



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
Of St Peter And St Paul, Kettering**

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1135658

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TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Objectives and priorities

The purposes of the charity are the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The charity provides:

- regular public worship open to all
- sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved
- the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- the taking of religious assemblies in schools
- the promotion of Christianity through events and meetings

The parish contains two churches: the historic parish church of Kettering, St Peter & St Paul, (originally founded some 800 years ago) located in the town centre of Kettering, and its sister church of St Michael and All Angels, a 'tin tabernacle' type church.

St Peter & St Paul

The church of St Peter & St Paul is the oldest building in Kettering. It has stood on the present site for over 500 years and has been at the centre of community life throughout that time. It is a Grade 1 listed building and is a fine example of perpendicular architecture. The tower and spire stand 180 feet in height, and house a peal of 12 bells which were restored and re-dedicated in 2004 and are rung regularly on Sundays and special occasions.

The parish has a population of 18,700, and is the largest of five Anglican parishes in the town. St Peter & St Paul holds regular services, hosts civic events for the wider community, and is available for the sacraments of marriage and baptism to those who live within the parish. Normally, the 10.30am Eucharist is livestreamed to our YouTube channel, "SaintsAndAngelsKettering."

Our principal service is at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings, supplemented once a month with a 7.45 am Traditional Language Holy Communion and around once a month by Choral Evensong.

St Michael and All Angels

St Michael and All Angels Church was founded to serve as a mission church in 1908.

Once on the very edge of Kettering the 'tin tabernacle' is now at the heart of a thriving community.

Over a decade has passed since the interior was re-ordered and refurbished. The result of this process had a re-energising effect on the congregation. The average age of Sunday worshippers nearly halved and congregation size grew, as it became more of a 'community for the community'.

The congregation at St Michael's has a strong, nurturing, relaxed and inclusive attitude to children.

Current priorities

In 2024, St Peter & St Paul set itself new priorities to shape its ministry and mission over the coming years.

Inspired by the love of God and a vision of new life, the parish committed itself to:

- Explore together how to journey with God
- Share our story with others
- Create a spiritual home for young families

St Michael and All Angels continues to work to build an action plan based around a vision with the following three priorities:

- working towards developing engaged work with our young people who are rising through their teens into young adulthood
- running a daytime group for people who are lonely, elderly or otherwise isolated
- shaping parts of the church service to ring the changes in the church year, build up our music making, and grow the creative talent of the whole congregation in contributing to our worship

HEART AND SOUL OF KETTERING

Church Buildings

The Wardens have an important role in the care of our buildings and address this in their report on page 13.

Safeguarding Report

Over the last year as a church, we have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. 'Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults; Policy and Procedure' was adopted at the PCC meeting held in December 2024. A copy of the Policy and Procedure document can be accessed by all via our website.

Currently, with Rector David's departure, the Safeguarding Team, consists of myself (PSO), Angie Milne (Curate, with extensive safeguarding experience) and Frank Crookenden-Johnson (Safeguarding Officer for St Michael's and All Angels). We meet together every two months, but keep in touch when needed between meetings.

While we are without an incumbent the Church Wardens have taken over the Incumbent's responsibilities regarding Safeguarding. Both Jo Pearce and Benita Hewitt have undertaken additional Safeguarding Leadership training to support this role.

We continue to use 'Parish Dashboard' to generate our Safeguarding Action Plan, which was approved by the PCC in January 2025. One area that has been prevalent in the Action Plan has been training and we are fortunate that Angie is qualified to lead Basic and Foundation level training, enabling us to offer these courses in person in the Parish. Courses are also available online via the CofE Safeguarding Training Portal. We now have fifty-six church members who have undertaken training, across both churches. This means that all activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults have leaders who are trained in safeguarding and know how to respond, should there be any concerns. Members of the PCC

too, have all completed training, as well as members of the choir, our organist, vergers and many of the stewards. The Tower Captain oversees safeguarding within the Bell Tower. Whilst we are pleased that so many are now trained, there are still people in roles which require completion of further courses. We continue to make use of 'Church Suite' to record training undertaken with regards to safeguarding.

Carol Walters, our Parish Administrator, continues in the role of Lead Recruiter and we are now happy we have a robust system in place for recruitment of parishioners into roles involving children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our main priority for the forthcoming year is to have a risk assessment and a person specification in place in for each of the fourteen activities where the main participant is a child or young person, or which includes vulnerable adults. I am grateful to the leaders who have been proactive in putting these into place.

Pauline Dixon
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Bellringers' Report

Thanks were extended to our incredible, loyal band of ringers who helped us to "keep the bells ringing."

Compared with previous years, 2024 was relatively "unremarkable." However, we rang for all services and special events and also the New Year with a band of local ringers, again accompanied by cheers and fireworks.

Pat Edkins
Tower Captain

Festive Fair

Another year on and the Festive Fair 2024 was the best yet! Taking place alongside the Kettering Lights Switch On allowed the church to really be at the heart of the Kettering community. Once again we saw the return of many local stall holders who acknowledged their feedback from last year had been valued and their suggestions implemented. In addition, there were many new stallholders who, through word-of-mouth, had heard of the success from others and wanted to be part of it! Feedback from this year included comments like 'lovely evening', 'enjoyable night' and 'wonderful event'!

