



PARISH OF RINGWOOD

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE PARISH OF
ST PETER & ST PAUL, RINGWOOD**

**WITH
ST MARY & ALL SAINTS, ELLINGHAM
AND ALL SAINTS, HARBRIDGE**

(Charity No. 1134815)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE PARISH OF
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RINGWOOD
WITH
ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS, ELLINGHAM AND ALL SAINTS, HARBRIDGE**

VICAR:

Revd Stephen Miles
The Vicarage
65 Southampton Road
Ringwood
Hampshire BH24 1HE

ASSOCIATE PRIEST:

Vacant

BANKERS:

The National Westminster Bank
11 High Street
Ringwood
Hampshire BH24 1BA

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
The CBF Church of England Funds
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

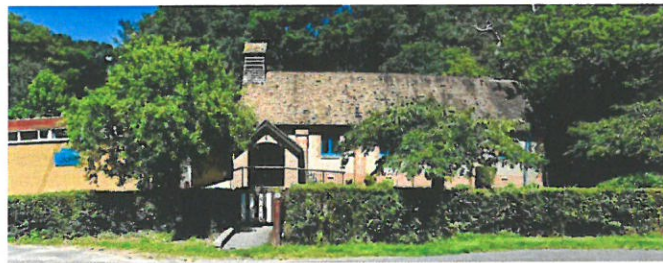
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Vantage Accounting
Unit 1 Cedar Office Park
Cobham Road
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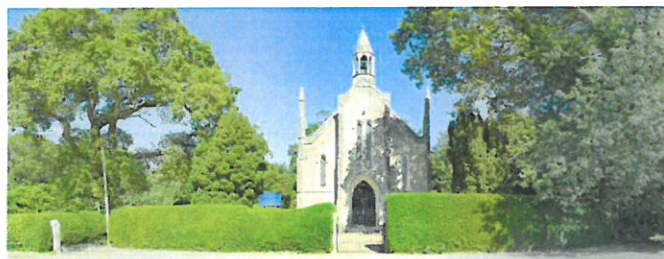
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OF THE PARISH OF
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RINGWOOD
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The Church of St Peter and St Paul
Market Place, Ringwood
Hampshire, BH24 1AW



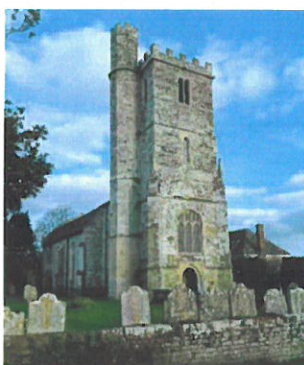
Church of St John the Baptist
Linford Road, Ringwood
Hampshire, BH24 1TY



Church of St Paul
Ringwood Road, Bisterne
Hampshire, BH24 3BN



Church of St Mary and All Saints
Ellingham,
Hampshire, BH24 3PJ



Church of All Saints
Harbridge, Ringwood
Hampshire, BH24 3PS

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Jacqueline Brown and Mr Matthew Steele

All Correspondence to:

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The Church of St Peter & St Paul
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RINGWOOD WITH
ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS, ELLINGHAM AND ALL SAINTS, HARBRIDGE**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

THE PARISH

We were delighted that our interregnum came to an end in 2024 with the appointment of a new Vicar for the Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge. On 3rd September, Revd Stephen David Miles took up the post, bringing fresh energy and vision to our Benefice. We give thanks for his ministry and look forward with hope and enthusiasm to this new chapter in the life of our church.

While we celebrate this new beginning, we continue to pray for the ongoing vacancy for an Associate Priest (House for Duty). We remain hopeful that this role will soon be filled, further strengthening our ministry team.

In October 2024, our Curate, Revd Sandra Matthews, was appointed as the new parish priest for Wootton, East Cowes, and Whippingham on the Isle of Wight. We give thanks for her faithful ministry among us and pray for her as she embarks on this new calling. May she continue to be a blessing to those she serves, just as she was to our Benefice.

We are deeply grateful to the dedicated team who worked tirelessly throughout the interregnum and who continue to support Revd Miles in his ministry and leadership. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Churchwardens, our retired and lay ministers, and the many lay people across our churches whose faithfulness and commitment have sustained and strengthened our parish through this time of transition.

The formation of the Benefice of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge with the Parish of All Saints at St Leonard's and St Ives came into force on 7th October 2017. The Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge lies on the western edge of the New Forest and the south-western border of Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester, in the Deanery of Christchurch, within the Church of England.

The population of the Parish was estimated to be 16,200 in 2018; however this figure is continually increasing due to the building of new housing developments in and around Ringwood. The territorial extent is large, running from Bisterne in the south to an area north of Churchfield Lane at Harbridge, it includes the Somerley Estate, the Moors Valley Country Park and Forest, as well as scattered settlements, farms, and houses at Blashford, Ellingham, Harbridge, Ibsley, Rockford and Highwood, some of which fall within the New Forest National Park. See map on page 6.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) shares responsibility with the Vicar and Churchwardens for five Church of England churches within the Parish. These are the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul and four Chapels of Ease, namely St John the Baptist Church at Poulner, The Church of St Paul at Bisterne, St Mary and All Saints Church at Ellingham, and All Saints Church at Harbridge. The Benefice website can be found at www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk.

The formal registered name of the PCC is THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD. The registered number of the Charity is 1134815, and statutory information regarding the Parish may be found on the Charity Commission website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk), which it is the responsibility of the PCC to update, particularly following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

In pursuance of its charitable objects (particularly the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit) and in accordance with the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Synodical Government Measure 1969 -

It shall be the duty of the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish. The functions of the PCC shall include: Co-operation with the Incumbent in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical; the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question; making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan / Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the Council on any particular matter; giving advice to the Diocesan / Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the Council; raising such matters as the Council consider appropriate with the Diocesan / Deanery Synod. In the exercise of its functions, the PCC shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any Parochial Church Meeting.

When planning objectives and activities for the year, the Churchwardens, Ministry Team, and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge Parochial Church Council (PCC) fulfils its aims and purposes through activities associated with six main objectives.

Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge PCC provides:

1. Regular public worship open to all

We make our services (as required, authorised, or allowed by Canon), accessible to as many Parishioners as possible, by offering options at various times and across the wide range of styles and traditions to be found within the Church of England. To facilitate this objective, specific guidelines are followed;

- The main service in each church is held at the same time every Sunday.
- Holy Communion is celebrated on all principal feasts, holy days and festivals.
- Parishioners may request baptisms, marriages, and funerals in any of our churches.
- Special services are targeted at particular needs and groups such as children and all age worship.
- Special occasions are provided for such as local and national civic commemorations.

2. Sacred space for personal prayer & contemplation

Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge PCC ensures that -

- Our churches and grounds are well-kept, safe, and welcoming for everyone.
- The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul Ringwood, St Mary and All Saints Ellingham, and All Saints Harbridge are open to members of the public daily.

3. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved

The PCC supports the Clergy, Visitors, Licensed Lay Ministers, BCM and Staff Team to ensure that-

- All who desire our pastoral services receive a ministry of care and welcome.
- The baptism of children involves full preparation, a warm welcome and ongoing care.

