – they particularly enjoyed being safety superheroes and all the activities which involved food!! We ended the Summer term with a Teddy Bears Picnic in the garden.

At the start of the Autumn term we welcomed 6 new Rainbows and started working on our 'Communicate' topic, exploring how they communicate and develop a variety of verbal and non-verbal techniques for communicating their messages. We also had a go at signing a song for our campfire evening. We ended the term with a Christmas party and presentation of Pots of Gold for Rainbows moving onto Brownies.

We began the Spring term welcoming 5 new Rainbows, and a Rainbow from another unit which unfortunately had to close – we currently have 16 girls in the unit but hope to be back to 18 after Easter. Our theme for the Spring term was ‘First aid’ and we looked at ways of developing skills in areas such as First aid kit preparation and use, coping in an emergency and casualty care. We had lots of fun with some practical activities involving mending our friends - learning how to apply a plaster correctly, bandaging, washing hands correctly and playing a game learning how to treat different types of bites.

Throughout the year I have been able to present lots of interest badges, theme awards and Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We have also been fortunate to welcome some new adult helpers to the Rainbow Team.

Safeguarding

Sally Champion

St Peter’s continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. There have been no serious causes for concern. Any issues are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy. Sally Champion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Liz Johnson continues to act as Evidence Checker.

Sally Champion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Champion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary Grady, Sally Champion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

Invites to complete safeguarding training continue to be sent out to those who carry out roles which require it. Liz Johnson as Parish Administrator keeps a record of all training completed. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained.

Sally Champion has been contacted by Andrew Mallin-Jones, Safeguarding Officer at St Philip and St James, regarding delivering the Basic Awareness Safeguarding Course. Mr. Mallin-Jones has recently trained to deliver the course face to face. A requirement of delivery is that a second safeguarding officer is present to support anyone who finds the content of the course distressing. Sally Champion has agreed to support Mr. Mallin-Jones in this role on 21st March 2024.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social Committee continued to support the Church Calendar in 2023 – with the following taking place:

On Mothering Sunday 19th March – Suzy kindly made her beautiful Simnel cake once again which was enjoyed with coffee after the service.

Hot cross buns were served following the Good Friday service and on Easter Day “fizz” was served along with coffee following the 10 am service.

Sunday 7th May - we celebrated the King’s Coronation held the day before – Suzy made a wonderful celebration cake which was enjoyed outside in the sunshine – with “fizz” of course!

On Sunday 2nd July – “Petertide” was celebrated – this was a “bring your own picnic” at 12 noon with the committee providing strawberries (grown locally at Shurdington) and cream. The weather brightened up just in time for about 40 people to sit outside with their picnics.

An evening of “Hymns and Pimms” was held on Sunday 16th July – the committee providing refreshments after the singing.

Pimms again was served after the Choral Evensong for Harvest on 1st October.

The All Souls service on the 5th November was well attended and refreshments were served at the back of the church. Following this very moving service of remembrance all worshipers had the opportunity to socialise together along with both Rev Gary and Dereck.

On the 17th December we welcomed over 90 people in the cottages after the Carol Service – serving mulled wine and mince pies.

My special thanks to Ro, Anna, Sally, Andrea, Penny, Pat and Helen “S” and especially our talented “star baker” Suzy and not forgetting friends who help us out – Val, Anneliese, Averil, Jim, Peter & Duncan – plus all the mince pie makers. Our thanks to Rev Gary for his ongoing support.

Our committee like to play a part in the “Ministry of Hospitality” in welcoming our family of St Peters and visitors at various events.....which could include a glass of “fizz”!!

South Cheltenham Churches Team Council

Reverend Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team is made up of St. Peter’s, Leckhampton, St. Philip and St. James, Leckhampton, St. Christopher’s, Warden Hill, St. Stephen’s, Tivoli, and Emmanuel, Naunton Park, the latter of which is in partnership with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC), who hold a Bishop’s Mission Order (BMO) for the Cheltenham Deanery.

Our shared vision is:

‘Our team will be joyful, prayerful and engaged with our communities. We will be thriving, growing congregations reflecting a vivid mosaic of spirituality. Shaped by our communities and working together with our ecumenical partners, we will offer a prophetic, Kingdom challenge. As a result, South Cheltenham will know itself to be loved and supported. Intrigued by what we do, they will have a growing awareness of our team and our Churches as the spiritual hubs of inclusive communities.’

During the past year, I have taken up the role of Team Rector, replacing Canon Nick Davies, who moved to be the new Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey. We have also welcomed Revd Lauren Gate as the new Vicar of St. Christopher’s, Warden Hill, and Abbie Marsh as the new Youth Worker for the team.

At the time of writing, there is an advert in Church Times for a Team Vicar with responsibility for St Stephen’s and St. Philip & James; it is hoped that this post will be filled quickly in 2024.

The partnership between Emmanuel and CNC, part of the national C of E ‘mixed ecology’ strategy to enable neighbourhood and network churches to work together, has continued to flourish under the leadership of Revd Dr Sarah Haden.

The South Cheltenham Team Council meets quarterly, with representatives of each church working together to discern how we can share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in this area. Please continue to pray for the diversity and unity of the team, we are stronger together.

St Peter's Little Pebbles

Lara Skinner

Little Pebbles has been running well this year, we have a lovely community who attend on a weekly basis and occasionally we have new comers, or families that attend infrequently. We are looking forward to the summer weather when we will be able to free flow into the garden. Crafts we have done this year include cake decoration, bead threading, conker spiders and seasonal crafts (Easter/Christmas). The past few weeks it has been lovely to have Jade visiting and chatting to families – I think this is important in order to encourage church links/attendance.

Every school holiday I spend a couple of hours sorting and cleaning the toys and books, which we update from time to time.

We have a small group of volunteers but it would be wonderful if there is a couple more people willing to come along to help on an occasional basis.

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

Until 7 January 2024 when St Peter's closed for reordering the refreshments team have worked hard and conscientiously providing tea, coffee, squash, biscuits and sometimes cake every Sunday without exception. Our grateful thanks go to an excellent team of willing helpers. On occasions during the better weather a number of parishioners ventured into the lovely cottage gardens with their refreshments, relaxing in the sunshine and catching up on the week's news.

As always anyone who'd like to join the team please do get in touch with either Ro Baillie 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson 07990 813122.

APCM Youth Update

Abbie Marsh – South Cheltenham Team Youth Worker

I started my role as youth worker in April 2023. Sarah H had done a brilliant job of caretaking and handing over the youth ministry to me. I had the privilege of being a part of the Confirmation classes on Tuesday evenings and the service at Pip and Jim's. This was a great way to meet many young people across the churches and an encouragement to see young people take this step in their faith.

I worked hard first of all to get our safeguarding up to date, and this has been an ongoing commitment across the past year. A recent safeguarding audit made us feel grateful for all the work we have put in!

One of the exciting projects that I have had the opportunity to be part of, is the new worship evenings starting in Cheltenham. Tim O'Leary from Trinity has set up a youth project called Fabric and as part of that has developed a steering group to lead regular worship nights. I am part of this steering group along with some brilliant local youth workers. We are in the process of preparing for our second event in March, and our South Cheltenham young people are looking forward to joining for the next one.

I had a meeting with Balcarras school just before the summer holidays last year, and they gave me permission to pull a team together to set up a CU at Balcarras. Since the autumn term we have meet meeting every Wednesday lunch time. Our group is mainly sixth-formers at the moment, a mixture of those who go to church and don't (or used to go but don't at the moment). I will be involved with year 6 services in the summer term, to engage with young people coming up from primary schools and letting them know about our work.

An exciting community project is in progress. I am a trained personal trainer, and currently taking two level 2 up-skill courses that will allow me to run fitness groups for young people. My vision is that, once trained, this will be a tool to meet a massive need for young people in our community at the moment which is around mental health and wellbeing.

I am really encouraged by the growth of the youth team and representation from across our churches. We have had some great times praying and meeting together and getting to know one another more. We could not do what we do without this fantastic group of people who are committed to loving and serving our young people, as well as reaching out to young people in our community.

We have had 37 young people on our register who have connected on a Tuesday or Sunday since the beginning of the Autumn term. We have 18 young people (same people from our number of 37) coming to the YFC weekend away at the end of February, which we hope will be a really special time.

We had two young people aged 16 do work experience over the summer. Thank you to those who got involved with this! As part of this, we ran a board game café for children and young people which gave us the opportunity to meet young people in our community for the first time.

One of the things I am really passionate about is young people being an active part of the church (should they wish to be). Across the team, we see this through young people being in choir, helping out in services, running tech, and helping to run community events such as the recent pancake day event. We hope that we can allow young people to grow in living out their faith and getting stuck into church life wherever they would like to.

We continue to have regular youth groups on Sunday at CNC/E and Pip and Jim's. We continue to have a weekly whole team youth group on Tuesday evenings. The friendships across our churches in the youth group are really special. We are trying to run a termly 'big social' to invite young people from our community to join us for. The last one was our Christmas meal and silent disco, and the next one will be an inflatables evening.

Please continue to pray for Sundays, Tuesdays, schools work, community socials, the weekend away, and the new community project. My biggest prayer is that the young people we have will continue to grow in faith, and that we will be able to engage with more young people in our community.

Accounts



St Peter's

**Leckhampton
Parish Church**

Parochial Church Council Annual Report for 2022

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church Leckhampton exists to love and worship God,
to serve our neighbours and to pass on the faith in Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you
and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location:	St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence:	The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 0QJ

Members

Following the 2022 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows (the years elected are shown in brackets):

Team Vicar and Chair	Revd Gary Grady
Curate	Revd Jacqueline Henson
Readers	Dereck Freeman Melissa Webb

EX-OFFICIO

Churchwardens	Jennie Hawdon (2022) David Webber (2022)
Deputy Churchwarden	Arthur Webb (2022)
Deanery Synod Representatives (2020-2023)	Mike Riley Peter Davies * Brad Coates

LAY MEMBERS

Lay Members elected 2020-2023 (one year of service remaining)	Sally Marlow Penny Piggott Christine Brown (Secretary) Anne Webber
Lay Members elected 2021-2024 (two years of service remaining)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill * Sarah Wood
Lay Members elected 2022-2025 (three years of service remaining)	Mike Riley Margaret Kyffin Peter Marlow (Treasurer)
Co-opted Member	Richard Kerr-Wilson 2022 (Eco Officer)

* SCTM Representatives

Totals: PCC members: 10, Ex officio 6, co-opted 1

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- **Electoral Roll**: Currently there are **145** on our electoral roll, so we can have up to 15 lay members on the PCC as well as two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members**: The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The Secretary and Treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of Office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM	3 years
Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr David Evans
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The following Committees promote the life of St Peter's:

Social Committee:	Revd Gary Grady, Ro Baillie, Helen Yates
Pastoral Team:	Revd Gary Grady, Revd Jacqueline Henson, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Anne Webber, Sally Marlow, Steve Whittington, Penny Williams

Ministry Report

2022 has been another extraordinary year.

Whilst many of the pandemic restrictions were slowly lifted, we continued to remain cautious, with the common cup having not yet returned and various precautions still in place.

We have continued to worship both in-person and on-line, with the 10am Sunday service and Morning Prayer (each day) being live-streamed throughout the year; we will continue to do this in 2023.

In May, our boiler finally failed beyond economic repair and, with the C of E aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030, we were encouraged to look at a greener way to heat St. Peter's. Having explored all of the available options, plans for a new under-pew heating system were drawn up and this was installed in November, just in time for the colder winter months. This also contributed to us achieving a Silver Eco-Church Award.

At the same time, our long awaited reordering faculty was approved and we now look forward to having a new sound system, large screens, an integrated live-streaming hub, and some new furniture (at the front as well as an enclosure for the Giffard Memorial) being installed in 2023. Changes to the nave altar area will then follow, most probably in 2024.

Thank you for your patient endurance and support for all of these schemes.

I continue to look ahead with optimism. Our numbers and finances have rallied after the pandemic and there is more to come with the hoped for restarting of our Junior Church. Our relationship with the local schools is excellent and we continue to reach out in many ways to the local community through our groups and events; and our beautiful building and churchyard continues to attract people to 'come and see'.

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2022, and for how you have showed your love for God through what you do for others.

Every blessing for 2023 and beyond.

Revd Gary Grady, Team Vicar

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2022

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2022
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2022
- Notes that explain the detail.

Overall, St Peters remains in a good financial position with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £209,459, a decrease of £19,570 over 2021. This is better than expected given that we have spent £35,535 on the new heating system and £3,640 on the vestry reconstruction.

Total funds carried forward, which includes restricted income and investments, is £248,011, a decrease of £25,595 over 2021. Unfortunately, the big increase in the value of our investments of £7,628 in 2021 was reversed in 2022 with a loss of £7,450. We have however been able to consolidate the Gloucester Diocesan Trusts into a single accessible restricted fund which can be spent on the Church external fabric and the Churchyard as required.

We achieved a surplus on running costs in 2022 of £8,332: a great result!

We currently have 75 regular givers, 71 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme. Regular giving massively helps St Peters to plan its finances.

The South Cheltenham Churches Refugee Project was wound down in 2022 after 5 years. The project balance is £4,917 was donated to GARAS as originally agreed.

The Music Festival in October raised £1,670 for Mindsong. The Afternoon Teas in June/July raised £450 for Family Space thanks to events organised by the Leckhampton Local History Society. The Carol Singing and Friday lunches raised £521 for the Childrens' Society. Over the past year there were 474 transactions through the card reader in church to a value of £2,822 (398 transactions to a value of £2,126 in 2021). The terminal fees were £258 over the year with a 2.5% transaction cost.

We were able to start our reordering project in October 2022 with the installation of a new electric heating system. The cost of £46,283 was offset by a grant of £7,107 to cover the VAT from the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme.

Policy on Reserves

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection Report of 2020 the Churchwardens and PCC propose to set aside unrestricted reserves of £20,000 to cover liabilities, as has been previous policy. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of 6 months running costs (£65,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds are earmarked for the continuing reordering project 2023 to 2024.

Expenses Payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2022. Also many thanks to the Independent Examiner, David Evans.