It was a delight to incorporate so much of what P&P has to offer throughout the evening. Our welcome and hospitality, our music and our wonderful Church building. The massive team effort that went into the event was immensely appreciated, drawing on the skills and commitment of the congregation, their families and friends.

As a result of sharing what we have with the town of Kettering, we managed to raise over £2,300 for church funds.

Naturally, we are already thinking of ways to improve for next year and would welcome any ideas or help that you may want to offer. (Please contact Linda Noble or Rowena Pickford for more information).

P&P by the Sea

We had a joyous two weeks in the summer (from 5 August - 18 August) when the community of Kettering had the opportunity to engage with P&P; providing a wide range of activities. Book hedgehogs, paper spinners, mosaic rainbows and origami were a few of the crafts that were on

offer. Making bird feeders, keyrings and flower arranging, along with a treasure hunt and making music were also included in P&P by the Sea!

On some days the weather was kind and we were able to set up in front of the church, inviting passers-by to join us. On other days we sheltered in the church but as word spread, we had people coming for specific activities or returning again and again! With members of the parish running the wide variety of activities available, there was so much skill and passion being shared.

Having the church open was also inviting for those who just wanted to have a look around the building or spend some time in quiet reflection.

Overall, the two weeks saw more than 500 people walk through the doors of the church, to take part in activities or just to visit - many for the very first time!

We are looking forward to the event in 2025 and welcome anyone who might have a couple of hours to spare between 28 July-10 Aug to please put your name forward as an activity leader or a helper!

Sunday Club

It has been a real pleasure to lead Sunday Club over the past year, and we look forward with hope and excitement to the continued development of our children's ministry at P&P.

A particular highlight of the past year was the children's involvement in Advent, especially their creation of an Advent calendar as part of the countdown to Christmas. Their contribution was warmly received and appreciated by the church community. We also celebrated Christmas together in the Parish Hall with a joyful gathering, during which each child received a special Christmas gift.

Attendance at Sunday Club typically ranges from 12 to 17 children, all aged 4 and above. When asked what they enjoy most, the children often mention the craft activities and the friendships they have formed – both of which play an important role in fostering a sense of belonging and joy.

As the ministry continues to grow, we are always looking to expand our team of helpers to support its evolving needs. If you feel called to assist in this rewarding work, please speak to either Dinu Johns or Richard Main.

Saints and Angels Youth

2024 has seen the start-up of the youth group for children of secondary school age and above. A group that meets once a month (usually the 'teen' date in the month) in the Parish Hall from 6:30-8:00pm. The children created a plan of the activities they wanted to do - from jewellery making to baking and bowling to Aqua Park! They put together a schedule until the end of the academic year but celebrated the end of 2024 with a Christmas treat - a visit to an Escape Room! I pleased to say that everyone managed to escape and in good time!

Rowena and Linda currently run the group; however, there are more people who have put their names forward to support and lead.

Many of the activities have been made possible due to a grant that we applied for and won on courtesy of Children's Ministry in the Diocese.

We look forward to welcoming more adults and reaching out to more of our youth in 2025.

Pastoral Care Team

During 2024 the Pastoral Care Team carried out our usual activities in order to stay connected to people in our parish who are unable to attend church regularly. This is usually due to health, mobility, or transport issues.

Most contact is by telephone – weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, depending on need. We also visit people in their homes if we are invited to do so. Some of our members take Holy Communion to church members in their homes if they are unable to attend church in the long term.

Two of our team members assist the clergy at the monthly Eucharist at Elm Bank Care home and some members offer prayers and Communion at Olive Row and Gabriel Court care homes each month. Some members help to organize the Acorn Club social evening at Oak Tree Court. This is a monthly meeting where Oak Tree Court residents share songs, hymns, prayers, poems and memories.

Each week throughout 2024 the Pastoral Care Team has printed and delivered pew sheets and newsletters to twenty homes to keep our church community informed of what is happening at St Peter & St Paul and at St Michael's.

Our team has hosted seven afternoon teas in 2024 which provided a chance for parishioners to enjoy sandwiches, cake, and lively conversation. We also hosted a Beetle Drive with the kind help of Jean and Robin Bellamy.

Our team leaders Pat Edkins, Kay Short, and myself have met regularly but have held only one team meeting in 2024. This was due to the busy schedules of our members. We hope to have more meetings in 2025.

As a result of the Gifts and Talents Sunday in 2023 we gained five new Pastoral Care Team members in 2024. These new members underwent safeguarding training and followed a pastoral care training course.

Valerie Drage, Christine McCoy, and Nick Toseland were commissioned in September and Ann Buckby and Abby Heal were commissioned in December by Rev. David Walsh.

At the end of the year our team had 19 members, including the clergy, and we plan to have a meeting in 2025 to officially welcome our new team members.