- Couples marrying in church receive full preparation and are prayed for in church.
- Holy Communion is taken to anyone sick at home or in rest homes who desires it.
- The clergy are notified, and Parishioners are visited when in hospital or housebound.
- The bereaved are visited prior to every funeral and their loved ones remembered.

4. Teaching through sermons, courses, and small groups

The PCC supports the Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers in providing at least three sermons every Sunday. It also provides learning opportunities for discipleship and mission such as -

- Seasonally: Study Groups, Confirmation Groups
- Monthly: Mothers' Union; Messy Church
- Fortnightly: Bible Study Groups
- Weekly during term time: Toddler Groups and a Bible Study Group

5. Taking of religious assemblies (Collective Worship) in schools

The PCC supports the Parish Clergy, Foundation Governors, and others in leading Collective Worship termly in Ringwood Church of England Infant School, and occasionally in other schools, who also hold special services in the Parish Church. The PCC also values its close relationship with Ringwood Junior School, Moyles Court School, and Ellingham House Day Nursery. During December a total of three local schools usually hold Carol Services in our churches.

6. Promotion of Christianity through events, meetings, and the distribution of literature

The PCC encourages outreach through activities such as meals, coffee mornings, concerts, and fairs. Fund-raising events are held at all our churches which allow the community opportunity to engage with us. Many major town events such as the Ringwood Carnival, and the Ellingham Show are used to reach out to the townspeople. The PCC promotes the full range of its activities through a monthly parish magazine, a weekly notice sheet, a weekly email newsletter, a website, social media, church noticeboards, and occasional press releases.

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

It shall be the duty of the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish.

Vicars report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been in post now officially for seven months, and what a seven months it has been. There have been huge amounts of encouragement, there have been challenges, and there has been a lot to learn and get my head around, but it has been a real blessing to lead the Ringwood Benefice as we look to encounter God and bless our communities together. Some personal highlights of the last few months of ministry have been the following:

Our relationships with the schools in our benefice have gone from strength to strength. We've held major festival assemblies in both our parish churches, we have been invited to work within our schools with regards to helping with RE provision, and we have also had schools visit our churches outside of collective worship. These are relationships which are really flourishing.

It has also been great to see how some of our congregations have seen growth over these past few months, and people are engaging with the different expressions of worship which we offer. It has been great to see our families provision go from strength to strength, and the addition of Tea and

Toast to the benefice has been great.

There are many things that we can be thankful for, and lots which I have missed out. But I am really excited about the future. In the midst of all the joy though, I do recognise that there is change happening as well, which is uncomfortable as we never like change. But as we all know, sometimes we need to do a bit of pruning to see new growth. I want, as I am sure like you all do too, to see our churches thriving and growing, and that's why these changes have had to happen.

It has been a very fast first seven months in post, but I have huge excitement for what the next 12 months are going to reveal.

In Christ,
Revd Steve

The Parochial Church Council for the Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge met seven times during the year.

The Standing Committee for the Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge did not meet in person, but made decisions by email consultation, these being related to church works, faculty applications, and salary reviews. Decisions made in this way were ratified by the PCC at its subsequent meeting.

Church Committees for each of our five churches met regularly to conduct business under their own terms of reference. Reports were received by the full PCC and discussed when necessary.

Benefice Office

The Parish of Ringwood employs an Office and Communications Manager working 25 hours per week. The post is filled by Samantha Swyer. Ministers, Churchwardens, PCC, and church members remain hugely grateful to Sam for the care and commitment she displays in all aspects of her work.

Co-operation with the Incumbent in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical

1. Regular public worship open to all

a. Service pattern, attendance, and occasional offices

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry Team for their dedication in leading the parish both during the interregnum and since the arrival of our stipendiary minister, Revd Stephen Miles, in September 2024. Throughout 2024, our service pattern remained unchanged, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our retired clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs). Their invaluable contributions have been a cornerstone of our parish life, and we are profoundly grateful for their steadfast support and hard work.

Average Sunday attendance for the Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge during 2024 was 126.

Attendance on Easter Sunday 212 was, of these 143 were communicants. At Christmas, communicants for the five Churches in the Parish totalled 141.

Thirteen baptisms, one thanksgiving, eleven weddings, one blessing, and 28 church funerals were conducted in the Parish. There were two interments in our churchyards and seven cremation services were conducted.

b. Ministry Team

The Benefice Ministry Team comprises all clergy and lay ministers licensed within the Benefice of Ringwood. During the interregnum, until Revd Stephen Miles's arrival in September 2024, the team met fortnightly on Monday lunchtimes in the Benefice Office to pray together, discuss faith matters, and support one another. Their work ensured the continuation of worship patterns and public ministry across all six churches in the benefice.

Until September 2024, the team consisted of five retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO) in the diocese and six Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), all of whom served on a voluntary basis.

Clergy with PTO:	Revd Canon Peggy Jackson	LLMs:	Ruth Freeman
	Revd Canon Michael Anderson		Elizabeth Halford
	Revd Canon Richard Emblin		Peter Jackson
	Revd Terry Roberts		Derick Potter
	Revd Canon Peter Vargeson		Richard Powell
			Stephen Wood

In September 2024, Canon Peggy Jackson stepped down from chairing the group and leading services within the Benefice ahead of the arrival of Revd Stephen Miles. We extend our deepest gratitude to Revd Peggy for her invaluable leadership and commitment throughout the interregnum.

We also offer our heartfelt thanks to the entire Ministry Team, whose dedication and service ensured that worship continued throughout 2024. Without their tireless efforts, the regular pattern of services across our churches would not have been possible. We are truly grateful for all they have done, and continue to do, in support of Revd Stephen

The Ministry Team has been responsible for the following areas of benefice life:

- Maintaining the existing patterns of Sunday and midweek worship across all churches, with only minor adjustments.
- Supporting outreach initiatives such as The Gathering, The Well, and Messy Church, as well as continuing ministry through services and assemblies in residential homes and schools. The team also coordinated regular Sunday attendance from Moyles Court pupils at Ellingham and developed connections with residents of St Martha's.
- Responding to all requests for Occasional Offices (funerals, weddings, and baptisms) across the benefice, with administrative support from Samantha Swyer (Parish of Ringwood), and Lisa Hover (Parish of All Saints). Wedding and baptism preparation sessions were provided, with Revd Canon Peter Vargeson assisting in coordinating wedding preparations alongside clergy from Avon Valley Churches.
- Sustaining pastoral care through home communions, visits, and responding to particular needs.
- Supporting the prayer life of the benefice through Wednesday Morning Prayer, led by Revd Canon Peter Vargeson, and house/discussion groups led by Revd Canon Michael Anderson and Revd Canon Peter Vargeson. Benefice Monday Prayers continued at St Peter & St Paul until the end of the interregnum, with assistance from BCM's Samantha Swyer, Jan Pankhurst, and the licensed and lay ministers.
- Working with the benefice churchwardens and the Benefice Interregnum Group to review and adjust the parish profile and advertisement for a new incumbent. This included meetings with Bishop Debbie and Archdeacon Jean during their visits.

Additional support was provided at various times during the year by ministers from outside the benefice, including Revd Canon Andrew Gough and to them we give our heartfelt thanks.

c. Benefice Worship

The Ministry Team worked tirelessly throughout the year to maintain the regular pattern of Sunday and midweek worship across all six Benefice churches during the interregnum. We are deeply grateful to them and to everyone who made this possible, their dedication and commitment have been invaluable. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported this work, including churchwardens, officers, organists, servers, sidespeople, and those holding the Bishop's Commission for Mission.

