

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WINCHCOMBE WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1138071

Details

Other names WINCHCOMBE PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St. Peters Centre
Gloucester Street
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Cheltenham
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Activities

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

Activities: The Winchcombe Parochial Church Council is responsible for the administration and finances of the parish, together with certain appointments and functions as specified in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Measure of 1969.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£169,187	£208,586	-	-
2024-12-31	£152,971	£178,083	-	-
2023-12-31	£192,321	£174,197	-	-
2022-12-31	£159,678	£224,342	-	-
2021-12-31	£177,297	£162,593	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Cathryn Wilcock		2020-10-18
Charles Bagnall		2022-05-29
Christopher Robert Haslam		2024-07-15
Elizabeth Atkinson		2021-07-19
Felicity Eleanor Hall		2024-07-15
Geoffrey Adlington		2016-11-21
Isabella Salenius		2026-04-12
Morag Adlington		2024-03-17
Paul Badger		2025-04-06
Rev David Roy Penny		2023-02-27
Robert Dean		2026-04-12
SUSAN CROWNSHAW		2022-05-29
Simon Timothy Holland Andrews		2018-04-29
Stephen Carter		2024-07-15
Susan Janet Proctor		2024-03-17
Viktor Salenius		2026-04-12

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINCHCOMBE

WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year January – December 2025

**presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 12 April 2026

WINCHCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT January - December 2025

1. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets to share with the Priest-in-charge in deciding, and in implementing, parish policy. It is legally responsible for the church buildings & furnishings and for parish property. The PCC is a charity, and registered with the Charity Commission during 2009.

The members of the PCC are (as of 11 April 2026):

CLERGY (EX OFFICIO)

Rev'd Capt. David Penny CA – Chair (2023)

CHURCHWARDENS (EX OFFICIO)

Simon Andrews (2018) (Vice Chair 2019, Churchwarden 2020)
Sue Proctor (Churchwarden 2024)

ELECTED PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

ST PETER'S, WINCHCOMBE

Abbie Shurmer (2019)
Cathy Wilcock (2020)
Elizabeth Atkinson (2021) (PCC Secretary 2023)
Morag Adlington (2024)
Steve Carter (2024)
Felicity Hall (2024)
Chris Haslam (2024)

8 x vacancies

DEANERY SYNOD (EX OFFICIO – ELECTED EVERY 3 YEARS)

Geof Adlington (*Deanery Treasurer 2022*)
Sue Crownshaw (2023)
Charlie Bagnall (2023)
1 x vacancy

CHRIST CHURCH, GRETTON

Vacancy

ST MICHAEL'S, STANLEY PONTLARGE

Paul Badger (2025)

ELECTED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (F&GP)

Chair
Churchwardens
Treasurer (Charlie Bagnall 2023)
PCC Secretary
Sue Crownshaw

PCC CO-OPTED TO FO SP

Simon Andrews (2023)
Sue Crownshaw

METHODIST OBSERVERS (NON-VOTING)

Trevor Upton

THE LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM 2025

Revd Mike Holloway
Revd Michael Hand
Revd Rob Pestell
Revd Wendy Ruffle

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LU
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spc@winchcombeparish.org.uk
www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

CHARITY NUMBER: 1138071

FINANCIAL ADDRESSES

PCC'S BANKERS

from 2023, The Cooperative Bank

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Jennifer Soltau, F.C.C.A.
Cotswold House, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LX

WINCHCOMBE PARISH
With Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and Sudeley Manor
Sunday 12 April 2025 at 11.45 – St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- a) Minutes of the AMP held on Sunday 6 April 2025
- b) Election of churchwardens

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 6 April 2025
- b) Matters arising from the Minutes
- c) Review of progress and achievements
- d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:
 - i. Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report
 - ii. Priest-in-Charge's Report 2025
 - iii. Churchwardens' Report including notes from the Deputy Churchwardens
 - iv. Christ Church, Gretton
 - v. St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge
 - vi. Report on Safeguarding
 - vii. Report from the Diocesan and Deanery Synod
 - viii. Readers report
 - ix. Youth/Beacon report
 - x. BLAST(Junior Church) report
 - xi. Toddler Time
 - xii. Pastoral Care report
 - xiii. Music report
 - xiv. Stewards Report
 - xv. Eco Church Group
 - xvi. St Peter's Flower Arrangers' report
 - xvii. Report from the Bell ringers
 - xviii. Holy Dusters report
- e) Questions and discussion on reports
- f) General questions and discussion

5. READERS TO BE EX-OFFICIO FROM 2026

6. ELECTIONS

- a) Deanery Synod Members (4 positions)
- b) PCC Members

7. THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

8. ELECTORAL ROLL

9. CLOSING PRAYER

3 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 6 April 2025 at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: Revd David Penny, Charlie Bagnall (Treasurer), Elizabeth Atkinson (PCC Secretary), together with approximately 57 others on the electoral roll.

- 1. Welcome and Prayers:** *Revd David Penny welcomed those present and opened the meeting with a prayer.*
- 2. Apologies for Absence** *were received from Sue Fleck, Katy Bagnall, John and Jackie Hayter, and Lynn Gorman.*
- 3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** *for those on the Electoral Role and those resident in the Parish – ie the whole community.*

Minutes of the AMP held on 17 March 2024

The minutes were made available prior to the meeting – in hard copy or by email.

The minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising.

Election of two Churchwardens

The meeting was asked to elect the Churchwardens for the coming year. There were two nominees for the two church wardens. They were Simon Andrews and Sue Proctor both current Churchwardens. The vote to elect them was carried unanimously. The meeting expressed their support and many thanks to Simon Andrews and Sue Proctor for their hard work since the last APCM.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Elizabeth Atkinson

PCC Secretary

April 2025

Approved:

Date: 12 April 2026

b) Election of Two Churchwardens

4) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 6 April 2025

1. Minutes of the APCM held on 17 March 2024

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting.

The minutes were approved as accurate.

2. **Matters Arising:** *there were no matters arising from the minutes.*

3. **Review of progress & achievements:** *This would be covered by the reports as tabled including the priest-in-charge's report.*

4. **Annual Report of the PCC as tabled** – *Hard copies were available in the back of Church for three weeks before the meeting, and the report was available electronically.*

i) **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** *The Treasurer summarised his circulated report. He mentioned that 2024 had ended with a reduction in total net assets of £40,000 due in part from the completion of the roof at St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge. On the positive side the cash flow for day to day expenses was managed well with no need to draw on other sources of money. The 2024 budget had been set to break-even but with hindsight this was unrealistic.*

Looking forward to 2025, we now have 3 paid members of staff (Director of Music, Parish Administrator and Youth Leader. This was both exciting but expensive, and this coupled with increases in utility costs have meant the PCC has set a budget for 2025 which will result in a deficit of £50,000. This is only sustainable in the short term so will need to be monitored carefully and reviewed next year.

The income from adhoc donations was more than double what had been budgeted for in 2024 and in answer to a question on where the donations were coming from, there was no particular source. It came through visitor donations through the card reader and donations from occasional services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Another comment was made about the signposting for cash donations, which was not clear. A question was asked on what action was being taken to increase the planned giving which had decreased and David Penny stated that there was a meeting taking place on Tuesday to address this issue.

Charlie Bagnall thanked Jennifer Soltau for her work as Independent Examiner.

David Penny expressed his thanks to Charlie for his stewardship and all his hard work.

ii) **Priest-in-charge Report:**

2024 proved a year of challenge and opportunity. David stressed that he was grateful to all members of all churches for the jobs that they undertake within the churches. This includes all the seen and unseen practical jobs that get done as well as the time given as stewards etc. What they do is important, valuable and valued. New members are coming into the church. David is also very grateful for his Ministry team. He feels very blessed to have both the readers and the retired clergy who undertake services and ministry both within the three churches and the wider team. He is in awe of the dedication and hard work of the team under the leadership of Steve Carter for the work on the Awesome project which started a year ago and which has signs of growth. He is also pleased with the work of the Pastoral team under the new leadership of Morag Adlington.

David also gave heartfelt thanks for the work and dedication of the churchwardens, Simon Andrews and Sue Proctor. Without them the ministry of the church would be greatly diminished.

iii) **Churchwardens' Report:**

The Churchwardens' Report had also been circulated and Simon Andrews summarised. He wanted to thank the many volunteers that kept the church going throughout the year. Particular thanks to Chris Sands, John Ursell and Gareth Moseley for their help following the vacancy of the role of Musical Director. Thanks to those who have given many years' service and have now felt it was time to step down: Jane Wain as Wedding Administrator, Gill Worthington as Toddler Lead, Lynne Banks as Safeguarding Officer. Gareth Moseley was appointed the new Parish Administrator in 2024 and the appointments of the new Director of Music (James Willshire) and Youth Worker (Bryoni Newell) were made in early 2025.

The transfer of St Mary's Sudeley to the Sudeley Estate was completed in February 2024. The restoration of the roof of St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge was also completed in 2024.

There were a number of social events that took place in 2024 including the Parish Fete which was headed up by Stewart Aylward.

iv) **Safeguarding Report:-**

The report from Lynne Banks on activity in 2024 has been circulated. Gill Worthington was still undertaking the DBS checks for which the parish was very grateful. A new Safeguarding Officer was being sought.

v) Diocesan and Deanery report

Geof Adlington highlighted the main activities from the Diocesan and Deanery Synods in his reports. This included the new 2026 Parish Share Model that was being introduced and which would impact all parishes across the diocese and deaneries including Winchcombe.

vi) - xiii) Other Reports

Reports were also received from the Readers, Pastoral Care Team, Flower Arrangers, Bell Ringers, Eco Church Group, Stewards and Toddler Time. Thanks were given to each of the Teams involved.

e) Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled:

A question was raised on the environmental cost of having lilies at Easter, bearing in mind they had to be flown in. This was noted and would be passed onto the flower team for consideration of alternatives.

4. Readers to be ex-officio from 2026:

David Penny explained that he was proposing that the readers became ex-officio members of the PCC. This would take effect from the APCM in 2026. The decision rested with the APCM. The majority were in favour of the change with 2 abstentions.

5. Elections:

2025. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** *Geof Adlington, Susan Crownshaw and Charlie Bagnall were current deanery Synod representatives. There was still one vacancy but there were no further volunteers.*

b. Election of PCC Representatives:

There were 7 vacancies on the PCC. There were two nominations – from Stewart Aylward and Paul Badger (St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge)

6. The Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

Jennifer Soltau was happy to be appointed again as the Independent Examiner. All voted in favour of her appointment and David Penny thanked her for her work and for her continued appointment.

7. Electoral Roll:

The revised electoral roll stood at 201. This was slightly down on 2024 (216) but it was a full revision this year which inevitably takes off people who have moved, died or no longer wish to be on the electoral roll of whom we were not aware.

2025. **Closing Prayer:**

The meeting closed at 13.10 with all saying the Grace.

Elizabeth Atkinson

PCC Secretary

April 2025

Approved:

Date: 12 April 2026

b) Matters arising from the Minutes

c) Review of Progress and Achievements

This will be covered by the reports as tabled including the priest-in-charge's report.

d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:

i. PCC Finance report for Year ended December 2025

This is the second year in which the accounts have been prepared using our online accounting system, Expense Plus. In the following pages you will find the same information that is usually provided, but in a new layout.

- Statement of Assets and Liabilities
- Income and Expenditure – Unrestricted and restricted Funds
- Income and Expenditure – Pioneer Ministry Fund
- Fund Movement Summary – analysis of all Funds
- Notes 1 and 2

Summary

In last year's report, I made it clear that we would be budgeting for a significant loss of at least £50,000 in the year to December 2025. I explained that this loss was unavoidable as long as the parish continued to pay an administrator and a director of music, and meet its steadily growing Parish Share against a backdrop of increasing costs, in particular heating. So it has turned out. The balance sheet value has dropped from £446k to £390k, a loss of £54k, the budgeted income and expenditure loss being exacerbated by under performance across our CCLA investments. You can see a clear breakdown of the change in the total value of our funds at Note 1.

1 Assets and Liabilities

To fund our ongoing losses, I have had to cash in both our deposit accounts and £25k from one of our investments. This means our investments have reduced from £323k to £290k and our cash in hand, i.e. all our current accounts, have dropped from about £68k to about £43k. In the bottom half of the balance sheet you will see that most of these losses are sustained by the General Account, the other significant negative being against the Pioneer Ministry Fund.

Income and Expenditure

At the suggestion of the PCC, the Pioneer Ministry Fund, which we are using to fund our youth work led by Bryoni Newell, has been separated out because the latter was budgeted for when the money was designated some years ago so should not be lumped in with 2025 budgets.

- **General Fund** Our total income on the general fund exceeded our budgeted figure. This sounds like great news, but in fact, regular giving has fallen again and we were rescued by a legacy. We also received an extremely generous donation towards a grand piano for church which artificially inflates the income figure, as it went straight out again for the piano. Some were sceptical at my budgeted figure of £19,000 for other donations, but at £18,250 we nearly got there, no mean achievement. On the expenditure side, having learned a few lessons in 2024, our expenditure was much more in line with budgetary expectations, within 5% across the board, – we are running a tighter ship.

- **Pioneer Ministry Fund** This fund only shows a loss of £8,500 because we also received some donations, mainly from the WAM charity after it was wound up.
- **Other Funds** The main activity on the restricted funds, which were otherwise quiet, was on the St Michael's Fund. This year however it was a joyful story, with the 850 year anniversary generating significant funds thanks to the tireless energy of the Stanley Pontlarge faithful: a surplus of over £5000 even after paying for some repairs and passing fundraising profits to the Friends of St Michaels. Also worth noting is that the Awesome team has been busy spending a good chunk of its £3000 grant on materials to support their important ministry to school age children.

2 Fund Movement – Summary Report

This report is a useful way of looking at the financial position of all our funds in one place, including those that have not been active this year. I have sorted it in ascending value of net movement to make it easier to see where the main activities are.

Looking Ahead

We committed to continuing all our activities last year in the certain knowledge that this would result in a significant loss in our funds. Despite our best efforts our overall giving has not increased while costs have continued to rise and so the planned £50,000 deficit has indeed come to pass. We also acknowledged that we cannot carry on this way indefinitely or the wonderful revenue generation efforts of our predecessors will be reduced to nothing in a few years. Eventually we may have to take drastic steps to reduce our outgoings, but our next step will be to have a conversation with the Diocese about our level of Parish Share which is now clearly not sustainable.

*Charlie Bagnall, Treasurer
February 2026*

Parish of Winchcombe Assets and Liabilities 2025

	Total	Prior Year
Current Assets		
Cash	43,222.00	68,314.00
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Non-Current Assets		
Fixed Assets	57,000.00	57,000.00
Investments	290,439.00	323,079.00
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	359.00	2,539.00
Deferred Income	-	-
Non-Current Liabilities		
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	-	-
Net Current Assets	42,863.00	65,775.00
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	390,302.00	445,855.00

Represented By

General (Unrestricted)	317,217.00	368,817.00
Chime Machine (1002) (Restricted)	5,696.00	5,696.00
St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003) (Restricted)	445.00	846.00
St Peters Organ Fund (1001, 2001) (Restricted)	14,718.00	14,718.00
Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010) (Restricted)	2,462.00	2,356.00
Vicar and Church Wardens (1014) (Restricted)	3,051.00	3,051.00
St Peter's Church Flower Fund (2300) (Unrestricted)	669.00	669.00
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge (2020) (Restricted)	6,196.00	822.00
Pioneer Minister (YCW) Reserve (2250) (Designated)	34,786.00	43,299.00
IT and Video Fund (1013) (Restricted)	932.00	932.00
Christ Church Gretton General Fund (GRE) (Unrestricted)	126.00	126.00
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge General Fund (SP) (Unrestricted)	-	-
St Peter's Eco-Church Fund (2350) (Unrestricted)	568.00	616.00
Coffee Fund (Unrestricted)	168.00	168.00
Christmas Hampers (Restricted)	11.00	-
Minor Appeals (no GA) (Restricted)	15.00	15.00
Fresh Expressions (Restricted)	723.00	723.00
Children's Ministry (Restricted)	1,792.00	3,000.00
Choir Social Fund (Restricted)	625.00	-
Choir Music Fund (Restricted)	102.00	-
Total	390,302.00	445,854.00

Parish of Winchcombe Income & Expenditure 2025
Unrestricted and Restricted Funds

Income

Category	Fund	Actual Income	2025 Budget	Budget Received
01 -Tax Efficient Planned Giving	General	50,502	58,000	87%
02 – Other Planned Giving	General	5,470	4,200	130%
03 – One Off Gifts, Collections	General	6,393	7,000	91%
04 – Other Giving and Donations – Recurring	General	-	-	
05 – One off gifts, Other	General	18,259	19,000	96%
06 – Special Appeals	General	10,000	-	
08 – Legacies Received	General	5,000	500	1000%
07 – All Tax Recovered through Gift Aid	General	13,667	16,000	85%
09 – Recurring Grants	General	-	-	
10 – Non Recurring Grants	General	2,230	-	
11 – Fundraising Events	General	5,659	8,000	71%
12 – Dividends and Interest	General	10,904	12,000	91%
13 – Income from Properties	General	-	100	0%
14 – Total Parochial Fees Income	General	17,612	20,000	88%
15 – Bookstall, Magazine	General	5,762	6,000	96%
16 – Room Lettings	General	156		
17 – Income from other Church Activities	General	44		
18 – Insurance Claims	General			
19 – Reimbursement of Costs by Other Parishes	General			
20 – Sale of Fixed Assets	General			
21 – Service Fee Re-imburement by GDBF	General			
22 – Other Income	General	3,818	1,000	382%
Deanery costs recovered from Diocese	General			
st Peters Bells – Donations	St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003)	342		
VAT Recovered via LPW scheme	St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003)			
Christ Church Bequests	Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010)			
Christ Church other income	Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010)	105		
St Peters Flowers Donations	St Peter’s Church Flower Fund (2300)	5		
05 – One off gifts, Other	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	5,600		
10 – Non Recurring Grants	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	3,698		
Events Income inc 850	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	2,986		
VAT Recovered via LPW scheme	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)			
05 – One off gifts, Other	St Peter’s Eco-Church Fund (2350)	-		
Christmas Hampers Donations	Christmas Hampers	180		
Childrens Ministry – Grant Income	Children’s Ministry			
Childrens Ministry General Donations	Children’s Ministry			
Choir Social Fund Donations	Choir Social Fund	693		
Choir Music Fund Income	Choir Music Fund	102		
Total Income		£169,187	£151,800	11%

Expenditure

Category	Fund	Actual Expenditure	Total Budget	Budget Spent
39 – Insurance	General	12,183	12,500	97%
42 – Administration Costs	General	5,426	5,500	99%
43 – Other church expenses / provision of services	General	5,282	3,000	176%
46 – Music Costs	General	1,788	2,500	72%
55 – Service Fee remittance to Visiting Minister	General		150	0%
56 – Payment of Costs to Other Parishes	General			
57 – Deanery Costs	General	344		
58 – Sundry Expenses	General	23	50	46%
36 – Clergy Housing Costs	General			
40 – Cleaning Costs	General	629	600	105%
41 – Minor Repairs / Routine Maintenance	General	5,184	6,000	86%
44 – Churchyard Maintenance	General	1,317	2,800	47%
45 – Flowers	General	20	200	10%
47 – Heating and Lighting	General	15,362	13,000	118%
48 – Water Rates	General	941	500	188%
59 – Major repairs/redecoration to Church Building	General	8,435	7,000	121%
60 – Major repairs/redecoration to other properties	General			
61 – Alterations/Extensions to Church Building	General			
30 – Fundraising Costs	General	699	800	87%
49 – Costs of trading inc magazine	General	4,900	5,500	89%
31 – Donations / Grants to Charities	General	2,520	2,500	101%
32 – Parish Share	General	91,279	91,279	100%
51 Parochial Fees Remittance to DBF	General	3,424	3,000	114%
52 - Parochial Fees Remittance to Visiting Minister	General			
53 – Parochial Fees Remittance to other Third Party	General	6,268	7,500	84%
54 – Parochial Fees Remittance to other PCC	General		-	
33 – Salaries and Wages	General	17,848	17,000	105%
34 – Clergy Expenses	General	1,638	3,800	43%
35 – Other Expenses	General	12,209		
37 – Local Mission and Evangelism Costs	General	144	300	48%
38 – Children and Youth Work Costs	General	963	3,500	28%
50 – Governance Costs	General	-		
70 – Pastoral Care	General	450	400	113%
St Peters Bells – Expenditure	St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003)	743		
Christ Church Major Repairs/improvements	Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010)			
Christ Church Minor Repairs / Improvements	Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010)	-		
St Peters Flowers expenditure	St Peter’s Church Flower Fund (2300)	5		
59 – Major repairs/redecoration to Church Building	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	3,324		
St Michaels Event Fundraising Expenses	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	1,250		
Transfer of fundraising proceeds to FoSM	St Michael’s Stanley Pontlarge (2020)	2,336		
44 – Churchyard Maintenance	St Peter’s Eco-Church Fund (2350)	218		
Christmas Hampers Expenses	Christmas Hampers	169		
Childrens Ministry – Materials	Children’s Ministry	1,208		
Childrens Ministry – Other Staff Expenses	Children’s Ministry			
Choir Social Fund Expenditure	Choir Social Fund	58		
Choir Music Fund Expenditure	Choir Music Fund			
Total Income		208,586	189,379	10%
Surplus (Income – Expenditure)		-£39,399	-£37,579	-5%

Parish of Winchcombe Income & Expenditure 2025 – Pioneer Ministry Fund

Income

Category	Actual Income	Total Budget	Budget Received
Donations to Youth Work	11000	0	n/a
Fundraising Event income	23	0	n/a
Expenditure			
Category	Actual Expenditure	Total Budget	Budget Spent
Youth Work Activity Expenses	2165.28	0	n/a
Youth Work Employment Costs	16891.5	15000	113%
Youth Work Staff Expenses	479.39	0	n/a
Net Surplus / (Loss)	-8513.17	-15000	

Parish of Winchcombe – Fund Movement Summary 2025

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Investment Gains (or Losses)	Net Movement	Closing Balance
General (Unrestricted)	368,817	155,476	199,275	-161	-7,640	-51,600	317,217
Pioneer Minister (YCW) Reserve (2250) (Designated)	43,299	11,023	19,536	0	0	-8,513	34,786
Children's Ministry (Restricted)	3,000	0	1,208	0	0	-1,208	1,792
St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003) (Restricted)	846	342	743	0	0	-401	445
St Peter's Eco-Church Fund (2350) (Unrestricted)	616	0	218	171	0	-48	568
Chime Machine (1002) (Restricted)	5,696	0	0	0	0	0	5,696
St Peters Organ Fund (1001, 2001) (Restricted)	14,718	0	0	0	0	0	14,718
Vicar and Church Wardens (1014) (Restricted)	3,051	0	0	0	0	0	3,051
St Peter's Church Flower Fund (2300) (Unrestricted)	669	5	5	0	0	0	669
IT and Video Fund (1013) (Restricted)	932	0	0	0	0	0	932
Christ Church Gretton General Fund (GRE) (Unrestricted)	126	0	0	0	0	0	126
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge General Fund (SP) (Unrestricted)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee Fund (Unrestricted)	168	0	0	0	0	0	168
Minor Appeals (no GA) (Restricted)	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Fresh Expressions (Restricted)	723	0	0	0	0	0	723
Christmas Hampers (Restricted)	0	180	169	0	0	11	11
Choir Music Fund (Restricted)	0	102	0	0	0	102	102
Christ Church Gretton I (1010, 2010) (Restricted)	2,356	105	0	0	0	105	2,462
Choir Social Fund (Restricted)	0	693	58	-10	0	625	625
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge (2020) (Restricted)	822	12,284	6,910	0	0	5,374	6,196
TOTAL	£445,855	£180,210	£228,123	£0	-£7,640	-£55,553	£390,302

Parish of Winchcombe 2025 Accounts – Notes

Note 1

Reconciliation of Inc/Exp A/C to Balance Sheet

	£
General and other Funds loss for the year	-39,399
Pioneer Minister Fund loss for the year	-8513
Loss on Investments - CCLA UK Equity Fund	-2800
Loss on Investments - CCLA Global Equity Fund	-1846
Loss on Investments - CCLA Investment Fund	-3499
Gain on Investments - CCLA Fixed Interest Security	504
	-£55,553
Total Value of Funds December 2024	445,855
Total Value of Funds December 2025	390,302
Net reduction in total funds	-£55,553

Note 2

Cash and Savings Accounts Year Ended 31/12/2025

CCLA Deposit Account (1D) CB-3025963	2,652
CCLA Deposit Account (4D) CB3025967	44
Co-Op General Account	19,909
Lloyds Fees Account	25
Stewardship Account	10,166
Vicar and Church Wardens Account	3,126
Winchcombe Parish Collections Account	4,969
Subtotal	£40,891
Petty Cash	2,331
Total	£43,222

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WINCHCOMBE WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2025

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiners Qualification

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

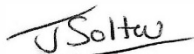
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: Jennifer Soltau

Address: Cotswold House
Gloucester Street
Winchcombe
GL54 5LX

Name JENNIFER SOLTAU

Signature 

Date 12 2 26

ii Report for 2025 by Rev'd Capt. David Penny – Priest in Charge

As ever it has been a busy year with so much to be thankful for.