As with other church groups, we are liaising with our parish safeguarding officer in order to fulfill our safeguarding requirements. This has been a challenge and there is more work to be done to keep our risk assessments up to date.

As always, our team members have enjoyed delivering pastoral care in 2024. It is a privilege to share the love of God with our church community.

Kay Short, Pat Edkins, and Debby Edgeworth
Pastoral Care Team Leaders

Tea's Up at St Michael's

Teas Up has had a busy year. We have between 15 and 20 people each week and we have been very grateful for the volunteers who help us continue. So thank you to Helen, Mike, Jo, Nora and Angie!

We had a Christmas party where everybody brought some food, we played bingo and had a Christmas Sing along (courtesy of Kaleidoscope Karaoke). We have had a couple of bingo sessions and learnt how to do a Beetle Drive! We have had craft sessions making decorated jars and Christmas cards to sell at the September fair to raise some money.

We also, thanks to the Tesco Community Champion, Julie Gillies, spent a day at Tesco collecting money and raising awareness of Teas Up. Thanks to Nora for organising and all the people who gave their time to help us! We raised enough money to replace some tables as some of the ones we have are wobbly to say the least!

We don't just fundraise for our group, but we also had a MacMillan coffee morning which was very successful and great fun! This year we had a trip to Hunstanton and a Christmas theatre trip, but these were restricted by mobility issues and so we are going to investigate and book earlier in future to include our wheelchair user members.

We have had one member leave due to illness this year, and we will miss Tina. Also, our good friend Bill died recently and we shall miss him greatly. We have had some new people this year too and want to keep expanding the group. We intend to do this by having either a craft, presentation or other event booked in advance so we can advertise them in the Locals and on social media.

Melanie Bale

Mothers' Union

We started the year as usual with the AGM which Rev. David chaired. Mary Watts and Elizabeth Booth came to talk about crafting which we all enjoyed. In February for a change Valerie kindly opened her home for our Lent reflections which were led by Kay. Lent was celebrated in March with Corporate Communion at St Michaels.

The subject of our April meeting was Metamorphosis which equips people with the inspiration, confidence and skills to work for transformation in their local churches and communities across the UK. We took a walk around the Church in May and Jo Pearce highlighted the interesting features. It's good to refresh and renew our knowledge of our Church. Our meeting in June was an open meeting held in the Evening when Rev. Jane Burns gave a presentation on the work of the Rainbow Hospice which was both inspiring and compassionate.

In July we enjoyed an afternoon of old fashioned board games. Of course in August we celebrate the life of our founder, Mary Sumner, joining with other members of MU in Kettering Deanery. A joyous occasion, This year was special as we welcomed Christine McCoy into MU and Rev. Angie preached. Nice afternoon tea afterwards. Angie and I put together a card which was emailed to S Korea. The Church was lit up with M.U. colours, very impressive. September is when we join in prayer with M.U. worldwide, giving thanks for all the M.U. can do. At the diocesan Festival we welcomed Bishop Debbie as a member of MU. October we went out for lunch at Jeyes in Earls Barton. November, another afternoon of games, always a good idea to keep the brain alert.

December, Rector David presided at our Advent Corporate Communion which was lovely and quite poignant as this would be the last time . Voices raised in celebration and praise. Also, on 6th December during the 16 Days of Activism we joined in partnership with North Northants Council and other organisations for "Reclaim the Night". This started with a march through Kettering and the meeting afterwards took place in Church which was lit up with the 16 Days colours. MU has always envisaged working with the wider community and I hope that this will continue in 2025.

MU continues to work with the Church Community, baptisms, church cleaning, the Food Kitchen, pastoral care and home visiting. Our Diocesan work with Five Wells Prison, Wellingborough continues to grow, cards, clothing and support.

The Frances Lunch Club. The week before every school holiday we pack 14 bags each containing 20 items which are given to both St Andrews school and Rothwell Primary school. There are no strings attached and we ask for nothing in return.

Our Deanery Zoom Midday prayers continues and long may it last. If you have someone you know who might need a prayer we will be happy to include them. Faith and prayer underpin us, but we are an organisation which promotes and supports family life in all its many forms and we face up to the challenges of our Modern world. Since 2000, we have used our Consultative Status at the UN to lobby governments and the UN to create effective policies that translate words into action for gender equality.

As we enter the Interregnum we will offer as much support as we can to our Clergy.

On behalf of all of us grateful thanks are given to Rector David for his continued support of MU and to Ian who arranges the heating and plays for us. My thanks go to the Committee who work together and all of you who support our amazing organisation.

Hazel Goodman, on behalf of Saints and Angels M.U.

Parish Food Kitchen

Sadly, the need for the Food Kitchen continues to grow and we now regularly serve 115 to 125 hot meals on a Thursday afternoon – up from last year's average of around 100 to 105. For some people the Food Kitchen is clearly a key part of their family budget, and they come regularly; for others it is an emergency provision, and they may come only once or just for a few weeks.

Alongside the provision of a hot meal, pudding and packed lunch, we also offer surplus fruit, vegetables and baked items kindly donated weekly by Morrisons, Tesco and Bookers. We also continue to offer toiletries and second-hand clothes. We no longer provide food parcels as such, but are able to hand out non-perishable food items on request.