We also recognise and give thanks for the many volunteers whose time, skills, and faithful service help sustain the life and ministry of our churches. From those who clean and care for our buildings to those who prepare refreshments, arrange flowers, lead prayers, and offer a warm welcome, whose contributions are truly appreciated.

Benefice Worship continued with a main morning service held on every fifth Sunday in different churches.

The benefice also remained actively involved in Churches Together in Ringwood and District, contributing to worship during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, participating in the Good Friday Walk of Witness leading into the Three Hours' service at St Peter & St Paul, and joining other churches in the Market Place as part of Ringwood Winter Wanderland.

Revd Stephen Miles continued the existing service pattern until the end of 2024.

d. Benefice Interregnum Group

The Benefice Interregnum Group (BIG) was constituted from the Benefice Leadership Team when we entered an interregnum in May 2022. It was disbanded after the arrival of Revd Stephen Miles who will work with the Churchwardens to appoint an Associate Priest (House for Duty terms).

This Group supported the Churchwardens in the management of the interregnum and managed the process of appointment, which included updating the bMAP, drafting and subsequently amending as needed The Benefice Profile and liaising with the Diocese on advertising and interviewing.

The Group met regularly on alternative Mondays in the Benefice Office. Each church in the Benefice was represented on the group, along with YCF and the Ministry Team, via Revd Canon Peggy Jackson. Appointed members were:

Jacqueline Brown	Churchwarden Parish of Ringwood & Ringwood Representative
Matthew Steele	Churchwarden Parish of Ringwood & Ellingham Representative
Rhoda Curtis	St John's, Poulner Representative
Michael Thomas	All Saints, Harbridge Representative
Hallam Mills	St Paul, Bisterne Representative
Samantha Swyer	Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge PCC Secretary
Revd Canon Peggy Jackson	Locum Tenens and Ministry Team liaison
Kevin Jones	Youth Children's and Families Representative
Lynne Wilson	Churchwarden St Leonards & St Ives
Frankie Hester	Churchwarden St Leonards & St Ives
Ruth Freeman	All Saints, SLSI Representative
Gill Tybjerg	PCC Secretary Parish of All Saints, St Leonards & St Ives

The Parish Representatives on the interview panel were:

Ringwood: Jacqueline Brown, Hallam Mills, Matthew Steele

St Leonards & St Ives: Ruth Freeman, Lynne Wilson

e. Families Ministry

The Benefice Youth, Children, and Families Ministry Group met regularly to coordinate ministry across both parishes, ensuring the continuation of key initiatives, including a Toddler Group and Messy Church in each parish. The group also received updates on and supported Meet and Eat, a Ringwood Church of England Infant School initiative.

In late 2024, Revd Stephen met with the Families Ministry group, and it was agreed to disband it in preparation for a new approach. He intends to restructure the ministry in 2025 to better serve the needs of children, young people, and families across the Benefice.

f. Meet and Eat

Meet and Eat is an initiative run by Ringwood Church of England Infant School, with support from the church. The group is made up of families identified by the school, providing a support network and helping participants build positive relationships. Meetings focus on supporting families by fostering connections and developing skills. Sessions are structured around preparing and sharing a meal together, with activities such as arts and crafts, group games, planting seeds, table tennis, and darts.

The group met every two weeks during term time and organised occasional holiday events, including a full Christmas dinner party with a bouncy castle.

g. Messy Church

In January this year, we celebrated Messy Church's twelfth birthday! It is always good to look back and reflect on the year gone by and to continue to thank God for all the families that have attended Messy Church during that time. We continue to remember all the families we have had contact with over the past twelve years and pray that they will be blessed and encouraged wherever they are in their faith journey.

It is always a positive thing to reflect and remember that God loves and cares for families even more than we do, and it is a privilege to be able to serve God and one another as we participate in this area of family ministry. We also thank God continually for His faithfulness and generous love for our wonderful Messy Church team, who continue to meet regularly to plan and pray for each session of Messy Church.

Messy Church meets once a month on a Sunday at St John's Church and Hall between 3.00pm and 4.30pm.

Messy Church continues to thrive and grow. It remains a very safe and happy environment where families can meet together for craft activities, a lively and joyful time of worship in St John's Church, followed by a wonderful afternoon tea produced by our amazing catering team!

The Messy Church team are DBS-checked and up to date with all safeguarding requirements.

Our themes this past year have included: Jesus Meets with His Friends in the Upper Room, Daniel, Wind and Fire, Journeys, Hidden Treasure, The Baby in the Basket, Dazzling Light, Amos Measures Up, and The Christmas Crowd. At Christmas time, every family received a Messy Church Family Bag, including The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas storybook.

During December 2024, we met with the Messy Church team leaders from All Saints SLSI to talk, pray, and plan together the themes we would deliver in 2025, beginning with New Year, New Clothes in January. We also set up a Benefice WhatsApp group so that we can share ideas throughout the coming year, and we intend to meet at least once a term to share and pray together.

As well as producing thematic craft activities, Messy Church at St John's continues to have a Craft Prayer Station. This continues to be very well supported by families with children of all ages, where they can use

simple mark-making, pictures, and words to communicate their thanks and prayer requests to God. These have included Prayer Palm Leaves, Lion's Den Prayers, Prayer Doves, and Prayer Mountains! Most are pinned up on the St John's noticeboards, and some of the prayer collages are now in SPSP's prayer area.

Messy Church continues to send out invitations and emails as reminders. It also posts on Facebook to advertise upcoming sessions, and there are regular updates in the Ringwood Link magazine. Messy Church continues to ask families to confirm their attendance, as this helps so much with catering and activities.

Messy Church is completely self-funding. It is a Fresh Expression and an established Worshipping Community within the parish.

Messy Church is attended regularly by 20-30 children and 20-25 adults, and we continue to see a number of families from Diddy Dunkers coming along too.

Please continue to pray for all the families who attend Messy Church and for our team. We are so grateful for the prayer support and practical help. It is very exciting to see family ministry grow across the Benefice. We continue to pray that God will bring together all generations with hope for the Church now and in the future.

Peter and Sara Jackson

h. St John's "Diddy Dunkers" Toddler Group

Diddy Dunkers meets regularly every Monday morning during school term time from 9.15am to 11.00am at St John's Hall.

Diddy Dunkers continues to offer a variety of play activities, including some soft play, which focus on all aspects of children's development between 0 and 4 years. There continues to be a never-ending supply of delicious refreshments, opportunities for a good natter, friendships, and a healthy snack time for the little ones.

Diddy Dunkers remains a very supportive and nurturing toddler group, which is very much part of the local community of Poulner, Ringwood, and beyond, including West London, Bournemouth, New Milton, and Verwood! Families come in all shapes and sizes, and we continue to welcome parents, grandparents, and childminders.

We continue to be blessed with a caring, supportive, and prayerful team, as well as other church members who step in to help whenever needed. Diddy Dunkers would not function without these wonderful people, and we are so grateful to them.

The Diddy Dunkers team all have DBS clearance and up-to-date safeguarding training.