Peter Marlow

Hon Treasurer

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 72,262	£ -	£ -	£ 72,262	£ 69,896
Other planned giving		£ 7,525	£ -	£ -	£ 7,525	£ 7,412
Collections at Services		£ 7,163	£ -	£ -	£ 7,163	£ 5,546
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 7,064	£ 7,775	£ -	£ 14,839	£ 18,922
Gift Aid recovered		£ 20,557	£ 221	£ -	£ 20,778	£ 18,678
Legacies		£ 11,597	£ -	£ -	£ 11,597	£ 6,000
Grants		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 1,928	£ 421	£ -	£ 2,350	£ 1,530
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 14,249	£ -	£ -	£ 14,249	£ 11,094
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall), NOT fundraising.	5	£ 11,070	£ -	£ -	£ 11,070	£ 7,221
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/ receipts not already listed	11	£ -	£ 29,081	£ -	£ 29,081	£ -
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 153,414	£ 37,499	£ -	£ 190,913	£ 146,299
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations	3,7	£ 500	£ 7,195	£ -	£ 7,695	£ 3,062
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 71,516	£ -	£ -	£ 71,516	£ 70,593
Salaries, wages and honoraria		£ 9,927	£ -	£ -	£ 9,927	£ 9,404
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,909	£ -	£ -	£ 2,909	£ 2,559
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6	£ 1,688	£ 340	£ -	£ 2,028	£ 6,400
Church running expenses	8	£ 36,718	£ 1,239	£ -	£ 37,957	£ 34,187
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 5,289	£ -	£ -	£ 5,289	£ 3,989
Cost of trading	9	£ 1,210	£ -	£ -	£ 1,210	£ 1,404
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building	10	£ 4,565	£ -	£ -	£ 4,565	£ -
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property		£ 35,535	£ -	£ -	£ 35,535	£ 7,003
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)						
Other outgoing resources	11	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
		£ 604	£ 28,836	£ -	£ 29,440	£ 636
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 170,460	£ 37,610	£ -	£ 208,070	£ 139,237
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ (17,046)	£ (111)	£ -	£ (17,157)	£ 7,062
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ (17,046)	£ (111)	£ -	£ (17,157)	£ 7,062
Gains on investment assets		£ (2,535)	£ -	£ (4,914)	£ (7,450)	£ 7,628
Net movement in funds		£ (19,581)	£ (111)	£ (4,914)	£ (24,607)	£ 14,689
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2022		£ 229,040	£ 11,424	£ 32,154	£ 272,618	£ 257,928
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		£ 209,459	£ 11,312	£ 27,240	£ 248,011	£ 272,618

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
PCC Main Bank Account (CAF)	£ 36,474	£ 9,738	£ -	£ 46,212	£ 31,211
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Treasurer)	£ -	£ 883	£ -	£ 883	£ 7,688
PCC Lloyds Bank Account	£ -	£ 691	£ -	£ 691	£ 691
PCC Deposit Account with CCLA	£ 147,578	£ -	£ -	£ 147,578	£ 172,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Account & Petty Cash (Flowers)	£ 1,071	£ -	£ -	£ 1,071	£ 1,424
PCC Investment with CCLA	£ 18,882	£ -	£ -	£ 18,882	£ 21,417
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 204,004	£ 11,312	£ -	£ 215,316	£ 235,009
Gloucester Diocesan Trust (consolidated)	£ -	£ -	£ 27,240	£ 27,240	£ 32,154
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ 27,240	£ 27,240	£ 32,154
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
				£ 248,011	£ 272,618

Adopted by the PCC on 28-Mar-2023, and signed on behalf by:



Rev Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Vicar

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted.

The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Freewill Offering & General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 6,273		
Tears	£ 451		donated to Family Space
Coffee Pig	£ 339		
Refugee Project		£ 40	
Music Festival		£ 1,662	donated to MindSong
Youth Project		£ 340	
World Land		£ 91	
Royal British Legion (Roger Richards' Funeral)		£ 28	
Childrens' Society		£ 321	Friday Lunches & Carol Singing
Organ Scholarship		£ 250	
Furniture appeal for reordering		£ 4,844	
TOTAL	£ 7,064	£ 7,775	

4 Income from fundraising activities

See Note 3 above

TOTAL	£ -
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5 Income from Trading

	2022	2021
Flower income	£ 856	£ 1,414
Magazine income	£ 1,482	£ 660
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 1,462	£ 1,947
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 7,270	£ 3,201
TOTAL	£ 11,070	£ 9,242

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted
Little Pebbles	£ 1,688	
Youth Project		£ 340
TOTAL	£ 1,688	£ 340

7 Refugee Project

	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£	4,722
Income				
Monthly Donations - Gift Aided	£	30.00		
Monthly Donations - Non Gift Aided	£	10.00		
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£	155.00		
	TOTAL INCOME		£	195.00
Outgoings				
Donation to GARAS	£	(4,917)		
	TOTAL OUTGOINGS		£	(4,917)
	2022 BALANCE at 31-Dec-22		£	-

8 Church Running Expenses

	2022	2021
General Church Running Expenses	£ 11,440	£ 8,902
General Church Maintenance	£ 4,039	£ 3,548
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 8,920	£ 9,096
Music costs	£ 8,450	£ 7,937
Administration costs	£ 206	£ 150
Insurance costs	£ 4,902	£ 4,554
TOTAL	£ 37,957	£ 36,208

9 Cost of Trading

Flower costs	£ 1,210	£ 1,404
Magazine costs*	£ -	£ -
TOTAL	£ 1,210	£ 1,404

* The Magazine is now produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'. The total costs in 2022 amounted to £814

10 Major capital expenditure

Vestry reconstruction	£ 3,640	
Boiler room gate	£ 925	
Replacement heating system (Phase 1 reordering)	£ 35,535	Including new 3-phase supply and VAT refund
TOTAL	£ 40,100	

11 Other Incoming/Outgoing Resources

Incoming		
Consolidation of trusts (via DBF)	£ 28,836	
Sale of shares - Gloucester Trust (Du Boulay)	£ 245	
Total incoming	£ 29,081	
Outgoing		
Transfer of Glos Funds to CCLA account	£ 28,836	
South Cheltenham Churches Team Expenditure	£ 604	
Total outgoing	£ 29,440	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: D G Evans ACIB

Address: 13 Leckhampton Views, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0AR

Date:

1 February 2023

Churchwardens report for the 2022 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Jennie Hawdon, Deputy Warden: Arthur Webb

As before David and Jennie have met regularly with Rev Gary to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, and to pass on pastoral concerns that may have come to their attention. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings. We have been pleased, as wardens, to be able to work with Rev Jacqueline and thank her for her ministry and support.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese. This year we attended separate annual Archdeacon's Visitation services when the wardens were officially admitted to their office.

The altar servers have continued to assist with the smooth running of services and in spite of being few in number have been able to cover every 10 am service. Thanks are due to them and to the readers, intercessors, welcomers, bellringers, choir and organist who all make a valuable contribution to services, and to the flower arrangers for their inspirational displays. Unfortunately Simon Gibson, the Director of Music, tendered his resignation in March. A new Director of Music will be appointed in due course and in the meantime we thank the various organists who have stood in.

The Church Building and Grounds

During the previous year the church and cottages had been inspected by Ecclesiastical Insurance to value the respective buildings and contents for rebuilding in the event of fire and to reassess for potential risk and to ensure that we are carrying out the necessary safety checks on a regular basis.

Although they were generally impressed by the high standard of maintenance and attention to safety and security some recommendations were made. All of these have been addressed, the most important being up-to-date inspections of the electricity circuits in the church and the cottages. They agreed to wait until after the 3-phase electricity supply for the under-pew heating was installed. Both inspections were completed in February 2023, with satisfactory certificates issued.

Regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies.

The gas boiler reached the end of its life and as the policy of General Synod and the Diocese discouraged its replacement under-pew heating has been installed, necessitating the installation of 3-phase electricity cabling from Church Road, under the path and into church.

A faculty application for reordering was finally approved by the Chancellor and part of this work has been completed. More detailed information will be given in a separate report.

During the COVID pandemic the pews had been being sprayed with anti-viral cleaner and wiped down after every service, and as a result they were looking very tired and uncared-for. In April, as the lockdown restrictions came to an end, we organised a special pew-polishing event to apply some restorative beeswax polish. A special church cleaning morning was organised again in October after the installation of the under-pew heating.

We are extremely grateful to Mohammed who continues to keep the churchyard neat and trim, and to a group of students from Cheltenham College who have helped out on a regular basis. Particular thanks are due to Brad Coates who has supervised and organised the upkeep of the churchyard.

Social activities returned to normal in the course of the year, including coffee after the Sunday 10.00 am service and Afternoon Teas in June/July. Other highlights included a Music Festival and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Thank you to all who help with the catering for these events.

The lights on the Christmas tree in the churchyard and round the lychgate during Advent have become a tradition. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who organises the lighting.

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Livvy Niblett

15th Cheltenham Brownies currently have 21 girls at the unit. We have been working towards both programme and challenge badges in some of our Brownie meetings. We have just had our very first Brownie complete all 15 interest badges.

Just before Christmas, we ran a very successful Christmas games evening. The Brownies worked together in small groups to create a Christmas themed game. We invited families along at the end of Brownies to play some of the games for a small fee. We were very pleased to raise a total of £70.00 for Young Lives vs Cancer.

This last year we have attended a District trip to Cattle Country farm park, a District Disco and a District cinema trip. We are looking forward to making use of the outside space at the cottages and spending some meetings outdoors next term.

CCP (Caring for Communities and People) Donations

Gilly Whittingham

Over the past year and increasingly over the latter part of 2022 and into 2023 the demand on the CCP Pantry has greatly increased. CCP rely on the generosity of supporters in the local community to donate food items for those living in poverty and struggling to provide food for themselves and/or their families. Again, the members of the congregation at St. Peters continue to give generously to the foodbank, demonstrated on a weekly basis by the amount of donations left in the porch for collection. I am also aware that there are a number of parishioners who made regular monetary donations. Each week that I visit the CCP pantry I am met with thanks from all the staff for the support that St. Peters has given and continues to give on a regular basis.

I endeavour to highlight, in the weekly newsletter, ways to increase donations at particular times of the year. The Lent appeal, which has now been going for a few years, brought in a massive 125.4kgs of donations in 2022. At our Harvest Festival service in September the donations amounted to 68.4kgs; all of which went to the Pantry. The Hamper Scamper appeal in the run up to Christmas brought in a further 32.9kgs in addition to the regular weekly collection.

All this brings the grand total for 2022 to a massive 972.9kgs, making it the most successful year since I have been recording the totals. It would be great to get over the 1000kg mark in 2023! A very big thank you to everyone who has donated, either with physical items or regular monetary donations.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a Deanery Synod is a synod convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members. Representing St Peter's Leckhampton with the Cheltenham Deanery are Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley.

The Area Dean for Cheltenham Deanery is Reverend Gary Grady. Reports containing minutes of Deanery Synod meetings are regularly reported to the PCC at St Peter's. During 2022 meetings were held as follows:

- February 15th at St Barnabas Cheltenham.
- June 27th at St Mary's Charlton Kings.
- October 13th at St Lukes Cheltenham.

Meetings for 2023: At the time of writing this report there is a meeting scheduled for March 29th at St Nicolas Cheltenham.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

The churchyard continues to be a beautiful place of reflection and tranquility with our special thanks to Mohammed and the regular gang of volunteers who keep it in such high order. We will continue to rewild where possible to create refuges for wildlife such as deer, owls and orchids. New volunteers are always welcome who can do anything from light tidying of the Garden of Remembrance to mowing.

Cottages Bookings

Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator

We have had steady bookings over the past year where the Cottages have been used by various church and community groups as well as private hirers. Church groups include Little Pebbles, Julian Group, Ladies and Mens fellowship groups and in May we welcomed back the Craft Group. Other hirers include private parties, primary school tuition and a Diocesan Mindfulness Course. In addition to Brownies, we now have Rainbows each week during termtime. Crossroads Care's Azalea Club ran all year, but have now outgrown our premises, so had their last session in February. We are sad to see them go.

To comply with our Eco Church ethos, I try where possible to order sustainable and fairtrade supplies for the Cottages. We encourage all hirers and church groups to use the recycling boxes and food bin in the Cottages: the recycling fairy (Liz) would welcome your help in this – please squash tins/plastic/cardboard where possible, only put clean items into the boxes and change the liner in the food bin after use.

Craft-T-Time

Kathy Webb

Spring saw the Craft Group once more meeting in person at the Cottages. This year we learned how to make greetings cards using Iris Folding, a technique that involves arranging and layering strips of paper in a spiralled pattern that resembles the iris of a camera. The technique took a bit of time to master, but was most rewarding.

Throughout the year, the knitters amongst us have produced hats, jackets and blankets for the premature baby unit at Gloucester Royal Hospital as well as knitting dozens of angels for the CaBiC (Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Anna Chaplaincy) Christmas Appeal for delivery to older people in local care homes.

The group also continues to knit the blankets that are given as gifts to babies who are baptised at St Peter's.

Anyone attending the monthly mid-week communion services at St Peter's is more than welcome to join us for coffee after the service.

EcoChurch

Richard Kerr-Wilson

We began the year with a Bronze award from A Rocha, but ended the year with a Silver.

We had one meeting in February with a small committee, and another in the churchyard in April to plan how we could rewild some of the area. This was followed by a successful application for a Silver award which we were awarded in June. We had another meeting of an enlarged committee of eight members in November.

We are very grateful to all those who have contributed to our achievements so far, especially Ben Gilchrist, Brad Coates and Mohammed Abazied.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Eric Miller

The current total on the Roll is 145, two more than last year. Further applications can be made at any time and regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names so that they can be contacted speedily with any important information. It is also the case than only those whose names are on the Roll may vote at the Parish Annual Meeting.

Flower Guild

Veronica Biddle

2022 saw the Guild get back to some sort of normality as we were able to arrange flowers in church on a weekly basis as well as special festivals and occasions. There were fewer weddings than we expected and some of the brides did not ask for special flowers being happy to accept whatever was in the church. We also did flowers for a couple of funerals.

The cost of flowers has increased considerably over the last couple of years, but the temperature in church has been so cold throughout the week that flowers have lasted much longer than expected. This has been a great saving.

During the year some of us looked into using local flower growers but it was felt that they didn't grow the variety or kinds of flowers we wanted to use and they were not available at the right time. We have changed our mechanics and we are now using biodegradable materials. We will continue to keep an open mind about sourcing of local flowers in the future and use them when appropriate.

House Group

Arthur and Kathy Webb

For the first half of 2022 the House Group continued to meet monthly via Zoom, but after a break over the summer we resumed meeting in person. During the year we added Isaac, Jacob, Abraham and Sarah and Abel to our exploration of Douglas Connolly's "Heroes of Faith" and then moved on to take a look at the Beatitudes using Robert Warren & Sue Mayfield's "Life Attitudes". By the autumn our numbers had dropped for a variety of reasons and a decision was made to wrap the group up.

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

We are so pleased that normality has returned in the course of the year and we have been able to meet together monthly in the Cottages. It makes such a difference to have the physical companionship, as we seek to centre ourselves in a place of stillness and silence with God.

We are still very few in number. If you are at all interested in trying a contemplative and still approach to God, away from the clamour and demands of our busy world, please consider joining us in the Cottages on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact: Jennie Hawdon.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church met to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies. We have still not resumed Sunday sessions, but intend to do so. In the meantime, we make sure there are some activities in the children's area in church each Sunday, and will be meeting to plan how we welcome children and their families back when our sessions start up again.

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

The Ladies Fellowship, at last, has been able to plan a full programme of meeting and outings for 2023. In May 2022, we visited North Cerney Garden and all had a lovely time with tea and cake to round the afternoon off, what a beautiful Garden, we plan to go again this year. Later in the year a large group of us went to the Tuckwell Theatre, we had a wonderful shared picnic followed by a wonderful production of "Pygmalion", an enjoyable evening was had by all. Then in November Suzy put on a "Cale Decoration Demonstration" in the Cottages. We all had great fun after her demonstration decorating Christmas cake with her many stamps and tools.

So far this year we've visited the Everyman to see an Alan Ayckbourne play, fantastic, and listened to a wonderful talk by Reverend Jacqueline, who knew she'd had such an amazing life before being called to Priesthood.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

This year we warmly welcome new learners Keith Reading and Jacob Coates to the band. Also, Brad Coates, who is returning after about a 20 year absence. Since we now have a healthy number of learners, we start our Monday practices at 7pm to focus on them, until the main practice starts soon after 7:30pm. This is working well.

We usually have good attendance for Sunday Service ringing and often have enough to ring all eight bells. Most Sunday evenings we attempt a quarter peal, with assistance from other local ringers.

In August we hosted an introduction to ringing event for six employees from the P3 Homeless Housing Charity. This included a visit up the tower, a go at handbell ringing, plus the opportunity to chime a bell and to pull off a raised bell at Handstroke.

On 9th September, we rang the bells half-muffled in mourning for Queen Elizabeth II and the next day for the proclamation of King Charles III. We also rang before the Queen's funeral on 19th September.

At the end of September, most of us plus a number of ex-Leckhampton ringers and friends spent an enjoyable long weekend visiting all the ringable towers on the Isle of Wight.

In November we rang a full peal to mark 50 years since the first peal on the new ring. The band included Hilda Ridley, plus Bernard and Malcolm Taylor, who all rang in the original peal. In total, five peals were rung this year.