Our guests come from all walks of life – some are homeless and living in tents, others have accommodation but have limited finances or have mental health issues. All need a hot meal and somewhere to meet a few friendly faces. In these troubling times, we have had definite positive impacts on people's mental health for both our guests and our volunteers. A friendly face each week, support for guests and each other, the ability to give back to the community goes a long way.

As ever we are thankful that we can continue to provide food for these guests and would like to express our thanks to Tesco, Morrisons and Bookers for their donations of surplus food. We also receive donations of non-perishable food and toiletries from the St Peter & St Paul congregation; the Broughton, Cransley and Mawsley group of churches and various individuals. During the year, we've also received donations of prepared food from the local Funeral Directors, Corby Sixth Form College and Kettering General Hospital.

Again, this year, we have been lucky enough to have received cash donations from various individuals, and also from local organisations including Kettering Huxloe Inner Wheel; a number of their members also continue to help the Food Kitchen individually. Other donations have been received from the Kettering Inner Wheel, Kettering Huxloe Rotary, Kettering Quakers, All Saints Church, the staff at Kettering Job Centre and Kettering & District Lions Club.

Cranford WI also supported us by collecting toiletries. We received Harvest gifts from several churches and Christmas hampers from Bishop Stopford School.

During 2024 we received several grants from the Household Support Fund which is administered locally by the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough in conjunction with North Northamptonshire Council. This funding comes from the Department for Work and Pensions.

We continue to work closely with several local organisations including: NNC, the Kettering Food Bank, Frank and Hilary from the St Edward's Food Kitchen, the King's Trust, and Bishop Stopford School. We're grateful to St Edwards for allowing us to use their hall each year on the Christmas Lights Switch On night when the Parish Hall is unavailable.

In June 2024 we were delighted to host students from the Prince's Trust (now called the King's Trust) on one of their community work days and from Bishop Stopford School on their Faith in Action Day. Both groups prepared all the hot food, puddings and packed lunches and generally got everything set up on those days. We hope to be able to host groups from them both again in the future.

We are grateful to everyone who helps us to help our guests.

Special thanks are due to all our volunteers who are so generous with their time both on Thursday afternoons and behind the scenes, and to all the many others who donate generously through other means. Without this support we simply would not be able to run.

The Food Kitchen Team

Songs and Stories

2024 was a year with mixed emotions for Songs and Stories as we said goodbye to so many children that we have watched blossom over the last few years. Fortunately, the longevity of the group has enabled us to grow with new people regularly discovering what we have to offer.

The group continues to run weekly during term-time in the church hall from 10-11:30. The relaxed group welcomes everyone whenever they feel they can attend. We have families that join us on a weekly basis and have been since the children were merely weeks old. Equally, we have families who visit on weeks when they are not working or when other commitments allow them time to come back to us. Until the end of the school year our average number of

children in attendance was around 10-15. A fabulous end of year celebration in the Rectory Garden saw David present seven children with leaving gifts, marking the end of an era for several families who have older siblings that used to attend the group. Many of the children returned to join us in the summer for our annual trip to Wicksteed Park, embracing the chilly weather! We still hear from some of the families who have left us through our WhatsApp group, thanks to the lasting friendships that were formed. We were especially pleased that one of the children who left to go to school has now joined our church. Numbers since September have been lower but we have faith that the group will grow again.

The weekly sessions continue to follow the format that we feel serves the needs of the group well. The children love the routine of singing familiar songs and engage well with the variety of different activities, stories and new songs that we share with them. Rowena and Linda lead the sessions with the support of Tracey, Phil and Anne - using established resources and planning that is amended to keep it fresh and up-to-date. Our regular visits to the church, seasonal walks and annual Sports Day were all enjoyed and needless to say, the parties in the summer and at Christmas were well received!

We were very grateful for the early Easter that we had last year as it enabled us to have our inaugural Songs and Stories Reunion! It was an opportunity for us to invite past members of the group to come back and join in with the songs and activities that they enjoyed so much! It was a wonderful occasion for families old and new to mingle and catch up, make crafts, visit the church for a blessing from Angie and singing with Bernita, followed by a bring-and-share lunch. From five months to 15 year olds, it was a fantastic celebration for all!

We look forward to the coming year where we will meet some very little new additions and continue to build friendships in a warm and welcoming way.

The Songs and Stories Team

1st Kettering (Parish Church) Scout Group

A big change has taken place over this last year in Scouting UK with regard to the governance and management of Scouting in Regions, Counties and Districts. The Group Executive Committee is now the Group Trustee Board, and the Group Scout Leader becomes Group Lead Volunteer. For 'Leader' read as 'Volunteer'. Further information on the changes can be provided, however it is important to note that these changes have no impact to the activities and training enjoyed by the young people at their weekly and weekend meetings.

Over this last year our Group has continued to flourish, being served by very hard-working, dedicated and talented Leaders (Volunteers) who put an enormous amount of time and effort into ensuring our young people receive the very best experience that Scouting has to offer.