It continues to be a real joy to offer a safe space where children and their carers can make friends and interact with the team in a positive way that supports the children's social skills and helps them to learn about God using familiar themes. Themes this year have included bells and Lego, pancakes, new friends, Easter, ducks, bees, circles, leaves, stars, remembering special people, football, Christmas, penguins, and bears. We continue to say a short prayer at the end of singing and story time.

Families continue to make positive comments, including:

"We love coming to Diddy Dunkers so much – it is so good."

"Thank you so much for being here."

"The best start to Mondays ever!"

Diddy Dunkers was able to give every family a Book Trust pack, which encourages and supports children with pre-reading and early reading skills. At Christmas time, every family received a Born in a Stable storybook.

During December 2024, we met up with the Small Saints Toddler Group leaders from SLSI to share, talk, and pray about both toddler groups. We intend to meet up at least once a term to continue to pray and share ideas.

Diddy Dunkers continues to be completely self-funding.

Diddy Dunkers has a Facebook page with 116 followers. There continue to be regular articles in the Ringwood Link magazine. Some families come to Diddy Dunkers through their connections with baptism preparation, but most have heard about it through word of mouth, and many invite their friends with young children. Most weeks, there are 20-30 children and 15-25 adults.

We continue to say goodbye to families as their children move to nursery and reception classes. During the past year, we have welcomed many new families, including five new babies!

The families are such a joy to be with, and it continues to be a privilege to be part of their lives.

Please continue to pray for all the families and for us as we continue to serve in this area of family ministry. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support, prayers, and practical help.

Sara and Peter Jackson

i. The Well

The Well has continued to meet twice monthly at St Joh's, Poulner. Over the past year we have completed Bishop Jill Duff's book "Lighting the Beacons," worked through "Practicing the Way (John Mark Comer), and spent time in Ephesians.

We are immensely blessed by Chris and Ruth Kipling coming to lead our worship once a month, and by the help that Revd Kay and Sam Pead have offered, in helping with the preaching and the worship. In addition, huge thanks to the catering team who provide amazing cakes and refreshments before the service!

Interestingly through this year we have seen an increase in attendance. At the beginning of the year, we were hovering around twenty as an average attendance. That has been rising, and we are now seeing thirty plus.

The style of the Well is contemporary, with an emphasis on Word and Worship. Through the books and teaching we have followed we have tried to focus on faith that is relevant when we wake on Monday morning, equipping us for the week that lies ahead.

So, we do hope that through all the Well offers, people have been able to encounter Jesus and grow in confidence in their faith. In Practicing the Way John Mark Comer helps us think of discipleship as being his apprentices. We want to learn to be like Jesus, become like him and do what he did. We can then make a difference as his apprentices in our homes, at work and in the communities in which we live.

Revd Canon Peter Vargeson

j. The Gathering

At the end of 2024, a decision was made to bring The Gathering to a close on Sunday mornings. While a small but committed group faithfully attended, this change allows for new opportunities in the structure of morning worship at St Peter & St Paul.

As our Benefice continues to evolve and grow, we remain mindful of the needs of our congregation and the wider community. This decision creates space for future developments, ensuring that our Sunday services continue to be welcoming, spiritually enriching, and accessible to all.

We give thanks for all who have been part of The Gathering and for the time of worship, reflection, and fellowship it has provided.

k. Reflections@6

Reflections @6 is a Benefice informal evening service that happens on each 3rd Sunday at All Saints, St Leonards & St Ives. It continued to operate through 2024. It is a contemplative service using a variety of mediums including art, music and prayer to reflect and draw closer to God. Topics recently have included a meditation on the song 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky', praying for the Benefice during our Vacancy and 'Favourite Psalms'. My heartfelt thanks to Ruth Freeman and Hilary Cooper who help me prepare and present the services.

Gill Tybjerg

l. Christmas Services

Advent began with a peaceful and reflective service at Ellingham Church. The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul welcomed Ringwood Church of England Infant School, Ringwood Junior School, and Moyles Court School for their Christmas services. Moyles Court School had also planned a Christingle service at Ellingham Church, but this was cancelled due to local flooding. Ellingham Church did, however, host a carol service for Ellingham House Nursery.

During Advent the number of people attending special services for the congregations and local community totalled 772. The total number of people attending services held specifically for schools was 1,273.

Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols services were held at All Saints, Harbridge, and St Paul's, Bisterne. A Candlelit Carols service took place at St Peter & St Paul, while St John's hosted a Family Carol Service followed by a Christmas Tea, raising funds for the charity Sightsavers.

Midnight Communion services were observed at St Mary & All Saints Ellingham and the Parish Church. On Christmas Day, services were conducted at three churches across the Parish. There were 141 communicants across both days.

2. Sacred space for personal prayer & contemplation

The PCC and Churchwardens extend their sincere thanks to the Deputy Churchwardens, Vergers, and Cleaners for their dedication in maintaining the churches as safe, welcoming spaces. Their efforts ensure that the buildings remain well cared for. Throughout the year, all churches have undergone necessary maintenance and repairs in line with the recommendations of the Quinquennial Reports. The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul was closed for ten days during August for essential repair works to the lighting.

3. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved

- a. The Ministry Team members conducting Baptisms in the Parish continue to guide families in accordance with the practices of the Church of England. These sessions aim to foster engagement with the church's family ministry, promoting participation in parent and toddler groups, as well as

Messy Church.

- b. In February 2024, a collaborative marriage preparation day was organised for couples intending to marry in the Parish, bringing together the Ringwood Benefice and Avon Valley Churches.
- c. Weekly intercessions include prayers for all those who are sick or bereaved. Clergy and Pastoral Visitors extend support by visiting the sick and housebound both at home and in hospital, as requested.
- d. There were 70 people in attendance at the annual Service for the Commemoration of the Departed, a clear testament to the importance of this service. The congregation was made up primarily of bereaved families, rather than regular churchgoers, highlighting the special significance this service holds for those remembering their loved ones.

4. Teaching through sermons, courses, and small groups

House groups, small gatherings, and Bible study sessions throughout the Parish convened regularly for weekly or bi-weekly exploration of scripture and prayer. The Mothers' Union group has consistently gathered on a monthly basis, providing unwavering support to the Parish. Our Messy Church and Toddler Group remain vibrant and active. There were no Confirmation Candidates this year.

5. Taking of religious assemblies (Collective Worship) in schools

The Ministry Team maintained termly Collective Worship at Ringwood Church of England Infant School, thanks to the invaluable support of our retired clergy. The arrival of our new Vicar will enable more consistent contact with Ringwood Church of England Infant School, Ringwood Junior School, and Moyles Court, strengthening our ties with these educational institutions.

During December, four local schools hosted Carol Services in our churches and two schools planned Christingle Services. During Advent the number of people attending services held specifically for schools totalled 1,273.

6. Promotion of Christianity through events, meetings, and the distribution of literature

The PCC actively promotes community outreach through various activities, including meals, coffee mornings, concerts, and fairs.

Fundraising events take place across all our churches, providing the community with opportunities to connect and engage with us.

Participation in major town events such as the Ringwood Carnival, and the Ellingham Show serves as a platform to connect with the townspeople.

To ensure widespread visibility, the PCC communicates its diverse activities through a monthly magazine, a weekly notice sheet, a weekly email newsletter, a website, social media channels, church noticeboards, and occasional press releases.