The New Year brought with it a new start in the worshipping life of the parish with the appointment of James Willshire as our Director of Music. The effects of his appointment were soon felt, with the choir bolstered by his support and leadership, and the launch of a new service at St. Peter's which we called Winchcombe Worship. The trial of this informal and modern service in the evening of the 2nd Sunday soon translated into a regular morning service on the 1st Sunday of the month. We are blessed to have such a variety of services on offer across the parish, and blessed to have a ministry team that can provide them. Healing services also became more frequent as we held 6 at the Wednesday morning Eucharist and 6 on a Wednesday evening. Conversely the PCC took the decision after discussion with me, that evening services at St. Peter's on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month were no longer viable. The Evensong services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month continue to be supported and valued, and these will rightly continue. Whilst the Church is about more than counting how many people come week by week, it has been reassuring to see a number of new people at St. Peter's and numbers at both Christ Church and St. Michael's remaining steady.

In January we appointed Bryoni Newell as our Young People's Ministry Leader. With her established links with school and young people, she was able to get off to a flying start as we picked up where WAM left off; over the year her work has developed and grown. Through her work we are not only meeting the needs of the young people of the parish today, we are also sowing the seeds of faith that will bear fruit in God's good time.

The ministry team has reduced slightly in number as Cliff Cocks retired from Reader ministry and took the honour of becoming Reader Emeritus. Cliff has been a faithful servant of the church as Reader for many years, and whilst his humility would not want a huge tribute, it is only right and proper to give a note of thanks for his ministry amongst us. Thankfully, although Cliff has hung up his scarf, he is still very much part of the church and now ministering in different ways – and long may that continue.

Being church is far more than coming to services, and it has been good for us to have time together at various social events over the year. The most significant of events was the celebration of 850 years of ministry and prayer at St. Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge. The celebration was kicked off with a wonderful concert with the CK Gospel Choir and we finished the year on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels with a special Celebration Songs of Praise. My thanks to the Stanley Pontlarge team for organising everything – as you would expect from this team each event was brilliantly organised and the refreshments hit the spot. The Faith Lunches after the main service at St. Peter's have also been a real joy, bringing the congregation together in an informal way, creating a greater sense of family; as have the other events in the parish such as the Whist Night, progressive supper, summer Fete and CS quiz.

In July we spent some time at Christ Church thinking about the future. Recognising that we are fewer in number than we would like to be, we started to think about what we might do to reach out into the community and invite people in. Small steps will lead us to make bigger changes, so for now we are trialling an afternoon service on the Second Sunday of the month to engage with families and will look at starting a Life Group in 2026.

The integrated project at St. Peter's is making steady progress – these things always take a long time to get from concept to completion, so don't lose heart. Conversations with the church community have informed each of the subgroups, and I would hope that over the next few years plans will translate to action.

A meeting in the autumn with Revd Kate Stacey helped the PCC, Gretton Mini Meeting members and members of St. Michaels think about the governance structures of the church. PCC meetings, whilst enabling us to fulfil all our Parish wide legal obligations, have not always helped every church to feel part of the meeting. Often PCC business struggled not to be St. Peter's centric, and St. Peter's and St. Michaels had no mechanism to discuss mission and ministry in their particular church and community. The proposal was therefore put to PCC that we reduce the number of PCCs to 4 a year and have (about) 4 Church Mini Meetings a year in each of the 3 churches. This will allow each church to have space to discuss issues relating only to them without clogging PCCs with items that are of little or no interest to the other churches. The aim of this will be to enable greater ownership of locally decided missional decisions and increase buy-in to the PCC from all churches.

Churches Together in Winchcombe (CTW) have had a good year. Not only has Meeting Point continued its valued weekly coffee mornings, but we also took part in the Winchcombe Country Show and sang carols on both days of the Winchcombe Christmas Markets. As ever the various members of CTW took part in the Remembrance service, each church or group leading an aspect of this important yearly remembrance.

As ever I finish with a word of thanks to you all for the part you play in the life of the Church in this parish. It is a joy and privilege to work with you to grow God's Kingdom in this place. Thank you for all that you do – whether that is something upfront and visible, or something in the background. Together we are greater than the sum of our parts; and together, under God, we are a blessing to those we are called to serve. May we always be open to what God is inviting us to join in with as we live the Gospel.

Rev'd David Penny

iii APCM COVERING 2025: CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

2025 has seen continued development of the strands of Parish work as articulated in the Parish strategy.

The number and geographical spread of services with associated musical support within the Parish has been maintained with the active support of our retired clergy, Readers and volunteers. It may seem to some as an annual 'ritual' to say so, but our genuine thanks to them all and we remain very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such pro-active people. We achieved full and well attended Easter, Advent and Christmas services in the Parish, with the strong support of our new Director of Music, James Willshire, and the choristers, as well as a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Our bells are still ringing with a new lick of paint on the frame in St Peter's and the ringers have new blood though they are not complacent regarding seeking new recruits.

Service attendance at St Peter's is steady with the hint of a growing number of younger attendees and – hooray – some younger children. St Michael's remains healthy and stable whilst Christ Church is still an area requiring some attention that is being addressed with local initiatives. St Mary's, although no longer the responsibility of the Parish, continues to have a loyal cohort for its Summer Evensong services with the added benefit of reinforcement from the transitory visitors to Sudeley Castle, and supported by some fine a cappella musicians.

The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through its involvement in the typical round of town and area events with the additional special activities of the 850th anniversary of the founding of St Michael's celebrated with a walk and highly successful concert, and the hosting of a rogation walk picnic at Christ Church. Additionally, both VE and VJ days were remembered. Despite some challenges regarding the temporary non-engagement of Encounter Church, Churches Together in Winchcombe has become more focussed this year exemplified for example by its activities at the town's Country Show and Christmas Festival.

We again, through the medium of St Peter's Centre, have been able to offer a "Warm Space" – with an associated grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council – for the town's youngsters in conjunction with the forming of our new Beacon group under the guidance of our Young People's Ministry Leader, Bryoni Newell, who started with us in March. Bryoni's dynamism has also seen the respective initiation and continued development of association with both Winchcombe and Winchcombe Abbey Primary schools. The Awesome programme of youth engagement is going well under the guidance of Steve Carter and Revd Wendy Ruffle, and the Ministry team's continued engagement with the primary schools in Gretton and Winchcombe has proved to be very welcome. Finally on the younger people's front, we have seen the initiation of BLAST (Being Light and Salt Together) in the latter quarter of the year, catering for the faith development of our younger attendees to Sunday morning services at St Peter's. Now the work of getting this up and running is complete, we seek volunteers to progress this simple to run development.

The Parish was actively involved in the provision of volunteers to support other groups in the area, in the ramping up of food bank support, and with Pastoral care which has been successfully re-focused through the efforts of Morag Adlington and a small dedicated team.

Socially, we have been as active as ever with a number of fundraising activities; some tried and tested, but some new ideas. In particular, we would highlight the ever-popular book fair overseen by Kate Robinson, a hugely enjoyable fête put together by Charlie Bagnall and his committee, a very well supported Crafters' Fair overseen by Sue Proctor, and the town Christmas Fair stall by Lisa Martin and Revd Wendy in conjunction with another well attended Christmas Tree Festival organised by Abbie Shurmer. Our Social Committee has been active in pulling together events particularly in St Peter's, and whilst it has some new younger blood, readers are asked to consider their availability.

The weekly Parish "Signpost" bulletins have, we trust, continued to keep Parishioners up to date with wider goings on, whilst the Parish magazine continues to be very well received and is included in the welcoming packs now prepared for new arrivals in houses in the area. We understand that effective information flow plays an important part in maintaining the cohesion of our community and Revd David's communication questionnaire has allowed some focussed development in this area though still work in progress. Regarding social media, our thanks to Deborah Penny taking the social media bull by the horns to upgrade our profile in the town, and to Abbie Shurmer and Julia Hall who have stepped up when needed. However, their own commitments mean we will be actively looking for someone to oversee this area in 2026.

Other major achievements or events include:

- The ongoing work by EcoChurch members towards the attainment of the A Rocha gold award. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their work whether it be Christ Church's and St Peter's insect hotels and wildflower areas, swift nests in Christ Church and St Peter's or the general willingness to maintain our churches by the groups who support our churches' maintenance days.
- Toddler Time, which continues to be well supported and our thanks to Karen Almond and her team.
- The continued work of the St Peter's integrated project team seeking a holistic recommendation for heating, lighting, seating and audio-visual support. Whilst the team sought to include the creation of an independent multi-functional area within the church space, the lack of funding availability has meant that this part of the project is in stasis.

Much practical work has been achieved and below is a summary of some of the bigger projects that have been taken forward in addition to the continual round of safety checks and small fixes undertaken. Our thanks to those individuals or organisations shown in brackets, and Deputy Churchwardens for their involvement in work in addressing many of these issues, and the Friends of St Peter's (FoSP) and St Michael's (FoSM) for their respective financial support.

- St Peter's, Winchcombe:
 - Bell frame re-painting (Bellringers and FoSP).
 - Lady Chapel plug sockets installation (Diocese).
 - Roll of Honour Update (Carol Harris).
 - Purchase of grand piano (private grant donation)
- Christ Church, Gretton:
 - Quinquennial Inspection.
 - Replacement of roof tiles.
- St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge:
 - Window frame repairs and refurbishment (FoSM and Diocese).
- St Peter's Centre:
 - New oven.

We have said goodbye and hello to a number of personalities with lead roles within the Parish. Some are mentioned elsewhere in the wider report, but we saw the standing down of: Lynne Banks as safeguarding lead with our Parish Administrator, Gareth Moseley, undergoing the necessary training to take on the role; Cliff Cocks as one of our long service Readers; and Martin Gorman as Concerts Secretary with Richard Sharp taking on the role supported by David Allen. They have all served us loyally for which we thank them and wish them good fortune in their respective future endeavours. In turn, we welcomed James Willshire as Director of Music in January and Bryoni Newell as Young People's Ministry in March.

However, it was with great sadness that we heard of the death of the Reverend Canon John Paul Hoskins, Residentiary Canon and Precentor of Worcester Cathedral. JP moved from us after some six years as our Priest-in Charge to go to Worcester and our continued prayers are with Liz and Suzanna.

Finally, whilst we inevitably will not have thanked everyone who deserves it, the continued voluntary contributions by the PCC, choir, bellringers, stewards, welcomers, sacristans, vergers, holy dusters, coffee makers, flower arrangers etc, etc in St Michael's, Christ Church and St Peter's are not taken for granted. Thank you to all our volunteers but we remain ready to accept new names to fill more gaps.

Simon Andrews

Sue Proctor

Churchwardens, Winchcombe Parish

iv Christ Church, Gretton Report

Services at Christ Church were held as usual on 2nd and 4th Sundays, alternating between Morning Worship and Holy Communion. Following services, we go up to the village hall, where the Gretton Hub is held every two weeks, to join in for refreshments and social time with other residents of the village. Morning Prayer is held as a short informal service on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am.

Our Mini Team meetings are held every two months.

We have been pleased to be able to provide rehearsal space for the Octavo singing group several times during the year, as they like the acoustics in the church, and we are hoping that they will put on a fundraising concert for us in the future.

On 17 May we held our annual spring clean to make sure the grounds and the interior of the church are clean and tidy. Thanks go to those stalwart members who took part!

In June we were very happy to have a smart meter installed, with the result that the meter does not have to be read and submitted manually every month.

On 27 July Rev. David Penny held a forum in church to discuss ideas as to how to encourage more people to attend church. He kindly provided breakfast for us!

Towards the end of November several members of our congregation attended a session about the way ahead for the governance of the parish, so that it is not always so St Peter's-centric.

On 19 December the village school held their carol service in the church; a large number of parents attended, with some sitting on the floor at the back of the church.

Our own Crib and Carol Service was held on Christmas Eve at 4pm, packed as usual with many people standing. Thanks go to the Flower Fairies for making the church look so beautiful, and thanks also to the people on the cleaning rota who make sure the church always looks spic and span through the year.

Susan Fleck

v St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge

During the year we continued to hold Holy Communion services at 9.15am on the first and third Sundays of the month.

At the beginning of the year, the windows on the North Side were repaired, part funded by a grant secured by Simon Andrews and the FoSM.

2025 was a very special year for us as we celebrated the 850th anniversary of St Michael's and we held a number of events. The first was on Sunday 11th May, when an ensemble from the renowned CK Gospel Choir held a concert in the church grounds. It was a wonderful day, enjoyed by all the 120 people who came. We also raised a substantial sum for church funds.

On 28th September we held a Songs of Praise and we were delighted to welcome Archdeacon Katrina as part of our 850th anniversary celebrations. James Willshire and the choir from St Peters provided the music and sang for us, including favourite hymns that parishioners had chosen. Everyone stayed after the service for our customary refreshments in the churchyard.

At the beginning of September, we also held our Harvest Festival. We decorated the church with flowers and produce from our gardens and vegetable patches, and held a collection for food and other items for the local foodbank, with drinks and nibbles in the churchyard afterwards.

In December we held our Carols by Candlelight. The church was decorated with foraged greenery and candles. Adults and children chose their favourite Christmas readings and poems to read, including a poem specially written by Annie and Evie 'A Christmas Pause of Thanks'. The church was full and we enjoyed mulled wine and refreshments in the church as it was a wet evening.

We are very pleased that Duncan Westerman now plays the organ for us for all our services.

Gill Badger

vi Safeguarding Report for APCM 2026

Lynne Banks retired as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in April 2025. No volunteers came forward to take on this role so Churchwardens acted as temporary PSO. In June Abbie Shurmer volunteered to become PSO. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Abbie was not able to continue and resigned at the end of October. Churchwardens again took on the role. Mr Gareth Moseley, our parish administrator, became PSO on 1st January 2026. CW concentrated on ensuring all the appropriate training was completed. This is an ongoing task.

Grateful thanks go to Mrs Gill Worthington for managing all the parish DBS checks.

There were no safeguarding incidents to report.

vii Diocesan & Deanery Synod reports.

Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan discussions at the beginning of the year focussed on Safeguarding policy, the progress on Environment Objectives of the Diocese, and finance report for Parish Share in 2024. Finance dominated the subsequent meeting in July

In the second half of the year our attention turned to progressing of Deanery Strategic plans and discussion around key themes that have emerged - • Deanery Operation Leads • Collaborative Ministry
The year concluded with an introduction to a racial justice initiative being introduced to the Diocese which seemed to be mostly about data gathering in the first phase. Then there was a big debate about plans to recruit Deanery Operating Leads in 3 of the deaneries, how they would be financed, and what the role could entail.

Deanery Synod report

The work of the Deanery began with the picking up on initiatives by the diocese to support ministry and mission in the Deanery and developing the Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP). The former included presentations to the Synod by Amy Todd, Youth Connector North, Winchcombe and Kate Stacey- Collaborative Ministry Lead: Lifelong Learning

Amy Todd advised that it is recognised that children and youth leaders in rural areas felt disconnected and Youth Connectors were brought in to correct this. She advised that youth groups in North Cotswolds were being well managed. The greatest need there currently was perceived as being in the Cotswold High School where a chaplaincy role is being created. The T&W Deanery Synod needs to think about our youth and decide what is needed for our youth groups, where the focus should be how we can work together and utilise resources.

Kate spoke about positive discernment whereby people are recognised for what they are good at, and encouraged to pursue a 'pathway' such as working with children and families, pastoral visiting, and lay worship leads and lay funeral ministers. Deaneries need to identify the pathways relevant to its needs that her team can then support.

However, the main focus of the Deanery was on the development of our DSP in association with DBF team from the Diocese. The three mission area groups of our deanery developed a similar list of priorities, namely

1. schools with a view to chaplaincy opportunities
2. youth and children's work
3. needs of new people moving into the area
4. equipping lay people and deepening discipleship

Geof Adlington

viii Readers Report

Readers have served throughout the parish in 2025 as ministers, deacons and preachers at Sunday services. We lead worship at other times and in other styles, too, including Awesome; evening worship at St Peter's; school assemblies and services during Lent and Advent. We also support Julia and John in the parishes North of Winchcombe and have conducted services in Great Washbourne, Snowhill and Wormington – especially at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday.

This year, we were sad to say an official "goodbye" to Cliff Cocks, as he hung up his blue Readers' scarf after more than 30 years of service, although he is still very active in other ways at St Peter's. We are delighted that he is now a "Reader Emeritus" and thank him enormously for the care and support that he has given to us as a team of readers over the years.

One highlight of the year is the great progress that Steve Carter and team have been making with the Awesome meetings at Winchcombe Abbey Primary School. These are encouraging and growing new families in faith and there is a true sense of enjoyment and fellowship. Our fortnightly meetings with the wider ministry team involve the inevitable mundane activity (keeping up with the rotas) but are greatly enhanced by interesting discussions and spiritual development.

Although we are not ordained, we are licenced by the bishop to lead worship and we are tasked with enabling people to recognise Christ's presence in our community. Readers are often described as 'theologically educated and culturally engaged'; a description we are all working hard to live up to in order to fulfil the role we're lucky enough to hold.

Fliss Hall

ix Youth/Beacon Report

1. Overview

Over the past year, our youth ministry has continued to grow in reach, depth, and visibility across schools, churches, and the wider community. Through open-access youth provision, school-based work, pastoral care, and collaborative partnerships, we have engaged with young people at key points of need, offering consistent presence, practical support, and hope.

At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to being a safe, welcoming space where young people are valued, listened to, and supported, while demonstrating the love, grace, and hope of Jesus through weekly, relational ministry.

2. Open Access Youth Club

Engagement

- We have engaged with approximately **40 young people** through our open-access youth club, running on **Monday and Tuesday evenings** and had **515 attendees** since the beginning of September 2025.
- Attendance has included young people from a range of backgrounds and personal circumstances, many facing challenges at home, school, or within friendships.

Pastoral Support

- Throughout the year, we have supported young people through **challenging personal situations**, including:
 - Friendship breakdowns and conflict
 - Difficulties at school, including disengagement and risk of exclusion
 - Challenges at home and family instability
 - Young people entering the **foster care system**
- The youth club has functioned as a **safe and trusted space** where young people feel able to talk openly and honestly about life, worries, and personal struggles.

Practical Care

- We have provided **countless hot meals and refreshments**, ensuring young people feel welcomed, cared for, and supported in a practical way.
- For many young people, the youth club has been a consistent and reliable environment during a time of uncertainty in other areas of their lives.

Opportunities and Development

- We have started supporting young people to begin **volunteering at the youth club** as part of their **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, helping them grow in confidence, responsibility, and leadership.

Trips and Activities

- At Christmas, we took young people on an **ice-skating trip**, providing a positive shared experience, strengthening relationships, and creating lasting memories.

3. School-Based Youth Work

Secondary School Engagement

Pastoral Support/Chaplaincy Role

- We have worked closely with the secondary school, providing **pastoral support** and engaging with young people who are **disengaged or at risk of exclusion**. – This has included meetings with the school leadership team, parents & young people.
- The school has increasingly recognised the value of our involvement and has shown greater openness to working collaboratively with the church.

Christian Union (CU)

- We have been collaboratively running a **Monday lunchtime Christian Union with Encounter Church and their Youth Pastor** [Ruth West]
- This partnership has been highly successful, resulting in:
 - Young people **re-engaging with church**
 - Young people **exploring faith for the first time**
 - New students attending to ask questions and explore Christian faith
- The CU has become a consistent and safe space for discussion, curiosity, and faith exploration.

Experience Christmas

- We successfully ran **Experience Christmas** with **Year 7 students** at the secondary school.
- Engagement levels were high, with **excellent feedback** from school staff.
- As a result, the school has expressed increased confidence in and willingness to **reach out to the church for future collaboration**.

Primary School Engagement

- Since **September**, we have been running a **weekly lunchtime club** at the primary school.
- We regularly engage with **12–15 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils**.
- Activities include:
 - Arts and crafts
 - Board games
 - General conversation and relationship-building
- Our presence as a youth ministry is now **well known within the school**.
- The school has provided positive feedback, reporting **real benefits** from us being present, particularly in terms of wellbeing, relationships, and pupil engagement.

4. Faith, Values, and Ethos

Across all areas of our work, we have intentionally:

- Offered a **safe space** for young people to have open and honest conversations about:

- Life issues
- Personal worries
- Questions about faith
- Shown the **love, grace, and hope of Jesus** through consistent, relational, and servant-hearted presence.
- Served young people on a **weekly basis**, building trust over time rather than relying on one-off interventions.

5. Partnership and Community Engagement

- We have actively engaged with the **local council** throughout the year, attending networking meetings and contributing to strategic conversations about youth provision in the borough.
- We have worked alongside:
 - **The Children’s Society**
 - **Youth For Christ**
 - **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
 - Other local churches
 - Community organisations and professionals
- Through these partnerships we have:
 - Received funding to support our work
 - Shared best practice
 - Strategised collaboratively about how best to serve young people locally
 - Met with borough councillors for support in planning ahead for future work with young people in our town.

6. Conclusion

This year has been marked by growth in trust, reach, and collaboration. Our youth ministry is increasingly recognised by schools, churches, and statutory partners as a valuable presence within the community. Most importantly, we have walked alongside young people at critical moments in their lives—listening, supporting, feeding, encouraging, and pointing them towards hope. We remain committed to continuing this work, deepening relationships, and responding faithfully to the needs of young people in the year ahead, so long as maternity cover can be sourced.

Bryoni Newell, Youth Ministry Team Leader

x **BLAST (Junior Church Report)**

BLAST Kids Ministry is for all children of primary school age. We gather together at the start of Sunday Service and then head to the St. Peter Centre for some fun exploring with the Bible and learning about faith in Jesus. BLAST runs on every second and fourth Sunday in the month and we started back up in September 2025 with a team of five: Pippa Willshire, Simon Andrews, Sue Proctor, Angie Dean and Bob Dean.

Our first term focused on the Gospel of Mark, learning about Jesus’ baptism, the healing of a leper, the lame man who was made to walk and the blind man who can now see. We also had a special Christmas Lego inspired class telling the story of the Nativity. We have had a core of five children through the term. I would like to thank Pippa for her help and guidance in setting up the group, but sadly she and her two children are no longer able to make the Sunday journey to Winchcombe. So we could do with some more children to bolster the group as well as a couple more helpers to assist. Any primary school age children and their parents are most welcome at St. Peter's, so do come and join us!

Bob Dean, Lead for BLAST in 2025

xi Toddlers Report

I took over running Toddler Time in January 2025

We meet every Thursday from 10.00am-11.30am throughout the year, including school holidays.

I have a dedicated and supportive team of 10 wonderful helpers.

Early in the new year, Wendy Ruffle very kindly designed a bright and informative new poster/flyer for T.T. The extra advertising, along with Wendy's regular social media posts and of course the closing down of the local playgroup, saw our numbers rise steadily throughout the year and can regularly have 15 toddlers/babies attend with their parents, grandparents or carers.

Our numbers rising did cause the slight problem of space! The Lady Chapel could not comfortably (or safely) hold this amount of children and adults. Rev. David kindly came to our rescue and with some moving around, T.T was designated extra space in the church aisle leading up to the Lady Chapel. This has proved a huge success, giving us room to spread out comfortably.

Each week the children have a wide selection of toys to play with. These are now in organised and labelled boxes. We also offer sand and water play and playdough. We have a craft table each week, where the children enjoy sticking, painting and colouring. Where possible, we make an effort keep the weekly craft activity topical to the time of year and also tie it in with our story. We also decorate cupcakes, sow seeds and even made a Guy in November. The children enjoyed making cards for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and Easter. We have a wonderful new display board to present the children's work, which is refreshed every few weeks.

In April the children all enjoyed Wendy Ruffle's visit to tell the Easter Story, along with fabulous props and an Easter Garden.

In June we promoted T.T at the church fete with a playdough table, bubble machine and flyers.

In August we held a Teddy Bears Picnic, when the children (and adults) brought along their teddy to a picnic lunch. We sang songs, decorated biscuits, made craft, wore masks and read stories all teddy related. At this time, we also said our farewells to children leaving T.T to start school in September, giving them all a "Good Luck Starting School" card.