In addition to the hours spent planning and taking meetings, a significant number of our Leaders (Volunteers) have put in additional time working towards achieving permits and qualifications which enables all sections to carry out supervised activities such as camping, hiking, archery, and a number of water based sports.

Our number of young people has stayed consistent and we were also very pleased to be awarded for the fourth consecutive year the County 100 Award, being one of only five Groups in Northamptonshire having over one hundred members.

Regrettably our annual Group sleepover event for the November Remembrance Weekend, could not go ahead this year. However we did take part in the service on the Sunday morning, following which a number of Awards were presented to youngsters of all sections.

Our fundraising this year also continues to provide much needed financial support to the Group, mainly by the "59 Club". This initiative has proved to be a resounding success, and we thank everybody that has contributed and who have promised to continue contributing. In particular, these funds cover the annual cost of the LocBox storage facility where our camping and other equipment is stored in a safe and secure environment.

The Scout Post Christmas card delivery took place once again which also brought welcome funds into the Group.

We continue to explore other avenues of fund raising to support the Group, with one particular success being the recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC on the regular subscription payments. A big 'Thank You' to our Treasurer who, in addition to the 'usual' treasurer duties, has been continuing to work hard to ensure our applications to HMRC ensure the return of significant funds back into the Group.

Our Annual General Meeting followed the same format as in 2023, being held on a Sunday afternoon during the middle of a Country Fayre with various fun activities, games, tombola stalls, and which was a resounding success.

During this last year, our Group has continued to support the local Explorer Unit (the Kraken Unit) with our Scouts, who upon reaching the age of fourteen have to move on from the Troop, although the majority are retaining their link with our Group by returning as Young Leaders to support the adult leaders in each section.

As always we appreciate the ongoing support from all members of the Clergy and congregation, and we look forward to developing our working together through the following year.

All sections have delivered a variety of programmes, with meetings taking place both indoors and outdoors, packed to the brim with activities supporting their badge work. Not to forget the games at the start and end of each meeting with which to let off a bit – or rather a lot - of steam.

We are crossing fingers and praying that our freedom to keep on training and developing both our young people and our Leaders (Volunteers) continues in 2025 without any pandemic or other hindrance, thereby maintaining our position as one of the most successful Groups in the District and County.

Group Lead Volunteer; Group Trustee Board Chair; and all Section Volunteers and Members of the Group Trustee Board

Stewards

The four teams of stewards continue to be on duty at all services to meet and greet those attending the church, ensuring that whether they are regular attendees or first timers, they know that they are welcome and included in the church family.

WARDENS' REPORTS

St Peter & St Paul

It is good to be able to report that the following works have been carried out during 2024. Electrical installation survey: Planted Avenue of trees in the driveway and erected sponsor board in north porch: Re-gravel the driveway and removed the chains on the Roughton gates to allow pedestrian access once again : Replaced dangerous trap door accessing the spire: Prepared and revarnished North porch external doors and replaced opaque glazing : Replaced gas meter cupboard doors situated at the bottom of the drive : Various repairs to lead where the roof was found to be leaking : Cleaning of gutters and downpipes : King's Trust students have helped with painting of gates railings and lamp standards and we thank them for their help and enthusiasm. Regular servicing of gas boilers, fire extinguishers organ roof alarm and clock has all been carried out.

On Advent Sunday, December 1 a Nave Altar in memory of former Rector Canon Frank Pearce was consecrated by Assistant Bishop Peterborough, Ed Condry.

This year the Quinquennial Inspection was due and was carried out by William Assherton who has been appointed as Quinquennial Inspector for Saint Peter and Saint Paul. His report was published in January and contained several recommendations of work to be done. These are necessary but not urgent and the Ground and Buildings committee are working through the priorities listed in the report. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team on the Grounds & Buildings Committee who do so much throughout the year to help to keep our beautiful and ancient church in a good state of repair.

Josephine Pearce & Benita Hewitt

Parish Wardens

St Michael & All Angels

The past year has seen our Sunday Club consolidate with new leaders and increasing numbers of children (and a new name). We have also welcomed the return of young people as Acolytes.

Our 'music group' of musicians continues to flourish and perform hymns to enliven our services. They are occasionally supported by members of the congregation playing percussion instruments. The group welcomes new members of all musical abilities and none.

Outside of our Sunday services, we are exploring ways of developing a dedicated youth group for our younger people. The regular 'Tea's-up' group continues to serve our older people well. Our Christian Aid 'big breakfast' raised valuable funds for the charity.

We have secured grant funding from North Northamptonshire to make significant improvements to our Community Hall, improving the quality and safety of the facilities for its users. Achieving 'Eco-Church' status is actively being explored and is showing promising signs of being achieved in 2025.

Once again, our annual Christmas event, this time an imaginatively themed 'pass-the-parcel nativity', was a joyous and fun filled occasion.

We thank everyone who makes these events and activities possible, and to all who contribute to the life of the Church, and continue to ensure that St Michael and All Angels continues to be a special part of the community. We are sad to be losing Rector David and Carys in the New Year, and thank them for all they have done for us.