As an active member of Churches Together in Ringwood & District, the Parish collaborates with other churches to promote the faith within the local community. Church members extend their involvement by volunteering outside the church premises throughout the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk is defined in *The Charities Act 1993 and the PCC* (5th edition, 2017) as 'the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies.' The major risks to which the PCC is exposed have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been designed or improved during the year to manage those risks.

Operational risks - to health and safety; upkeep of buildings; employment

The PCC is grateful to all those who raise concerns through their various committees and show vigilance. The PCC Health & Safety Policy was last revised in 2015. The PCC is currently looking for a new volunteer for the post of Health & Safety Officer. Risk to the fabric of buildings has been minimised through schedules of repairs and maintenance which follow the recommendations of recent Quinquennial Reports under the watchful eye of the Church Committees, the Churchwardens, and their deputies. Employment Risk has been minimised through ensuring employees of the PCC work under Contracts of Employment, with designated line managers, and are being paid at or above the Living Wage. All have a comprehensive Staff Handbook detailing the PCC's policies on all employment-related matters.

Financial risks

The PCC is dedicated to assessing financial risks related to reserves, cashflow, income stability, investments, and fraud. Regular reviews of Income and Expenditure are conducted to ensure the ongoing solvency of the Parish. Utilizing the Church of England's Parish Buying Scheme helps minimize costs whenever feasible. The parish has a vacancy for a Stewardship Adviser.

To ensure accurate financial management, the Parish has engaged the services of a professional bookkeeper, Ms. Emma Lessells from Coast Book-keeping, who collaborates closely with the Treasurer, Mr Roger Dewar. The Parish Accounts have been meticulously prepared using Xero, an accounting software package.

Recognizing the importance of collaborative financial oversight, a Finance Team was established in 2020. This team comprises representatives from each of the five churches, and until September was chaired by Revd Peggy Jackson. Hallam Mills now chairs the group. Its primary role is to support the PCC Treasurer and provide strategic advice to the PCC.

External risks

Risk to the reputation of the PCC can be minimised by encouraging 'Best Practice' in all aspects of the Parish's management, thereby reducing the risk of inappropriate actions that would have a damaging effect on the Parish. This extends both to Staff and Volunteers, all of whom need to be familiar with their duties, trained as required and adhere to laid down procedures where given. The PCC has taken Diocesan advice on procedures for working with volunteers and paid staff and issues a Staff Handbook.

Regulatory risks

The PCC minutes reveal the extent to which we have ensured compliance with Church of England guidelines, Canon Law, Charity Commission regulations, the Statement of Recommended Practice accountancy procedures, Health and Safety requirements, Safeguarding and all other legislation relating to the conduct of its affairs. The PCC regularly updates its policies on Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, Recruitment of ex-offenders, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Lone Workers, Mission Giving, Use of Legacies, Collections at Pastoral Services, Parish Investments, Levels of Financial Reserves, Environmental Protection, and Risk Assessment.

Governance risks

The PCC relies on a large circle of volunteers without whom the effectiveness of the church would be greatly compromised, and the PCC continues to encourage the development of personal discipleship, and the offering of individuals' prayers, time, and talents, in support of the mission of the Parish, whatever form that may take. Significant risk arises from the fact that the availability of volunteers is decreasing at a time when legal, financial, and other obligations on PCCs are increasing.

VOLUNTEERS

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to express heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have been instrumental in keeping our Parish running smoothly. Their dedication spans a variety of roles from elected Churchwardens and their deputies to PCC officers and assistants, committee members, Deanery Synod Members, and Foundation Governors of Ringwood Church of England Infant School. We also deeply appreciate the representatives on external bodies such as Churches Together, as well as those ensuring we meet our statutory obligations in Safeguarding, and Data Protection.

We are equally grateful for the hard work of our staff, both paid and voluntary, who support the PCC. This includes the Office and Communications Manager, vergers, cleaners, welcomers, sidesmen, gardeners, musicians, readers, intercessors, pastoral visitors, and those authorised to administer Holy Communion. Their contributions are deeply valued.

As we reflect on the year 2024, the PCC extends sincere thanks to all those who have generously offered their time, support, and prayers. However, we do recognise that the workload has increasingly fallen on a small group of volunteers. We pray that others may feel inspired to share their unique gifts in service to the Lord's work, ensuring a thriving and balanced ministry for the future.

EMPLOYEES OF THE PCC

In 2024, the following worked as paid employees of the PCC:

- Parish Office and Communications Manager
- Verger
- Cleaner

The PCC is aware of its obligations for automatic enrolment under the Workplace Pensions Scheme and has fully complied with these.

THE PARISH OF RINGWOOD CHURCHYARDS

The Parish Churchyard is closed to further burials and, by reason of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, it is the responsibility of Ringwood Town Council to maintain the Church's grounds and paths. We are grateful to our Local Authority for their time and expertise in this respect.

Currently, the Churchyards at St Paul's Bisterne, St Mary's Ellingham and All Saints' Harbridge are open and in the care of the PCC.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

A. PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

By decision of the APCM there are 15 elected members, of whom one third retire annually but are eligible for re-election. Not less than five of the 15 should represent the Parish Church, not less than three should represent St John's Church, not less than two should represent St Paul's Church, not less than three should represent St Mary and All Saints' Church and not less than two should represent

All Saints' Church. All are elected for a period of three years. The Licensed Lay Ministers serve on the PCC by annual decision of the APCM.

During 2024 the elected membership totalled 13.

The representation from the five churches was distributed as follows –

St Peter & St Paul	five
St John's	three
St Paul's	two
St Mary and All Saints'	two
All Saints'	two

No PCC member receives remuneration or other benefit from their work as a trustee for the Parish of Ringwood. All members, as trustees of the Charity, have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19 April 2015, it was agreed by the members present to suspend the six-year rule in the Churchwardens' Measure 2001. This decision is reviewed annually at the APCM.

The PCC Secretary is currently Mrs Samantha Swyer.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 to the date of this report are:

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vicar	Revd Stephen Miles
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Peter Jackson Mr Stephen Wood Mr Derick Potter Mr Richard Powell Mrs Elizabeth Halford (Safeguarding Officer) (Derick Potter, Richard Powell, and Elizabeth Halford declined to take their seats on the PCC during 2024)
Churchwardens	Mrs Jacqueline Brown re-elected May 2024 (PCC Lay Vice Chairman) Mr Matthew Steele re-elected May 2024 (PCC Lay Vice Chairman)
Deputy Churchwardens	Miss Jan Pankhurst (St Peter & St Paul) re-elected May 2024 Mr Paul Gray (St Peter & St Paul) re-elected May 2024 Mrs Diana White (Ellingham) re-elected May 2024
Deanery Synod Representatives - to serve for three years until 2026:	Mrs Jacqueline Brown Mr Paul Gray (Deputy Warden SPSP) Mrs Margaret Groves Mrs Samantha Swyer
Diocesan Synod	Mr Matthew Steele (term ended June 2024)