The week before Christmas, we had a festive party. The children enjoyed sweet treats at snack time and we provided mince pies for the adults. The whole team of helpers came along. We were also very grateful to some retired members of the team who came to wash up! The children went home with a small, hand knitted stocking (courtesy of Pam Mitchell) with a few token gifts inside.

Once again T.T took part in the Christmas Tree Festival and the children all enjoyed making decorations to hang on our Christmas tree.

We have an up-to-date risk assessment and all the team have undertaken safeguarding training.

I thank Rev. David for his regular visits to T.T throughout last year.

Karen Almond - Toddler Time Leader.

xii Pastoral Care Team Report

2025 was a very challenging year, with little apparent progress made in redeveloping Pastoral Care in the church. Much of this was due to my own health problems, which unfortunately got in the way, and appeals for further support at services did not result in any new volunteers.

After reviewing the Electoral Roll last spring and identifying over 20 people who would benefit from pastoral support, I became concerned about our lack of Pastoral Visitors. However, discussions with

former Visitors revealed that all of these individuals were being supported “unofficially” by caring members of the congregation. I would like to offer a huge thank you — you are creating the warm, caring community that God calls us to be.

For this informal system to work well in the longer term, however, it is important that any concerns are flagged up to Revd David or myself so that I can visit and help where possible.

So, what has been achieved? Our Home Communion Team continues faithfully providing a much-appreciated service for those unable to attend church, including for people recovering from illness or hospital stays.

A Prayer Line has also been established and is proving effective. The team includes Revd Penny, retired Clergy, Readers, the Prayer Ministry Team, and the Pastoral Team. This completely confidential service is available to anyone seeking extra support, with prayers offered only with permission of the subject. Names are included in Sunday Intercessions only when requested.

We also have a small team who send cards to mark the first anniversaries of bereavements where funerals have been conducted in the Parish; this has been warmly received.

In September and October, we hosted the *Ageing Gracefully* course by Ian Donald, attended by people from St Peter’s, Encounter Church, and Bishop’s Cleeve; this was generally felt to be helpful and informative.

Finally, a small practical support team is now available to help with minor tasks such as changing light bulbs or taking someone shopping. As always, please chat with me about areas where we can develop.

Morag Adlington

xiii Music Report

The choir this year has seen a period of gradual growth with the arrival of new members. The aim at the start of the year was to encourage the choir in their weekly duties and to foster a sense of enjoyment and belonging in members. With the arrival of new singers joining the regular roster of singers the choir is in a healthier position now than it was in January 2025. Highlights include festival services with special choir involvement, such as the Advent Carols service – that was potentially the highlight of the year – and the 9 Lessons and Carols service in December. A particular highlight, and one which gave the choir a huge boost in confidence, was the Evensong in September when we were joined by members of the choir of St John’s College, Oxford.

This year has seen the purchase of a new piano for the church, thanks to a generous gift from one of our members. This will allow for a greater variety of concerts in the future, and will open up the church to bookings by outside organisations.

Much work has been done this year to develop the first Winchcombe Music Festival to be hosted by St Peter’s. This will proceed in May 2026. We have been fortunate to be in the position to make a bid for funding, from the previous music festival, that will hopefully enable ours to become a staple part of the yearly calendar of the town.

Winchcombe Worship services have become a regular part of our worship, with a small but enthusiastic core of musicians taking part. It would be great going forward if more musicians were happy to contribute in this area, and it was great to see Katy Bagnall leading the singing at the most recent service.

Evensongs at Sudeley Castle will continue, this year including a visit from the Chamber Choir of Cheltenham Ladies' College.

James Willshire
Director of Music

xiv Stewards Report

Stewards' Team: We now have 16 regular weekday stewards and 5 who do monthly Saturday duties, with 12 vacancies in the weekday timetable where new stewards are still needed. We have been delighted to welcome Bob and Angela Dean to our number in recent months, and a big thank you to everyone for your wonderful ongoing contributions which are hugely appreciated by so many.

Overview: by far the majority of our visitors come from the UK, and many of these are local to Gloucestershire or indeed Winchcombe (it is perhaps surprising how many locals have never before been inside St Peter's). This year the furthest afield UK residents came from Sumburgh in Shetland 715 miles away, and some came from Guernsey in the Channel Islands and also a family from the Isle of Man. There were also significant numbers from the North East, Liverpool area, Central and Southern England. Beyond the UK we have had visitors from all over the world. A compilation of numbers based on the records we have in the visitors' book, the stewards' visitor count and the pins on the maps reveals some interesting data, with the following standout headlines:

- There has been a noticeable increase in visitor numbers overall this year, with Europe +151%, Middle East +117%, Latin America +100%, Africa +77%, North America +76% and Australasia +26%. South America has dropped by -68% and Asia by -10%.

Visitors' book: We have had noticeably more visitors who have come in as part of their pilgrimage this year, either along the Cotswold Way, or particularly St Kenelm's Way. We also have some lovely drawings (mostly from children), together with many wonderful words of encouragement and thanksgiving for our church and what we represent and offer to the visitors. Some of the comments are not in English, and thanks to the internet I have been able to translate from many different languages, including Spanish, Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Greek.

As with 2023 and 2024, the most used adjective for visitors' reactions to St Peter's was 'BEAUTIFUL' and we have also had many comments on the interesting history and displays, the high quality of maintenance of the building, the East Window and the stained glass, the lovely calm and prayerful atmosphere, and above all very many extremely appreciative comments on the friendly guides, stewards and members of the congregation who demonstrate our welcoming vibrant church community – well done everyone!

Comments: below are some of the more interesting messages we have received:

- *Lovely work with the children*
- *Great to see Experience Easter taking place; Lovely Easter stations and lilies*
- *The weathercock is the finest cockerel in the UK!*
- *The ambience is more than a church, it is a community in worship*
- *Researching holy wells, including St Kenelm's on the hillside above Winchcombe*
- *A wonderful evensong, beautiful singing and fabulous organist*
- *With love from Medical Mission Sisters, India*
- *Grandson of Ronald Appleton, Vicar of Winchcombe 1962 to 1986*
- *Bought a knitted monk, very happy indeed!*
- *Glad to see Eco Church is alive and well here*

- *Visited your church on our Cotswolds holiday for our 30 year wedding anniversary*
- *As a chorister I loved the Latin text above the choir stalls, very apt*
- *Loved the Imp!*
- *Thank you for the dog biscuits*
- *How lovely to find a welcome cuppa in your beautiful church*
- *Glad the church is open, thank you*
- *Wonderful to have visited, thanks to Simon Jenkins' book recommendation!*
- *We love English churches where you can buy a puzzle and children can play (visitors from Spain)*

Maps and pins: we have purchased two new replacement maps which are hanging on the screen behind the stewards' desk and which provide a nice visual record of where some of our visitors have come from.

New steward volunteers : as ever, it would be lovely if anyone would like to offer an hour or so of their time on a weekly basis to join the stewards' team.

Katy Bagnall

Xv St Peter's Eco Church Group

We realise that the Gold award is a very big step up from Silver but are determined to do our best to achieve that. The first stage was for Jennie to go through the A Rocha Eco Church Survey¹ (held on the SPC computer) with Gareth (approx 3 hours on 4th July), to determine our priorities. This revealed separate tasks to be followed up by Gareth and the Group. Gareth is obtaining the necessary information on the building and energy use, while we have started to focus on two main areas for development:

1. embedding the Eco Church message in St Peter's, emphasising the importance of caring for the earth as a more regular theme in worship and teaching
2. developing our links with the wider community through more contact with
 - Winchcombe Green Town
 - Winchcombe Abbey Primary
 - Winchcombe School (which is a certified Eco School)

We are most grateful for Gareth's enthusiastic support for Eco Church.

- Re 1: Rev David attended our meeting on 8th October where we explored ways forward to be put into action in 2026. We will soon be sending Steve Carter a poster for use with Awesome, and will organise a joint Awesome session for the spring or summer.
- Re 2:
 - Tim Hall is joining us at our next meeting on January 6th to explore further links.
 - We plan to discuss the schools' links with Bryoni Newell soon.
 - Jennie met the Eco Ambassadors at Winchcombe Abbey in May and wrote an article on this initiative for the parish magazine.

Churchyard

- During the year, we have continued to work on Kenelm's Corner and the meadow, with more planting for pollinators for all seasons. We hope the ministry team can plan an open air service in the summer/early autumn, perhaps around Creationtide (1st September - 4th October) In July, Jennie & Natalie submitted a report to the Diocese (a condition of being a grant recipient), as a

¹ There are 5 sections to the Survey: Worship & Teaching, Buildings & Energy, Land & Nature, Community & Global Engagement, Lifestyle

result of which we were asked to write an article for The Weekly Bulletin (Diocesan news) which appeared on 12th August.

- We participated in St Peter's Maintenance Days.
- Isaac Clarkson raised the money to buy a wild cherry tree for the churchyard, which he planted on 1st March.
- We have registered with the HabiMap project (mapping of churchyards by Glos Wildlife Trust)

Community Links

- We welcomed the Seed Swap to St Peter's on February 8th; they will be with us again in 2026, this time with an Eco Church banner (organised with Wendy's expertise) and leaflets so we can share our information alongside the seeds!
- We had a very successful stall at the St Peter's Fete on 28th June and participated in the Winchcombe Green Trail on 6th July (as we will be doing again in 2026)
- We encouraged the congregation to participate in the Big Butterfly Count in August.
- We publicised citizen science, WGT events and Seed Swap in the parish magazine and include regular updates on what we are doing there. We also include eco tips for everyone.
- Margaret Holloway created regular displays for our noticeboard and a tree for the Tree Festival.

NB. Visitors are often interested in the displays. It would be good if the congregation were regularly reminded to take a look!

Membership of our Group

- We need more members! Rev David asked the congregation to contact us if they could offer help with various tasks, especially spreading Eco Church news via social media. Deborah and Wendy both offered their expertise in this area.
- Natalie and Jennie met with Bella Salenius from our congregation, who is keen to join us, when her work allows.

We look forward to continuing to promote the values of Eco Church in 2026 through the challenges of working towards Gold.

Jennie Davies

Xvi St Peter's Flower Arrangers

We have continued to provide a floral arrangement next to the altar every week, except during Lent and Advent. We have also decorated the whole church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and provided appropriate flowers for Remembrance Sunday.

It has been a very difficult year for the Group. Money and (wo)man power have been in short supply. There are now only 6 of us and this was reduced to 4 at Christmas as 2 were out of commission following operations. We would love to recruit a few more willing hands to help out, if only on special occasions.

Summer 2025 was so hot for an extended period that fresh flowers were lasting only a few days and needed watering every day. We decided that this was impossible to sustain and resorted to artificial flowers. We now have a small supply of artificial flowers and also access to others owned by a member of the group. These will help to tide us over difficult periods especially when members are unavailable or flowers are too expensive.

At Christmas, in addition to fresh greenery and flowers, we used a lot of artificial material. That is not unusual for Christmas and is a quick way for a few people to make a bold statement in a large building. Thank you to Lynn Gorman for the donation of artificial garlands, foliage and flowers.

We continue to support St. Peter's drive to a more sustainable future. We have stopped using floral foam and encourage visiting florists not to use it either (with limited success). We continue to search for suppliers of local, or at least British flowers. This is proving very difficult but we will keep looking.

Margaret Holloway

Xvii St Peter's Bell Ringers

We are just about managing to keep our heads above water with ringer numbers, although we could always do with more. We have lost a couple during the last year, and have recruited to replace them. Our band now is aging considerably, but our new recruits are (a bit) younger!

We have come to the conclusion that holding open days, whilst enjoyed by all, are not the answer, as those expressing an interest are generally not local! So, recruitment has to be by word of mouth, locally.

Edward Kain has now retired as Steeple Keeper and David Oliver (one of our latest recruits) has taken over. Our thanks go out to Edward for the work he has put in over the last number of years. The condition of the bells and their fittings are now in good order, as this last year has seen the total repainting of the frame (now a beautiful blue) by a Cheltenham ringer, who only charged for transport and brushes, etc. The main expense was the cost of the paint. However, by applying for various grants we managed to cover the cost ourselves, with no expenditure to the PCC.

We have had to replace the last tail-end of one of the new ropes, as this was fraying badly. All ropes are now in good order. We have managed to maintain a band for Sunday morning Services, and the occasional additional service. Weddings are now down to only one or two a year. We generally manage to hold a practice every Wednesday.

Clare Pritchard has given notice that she will be resigning as Tower Captain, having held the post for almost 50 years! It is hoped that one of the younger ringers will take over. This will be decided at the Ringers AGM on April 1st.

Clare Pritchard

Xviii Report of the St Peter's Church cleaners, otherwise known as The Holy Dusters

We are a group of approximately 8 people who have agreed to undertake to clean an area of St Peter's Church on a monthly basis. The Church has been divided into areas - the chancel, the right-hand nave, the left-hand nave, the back of the church and the porch area - and we work in small teams of 1 or 2 people per area. We spend 1 – 2 hours a month and do this at a time that is convenient for each team and individual. It needs to be when the church is not in use for services or events.

There are many people, both regular and visitors who come into the church in a week and depending on the weather the church can gather quite a lot of debris over time. Many of our visitors remark on how the church looks both beautiful and cared for.

We would love to have more people to come and join us in our cleaning efforts as several of our number are no longer able to help. If you are interested in helping, please see either the Churchwardens or me. We look forward to keeping the St Peter's Church looking cared for in 2026.

Elizabeth Atkinson

e) Questions and discussion on reports

f) General questions and discussion

5) READERS TO BE EX-OFFICIO FROM 2026

6) ELECTIONS

a) Deanery Synod Members

b) PCC Members

7) THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

8) ELECTORAL ROLL

9) CLOSING PRAYER

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINCHCOMBE

WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year January – December 2024

**presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 6 April 2025

WINCHCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT January - December 2024

1. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets to share with the Priest-in-charge in deciding, and in implementing, parish policy. It is legally responsible for the church buildings & furnishings and for parish property. The PCC is a charity, and registered with the Charity Commission during 2009.

The members of the PCC are (as of 6 April 2025):

CLERGY (EX OFFICIO)

Rev'd Capt. David Penny CA – Chair (2023)

CHURCHWARDENS (EX OFFICIO)

Simon Andrews (2018) (Vice Chair 2019, Churchwarden 2020)
Sue Proctor (Churchwarden 2024)

ELECTED PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

ST PETER'S, WINCHCOMBE

Abbie Shurmer (2019)
Cathy Wilcock (2020)
Elizabeth Atkinson (2021) (PCC Secretary 2023)
Morag Adlington (2024)
Steve Carter (2024)
Cliff Cocks (2024)
Felicity Hall (2024)
Chris Haslam (2024)

7 x vacancies

CHRIST CHURCH, GRETTON

Susan Fleck (2017) (Deputy Churchwarden 2019)

ST MICHAEL'S, STANLEY PONTLARGE

ST MARY'S, SUDELEY

Simon Andrews (2018) (Deputy Churchwarden 2022)

DEANERY SYNOD (EX OFFICIO – ELECTED EVERY 3 YEARS)

Geof Adlington (*Deanery Treasurer 2022*)
Sue Crownshaw (2023)
Charlie Bagnall (2023)
1 x vacancy

ELECTED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (F&GP)

Chair
Churchwardens
Treasurer (Charlie Bagnall 2023)
PCC Secretary
Sue Crownshaw

PCC Co-OPTED TO FoSP

Simon Andrews (2023)

METHODIST OBSERVERS (NON-VOTING)

Trevor Upton

THE LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM 2024

Revd Mike Holloway
Revd Michael Hand
Revd Rob Pestell
Revd Wendy Ruffle

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LU
Telephone: 01242 602067
spc@winchcombeparish.org.uk
www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

CHARITY NUMBER: 1138071

FINANCIAL ADDRESSES

PCC'S BANKERS

from 2023, The Cooperative Bank

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Jennifer Soltau, F.C.C.A.
Cotswold House, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LX

WINCHCOMBE PARISH
With Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and Sudeley Manor
Sunday 6 April 2025 at 11.30 – St Peter’s Church, Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- a) Minutes of the AMP held on Sunday 17 March 2024
- b) Election of churchwardens

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- a) Minutes of the APCM held on 17 March 2024
- b) Matters arising from the Minutes
- c) Review of progress and achievements
- d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:
 - i. Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report
 - ii. Priest-in-Charge’s Report 2024
 - iii. Churchwardens’ Report including notes from the Deputy Churchwardens
 - iv. Report on Safeguarding
 - v. Report from the Deanery Synod
 - vi. Readers
 - vii. Pastoral Care report
 - viii. Music report included in Churchwardens’ Report
 - ix. St Peter’s Flower Arrangers’ report
 - x. Report from the Bell ringers
 - xi. Report from Eco Church Group
 - xii. Stewards’ report
 - xiii. Toddler Time
- e) Questions and discussion on reports
- f) General questions and discussion

5. READERS TO BE EX-OFFICIO FROM 2026

6. ELECTIONS

- a) Deanery Synod Members
- b) PCC Members

7. THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

8. ELECTORAL ROLL

9. CLOSING PRAYER

3 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 17 March 2024, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: (PCC Officers Simon Andrews (Churchwarden), Charlie Bagnall (Treasurer), , Elizabeth Atkinson (PCC Secretary), together with approximately 45 others on the electoral roll – either in person or via on-line.

1. **Welcome and Prayers:** *Revd David Penny welcomed those present and said how wonderful it was to be gathered here and opened the meeting with a prayer.*
2. **Apologies for Absence** *were received from Maxine Clare, Jennifer Soltau, Sue Proctor, Judith Skinner, Martin and Lynn Gorman, Penelope Kain and Kate Stebbings.*
3. **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** *for those on the Electoral Role and those resident in the Parish – ie the whole community.*

a) Minutes of the AMP held on 21st May 2023

The minutes were made available prior to the meeting – in hard copy or by email.

The minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising.

b) Election of two Churchwardens

The meeting was asked to elect the Churchwardens for the coming year. There were two nominees for the two church wardens. They were Simon Andrews, one of the current Churchwardens, and Sue Proctor. The vote to elect them was carried unanimously. The meeting expressed their support and many thanks to Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner for their work since the last APCM.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Elizabeth Atkinson
PCC Secretary
March 2024

Approved:

Date:

b) Election of Two Churchwardens

4) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 17 March 2024

1. *Minutes of the APCM held on 21st May 2023*

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting.

The minutes were adopted as accurate.

2. **Matters Arising:** *nil*

3. **Review of progress & achievements:** *This would be covered by the reports as tabled including the priest-in-charge's report.*

4. **Annual Report of the PCC as tabled** – *Hard copies were available in the back of Church for three weeks before the meeting, and the report was available electronically.*

- i) **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** The Treasurer summarised his circulated report, stating that aside from the restricted funds we ended the 2023 year with income exceeding expenditure by £95.00. This however was due to an unexpected legacy of £15,000. The balance sheet at the end of 2023 has improved thanks to an improvement in the stock market.

Looking forward over the next five years, there are two options. Either we spend no money on anything other than essentials and we will still end up with a deficit or we spend money on the activities and ideas set out in the Parish Strategy and although we may still have a deficit we will have a church that is growing and feels alive and giving may increase as a result. One of the good signs already is that adhoc giving has increased over the last year, which shows people do love these churches and want them to continue to thrive.

Alan Thomas raised a question over the budget for the Youth worker. It seemed on the high side. The Treasurer stated it that it included the salary and the associated on-costs such as NI and Pension contributions and also the inevitable set up costs of the new post. It is likely come in under budget as we are still recruiting for the post and therefore the expenditure will be delayed.

Geof Adlington asked about the curate's house. He was informed it belonged to the diocese and they had sold it.

David Penny expressed his thanks to Charlie for his stewardship and his positive outlook.

- ii) **Priest-in-charge Report:** David and Deborah thanked everyone for their support, love and welcome during his first year. He had spent the first part of the year getting to know the people in church and the wider community. He then spent the summer developing the Strategic Plan after consultation with key people in the Ministry Team. David mentioned that we can't achieve everything in the Strategic Plan at once. We are starting with a Fresh Expression on 30 March at the Winchcombe Abbey School. He is aware we all have different likes and dislikes in music and worship so he is trying to provide a range. He is very grateful for the ministry of the readers and retired clergy and it has enabled new things to be developed using their gifts and skills. The wedding and funeral ministry is starting up again. Contact with people is being made through Toddler Time which provides stepping stones to faith.

Gill Worthington asked whether David hoped to build on the occasional services like the Crib service and Christingle Service which have been successful. He agreed it was good to try new things and find out what works and what doesn't.

Rob Davies thought the presence of the Church at the Christmas Shopping Festival was a very good thing and hopes it will be repeated. It also brought people into the Church to see the Christmas tree festival which was a great success. David wanted to thank Abbie Shurmer and all those who helped with those two events and hopes more people will get involved this year.

- iii) **Churchwardens' Report:**

The Churchwardens' Report had also been circulated and Simon Andrews summarised. Additionally he thanked the Ministry team for taking some of the additional services that have started up since David's arrival. He also made a request for more members for the Bells Team and the Church Stewards and thanked them for their work.

He mentioned the partnership with WAM and allowing them to use St Peter's Centre for their work.

Thanks were given to Jo Rees for her work on the Book Fair and he welcomed Kate Robinson who has taken over that role. Again thanks to Abbie, Judith and others for the Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks to Deborah Penny for taking on the Social Media role and promoting what goes on at the Churches in Winchcombe Parish. The Eco group helped us achieve the A Rocha Silver Award and we are now working toward the Gold Award. Thanks to Gill Worthington and her team (excluding Anne Hand who was mistakenly included in the report) undertaking Toddler Time. The Pastoral Team needs a new lead and new members. Thanks to those who have volunteered to be part of the Integrated Project team as we explore the options to make the best use of St Peter's building and space.

Simon also wanted to give a special thanks to Judith for all she had undertaken during her time as churchwarden. He said that they made a good partnership with complimentary skills and while he

concentrated on bricks and mortar she was able to focus on the pastoral side of things. She oversaw the sale of Teacher's House and during the vacancy was key to the creation of an effective Parish Profile and leadership. She additionally established the Holy Dusters, the Hear our Silence group, led the Pastoral Team and many other things. The meeting applauded in agreement. Simon also thanked the deputy churchwardens for all their work throughout the year.

Simon mentioned that the transfer of St Mary's Sudeley to the Castle had been finalised but there would still be six monthly services between April and September starting at 4pm. The first was on 28 April.

There were no questions but a comment was made that it was good to see the Readers having a more active role.

iv) Safeguarding Report:-

Lynne Banks, the Safeguarding Office reminded everyone that Safeguarding was everyone's business and with more activities and people involved there were more people who needed to do required training. She thanked Gill Worthington for carrying out the DBS checks. Lynne was thanked for all she does.

- 5. Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled:** The other reports were noted and thanks given to each of the Teams involved and there were no questions.

6 Elections:

- a. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** Geof Adlington, Susan Crownshaw and Charlie Bagnall agreed to stand for re-election. The meeting agreed to this. There was still one vacancy but there were no further volunteers.
- b. Election of PCC Representatives:** Several of the current PCC members were up for re-election, having completed 3 years. They are Abbie Shurmer, Cathryn Wilcock, Susan Fleck and Elizabeth Atkinson. In addition there were two further applicants, Morag Adlington and Gaye Kimber. All were unanimously elected as PCC members.

7 Electoral Roll:

In the absence of Jennifer Soltau, Elizabeth Atkinson explained that at the 2023 APCM there were 219 on the electoral roll but with six new names and nine deletions, there are now 216 people on the roll as at the 2024 APCM.

8 Forthcoming Events:

- 5 April - Pudding Evening – St Peter's
- 19 April - Glos. Police Male Voice Choir – St Peter's
- 3 – 29 June Book Fair - – St Peter's
- 21 June - Choir Concert - – St Peter's
- 21 – 30 June - Midsummer Festival
- 29 June - Summer Fete – St Peter's
- 19 Oct – Choir Concert – St Peter's
- Dates tbc Dec: - Christmas Tree Festival: – St Peter's

9 AOB:

- No further business

10 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed at 13.00 with all saying the Grace.

Elizabeth Atkinson
PCC Secretary
March 2024

Approved:

Date:

b) Matters arising from the Minutes

c) Review of Progress and Achievements

This will be covered by the reports as tabled including the priest-in-charge's report.

d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:

i) Treasurers Financial Report on the accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report

As trailed in last year's Finance report, the PCC accounts are now run on a new specialist accounting system called **Expense Plus**. With a new system comes a set of new reports. In fact, the system has a special feature called *Year End Reports* which produces a full set of accounts suitable for filing with the Charity Commission – which I intend to do. However, that version is too long for inclusion in this report. I am happy to share it with anyone who would like to peruse it. Please email treasurer@winchcombeparish.org.uk for a copy. Thank you to Jennifer Soltau who has signed off our accounts as usual, and who also took the time to review the new system and give it the thumbs up. Meanwhile, in the following pages you will find the same information that is usually provided, but in a new layout.