Another remarkable achievement was ringing the 2,000th quarter peal on the bells since the rehang in 1972. This happened on 30th January and was featured in the Ringing World magazine. This is almost certainly the most quarter peals yet rung in a church anywhere.

Stuart continues to visit the belfry roughly every 6 weeks to do a visual check of the bells and fittings. Keith now assists with belfry maintenance and has a lot of useful engineering experience. Following a discussion with Gary, the sound control has been adjusted so that the bells sound a bit quieter outside the church.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Jane Allison, Sue Marlow, Gilly Whittingham and Revd Gary

At the start of the year the school was still working under some restrictions brought in during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the year progressed the school returned to normal and extracurricular activities, sports fixtures and out of school visits were able to resume. The Year 6 children went on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight and attended the leavers' service at Gloucester Cathedral. They also performed in a production that was enjoyed by families and the rest of the school. The Pupil Parliament has been active and children have organised fund raising activities for various charities including Ukraine.

Governors attend meetings regularly and visit the school, meeting with staff to hear about aspects of school life and to report to the Governing body on progress in different subject areas. Rev Gary or Rev Jacqueline lead an assembly at least once per month and have also been a part of special school moments, including switching on the Christmas Tree lights.

The school expansion is continuing and the new hall, classrooms and facilities are well used and enjoyed by all. A calm zone has been created enabling children who need it to access a quiet space. The school again welcomed three new classes in Reception and this year they were able to come to St. Peter's in October for a welcome service led by Rev Gary. There are now three classes in all but two year groups.

The increase in pupil numbers has led to a need for changes in the staffing structure with more leadership roles created. Governors have participated in the appointment procedures including for the new position of Deputy Head Teacher. Miss Bird joined the school in September, she settled in quickly and is enjoying her role.

In November Miss Porter received a phone call to inform the school that an Ofsted inspection was to take place starting the following morning. The two day visit was stressful but the school was well prepared. The inspectors looked at all areas of the curriculum and school life, they visited lessons and met with staff and Governors. Ofsted's criteria have changed significantly since the last inspection in 2008 and the school was pleased to be graded Good with Outstanding features.

Men's Group

Richard Kerr-Wilson

The Men's Group continued to meet on the first Thursday in the month throughout the year, apart from January, June and August. Meetings were mostly social and were well attended, either at lunchtime or in the evening, usually at the Wheatsheaf in the Old Bath Road.

The meeting in February was to the Rococo gardens in Painswick for the snowdrops, with a guided tour thanks to Brenda Davies. This was followed by lunch in a local tavern. Another visit was planned to Croome Park in May, where Peter Davies had volunteered to act as guide, but unfortunately no one turned up on the day.

In September, there was a presentation in the evening in the church cottages on Eco Church and 'The Story of Stuff', followed by a lively discussion and accompanied by wine.

In 2023, we continue our regular meetings at the Wheatsheaf, but we also have fourteen men booked for skittles and supper on Wednesday 1st March.

Music

Simon Gibson, Director of Music

We have enjoyed another year of wonderful music at St Peter's. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee by singing a specially commissioned anthem written by Thomas Hewitt Jones for the RSCM – 'In Our Service'. We have welcomed some new and younger(!) voices to the choir and have sung a variety of music at the weekly Sunday Eucharist, ranging from the 1500s to the present day.

The Music Festival in October again proved to be very popular with both performers and audience. This year we had more choirs performing, but also some wonderful smaller groups and individuals, including some of my organ students. The musical quality was superb throughout the day, and we were so lucky to have such wonderful performances. The level of seriousness went from highly suspect at the start, with our organ and piano duets, to truly professional with Hannah Davey and James Gilchrist's song recital! Something for everyone, indeed, and huge thanks to the organisation team, Tabitha and Maggie. Thanks too for the refreshments on the day which we were able to enjoy outside.

Our Christmas Carol Service was the first one since 2019 where we would welcome a full congregation and was all the better for it. The services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day had the church full to bursting, with some enthusiastic singing – surely a reminder of what people had missed during our previous lockdown Christmases.

We enjoyed our first Hymns and Pimms service last July as well as two Choral Evensong services at Harvest and more recently at the start of Lent.

I want to put on record how much I have enjoyed my time at St Peter's. It has been my privilege to offer the music in worship week by week, to lead the choir and to play for services, and I am thrilled to see the choir in such a healthy state as I leave. Thank you for your support and friendship since 2014 and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Open the Book

Peter Davies

Open the book is administered by the Bible Society and the respective parish leader. Many churches participate, thus providing a team of people who visit one or more primary schools to present bible stories at the school assemblies or during Acts of Collective Worship. The Stories are taken from "The Lion Story Teller Bible" and year versions of Open the Book Storybooks. There is an advisory Handbook published by the Bible Society, as everything that is said or done has already been tried, tested and, if necessary, corrected. Our Registration with the Bible Society requests acceptance of such recommended rules of advice.

The Open the Book team representing St Peter's remains the same, Peter Davies (Leading), Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Annie Tincello and Sarah Wood. Reverend Gary Grady joins us regularly and is most welcome both by ourselves, the school teachers and the pupils.

However, since the lockdown period caused by the Covid related viruses the visits to Leckhampton Primary School and the Richard Pate School at bi-weekly morning assemblies have not re-started although all of the Leckhampton team, at the last count, are prepared to commence Open the Book led assemblies when these are again allowed. A very resent conversation with the Headmaster at Richard Pate was promising and it is intended this be followed-up in due course.

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor; Sue Marlow, Business Manager; Peter Davies, Distribution Manager

The Parish Magazine has continued to be published every month both in printed form and on the website. We have continued to maintain the integrity of the magazine by insisting that all articles are apolitical and, in accordance with Diocesan policy, the editor reserves the right to reject any contribution that he considers inappropriate.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine, whether as a reader/subscriber, a contributor, deliverer or advertiser. As we print in-house costs are reduced and more colour has been used in the magazine. The magazine accounts are in surplus. The value of the magazine is in its outreach and contact with the wider community. It remains a Church Magazine, not a Community magazine, though contributions from community organisations will be duly considered.

As a legal requirement, a hard copy is posted to the British Library.

An electronic copy is sent every month, at their request, to the Diocesan Press Office, and the editor makes a point of drawing their attention to any particularly noteworthy stories, just in case the magazine is archived without being read!

Each year the magazines are bound into a hard copy, which is stored in the Parish Office and eventually in the Diocesan Archives.

David Webber remains as editor, Sue Marlow as Business Manager and Peter Davies as Distribution Manager.

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

The St. Peter's 'Pastoral Team' continues to support the clergy in the following areas:

- Keeping up to date with those who are ill, absent, or in need.
- Visiting the sick and housebound.
- Taking Home Communion to those unable to get to church in the short or longer term.
- Care Home ministry – leading a communion service (using the reserved sacrament) once/month at Hampton House and Middleton House. Soon to become twice monthly at Hampton House.
- Bereavement visiting.
- Monthly Friday Lunch with Friends – restarted in September 2022 after a long Covid break and regularly brings 20+ people together for a shared lunch.

Wedding Preparation is now organised by the South Cheltenham Team. Baptism preparation is negotiated by Rev Gary with individual families.

The team meets every other month to share updates on all of the above areas and is made up of Rev Gary, Rev Jacqueline, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Anne Webber, Steve Whittingham and Sally Marlow.

PCC Report

Chrissie Brown – PCC Secretary

Following last year's APCM, St Peter's PCC consists of our Clergy and Readers, ten Lay members, one co-opted member and six Ex-Officio members. At the first PCC meeting following the APCM we elected our PCC officers. Rev. Gary Grady continuing in his role as Chair. David Webber and Jennie Hawdon were elected to be our Church Wardens with Arthur Webb was elected as Deputy Church Warden. Peter Marlow was elected as Treasurer and Chrissie Brown was elected as PCC Secretary.

The PCC have met four times during the last PCC year and in 2023 we returned to the Glebe Cottages for our meetings.

Peter Davies, Brad Coates and Mike Riley represent the PCC at Deanery Synod meetings and report any relevant information back to the PCC. Peter Davies and Helen Shill represent the PCC at South Cheltenham Team meetings and report any relevant information to the PCC. Richard Kerr-Wilson was elected to serve as our Eco Officer and has successfully steered St Peter's to achieve the Silver Eco Award.

The Standing Committee have met four times between PCC meetings and reports of any discussions were received by the PCC, discussed where necessary and recorded in PCC Minutes.

At our meetings, the agenda has covered Pandemic considerations, building and ground maintenance, reordering, heating, finance, safeguarding and a South Cheltenham Team update. Recently we have also added Health and Safety to the Agenda. Any other business can be added to the agenda as needed. Heating should now be redundant as an agenda item following the installation of the new under pew heating. Thankfully, Pandemic considerations should also no longer be needed as a regular agenda item.

All PCC members have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training.

Rainbows (37th Cheltenham (Leckhampton) Rainbows)

Maggie Ansell – Rainbow Leader

The Rainbow unit started their meetings at the cottages in September 2022, we take girls from the age of 5 and they stay with us until they are 7 and move onto Brownies. We are really enjoying being at the cottages and have had a busy time so far. As a member of Girl Guiding we have dedicated themes and activities that the girls take part in, which enables them to earn awards and badges.

During the Autumn term we welcomed five new Rainbows to our unit taking our total to 18 girls. Our theme for the Autumn term was 'Know Myself' where the girls got to discover what it takes to build an efficient team and be a successful team member, explore their identity, relationships with others and build confidence. We explored the theme through craft activities, games and songs.

One of our highlights of the term was our annual 'Indoor Camp', we toasted marshmallows over tea lights, read stories in pop up tents, had glow stick fun in the garden and had a camp fire with hot chocolate!! At our last meeting before Christmas I was very proud to be able to hand out lots of badges and awards.

We began this Spring term with a 'New Year' party, and again welcomed five new Rainbows, due to some of our older ones moving on to Brownies. Our theme we are working on this term is 'Take Action' where the girls will learn skills needed to identify and engage with decision making, they will learn to develop skills in influencing others on the things they care about, and using their voice to assert their own interests and needs. Also this term the girls will learn about 'Thinking Day' which is celebrated on February 22nd where we remember the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, who were the founders of the Guide and Scout movements.

Safeguarding

Sally Campion

St Peter's continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. There have been no serious causes for concern. Any issues are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy.

Sally Campion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Liz Johnson continues to act as Evidence Checker. Sally Campion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. The Church of England have recently updated the forms for doing this. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Campion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary Grady, Sally Campion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

Invites to complete safeguarding training continue to be sent out to those who carry out roles which require it. Liz Johnson as Parish Administrator keeps a record of all training completed. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained.

Rev Gary and Sally Campion completed a Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online course in January 2023. Rev Gary met with Sally Campion and Debbie Cypher (PSO at St Christophers) in November 2022 to share best practice and check that everything was up to date. It is planned to meet at least annually going forward.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social Committee continued to support the Church Calendar in 2022. After two years of Covid restrictions spring- time of 2022 heralded a return to normality.

On Mothering Sunday 27th March – Suzy's simnel cake was enjoyed with coffee after the service.

Hot Cross buns followed the Good Friday service and on Easter Day fizz supplemented coffee.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea was served on Sunday 7th May. It was held inside the cottages due to unfavourable weather. Over 70 people of all ages joined us – enjoyed fizz - with Simon leading us in "God Save the Queen". Again Suzy – our "star baker" excelled herself by producing a memorable cake shaped as a crown which took her 15 hours to decorate! Joan – a treasured member of our church family also became "Queen" for the occasion - wearing a crown and performed the cake cutting ceremony.

Sunday 3rd July – Petertide was celebrated with a "bring your own picnic" and we served strawberries and cream.

An evening of "Songs of Praise" was held on Sunday 17th July – and we served Pimms in the church – now called by many as "Hymns and Pimms"

Rev David Murray's 60th Anniversary of Ordination was celebrated with David presiding at the 10am Communion service – followed by "fizz" and speeches in the cottages gardens.

Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated by Evensong – followed again by Pimms.

The committee supported the Music Festival on 8th October by providing refreshments during the afternoon interval. We served over 80 people outside the west door in about 20 minutes – with many lovely comments on all the homemade cakes.

It was good to be able to resume refreshments in the church following the All Souls service on 8th November – it gave many the opportunity to talk to clergy, friends etc over a cup of tea.

On 18th December the usual mulled wine, mince pies etc were served in the cottages after the Carol Service.

This year we welcomed Andrea to our committee – and we would welcome any other new volunteers for future events. My thanks to Ro, Penny, Suzy, Anna, Sally and Andrea for all their friendship and support – and also Val, Hermione, Anneliese, Averil, Peter, Jim and Duncan – plus all the extra cake bakers, mince pie makers who support us at various events. Also our thanks to Rev Gary and Rev Jacqueline for their ongoing support and encouragement.

As a support group to the church we play our little part in the “Ministry of Hospitality in welcoming our family of St Peters and our visitors at various events which may even include “Fizz”!!

South Cheltenham Churches Team Council

Revd Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team Council is the body that represents St. Peter's Leckhampton, St. Philip and St. James Leckhampton, St. Stephen's Tivoli, Emmanuel and St. Christopher's Warden Hill, and is in partnership with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC), which holds a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for the Cheltenham Deanery.

Our shared vision is:

‘Our team will be joyful, prayerful and engaged with our communities. We will be thriving, growing congregations reflecting a vivid mosaic of spirituality. Shaped by our communities and working together with our ecumenical partners, we will offer a prophetic, Kingdom challenge. As a result, South Cheltenham will know itself to be loved and supported. Intrigued by what we do, they will have a growing awareness of our team and our Churches as the spiritual hubs of inclusive communities.’

During the past year we have moved to new rhythms of worship in all of our churches; this has included the reintroduction of midweek communion services, which are held in a different church each week (St. Peter's hosts this on a 4th Wednesday).

We have also continued to live-stream a service of Morning Prayer each day from one of our churches. The on-line community for this service has remained constant, with between 30 and 40 present either on-line or in-person each day (St. Peter's hosts this service every Thursday morning at 9am).

It has also been an exciting year for CNC and Emmanuel who embarked on a ‘mixed ecology’ project (this is where a new faith community complements an existing church) which has enabled them to work together under Revd Dr Sarah Haden, who is now the Leader of CNC and Team Vicar at Emmanuel.

During this time, the LEP known as ‘The Church in Warden Hill’ came to an end, although there continue to be good relations between both St. Christopher's and Cheltenham URC.

We have proven stronger when we work together as a South Cheltenham Team, and we will continue to look for opportunities to do this in 2023.

Little Pebbles

Lara Skinner

Little Pebbles is a group for pre-school children which meets on Tuesday mornings, with anywhere between 10 and 20 families usually in attendance. There is a range of ages, some very small babies up to pre-school age.

The session starts with free play followed by a rolling craft activity which is usually reflective of the season or Christian festival. We supply a snack, always with a healthy option of fruit and vegetables, a sweet treat and often breadsticks or rice cakes also. Parents are catered for too with a hot drink and biscuit or cake. Children then free play until we gather for music and singing. The children are always given a colouring sheet to take home with reflects the craft theme. This is a free session but the parents are mostly very generous in their donations.

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

Since our last APCM we have been lucky enough to be able to serve refreshments every Sunday without any COVID restrictions. During the warmer summer weather this was often taken out into the lovely cottage gardens which everyone thoroughly enjoys. During the year we have had several new volunteers join the team which has been much appreciated and has reduced the occasions that the regulars are needed to help out. As always we could certainly add more names to our list. Anyone who would like to assist please contact Ro Baillie on 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson on 07990 813122

APCM Youth Update

Sarah Haden- Clergy Youth Lead

2022 has been a year of change for the Youth project. In July our contract with YFC ended and we made the significant decision to invest in a full youth worker across the team. Our huge thanks go to Hanna Stürcken for all the hard work she invested in developing the youth project, especially in working through Covid in challenging circumstances. Hanna is continuing her work with YFC supporting churches across Gloucestershire.