ELECTED MEMBERS

St Peter and St Paul's Church	Mr Roger Dewar 2017-2026 (PCC Treasurer) Miss Jan Pankhurst 2017 - 2025 (Deputy Warden SPSP) Mrs Gillian Langford 2023 - 2026 Mrs Carol Allington 2024 – 2027 (resigned November 2024) Mr Kevin Jones 2024 – 2027
St John's Church	Mrs Sara Jackson 2016 - 2025 Mrs Rhoda Curtis 2021 - 2027 Mr Nigel Curtis 2021 - 2027
St Paul's Church	Mr Hallam Mills 2013-2026 Mr David Thomas MBE 2023-2026
St Mary and All Saints Church	Mrs Diana White 2017 - 2025 (Dep Warden Ellingham)
All Saints Church	Mrs Anne Craft 2024 - 2027 Mr Michael Thomas 2021 - 2025 (Dep Warden Harbridge)

B. PCC Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Council and during 2024 comprised of the following members:

Revd Canon Peggy Jackson (until September 2024)
Revd Stephen Miles (from September 2024)
Mr Roger Dewar - Treasurer
Mrs Samantha Swyer - PCC Secretary
Mr Matthew Steele (Churchwarden) - St Mary & All Saints, Ellingham representative
Mrs Jacqueline Brown (Churchwarden) - St Peter & St Paul, Ringwood representative
Mr Hallam Mills - St Paul's, Bisterne representative
Mrs Rhoda Curtis - St John's, Poulner representative
Mr Michael Thomas - All Saints, Harbridge representative

Church Committees

Oversee the day-to-day management of the affairs of each church and are drawn from, and elected by, members of the congregations who habitually worship in each of the five churches. These in turn have power to appoint subcommittees as required.

St Peter & St Paul 2024 Fundraising Committee Report

The Fundraising Committee ran seventeen events throughout the year although two events raised money for a charity. In February we held a pre-Lent hot lunch which was greatly enjoyed raising £497.82. In March we held two musical events for charities.

April saw two more concerts. John and Peter's Concert raised £240 for which we were incredibly grateful. We also had the Hampshire Police Band producing a very uplifting concert raising £310. They will be returning in 2025.

May was our huge Auction of Promises where we raised £3040 with people bidding against each other to buy the fabulous offerings. Also, in May we invited Gregory Steward to sing. His wonderful voice filled the church, without a microphone. We raised £179 on this occasion.

The sunny weather in June was time for a Garden Party in Carol and Peters lovely garden raising £405. We also had another concert in June with the Lymington Town Band raising £219.62.

The Summer Fair was held in July, but the weather let us down again this year and we had to move into the church, but we still raised £992.69. August saw the Chamber Maids return to the Parish Church, and we raised £695.28 on a very pleasant evening.

Ride and Stride in September raised £202.50. Then refreshments at the Carnival raised another £431.50. In October we had the annual Harvest Lunch raising £304 and our first Beetle Drive was great fun, and we raised £110.

In December the Christmas Fair was held at the same time as the Winter Wonderland in the town. We raised another £925.44 This was followed by another Chamber Maids concert raising £457.

So, throughout the year we managed to raise £8807 in total with the Auction money of £3040 going to the lighting fund.

I would like to thank all the people who supported the events and especially the committee members who work so hard.

Shirley Dewar

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us and the principles and practice of safeguarding continue to be central to the ministry and activities in the Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge. A safe, caring environment is key to our work, as is the provision of an appropriate space where victims of abuse can report or disclose concerns and find support.

A copy of the *Parish Safeguarding Handbook* together with the Parish of Ringwood's Safeguarding Policy is available online at <https://www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk/safeguarding/>.

Safeguarding upgrade

The National Safeguarding Team is rolling out an upgrade to safeguarding practice which covers both process and culture. Each PCC is asked to consider the culture of their church with the aim of creating a healthy and safe environment. This document was sent to the PCC on 4 September 2024.

As part of the upgrade, we are required to carry out a retrospective safer recruitment process for all church officers. We are beginning this process with PCC trustees.

Disclosure Barring Service (DBS)

DBS checks have continued to be carried out throughout 2024. The majority of DBS applications are now made online which significantly reduces the paperwork and Samantha Swyer, the Parish Office and Communications Manager, now handles these centrally from the Benefice Office. This is an important contribution to safeguarding in the Parish as the DBS workload has increased considerably given that the validity of certificates has been reduced to three years from five.

Training

Training continues to be a vital component of Parish safeguarding, and the content and delivery of courses has been revised in recent years. In December 2024, Natasha Nield, one of the Diocesan

trainers, led an in-person session for all those who had not been able to access training via the online courses covering Basic, Foundations and Domestic Abuse Awareness. This was a valuable contribution to our overall training status and resulted in us having almost a 100% compliance with training requirements.

A training matrix detailing the training required for each role is available to download at <https://winchester.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>. Alternatively, the Benefice Office or the Parish Safeguarding Officer can provide a paper copy if required.

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

I should like to acknowledge my appreciation for the continued expertise and guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Elizabeth Halford
Parish Safeguarding Officer

REPORT FROM CHRISTCHURCH DEANERY SYNOD 2024

Deanery Synod is a link between our PCC and the Diocesan Synod. Its role is mainly to look after mission and pastoral matters in the Deanery, help parishes deliver the Diocesan strategic priorities and to monitor and support the allocation of Parish Share across the Deanery to the Common Mission Fund.

Christchurch Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, in February, May and October.

The year began with a February Zoom meeting when the main speaker was Jordan Shepherd, Creative Communications Officer & Generous Giving Promoter for Winchester diocese. Jordan's presentation with slides looked at ways churches could increase income beyond regular giving and one off fundraising events. They ranged from simple small additions like introducing a card reader for donations to large enterprises such as creating a music venue or coffee shop.

In May at St Mary the Virgin Bransgore, Revd Sam Scott, the Diocesan Environment Officer, gave an informative presentation with slides on Creation Care and what we can do together to respond to God's call through Discipleship, Mission and Resource Stewardship.

June saw the first Deanery Ideas Fair, held at St Mary's Fordingbridge where churches from across the Deanery offered ideas for other churches to adopt. It was also an opportunity to share information from Mothers Union and Kinkiizi. Sadly, it was the last occasion led by Area Dean Revd Canon Gary Philbrick.

The Deanery was shocked and saddened by Gary's sudden death in July from malaria. The Assistant Area Dean Revd Canon Charles Stewart and the Deanery lay chair Sue Lyonette have stepped up to steer the Deanery through the remainder of the year and thanks must go to them for all they are doing. We are still currently without an Area Dean.

The final meeting of 2024 was held in October at Christchurch Priory. We learned more about the major project at the Priory still in its early stages but with ambitious plans to renovate and upgrade various aspects of the buildings. A presentation was also given to highlight the partnership the Deanery has with Kinkiizi Diocese in Uganda

The Deanery overseas link with Kinkiizi continues to operate. The Deanery was asked to help with financing an upgrade to the solar power at the Health Centre in Nyakatare and to support the new obstetrics doctor at the maternity unit. Following a Deanery wide appeal £5531 was raised. The solar upgrade is now complete and gives much needed reliable power for Health Centre activities. Retired

clergy were also supported with financial help towards unexpected expenses like medical bills. In 2024 a total of £5881 was sent in support of Kinkiizi Diocese.

During 2024 there have been a number of parishes in vacancy, but Deanery officers have worked hard to support churches through the process of their interregnums. Some appointments have been made, and new clergy begin to make a difference in those places.