St Michael and All Angels Church Wardens

Kettering Deanery Synod

Our mission is to encourage and support the churches of our Deanery to build the Kingdom of God. We do this by: building relationships; sharing resources; and praying for each other.

What is Deanery Synod?

Kettering Deanery is one of 12 geographical areas within the Diocese of Peterborough, containing a number of neighbouring churches. The Synod comprises the clergy of the Deanery, along with elected lay members from each parish or benefice. The number from each is linked to a church's electoral roll. Lay members were elected in April/May 2023 for a three-year term of office.

Who leads and manages Deanery Synod?

The current officers are:

Rural Dean: Revd Nicki Hobbs (St Andrew Broughton with Cransley with Mawsley)

Assistant Rural Dean: Revd Tom Houston (St Andrew's, Kettering)

Lay Chair: Peter Jackson

Secretary: Steve Atkins (resigned February 2025)

Treasurer: Alan Ridley

These officers are joined by Hazel Goodman and Lyn Ridley to form the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. This group met three times during the year.

What happens at Deanery Synod meetings?

Meetings naturally open with Prayer and Worship. They also briefly consider recurring business items such as: reports from Diocesan and General Synod; Finance, including Parish Share; local pastoral matters. Each meeting also has a primary focus.

Our meetings in 2024:

February – discussion in groups about the role of Deanery synod, why people volunteered to be involved, and hopes for future synod meetings.

June – visit from Bishop Debbie who spoke about her vision for the diocese and answered questions from the floor.

October – discussion on finances and fundraising. Alan Ridley was appointed as Deanery Treasurer. The synod voted to create a Kettering Deanery Facebook group for advertising services and events, and sharing good news stories.

We also welcomed Charlie Nobbs, the Diocesan Director of Mission, to the deanery during his prayer walk round the diocesan boundary as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Steve Atkins

Deanery Synod Secretary - KettDeanSec@virginmedia.com

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Kettering ('the charity', or 'the PCC', or 'the parish') present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts, and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

The trustees acknowledge that the charity complies with section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 regarding providing a public benefit and confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The charity has also complied with the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in England under the name 'The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Kettering' with registration number 1135658.

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul is situated next to the Market Place in Kettering, on Sheep Street. It is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Walk, Kettering NN16 0DJ.

St Michael and All Angels' Church is on Garfield Street, Kettering, NN15 6BU.

PCC members who have served in the year under review, until 18 May 2025, when this report was approved, are:

Name	Appointment	Term changes
Revd. David Walsh	Rector (ex officio)	Resigned February 2025
Revd. Carys Walsh	Assistant Priest (ex officio)	Resigned February 2025
Revd. Jane Burns	Assistant Priest (ex officio)	
Revd. Angie Milne	Curate (ex officio)	
Josephine Pearce	Warden (ex officio)	
Hilary Winfield	Warden (ex officio)	From May 2025
Pat Edkins	Licensed Lay Minister	
	Deanery Synod representative (ex officio)	
Victoria Gascoyne	Deanery Synod representative (ex officio)	
Hazel Goodman	Deanery Synod representative (ex officio)	
Benita Hewitt	Deanery Synod representative (ex officio)	
Kay Short	Licensed Lay Minister	
	Deanery Synod representative (ex officio)	
John McLaren	Elected	
Jim Balding	Elected	Term ended May 2025
Ann Buckby	Elected	
Anne Cook	Elected	From May 2024
Louise Crookenden-Johnson	Elected	From May 2025
Debby Edgeworth	Elected	
Martin Hill	Elected	
Catherine Hopkins	Elected	From May 2025
Richard Main	Elected	From May 2024
Linda Noble	Elected	
Nora Smith	Elected	From May 2025
Gavin Sylvester	Elected	Term ended May 2025
Kathy Webster	Elected	
Christopher Winfield	Elected	From May 2025

Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Kettering is the body that oversees the historic parish. Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2006.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Primarily this is an elected body, with members elected for three year terms, with annual elections taking place as the terms of members expire.

Under the Church Representation Rules, the parish maintains an Electoral Roll, to which amendments can be made at any time as notified to the PCC. A new Roll is created every six years. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll subject to certain eligibility requirements, and stand for election to the PCC.

On the date this Report was approved the Electoral Roll had 259 members. This compares with a membership of 268 in 2019, following the creation of the new Roll.

The PCC is represented day-to-day in the parish by the Rector ('the incumbent'). The Reverend David Walsh is the Rector of the parish, and is appointed by the Bishop of Peterborough.

The PCC then delegates some of its responsibilities to sub-committees and working groups.

The PCC monitors the work of the St Michael's Church Council, the Grounds & Buildings, Finance and other committees, and aims to make sure that parish life continues to grow and flourish.

Standing Committee

The PCC is required to appoint a Standing Committee, whose role is to transact the PCC's business between meetings of the PCC. Our Standing Committee also understands its role is to help manage the flow of work through the PCC by planning its agendas, passing comment on draft papers and ensuring any enquiries or requests for further work made by the PCC are followed up. Existing Standing Committee members were re-appointed in 2022. As well as the Rector and the wardens, Sam Dearden, Martin Hill, Benita Hewitt were elected members by the PCC.