- 1 – Statement of Assets and Liabilities – headed Balance Sheet
- 2 – Summary of Receipts and Payments – General Account
- 3 – Fund Movement Summary – analysis of Restricted and Designated Funds

Summary

While a Finance report usually focuses on a dry set of numbers, it is important to remember that behind the figures is a mass of things happening as the people of this parish strive together to make 'Thy Kingdom Come' Accordingly, in the full accounts, on page 5 you will find a section headed '*Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements*'. Here you will find paragraphs on the Parish Strategy, Community Engagement, Youth Work and Young People, and Building Use Review. The review of numbers that follows may make serious reading, but a review of the activity underneath those numbers reminds us that this parish is very much alive and kicking.

1. Assets and Liabilities

2023 was a 'good news' year, showing an improvement in our total net assets of around £53,000. However as I noted at the time, a number of factors belied the underlying trend namely – there was a post Covid recovery of our investments, we had raised some £18000 in grant income against expenditure on Stanley Pontlarge roof to be spent in 2024, and we had a £15,000 legacy, By contrast, in **2024**, we spent the money on the roof (we raised some more but still needed to contribute some £13000 from the general account), we only had one small legacy (£500 to Christ Church), and there were only modest gains on the investments. Grant income for Stanley Pontlarge was ringfenced to that restricted fund in the accounts, but we still had to sell some investments to pay the big bills (totalling just over £50,000) when they came in. So, with a net negative movement on the Stanley Pontlarge fund of c. £22,000 and on the general account (our day-to-day income and expenditure) of c.£20,000, our total net assets have reduced by some £40,000.

2. Income and Expenditure

Note: For the sake of clarity, this report only includes the General account. For activity on the other funds see the next section.

We fell short of our budget numbers on both income and expenditure in some cases by significant amounts. This was due in large measure to your treasurer setting a breakeven basis budget on the basis of *hope over experience*. Next year we are being more realistic and so will put more rigorous checks in place to try and keep things on track. However, even an ill-judged budget will help highlight our good and bad points.

- **Income**

If you take out the budget number for legacies and overlook the drop in Parish Fees income due to fewer church weddings generally, then we would have exceeded our income budget. The biggest two factors in this were the stability of the stewardship giving, and the big increase in adhoc donations. That figure of £17,000 against a budget of £7,600 is the standout number here. There is still clearly a lot of love for our three churches!

- **Expenditure**

We overspent on three core activities – administration, provision of services, music. The first two were down to over hopeful budgets. Music was up because we used a lot of freelance organists while we were between Music Directors. We also overspent by a significant margin on Minor Repairs – again that was an optimistic budget but also some bad luck in a spate of unexpected maintenance work. We underspent on salaries while recruiting new people to the Parish Administrator and DoM roles.

3. **Fund Movement – including Restricted Funds**

Here you can see the movement on the **General** Fund, as well as all the others, of which the standout is **St Michael's** Stanley Pontlarge on account of the new roof. Other active funds to note are:

- The Eco Fund** – The team is not only raising funds but also spending it as we work towards the Gold standard. Silver is already a standout achievement but Gold is within our grasp.
- The Bells** – Again, our conscientious team of ringers is working hard to raise funds for their charges and is spending those funds as needed to ensure the ring is in good order.
- Children's Ministry** – This is an exciting new fund as we build on the great work by Steve Carter, Wendy Ruffle and their '**Awesome**' team. Using their achievements to date, Steve and the team were able to win a grant of £3000 to enable us to grow this area of work.

Looking Ahead

It might be reasonable to suppose that after a year in which we incurred overall losses in excess of £40000 we would 'pull our horns in'. Given that our income is doing as well as can be expected, the only way we could return to a breakeven budget would be a drastic reduction in costs. However, there are no easy options. To make a significant impact on costs would mean removing salary costs, stopping all engagement with children and young people and turning off the heating. Then where would we be? Last one out, turn off the lights. No.

We are working and hoping for an upturn in the finances, but if we can't see a change over the next 18-24 months, then we will have to take steps to ensure we can continue to operate with a sensible level of reserves.

In the meantime, we press on with our Parish Strategy, our administrator, our new music director, our youth work and our 'Integrated Project' reviewing building use and heating. And when we create a budget on that basis, a realistic one, we find we have another deficit, this time of £50,000. The PCC has reviewed the budget in full knowledge of its implications and approved it, because we believe we must not hide our *talents*, (see Matthew Chap 25), but use them in the continuing service of God's kingdom.

*Charlie Bagnall, Treasurer
February 2025*

- 1 – Statement of Assets and Liabilities – headed Balance Sheet

Parish of Winchcombe Assets and Liabilities 2024

	Total	2023
Current Assets		
Cash	68,314	64,908
Accounts Receivable	0	0
Non-Current Assets		
Fixed Assets	57,000	57,000
Investments	323,079	363,648
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	2,539	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	£445,855	£485,555
Represented By		
General (Unrestricted)	368,817	389,508
Chime Machine (1002) (Restricted)	5,696	5,696
St Peters Bells Fund (1003,2003) (Restricted)	846	984
St Peters Organ Fund (1001, 2001) (Restricted)	14,718	14,718
Christ Church Gretton (R) (1010, 2010) (Restricted)	2,356	2,073
Vicar and Church Wardens (1014) (Restricted)	3,051	3,126
St Peter's Church Flower Fund (2300) (Unrestricted)	669	907
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge (2020) (Restricted)	822	23,221
Pioneer Minister (YCW) Reserve (2250) (Designated)	43,299	43,299
IT and Video Fund (1013) (Restricted)	932	932
Christ Church Gretton General Fund (GRE) (Unrestricted)	126	0
St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge General Fund (SP) (Unrestricted)	0	0
St Peter's Eco-Church Fund (2350) (Unrestricted)	616	368
Coffee Fund (Unrestricted)	168	0
Christmas Hampers (Restricted)	0	0
Minor Appeals (no GA) (Restricted)	15	0
Fresh Expressions (Restricted)	723	723
Children's Ministry (Restricted)	3,000	0
Total Funds	£445,855	£485,555

- 2 – Summary of Receipts and Payments – General Account

Parish of Winchcombe Income & Expenditure 2024 - General Account

Category	Actual Income	Total Budget	Budget Received %
01 - Tax Efficient Planned Giving	55,650	62,000	90%
02 - Other Planned Giving	4,304	-	n/a
03 - One Off Gifts, Collections	6,821	6,000	114%
04 - Other Giving and Donations - Recurring	-	-	n/a
05 - One off gifts, Other	17,585	7,650	230%
06 - Special Appeals	1,750	-	n/a
08 - Legacies Received	-	15,000	0%
07 - All Tax Recovered through Gift Aid	15,036	15,000	100%
09 - Recurring Grants	-	-	n/a
10 - Non Recurring Grants	-	3,750	0%
11 - Fundraising Events	6,245	6,000	104%
12 - Dividends and Interest	12,789	10,000	128%
13 - Income from Properties	117	3,000	4%
14 - Total Parochial Fees Income	17,943	24,000	75%
15 - Bookstall, Magazine	4,905	5,600	88%
16 - Room Lettings	546	-	n/a
17 - Income from other Church Activities	38	50	76%
18 - Insurance Claims	-	-	n/a
19 - Reimbursement of Costs by Other Parishes	5	-	n/a
20 - Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	n/a
21 - Service Fee Re-Imbursement by GDBF	-	1,500	0%
22 - Other Income	9,238	12,500	74%
	162,971	172,060	89%

Category	Actual Expenditure	Total Budget	Budget Spent %
39 - Insurance	11,911	13,000	92%
42 - Administration Costs	5,600	2,500	224%
43 - Other church expenses / provision of services	3,042	1,750	174%
46 - Music Costs	5,012	2,650	189%
55 - Service Fee remittance to Visiting Minister	-	1,800	0%
56 - Payment of Costs to Other Parishes	-	-	n/a
57 - Deanery Costs	-	100	0%
58 - Sundry Expenses	33	250	13%
36 - Clergy Housing Costs	-	-	n/a
40 - Cleaning Costs	491	600	82%
41 - Minor Repairs / Routine Maintenance	11,764	2,500	471%
44 - Churchyard Maintenance	2,253	1,600	141%
45 - Flowers	-	200	0%
47 - Heating and Lighting	11,697	12,000	97%
48 - Water Rates	541	-	n/a
59 - Major repairs/redecoration to Church Building	5,650	2,000	283%
60 - Major repairs/redecoration to other properties	-	600	0%
61 - Alterations/Extensions to Church Building	-	-	n/a
30 - Fundraising Costs	783	400	196%
49 - Costs of trading inc magazine	5,430	4,750	114%
31 - Donations / Grants to Charities	2,674	2,400	111%
32 - Parish Share	87,768	87,768	100%
51 Parochial Fees Remittance to DBF	2,947	2,750	107%
52 - Parochial Fees Remittance to Visiting Minister	-	-	n/a
53 - Parochial Fees Remittance to other Third Party	7,128	9,250	77%
54 - Parochial Fees Remittance to other PCC	-	-	n/a
33 - Salaries and Wages	8,619	15,000	57%
34 - Clergy Expenses	3,823	3,000	127%
35 - Other Expenses	30	-	n/a
37 - Local Mission and Evangelism Costs	50	300	17%
38 - Children and Youth Work Costs	837	400	209%
50 - Governance Costs	-	0	n/a
	178,083	167,568	106%

Net Surplus / (Loss)	-	(26,112)	£4,482.00
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- 3 – Fund Movement Summary – analysis of Restricted and Designated Funds

Parish of Winchcombe - Fund Movement Summary 2024

Fund Name	Type	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Investment Gains / Losses	Net Movement	Closing Balance
Pioneer Minister (YCW) Reserve	D	43,299	-	-	-	-	0	43,299
Children's Ministry	R	-	3,000	-	-	-	3000	3,000
Chime Machine	R	5,696	-	-	-	-	0	5,696
Christ Church Gretton	R	2,073	500	217	-	-	283	2,356
Christmas Hampers	R	-	190	201	11	-	0	-
Fresh Expressions	R	723	-	-	-	-	0	723
IT and Video Fund	R	932	-	-	-	-	0	932
Minor Appeals (no GA)	R	-	2,445	2,430	-	-	15	15
St Michael's Stanley Pontlorge	R	23,221	28,077	50,476	-	-	-22399	822
St Peters Bells Fund	R	984	2,539	2,677	-	-	-138	846
St Peters Organ Fund	R	14,718	-	-	-	-	0	14,718
Vicar and Church Wardens	R	3,126	-	75	-	-	-75	3,051
Christ Church Gretton General Fund	U	-	126	-	-	-	126	126
Coffee Fund	U	-	240	72	-	-	168	168
General	U	389,508	152,971	178,083	11	4,432	-20691	368,817
St Michael's Stanley Pontlorge General Fund	U	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
St Peter's Church Flower Fund	U	907	-	238	-	-	-238	669
St Peter's Eco-Church Fund	U	368	685	437	-	-	248	616
TOTAL		£485,555	£190,774	£234,906	£0	£4,432	-£39,701	£445,855

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WINCHCOMBE WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiners Qualification

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: Jennifer Soltau
Address: Cotswold House
Gloucester Street
Winchcombe
GL54 5LX

Name JENNIFER SOLTAU

Signature

JSoltau

Date

14/2/25

ii) APCM COVERING 2024: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Report of 2024 by Revd Capt. David Penny

2024 proved to be a year of challenge and opportunity, and by God's grace we have navigated our way through with faith, that, as Julian of Norwich famously said: "all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well". I believe this to be the case as, towards the end of the year, we have seen signs of growth and development in many areas of church life.

Amongst the challenges of 2024 were the appointments needed to cover resignations of members of staff from 2 key areas of church life. At the beginning of the year Mark Mulley changed focus in his life, which meant we needed to find a new Parish Administrator. This proved more of a challenge than we expected, and after a couple rounds of advertisements and a false start, we eventually appointed Gareth in late autumn. We are very grateful to Elizabeth, Edward, Simon, and Sue for the additional work they did throughout the vacancy period, as without them the smooth running of the parish would have been impossible. We also found ourselves with vacancies in the music department following the resignations of Andrew, and then Shelley. Thankfully the wonderful John Ursell stepped in to keep the choir going and underpin the worship at St. Peter's, playing most Sunday mornings and evenings. Recruitment to the post of Director of Music took longer than we hoped, but by December we were able to appoint the very talented James Willshire. Two of the challenges during the music department vacancies were Easter and Christmas, and I just want to say a huge thank you to: Chris Sands for stepping in to lead the choir through Holy week and Easter, and Andrew Horton for enabling us to have a fantastic celebration of Christmas. I should also add a word of thanks to Rosie Aylward for stepping back into role to conduct the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Morning.

The opportunities of 2024 have been many and brought much blessing to us. In April Awesome was launched as a Fresh Expression of church. I am in awe of the dedication and hard work of the whole team under the leadership of Steve Carter. We have, through this ministry, begun to reach out into all parts of the parish with the Good News of Christ in new and relevant ways. This ministry will develop further as our schools work takes on a new lease of life now that James is in post and as we start ministry with young people under the leadership of the recently appointed Bryoni Newell. Experience Easter provided an opportunity for 100s of people, many of them young people, to reflect on Easter, their faith and the love of God. The success of this was, again, down to a team of people who got everything organised, set up the displays and helped guide groups through the various stations. Thank you, all of you.

Another key appointment made in 2024 was a leader of the Pastoral Team. I am very grateful to Morag Adlington for stepping into this role, and in short time Morag has enabled a greater impetus to this core ministry of the church. Again, this is a ministry that is shared, and I am extremely grateful to the whole team for the way in which we live out the principles of the Gospel, caring for one another and building one another up in Christ.

At the end of the year Gill Worthington stood down from leading Toddler Time, and Christine Mason stood down as a helper. Whilst we recognise that there is a time and season for everything under the sun, it was with heartfelt thanks and sadness that we marked the end of their involvement in this ministry. Toddler Time continues, now under the leadership of Karen Almond, and both Gill and Christine serve the church in other ministries.

The parish strategy is still firmly on the agenda of the PCC, and is steering the day to day ministry of the church. Looking at the RAG rating I can see that we are make good progress, implementing many different strands and making progress as we put in place new ideas. My biggest concern is that we spend more time in 2025 exploring how we can develop ministry in Gretton; HR distractions has meant this area of the strategy is not quite where I wanted it to be. But we continue to build good relationships with the GVA, and it was wonderful to see the church overflowing (once again) at Christmas.

I am hugely grateful to everyone for the part you play in the life of our churches and parish; but I would like to record here my hearty thanks to our Church Wardens Simon Andrews and Sue Proctor. The dedication and time that they put into their roles is fantastic, and we are very blessed to have them. Also I thank our Fab Four: Fliss, Steve, Cliff and Chris who bring so much to us through their ministry as Readers; and our other Fab Four: Revd's Wendy, Mike, Michael and Rob, without whom the pattern of services would look very different; and one on his own, but equally fabulous John for his words of wisdom. We are extremely blessed by each of them, and through

their ministry; and I know, just as you do too, that without them our ministry as a church would be greatly diminished.

After such a heavy year I trust that you are by now beginning to feel a lightness within the life of the church, with joy and excitement for the future. I was reminded the other day, as we heard the passage of scripture in Luke's Gospel of Jesus calling the first disciples, that ministry is always something that is shared. We are in this boat together (quite literally as we gather in the Nave of the church Sunday by Sunday), each with our part to play as we journey forward as the people of God in this place. Many people but one in Christ; 4 places of worship with 7 congregations, but one parish; many ministries, but united as one under God. May God continue to be with us through all the challenges and opportunities of 2025.

Revd Capt David Penny

iii) APCM COVERING 2024: CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

2024 has seen continued development of the strands of Parish work as articulated in the Parish strategy though chronic human resource (HR) issues has impacted upon the expected speed of their development.

The number and geographical spread of services with associated musical support within the Parish has been maintained with the active support of our retired clergy, Readers and volunteers. Revd David with Churchwardens and Chris Sands, and, in the latter half of the year, our new Parish Administrator Gareth Moseley actively sought musical support owing to the hiatus created through the sad resignations of our Directors of Music. Our thanks to them all and we remain very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such pro-active people. We achieved full and well attended Easter, Advent and Christmas services in the Parish, with the strong support of our rump of choristers, as well as a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Our bells are still ringing and the team has new blood though they are not complacent regarding seeking new recruits.

Service attendance at St Peter's dipped in the first half of the year and this was directly attributed to the HR issues mentioned earlier though there was an increasing pick-up in the latter half of the year. St Michael's remains healthy and stable whilst Christ Church is still an area requiring some attention. Whilst St Mary's ownership transferred from the Parish to Sudeley Castle in February, it continues to have a loyal cohort for its Summer Evensong services with the added benefit of reinforcement from the transitory visitors to Sudeley Castle, and supported by some fine a cappella musicians.

The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through its involvement in town events – particularly noting the election hustings we hosted in St Peter's, though Churches Together in Winchcombe lost some focus again owing to the challenges on availability for other worshipping community leaders. However, through the medium of St Peter's Centre, we continued to offer a "Warm Space" for the town's youngsters in conjunction with WAM whilst also being the venue for the WAM organised Youth Council.

The Parish was actively involved in the provision of volunteers to support other groups and in the ramping up of food bank support. Pastoral care has been re-focussed through the efforts of Morag Adlington, who took on the role in the latter part of the year, and a small but growing dedicated team.

The work to recruit a families' and children's lead was attempted to be progressed and interviews arranged; sadly, potential candidates withdrew at relatively short notice. However, whilst it is expected to see fulfilment in 2025, the last part of the year saw initial development of recruitment of an ex-WAM employee to take on the lead role of Young People's Ministry. In contrast, the Awesome programme of youth engagement is going well under the guidance of Steve Carter and Revd Wendy Ruffle.

Socially, we have been as active as ever with a number of fundraising activities; some tried and tested, but some new ideas. In particular, we would highlight the ever-popular book fair overseen by Kate Robinson, a hugely enjoyable fête put together by Stewart Aylward, and the town Christmas Fair stall by Lisa Martin and Revd Wendy in conjunction with a second highly successful run of Christmas Tree Festival organised by Abbie Shurmer. However, our Social Committee needs new blood for which readers are asked to consider their availability.

The weekly Parish "Signpost" bulletins have, we trust, continued to keep Parishioners up to date with wider goings on. We understand that effective information flow plays an important part in maintaining the cohesion of our community and Revd David expects to look at this area in more detail in 2025. Regarding social media, our thanks to Deborah Penny taking the social media bull by the horns to upgrade our profile in the town, and to Abbie Shurmer who stepped up for Deborah in the latter's short stand down.

Other major achievements or events include:

- The ongoing work by EcoChurch members towards the attainment of the A Rocha gold award. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their work whether it be Christ Church's and St Peter's insect hotels and wildflower areas, swift nests in Christ Church and St Peter's or the general willingness to maintain our churches by the groups who support our churches' maintenance days.
- Toddler Time, which continues to be well supported and our thanks to Gill Worthington who stood down her leadership position at the end of the year. We thank Karen Almond for her agreement to take up the leadership in 2025.
- The initiation in February of the St Peter's integrated project team seeking a holistic recommendation for heating, lighting, seating and audio-visual support, together with the creation of an independent multi-functional area within the church space.

Much practical work has been achieved and below is a summary of some of the bigger projects that have been taken forward in addition to the continual round of safety checks and small fixes undertaken. Our thanks to those individuals or organisations shown in brackets, and Deputy Churchwardens for their involvement in work in addressing many of these issues, and the Friends of St Peter's (FoSP) and St Michael's (FoSM) for their respective financial support.

- St Peter's, Winchcombe:
 - Re-pinning of three merlons on South Nave roof (FoSP).
 - Bells refurbishment (FoSP and Bell Captain's sought grants).
 - South side clerestory windows re-sealed (Geof Adlington).
 - Boiler Room sump pump and housing fixed and refurbished (Simon Lainé).
- Christ Church, Gretton:
 - Disabled access ramp purchased.
- St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge:
 - North Nave re-roofed (FoSM).
 - Five yearly electrical deep inspection and fixes.
 - Heating re-wiring (FoSM).
- St Peter's Centre:
 - Refurbishment of meeting room (WAM).

We have said goodbye and hello to a number of personalities with lead roles within the Parish. Some we have already mentioned, but additionally we saw the departure of our two Directors of Music, Andrew Horton then Shelley Everall Hoban, our Parish Administrator Mark Mulley, our Safeguarding focus Lynne Banks and our weddings focus Jane Wain. They have all served us loyally for a number of years for which we thank them and wish them good fortune in their respective future endeavours. In turn, we welcomed Gareth Moseley as our new Parish Administrator in September, and James Willshire as our new Director of Music starting 1 January 2025.

Finally, whilst we inevitably will not have thanked everyone who deserves it, the continued voluntary contributions by the PCC, choir, bellringers, stewards, welcomers, sacristans, vergers, holy dusters, coffee makers, etc, etc are not taken for granted. Thank you to all our volunteers but we remain ready to accept new names to fill more gaps.

Simon Andrews

Sue Proctor

Churchwardens, Winchcombe Parish

St Mary's

This will be the last separate report on St Mary's as ownership transferred to Sudeley Castle in February. As part of the transfer agreement, all the planned six Evensong services were held - though starting at 4pm - with attendance ranging from 3 to 20.

Simon Andrews

Christ Church

Services at Christ Church continue to be held on 2nd and 4th Sundays, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship. Following services, we go down to the Village Hall, where the Gretton Hub is held every two weeks, to join in for refreshments and social time with other residents of the village. Morning Prayer is held as a short informal service on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am.

Our Mini Team continues to meet every two months.

We are fortunate to have Stewart Aylward to play the organ for us on second Sundays. Judith Roles is now playing for us on fourth Sundays – many thanks go to her.

Our Spring Cleanup, inside and outside the church, took place on May 4, with nine members of the congregation and three villagers taking part – thanks to all!

On November 24 we held our Patronal Festival at our morning service, with the theme of Songs of Praise.

On December 19 Gretton School held their Carol Service. On Christmas Eve we held a combined Crib and Carol Service at 4pm – so well attended that there was almost no more room for standees! The church looked beautiful as always at Christmas – thanks as ever go to our faithful Flower Fairies.

Susan Fleck

Deputy Churchwarden

St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge

During the year, we continued to hold Holy Communion services at 9.15am on the first and third Sundays of the month.

In March we had an additional service for Easter Day. We all stayed to enjoy our traditional hot cross buns after the service.

Our Harvest Festival took place in October. We decorated the church with flowers and produce from our gardens and vegetable patches, and held a collection for food and other items for the local foodbank. We had drinks and nibbles in the churchyard following the service.

In December we held our Carols by Candlelight. We decorated the church with foraged greenery and candles. As well as the traditional biblical readings, people chose poems and Christmas themed readings to read and Evie, Annie and Grace told the story of the Christmas Truce and football games during World War 1. Music was provided by Duncan on the organ and also Ash playing the flute. The church was full and it was a wonderful evening. After the service we had mulled wine and refreshments in the churchyard, keeping warm around the brazier.

We are very pleased to have an organist again, Duncan Westerman, playing our special organ at our services. Thanks also go to Elliott Nixon who has played guitar to accompany our singing, when we have not had an organist.

The North Nave roof was re-roofed during March. Thanks go to Simon Andrews for all his fundraising efforts. In October some electrical re-wiring work took place, funded by Friends of St Michael's.

Gill Badger

iv) APCM COVERING 2024: REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING

The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC also has a Parish Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually.

Our Commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

1. DBS

Gill Worthington, in her role as DBS Administrator, continues to do an excellent job ensuring that those who work with children or adults at risk and any others in roles eligible for DBS clearances apply for and have their DBS clearances approved and renewed as required. This includes all members of the PCC as Trustees of a charity that provides services for children or adults at risk. DBS clearances must now be renewed or updated every three years.

2. Safer Recruitment

All those working for the church in activities involving children or vulnerable adults, whether the role is paid or voluntary, must be recruited using the Safer Recruitment process. If you are recruiting in these areas, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer for further information.

3. Parish Dashboard

We continue to use the Parish Dashboard, which is an online Safeguarding Tool provided by the Church of England. The Dashboard acts as an audit of safeguarding for the Parish and produces an action plan which can be presented to the PCC.

4. Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training is a requirement for all paid employees and any officers of the church. Safeguarding training courses are available online via the C of E training portal. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, in conjunction with the Priest in Charge and the PCC, will contact those whose roles require training to explain what is needed. Training should be renewed every three years.