Deanery Synod meetings are now all open meetings for anyone to attend should they so wish. (Only if a vote is called are restrictions in place for elected members only to cast such a vote.) I would encourage everyone to consider coming along to hear interesting speakers, have a chance to meet other people from across the Deanery, and to share experiences for mutual support.

Gill Tybjerg

Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM)

The BCM programme has been developed by Winchester Diocese to support the work of parishes and deaneries by equipping lay people for service. We continue to encourage people to take part in the BCM programme. All who have taken part in the BCM training are listed below.

Miss Jan Pankhurst	BCM Pastoral and BCM Prayer Champions
Mrs Samantha Swyer	BCM Pastoral and BCM Prayer Champions
Mr Kevin Jones	BCM Pastoral and BCM Prayer Champions
Mrs Elizabeth Halford	BCM Prayer Champions
Mrs Jacqueline Brown	BCM Creation Care

ELECTORAL ROLL

The parish Electoral Roll Officer is Samantha Swyer. The total number of people on the Electoral Roll in May 2024 for all five churches was 212.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustee's Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees.

Revd Stephen Miles
Chairman
Date:



FINANCIAL REPORT

2024 has continued to present challenges to our finances as we deal with escalating inflationary pressures and essential repairs to our ancient buildings.

We emerged from a long interregnum in the Autumn with the appointment of the Rev' Stephen Miles as Benefice Vicar. Under his energetic leadership and thanks to the support of our retired Clergy and LLMs our congregations are slowly returning to pre interregnum levels. The reintroduction of a full range of social and fund-raising events has also boosted our depleted finances.

Inflationary pressures have seen a huge jump in energy and other operating costs, and these have affected the financial stability of all our premises be they Churches or Halls. The Parish Church alone is now facing gas bills for heating of more than £1,500 a month during the coldest 6 months of the year.

Our incoming resources from all areas increased from £205,072 to £312,292 an increase of £107,220. Much of this increase is due to the fund raising efforts of the Parish Church Bellringers who are raising funds for the installation of a new bell and the refurbishment of others. We have been actively working to increase the Parish Church Fabric Fund in preparation for major repair work in 2025.

Overall, our total Capital & Reserves increased fractionally from £276,793 to £318,382.

After a period of declining reserves during and immediately post Covid, it is good to see continued improvement.

After five years of being unable to pay our Common Mission Fund in full it was wonderful that all our Churches were able to pay their share in full and are committed to do so again in 2025.

Unfortunately, although our congregations are returning their willingness or ability to contribute more in line with inflation is not apparent. We continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme as our preferred source for congregational giving.

Our income from the letting of our premises has increased as has our overall fund raising and these two areas produced £46,985. An increase of 25.9%. We are very grateful to the various fund-raising committees in our Churches for their dedicated work.

The Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has enabled us to claim VAT refunds of £13,512 during the past years for eligible work in those of our Churches that are Listed Places of Worship.

However, The Government have announced that the existing scheme will come to an end on 31st March 2025. It will be replaced for one year only with a cap on the amount individual Churches can claim. This will have an adverse effect on projects planned for the Parish Church unless the Government makes further changes to the operating procedures

As in past years we are forever grateful to the Trustees of The Friends of Ringwood Parish Church; The Friends of Bisterne Church; Ellingham Church Fabric Appeal Fund; Guardians of St Johns Church for their financial support of repairs to the fabric of our buildings.

Due to increased energy costs and other inflationary pressures on our operations and those of our congregations it is anticipated that 2025 will be another financially challenging year.

In budgeting for 2025 it is the intention of the Parish Finance Committee to explore all avenues for raising funds and controlling expenditure.

Roger Dewar
PCC Treasurer

**THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL RINGWOOD
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD (CHARITY NO: 1134815)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Independent examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul
Ringwood.**

Respective 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 applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 14S(S)(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; or
3. The accounts do not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.



**Lee Newman ACCA
Vantage Accounting Services Limited**

08 April 2025

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Donations and legacies	2a	150,567	86,271	(12,316)	224,522	133,903
Charitable activities	2b	24,984	22,001	-	46,985	37,303
Investments	2c	3,715	6,059	1,119	10,893	7,787
Church Activities	2d	16,280	100	-	16,380	14,411
Other	2e	6,700	6,812	-	13,512	11,668
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		202,246	121,243	(11,197)	312,292	205,072
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Expenditure on church activities	3a	197,429	49,684	-	247,113	177,734
Expenditure on fund raising	3b	6,789	1,839	-	8,628	8,141
Other	3c	13,372	1,590	-	14,962	16,843
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		217,590	53,113	-	270,703	202,717
Net Incoming before transfers		(15,344)	68,130	(11,197)	41,589	(2,355)
Un-realised gains / losses		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		83,258	182,338	11,197	276,793	274,439
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		67,914	250,468	-	318,382	276,793

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible - Fixtures and equipment	4		951		951	2,391
Investments	5			-	-	11,197
		-	951	-	951	13,588
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors and prepayments	6	2,612	-	-	2,612	1,488
Bank and cash balances		72,808	250,209	-	323,017	272,060
		75,420	250,209	-	325,629	273,548
LIABILITIES						
Creditors and accruals	7	7,506	692	-	8,198	10,343
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		67,914	249,517	-	317,431	263,205
NET ASSETS						
		67,914	250,468	-	318,382	276,793

REPRESENTED BY

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Unrestricted	67,914			67,914	83,258
Restricted		250,468		250,468	182,338
Endowment			-	-	11,197
	67,914	250,468	-	318,382	276,793

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Revd Stephen Miles
Chairman

Date:



**THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1 GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction values unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

All of the Charities operations are continuing.

Reconciliation with previously generally accepted accounting practice

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

Preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis

There were no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

Funds from activities

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those that must be spent in accordance with the wishes of the donor and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in Note 12.

Endowment funds, where the capital must be retained, are also explained in Note 12.

Funds from activities (continued)

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the social committees and all other incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable, and interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The Diocesan Common Mission fund is accounted for when due.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings:

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by section 10 of the Charities Act 2011, and this policy has been extended to the dedicated property at St John's.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a 15% reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets:

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

During the year the PCC employed an Office Administrator, Verger, and Cleaner, none of whom earned more than £60,000 per annum. Salaries and wages are included under the appropriate expenses headings.