Finance Committee

The finance committee is constituted of the Incumbent, the Chair (nominated/co-opted by the PCC), the Treasurer of the parish (appointed by the PCC), the Treasurer of St Michael and All Angels (nominated by the St Michael's Church Council), the Wardens and other members appointed by the PCC.

Grounds & Buildings

The Grounds and Buildings sub-committee has continued its work to manage any maintenance and repairs to the church buildings during the year.

Financial review

The parish continues to recover gradually from the financial difficulties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the inflationary environment particularly between 2022 and 2023; in particular, energy costs more than doubled in 2022.

The parish has run a structural financial deficit for a number of years. The licensing of our clergy to the nearby parish of All Saints Kettering in December 2019 allowed the setting of a balanced budget in 2020; this has resulted in a significant cut in the Diocesan 'Parish Share' assessment.

However, the impact of COVID-19 on our key external sources of income, from users of some of our buildings, hall hiring income and on some regular givers inevitably caused financial challenges which persist in various forms – both in terms of the income we are able to generate, and the costs we incur.

2024 sees the parish generate, on the face of it, a healthy surplus on unrestricted funds. This position has been boosted by continued caution in paying parish share, and significant legacies (over £30k) received in the year. The recovery is progressing, and the parish is now potentially at a position of being able to routinely pay around 80% of its parish share assessment.

The PCC continues to be enormously grateful for the continued generosity of donors to the parish. You make the work of the parish possible.

Reserves policy

It is current PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately three months' unrestricted payments excluding Parish Share, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The parish now holds some fixed assets, and ignoring these items, the "free reserves" of the parish (being the balance of £192,882 on unrestricted funds at the year-end, less the fixed assets value of £5,433) are £187,449. The target reserves level calculates to £21,000 .

The balance currently held exceeds this target, but these reserves will be used to fund full parish share payments as required; it is expected that this position will be wound down over the next 3 financial years as the parish builds towards a fully sustainable annual position. The current reserves position has been made possible only by paying no parish share – an unsustainable position for the parish to be in.

The PCC will continue to keep the situation and its reserves policy under review; the parish is currently in a deficit position and any excess reserves held are therefore currently being used to support the existing activities of the charity.

Independent examiner

A resolution to re-appoint David Kelland of Meadows & Co as independent examiner for the ensuing year will be proposed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Peter And St Paul, Kettering ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



David Kelland FCA
Meadows & Co Limited
Headlands House
Kings Court
Kettering
NN15 6WJ

29 October 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Voluntary income	1	144,571	41,643	186,214	116,284
Charitable activities	2	3,197	—	3,197	2,632
Other trading activities:	3				
. Recurring		41,468	—	41,468	49,731
. One-off		—	—	—	16,327
		41,468	—	41,468	66,058
Investment income	4	4,591	—	4,591	2,874
Other income		3,665	—	3,665	278
		197,492	41,643	239,135	188,126
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	117,178	8,959	126,137	109,641
Net income (expenditure)		80,314	32,684	112,998	78,485
Transfers between funds		—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds		80,314	32,684	112,998	78,485
Reconciliation in funds					
Total funds brought forward		112,568	21,166	133,734	55,249
Total funds carried forward	11	192,882	53,850	246,732	133,734

There were no other recognised gains and losses in the years other than those shown above.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	8	5,433	6,409
Current assets			
Debtors	9	15,830	3,675
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>236,463</u>	<u>143,082</u>
		252,293	146,757
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(10,994)</u>	<u>(19,432)</u>
Net current assets		<u>241,299</u>	<u>127,325</u>
Total assets less current liabilities / total net assets		<u>246,732</u>	<u>133,734</u>
The funds of the charity:	11		
Restricted income funds		53,850	21,166
Unrestricted funds		<u>192,882</u>	<u>112,568</u>
		<u>246,732</u>	<u>133,734</u>

The financial statements of the charity were approved and authorised for issue by the Council on May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

J Pearce
Warden

B Hewitt
Warden

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The charity is a Parochial Church Council as established under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measures of 1921 and 1956.

The charity has opted to prepare accruals based accounts, and therefore the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 2019.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value.

As described in the trustees' report, the trustees consider that the charity has adequate resources available to it to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly they have adopted the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. The financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial position of the charity.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are funds that have been donated or granted for a specific use. These funds are expended in accordance with the requirements of the donor or grantor.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP requirements for entitlement, probability and measurement.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable activities expenditure comprises the costs of the primary activities of the charity.

Allocation of costs

Costs are classed as either directly charitable, or as support costs of the charity. Support costs are those incurred in providing day-to-day administrative support or underpinning the infrastructure of the charity.

Support costs are allocated wholly to charitable activities as there are no other classes of expenditure incurred by the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity capitalises as assets fixtures and fittings costing individually more than £1,000. Fixtures and fittings are depreciated over 10 years.