5. Parish Safeguarding Officer

Lynne Banks has now stepped down from this role after 10 years and a new Parish Safeguarding Officer will be appointed.

Lynne Banks

v) APCM COVERING 2024: DIOCESAN AND DEANERY REPORTS FOR APCM

Diocesan Synod report.

The Diocesan discussions at the beginning of the year focussed on Safeguarding policy rising out of General Synod, the progress on Environment Objectives of the Diocese, and an introduction to the Parish Share 2026 model. At the next meeting the annual accounts were presented, discussed, and approved. This led to further disclosures about the thinking around the 2026 Parish Share model.

In the second half of the year our attention turned to the work of the Diocesan Board of Education. Specifically to highlight the importance of this mission field of young people. It raised the concern around the difficulty of getting

foundation governors in place in our church schools and getting access into secondary schools to minister there. Our parish is not alone in having these problems.

The year concluded with an update of the Mission and Ministry objectives as expressed in the Living in Love and Faith initiative of the Diocese and a major update on Safeguarding resources, activities, and support available for the diocese team.

Deanery Synod report

There was a slow start to the year as the new incumbents got settled into their new roles and whilst the Area Dean was otherwise preoccupied. However in the course of the year a lot of good work was accomplished. 3 Mission Area groups were formed. The Deanery Strategic Plan was adopted by the new incumbents/ Mission Area group leaders. Work began on translating words on paper to an action plan and this was coordinated with the Diocesan Leadership Team who are overseeing the development of DSP in all 9 Deaneries.

The Deanery was also involved in the work to inform the Parishes/Benefices of what the 2026 Parish Share model would mean in practice in terms of future PS contributions needed to support ministry in our Deanery. This is very much an on-going hot topic as we move forward into our parishes next year.

vi) APCM COVERING 2024: LICENSED LAY MINISTERS/READERS REPORT TO THE APCM

2024 has been a year of continued growth, engagement and activity for the Readers of the Parish.

Although we are not ordained, we are licenced and authorised by the bishop to lead worship and, under the direction of the priest-in-charge, to carry out a range of responsibilities, enabling people to recognise Christ's presence in our community. Readers are often described as 'theologically educated and culturally engaged'; a description we are all working hard to live up to in order to fulfil the role we're lucky enough to hold.

Readers have served throughout the parish in 2024 as ministers, deacons and preachers - it is now very rare indeed for a Sunday morning to go by without several of us being involved in leading worship in these ways somewhere in the parish. We also lead worship at other times and in other styles: Awesome (of which more later); evening worship in a variety of formats on Sundays at St Peter's; Tuesday evening prayer and services during Lent and Advent being notable examples. We also support Julia and John in the parishes North of Winchcombe and have conducted services in Great Washbourne, Snowhill and Wormington – especially at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday.

In other areas of ministry, Cliff Cocks and Fliss Hall led well-attended Lent groups in 2024. Fliss also heads up a team that has developed and is delivering marriage preparation courses for couples getting married in the wider group of parishes. Chris Haslam links the parish with the Winchcombe Poets and is a stalwart of the Magazine Committee. Steve Carter is one of the driving forces behind the new 'Awesome' outreach afternoons in the primary school. These are bringing in new children and families and all are encouraged to attend and enjoy the huge fun to be had. Steve also led and co-ordinated Experience Easter in St. Peter's, leading a team over thirty members of the congregation and engaging over three hundred pre-school and primary school children in the project. Readers are also part of a small team who also visit the primary schools in Winchcombe and Gretton to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis. We all, in various informal ways, try to be involved in pastoral care whenever and wherever we're needed.

Our fortnightly meetings with the wider ministry team involve the inevitable mundane activity (keeping up with the rotas) but are greatly enhanced by interesting discussions and spiritual development.

Fliss Hall

vii) APCM COVERING 2024: PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

In 2024, the much reduced Pastoral Team has worked determinedly to care for the most vulnerable members of the church. The three Home Communion team members took out Holy Communion to at least 6 people each month during 2024.

The Home Visiting team [comprising just 2 people for most of the year] have done a brilliant job supporting their 12 [approx.] elderly or housebound members of the church congregation every month.

Morag was appointed on December 1st as Pastoral Team Leader and received a very useful handover from Margaret Batterbury.

In the later part of the year we had very needy people come into church unexpectedly who were helped effectively by the strong caring ethos in St Peter's and are now enjoying the life of the church.

Our services of All Saints and Blue Christmas were very well attended and were of great comfort to those who attended.

If you'd like to know more about Pastoral Work in all its various guises, please contact Morag Adlington - number in the directory or email to pastoralcare@winchcombeparish.co.uk

Morag Adlington

Pastoral team Leader

viii) MUSIC REPORT TO THE APCM – included in Churchwarden's Report

ix) APCM COVERING 2024: ST PETERS FLOWER ARRANGERS

The group have continued to provide an arrangement next to the altar each week, except in Advent and Lent. Extended decorations for Christmas, Easter and Harvest have been appreciated by the congregation and the Group is grateful for all the compliments received. We plan to continue this pattern for the coming year.

We have continued to work without using floral foam (Oasis). Large pedestal arrangements remain problematic, but we are getting to grips with new methods of arranging using chicken wire and other props. We now have a small collection of deeper containers and vases, more suitable for this type of arrangement. That said, we are always on the lookout for more plain pottery and stoneware containers, as these seem to be more in keeping with the church interior. It is possible that an ecofriendly flower foam will become available in the future, there is demand as more and more organisations ban or stop using the original foam.

We continue to investigate the possibility of sourcing our flowers locally or, at least, from this country and using potted plants and more informal arrangements of local foliage, berries, and fruits. We are also investigating the occasional use of artificial flowers when appropriate.

We remain unable to provide additional flowers for weddings. Couples are welcome to put additional arrangements in church or bring in a florist. Couples and outside florists are requested not use floral foam (but this is rarely adhered to), and to liaise with us about timings and placement of arrangements. We also request that they do not move or remove the altar arrangement.

We have lost one longstanding member this year but gained a new member who is an experienced arranger. We remain a small group, and more members would be most welcome. You do not have to be an expert (some of us are certainly not) just enthusiastic and willing to have a go. Advice and encouragement are always on hand and the commitment is not too onerous. Talk to either of us if you are interested.

Margaret Bearne and Margaret Holloway

x) REPORT TO THE APCM FROM THE BELLRINGERS

We have had a good year, in that we now have quite a few more ringers than this time last year.

We now have 4 more Sunday morning ringers, with another one who will soon be able to ring on Sundays.

Although this has boosted our numbers, we could still do with more ringers to ensure our future. Although we have tried to have special "open days", this has not produced any new ringers. We have found that the best way to recruit is by "word of mouth", so please publicise this.

We continue to ring for Sunday morning services, and for practice night on Wednesdays. Unfortunately, for the first time in 50 years, we were unable to ring the New Year in for 2025, a too many of us were ill!

We rang for 6 weddings in St. Peter's last year. Unfortunately there seem to be only 2 so far for this year. We do, however, plan to ring on 8th May 2025 at 6:30pm, to celebrate, along with all the other churches in the land, the 80th Anniversary of V E Day.

2024 saw us having some fairly substantial works done in the tower, to the bells & their fittings 25 years after the bells were augmented to 8, to keep the bells safe & ringing. We were able to obtain Grants from several sources, to help with the cost, most of which came out of our funds. The bells now "go" a lot easier. Edward Kain, as Steeplekeeper, oversaw all the works.

The plan this year is to paint the bell frame, last done about 40 years ago. We are lucky in that a ringer from Cheltenham is able to do this & only charge us for the materials. We are also applying for a Grant to help with this.

We will continue to be a sound presence in the Church, as long as we are able

Clare Pritchard

Captain of Bellringers

xi) APCM COVERING 2024: ECO CHURCH GROUP

Having received a grant from the Diocese for wildlife planting, our efforts in 2024 have been concentrated on improvements in the churchyard, particularly making our wildlife garden in the NE corner (Kenelm's Corner). In May we installed a gabion seat: the gabion was provided at cost by Wirefence, we used stone lying around in the churchyard and an oak top from a local tree was given by the local saw mill. The area around has been rejuvenated and planted.

Two crab apples and a hawthorn were also planted on the opposite side of the churchyard.

Throughout the year we have had regularly changing noticeboard displays to encourage the community and have helped with an Awesome Service and an assembly at Winchcombe Abbey Primary. We try to collaborate with other like-minded groups, publicising events for Winchcombe Green Town and Winchcombe Community Allotments.

On Sunday 1st September a service was held based on concern for the environment, with John Sutcliffe's sermon on climate change and a cake sale in aid of A Rocha. We also participated in the Fete with plants for sale, both raising funds and the profile in the group.

We are continuing to work towards gaining a Gold Award in all that we do.

Natalie Stone & Jennie Davies

xii) APCM COVERING 2024: STEWARD'S REPORT

Stewards' Team: We have 19 regular weekday stewards and 5 who do monthly Saturday duties.

Unfortunately there remain gaps in the weekday timetable where new stewards are needed, but it has been brilliant to welcome Paul Astbury, Simon Laine Sarah Talbot and Charlie Bagnall to our team.

Visitors' book: we continued to receive many comments in the visitors' book over 2024. As with 2024, the most used adjective for visitors' reactions to St Peter's was 'BEAUTIFUL' and we have also had many comments on the interesting history and displays, the high quality of maintenance of the building, the East Window and the stained glass, the lovely calm and prayerful atmosphere, and above all very many extremely appreciative comments on the friendly guides, stewards and members of the congregation who demonstrate our welcoming vibrant church community

Comments: Some of the standout from 2024:

- *I think Prior Aldwyn would be pleased*
- *Loved the pews*
- *We enjoyed the wood carved imp*

- *Excellent display for children to hear the Easter story*
- *I am the author of the first Guide to the Cotswold Way 1973 and presenter of Countryside.co.uk podcast.*
- *Love the Eco Church information. Well done on awards and action!*
- *Love the benches' covers to keep warm when sitting*
- *Fabulous books for sale*
- *Your Day of Prayer stations are inspiring*
- *Our son liked imagining he was giving a sermon in the pulpit*
- *Coffin was cool, and very cool boat*
- *My 4 x great grandfather was baptised here in 1798*
- *Lovely to visit the parish church of my ancestors who were baptised and buried here*
- *We were married here 46 years ago*
- *My parents were married here in 1953*
- *My great grandfather, Meurig Davies was vicar for 20 years*
- *My uncle, Peter Morton, preached here in 1970's*

Maps and pins: Looking at the pins in the maps for 2024, people have continued to visit from all across the world with a grand total of 789 pins from 84 different countries. Of these, 329 were from different regions across the UK. Then in descending order, we had 149 North American visitors (covering America, Canada, Bermuda and the West Indies), 142 Europeans from 24 different countries. Next came Australasia with 58 visitors from Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, then 48 visitors from 14 countries across Asia. South America was represented by 31 pins from 8 different countries, then 26 African visitors from 13 countries, and finally 6 Middle Eastern visitors from 6 Middle Eastern countries.

Thank you so much to all stewards for all the hard work and support in this important ministry to our church community and beyond.

Katy Bagnall

Steward Co-ordinator

xiii) APCM COVERING 2024: TODDLER TIME AT ST PETER'S

Toddler Time, which meets at St. Peter's on Thursdays at 10.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. throughout the year, including the school holidays, is a lifeline for carers, continues to flourish, with a delightful group of children with their parents, grandparents, and carers.

With a dedicated team of helpers, a variety of activities is on offer, including play, stories, craft, music and of course healthy snacks. In addition to the weekly sessions, a Teddy Bears Picnic was held in August, and the children made cards and other crafts for important events, such as Mothering Sunday, Easter and Christmas. The group was delighted to take part once again in the Christmas Tree Festival in December, with the young children enjoying making decorations for the Christmas Tree.

Just before Christmas, a celebratory morning was held, with the retirement of two members of the team. Christine Mason has supported Toddler Time loyally for a number of years, and we thank her for her unfailing support, kindness and friendship to both children and adults.

Gill Worthington has been involved with Toddler Time in various guises since 2007, in recent times leading the group. Gill has been privileged to enjoy the company of children, parents and grandparents, together with a wonderfully supportive team of helpers. Thank you enormously to everyone. It has been a great time.

Time must move on and we are extremely grateful to Karen Almond, a member of the Toddler Time Team, who so graciously and willingly offered to take the lead role for Toddler Time from 1st January 2025. As a former Nursery Nurse (NNEB), Karen comes with a wealth of experience in work with the very youngest children. Our enormous thanks to Karen, and we wish her well for the continuing success of the group.

Our thanks also to Rev. David and members of the clergy team, who have been so supportive and come to read Bible stories to the children on a monthly basis.

Very young children, including babies and their carers continue to be made very welcome at St. Peter's. Do come and join us!

Gill Worthington, Lead for Toddler Time in 2024.

e) Questions and discussion on reports

f) General questions and discussion

5) READERS TO BE EX-OFFICIO FROM 2026

6) ELECTIONS

a) Deanery Synod Members

b) PCC Members

7) THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

8) ELECTORAL ROLL

9) CLOSING PRAYER

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINCHCOMBE

WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year January – December 2023

**presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 17 March 2024

WINCHCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT January - December 2023

1. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets to share with the Priest-in-charge in deciding, and in implementing, parish policy. It is legally responsible for the church buildings & furnishings and for parish property. The PCC is a charity, and registered with the Charity Commission during 2009.

The members of the PCC are (as of 17 March 2024):

CLERGY (EX OFFICIO)

Rev'd Capt. David Penny CA – Chair (2023)

CHURCHWARDENS (EX OFFICIO)

Simon Andrews (2018) (Lay Chair 2019, Churchwarden 2020)
Judith Skinner (2020) (Churchwarden 2021)

ELECTED PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

ST PETER'S, WINCHCOMBE

Abbie Andrews (2019)
Felicity King (2020)
Cathy Wilcock (2020)
Elizabeth Atkinson (2021) (Secretary 2023)
Sue Crownshaw (2022)
Charles Bagnall (2022) (Treasurer 2023)
Geof Adlington (2018)
Jane Wain (2023)

5 x vacancies

CHRIST CHURCH, GRETTON

Susan Fleck (2017) (Deputy Churchwarden 2019)

ST MICHAEL'S, STANLEY PONTLARGE

Maxine Clare (2023)

ST MARY'S, SUDELEY

Simon Andrews (2018) (Deputy Churchwarden 2022)

DEANERY SYNOD (EX OFFICIO – ELECTED EVERY 3 YEARS)

Geof Adlington (*Deanery Treasurer 2022*)
Sue Crownshaw (2023)
Charlie Bagnall (2023)
1 x vacancy

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Geof Adlington

CO-OPTED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (F&GP)

Treasurer

PCC CO-OPTED TO FoSP

Simon Andrews (2023)

METHODIST OBSERVERS (NON-VOTING)

Trevor Upton

THE LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM 2023

Revd Mike Holloway
Revd Michael Hand
Revd Rob Pestell
Revd Wendy Ruffle
Steve Carter
Cliff Cocks
Felicity Hall
Chris Haslam

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LU
Telephone: 01242 602067
spc@winchcombeparish.org.uk
www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

CHARITY NUMBER: 1138071

FINANCIAL ADDRESSES

PCC'S BANKERS

from 2023, The Cooperative Bank

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Jennifer Soltau, F.C.C.A.
Cotswold House, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LX

WINCHCOMBE PARISH
With Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and Sudeley Manor
Sunday 17 March 2024 at 11.30 – St Peter’s Church, Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- a) Minutes of the AMP held on Sunday 21st May 2023
- b) Election of churchwardens

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 21st May 2023
- b) Matters arising from the Minutes
- c) Review of progress and achievements
- d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:
 - i. Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report
 - ii. Priest-in-Charge’s Report 2023
 - iii. Churchwardens’ Report including notes from the Deputy Churchwardens
 - iv. Report from the Deanery Synod
 - v. Readers
 - vi. Notes on Safeguarding
 - vii. Pastoral Care report
 - viii. Music report
 - ix. St Peter’s Flower Arrangers’ report
 - x. Report from the Bellringers
 - xi. Report from Eco Church Group
 - xii. Stewards’ report
 - xiii. Toddler Time
- e) Questions and discussion on reports
- f) General questions and discussion

5. ELECTIONS

- a) Deanery Synod Members
- b) PCC Members

6. ELECTORAL ROLL

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8. CLOSING PRAYER

3 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 21st of May 2023, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: (PCC Members and officers, Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner (Churchwardens), Charlie Bagnall (Treasurer), , Elizabeth Atkinson, Sue Crownshaw, Sue Fleck, Felicity King, Rosemary Hancock together with approximately 50 others on the electoral roll – either in person or via on-line.

- 1. Welcome and Prayers:** *Revd David Penny welcomed those present and said how wonderful it was to be gathered here and opened the meeting with a prayer.*
- 2. Apologies for Absence** *were received from Lizzy Watson (Secretary), Kate & William Stebbings, Sheila Broderick, Cathryn Wilcox, Rob Stone, Abbie Shurmer, Jennifer Soltau, Andrew & Lynne Horton, Lynn and Martin Gorman, Geof & Morag Adlington, Pookie Shaw.*
- 3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** *for those on the Electoral Roll and those resident in the Parish – i.e. the whole community.*

a) Minutes of the AMP held on 29th May 2022

The minutes were made available prior to the meeting – in hard copy or by email.

The minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising.

b) Election of two Churchwardens

The meeting was asked to elect the Churchwardens for the coming year. The current Churchwardens agreed to stand for re-election and a vote was carried unanimously. Therefore, Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner will continue to stand as Churchwardens and the meeting expressed their support and thanks for their work.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Simon Andrews

Acting PCC Secretary

May 2023

Approved

Date:

b) Election of two Churchwardens

4) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 21st May 2023

The minutes are reported as follows:

1. *The minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2022 were distributed prior to the meeting.*

The minutes were adopted as accurate.

2. *Matters Arising: nil*

3. *Review of progress & achievements: Revd David, at his first APCM, thanked all for their welcome to his family. He emphasised that we work as a Parish and that he will accordingly be putting out his strategy in the next few weeks to the PCC and hence the Parish in the next weeks.*

4. *Annual Report of the PCC as tabled – Hard copies were available in the back of Church for three weeks before the meeting, and the report was available electronically.*

- i) **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** *The Treasurer summarised his circulated report, stating that after Revd David had settled, long term investments would be re-examined. He additionally stated that a small deficit was possible in 2023 and maybe even a small surplus owing to the receipt of an unexpected legacy. Overall, 2023 was going to plan.*

Alan Thomas raised three points over expenditure: for Salaries and Wages, he noted an increase of £6k. Treasurer responded that this was owing to an agreed pay rise by the PCC and are inclusive of just under £6,000 to visiting minister fees, but as these were paid during the Vacancy, the money was recovered from the Diocese and the income is reflected under Other Income; second, he asked how much was spent on St Michael's roof to which the Treasurer stated just over £60k but with an approximate £13.5k underspend. Simon Andrews pointed out that the availability of this underspend allowed the initiation of grant applications for the North Nave roof of St Michael's; thirdly, he asked why sundry expenses had increased from £4.5k to £12k. Treasurer explained this included VAT payments relating to the major building works that we were able to reclaim under the Listed Places of Worship VAT scheme. The matching income amounts for these reclaims also appear under other income and total about £6,000.

Gill Worthington asked regarding income as to whether the use of a collection plate was being considered. Treasurer assured her the PCC was doing so.

- ii) **Churchwardens' Report:**

The Churchwardens' Report had also been circulated and Simon Andrews summarised. Additionally he stated thanks and welcomes to Geof Adlington and Charlie Bagnall (PCC Treasurer), Lizzy Watson (PCC Secretary) and Mark Thompson (organist at St Michael's). There were no observations.

There were no questions.

5. *Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled: The other reports were noted and there were no questions.*

6. **Elections:**

- (i) **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** *Both Rob Stone and Geof Adlington agreed to be considered for re-election and Sue Crownshaw and Charlie Bagnall for election. The meeting agreed to these.*

- (ii) **Election of PCC Representatives:** *All current PCC members agreed to stay on to provide continuity during the early months of Revd David's residence, and were re-appointed for the coming year. The exception was Lizzy Watson who has decided to stand down as she moves to Dorset. Simon Andrews thanked Lizzy for her work on the PCC including as Secretary. One new PCC Representative was elected: Jane Wain.*

7. **Electoral Roll:** *in the absence of Jennifer Soltau, Simon Andrews explained that with four new names and other adjustments, there are now 219 people on the roll. In response to Margaret Bearne's observation about some people who should not be on the roll (the next full review is due in 2025), he asked that if anyone knows of people who have moved or deceased to inform Mark Mulley in the office. Revd David thanked Jennifer Soltau for all the work she does on this issue.*

8. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** *Jennifer Soltau offered to continue in this role. The meeting gratefully agreed.*

9. **Forthcoming Events:**

- *9 Jun 7pm: Choir/Brownies Concert (St Peter's; Shelley Everall Hoban).*
- *11 Jun: FoSP/PCC Open Gardens cancelled: lack of garden volunteers due to winter damage.*

- 22-25 Jun: Midsummer Music & Art (MMA) (artists & organ etc recital on Fri (wedding prep Fri and wed Sat)) (St Peter's; Judith Skinner).
- 10 Jun-1 Jul: Book Fair (St Peter's; Jo Rees)
- 1 Jul: Parish Fête (St Peter's; Simon Andrews). Note: Clash with MMA Youth Event.
- Sun 1 Oct: Post Harvest Festival Service event (tbc)(St Peter's)
- Sat 14 Oct 7pm: FoSP Octavo Concert (St Peter's; FoSP/Martin Gorman).
- 9 Dec: Octavo concert (Christ Church; Sue Fleck).
- 8-10 Dec: Christmas Tree Festival: (St Peter's; Abbie Shurmer).

10. AOB:

- Gill Worthington asked for help with Welcomers for Evening Services at St Peter's.
- Simon Andrews emphasised need for volunteers to support a wide variety of Parish activities.

11. Closing Prayer

Simon Andrews
Acting PCC Secretary
May 2023

<i>Approved:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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b) Matters Arising from the Minutes

c) Review of Progress and Achievements

d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:

- i. TREASURERS FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report

PCC Finance report for 2023

Please see the 2023 accounts laid out on the four pages following the auditor's report.

- Page 1 – Statement of Assets and Liabilities
- Page 2 – Summary Receipts and Payments
- Page 3 – Note 1: Analysis of Restricted Funds and Note 2: Analysis of Designated Funds
- Page 4 – Note 3: Detailed Analysis of Receipts and Note 4: Detailed Analysis of Expenditure

Summary

Good news to start with: as can be seen on **Page 1**, overall, we are about £53,000 better off than at the end of 2022. £18,000 of this was the excess of income over expenditure and the remaining £34,000 thanks to the recovery in the value of our investments following a poor year in the markets in 2022. After the good news comes the 'but'. BUT ... it should be noted that almost all the £18,000 surplus relates to provisions for expenditure on the roof of St Michael's to come in 2024. On our unrestricted activities we pretty much broke even at plus £94, but even that was mainly thanks to the generous unrestricted bequest of £15,000 from Frances Holgate. The summary receipts and payments account can be seen on **Page 2**.

Restricted Funds- Page 3

After a re-examination of our restricted and designated funds, it was agreed that most of the designated funds should in fact be changed to restricted. The only designated fund remains the money set aside for a Youth Worker amounting to some £43k. Details of this re-analysis can be seen at Notes 1 and 2.

Review of Comparative Performance - Page 4

Committed Giving is slightly down just when it needs to be up, but ad hoc giving and associated gift aid are both up so much so that overall donated income is up on last year. However, we cannot rely on ad hoc gifts, and committed giving must increase if we are to meet our commitments over the next few years.

Note that **Parochial Fees** income which was previously quoted as a single net figure is now quoted gross and the costs included in expenditure to give a fuller picture of our activity. The net position is about 10% down on 2022.

In terms of costs, most items are broadly in line with 2022 after allowing for inflation. Exceptions are major repairs – in 2022 there was the major expenditure on St Michael's roof – and sundry expenses which are down because we have been able to allocate nearly all costs to a specific code. **Heating and lighting** looks encouraging, but that was down to excellent fixed deals secured by Geof Adlington – so do not be comforted: the last bill for gas in St Peters was **£1,500**, just for December. Having said that, you will see that owing to an administrative issue, we are very behind with our solar panel repayments, so we are still owed the income from May 2023 onwards which, while not matching the summer of 2022, means another £4,000 to come.

Accounting Software

This will be the last year we use the Diocesan Spreadsheet. After discussions with our auditor Jennifer Soltau and the churchwardens, it was agreed that we should move to a new accounting system that has a proper audit trail and is accessible online to multiple users. If anyone would like to be trained up to be able to act as my deputy in the event of my not being available, I should be delighted to hear from you!