In 2022 we saw a significant increase in the number of young people engaging with the Youth project and we are regularly seeing 15-20 young people on Tuesday evenings at our group in Emmanuel. We took a group to YFC's weekend away and are taking another large group this year. We have also seen an uplift in volunteers from across the team – something that has been incredibly valuable throughout the youth worker vacancy. We currently work regularly with 30 young people drawn from across the churches in South Cheltenham.

Abbie Marsh has been appointed Youth Worker for South Cheltenham and will begin in April 2023. We are very much looking forward to her beginning and are excited about the possibility of being able to invest more significant in mission to young people in our community, especially engaging with local schools.

My huge thanks goes to all the hard working volunteers who have taken on more responsibility during the vacancy. The Youth project is a fantastic initiative and working with the young people is a real joy. I'd highly recommend it!

Accounts



St Peter's

**Leckhampton
Parish Church**

Parochial Church Council Annual Report for 2021

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church Leckhampton exists to love and worship God,
to serve our neighbours and to pass on the faith in Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you
and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location:	St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence:	The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 0QJ

Members

Following the 2021 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows:

EX-OFFICIO

Team Vicar and Chair	Revd Gary Grady
Curate	Revd Jacqueline Henson
Readers	Dereck Freeman Melissa Webb
Churchwardens	Jennie Hawdon David Webber
Deputy Churchwarden	Arthur Webb

LAY MEMBERS

Deanery Synod Representatives (until 2023)	Mike Riley Peter Davies * † Brad Coates †
Lay Members elected for three years (2021)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill * Sarah Wood
Lay Members elected for two years (2020)	Sally Marlow Penny Piggott Christine Brown Anne Webber
Lay Members elected for one year (2019)	Mike Riley Margaret Kyffin Peter Marlow

* SCTM Representatives

† Co-opted members

Totals: PCC members: 10, Ex officio 7, co-opted 2

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- **Electoral Roll**: Currently there are **137** (with a further 6 applications pending PCC approval) on our electoral roll, so we can have up to 15 lay members on the PCC as well as two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members**: The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The Secretary and Treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of Office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM	3 years
Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr David Evans
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The following Committees promote the life of St Peter's:

Social Committee:	Revd Gary Grady, Ro Baillie, Helen Yates
Pastoral Team:	Revd Gary Grady, Revd Jacqueline Henson, Dereck Freeman, Jennie Hawdon, Anne Webber, Sally Marlow, Steve Whittington, Penny Williams

Ministry Report

2021 has been another extraordinary year!

We have continued to live amidst a global pandemic, unknown in many of our lifetimes.

The church nationally has continued to bury the dead, comforted the bereaved, feed the hungry and pray for our nation. We have done this as human beings, living through the same crisis as everyone else; grieving, home-schooling, worrying, getting sick, shielding, isolating and weeping.

Here at St. Peter's, we have worshipped on-line, kept in touch in different ways, worked out how to use new technologies and, slowly but surely, started to hold regular in-person services in our beautiful church building once again, treading a careful and cautious path.

In the midst of this, Revd Jacqueline Henson was ordained as a priest and has flourished in her ministry, which is testimony to her, her family and the worshipping family at St. Peter's.

As we reflect on another year like no other, I want to sincerely thank you for your support, patience and endurance.

Thank you for being there, for walking this path together, for digging deep, for finding moments of beauty and new ways to be in fellowship.

There will inevitably be some of you who are still feeling bruised, lonely, lost or afraid – if that's you, reach out because we walk this path together and God never intended us to be alone.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1. 5)

As I look ahead to this year (and next), it is with hope and optimism.

- We have a reordering project on the horizon, which will see some subtle but significant changes made to the building in terms of space, furniture and technology.
- We are working hard to become an Eco Church and 'green' our practices, including the provision of a new 'wild garden' in the churchyard, a new heating system (the boiler is on its last legs), and solar panels.
- We are continuing to engage with our schools, and already have a good working relationship with High School Leckhampton, which will open its doors (here) in the autumn.
- And we are blessed by all who attend St. Peter's and give so willingly, in so many ways.

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2021, and for how you have showed your love for God through what you do for others.

Every blessing for 2022 and beyond.

Revd Gary Grady, Team Vicar

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2021

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2021
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2021
- Notes that explain the detail.

Overall, St Peters remains in a good financial position despite the Spring lockdown, with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £229,029, an increase of £6,382 over 2020, returning us to the pre-pandemic level of 2019.

Total funds carried forward, which includes restricted income and investments, are £272,607, an increase of £14,679 over 2020 and well above the level of 2019. This was helped by a big increase in the value of our investments of £7,628.

We achieved a surplus on running costs in 2021 of £2,391, largely thanks to some unexpected and generous donations in December.

We currently have 75 regular givers, 71 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme. Regular giving massively helps St Peters to plan its finances.

As part of South Cheltenham Churches, we continue to support the Refugee Project. The project is being wound down in 2022 after 5 years. The project balance is £4,722 which will be donated to GARAS as originally agreed.

The Music Festival in October raised £1,891 for MusicSpace. The Afternoon Teas in June/July raised £321 for Family Space.

Parish Share was frozen at the 2018-level for 2021.

Over the past year there were 398 transactions through the card reader in church to a value of £2,126. The terminal fees were £258 over the year with £64 transaction costs.

The items of major expenditure in 2021 were the architect's fees for reordering plans and the new piano. The piano cost £5,265 which was offset by donations of £3,510. We also continue to support an organ scholar part funded by donation.

Policy on Reserves

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection Report of 2020 the Churchwardens and PCC propose to set aside unrestricted reserves of £20,000 to cover liabilities, as has been previous policy. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of 6 months running costs (£65,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds are earmarked for reordering in 2022, building maintenance and improvements.

Expenses Payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2021. Also many thanks to the Independent Examiner, David Evans.

Peter Marlow
Hon Treasurer

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 69,796	£ 100	£ -	£ 69,896	£ 67,256
Other planned giving		£ 7,412	£ -	£ -	£ 7,412	£ 8,225
Collections at Services		£ 5,546	£ -	£ -	£ 5,546	£ 3,000
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 9,325	£ 9,597	£ -	£ 18,922	£ 11,945
Gift Aid recovered		£ 17,824	£ 854	£ -	£ 18,678	£ 19,813
Legacies		£ 1,000	£ 5,000	£ -	£ 6,000	£ 100
Grants		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 133
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 714	£ 816	£ -	£ 1,530	£ 2,274
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 11,094	£ -	£ -	£ 11,094	£ 8,724
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	5	£ 7,221	£ -	£ -	£ 7,221	£ 3,873
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/ receipts not already listed		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 129,932	£ 16,367	£ -	£ 146,299	£ 125,342
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations		£ 421	£ 2,641	£ -	£ 3,062	£ 425
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 70,593	£ -	£ -	£ 70,593	£ 70,593
Salaries, wages and honoraria		£ 9,404	£ -	£ -	£ 9,404	£ 8,098
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,559	£ -	£ -	£ 2,559	£ 2,074
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6, 7	£ 1,260	£ 5,140	£ -	£ 6,400	£ 6,435
Church running expenses	8	£ 32,893	£ 1,294	£ -	£ 34,187	£ 28,512
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 3,989	£ -	£ -	£ 3,989	£ 6,510
Cost of trading	9	£ 1,404	£ -	£ -	£ 1,404	£ 364
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building	10	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 3,848
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property		£ 3,430	£ 3,573	£ -	£ 7,003	£ 1,907
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)						
Other outgoing resources	11	£ 636	£ -	£ -	£ 636	£ 636
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 126,589	£ 12,648	£ -	£ 139,237	£ 129,403
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 3,343	£ 3,718	£ -	£ 7,062	£ (4,061)
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ 3,343	£ 3,718	£ -	£ 7,062	£ (4,061)
Gains on investment assets		£ 3,049	£ -	£ 4,578	£ 7,628	£ 2,132
Net movement in funds		£ 6,393	£ 3,718	£ 4,578	£ 14,689	£ (1,929)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		£ 222,647	£ 7,705	£ 27,576	£ 257,928	£ 259,857
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		£ 229,040	£ 11,424	£ 32,154	£ 272,618	£ 257,928

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
PCC Main Bank Account (CAF)	£ 28,166	£ 3,045	£ -	£ 31,211	£ 24,956
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Treasurer)	£ -	£ 7,688	£ -	£ 7,688	£ 6,892
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Refugee Project)	£ -	£ 691	£ -	£ 691	£ 691
PCC Deposit Account with CCLA	£ 172,578	£ -	£ -	£ 172,578	£ 172,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Account & Petty Cash (Flowers)	£ 1,424	£ -	£ -	£ 1,424	£ 1,414
PCC Investment with CCLA	£ 21,417	£ -	£ -	£ 21,417	£ 18,368
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 223,585	£ 11,424	£ -	£ 235,009	£ 224,898
Gloucester Diocesan Trust	£ -	£ -	£ 32,154	£ 32,154	£ 27,576
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ 32,154	£ 32,154	£ 27,576
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
				£ 272,618	£ 257,928

Adopted by the PCC on 5 April 2022, and signed on behalf by:



Rev Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Vicar

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted. The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Freewill Offering & General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 8,740	£ 55	
Teas	£ 331		£321 donated to Family Space
Coffee Pig	£ 254		
Refugee Project		£ 2,850	
Music Festival		£ 1,891	donated to MusicSpace
Youth Project		£ 340	
Royal British Legion (Roger Richards' Funeral)		£ 338	
Children's Society		£ 362	Carol Singing
Organ Scholarship		£ 250	
Piano		£ 3,511	
TOTAL	£ 9,325	£ 9,597	

4 Income from fundraising activities

See Note 3 above	£ -
TOTAL	£ -

5 Income from Trading

	2021	2020	2019
Flower income	£ 1,414	£ 165	£ 1,533
Magazine income	£ 660	£ 1,080	£ 1,796
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 1,947	£ 278	£ 1,674
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 3,201	£ 2,350	£ 8,783
TOTAL	£ 7,221	£ 3,873	£ 13,787

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Refugee Project Expenditure	£ 1,260	£ 4,800	see note 7 below
Youth Project	£ 1,260	£ 340	
TOTAL	£ 1,260	£ 5,140	

7 Refugee Project

Income			
Monthly Donations - Gift Aided	£	2,670	
Monthly Donations - Non Gift Aided	£	180	
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£	704	plus £147.50 Gift Aid awaiting reclaim (Q4-21)
Bank Interest	£	0	
	TOTAL INCOME	£	3,554
Outgoings			
Rent Support: 99 W/Hill Road	£	4,800	
	TOTAL OUTGOINGS	£	4,800
	2021 BALANCE at 31-Dec-21	£	(1,246)

OVERALL PROJECT BALANCE at 31-Dec-21	£	4,722	plus £147.50 Gift Aid awaiting reclaim
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8 Church Running Expenses

	2021	2020	2019
General Church Running Expenses	£ 8,902	£ 6,150	£ 7,825
General Church Maintenance	£ 3,548	£ 1,401	£ 3,123
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 9,096	£ 9,785	£ 10,332
Music costs	£ 7,937	£ 6,345	£ 8,607
Administration costs	£ 150	£ 326	£ 355
Insurance costs	£ 4,554	£ 4,505	£ 4,040
TOTAL	£ 34,187	£ 28,512	£ 34,281

9 Cost of Trading

Flower costs	£ 1,404	£ 1,741
Magazine costs*	£ -	£ -
TOTAL	£ 1,404	£ 1,741

* The Magazine is now produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'. The total costs in 2021 amounted to £348

10 Major capital expenditure

Architect's Fees for Reordering Proposals	£ 1,738
Piano	£ 5,265
TOTAL	£ 7,003

11 Other Outgoing Resources

South Cheltenham Churches Team Expenditure	£ 636
TOTAL	£ 636

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: D G Evans ACIB

Address: 13 Leckhampton Views, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0AR

Date:

31st January 2022

Churchwardens report for the 2022 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Jennie Hawdon, Deputy Warden: Arthur Webb

David and Jennie have met regularly with Gary to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, especially with the challenges that have resulted from the Covid pandemic, and to pass on pastoral concerns that may have come to their attention. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings. It has been good to get back to some form of normality with face to face meetings, though these have still been as socially distanced as possible.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese. This year we were able to attend the annual Archdeacon's Visitation service held at Holy Trinity, when the wardens were officially admitted to their office.

Rev Jacqueline Henson is now in her second year with us as curate, and she has made a marked contribution to worship and parish life, in spite of the obvious restrictions of the pandemic. As churchwardens we thank her for her support.

Although Covid restrictions have been lifted to a degree St Peter's has continued to proceed with caution with mask wearing in church encouraged, though not enforced. We know we speak for the entire congregation in thanking Gary for his inspiring and enthusiastic leadership throughout another very demanding year.

The altar servers have continued to assist with the smooth running of services and in spite of being few in number have been able to cover every 10 am service. Thanks are due to them and to the readers, intercessors, welcomers, bellringers, choir and organist who all make a valuable contribution to services, and to the flower arrangers for their inspirational displays. Compline services for Advent and Lent were led by Anne Webber and these were well received and well attended.

The Church Building and Grounds

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church was received and urgent items of general maintenance have been attended to, or are in the process of being seen to. One item of concern that was highlighted was the absence of a safety rail on the tower outside steps. This has now been supplied and fitted. The church and cottages were also inspected by Ecclesiastical Insurance to value the respective buildings and contents for rebuilding in the event of fire and to reassess for potential risk and to ensure that we are carrying out the necessary safety checks on a regular basis.

Regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, the electrics and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies. The gutters and snowboards have been inspected and cleaned as part of regular maintenance, and the cottages guttering has also been cleaned. The loose cladding at the rear of the cottages has been secured and waterproofed and the decayed woodwork has been replaced.

The church heating system was reviewed by a Diocesan surveyor. We were 'reprimanded' for keeping the church too warm and we were given advice on alternative sources of heating. When the boiler reaches the end of its life it is unlikely that we will be given permission to replace it as General Synod has decreed that a full faculty will be required and it is unlikely to be approved. Air Source pumps are inadequate for a large church and ground source would require extensive excavation, which would not be feasible in a graveyard. The suggested alternative is under-pew electric heating.

There has been frequent cleaning and sanitising to make the church as Covid-safe as possible. Thanks are due to the people who have done this on a regular basis, including between Sunday services. All this washing had a deleterious effect on the wood of the pews, which was looking tired and unnourished after several months of regular soaking. A working party applied a restorative solution of beeswax and turpentine and polished the pews until they gleamed. A big thank you to all those who participated.

A faculty application was submitted for reordering, but this was delayed because of Covid and partly because of a number of objections raised by the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) so a further amended application has now been made. The reordering will improve the nave area in front of the altar and the area by the Giffard tomb. More detailed information will be given in a separate report.

However, the vestry has been reordered with the construction of new cupboards and the replacement of the old sink unit. This did not require a faculty application so could proceed with the Archdeacon's approval.

Many people continue to visit our churchyard, where they find a beautiful and peaceful place to sit and reflect – or perhaps simply to walk the dog. We are extremely grateful to Mohammed who has continued throughout to work hard to keep the churchyard neat and trim, and to a group of students from Cheltenham College who have helped out on a regular basis.

During the year, we were pleased to be able to reinstate some of our social activities, including coffee after the 10.00 am service, held outside only and weather permitting. We also welcomed people to our (now traditional) Afternoon Teas in the Cottage Gardens on Sunday afternoons in June and July: these were held outside only, with waitress service and other COVID-related precautions.