Consecrated and beneficed property (for example, the church buildings, including parish and community halls) are excluded from the financial statements under the provisions of section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Taxation

As a registered charity, the PCC is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within chapter 3 of part 11 to the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 and section 256 Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that these are applied to charitable purposes.

Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1. Voluntary income

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Regular giving	69,025	—	69,025	69,237	—	69,237
Legacies	38,942	—	38,942	5,097	—	5,097
Other donations	36,604	41,643	78,247	30,714	11,236	41,950
	<u>144,571</u>	<u>41,643</u>	<u>186,214</u>	<u>105,048</u>	<u>11,236</u>	<u>116,284</u>

2. Charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
PCC fees for weddings and funerals	3,197	2,632
	<u>3,197</u>	<u>2,632</u>

All charitable activities income relates to unrestricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

3. Other trading activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Recurring:		
Buildings hire / rentals	30,149	31,941
Fundraising events	1,213	500
Electricity recharges: current year	10,106	10,211
Other	—	7,079
	<u>41,468</u>	<u>49,731</u>
Exceptional:		
Electricity recharges: relating to previous years	—	16,327
	<u>41,468</u>	<u>66,058</u>

All other trading activities income relates to unrestricted funds.

4. Investment income

	2024 £	2023 £
Income from cash and cash deposit funds	4,591	2,333
	<u>4,591</u>	<u>2,333</u>

All investment income relates to unrestricted funds.

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Parish ministry, including Parish Share	50,726	26,441
Staff costs	9,684	18,973
Other support costs	65,727	64,227
	<u>126,137</u>	<u>109,641</u>

Parish ministry costs include £ 20,100 (2023: £nil) paid or payable to the Diocese of Peterborough in Parish Share, which is an assessment on individual parishes based on a number of factors around parish size. This primarily funds the salary and some accommodation costs of parish clergy, who are employed by the Diocese. The parish has paid 21% (2023: 0%) of its Parish Share assessment. The shortfall against the assessment was as a result of the continuing impact of Covid-19 on the parish financial position and the level of regular giving, together with the ongoing impact of increased energy costs.

6. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Remuneration and employers NI contributions	9,684	18,973
	<u>9,684</u>	<u>18,973</u>

The parish has 2 employees (2023: 1), working part time.

No employees had remuneration of over £60,000 in the year.

Expenses of £5,178 (2023: £4,913) were paid to 2 (2023: 2) trustees, being the clergy members of the PCC in connection with costs incurred in their day to day duties.

7. Analysis of other support costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Energy / utilities	28,280	35,372
Insurance	9,211	8,738
Maintenance	16,208	8,202
Administration	12,028	11,915
	<u>65,727</u>	<u>64,227</u>

Support costs include fees payable to the independent examiner (David Kelland of Meadows & Co) of £660 (2023: £588).

8. Fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	9,767	9,767
Additions	—	—
At 31 December 2024	<u>9,767</u>	<u>9,767</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	3,358	3,358
Charge for the year	977	977
At 31 December 2024	<u>4,335</u>	<u>4,335</u>
 Net book value at 31 December 2024	 <u>5,432</u>	 <u>5,432</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>6,409</u>	<u>6,409</u>

9. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	15,830	3,675
	<u>15,830</u>	<u>3,675</u>

10. Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors and accruals	10,994	19,432
	<u>10,994</u>	<u>19,432</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

11. Analysis of charitable funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure and transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Roughton Memorial Maintenance Fund	1,324	—	—	1,324
Fabric Fund	8,341	—	—	8,341
Music	1,000	19,000	(2,750)	17,250
Tree planting	—	1,295	(1,230)	65
Special Collections	30	5,710	(175)	5,565
Soup Kitchen	9,986	15,638	(4,804)	20,820
St Michael's Improvement Fund	205	—	—	205
St Michael's Garden Fund	280	—	—	280
	<u>21,166</u>	<u>41,643</u>	<u>(8,959)</u>	<u>53,850</u>

12. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	5,433	—	5,433	6,409
Debtors	15,830	—	15,830	3,675
Cash	182,613	53,850	236,463	143,082
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	(10,994)	—	(10,994)	(19,432)
	<u>192,882</u>	<u>53,850</u>	<u>246,732</u>	<u>133,734</u>

14. Post balance sheet events

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

15. Comparative statement of financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Voluntary income	1	105,047	11,236	116,284
Charitable activities	2	2,632	—	2,632
Other trading activities:	3			
. Recurring		49,731	—	49,731
. One-off		16,327	—	16,327
		66,058	—	66,058
Investment income	4	2,874	—	2,874
Other income		278	—	278
		176,890	11,236	188,126
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	97,460	12,181	109,641
Net income (expenditure)		79,430	(945)	78,485
Transfers between funds		(1,505)	1,505	—
Net movement in funds		79,430	560	78,485
Reconciliation in funds				
Total funds brought forward		34,643	20,606	55,249
Total funds carried forward	11	112,568	21,166	133,734

There were no other recognised gains and losses in the years other than those shown above.