Looking Ahead

This year has been un-eventful, and the figures reflect that with a surplus on restricted funds and a breakeven on general funds. However, the 2024 budget agreed with the PCC does not look so positive. In fact, it shows a very considerable deficit. It has been prepared on a conservative basis that assumes no legacies and no increase in planned giving. Our total income is projected to be around £144,000. By contrast with costs rising inexorably including Parish Share going up to £87,000, the St Michaels roof repair, and our Youth Worker starting, we are budgeting total expenditure of £244,000. That means the projected deficit is almost £80,000 or about 17% of our assets. Clearly, we cannot sustain such losses for long.

However, our new Incumbent has led us in the creation of an exciting strategic plan and the PCC believes that investing in Youth Work and in re-ordering the church to suit more activities will help us to grow as a parish and not decline. For that to happen however, we all need to get behind the strategy and support it financially. There are encouraging signs in our giving – our ad-hoc giving is up almost 100% from 2022 to 2023 so there is love being shown for what we do and stand for. All gifts are welcome, but what we really need, if we are to look into the future with confidence, is to increase our planned giving. That currently stands at £60,000, less than half our high-water mark, so please consider your own giving so we can aspire to that again and ensure the future is bright for the parish of Winchcombe.

*Charlie Bagnall, Treasurer
February 2024*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Winchcombe with Gretton, Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedure undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met, or;
2. Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J Soltau(dated) 22/2/24

Jennifer Soltau FCCA

Cotswold House Winchcombe

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023							
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023							
31 December 2022		Total	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds (note 2)	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Properties	Notes
£		£	£	£	£	£	
	Fixed Assets						
-	Teacher's House (at cost)	-	-	-	-	-	
57,000	St Peter's Centre (at cost)	57,000	-	-	-	57,000	
57,000		57,000	-	-	-	57,000	
330,024	Investment Assets (stated at 31 Dec 2022 value)	363,647	320,348	43,299	-	-	
	Current Assets						
45,276	Bank balances	63,305	11,833	-	51,472	-	
205	Cash balance	1,603	1,603	-	-	-	
45,481		64,908	13,436	-	51,472	-	
	Current liabilities						
45,481	Net current assets	64,908	13,436	-	51,472	-	
£432,505	Net Assets	£485,555	£333,784	£43,299	£51,472	£57,000	
	Represented by:						
500,581	Reserves brought forward at 1 January 2022	432,505	£298,642	£67,312	£9,551	£57,000	
	Adjustment between Restricted, unrestricted and Designated funds	-	£123	(24,014)	23,891	-	Note 2
(64,665)	Net excess of receipts over payments on unrestricted funds	94	94	-	-	-	Notes 3 and 4
	Receipts and allocations to designated funds made during the year	-	-	-	-	-	
(271,440)	Adjustment for Sale of Property	-	-	-	-	-	
-	Adjustment for unreconciled items in prior year	1,303	1,303	-	-	-	
277,909	Adjustment for change in investment values over the year	33,623	33,623	-	-	-	
(9,880)	Adjustment for restricted funds (used)/received during the year	18,030	-	-	18,030	-	Note 1
£432,505		£485,555	£333,785	£43,298	£51,472	£57,000	

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Summary Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds
	2023	2022	2023
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts:			
Planned giving	58,827	61,818	-
Collections at services	7,763	6,267	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	12,898	7,661	1,215
Legacies received	15,750	700	500
Gift Aid recovered	17,158	14,565	-
Special Appeals and Grants	5,570	19,843	11,500
Activities for generating funds	8,220	7,467	-
Investment Income	11,978	7,486	-
Church Activities	26,640	11,906	-
Other income	4,411	21,964	9,891
Total receipts	169,215	159,678	23,106
Expenses			
Church Activities:			
Parish share	(80,520)	(83,640)	-
Clergy and Staffing costs	(17,011)	(21,369)	-
Church running expenses	(43,785)	(93,776)	(5,076)
Mission giving and donations	(2,551)	(2,450)	-
Costs of trading	(4,320)	(4,775)	-
Third party costs relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals	(12,080)		-
Administration Costs	(6,318)	(5,881)	-
Cost of generating funds	(548)	(476)	-
Other costs	(1,988)	(11,976)	-
Total payments	(£169,121)	(£224,342)	(£5,076)
Movement in this year's balances after allocations	£94	(£64,665)	£18,030

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2023						
Note 1 - Analysis of Restricted Funds						
	Opening balance	Change of Fund Type - opening balance	Receipts during year	Payments during year	Closing balance	Overall movement on Restricted Funds
	£		£	£	£	£
Chime Machine	5,696		-	-	5696	
Bells	6	815	163	-	984	
St Peter's Organ	-	13,156	3,126	(1,565)	14718	
Fresh Expressions	723		-	-	723	
Christ Church, Gretton	-	1,306	1,002	(236)	2073	
St Peter's, Winchcombe	-		-	-	0	
Vicar and Churchwardens	3,126		-	-	3126	
Stanley Pontlarge - general		7,682	18,814	(3,275)	23221	
IT&Video Project for St Peter's		932			932	
	£9,551	£23,891	£23,106	(£5,076)	£51,472	£18,030
Note 2 - Analysis of Designated Funds						
	Opening balance	Added to Restricted	Added to Unrestricted		Closing balance	
	£		£		£	
Christ Church, Gretton - general	1,306	(1,306)			-	
St Peter's Church - flower fund	123		(123)		-	
St Peter's Church - organ fund	13,156	(13,156)			-	
St Peter's Church -bell fund	815	(815)			-	
Stanley Pontlarge - general	7,682	(7,682)			-	
Pioneer Minister Reserve	43,299		-		43,299	
Eco Church Fund	-				-	
IT&Video Project for St Peter's	932	(932)	-		-	
	£67,312	(£23,891)	(£123)		-	£43,299

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Note 3 - Detailed Analysis of Receipts

Code	Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Restricted
		2023	2022	2022	Fund for
		£	£	£	2023
					£
1	Total planned giving	58827	61,818		-
3	Other collections at services	7763	6,267		-
4	Other Giving & Donations - Recurring	150	100		-
5	Other Giving & Donations - Non-Recurring	12,748	7,661		1,215
8	Legacies received	£15,750	700		500
7	All tax recovered through Gift Aid	17158	14,565		-
6	Special Appeals	534	1,080		-
9	Recurring Grants	0	-		-
10	Non-Recurring Grants	5,036	18,663		11,500
11	Fund Raising Events	8220	7,467		-
15	Bookstall, Magazine etc	5174	5,596		-
12	Dividends & Interest	£11,978	7,486		-
14	Total Parochial Fees Income	21346	11,906		-
13	Income from Properties	120	600		-
16	Hall Lettings		255		-
17	Income from other Church Activities		151		-
18	Insurance Claims		-		-
19	Reimbursement of costs by other Parishes		-		-
20	Sale of Fixed Assets		-		-
21	Service Fee Reimbursement by DBF	1920	5,400		-
22	Income from solar panels	1056	9,961		-
22	Other income	1,435			9,891
		£169,215	£159,678		£23,106

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Note 4 - Detailed Analysis of Payments

Code	Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Restricted
		2023	2022	2022	2023
		£	£	£	£
32	Parish Share	(80,520)	(83,640)		-
33	Salaries & Wages	(15,509)	(14,171)		-
37	Local Mission and Evangelism Projects	(815)	(1,521)		-
38	Children/Youth Work costs	(317)	(354)		-
34, 35 & 36	Clergy and Other Expenses	(1,185)	(1,498)		-
39	Insurance costs	(13,203)	(12,748)		-
40	Cleaning costs	(400)	(552)		-
41	Minor Repairs/Routine Maintenance	(6,611)	(6,407)		(2,261)
43	Other Church Expenses/Provision of Services	(3,620)	(1,777)		-
44	Churchyard Maintenance	(2,879)	(1,333)		(236)
45	Flowers	(320)	(6)		-
46	Music costs	(2,595)	(2,383)		(1,565)
59	Major Repairs/Redecoration to Church Building	(6,398)	(51,995)	(9,880)	(1,014)
60	Major Repairs/Redecoration to other properties	-	(1,696)		-
47 & 48	Utilities (incl Heat, Light and Water)	(7,759)	(9,374)		-
31	Donations/Grants to Charities & Mission Giving	(1,736)	(2,450)		-
49	Costs of Trading	(4,320)	(4,775)		-
51	Parochial Fees Remittance to DBF	(2,743)	-		-
52	Parochial Fees Remitted to visiting Ministers	-	-		-
53	Parochial Fees Remitted to other 3rd party	(9,337)	-		-
54	Parochial Fees Remitted to other PCC	-	-		-
55	Service Fee Remittance to visiting Minister	(1,920)	(5,700)		-
56	Payment of costs to other Parishes		-		-
42	Administration costs	(6,318)	(5,881)		-
50	Governance Costs		-		-
30	Fund Raising Costs	(548)	(476)		-
57	Deanery Costs	(16)	(85)		-
58	Sundry Expenses	(52)	(11,890)		-
61	Alterations/Extensions to Church Building		(3,630)		-
	Total Expenses	(£169,121)	(£224,342)	(£9,880)	(£5,076)
	Net Movement for Unrestricted and Restricted fun	£94	-£64,665	-£9,880	£18,030

ii) APCM COVERING 2023: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Report of 2023 by Revd Capt. David Penny

After waiting for many months it was a real joy to finally be licensed in the parish of Winchcombe on February 27th 2023. Deborah, Ash and I were made to feel welcome from the outset, and the warmth of welcome helped us settle into the parish. Thank you.

During those first few months I focused on getting to know as much about the life of the parish as possible, alongside getting to know who everyone is. For a relatively small parish (numerically) I soon discovered that there was plenty going on in the church and wider community. Having seen and experienced the key aspects of the church's life I spent the summer reflecting and praying so that I could, with the help of the ministry team, parish leaders and PCC, draw together the seeds of a strategy for Growth, Mission and Ministry in the parish. I'll come back to this at the end of this report as I look forward to 2024.

As much as there is a lot going on in the parish we are very fortunate to have such a good team of Readers and active retired Clergy. Like you, I feel very blessed to have such faithful and gifted ministers in the Gospel supporting the life of the church. As well as leading worship in the parish (and wider team) they each have their specific ministries, often lived in unseen ways behind the scenes, and are invaluable to us. I would therefore like to take this opportunity, on behalf of us all, to say a huge thank you to all of them, who, in their unique ways, bless us in so many ways; and from a personal perspective to also thank them for their support and encouragement this past year.

Getting embedded into the life of 4 churches has not always been straight forward. After the first round of rotas I realised that I needed to be careful to ensure that I spent as much time in each church as I could, and that getting to know Gretton and Stanley Pontlarge would require a more intentional approach. St. Mary's too is a completely different kettle of fish. Saying the Daily Office at least once per week in all churches (except St. Mary's), has been a good discipline; not only because it is right to pray in each church every week, but it has also given a better focus to my thoughts and prayers as I discern what God is inviting us to join in with in each community. We reintroduced a communion service at St. Michaels so that we were back to the pre-pandemic practices of BCP Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. We haven't reintroduced or started anything at Christ Church yet, but I hope in 2024 we can step out in faith with additional appropriate ministry.

Work with young people was noted as a priority for the parish in the parish profile, and so I have spent some time on this in my first year. The parish has already got good connections with Winchcombe Abbey CofE Primary School and Gretton Primary School, and with Steve, Mike, Michael and Wendy we continue to strengthen those links. I have been working with Winchcombe Abbey to enhance the services held in church, and 2024 will see further developments as the children are supported in designing and leading worship. Both nursery provisions in the parish have been open to links being formed too. Mini VIPs have had visits from us into their setting at key moments of the year, and they have visited church too. The Winchcombe PATA Preschool held their Nativity in church this year, which was appreciated by staff and parents alike. Alongside of the external work with children, our own Toddler Time continues to do fantastic work every Thursday. Our thanks to the team who work hard week by week providing a much valued space for children and their parents (and/or grandparents). The soon to be appointed (God willing), Children and Families Lead will have a good base to work from thanks to this invaluable ministry.

In terms of worship there have been a few minor changes this year: re-introduction of a 2nd service each month at St. Michael's, updated service books at St. Peter's and Christ Church, and some minor experimentation at occasional services. We are of course well served by the musicians of the parish:

joint Directors of Music Andrew Horton and Shelley Everall-Hoban; Organists Mark Watson, Duncan Westerman and Stewart Aylward, our talented choir, and music group under the direction of Rob Davies. Our thanks to them for all they do week by week to support and lead the worship of our churches. Mark's departure to Dorset left a musical gap at St. Michael's and Christ Church, but thanks to Duncan for stepping back into his historic role, and digital music at Christ Church, we have been able to plug the gap.

2024 will focus on the continued implementation of the strategic plan, particularly the Pioneer and Children and families strands. I am sure that under God, and with your prayers and support, we can continue the good work of this parish, making the love of God known as we grow the family of God.

David.

iii) APCM COVERING 2023: CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

As at the time of our 2024 APCM Revd David will have been in post for his first year, so 2023 has been dominated by his arrival and settling in, and the exploration and initial development of the strands of Parish work as envisaged in our Parish Profile and now articulated in the Parish strategy. We heartily welcome David, Deborah and Ash into our community.

The number and geographical spread of services with associated musical support within the Parish has been expanded with the active support of our retired clergy, Readers and Directors of Music; our thanks to them all. We also welcome new members to the Ministry team whilst allowing others to step back after so busy a time during the Vacancy; we remain very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such pro-active people. We achieved full and well attended Easter, Advent and Christmas service schedules in the Parish as well as a performance of the Duruflé Requiem for All Souls, with the strong support of a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Our bells are still ringing but it is clear that new recruits are still needed.

Consistent attendance at services does appear to be generally moving in a positive direction in St Peter's, healthy and stable in St Michael's but needing some attention in Christ Church. St Mary's continues to have a loyal cohort for its Summer afternoon services with the added benefit of reinforcement from the transitory visitors to Sudeley Castle.

The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through the Winchcombe Community Network though this has lost some of its earlier vigour. However, through the medium of St Peter's Centre, we continue to be able to offer a "Warm Space" for the town's youngsters in conjunction with WAM whilst also being the venue for the WAM organised Youth Council.

The Parish was actively involved in the provision of volunteers to support other groups (toy and clothes banks) and in the ramping up of food bank support. These pastoral areas have also been supported through continued proactive pastoral care.

As was intended, the work to recruit a Families' and Children's Lead has progressed and we trust to see some fruition possibly in the second half of 2024.

Socially, we have been as active as ever with a number of fundraising activities; some tried and tested, but some new ideas. In particular, we would highlight the tremendous choral concert in June, the ever-popular book fair – and our thanks to Jo Rees for all her work over the years on this and wider book sales as she hands over to Kate Robinson – and the enormously successful first Christmas Tree Festival organised by Abbie Shurmer.

The weekly Parish "Signpost" bulletins as well as access to the PCC's meeting Minutes available on the Parish website have, we trust, continued to keep Parishioners up to date with wider goings on. We understand that effective information flow plays an important part in maintaining the cohesion of our community. Regarding this, our thanks to Deborah Penny for taking the social media bull by the horns to upgrade our profile in the town.

Other major achievements or events include:

- The attainment of the A Rocha silver award as a result of the direct action and overall coordination by the EcoChurch group and wider in the Parish. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their work whether it be Christ Church's and St Peter's insect hotels and wildflower areas, swift nests in Christ Church and St Peter's or the general willingness to maintain our churches by the groups who support our churches' maintenance days. EcoChurch are focussing on attaining the Gold level award whilst maintaining their achievements so far.
- Toddler Time, which continues to be well supported and our thanks to Gill Worthington and Anne Hand who head up the team.
- Our thanks to the Pastoral Team who continue their work keeping in touch with those who are unable to attend church both by telephone and by regular visits.
- The decision to create an integrated project team for St Peter's to expand on earlier work to review and make recommendations on heating, lighting, seating and audio-visual support, together with the creation of an independent multi-functional area within the church space.

Much practical work has been achieved and below is a summary of some of the projects that have been taken forward. Our thanks to the work of Geof Adlington, Rob Davies and Deputy Churchwardens for their involvement in work in addressing many of these issues, and the Friends of St Peter's and St Michael's for their respective financial support.

- Parish Wide;
 - All woodwork on external doors and gates stripped and revarnished.
 - Initiation of Parish textiles review and subsequent repair.
- St Peter's, Winchcombe:
 - Major organ refurbishment completed.
 - Five yearly electrical deep inspection and fixes.
 - Swift nest boxes sited on tower.
 - Bells inspection and resetting.
 - Font cover refurbishment.
 - Repointing of Nave and aisle lead roofs interface with stonework.
 - Gloucester St front churchyard wall (West end) refurbished.
- Christ Church, Gretton:
 - Removal of dead and replanting of Rowan trees.
 - Repainting of wall crack repairs in Nave and Chancel.
- St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge:
 - Seeking of grant funding for the refurbishment/replacement of the North facing Nave roof.

- Refurbishment of churchyard gate.
- St Peter's Centre:
 - Double glazing of office space for heat retention.

Penultimately, whilst we inevitably will not have thanked everyone who deserves it, the continued voluntary contributions by the PCC, choir, bellringers, stewards, welcomers, sacristans, vergers, holy dusters, coffee makers, etc, etc are not taken for granted. Thank you to all our volunteers but we remain ready to accept new names to fill more gaps.

Finally, and deliberately left until last, we recognise the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Parish's Book of Remembrance was suitably filled with moving sentiments to our beloved late Sovereign. May She rest in peace and God Save the King.

Simon Andrews

Judith Skinner

Churchwardens, Winchcombe Parish

St Peter's

St Peter's continues to be a favoured venue for wider community events, in particular with the Arts and Music festival over the Summer and with the Children's Society. Our visitor numbers continue to grow post-Covid and are estimated to be some 8-9,000 per year though without full Steward coverage, this can only be an estimate. In addition to those areas identified above, St Peter's has required a number of minor works to fix handles, repair plumbing and the like. However, the building and churchyard are fundamentally in good order though 'chilly' in the colder months.

Simon Andrews

St Mary's

All of the planned six Evening Prayers were held with attendance ranging from 3 to 20. Work continued between Sudeley Castle, the Church Commissioners and our PCC regarding the potential transfer of ownership of St Mary's to the Castle. The process has reached the stage where Diocesan and Church Commissioners overseen stakeholder consultation has been completed in late 2023 and an expectation of handover in early 2024. Whilst we received some £940 via the Alms Box, this in no way covers insurance, let alone annual maintenance costs.

Simon Andrews

Christ Church

Services at Christ Church continue to be held on 2nd and 4th Sundays, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship. Following the service on the second Sunday, instead of having refreshments in the church, we go down to the Village Hall, where the Gretton Hub is held, to join in for refreshments and social time with other residents of the village. Refreshments and social time are held in the church following the fourth Sunday service. Morning Prayer is held as a short informal service on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am.

Our Mini Team continues to meet every two months; thanks go to Judith Skinner and Charlie Bagnall who attend when they are able. We now have a new member of the team, Fiona Williams, who moved into the village fairly recently.

On March 12 the new incumbent in the Parish, Rev. Capt. David Penny, held his first service in Christ Church. Following this refreshments were enjoyed at the Hub.

On Coronation weekend, on May 7, the churchyard was decorated with bunting, and a Service of Celebration of the Coronation of our new King was held, with David Penny and Mike Holloway officiating.

In May our sound system was updated by Rob Davies to take MP3, to allow recorded organ accompaniment to be played through a speaker in the absence of an organist. Many thanks to Rob for

doing this, and also to Stewart Aylward, who plays for us on second Sundays. We are still in the process of seeking an organist – or pianist – to play for us on fourth Sundays.

In June we set up a stall at St Peter's Fête, with a departure from our usual Ladies' Accessories – this time we sold jigsaw puzzles and games.

On November 26 we held our Patronal Festival with a Choral Evensong.

December was quite busy – on the 9th Octavo held a Christmas Concert for us, singing to a packed church, which raised funds of £550. On 21st December Gretton School held their Carol Service; and on the 23rd the Crib Service was held in the afternoon. On Christmas Eve we were to hold Carols in the Churchyard, as we have done for the past couple of years. Because of the inclement weather the service was moved into the church; it was lovely to see a full church with standing room only – plus a couple of dogs!

Susan Fleck
Deputy Churchwarden

St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge

At the start of the year, we continued to hold Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

We welcomed the Reverend David to our church for our March service and again for our Easter Day service in April. As well as the traditional hot cross buns after our Easter service, Evie Williams made cakes and held a cake sale to raise money for families in Turkey affected by the earthquakes there. She raised an amazing £80.

In June we said goodbye to Lizzy Watson, who had been our PCC representative, and Mark Thompson, our organist, and thanked them for all they had done for the church. We wished them well in their new venture.

From July, we returned to two services a month, first and third Sundays, initially as a three month trial. This has been continued. We held our traditional Evensong in the middle of July, with the choir from St Peters singing for us. Afterwards we had afternoon tea and Pimms in the churchyard.

Our Harvest Festival took place in October. We decorated the church with flowers and produce from our gardens and vegetable patches, and held a collection for food and other items for the local foodbank. We had drinks and nibbles in the churchyard following the service.

In December we held our Carols around the Crib service by candlelight. We decorated the church with foraged greenery and candles. As well as the traditional biblical readings, people chose poems and Christmas themed readings to read. The music to accompany the singing of carols was provided by Duncan Westerman, who now plays the organ for us once a month, Annie Williams sang a solo and we also had a solo played on the French horn by Evie Williams. The church was full and it was a wonderful evening. After the service we had mulled wine and refreshments in the churchyard, keeping warm around the brazier.

During the year, fundraising continued by Simon Andrews to raise money to re-roof the North Nave roof.

Gill Badger
Deputy Churchwarden

iv) DIOCESAN AND DEANERY REPORTS FOR APCM

Diocesan Synod had quite an active year but little can be seen to be happening locally at our parish level. It is encouraging to see that mission fields like Spotify and Fresh Expressions are seeing results in other deaneries. This year has seen major developments in the areas of the provision of blessings for same sex/gay couples relationships, the appointment of additional youth work leaders, the appointment of cross diocese advisors to give expert help in building planned giving in parishes, facilitating eco church developments, and improving energy conservation in church housing and schools. Considerable work has been done on the new Parish Share calculation model. Now that our Deanery is beginning to function more effectively, we can expect to see some of these initiatives being rolled out in our Deanery. Information about the new Parish Share scheme will be rolled out to our Deanery and thence to our Parish in 2024.

In Deanery Synod the first order of business for the year was the settling in of our 3 new vicars, namely David Penny (Winchcombe), Tom Powell (Bishops Cleeve), and Nick Davis (Tewkesbury). Their first priority was of necessity the adoption and implementation of the Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP) that had been developed by Stephen Walker (then Area Dean for T&W Deanery) ably assisted by Julia Hook (acting Area Dean after Stephen stood down) and Rob Stone (Deanery Lay Chair). The T&W DSP was approved by our Deanery Synod on 12th Sept 2023. It will be taken forward by David Penny as Area Dean with Nick Davis, Tim Powell, and Julia Hook assisting as mission area coordinators.

In November the Deanery came together to discuss Parish Share proposals/needs as advised by The Diocese Finance Committee. In 2023 the shortfall of Parish Share to cover the cost of clergy rose to £2.6 million. Consequently the Diocese asked Deaneries to seek increases to Parish Share giving by a modest 2% above inflation (~7%) Generally our Deanery responded well to this request and Winchcombe Parish agreed to this. However overall the decision by Tewkesbury Abbey and one other smaller Parish to temporarily halve their Parish Contributions meant that as a Deanery we could not support the Diocese as they would have liked.

Geof Adlington

v) LICENSED LAY MINISTERS/READERS REPORT TO THE APCM

The emergence from Covid restrictions and the installation of David as Rector have produced a new vigour and joy in the activities of the four Licensed Lay Readers in the Parish. Our fortnightly meetings with the ministry team involve the inevitable mundane activity (keeping up with the rotas) but are greatly enhanced by interesting discussions and spiritual development.

The Readers have been more visible in St Peter's on Sunday mornings than has been the case in the last few years; both deaconing and preaching, and we are very grateful to David for giving us this opportunity. We hope that the congregation finds what we say interesting, moving, thought provoking and inspiring to seek to find out and do God's will. We always welcome any feedback to help us improve, so please do let us have your comments and suggestions! In addition to morning services, you'll often find us leading evening worship in a variety of styles on Sundays at St Peter's.