In Advent we once again put up a lighted Christmas tree in the churchyard and decorated the Lychgate with lights: a physical 'light in the darkness', visible from all directions. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who took on the task of erecting the tree and connecting the electric wiring!

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Livvy Niblett

I took over as Leader at 15th Cheltenham Brownies in October 2021. We have grown in numbers over the last few months and currently have 22 girls at the unit. We have been enjoying working towards different badges and awards from our programme. Quite a few girls have completed interest badges outside of Brownie meetings too. Some of our Brownies enjoyed attending an Activity Day at Deer Park Cowley in April. The girls had the opportunity to take part in archery, grass sledging, kite making and geocaching. We are looking forward to going on a District trip to Cattle Country in May, spending some of our meetings during the summer term outdoors and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

CCP Donations

Gilly Whittingham

CCP are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of the St Peter's congregation towards their foodbank. This is demonstrated on a weekly basis by the amount of donations left in the porch for collection. I am met with thanks each time that I take these items down to the CCP shop.

Each year the aim is to highlight the need for increased donations at particular times of the year. In recent years our Harvest Festival donations have been all sent to CCP and in 2021 this amounted to 56.1kgs. There is also a lot of support for the Hamper Scamper appeal in the run up to Christmas. Last December a total of 29.1kgs was collected in addition to the normal weekly collection. During Lent, for the last few years, I have encouraged extra donations as a way of 'giving something' rather than 'giving up something'. This year during the period of Lent an amazing total of 125.4kgs has been donated.

In spite of the effects of the pandemic in 2021 the grand total for donations amounted to 655.8kgs. I am also aware that there are a number of parishioners who send monetary donations direct to CCP. So, a very big thank you to everyone who has donated in one way or another.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a deanery synod is a synod convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members. Representing St Peter's Leckhampton with the Cheltenham Deanery are Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley. The Area Dean for Cheltenham Deanery is Reverend Gary Grady. Reports containing minutes of deanery Synod meetings are regularly reported to St Peter's PCC.

During the period covered in this report there have been three meetings as follows:

- 18th March 2021, held by Zoom
- 30th June 2021, held by Zoom.
- 13th October 2021 at St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, Cheltenham.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

Caring for God's Acre has been a challenge this year due to the obvious restrictions but Mohamad and the gang have risen to the challenge admirably. The team from Cheltenham College have also done a great job of tidying the paths and replacing the corrugated iron in the compost area with dry stone walls.

We will soon be embarking on a plan to let some areas of the yard go wild and not be cut on such a regular basis.

As ever, the mammoth task of keeping the churchyard in such great condition relies on volunteers so if anyone can help with either mowing, light machinery maintenance, tidying the Garden of Remembrance or topping up the petrol, please let me know

Cottages Bookings

Parish Office

As Covid restrictions have eased over the past year, there has been a steady increase in the use of the Cottages by various church and community groups as well as private hirers. Some hirers and groups started up again in 2021 (primary school tuition, Little Pebbles Toddler Group (formerly Tuesday Club), Music Therapy, Diocesan Training, private parties, Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council, funeral wakes, Tipi Quiet Day, Enneagram workshop). Brownies returned in the Autumn term, refreshments after church have gradually resumed and we have welcomed back Crossroads Care's Azalea Club on Mondays.

Craft-T-Time

Kathy Webb

The Craft-T-Time group is a small, informal group who get together to socialise whilst undertaking a variety of craft activities. Due to the pandemic, we were not able to meet indoors this year, but from the end of March to the end of October, we met up every two weeks in each other's gardens. A summer project involved the creation of several metres of bunting, first put on display for Afternoon Teas and now available for anyone to use when needed.

When not able to meet outdoors due to the weather, some members of the group have continued to knit the blankets that are given as gifts to babies who are baptised at St Peter's. We hope to resume meetings soon, either outdoors or in the Cottages when all feel safe to do so.

EcoChurch

Richard Kerr-Wilson

A small group of enthusiasts was formed to encourage caring for God's planet and to promote ecological developments at St Peter's. In the churchyard, an extensive survey of all the plants was carried out by Ben Gilchrist and plans made for allowing more growth of wildflowers and to encourage wildlife. A section on how we can live more sustainably was started on the church website and notice boards, with regular mention in the weekly newsletter. We have achieved the bronze Eco-church award from A Rocha, and are now working toward silver.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Eric Miller

The current total on the Roll is 143, which includes five additions still to be approved by the PCC. Further applications can be made at any time and regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names so that they can be contacted speedily with any important information.

Flower Guild

Veronica Biddle

2021 was a strange year for the Flower Guild. With the church shut for so much of the year there were no flower arrangements in church. When the church opened for private prayer we decided to put an arrangement of silk flowers in the chancel and this was changed occasionally to make a change and use different colours. Limited arrangements were also put in place for Easter and Harvest.

When restrictions were lifted we were able to arrange flowers for weddings once again although these were limited because some ladies did not want to come back to arranging immediately. By Christmas we were back to something like normality and we were able to fully decorate the church for Christmas which was very much appreciated by everyone.

House Group

Arthur and Kathy Webb

In 2021 the House Group continued to meet monthly via Zoom throughout the year. We completed a series of studies on Parables, which was started the previous year, then did six studies from Paula Gooder's "The Joy of the Gospel" and moved on to Douglas Connelly's "Heroes of Faith". These studies often prove quite challenging and give rise to as many questions as answers.

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

At the beginning of the year, the group continued to meet 'virtually', and by 'Zoom' for half-an-hour's silent prayer, followed by tea and a chat. In the summer we were delighted to be able to come together in person outside in the Cottages Garden. It made such a difference to have that physical companionship again, as we sought to find an internal place and space of calm. In periods of national and international distress or personal trouble, to find such moments of stillness and silence with God is difficult and yet so essential.

One of our members, Judith Bull, died later in the year. We are grateful for her gentle and supporting presence and miss her very much: she was an inspiration to our group.

We are still very few in number, despite a new recruit. If you are at all interested in trying a contemplative and still approach to God, away from the clamour and demands of our busy world, please consider joining us in the Cottages on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact: Jennie Hawdon.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church met to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies. We have not resumed Sunday sessions, having decided that the time is not yet right. In the meantime, we make sure there are some activities in the children's area in church each Sunday, and have some exciting plans in the pipeline, so that we are ready to welcome children and their families back when our sessions start up again.

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

In June we had a Bring and Share afternoon tea in the cottages garden; this was enjoyed by all as we hadn't be able to meet in person since 2020. There were a lot of ideas put forward of what to do in the following months. In July a few of us met in the churchyard for a walk with Paul, chairman of Leckhampton History society, to learn the history of some of our historical graves. Then in August some of us met at the Lido to see a brilliant outdoor performance of "Much Ado About Nothing". We also had a very interesting talk by Paul Bennett who runs "Youth for Christ" about what they do. For Christmas we went to Moran's for a lovely lunch and catch up. In February we visited the Colsbourne estate to see their wonderful display of Snowdrops. Then in March, Joey, one of our ladies, showed us a documentary "The True Cost" which showed how people who work in the factories abroad for the Fashion industry are being exploited. It was very informative and eye opening, producing a lot of discussion.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

Ringling at Leckhampton is gradually getting back to where we were pre pandemic. Gary has been very supportive and keen for us to ring, which means that we have only had short periods when we could not ring for Sunday service or Monday evening practices. Attendance has been very good and we usually are able to ring all 8 bells for the Sunday morning service.

Two new learners (Keith Reading and Bradley Coates) have recently joined the band and are making good progress.

Sunday evening quarter peals have restarted and we rang a total of 16 quarters in 2021. This includes one rung for the ordination of Revd Jacqueline Henson. Another was rung remembering John Ridley from Charlton Kings. John rang 179 peals at Leckhampton and conducted 136 of these, over a 44 year period. We continued our tradition of a quarter peal prior to the 8am service on Christmas Day.

On 30th January 2022, we rang the 2,000th quarter at Leckhampton since the major restoration project in 1972 – possibly the most quarter peals rung at a church tower anywhere.

Due to covid restrictions and the availability of ringers, we only rang one peal in 2021.

Stuart continues to visit the belfry roughly every other month to do a visual check of the bells and fittings. He doesn't anticipate any major bell expenditure being required in 2022.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Jane Allison, Sue Marlow, Gilly Whittingham and Revd Gary

The school building is finally finished! The school expansion is well established with all but two of the year groups comprising of three full classes. As foundation governors we have not seen all the work because of Covid restrictions. The old hall has been turned into classrooms and the spacious hall at the back old the building is now in use.

Revd Gary has continued to engage with the school throughout the year, although this has been mostly on-line, leading worship via Zoom and providing recorded messages, filmed in St. Peter's, for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. He did make it in however a couple of times to speak to the children about Christian Aid and to lead worship in person in the new hall during the autumn term. In addition, he

recorded a special message for the Year 6 classes moving on to secondary school and held an on-line welcome service for the new Reception Year children.

Governor meetings returned in person in school just before Christmas and it was a delight to see everyone again. We are assigned to teachers and enjoyed discussing their subject curriculum. We hope to return to school in the Summer Term to work with them in the classroom.

The school opened its classrooms to parents and carers in October 2021. The House Art Competition took place during November.

The Rotary Concert took place again in December at the Ladies College where the choirs took centre stage applauded by friends and family. Y1 performed a Nativity and there was a House Tug of War for the Junior Classes. In February 2022 Y3 put on a production. The whole school supported Comic Relief in March.

On a Friday in March, The School Parliament went to Burrows Field and helped with the planting of a large number of saplings. This was funded by the Woodland trust and organised by one of the school governors, who is linked with Leckhampton Rovers football team. The community officer for the council attended.

The prayer group has been unable to meet in school so socially distanced prayer walks have taken place. We have been kept informed of any instance that needs prayer.

As Foundation Governors we have contributed to serve the school in different ways.

Men's Group

Richard Kerr-Wilson

The Men of St Peter's have continued to meet socially on a monthly basis when possible over the past year. Numbers have varied between 6-12. We have had at least one walk with a pub lunch, and in February, we had a visit to the Painswick Rococo gardens with our own guide, Brenda Davies. This was timed to coincide with the snowdrops, and we were not disappointed.

Music

Simon Gibson, Director of Music

A year ago seems a long time and, for the services last Easter, we were only able to have six singers in the choir, due to the pandemic restrictions in church. What a joy then to have a full choir this year for our Easter celebrations. Between then and now, we have gradually been able to increase our singing in church so that we are back to 'normal' at last!

In June 2021, we welcomed Jacqueline as our Curate and sang a Choral Evensong on her first Sunday, followed by two more Evensongs in October and March, for Harvest and Lent, respectively.

The highlight of the musical calendar was the St Peter's Music Festival in October. Having missed the previous year, this was extra special for all the performers and audience – how lovely to be able to enjoy making music again. Many thanks to Tabitha and Maggie and everyone else who helped to plan the day and especially to all the musicians who took part. There were some truly memorable performances during the day and it was particularly good to have the children's choirs perform so enthusiastically. The less said about the musical finale the better, but it seemed to go down well and 'Thankyou for the Music' was the perfect sentiment at the end of such an uplifting day. We also managed to raise a significant sum of money for the charity Music Space.

The Christmas Carol service in December was a highlight for me as the expanded choir sang so beautifully.

Last autumn, we said thankyou to Ben Gilchrist, our inaugural St Peter's Organ Scholar, and welcomed Laurel Cooper as our new Scholar.

I would like to thank everyone in the choir and the children's parents for their continuing support and attendance. We have welcomed a few new faces to the choir in the last month, which is always good to see and anyone else who is thinking about giving it a go, please don't hesitate to come and see me.

Open the Book

Peter Davies

Open the book is administered by the Bible Society and the respective parish leader. Many churches participate thus providing a team of people who visit one or more primary schools to present bible stories at the school assemblies or during Acts of Collective Worship. The Stories are taken from "The Lion Storyteller Bible" and Open the Book Years 1, 2 & 3 Storybooks. For each Bible there is an advisory Handbook published by the Bible Society, as everything that is said or done has already been tried, tested and corrected and, for lots of reasons, we promise to abide by the recommended advice.

The Open the Book team representing St Peter's consists of: Peter Davies (Leading), Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Annie Tincello and Sarah Wood. Revd Gary Grady joins us regularly and is welcomed by both ourselves and the pupils.

The schools visited by the St Peter's team are Leckhampton Primary every other Wednesday during term-time and, alternatively, Richard Pate School the other Wednesday, thus presenting a bible story at morning school assembly on a three-year rolling basis as recommended by the Open the Book administrators.

The Open the Book administration department of the Bible Society continue to keep in touch with us but, since last reported, because of the Covid Virus, the situation has remained unchanged and, like most other Groups, our team are still unable to visit any of the schools. However, the Leckhampton team are ready and willing to restart whenever this can be allowed.

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor; Sue Marlow, Business Manager; Peter Davies, Distribution Manager

The Parish Magazine has continued to be published every month but, because of the pandemic, for some of the time it has only been available online on the church website. However, as the pandemic eased and distributors were able to deliver the magazine, printing has been resumed. As we were unable to deliver printed magazines, as a goodwill gesture advertisers were offered half-price rates for 2021, though they have actually received good coverage online. Pre-paid readers were offered free copies until June 2022 to cover magazines missed.

We have continued to maintain the integrity of the magazine by insisting that all articles are apolitical and, in accordance with Diocesan policy, the editor reserves the right to reject any contribution that he considers inappropriate. The editor makes no apology for the bulk of the content being church based as it is the St Peter's Leckhampton Parish Church Magazine, but contributions (if any) from the community will be duly considered.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine. Contributions have inevitably been reduced as groups were unable to meet, but enough has been received for it to continue as a viable, and hopefully interesting, magazine. As we print in-house costs are reduced and more colour has been used in the magazine. The magazine accounts are in surplus.

As a legal requirement, a hard copy is posted to the British Library.

An electronic copy is sent every month, at their request, to the Diocesan Press Office, and the editor makes a point of drawing their attention to any particularly noteworthy stories, resulting in some articles appearing in Diocesan publications and/or submitted to The Church Times (though I don't think any have actually made it to print). Examples are some bell ringing articles and Ben Gilchris's Flora survey of the churchyard.

Each year the magazines are bound into a hard copy, which is stored in the Parish Office and eventually in the Diocesan Archives.

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

Throughout the last year we have continued to meet via Zoom and, more recently, face-to-face, every other month, under Gary's leadership. Our aim during times of government COVID restrictions has been to make sure contact has been maintained with individual members of our congregation, offering support where appropriate. We have been able to resume taking monthly communion into both Hampton House and Middleton House and have been touched by the warm welcome we have received from the residents after such a long absence. Afternoon Teas in the cottage gardens will resume this summer but we are being cautious about resuming Friday lunches until Covid numbers fall significantly. We have a team of people providing Welcomers for baptism services. Marriage Preparation is now being run by the South Cheltenham Team.

During the next year we look forward to further supporting Gary's ministry and helping him take forward new initiatives.

PCC Report

Chrissie Brown – PCC Secretary

The current PCC year started at our last APCM, when we were finally able to meet in person in the church with other attendees via Zoom. The four PCC meetings we have had since then have all been in person, in church, following Covid precautions. The Standing Committee have also met in person between PCC meetings and reports of any discussions were received by the PCC, discussed where necessary and recorded in PCC Minutes.

At our meetings, the agenda has covered Pandemic considerations, building and ground maintenance, reordering, heating, finance, safeguarding and a South Cheltenham Team update. Any other business could be added to the agenda as needed. All PCC members have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training.

At the last APCM we elected Richard Kerr Wilson as our new Eco Officer. Richard enabled us to achieve the Bronze Eco award in July. We are now working towards achieving the Silver award.