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2a Donations and legacies					
Parish giving scheme - Gift Aid donations	41,281	-	-	41,281	41,522
Parish giving scheme - Non Gift Aid donations	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid donations	13,269	-	-	13,269	11,807
Tax recovered	16,107	11,328	-	27,435	17,777
Other planned giving	9,539	240	-	9,779	9,778
Collections - open plate	15,080	-	-	15,080	14,431
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)	3,850	-	-	3,850	3,760
General donations and appeals	13,588	78,921	-	92,510	29,923
Transfers between funds	36,992	(24,676)	(12,316)	-	-
Fabric Appeal Fund	-	20,442	-	20,442	2,903
Friends of Ringwood	-	-	-	-	940
Friends of Ellingham	683	-	-	683	544
Other	178	16	-	194	518
	150,567	86,271	(12,316)	224,522	133,903
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2b Charitable Activities					
Hall Income	-	12,030	-	12,030	10,033
Fund raising	24,984	9,971	-	34,955	27,270
	24,984	22,001	-	46,985	37,303
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2c Investments					
Bank interest	3,715	5,888	-	9,603	7,449
Dividends	-	171	-	171	338
Realised gain	-	-	1,119	1,119	-
	3,715	6,059	1,119	10,893	7,787

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2d Church Activities					
Parochial Fees	15,728	-	-	15,728	14,096
Parish News	552	-	-	552	275
Other	-	100	-	100	40
	<u>16,280</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,380</u>	<u>14,411</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2e Other income					
Listed places of Worship Grant scheme				-	-
Grants	6,700	6,812	-	13,512	11,668
	<u>6,700</u>	<u>6,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,512</u>	<u>11,668</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>202,246</u>	<u>121,243</u>	<u>(11,197)</u>	<u>312,292</u>	<u>205,072</u>

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds - General £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3a <u>Expenditure on church activities</u>					
Charitable Giving					
Secular Charities	5,649	1,547	-	7,196	2,535
Ministry					
Common Mission Fund	94,363	-	-	94,363	71,752
Clergy	2,170	-	-	2,170	735
Church running costs	37,071	-	-	37,071	33,171
Fabric Repairs & renewals	23,095	24,691	-	47,786	23,175
Fabric Repairs & Renewals funded by friends of SPSP	-	11,690	-	11,690	-
Fabric Repairs & Renewals funded by friends of Harbridge	-	-	-	-	246
Upkeep of services	1,679	-	-	1,679	1,188
Organist, choir and music	2,628	1,578	-	4,206	3,283
Upkeep of church yards	4,023	1,485	-	5,508	4,603
Upkeep of church halls	-	8,474	-	8,474	11,379
Salaries	22,376	-	-	22,376	21,170
Other	4,375	219	-	4,594	4,497
	197,429	49,684	-	247,113	177,734

	Unrestricted Funds – General £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3b <u>Expenditure on raising funds</u>					
Gift aid envelopes	167	-	-	167	172
Events	6,622	1,839	-	8,461	7,969
	6,789	1,839	-	8,628	8,141

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds – General £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3c <u>Other</u>					
Independent Examination	2,400	-	-	2,400	2,400
Professional and other	279	-		279	377
Support costs (Parish Office expenses)	8,744	150		8,894	10,813
Other	1,949	1,440		3,389	3,253
	13,372	1,590	-	14,962	16,843
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	217,590	53,113	-	270,703	202,718

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4 <u>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</u>					
<u>- FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT</u>					
GENERAL					
Gross book value					
1 January	5,936	52,306	-	58,242	58,242
31 December 2024	5,936	52,306	-	58,242	58,242
Depreciation					
1 January	5,936	49,915	-	55,851	54,411
Charge		1,440		1,440	1,440
31 December 2024	5,936	51,355	-	57,291	55,851
Net Book value					
31 December 2024	-	951	-	951	2,391
31 December 2023	-	2,391	-	2,391	3,831

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5 <u>INVESTMENT ASSETS</u>					
Mary Ayles Fund					
CBF Investment Fund Income shares					
547.61 shares					
As at 1 January	-	-	11,197	11,197	11,197
Valuation as at 31 December 2024	-	-	-	-	11,197

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
6 <u>DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS</u>					
Sundry Debtors	2,612	-	-	2,612	1,488
	2,612	-	-	2,612	1,488

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
7 <u>LIABILITIES - AMOUNTS DUE LESS THAN ONE YEAR</u>					
Sundry creditors	5,106	692	-	5,798	7,943
Independent Examiners fee	2,400	-	-	2,400	2,400
Loan	-	-	-	-	-
	7,506	692	-	8,198	10,848

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
8 <u>STAFF COSTS</u>		
Salaries	22,376	21,170
National Insurance	-	-
	22,376	21,170

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9 INDEPENDENT TRUSTS

The Friends of Ringwood Parish Church

During 2024 the Trustees made donations totalling £20,442 to Ringwood Parish Church (2023 £940.00).

The Friends of St Mary and All Saints Church Ellingham

During 2024 the Trustees made donations totalling £683 to St Mary's Church Ellingham Fabric Appeal Fund (2023 £545).

The Guardians of St Johns

During 2024 the Trustees made donations totalling £0 to St Johns Church (2023 £500).

10 CONNECTED PERSONS – MEMBERS OF THE PCC

No payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected with them, or related parties.

11 SUPPORT COSTS

The support costs are almost exclusively in connection with the activities of the churches of the Parish and any apportionment of this amount to other headings is not practicable.

12 ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Endowment Funds

The Mary Ayles Fund is a permanent endowment which requires income to be spent on the fabric of the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul.

Restricted Funds

The restrictions applicable to the use of the Restricted Funds, are as follows:

Beacons:	the benefit of children at the Parish Church.
Bells and Belfry:	the repair/maintenance of the bells of the Parish Church.
Challis:	the charitable and educational work of the Church of England at St John's Church.
Fabric:	the repair and preservation of the historical buildings.
Mission:	specific charitable purposes as decided upon by the PCC.
Parish Rooms:	the repair/maintenance of the Parish Rooms.
Penrose:	the charitable and educational work of the Church of England in the Parish of Ringwood.
Re-ordering:	the provision of Clergy Stalls when the Parish Church is re-ordered.
St John's Church Hall:	the repair/maintenance of St John's Church Hall, Poulner.
Thomas Trust:	the fabric of St John's Church, Poulner.

THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL RINGWOOD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Ringwood PCC					
General	5,073	-	-	5,073	4,736
Parish office	-	1,913	-	1,913	3,353
Odinel Trust		28,834		28,834	
Choir		247		247	
Penrose	-	17,070	-	17,070	17,037
	5,073	48,064	-	53,136	25,126
St Peter and St Paul Church					
General	29,967	-	-	29,967	43,334
Ayles	-	-	-	-	11,197
Beacons	-	29	-	29	29
Bells & Belfry	-	55,662	-	55,662	2,031
Fabric	-	36,970	-	36,970	14,705
Audio Visual	-	1,123	-	1,123	1,123
Choir	-	-	-	-	323
Lighting	-	3,169	-	3,169	4,441
Meet & Eat	-	1,771	-	1,771	1,727
Other	-	60	-	60	-
Window	-	1,160	-	1,160	-
	29,967	99,944	-	129,910	78,910
St John's church					
General	(11,445)	-	-	(11,445)	(11,531)
Challis	-	70,987	-	70,987	93,156
Organist (Designated fund)	14,266	-	-	14,266	13,571
Hall	-	12,504	-	12,504	9,278
Moss removal	-	805	-	805	805
Thomas Trust	-	7,090	-	7,090	21,836
	2,821	91,386	-	94,207	127,115
St Paul Church					
General	9,805	-	-	9,805	10,647
Other	-	-	-	-	-
	9,805	-	-	9,805	10,647
Ellingham Church					
Choir	-	-	-	-	179
Fabric	-	216	-	216	216
General	17,332	-	-	17,332	17,544
	17,332	216	-	17,548	17,939
Harbridge Church					
General	2,916	-	-	2,916	4,958
Fabric	-	10,858	-	10,858	12,098
	2,916	10,858	-	13,774	17,056
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	67,914	249,468	-	318,382	276,793