We are active in the other churches of the parish, conducting Sunday services at Christ Church, Gretton, St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge and St Mary's, Sudeley. We also support Julia and John in the parishes North of Winchcombe and have conducted services in Great Washbourne, Snowhill and Wormington – especially at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday.

In other areas of ministry, Steve Carter is working with a small team to set up 'Awesome,' an exciting new outreach initiative due to launch on Saturday 30th March; Cliff Cocks and Fliss Hall are leading Lent

groups; Chris Haslam engages the Winchcombe Poets and is a stalwart of the Magazine Committee. We all, in various informal ways, try to be involved in pastoral care whenever and wherever we're needed.

vi) NOTES FOR APCM RE SAFEGUARDING

The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC also has a Parish Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually.

Our Commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

1. DBS

Gill Worthington, in her role as DBS Administrator, continues to do an excellent job ensuring that those who work with children or adults at risk and any others in roles eligible for DBS clearances apply for and have their DBS clearances approved and renewed as required. This includes all members of the PCC as Trustees of a charity that provides services for children or adults at risk. DBS clearances must now be renewed or updated every three years.

2. Safer Recruitment

All those working for the church in activities involving children or vulnerable adults, whether the role is paid or voluntary, must be recruited using the Safer Recruitment process. If you are recruiting in these areas, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer for further information.

3. Parish Dashboard

We continue to use the Parish Dashboard, which is an online Safeguarding Tool provided by the Church of England. The Dashboard acts as an audit of safeguarding for the Parish and produces an action plan which can be presented to the PCC.

4. Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training is a requirement for all paid employees and any officers of the church. Safeguarding training courses are available online via the C of E training portal. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, in conjunction with the Priest in Charge and the PCC, will contact those whose roles require training to explain what is needed. Training should be renewed every three years. Some ‘in person’ training sessions were held during 2023 for those who prefer not to use the online portal. Further ‘in person’ sessions will be held in 2024.

vii) PASTORAL TEAM REPORT APCM 2024

Thanks must go to our Pastoral Team, Lesley Davies, Jill and Roger Hargreaves, Shelley Hoban, Gaye Kimber and Margaret Lloyd, who have continued to contact and visit those in the parish who are at a particular point of need or who may feel lonely and isolated.

I am happy to report that more than thirty parishioners were either telephoned or visited on a regular basis during the year.

The offer of Home Communion and or a Pastoral visit has worked well and been accepted by several home bound parishioners meaning that on average they see someone from the church twice a month. Early in the Spring of 2023 Revd David took over as chair of the monthly meetings of the Pastoral Team and the Home Communion Team.

Judith Skinner

Co-ordinator Pastoral Team

viii) MUSIC REPORT TO THE APCM

After the disruption caused by covid in recent years it was good to return to some normality in 2023, although the virus still infected some members of the choir and both directors of music at different times.

In February we welcomed David Penny as our priest in charge together with his wife, Deborah. David chose some interesting music for his licensing service including an organ piece composed for his ordination by a friend. In May, as the country celebrated the coronation of King Charles III, we marked the occasion with music composed for the Royal Family, and of course the National Anthem, this time as arranged by Gordon Jacob.

The choir concert in June was very successful and included a variety of church music and lighter fayre from The Sound of Music and West Side Story. By contrast, in November, the choir sang Durufle's Requiem as a major contribution to the All Souls' service. During the year we continued to support the regular services at St Peter's, and also two of the summer Evensongs at St Mary's, Sudeley, the summer Choral Evensong at St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge, and the patronal festival at Christ Church, Gretton.

Advent and Christmas services followed soon after All Souls'. Unluckily Shelley contracted covid just before the Carol Service and was unable to take part, but the choir was well prepared and we were able to continue with only minor changes to the planned music scheme for that and the Midnight and Christmas morning services.

I am most grateful to all the members of the choir for their hard work during the year, to those friends who joined us for special services, to Shelley, my co-director of music, and to John Ursell from Cheltenham who has played the organ for me when I have been away. We look forward to working with David in 2024 as he develops his plans for worship in St Peter's.

Andrew Horton and Shelley Everall

Joint Directors of Music

ix) ST PETERS FLOWER ARRANGERS – REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING 2024

The group have continued to provide an arrangement next to the altar each week, except in Advent and Lent. Extended decorations for Christmas, Easter and Harvest have been appreciated by the congregation and the Group is grateful for all the compliments received. We plan to continue this pattern for the coming year.

We have continued to work without using floral foam (Oasis). Large pedestal arrangements remain problematic, but we are getting to grips with new methods of arranging using chicken wire and other props. We have also begun searching for deeper containers and vases which are more suitable for this type of arrangement. We are looking for plain pottery and stoneware as these seem to be in keeping with the church interior.

Oasis is very damaging to the environment as it breaks down into microplastic particles. Its use is banned by many churches and cathedrals, including Gloucester, and the RHS. We continue to investigate alternative foams, but none seem to work as well, and many are almost as eco-unfriendly as Oasis. We continue to investigate the possibility of sourcing our flowers locally or from this country and using potted plants and more informal arrangements of local foliage, berries, and fruits.

We remain unable to provide additional flowers for weddings. Couples are welcome to put additional arrangements in church or bring in a florist, but we ask that they do not move or remove the altar arrangement. We do request that outside florists do not use floral foam, but this is rarely adhered to.

We are a small group, and more members would be most welcome. You do not have to be an expert (some of us are certainly not) just enthusiastic and willing to have a go. Advice and encouragement are always on hand and the commitment is not onerous. Talk to either of us if you are interested.

Margaret Bearne and Margaret Holloway

x) REPORT TO THE APCM FROM THE BELLRINGERS

In spite of the fact that we are still very short of ringers, we are managing to maintain a presence on Sunday mornings, and to practice on Wednesday evenings.

We lost one of our ringers last year, but we have a new recruit who is now up to ringing on a Sunday. We are also training up two other people in the hope that they will join us eventually.

We rang for 5 weddings last year and, so far, there are 4 in the pipe line for 2024.

We also rang for the Coronation of King Charles III in May, along with the majority of other Churches in the land.

Following on from advice, we have applied for grants to help us with various maintenance issues that need addressing. Some of these issues stem from the augmentation to 8 bells in 1997, so we have contacted the original bell hangers to rectify them.

Unfortunately, it would appear that having special recruitment sessions does not produce the volume of learners that we require. While it seems that it is a good PR exercise, the best way to recruit seems to be by word of mouth. Please publicise this, as we still need more ringers!

Edward Kain, as usual, is seeing to it that the bells are in good repair, and will oversee the work that is to be done in 2024.

Clare Pritchard
Captain of Bellringers

xi) ECO CHURCH GROUP

In 2023 we were very pleased to receive the A Rocha silver award which was celebrated at a service on July 9th and we continue our work aiming for gold.

Since installing the new curtain near the altar and the old curtain to stop draughts from the door from the porch room, we have been working on plans for improvements in the NE corner of the churchyard (Kenelm's Corner) and more tree planting. To this end a grant, which has now been granted, and Faculty were applied for. The intention is to improve this corner and put in a gabion seat, using some of the broken stone from the churchyard.

Elsewhere more bluebells were planted and the snowdrops encouraged to spread. We had some plants for sale in the church porch and a stall at the Fete to both raise funds and the profile of the group. We have continued to encourage eco changes within the flower arranging team by no longer using oasis and the cleaning group to use eco-friendly products as well as the community as a whole with regularly changing displays on our notice board.

Natalie Stone

xii) STEWARD'S REPORT

My grateful thanks to Lynn Gorman for all that she did over the past many years to lead the Stewards' Team, and from whom I took over the role towards the end of 2023. We have a loyal team of stewards on the weekly rota, albeit not everyone can commit to a regular stint.

Since the easing of Covid restrictions, people have returned from across the world, with most coming from the UK. The majority of overseas visitors are from Europe, with a substantial number also visiting from the USA and Australia and New Zealand, and also an occasional visitor from more remote places – Honolulu for example.

New volunteers to join the team would be very welcome. Stewarding is an important part of St Peter's ministry and outreach, and many comments in the Visitors' Book reflect how grateful people are to find an open church with a warm and friendly welcome.

Katy Bagnall
Steward Co-ordinator

xiii) TODDLER TIME AT ST PETER'S

At 10 a.m. each Thursday, to the cheerful sound of tiny voices, 10-12 children under school age arrive with mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers. Toddler Time at St. Peter's continues throughout the year, including the school holidays. Grateful Grandparents have told us that the sessions are a lifeline during the long summer holidays.

On offer for the children, are play, crafts, Bible Stories and music, together with personal interaction for both adults and children, leading to friendships outside Toddler Time.

Healthy snacks, including fruit, are served to the children, whilst adults enjoy cafetiere coffee, tea and "mummy" biscuits.

We are indeed grateful to the loyal band of 9 helpers who serve on a rota, with 3 helpers on duty each week.

If you have very young children, are grandparents who regularly care for children on Thursdays, do join our friendly and supportive group, in the calm and peaceful space that is St. Peter's, and which we all enjoy. We are also grateful for the support we receive from Clergy and Readers.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Gill Worthington and the Toddler Time Team.

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINCHCOMBE

WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year January – December 2022

**presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 21 May 2023

WINCHCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT January - December 2022

1. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets to share with the Priest-in-charge in deciding, and in implementing, parish policy. It is legally responsible for the church buildings & furnishings and for parish property. The PCC is a charity, and registered with the Charity Commission during 2009.

The members of the PCC are (as of 21 March 2023):

CLERGY (EX OFFICIO)

Rev'd Capt. David Penny CA – Chair (2023)

CHURCHWARDENS (EX OFFICIO)

Simon Andrews (2018) (Lay Chair 2019, Churchwarden 2020)

Judith Skinner (2020) (Churchwarden 2021)

ELECTED PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

ST PETER'S, WINCHCOMBE

Abbie Andrews (2019)

Felicity King (2020)

Cathy Wilcock (2020)

Elizabeth Atkinson (2021)

Sue Crownshaw (2022)

Charles Bagnall (2022)

Geof Adlington (2018)

Rob Stone (2018)

4 x vacancies

CHRIST CHURCH, GRETTON

Susan Fleck (2017) (Deputy Churchwarden 2019)

ST MICHAEL'S, STANLEY PONTLARGE

Lizzy Watson (2021)

ST MARY'S, SUDELEY

Simon Andrews (2018) (Deputy Churchwarden 2022)

Rosemary Hancock (2018) (Asst Deputy Churchwarden 2021)

DEANERY SYNOD (EX OFFICIO – ELECTED EVERY 3 YEARS)

Co-opted Members

Geof Adlington (*Treasurer*) 2022

Lizzy Watson (*Secretary*) 2022

Geof Adlington (2018) – Treasurer

Rob Stone (2018) – Deanery Lay Chair (2023)

2 x vacancies

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Geof Adlington

Rob Stone

CO-OPTED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (F&GP)

Treasurer

PCC CO-OPTED TO FOSP

Rob Stone (2018)

Simon Andrews (2023)

METHODIST OBSERVERS (NON-VOTING)

Trevor Upton

THE LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM 2022

Revd Mike Holloway

Revd Michael Hand

Steve Carter

Cliff Cocks

Felicity Hall

Chris Haslam

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street,

Winchcombe, GL54 5LU

Telephone: 01242 602067

spc@winchcombeparish.org.uk

www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

CHARITY NUMBER: 1138071

FINANCIAL ADDRESSES

PCC'S BANKERS

Lloyds, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham
(from 2023, The Cooperative Bank)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Jennifer Soltau, F.C.C.A.

Cotswold House, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LX

WINCHCOMBE PARISH
With Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and Sudeley Manor
Sunday 21 May 2023 at 11.30 – St Peter’s Church, Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Minutes of the AMP held on Sunday 29th May 2022

b) Election of churchwardens

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 29th May 2022

b) Matters arising from the Minutes

c) Review of progress and achievements

d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:

i. Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report

ii. Priest-in-Charge’s Report 2022

iii. Churchwardens’ Report including notes from the Deputy Churchwardens

iv. Report from the Deanery Synod

v. Notes on Safeguarding

vi. Pastoral Care report

vii. Music report

viii. St Peter’s Flower Arrangers’ report

ix. Report from the Bellringers

e) Stewards’ report

f) Questions and discussion on reports

g) General questions and discussion

5. ELECTIONS

a) PCC Members

6. ELECTORAL ROLL

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8. CLOSING PRAYER

Parish of Winchcombe

**Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on
Sunday 29th of May 2022, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe**

Present: (PCC Members and officers, Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner (Churchwardens), Geof Adlington (Treasurer), Lizzy Watson (Secretary), Rob Stone, Rob Davies, Sue Fleck, Felicity King, Rosemary Hancock, Cathryn Wilcock together with approximately 50 others on the electoral roll – either in person or via on-line.

1. **Welcome and Prayers:** Simon Andrews welcomed those present and said how wonderful it was to be gathered here. The Reverend Mike Holloway opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Anne & Michael Hand, Abbie Shurmer, Stewart and Rosemary Aylward, Lynne Banks, Elizabeth Atkinson, Sue Crownshaw, Lynn and Martin Gorman, Charlie & Katy Bagnall, Jeanie McGowan.
3. **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** for those on the Electoral Role and those resident in the Parish – ie the whole community.
 - a) **Minutes of the AMP held on 16th May 2021**

The minutes were made available prior to the meeting – in hard copy or by email.
The minutes were approved.
There were no matters arising.
 - b) **Election of two Churchwardens**

The meeting was asked to elect the Churchwardens for the coming year. The current Churchwardens agreed to stand for re-election and a vote was carried unanimously. Therefore, Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner will continue to stand as Churchwardens and the meeting expressed their support and thanks for their work.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

LWatson
PCC Secretary
May 2022

Approved:

Date:

b) Election of churchwardens

4) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 21st May 2022

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. They are reported here as follows:

a) **Minutes of the APCM held on 16th May 2021**

The minutes were adopted as accurate.

b) **Matters Arising: nil**

c) **Review of progress & achievements:** *The main point of discussion was the Vacancy for a new Priest-in-Charge. Simon Andrews expressed his and the PCC's thanks to the Profile Team who wrote a strong and effective Parish Profile, which had been very well received. The structure of the team that will review candidates and undertake interviews was reviewed, and the timetable was set out.*

d) **Annual Report of the PCC as tabled** – *Hard copies were available in the back of Church for three weeks before the meeting, and the report was available electronically.*

- i. **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** *The Treasurer, Geof Adlington gave a short summary of the financial situation. He explained: 2021 was another difficult year for our churches due to Covid-19 related restrictions. Church attendance was hit hard and initially had severe consequences for the churches' income. The restrictions on attendees at funerals and weddings initially moved funerals to crematoria and weddings to registry offices with a consequent negative on income from parochial fees for our churches. But money was saved on utility bills and fund raising was very positive too. The parish benefited from several generous legacies which have helped. Equities also performed well. Planned giving continues to be an area of concern and relates to the downturn in church attendance.*

Comments and questions:

Rob Stone expressed congratulations to Geof for managing the finances through hard times. He stressed the importance role that financial stability plays in allowing us to employ a full time Priest-in-Charge and how this cannot be taken for granted in current times.

Simon Andrews also expressed his thanks to Geof for all his hard work. He reminded the meeting that we are still looking for a new Treasurer. He also thanked Jennifer Soltau for her valuable work as Independent Examiner of Finances.

ii. **Churchwardens' Report:**

The Churchwardens' Report had also been circulated. Simon Andrews highlighted certain elements of his report: he thanked Judith Skinner for her work, especially in the area of pastoral activity and for the outgoing Margaret Batterbury and Pookie Shaw for their work in pastoral care and Covid related actions with the community. He noted that work is ongoing in the search for a Family and Child Worker. Teacher's House has been sold, and a sub-group of the PCC are meeting to confirm the allocation of funds that has resulted from this sale. Gill Worthington and the wider team were thanked for their work with Toddlers. The Bronze Award that had been achieved by the Eco-group was noted and commended and support was offered in their goal to secure a Silver Award next. Simon gave a brief outline of the progress of transfer of ownership of St Mary's. The Church fabric had been looked after well during the year and buildings are in good repair. The loss of some very valued community members was noted and lamented, notably Tom Hancock who made such a valuable contribution the Parish and the wider community, and the Revd Rachel Forrest, who contributed so much and who has now joined a new Parish in Longlevens. Simon Andrews also thanked the clergy and readers, who are working especially hard in the absence of a Priest-in-Charge. He also thanked the choir and the music team.

There were no questions.

e) **Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled:** *The other reports were noted and there were no questions.*

4. Elections:

- a. **Election of PCC Representatives:** *All current PCC members agreed to stay on to provide continuity during the Vacancy period and potential early months of any newly selected priest-in-charge, and were re-appointed for the coming year. The exception was Rob Davies who has decided to stand down,*

although he will continue to play valuable a role in organising events for the Church. Simon Andrews thanked Rob for his work on the PCC and for his willingness to continue his hard work. Two new PCC Representatives were elected: Sue Crownshaw and Charles Bagnall.

6. Electoral Roll: *Jennifer Soltau explained that there are now 221 people on the roll. She asked that if anyone knows of people who have moved or deceased to inform Mark Mulley in the office. Simon Andrews thanked Jennifer for all the work she does on this issue.*

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner: *Jennifer Soltau offered to continue in this role. The meeting gratefully agreed.*

8. Forthcoming Events:

Book Fair: 13 June – 2 July; Choir concert: 24th June; Fete: 2 July 2022; PCC meeting: 18th July 2022 *(Please note minutes of all PCC meetings can be found on the Church website); Music & Arts Festival in St Peter's: 17 Sep; Son-et-Lumière: 4 November 2022, Christmas Fair: 10 December, Curry Night: Jan/Feb 2023, Progressive Supper Party: Spring 2023..*

AOB: *Simon Andrews reminded those present that volunteers are always sought to support the Parish's activities.*

9. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed at 12.35 with the Reverend Mike Holloway singing the Grace.

L Watson, PCC Secretary

May 2022

b) Matters Arising from the Minutes

c) Review of Progress and Achievements

d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:

i. Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report

PCC Finance report for 2022

Thank you to Geof Adlington

During the 2022, after six years' exemplary service, Geof Adlington gave up the role of Church Treasurer. I would like to put on record my thanks for all the work he has done, and especially for his patience and thoroughness during the handover.

End of Year Results

Income and Expenditure

Our overall deficit for the year was £65,000 against a budget of £45,000. A significant component of that deficit was a fall in **planned giving** and the associated gift aid recoverable, which is over £10k down on 2021. The other main factor was the value of our **investments**. 2022 was not a good year in the markets generally, and our CCLA investments lost approximately £25,000. We should consider deferring major expenditure until they have recovered.

We also had the major repairs to **Stanley Pontlarge roof** and the **St Peter's organ** totalling over £60,000 excluding the VAT we were able to successfully re-claim. **Energy costs** were very much on the agenda last year. We are protected for a while from energy cost increases by a fixed term contract, but heating is clearly a concern for the future, so the work of the group addressing this remains a priority. **Administration** expenses were also up because several factors including changing of supplier contracts.

Balance Sheet

The most significant transaction of the year was the disposal of **Teacher's House** in May 2022, which was sold for £310,000, representing an investment gain of some £32,000 after costs. Most of the proceeds were invested in CCLA equity portfolios in line with standard practice. However, we did need to call on some of the proceeds to cover our cash flow while completing the Stanley Pontlarge Roof restoration, and as stated above, these investments lost value during the year. While major repair costs during 2022 were covered by grant fundraising in 2021, our **restricted funds** were depleted by some £10,000. **Designated** funds were up overall because of an allocation from the Teacher's House sale to the Pioneer Minister fund.

2023 Budget

The main point on our 2023 budget is that it appears at first glance to show an £11K surplus. However, this includes a legacy we are due to receive from the estate of Frances Holgate for £15,000. Taking this unbudgeted item out, there is **a planned deficit of over £3,000**. This would be higher but for our proposal to the Diocese re Parish Share that we reduce our commitment to reflect that fact that the curate's house is no longer in use. This means our parish share this year is down £3000 to just over £80,000. This is still £18,000 more than our budgeted income from planned giving, so we will need to maximise income from all sources to meet the target.

Charlie Bagnall, PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Winchcombe with Gretton, Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

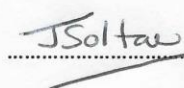
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedure undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met, or;
2. Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

 (dated) 10/5/23

Jennifer Soltau FCCA

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December
2022

31 December 2021		Total	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds (note 2)	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Properties	Notes
£		£	£	£	£	£	
	Fixed Assets						
271,440	Teacher's House (at cost)	-	-	-	-	-	
57,000	St Peter's Centre (at cost)	57,000	-	-	-	57,000	
328,440		57,000	-	-	-	57,000	
115,854	Investment Assets (stated at 31 Dec 2022 value)	330,024	286,725	43,299	-	-	
	Current Assets						
55,842	Bank balances	45,276	10,938	24,787	9,551	-	
445	Cash balance	205	205	-	-	-	
56,287		45,481	11,143	24,787	9,551	-	
	Current liabilities						
56,287	Net current assets	45,481	11,143	24,787	9,551	-	
£500,581	Net Assets	£432,505	£297,868	£68,086	£9,551	£57,000	
	Represented by:						
475,583	Reserves brought forward at 1 January 2022	500,581	93,652	59,058	19,431	328,440	
15,314	Net excess of receipts over payments on unrestricted funds	(64,665)	(64,665)		-	-	
1,000	Receipts and allocations to designated funds made during the year	-	(8,254)	8,254	-	-	Note 2
	Adjustment for Sale of Property	(271,440)				(271,440)	Note 5
10,273	Adjustment for change in investment values over the year	277,909	277,909	-	-		Note 6
(1,590)	Adjustment for restricted funds used during the year	(9,880)	-		(9,880)	-	Note 1
£500,581		£432,505	£298,642	£67,312	£9,551	£57,000	

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Summary Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds
	2022	2021	2022
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts:			
Planned giving	61,818	64,734	-
Collections at services	6,267	4,157	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	7,661	7,562	-
Legacies received	700	12,701	-
Gift Aid recovered	14,565	18,353	-
Special Appeals and Grants	19,843	31,068	-
Activities for generating funds	7,467	8,179	-
Investment Income	7,486	3,033	-
Church Activities	11,906	6,873	-
Other income	21,964	19,636	-
Total receipts	159,678	176,297	-
Expenses			
Church Activities:			
Parish share	(83,640)	(78,900)	-
Clergy and Staffing costs	(21,369)	(10,526)	-
Church running expenses	(93,776)	(54,478)	(9,880)
Mission giving and donations	(2,450)	(2,830)	-
Costs of trading	(4,775)	(4,734)	-
Third party costs relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals		-	-
Administration Costs	(5,881)	(4,478)	-
Cost of generating funds	(476)	(509)	-
Other costs	(11,976)	(4,548)	-
Total payments	(£224,342)	(£161,003)	(£9,880)
Movement in this year's balances after allocati	(£64,665)	£15,294	(£9,880)

A more detailed analysis of the receipts and payments can be found in notes 3 and 4 to the accounts

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2022

Note 1 - Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts during year	Payments during year	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Chime Machine	5,696	-	-	5,696
Bells	6	-	-	6
St Peter's Organ	9,880	-	(9,880)	-
Fresh Expressions	723	-	-	723
Christ Church, Gretton	-	-	-	-
St Peter's, Winchcombe	-	-	-	-
Vicar and Churchwardens	3,126	-	-	3,126
	<u>£19,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(£9,880)</u>	<u>£9,551</u>

Note 2 - Analysis of Designated Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts during year	Allocations used during year	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Christ Church, Gretton - general	803	503	-	1,306
St Peter's Church - flower fund	-	375	(252)	123
St Peter's Church - organ fund	18,458	200	(5,502)	13,156
St Peter's Church -bell fund	1,084	-	(269)	815
Stanley Pontlarge - general	27,714	12,943	(32,975)	7,682
Pioneer Minister Reserve	11,000	32,299	-	43,299
IT&Video Project for St Peter's	(1)	1,000	(68)	932
	<u>£59,058</u>	<u>£47,320</u>	<u>(£39,066)</u>	<u>£67,312</u>

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Note 3 - Detailed Analysis of Receipts

Code	Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds
		2022	2021	
		£	£	£
1	Total planned giving	61,818	64,734	-
3	Other collections at services	6,267	4,157	-
4	Other Giving & Donations - Recurring	100	-	-
5	Other Giving & Donations - Non-Recurring	7,661		-
8	Legacies received	700	7,562	-
7	All tax recovered through Gift Aid	14,565	12,701	-
6	Special Appeals	1,080	18,353	-
9			3,068	-
10	Non-Recurring Grants	18,663		-
11	Fund Raising Events	7,467	28,000	-
15	Bookstall, Magazine etc	5,596	8,179	-
12	Dividends & Interest	7,486	6,384	-
14	Total Parochial Fees Income	11,906	3,033	-
13	Income from Properties	600	6,873	-
16	Hall Lettings	255	8,310	-
17	Income from other Church Activities	151	135	-
18	Insurance Claims	-	20	-
19	Reimbursement of costs by other Parishes	-	-	-
20	Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-
21	Service Fee Reimbursement by DBF	5,400	-	-
22	Income from solar panels	9,961	-	-
22	Other income		4,788	-
		£159,678	£176,297	£0

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Note 4 - Detailed Analysis of Payments

Code	Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Fund for 2022
		2022	2021	
		£	£	£
32	Parish Share	(83,640)	(78,900)	-
33	Salaries & Wages	(14,171)	(8,016)	-
37	Local Mission and Evangelism Projects	(1,521)	(809)	-
38	Children/Youth Work costs	(354)	(552)	-
34, 35 & 36	Clergy and Other Expenses	(1,498)	(2,510)	-
39	Insurance costs	(12,748)	(11,473)	-
40	Cleaning costs	(552)	(991)	-
41	Minor Repairs/Routine Maintenance	(6,407)	(6,241)	-

43	Other Church Expenses/Provision of Services	(1,777)	(1,611)	-
44	Churchyard Maintenance	(1,333)	(1,418)	-
45	Flowers	(6)	(243)	-
46	Music costs	(2,383)	(8,175)	-
59	Major Repairs/Redecoration to Church Building	(51,995)	(12,856)	(9,880)
60	Major Repairs/Redecoration to other properties	(1,696)	(1,043)	-
47 & 48	Utilities (incl Heat, Light and Water)	(9,374)	(3,831)	-
31	Donations/Grants to Charities & Mission Giving	(2,450)	(2,830)	-
49	Costs of Trading	(4,775)	(4,734)	-
51	Parochial Fees Remittance to DBF	-	-	-
52	Parochial Fees Remitted to visiting Ministers	-	-	-
53	Parochial Fees Remitted to other 3rd party	-	-	-
54	Parochial Fees Remitted to other PCC	-	-	-
55	Service Fee Remittance to visiting Minister	(5,700)	-	-
56	Payment of costs to other Parishes	-	-	-
42	Administration costs	(5,881)	(4,478)	-
50	Governance Costs	-	-	-
30	Fund Raising Costs	(476)	(509)	-
57	Deanery Costs	(85)	-	-
58	Sundry Expenses	(11,890)	(4,548)	-
61	Alterations/Extensions to Church Building	(3,630)	(5,236)	-
	Total Expenses	(£224,342)	(£161,003)	(£9,880)

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Note 5: Sale of Teacher's House

	£	£
Sale Price		310,000
Miscellaneous credit		11
Less costs of Sale		
Estate Agents fee	3,720	
Service Charges	318	
Legal fees	2,234	
Total Costs		6,272
Net proceeds of sale to General Account (a)		303,738
Book value of Teachers House		271,440
Profit on Sale: Net proceeds less book value of property		£32,298

Note 6: Investments

Value brought forward 1st January 2022		115,854
Additional investments from proceeds of Teacher's House (b)	240,000	
Adjustment for change in market value	(£25,829)	
Net change in value		214,171
Balance carried forward		330,025
Adjustments to net change in Investments		
Receipts from Teacher's House not invested (a) - (b)		63,738
Total change in investments		277,909

APCM COVERING 2022: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Clearly, Revd David Penny was not present in the Parish during the Vacancy period this report covers. Therefore, whilst he will welcome us all and lead the APCM, there is no formal incumbent's input into this report and any points to be made have been included within the Churchwardens' report.