Safeguarding

Sally Champion

St Peter's continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. There have been no serious causes for concern. Any issues are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy. Sally Champion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Barbara Pettit and Liz Johnson continue to act as Evidence Checkers.

Sally Champion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Champion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary Grady, Sally Champion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team made some changes last year, in line with the National Safeguarding Team, about the levels of training individuals require for the roles they carry out within the church. In line with this, invites to complete safeguarding training have been sent out to all those who carry out roles which require it. Liz Johnson as Parish Administrator keeps a record of all training completed. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained.

Online Safer Recruitment training is now available for those involved in the recruitment of staff and volunteers working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social committee were hopeful of more events during 2021 but with further lockdowns and restrictions due to Covid, add-on refreshment elements were cancelled. So no hot cross buns or mince pies yet again!

Our first event was at Petertide at the end of June when a special cake and “fizz” were served in the cottage gardens to celebrate Rev Jacqueline’s ordination the previous day. Thanks again to Suzy for another amazing cake!

Pimms was served in the church following the Harvest Evensong on the 3rd October and the following Saturday we served tea and cakes outside the West Door during the afternoon interval at the Music Festival.

So as we enter 2022 it is hoped that all the usual events will be able to take place – with caution and careful thought as how to keep safe – so look out for notices – when hopefully we can play our part in “The Ministry of Hospitality” – and once again welcome the family of St Peters and visitors.

We are always on the look-out for new volunteers to join us – an extra pair of hands for even one or more events would always be appreciated. Please contact me (Helen Yates) in person or via the Parish Office. My thanks to Ro Baillie, Penny Piggott, Pat Long, Suzy Hime, Anna Beamish and Sally Marlow for all their support – and “extra help” provided by Val, Peter and Jim.

South Cheltenham Churches Team Council

Revd Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team Council is the body that represents St. Peter’s Leckhampton, St. Philip and St. James Leckhampton, St. Stephen’s Tivoli, Emmanuel and The Church in Warden Hill, and is in partnership with Cheltenham Network Church, which holds a Bishop’s Mission Order (BMO) for the Cheltenham Deanery. Our shared vision is:

Our team will be joyful, prayerful and engaged with our communities. We will be thriving, growing congregations reflecting a vivid mosaic of spirituality. Shaped by our communities and working together with our ecumenical partners, we will offer a prophetic, Kingdom challenge. As a result, South Cheltenham will know itself to be loved and supported. Intrigued by what we do, they will have a growing awareness of our team and our Churches as the spiritual hubs of inclusive communities.

The past year has, once again, been impacted greatly by the pandemic, during which we mourned the sad loss of Revd Ken Shill, vicar of Emmanuel, who lost his battle against cancer in March.

There was no Confirmation course/service in the team in 2021, but we did hold an on-line Lent Course, based on Paul Gooder’s book ‘The Parables’, which was delivered via Zoom, and was led by both clergy and laity.

A weekly live-stream service continued to be broadcast from one of the church buildings each Sunday, with this service coming from St. Christopher’s once/month.

Morning Prayer was led from one of our church buildings each week day at 9am, with the service being broadcast from St. Christopher’s on a Tuesday. The on-line community for this service has remained constant, with between 30 and 40 present on-line each day as well as those who attend in-person.

Revd Jacqueline Henson was ordained as a priest in June 2021, and we also welcomed Fr Sebastian Hamilton to the team, for a 12 month period, as a fourth year curate, with pastoral responsibility for St. Stephen’s, Tivoli.

The coming year holds a number of challenges for the Team as we adapt to life after the pandemic across all of the churches. This includes making decisions about ministerial resource at both St. Stephen's and Emmanuel, working more closely with Cheltenham Network Church (CNC), working through the details for the dissolution of the LEP in Warden Hill (to end 31st August 2022), and looking at how we can work together more effectively in mission in each of the parishes.

We have proven stronger when we work together as a Team, and we will continue to look for opportunities to do this in 2022 as we carefully exit out of the pandemic restrictions.

Little Pebbles

Lara Skinner

Little Pebbles is running well on Tuesday mornings, usually we get around 12-15 families, sometimes reaching more than 20. There is a range of ages, some very small babies up to preschool age.

The session starts with free play then I run a rolling craft which is usually reflective of the season or Christian festival. This term we have made bird fridge magnets, farm scenes, Mother's Day photograph frames, Easter Wreaths and used clay to make snails and fish. We supply a snack, always with a healthy option of fruit and vegetables, a sweet treat and often breadsticks or rice cakes too. Parents are catered for too with a hot drink and biscuit or cake. Children then free play until we gather for music and singing. The children are always given a colouring sheet to take home with reflects the craft theme. This is a free session but the parents are mostly very generous in their donations.

This term we plan to buy a few new toys, including a rocker and some ride on toys for the patio to be used over the summer. Some more garden toys would also be advantageous as it will be good to make use of the lovely outdoor space when the weather warms up.

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

The year has been slightly fraught with COVID continuing to prevent refreshments from being served following the 10 o'clock Sunday service. In the New Year it was agreed that we would recommence serving refreshments in the cottage gardens – drinks served in disposable cups and served from the entrance. This proved to be very popular and luckily the weather was kind to us so we were able to serve every Sunday, bar 1. We have now returned to serving from the kitchen and are able to remain indoors. Numbers seem to be quite high which is always reassuring, especially on Mothering Sunday when for the first time we ran out of cake, superbly made by Suzy as usual. We have 2 or 3 new helpers which is wonderful but of course we could still do with more to lessen the frequency the organisers are on duty. Anyone who would like to assist please contact Ro Baillie on 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson on 07990 813122

Youth Work

Hanna Stürcken, Youthworker

As the young people are usually serving in the choir, St Peter's doesn't have a regular youth session on a Sunday, there is, however, the option of joining Hot Chocolate Church hosted at Emmanuel and CNC on the second Sunday of the month. Hanna, the youth worker, joins the congregation for worship on the first Sunday of the month and is able to catch up with the young people after the service.

Rock Solid has continued to grow during 2021, with some young people regularly bringing their friends along, seeing an average attendance of 12 young people a night. NextGen still runs twice a month and was moved to run simultaneously as Rock Solid in September 2021. This has allowed a combined youth group of both ages when the volunteer support has been low. It has been a great way for the older and younger youth to bond while still providing youth work for both age ranges.

The youth team hosted various socials at Emmanuel Church, which adhered to Covid guidelines, including several movie and game nights.

Accounts



St Peter's

**Leckhampton
Parish Church**

Parochial Church Council Annual Report for 2020

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church Leckhampton exists to love and worship God, to serve our neighbours and to pass on the faith in Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God

Open our eyes that we might see you.

Open our ears that we might hear you.

Open our hearts and minds that we might respond to you and bring others to know you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lights our way. Amen

Charity Registration Number: 1134612

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Leckhampton (PCC).
Location: St Peter's Church is located in Church Road, Leckhampton and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.
Address for correspondence: The Parish Office, Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 0QJ

Members

Following the 2020 APCM the composition of the PCC is as follows:

Team Vicar and Chair	Gary Grady
Curate	Jacqueline Henson
Reader	Dereck Freeman
Ex Officio	Churchwardens Jennie Hawdon (2020), David Webber (2020)
	Deputy Churchwarden Arthur Webb (2020)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mike Riley (2020), Peter Davies (2020), Brad Coates (2020)
SCTM Representatives	Peter Davies (2020), Helen Shill (2020)
Lay Members elected for three years (2020)	Sally Marlow Penny Piggott Christine Brown. Anne Webber
Lay Members elected for two years (2019)	Mike Riley Margaret Kyffin Peter Marlow
Lay Members elected for one year (2018)	Ro Baillie Helen Shill

NB date in brackets denotes year of election of lay PCC members.

Co-opted Members	None
Offices	Chairman Rev Gary Grady
	Treasurer Peter Marlow
	Secretary Christine Brown

Totals: PCC members: 9, Ex officio 5 Co-opted 0

NB SCTM reps are already counted as Peter Davies is ex officio as Deanery Synod rep and Helen Shill is on the PCC

Notes on composition of PCC

Calculation of numbers on PCC : six representatives of the laity where there are not more than fifty names on the electoral roll, nine such representatives where there are not more than one hundred names on the roll and, where there are more than one hundred names on the roll, a further three such representatives for every one hundred (or part thereof) names on the roll up to a maximum of fifteen such members, and so that the aforesaid numbers "six", "nine", "three" and "fifteen" may be altered from time to time by a resolution passed at any annual meeting, but such resolution shall not take effect before the next ensuing annual meeting

Co-opted members: We can also have co-opted members, if the parochial church council so decides, not exceeding in number one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected or two persons whichever shall be the greater, and being either clerks in Holy Orders or actual lay communicants of sixteen years of age or upwards. The term of office of a co-opted member shall be until the conclusion of the next annual meeting; but without prejudice to his being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

- Currently there are 136 on our electoral roll and so we can have 12 PCC members (although we can have up to 15). We can have two co-opted members.
- **Ex Officio members:** The churchwardens and any deputy churchwardens are ex-officio members of the parochial church council by virtue of a scheme made under rule 18(4) of these rules.
- **Reps for Deanery Synod** are also ex officio members of the PCC.
- **The secretary and treasurer** will be elected from the PCC members.

Terms of office

PCC members	3 years
Deanery synod	3 years
SCTM	3 years
Churchwardens and deputy Church Wardens	1 year
Secretary and Treasurer	1 year

Financial Information

Status:	The PCC is a Registered Charity (1134612)
Independent Examiner:	Mr David Evans
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos. CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as “to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”

At the beginning of the year the following Committees promote the life of St Peter’s:

Magazine	Web	Social	Employment
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The Pastoral Team members are:

Sally Marlow	Jennie Hawdon
Dereck Freeman	Steve Whittingham
Anne Webber	Penny Williams

The total number of names on the Roll, is 140.

Ministry Report

2020 has been an extraordinary year. We have lived amidst a global pandemic and mass trauma event, unknown in many of our lifetimes. Millions of lives have been lost and the number continues to rise; the economy, international relations, individual mental health, the pitter-patter of everyday life: nothing has been spared in the viral storm, including the Church.

And yet we have adapted.

We have worshipped on-line and have grown together as a South Cheltenham Team. We have kept in touch in different ways and have worked out how to use new technologies. We have become experts at writing risk assessments and have kept the church open for prayer each week. We have pushed ahead with our reordering plans for the future, and have even created a zoom choir!

The church nationally has buried the dead, comforted the bereaved, fed the hungry and prayed for our nation. We have done this as human beings, living through the same crisis as everyone else; grieving, home-schooling, worrying, getting sick, shielding, isolating and weeping.

In the midst of this, we have welcomed Revd Jacqueline Henson and her family to the team, where she has begun her curacy; what a way to start such a momentous change in your life journey!

So, as we reflect on a year like no other, I want to thank you for your support, patience and endurance.

Thank you for being there, for walking this path together, for digging deep, for finding moments of beauty and new ways to be in fellowship. There will inevitably be some of you who are feeling bruised, lonely, lost or afraid – if that's you, reach out because we walk this path together and God never intended us to be alone.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1. 5)

With hope on the horizon from the vaccine roll out, and the gradual lessening of restrictions, now is the time to look back and try to make sense of it all. To ask ourselves what God is calling us to do next?

- What have we gained and want to keep?
- What have we left behind and don't actually want back?
- What have we started doing, but need to stop?
- What have we lost and need to bring back?
- What new things should we do?
- How do we use our resources more effectively?

2021 could be a defining year in the life of St Peter's as we wrestle with these questions, and there is much to be hopeful about as we reach out in our community.

Thank you to all who have supported the life of St Peter's in 2020, and for how you show your love for God through what you do for others.

What a great team with have @StPetersLeck. Every blessing for 2021, God is with us.

Revd Gary Grady, Team Vicar

Review of financial activities and affairs for 2020

The accounts have three sections:

- The Receipts & Payments Account, which shows how much money we received and what we paid out in 2020
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows the monetary and other assets which the Church has on 31 December 2020
- Notes that explain the detail.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, St Peters recorded a deficit of running cost income over expenditure of £4,496 caused by the loss of cottage hire income, loss of parochial fees and loss of collections at services. The deficit was actually far lower than expected thanks to some generous unrestricted donations, furloughing a member of office staff and receiving a contribution for the Organist's salary from South Cheltenham.

Overall, St Peters remains in a good financial position with total unrestricted funds carried forward of £222,647, a decrease of £6,628 over 2019. Total funds carried forward, which includes restricted income and investments, are £257,928, a decrease of £1,929 over 2019.

We currently have 76 regular givers, 70 of whom give through the Parish Giving Scheme. The green envelope "gift aid" scheme is still popular but it would help our planning if people could transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme. The Parish Giving Scheme really helped St Peters maintain its income when the church was closed.

As part of South Cheltenham Churches, we continue to support the Refugee Project which raised an additional £8,993 in 2020 through donations and monthly pledges.

Parish Share was frozen at the 2018 level for 2020 (and remains frozen for 2021).

The items of major expenditure in 2020 were the gates and paving for the Cottages, architect's fees for reordering plans, choir stall cushions and IT network equipment for streaming services. The latter two items were part funded by generous donations. We also continue to support an organ scholar, part funded by donation.

Policy on reserves

As a result of the imminent Quinquennial Report due in 2020 the Churchwardens and PCC propose to set aside unrestricted reserves of £20,000 to cover liabilities, as has been previous policy. They also recognise that it is prudent to retain unrestricted reserves of 6 months running costs (£65,000) to meet unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds are earmarked for reordering in early 2022, and building maintenance and improvements.

Expenses payments

Other than the reimbursement of expenses and purchases made on the church's behalf, no payments have been made to members of the PCC.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Steve Whittingham the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Riley the Gift Aid Officer for their invaluable help in 2020. Also many thanks to the Independent Examiner, David Evans.

Peter Marlow
Hon Treasurer

14-Feb-21

ST PETER LECKHAMPTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving		£ 66,906	£ 350	£ -	£ 67,256	£ 70,563
Other planned giving		£ 8,225	£ -	£ -	£ 8,225	£ 6,079
Collections at Services		£ 3,000	£ -	£ -	£ 3,000	£ 5,403
All other giving, inc Special Appeals	3	£ 2,653	£ 9,292	£ -	£ 11,945	£ 6,445
Gift Aid recovered		£ 18,244	£ 1,569	£ -	£ 19,813	£ 19,285
Legacies		£ 100	£ -	£ -	£ 100	£ -
Grants	7	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 5,664
Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	4	£ -	£ 133	£ -	£ 133	£ 1,788
Income from investments						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		£ 1,485	£ 788	£ -	£ 2,274	£ 2,569
Church Activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)		£ 8,724	£ -	£ -	£ 8,724	£ 13,221
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	5	£ 3,873	£ -	£ -	£ 3,873	£ 13,787
Other Incoming Resources						
Any other income/receipts not already listed		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£ 113,210	£ 12,132	£ -	£ 125,342	£ 144,805
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating income						
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 65
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations		£ 50	£ 375	£ -	£ 425	£ 2,681
Diocesan parish share contribution		£ 70,593	£ -	£ -	£ 70,593	£ 70,593
Salaries, wages and honoraria		£ 8,098	£ -	£ -	£ 8,098	£ 11,381
Clergy and staff expenses		£ 2,074	£ -	£ -	£ 2,074	£ 1,778
Church expenses						
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	6, 7	£ 1,260	£ 5,175	£ -	£ 6,435	£ 14,577
Church running expenses	8	£ 26,350	£ 2,161	£ -	£ 28,512	£ 34,281
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water, oil)		£ 6,510	£ -	£ -	£ 6,510	£ 5,560
Cost of trading	9	£ 364	£ -	£ -	£ 364	£ 1,741
Major capital expenditure						
Major repairs to the church building	10	£ 3,598	£ 250	£ -	£ 3,848	£ -
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property		£ 1,179	£ 727	£ -	£ 1,907	£ 7,422
Governance Costs (examination or audit fee)		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other outgoing resources	11	£ 636	£ -	£ -	£ 636	£ 636
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£ 120,714	£ 8,689	£ -	£ 129,403	£ 150,715
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		£ (7,504)	£ 3,443	£ -	£ (4,061)	£ (5,910)
Transfers between funds		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		£ (7,504)	£ 3,443	£ -	£ (4,061)	£ (5,910)
Gains on investment assets		£ 876	£ -	£ 1,256	£ 2,132	£ 6,906
Net movement in funds		£ (6,628)	£ 3,443	£ 1,256	£ (1,929)	£ 996
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2020		£ 229,275	£ 4,262	£ 26,320	£ 259,857	£ 258,861
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		£ 222,647	£ 7,705	£ 27,576	£ 257,928	£ 259,857

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
PCC Main Bank Account (CAF)	£ 24,833	£ 123	£ -	£ 24,956	£ 29,605
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Treasurer)	£ -	£ 6,892	£ -	£ 6,892	£ 6,104
PCC Lloyds Bank Account (Refugee Project)	£ -	£ 691	£ -	£ 691	£ 690
PCC Deposit Account with CCLA	£ 172,578	£ -	£ -	£ 172,578	£ 172,578
PCC Lloyds Bank Account & Petty Cash (Flowers)	£ 1,414	£ -	£ -	£ 1,414	£ 1,613
PCC Investment with CCLA	£ 18,368	£ -	£ -	£ 18,368	£ 17,492
MONETARY ASSETS	£ 217,193	£ 7,705	£ -	£ 224,898	£ 228,082
Gloucester Diocesan Trust	£ -	£ -	£ 27,576	£ 27,576	£ 26,320
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	£ -	£ -	£ 27,576	£ 27,576	£ 26,320
Fixed Assets (Furniture, Shed, Office & Cottages)	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
FIXED ASSETS	£ 5,455	£ -	£ -	£ 5,455	£ 5,455
				£ 257,928	£ 259,857

Adopted by the PCC on 23 February 2021 and signed on behalf by:



Rev Gary Grady, PCC Chair & Team Vicar

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the Receipts & Payments basis.

In Receipts & Payments the closing cash balance reported in the accounts is:

- the cash balance on the last day of the financial year (December)
- plus any money received before the end of the year but only banked in the following year
- less any cheques written or other payments made before the end of the year but not cleared through the bank until the following year.

2 Accounting Policies

The accounting policy is Receipts and Payments basis of preparation.

Restricted Funds represent 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.

Unrestricted Funds are the General funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. The PCC on occasion Designates some of their General funds, earmarking them for a specific purpose. These funds are still unrestricted.

The format of the accounts is the official Diocesan Parish Return.

3 All other giving including special appeals

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Freewill Offering & General Donations (not Gift Aided)	£ 2,653	£ 20	
Refugee Project		£ 7,235	
Barn Dance profits donated to Refugee Project		£ 395	
Youth Project		£ 340	
Childrens' Society		£ 107	Carol Singing
Organ Scholarship		£ 700	
Choir Stall Cushions		£ 495	
TOTAL	£ 2,653	£ 9,292	

4 Income from fundraising activities

Friday Lunches in aid of Childrens' Society	£ 133
TOTAL	£ 133

5 Income from Trading

	2020	2019
Flower income	£ 165	£ 1,533
Magazine income	£ 1,080	£ 1,796
Other income (eg. Printing, Book Sales)	£ 278	£ 1,674
Church & Cottage lettings income	£ 2,350	£ 8,783
TOTAL	£ 3,873	£ 13,787

6 Mission & Evangelism Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Refugee Project Expenditure		£ 4,835	see note 7 below
Youth Project	£ 1,260	£ 340	
TOTAL	£ 1,260	£ 5,175	

7 Refugee Project

Income		
Donations - Gift Aided	£	2,790
Donations - Non Gift Aided	£	1,660
Monthly Donations - Gift Aided	£	2,620
Monthly Donations - Non Gift Aided	£	175
Barn Dance profits donation	£	395
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£	1,353
Bank Interest	£	0
TOTAL INCOME	£	8,993
Outgoings		
Rent Support: 99 W/Hill Road	£	4,800
Driving Lesson	£	35
TOTAL OUTGOINGS	£	4,835
2020 BALANCE at 31-Dec-20	£	4,158

OVERALL PROJECT BALANCE at 31-Dec-20 **£** **6,148** including £180 Gift Aid awaiting reclaim

8 Church Running Expenses	2020	2019	
General Church Running Expenses	£ 6,150	£ 7,825	
General Church Maintenance	£ 1,401	£ 3,123	
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 9,785	£ 10,332	
Music costs	£ 6,345	£ 8,607	
Administration costs	£ 326	£ 355	
Insurance costs	£ 4,505	£ 4,040	
TOTAL	£ 28,512	£ 34,281	SCC paid £1250 support

9 Cost of Trading		
Flower costs	£ 364	£ 1,741
Magazine costs*	£ -	£ -
TOTAL	£ 364	£ 1,741

* The Magazine is now produced in-house so the costs are incorporated in 'Running Expenses' and 'Salaries'. The total costs in 2020 amounted to £196

10 Major capital expenditure	
Gates for Cottages	£ 1,388
Choir Cushions	£ 990
Network for Streaming Services	£ 293
Cottage Paving	£ 2,460
Architect's Fees for Reordering Proposals	£ 624
TOTAL	£ 5,755

11 Other Outgoing Resources	
South Cheltenham Churches Team Expenditure	£ 636
TOTAL	£ 636

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, LECKHAMPTON

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts (attached) of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Leckhampton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name: D G Evans ACIB

Address: 13 Leckhampton View, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0AR

Date:

4th March 2021

Churchwardens report for the 2021 APCM

Churchwardens: David Webber and Jennie Hawdon, Deputy Warden: Arthur Webb

Because of the Covid Pandemic the Annual Vestry Meeting and the APCM was delayed, so we have not served a full 12 months. It was not possible for the usual Archdeacon's Visitation Service to take place, so David and Jennie were readmitted as Churchwardens by Gary, who had received authorisation from the bishop to do so. Later in the year they both participated in a Churchwardens' training session via Zoom. They have both welcomed at services between lockdowns, which has been different to the norm, with festival services needing to be socially distanced, pre-booked, and with allocated seating. We are grateful to our team of welcomers who, at potential risk to themselves, continued to volunteer and adapted to new forms of welcoming; and to those who volunteered to steward when we were allowed to open the church building twice (then once) a week for private prayer.

David and Jennie have met regularly with Gary, via Zoom, to discuss church policy, and this has given both them and Gary the opportunity to talk frankly and in confidence, and for them to offer him support, especially with the challenges that have resulted from Covid. This is in addition to the more formal Standing Committee meetings, again via Zoom. The PCC has also maintained its regular timetable of meetings online.

Other regular duties have included the completion of various surveys and official documents as required by the diocese.

In October 2019 our PCC Secretary, Christine Brown, had received a letter from the diocese, informing us that, according to a document of 1855, St Peter's Church was a closed churchyard and should not be open for burials. We owe Chrissie a great debt of thanks for pursuing research into this and establishing that the 1855 document referred to St Peter's, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham, not St Peter's Leckhampton. Confirmation of this was finally received from the Diocese on 28th September 2020.

In September we were pleased to welcome Jacqueline Henson as our curate. Her ordination took place at the cathedral on Saturday 19th September, 2020. Due to pandemic restrictions, we were not able to greet her and her family with our usual celebratory social gathering, where she could have met us all in person. We hope to repair this omission when the rules allow. Despite the difficulties of joining us in a time of lockdown, Jacqueline has taken on her role with aplomb and is a great asset to the parish and the team.

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown demanded numerous risk assessments and much creative thinking as to how best to comply with the many everchanging rules and restrictions. We know we speak for the entire congregation in thanking Gary for his inspiring and enthusiastic leadership throughout this very demanding year.

The Church Building and Grounds

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out during the year, but at the time of writing the report has not yet been received.

Regular checks, such as the emergency lighting, the electrics and fire safety have been carried out by the appropriate agencies. The gutters and snowboards have been inspected and cleaned as part of regular maintenance, and the cottages guttering has also been cleaned. Paving has been installed to make access to the storage shed easier. Quotes have been obtained for repairing or replacing faulty cladding at the rear of the cottages.

Because of the past failings of the church boiler, a service contract had been taken out with British Gas, but as we were not entirely satisfied with their level of service this has not been renewed. Instead we have used independent contractors, including Tradecraft who have contracts for maintaining rectories in the diocese.

Because of the pandemic there have not been the usual cleaning groups. Instead there has been frequent cleaning and sanitising to make the church as Covid-safe as possible. Thanks are due to the people who

have done this on a regular basis, including between Sunday services. We also acknowledge with thanks the unobtrusive contributions of those who have kept the building dusted and clean during this time.

Last year we had a swarm of honey-bees which took up residence in the church roof. This year we had a swarm of wasps in the cottages roof. After seeking advice it was decided to leave them alone in the hope that they would move on, which fortunately they did.

In spite of Lockdown restrictions, and architects either furloughed or working from home, plans for the reordering have proceeded (though delayed) and an application for a faculty has now been made. The reordering will affect the nave area in front of the altar and the area by the Giffard tomb. More detailed information will be given in a separate report.

During the pandemic, many people have visited our churchyard, where they find a beautiful and peaceful place to sit and reflect – or perhaps simply to walk the dog. We are extremely grateful to Mohammed who has continued throughout to work hard to keep the churchyard neat and trim.

In these gloomy times, we felt it was important to show that the Church was present and active, even if the building itself was shut. In Advent we put up a lighted Christmas tree in the churchyard and decorated the lychgate with lights: a physical 'light in the darkness', visible from all directions. We are very grateful to Peter Davies who took on the task of working out how to erect the tree and how to prevent the squirrels from chewing through the electric wiring!

Brownies - 15th Cheltenham (St. Peter's, Leckhampton) Brownie Pack

Lauren Baugh

We began the year as we usually do – the girls wrote letters to themselves 'one year in the future' which they open on the first meeting back after Christmas. We are yet to read our letters from January 2020, as they opted to wait until we were all face to face again. No doubt they will be particularly interesting reading this year! Unfortunately, leader injury and illness struck at the end of January, and so we missed a few weeks of Brownies during February. Then of course, we received the guidance from Girlguiding UK that Brownies were no longer able to meet face to face. My last words to the girls at the meeting before that were "I'm sure it's nothing to worry about, and I'll see you all next week as normal", which one or two have reminded me of since.

However, we have managed to adapt during this time and have moved our weekly meetings onto Zoom, with some girls choosing to undertake the activities independently instead. We have been able to work towards some badges together, adapting the requirements where needed. We can still play games, with the 'Zoom scavenger hunt' being a particular favourite of the girls. Other activities have included writing letters to our local MP, completing 'Taskmaster' tasks, and playing emoji bingo!

We have sadly said goodbye to our leader Little Owl, but have welcomed a new leader who has been named Sausage Dog.

Whilst Zoom Brownies has not been without its challenges, there have been lots of positives too. The girls have been wonderfully resilient during this time, and their creativity and ability to work as a team in these different circumstances has been outstanding. However, we are all hopeful that face to face Brownies will resume soon, and we can't wait to get back to St Peters.

Cheltenham Deanery Synod

Peter Davies

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a deanery synod is a synod convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/ or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members. Representing St Peter's Leckhampton with the Cheltenham Deanery are Peter Davies, Bradley Coates and Mike Riley. The Area Dean for Cheltenham Deanery is Reverend Gary Grady.

Reports containing minutes of deanery Synod meetings are regularly reported to St Peter's PCC.

Synod meetings in the usual way for the period of this report have not been possible, however, things within and around the Church, (the people), have continued to function and thrive. The Deanery Standing Committee has been able to meet and regular communication is received by all members via email. Because of the present situation the current terms of office for synod members was extended until 30-November 2020. The representatives for St Peter's Leckhampton remain as stated at the beginning of this report.

Churchyard Maintenance

Brad Coates

The churchyard remains a magnificent place and has been mainly attended through lockdown by Mohammad. We extend our continued thanks to him for all his hard work and dedication. As we come out of restriction, I am pleased to announce the arrival of a few regular volunteers who will assist in keeping the grass at bay and tidy. We also welcome a gang from a local school who are starting to turn the Cottage garden round. If you are able to help out, please let me know, any help will be gratefully appreciated.

Cottages Bookings

Parish Office

The Cottages were used by various church and community groups as well as private hirers up until the lockdown in March 2020, when everything necessarily stopped. Under strict hygiene conditions, we were able to allow a South Cheltenham Mindfulness Course to take place in October. With restrictions easing after Easter 2021, we have recently welcomed back one of our regular hirers to give primary school tuition and we have a few private and church bookings in the pipeline. We look forward to being able to welcome back our regular users over the next weeks and months.

Craft-T-Time

Kathy Webb

The Craft-T-Time group meets weekly in the Cottages on Wednesday mornings. It is an informal group whose numbers vary from week to week. Generally, we work on our own individual craft projects, but we also share our expertise and help one another. Occasionally we introduce a new craft that anyone can try out and join in with and at the beginning of this year we learned how to create Danish-style woven paper hearts. In the spring our weekly meetings in the Cottages had to cease due to Covid 19 restrictions, but during the summer we arranged to occasionally meet outdoors in each other's gardens in groups of no more than 6. Once the weather became inclement, it was no longer possible to meet up in this way and sadly this remained the case until the end of the year. We hope to resume the outdoor meetings as soon as restrictions allow and ultimately to meet again in the Cottages.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Eric Miller

Since last year six new names have been added, bringing the total to 140.

Flower Guild

Veronica Biddle

2020 was not only a difficult year for everyone but a very strange one, especially so when churches had to shut because of coronavirus. Because of the restrictions it was decided that it wasn't practical to continue arranging flowers in church. However, when we came out of the first lockdown and St Peters was opened for private prayer, we decided to do a pedestal in the chancel in silk flowers and foliage to eliminate the need for regular watering. Thanks to the realism of present day technology this fooled many people who didn't realise they were artificial, especially as we changed the flowers from time to time.

We continued with this theme throughout the rest of the year, apart from arranging fresh flowers for two weddings and two funerals.

Although some members are continuing to self isolate we are all looking forward to getting back to something more normal later in 2021.

Hospital Visiting/Spiritual Care

Peter Davies

Cheltenham and Gloucester hospitals, under the Gloucestershire NHS Foundation Trust, have a Chaplaincy Department with the title, Department of Spiritual Care. The department's fully trained hospital visiting team have members from different church congregations throughout the Diocese. From St Peter's Leckhampton, Peter Davies assists the team with ward visiting at Cheltenham General, usually on Friday mornings, and Penny Williams on Sunday mornings according to a team rota and both are available to be called to assist at other times at either of the two Hospitals if necessary. Peter is also listed on the Hospital Major Incident Team.

Since the lock-down period on 23 March 2020 hospital visiting has not been allowed except in certain circumstances. To date Spiritual Care volunteers are still waiting a decision from Line-Managers and the Hospital Trust for encouragement to restart and continue their work.

Julian Group

Jennie Hawdon

Throughout the COVID pandemic restrictions of 2020, the group continued to meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm, but virtually each in our own home, rather than together in the Cottages. We communicated the beginning and end of our half-hour of silent, contemplative prayer by What's App message. In that half-hour of silence, we knew that we were together in spirit, if not in person, and that we had companions as we sought to find an internal place and space of calm. We re-discovered that, in a period of national and international distress, stillness and silence with God is indeed more valuable and necessary than ever.

Due to the wonders of 21st century technology, we were able to 'meet' together via Zoom at the end of the half-hour, when we could see each other online and have a chat over tea and biscuits. A big thank you to Penny Piggott for providing the Zoom access.

We are very few in number and would welcome new members. If interested, please contact Jennie Hawdon.

Junior Church

Liz Johnson

Junior Church was unable to meet during most of 2020, due to the pandemic. We started off 2020 with our usual making of Christingles, but had to cancel our Mothering Sunday posy making when lockdown was imposed.

During lockdown many of the Junior Church leaders (and children!) have had increased family commitments including home schooling and home working to deal with, so we have not met online. However, as restrictions start to ease, I am hopeful that we can resume activities later in 2021. I am also excited to welcome Revd Jacqueline and her family to St Peter's, and look forward to when we can start Junior Churching together!

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Hermione Mason

Last year we started with a very informative talk about the role of the Street Pastor. In February we had a bring and share supper with a film which was enjoyable evening. Then lockdown happened so we met on Zoom for a wonderful talk by Maggie about the work of Mindsong. Since then we have met on Zoom twice this year for some socials. We are planning to meet for a bring and share tea in May.

Leckhampton Bellringers

Stuart Tomlinson

2020 started normally, with us ringing for all Sunday 10am services, attempting quarter peals prior to the evensong services and holding regular Monday evening practices. Sadly, this all stopped mid-March due to the Covid outbreak.

Soon after this, we set up a WhatsApp group to keep in touch. Then towards the end of May we started a weekly on-line tower practice using Zoom and RingingRoom – a new on-line bell ringing application. These sessions have been very useful (and challenging!) for all of us. Good for keeping in touch and for keeping the methods we regularly ring fresh in our minds. Particularly useful for our learners, who have been able to try new things without having to also think about physically ringing their bell. We have supplemented this with some Zoom theory sessions.

During September, October and December, we were allowed to ring in church for the Sunday morning services. We took the precautions of wearing face masks, hand sanitising and ringing alternate bells, except when we had two from the same household. This meant us ringing either four or five bells. This opportunity to ring 'real bells' was welcomed by quite a few of us, and we are most grateful to Revd Gary for allowing us to ring.

During the 2nd half of 2020, Stuart has updated Bellboard (an on-line database) with the old Leckhampton Peal and Quarter Peal records. Bellboard now has a record of all the quarter peals rung since the major rehousing in 1972 and most of them back to the late 1950's – 2,047 recorded, including 1,981 since 1972. All of the peals rung at Leckhampton are now also on Bellboard – a total of 413, with the earliest rung in 1893, when there were just six bells. We are fortunate to have such good paper records and now also on-line records. According to Bellboard, we have rung more quarter peals than any other tower worldwide, and are comfortably in the top 50 towers for peals.

Stuart visits the belfry every 1-2 months to do a visual check of the bells and fittings. This included ensuring that the stays are secure, each bell rope is safely tied to its bell wheel and not showing major signs of wear, and the clappers are secure and swing freely. If needed, he hoovers the clock room, the belfry and the area where we ring in the church. We don't anticipate any major bell expenditure being required in 2021.

Leckhampton C of E Primary School Foundation Governors report

Jane Allison, Sue Marlow and Gilly Whittingham

It has been a challenging year for the school due to the Covid Pandemic. For a large part of the year only the children of key workers attended in person and others were taught remotely. The staff, led by Miss Porter, has managed to do extremely well to teach both groups of pupils.

The children have now come back into school and were excited to return even though there are some restrictions in place. Due to the hard work of the staff, the children have settled back into a routine on a comprehensive recovery curriculum. Governor meetings have continued but taken place online.

As foundation governors, we have been unable to visit the school or support church activities.

Rev Gary has had very little opportunity to visit due to Covid but did manage to see the new hall space and other building works. Last summer, he provided every Year 6 child with a 'It's Your Move' booklet to help them with moving on to secondary school. He was sad not to be able to deliver, and talk about, these in person. In the autumn, he held a Zoom welcome service for the new Reception children and has also produced a number of short videos for the children in which he talked about Easter, Christmas, Harvest and Baptism. He has supported the staff where possible and delivered boxes of chocolates on behalf of the church.

The prayer group has been unable to meet in school so socially distanced prayer walks have taken place.

The school expansion is continuing with the new buildings due to be handed over to the school in Summer 2021.

As Foundation Governors we have continued to serve the school well, in different ways, during these difficult times.

Men's Group

Richard Kerr-Wilson

Lockdown from Covid has not only limited our meetings over the past year, but also numbed the ability to recall those that took place. However, when possible we were able to meet in the garden of the Wheatsheaf pub for social interaction either for lunch or in the evening, with suitable social distancing. The evening meeting(s) was well attended, and although the meeting for lunch was more quality than quantity, it was equally enjoyable. All being well, we will be able to resume meeting in the Wheatsheaf garden on May 6th, 2021, for lunch, and plan to arrange another gentle walk to a public house later in the year.

Music

Simon Gibson, Director of Music

It would be nice to be able to report on a year full of wonderful music-making at church and our second Music Festival last October. Alas, what might have been.

Instead, I can talk to you about how we managed to keep the musical life of St. Peter's going through the various lockdowns and limitations when we managed to get back into church.

For us all, it was a steep learning curve with the online technology we had to use, namely how do we make Zoom video calls work for the choir! By a process of trial and error, we organised our weekly choir meetings over this internet marvel – we could see and hear each other in our own homes and we managed to make some recordings that ended up on the church's website and got used in some online services too. The choir also 'Zoomed' for a couple of Quizzes, one at Christmas and one at Easter. We promised ourselves that the next one should be in person at church.

Using Zoom now seems like second nature, but it will never replace the sheer joy of being able to gather in person to sing together, either in the churchyard (as we did last June and July) or eventually in the church in the autumn and at Christmas. The two Carol Services we sang last year were extra special, not least for the fact that the congregations could not sing. However, we did manage to sing something together outside in the churchyard after each service, despite the cold!

Looking ahead, we have plans for our music festival in the autumn again; let's hope we can put it on this year. I also hope that the whole choir will be able to sing together in church very soon and, most of all, that you the congregation will be able to open your mouths and show forth your praise by joining in.

Thanks, as always, to the singers in the choir, particularly to the children who have missed out on almost a year of choral fellowship and fun. Thanks to Gary and everyone at St. Peter's who are so encouraging towards the music and to you the congregation.

Music will soon return for us all.

Open the Book

Peter Davies

Open the book is administered by the Bible Society and the respective parish leader. Many churches participate thus providing a team of people who visit one or more primary schools to present bible stories at the school assemblies or during Acts of Collective Worship. The Stories are taken from "The Lion Story Teller Bible" and Open the Book Years 1, 2 & 3 Storybooks. For each Bible there is an advisory Handbook published by the Bible Society, as everything that is said or done has already been tried, tested and corrected and, for lots of reasons, we promise to abide by the recommended advice.

The Open the Book team representing St Peter's consists of: Peter Davies, (Leading), Jennie Hawdon, Penny Williams, Annie Tincello and Sarah Wood. Reverend Gary, as he is known at O.T.B., joins us regularly to take an active and extremely energetic part.

The schools visited by the St Peter's team are Leckhampton Primary every other Wednesday during term-time and, alternatively, Richard Pate School the other Wednesday, thus presenting a bible story at morning school assembly on a three-year rolling basis as recommended by the Open the Book administrators.

Sadly but hopefully we still await agreement for school assembly to restart.

Parish Magazine

David Webber, Editor; Sue Marlow, Business Manager; Peter Davies, Distribution Manager

The Parish Magazine has continued to be published every month but because of the pandemic it has only been available online on the church website. It has not been possible to provide a printed copy because of Covid restrictions and because it would not be reasonable to expect the distributors to venture out to deliver the magazine. Only a very small number have been printed, mainly for the archives. As we were unable to deliver printed magazines, as a goodwill gesture advertisers have been offered half-price rates for 2021, though they have actually received good coverage online. Pre-paid readers will be offered a number free copies when printing is resumed.

We have continued to maintain the integrity of the magazine by insisting that all articles are apolitical and, in accordance with Diocesan policy, and the editor reserves the right to reject any contribution that he considers inappropriate.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine. Contributions have inevitably been reduced, but enough has been received to make it a viable, and hopefully interesting, magazine, and as we are not restricted by printing costs it has been possible to include a lot more colour. It has hopefully been a valuable resource for keeping people in touch and informed about church life during the pandemic.

An electronic copy is sent every month, at their request, to the Diocesan Press Office and, as a legal requirement, a hard copy is posted to the British Library.

Every year the magazines are bound into a hard copy, which is stored in the Parish Office and eventually in the Diocesan Archives.

Pastoral Team

Sally Marlow

Throughout the last year we have continued to meet via Zoom every other month, under Gary's leadership. Our aim during times of government COVID restrictions has been to make sure contact has been maintained with individual members of our congregation, offering support where appropriate. We look forward to resuming face-to-face contact with the Care Homes when it is safe to do so and restarting our support of Wedding and Baptism preparation. Friday Lunches and Afternoon Teas in the cottage gardens will also resume in safer times.

During the next year we look forward to further supporting Gary's ministry and helping him take forward new initiatives. We are Jacqueline Henson, Dereck Freeman, Anne Webber, Steve Whittingham, Jennie Hawdon and Sally Marlow.

Safeguarding

Sally Champion

St Peter's continues to be committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. There have been no serious causes for concern. Any issues are brought to the attention of Rev Gary and the PCC. Safeguarding is a required agenda item for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting. The policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan policy. Sally Champion remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Stephen Gale, Barbara Pettit and Liz Johnson continue to act as Evidence Checkers.

Sally Champion, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, regularly reviews the list of volunteers and employees. All individuals who required a DBS check, or a renewal, have been notified and asked to follow the DBS procedure. A DBS tracker is kept by Sally Champion as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Liz Johnson as Parish Office Administrator. All written declarations are stored securely in the Parish Office and are only accessible to Rev Gary Grady, Sally Champion, Liz Johnson and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

Rev Gary and Sally Champion attended an online Cheltenham Deanery Safeguarding Workshop organised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in February 2021. This gave an opportunity to share good practice, receive an update on safeguarding in the Diocese, and an overview of the current training requirements.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team have made some changes, in line with the National Safeguarding team, about the levels of training individuals require for the roles they carry out within the church. In line with this, Rev Gary and Sally Champion have put together a Safeguarding Training Matrix for St Peter's to show what level of safeguarding training is required according to role. The training must be refreshed every three years if the role is maintained. Invites to complete training will be sent out in due course.

Sally Champion has completed online Basic Awareness and Foundation training during February 2021 and Leadership training, via Zoom, in March 2021. Online Safer Recruitment training is now also available for those involved in the recruitment of staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Social Committee

Helen Yates

The Social Committee were all ready for Mothering Sunday in March 2020 – Suzy’s ingredients weighed out for the Simnel Cake - when the country went into Lockdown 1.0 due to the rising number of Covid 19 cases - and all churches were closed and services were now on line.

We were so very grateful for on-line services – keeping us all connected but I am sure that we all missed that personal contact and social interaction with our church family. There was no hot cross buns and fizz at Easter, no Peter Tide celebrations in the cottage gardens etc. Although there was an All Souls service just before lockdown 2.0 we were not able to provide the usual refreshments and certainly no mulled wine etc after the carols.

But the social committee will hopefully bounce back in the second half of 2021! We believe, as a support group to the church - we play a little part in the “Ministry of Hospitality” in welcoming the family of St Peters and visitors by providing refreshments...including occasionally some fizz!

Ro, Penny, Pat, Suzy, Anna, Sally, Val and myself look forward to seeing you in 2021 - meanwhile keep well, stay safe.

South Cheltenham Churches Team Council

Peter Davies

The Churches forming the South Cheltenham Team Benefice are:

- St Peter’s in Leckhampton
- The Church in Warden Hill
- St Stephens, Tivoli
- St Philip and James, Leckhampton
- Emmanuel, Cheltenham

It is recommended that each Church is represented by several members. The meetings Chairman is Reverend Nick Davies, Team Rector. Member representatives for St Peter’s are Reverend Gary Grady, Lay members - Peter Davies and Helen Shill. Since the last face-to-face team meeting on 20th January 2020 communication has been assisted via email and Zoom Meetings.

Sunday Coffee

Ro Baillie and Joey Kerr-Wilson

Joey and Ro took over from Penny Piggott on 1st January 2020. Until 15th March all ran smoothly but then, due to COVID19 restrictions, we went into lockdown and the cottages have been closed for refreshments ever since. Now that the church is open again for services, at present with restricted numbers, we hope it won’t be too long till refreshments can be served again after the Sunday morning service. As soon as the green light is given we will put up a roster and hope that all those who assisted before lockdown will continue to do so. Any newcomers who would like to be added to the list will be very welcome.

Syrian Refugee Project

Steve Whittingham

November 2020 marked the third anniversary of the Abazied family’s arrival in Cheltenham under the Home Office’s Sponsorship Scheme. While the sponsorship agreement between the Home Office and the churches of the South Cheltenham Team formally came to an end in 2019, we have continued to provide support to the family. The generosity of individuals across all the South Cheltenham congregations has

meant that we have been able to help significantly towards paying the rent on the Abazieds' accommodation while they continue to make progress to establish an independent life for themselves.

Meanwhile, the family themselves have coped well during the pandemic and associated lockdowns. Mohammad continues to work in the churchyard, Wahida has had her first vaccination against Covid and the three children have now all been at the same secondary school since September.

Thanks to all across the South Cheltenham congregations who've given of their time, talents and money in welcoming this family into our community, and giving them fresh opportunity and hope for the future.

Tuesday Club

Revd Gary Grady

The Tuesday club met for the first two months of 2020 in the church cottages but has been on hold thereafter due to the pandemic. I would like to thank Helen Shill who led the group last year and has now stepped down. As such it has given us time to rethink the format, name and leadership of the group. I'm delighted to report that Lara Skinner will take the helm and that the Tuesday Club will reopen from 22nd June 2021 under the new name of 'Little Pebbles' (the name having a lovely connection to St. Peter, which is translated in Greek as *petros* meaning stone or rock). Do look out for those little pebbles around the church, and support where possible.

Youth Work

Hanna Stürcken, Youthworker

The beginning of the year saw a successful continuation of the Hot Chocolate Church mornings at Bath Road. Additionally, several young people from the South Cheltenham churches joined the weekend away run by Youth for Christ Gloucestershire in February. The young people enjoyed the time away, reflecting on God and socialising with other young Christians. Should the weekend be held again in the future, Hanna recommends the young people attend this.

Before the lockdown in March, Hanna was able to deliver survival kits to most young people from across the South Cheltenham Churches and CNC. The evening groups, Rock Solid and NextGen, continued to run on Zoom until the end of the school year. Sessions went back to in-person, whenever this was possible, and smoothly transitioned back to Zoom once required to do so. Young people from the South Cheltenham Churches have been encouraged to join the main services online. Cheltenham Network Church has recently started a monthly digital catch-up after the service.

Despite the difficulties arising from the global pandemic, youth work has been able to continue throughout 2020 with the only change of Hot Chocolate Church not being able to run.

Rock Solid was able to welcome two new members during the first and second lockdown. Kay Edwards has been the co-leader throughout the year, this minimised the risk for in-person meetings and gave the group a sense of stability. All of the young people in this group have adapted very well to online youth work and easily transition back into in-person meetings too. Overall the group sees a regular attendance of 10 young people.

NextGen ran weekly to provide entertainment for the older youth during the spring term and went back to every other week in the summer term. With the beginning of the new academic year, several young people from NextGen have felt unable to join the online sessions, as they already spend so much time on screen for their school work. All members prefer in-person sessions; however, online Bible studies and game nights were still happily attended. Due to these circumstances, the attendance numbers can vary. Tamsyn Jenkins has taken on the role of co-leader for this group.