APCM COVERING 2022: CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

As noted earlier in this report, the Parish was in Vacancy in 2022 and so this Churchwardens' report includes some themes perhaps that a priest-in-charge might have mentioned.

The year has been dominated by the Vacancy. The maintenance of the number and geographical spread of services with associated musical support within the Parish was a key objective of the Churchwardens during the Vacancy which was largely achieved and it is with enormous thanks to our retired clergy, Readers and Directors of Music that service and music provision was maintained. We remain very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such a pro-active team. However, we were also supported by individuals from the wider Diocese, so allowing breaks to be achieved by our own Ministry team; thank you to them. We achieved full Easter, Advent and Christmas service schedules in the Parish as well as a performance of the Fauré Requiem for All Souls (a first for St Peter's), with the strong support of a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Our bells are still ringing but it is clear that new recruits are needed.

We also needed to find a candidate to end the Vacancy. After considerable work in producing an effective Parish Profile – and our repeated thanks to Elizabeth Atkinson, Lynne Banks, Rob Davies, Sarah Inman, Peter Methven and David Thomas for their careful and thorough research – in conjunction with the PCC, and particularly Abbie Shurmer and Judith Skinner for their final editing/formatting, we were able to interview three strong potential candidates and were delighted to offer the position to the Revd David Penny who, joined by Deborah and Ash, accepted and joined us in February 2023.

Whilst Covid appeared to be waning, its impacts were still felt in the reduced numbers of attendees at services, particularly reinforced by the occasional local spikes we suffered. The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through the Winchcombe Community Covid Action Group (WCCAG) although this group formally closed in mid-year. However, in its place was created the Winchcombe Community Network, a wide-spanning coordination group representing civic, medical, academic, business and volunteer groups aiming to identify issues in the town and collective responses to them. In the latter part of the year it was particularly concerned with the cost-of-living crisis with active programmes to identify and mitigate impacts upon the vulnerable. Our Parish was actively involved in the provision of volunteers to support other groups (toy and clothes banks), in the ramping up of food bank support, and the provision of

a warm space area in conjunction with WAM. These pastoral areas have also been supported through the continued proactive oversight of Judith Skinner through her pastoral care coordination.

We had hoped to have recruited a families' and children's worker. Sadly, no candidates came forward for interview so we were not able to progress this area to support efforts to grow our representation in these age groups. However, with the knowledge of the acceptance and arrival timeline of the new priest-in-charge, it was decided that any further interviewing should wait until our new incumbent was able to input.

Whilst our entertainments were limited as a Parish, we did achieve several significant money earners: the pudding evening, choir concert, fête, book fair and son-et-lumière. All got terrific support from the wider town and our thanks to those who led and supported them.

The weekly Parish "Signpost" bulletins as well as access to the PCC's meeting Minutes available on the Parish website have, we trust, continued to keep Parishioners up to date with wider goings on. We understand that effective information flow plays an important part in maintaining the cohesion of our community.

Other major achievements or events include:

- Continued working towards the A Rocha silver award as a result of the direct action and overall coordination by the EcoChurch group and wider in the Parish. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their work whether it be Christ Church's and St Peter's insect hotels and wildflower areas, swifts nests in Christ Church and St Peter's or the general willingness to maintain our churches by the groups who support our churches' maintenance days.
- Toddler Time continues to be well supported and our thanks to Gill Worthington and Anne Hand who head up the team. Messy Church, remains an ambition to restart in 2023.
- The selling of Teacher's House. The capital accrued will be a source of not only future funding via interest, but a considerable element has been set aside specifically for the employment of a families and children worker.
- Initiation of two longer term projects in St Peter's to: review and recommend how we heat the people, not the building; and to review and recommend future IT and audio-visual support.

Regardless of the day to day demands during the Vacancy, much practical work has been achieved and below is a summary of some of the projects that have been taken forward. Our thanks to the work of Geof Adlington, Rob Davies and Deputy Churchwardens for their involvement in work in addressing many of these issues, and Friends of St Peter's and St Michael's for their respective financial support.

- Parish Wide;
 - Documents quinquennial review by Diocese. Passed with much praise of its ordering.
- St Peter's, Winchcombe:
 - Major organ refurbishment.
 - Quinquennial deep electrical inspection and fixes.
 - 5 yearly deep tower lightning conductor inspection and refurbishment.
- Christ Church, Gretton:
 - Gloucester County Council Highways inspection of drainage.
 - North wall and Chancel arch subsidence related cracking repairs.
- St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge:
 - Restoration work of external drainage and South facing Nave roof completed.
 - Initiation of the seeking of grant funding for the refurbishment/replacement of the North facing Nave roof.
- St Mary's, Sudeley Castle:
 - Stonework and downpipe repairs completed from the tasks identified in the Quinquennial Review.
 - 5 yearly deep tower lightning conductor inspection and refurbishment.
 - Loose pinnacle fixed.
- St Peter's Centre:
 - VoIP installed to replace copper land line phone access.

Finally, whilst we inevitably will not have thanked everyone who deserves it, the continued voluntary contributions by the PCC, choir, bellringers, stewards, welcomers, sacristans, vergers, holy dusters, coffee makers, etc, etc are not taken for granted. Thank you to all our volunteers but we remain ready to accept new names to fill more gaps.

Simon Andrews

Judith Skinner

Churchwardens, Winchcombe Parish

St Mary's

All of the planned six Evening Prayers were held with attendance ranging from 3 to 12. Work continues between Sudeley Castle, the Church Commissioners and our PCC regarding the potential transfer of ownership of St Mary's to the Castle. The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee sitting as the Bishop's Council approved the way forward in October and, after some more detailed refining, the process has reached the stage where Diocesan overseen stakeholder consultation will start in Spring 2023. Whilst we received some £780 via the Alms Box, this in no way covers insurance, let alone annual maintenance, costs.

Christ Church

Services at Christ Church continue to be held on 2nd and 4th Sundays, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship, following which we enjoy a social time with refreshments. Morning Prayer is held as a short informal service on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am.

Our Mini Team continues to meet every two months; thanks go to Revd Mike Holloway and Judith Skinner for attending when they can.

Thanks also go to Peter Harris, who donated to us one of the beautiful wooden processional crosses he made, and which he installed on the end of the choir pews.

In June we decorated the churchyard with bunting and held a Service of Celebration for the Jubilee of the late Queen, followed by a Pimms and nibbles reception in a marquee in the churchyard, which was much enjoyed by all.

In November we had much needed masonry work in the church done to repair various cracks in the walls, and the tiled aisle in the nave was repaired along the entrance to the pews where the mortar was falling into the void below.

Following a very large bough falling from the cedar tree at the front of the church, it was recommended that we have a professional tree survey done – we have over a dozen very large trees of various varieties which require constant monitoring for safety. The survey was carried out in November, and the recommended work was done to make sure the cedar was safe.

As in the previous year, under the auspices of Revd Mike Holloway, we held Carols in the Churchyard in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, which was again very well attended, with many people going into the church to view the crib.

Susan Fleck

Deputy Church Warden

St Michael's

We continue to hold Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month. In July we had planned to hold our traditional Evensong service which had not been able to go ahead for a number of years. However, this coincided with the heatwave and so a decision was made to postpone to September. The choir from St Peters sang and afterwards we had afternoon tea and Pimms in the churchyard. It was a wonderful occasion.

Also in September work started on re roofing the South side of the nave roof. The church was closed whilst this work was carried out, but the contractors finished the work slightly early and under budget and did a splendid job. (Fundraising is now taking place to raise money to re-roof the North side of the nave).

Our harvest festival took place slightly later, because of the roof work, in October. A group of local residents and members of the congregation cleaned the church from top to bottom following the building work and decorated the church with flowers and produce from our gardens and hedgerows. Afterwards we had drinks and nibbles in the churchyard, as well as collecting food and other items for the foodbank.

Our annual maintenance day was later this year in November. We paid special attention to cleaning out the gutters following the roofing work and planted hundreds of the wild daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, in the churchyard.

In December, the weather was the other extreme for our Carols by Candlelight. It was extremely cold and icy with snow on the ground. We decorated the church with foraged greenery and candles. We had a wonderful Carol Service of nine lessons and readings and nine carols. Several people chose poems to read and some people had to step in with no notice to read because people had been unable to attend because of the weather. After the service we kept warm around the brazier in the churchyard and had refreshments. Another special evening.

Gill Badger

Deanery Synod Report for APCM of 21st May 2023

Two meetings were held in 2022. During the first in January Revd Stephen Walker introduced the Life Together Diocesan Vision; and Barrie Voyce (Diocesan vision for Youth Connectors) presented the Diocesan vision for Youth Connectors.

- To support Deaneries and Parish Churches to prioritize Young People's Ministry
- To grow young people as disciples and leaders
- To enable Young People to explore the Christian Faith
- To connect Young People, Churches and Schools
- To create meaningful "rites of passage"
- To utilise Social Media
- To connect ecumenically

The focus in the second meeting in June was a presentation by Revd Cate Williams, the Diocesan Environmental Engagement Officer, in which she highlighted the following three priorities, and asked for assistance to strengthen our work within the deanery in:

- Achieving carbon net zero by 2030
- Addressing the biodiversity crisis
- Spreading the word on the importance of green evangelism

Anyone wishing to become an Environmental Ambassador for Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Deanery would be most welcome.

January to December 2022 was an unusual and challenging time for the Deanery of Tewkesbury and Winchcombe. We lost 6 of our 8 full time stipendiary clergy. Even with the help of retired clergy and other Lay Leaders it was difficult to get cover for all the services in the Deanery, and it was feared that the service pattern might not be sustainable in the short term. However, there was some good news. Two vacancies were filled:

- The Revd Timothy Michael Garrett, currently the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Twickenham, became the Team Rector for the Benefice of Bishop's Cleeve (including Southam) and Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton.
- The Revd David Penny vicar of the church of St Matthew and St Luke, Chadderton, became the Priest in Charge for Parish of Winchcombe.

Having been without an Area Dean since Stephen Walker resigned at the end of June 2022. The Revd Julia Hook was then appointed to the role of INTERIM Area Dean by Bishop Rachel for one year for one day a week in addition to her House for Duty role.

Prior to his departure Revd Stephen Walker was central to the new Strategic Planning Group for the Deanery to enable parishes to work together to:

- Listen to God together to shape our specific mission and ministry in this deanery
 - Share our expertise and resources so as to increase our effectiveness and fruitfulness
 - Make new disciples by finding new ways of telling our story, explain our faith and give a reason for the hope that is within us
 - Serve our communities by working in partnership with others to witness to God's love and address global issues confronting our generation that all may flourish
- Be a channel of communication (up and down) to Diocesan structures for reporting and envisioning.
- Thanks to the work of parish treasurers and particularly Geoffrey Adlington, the current Deanery Treasurer, the Deanery of Tewkesbury and Winchcombe met its parish share targets for yet another year. This was something of an achievement during a period of reduced giving when our churches have been struggling.

Notes for APCM re Safeguarding May 2022 **SAFEGUARDING**

The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC also has a Parish Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually.

Our Commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

1. DBS

Gill Worthington continues to do an excellent job ensuring that those who work with children or adults at risk and any others in roles eligible for DBS clearances apply for and have their DBS clearances approved and renewed as required. This includes all members of the PCC as Trustees of a charity that provides services for children or adults at risk.

Clearances were sought for the members of the newly re-formed Pastoral Team.

2. Safer Recruitment

All those working for the church in activities involving children or vulnerable adults, whether the role is paid or voluntary, should now be recruited using the Safer Recruitment process. The Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Churchwardens have completed Safer Recruitment Training.

The members of the newly re-formed Pastoral Team have been recruited using the Safer Recruitment Process. This process is also being used for the Toddler Time helpers.

3. Parish Dashboard

We have begun to use the Parish Dashboard, which is an online Safeguarding Tool provided by the Church of England. The Dashboard acts as an audit of safeguarding for the Parish and produces an action plan.

4. Safeguarding Training

The Church of England has produced a new list of Safeguarding Training courses available and of those who should take the different courses. Most of the courses can be taken online at any convenient time via the C of E training portal. The courses available at present are: Basic, Foundation, Leadership, Safer Recruitment and Domestic Abuse. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, in conjunction with the PCC, will contact those whose roles require training to explain what is needed. Training should be renewed every three years.

Pastoral Team Report

APCM 2022

Thanks must go to our Pastoral Team, Lesley Davies, Jill and Roger Hargreaves, Shelley Hoban, Gaye Kimber and Margaret Lloyd, who have continued to contact and visit those in the parish who are at a particular point of need or who may feel lonely and isolated.

I am happy to report that more than thirty parishioners were either telephoned or visited on a regular basis during the year, 2022.

At a meeting early in the year it was felt that there is an obvious synergy between the Pastoral Team and the Home Communion Team. So following a meeting with the Home Communion Team it was decided that they would ask those they were taking Communion to if they would like a pastoral visit and vice versa for the Pastoral Team if that seemed appropriate.

This has worked well and the offer accepted by several home bound parishioners meaning that on average they see someone from the church twice a month.

As a team we look forward to regular meetings with our newly appointed priest-in-charge, Revd David Penny.

Judith Skinner

Co-ordinator Pastoral Team

Music Report

From January 2022 the choir resumed business as usual post Covid. Highlights of the month included the final service for John Paul Hoskins - the choir was out in force with 30+ singers and specially requested music. A regular pattern of Choral Evensong was reinstated with the choir delivering the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays every month.

February presented little in the way of curveballs and good attendance helped to get the choir back on track. Then on March 2nd we sang at the Ash Wednesday service with good choir attendance and commitment. March also saw the choir support the wedding of Curate Rachel Murray and ex chorister George Forrest, with a nuptial Mass. The choir numbered 35+ and the music was well delivered and much admired.

The choir delivered the services for Palm Sunday and Holy Week; Palm Sunday with restored procession from the Back Lane carpark, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday with a full church. There was no Good Friday service with choir in 2022.

In June the choir was asked by Bishop Rachel to sing at Gloucester Cathedral for the service of Ordination of Priests. This was done at a week's notice and the choir acquitted themselves very well indeed. Also in June, the choir concert returned to its summer slot. The new template for this concert was a community concert with a choir Bring and Share buffet and bar, and a percentage of ticket sales supporting the organ fund. The theme was Jubilee / Last Night of the Proms, and we were joined by Winchcombe Brownies and their families to sing and join in the festivities. The audience was encouraged to join us for a number of communal items. Feedback was both appreciative and positive that this template and style of delivery was uplifting, fun, social and inclusive. The audience numbers for this concert were near the 200 mark.

The annual Choral Evensong at St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge was postponed because of the weather and so took place in September; the choir sang for the service and we enjoyed hospitality in the churchyard afterwards. Later in the month, some members of the choir took part in a Fauré Requiem 'Come and Sing' at Upton upon Severn, hosted by the Hanley Swan Singers, directed by John Holloway. Participation was funded by a donation to choir funds from the Diocese of Gloucester for our singing at the cathedral in June, and was useful preparation for the Churches Together All Souls Requiem in October.

On October 16th the choir supported the Methodist Church in Winchcombe for the final service before the closing of their church building. On Sunday 30th October we sang the Requiem and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, both by Fauré, for the inaugural St Peter's All Souls Requiem. This was a Churches Together initiative replacing the In Memoriam service previously held at the Methodist

Church. The congregation numbered nearly 200. The choir was fortunate to have been given a generous donation by two of our choristers to enable the purchase of the scores for the Fauré Requiem which we hope to sing biennially.

November saw the choir support Christ Church, Gretton, singing Evensong for their Patronal Festival; we also enjoyed their hospitality after the service. Then on November 27th we sang an Advent Carol Service followed by a full programme of Christmas services - Nine Lessons and Carols, a more reflective 'Blue Christmas', Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. The choir was back to full strength for these services for the first time since Covid, and intermittent Covid spikes, with attendance sometimes numbering 35+ and often full and always appreciative congregations.

From the organ loft some problems caused by lack of heating and lack of use during lockdowns resolved themselves as the organ was played more regularly. The long awaited work to some of the electrical systems and wind supply was carried out by the organ builders Nicholsons during September and October. A minor part of the instrument could not cope with the proper wind pressure restored after the leaks had been repaired, so a small amount of remedial work to replace some pneumatic and electric motors is still required. And the mains wiring to the blower has yet to be completed. Of course, Covid delayed many projects and there is a decreasing number of organ builders capable of carrying out such work. But the majority of the work has been done and has proved most effective.

Shelley Everall
Andrew Horton
Joint Directors of Music

ST PETERS FLOWER ARRANGERS – REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The Flower Group has continued to provide a single arrangement next to the altar, except during Advent and Lent when there are no flowers in church. We also aim to provide more arrangements to decorate the whole church at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and other special occasions. This is the most that is possible with our small numbers and finances.

In line with St. Peters eco policy we no longer use floral foam (Oasis). This is because the foam cannot be recycled and does not biodegrade, breaking down into microplastic particles which are a biohazard. This has involved relearning old techniques and thinking outside the box to provide alternative displays. It is still a work in progress, but we are getting there. We have also been looking into using locally, or British grown flowers, or at least those that have not been flown in from great distances, to help lower our carbon footprint.

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. A list of all those remembered is up in church and we understand the Revd. David included them in Morning prayers.

Pam Tustin, one of our longest serving members sadly died at Easter. We were pleased to be able to decorate the church for her funeral. We shall miss both her expertise and help and friendship to us all and send our deep condolences to her family.

There are now only 6 of us. This limits what we can do and puts pressure on us, especially at Festival times. Some of us are experts and some of us are just enthusiastic amateurs, but we all work together and help each other. Some of us are church members and some of us are not, but we all love flowers and get great satisfaction and joy from what we do. We would love to welcome anyone who would like to give it a try. Talk to Margaret Bearne or Margaret Holloway to find out what is involved if you are in the least interested.

Margaret Bearne 01242 604593
Margaret Holloway 01242 603421

Report to the APCM 2023 from the bellringers

We are generally managing to ring for services on a Sunday morning, and for our practice night on a Wednesday. By the time you read this we will have rung on the morning of the Coronation.

We are also hoping to have some kind of demonstration/recruitment session over Bell Sunday weekend (13/14th May). We are a rapidly aging band, and while we are managing to maintain our numbers, at present, the ringers are beginning to show signs of wear & tear.

Our recruitment drives last year amounted to nothing, unfortunately. We are still desperately short of ringers, and the holiday season is approaching, so we will be struggling to maintain 6 bells for Sunday mornings, and for any weddings coming up. Fortunately we are paid for weddings, so this means that we can ask for help & pay any necessary additional ringers.

Edward Kain, as usual, is seeing to it that the bells are in good repair. We had a new set of ropes in February 2010, and the tail ends of these have all been repaired as they were beginning to wear.

Stewards' Report

Firstly, a very sincere Thank You to all those wonderful volunteers who turn up in the cold, wet and dark days as well as the sunny and warm ones. Their presence is really appreciated by all the visitors who do come to St Peters.

We are thrilled that Rosemary Hancock has joined the team and it is obvious that she is enjoying herself.

One paper saving introduction has been the appearance of the A3 laminated tour sheet. The advantage is that it has larger print and can be reused. We are hoping that as a result this will reduce the number of printed A4 threefold sheets.

We could say that this is just one tiny step for the ECO Church.

In the meantime, we are still hopeful that one or two people will step forward to become Stewards. Just one hour a week is all that is needed.

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINCHCOMBE

WITH GRETTON, SUDELEY MANOR AND STANLEY PONTLARGE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year January – December 2021

**presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 29 May 2022

WINCHCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT January - December 2021

1. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets to share with the Priest-in-charge in deciding, and in implementing, parish policy. It is legally responsible for the church buildings & furnishings and for parish property. The PCC is a charity, and registered with the Charity Commission during 2009.

The members of the PCC (*with dates when terms of office expire*) are:

Ex-Officio Members

Clergy

Vacancy (*Priest-in-charge*)
Rachel Forrest (*until 22 June 2022*)

Churchwardens:

Simon Andrews (Lay Chair) 2022
Robert Stone 2022

Deputy Wardens (co-opted):

Christ Church, Gretton Sue Fleck 2022
St Michael's,
Stanley Pontlarge Rosemary Hancock 2022
St Mary's, Sudeley Manor

Deanery Synod Members

Geof Adlington 2023
Tom Hancock 2023
Robert Stone 2023

Elected Members

Abbie Andrews 2022
Rob Davies 2023
Anne Dean 2022
Felicity King 2023
Sue Milton 2022
Judith Skinner 2023
Cathy Wilcock 2023

Co-opted Members

Geof Adlington (*Treasurer*) 2022
Lizzy Watson (*Secretary*) 2022

THE LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Put into abeyance in October 2013.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LU
Telephone: 01242 602067
spc@winchcombeparish.org.uk
www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

CHARITY NUMBER: 1138071

FINANCIAL ADDRESSES

PCC's Bankers

Lloyds, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

Independent Examiner

Mrs Jennifer Soltau A.I.A.
Cotswold House, Grosvenor Street,
Winchcombe, GL54 5LX

WINCHCOMBE PARISH
With Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and Sudeley Manor

Sunday 29 May 2022 at 11.30 – St Peter’s Church, Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- a) Minutes of the AMP held on Sunday 16th May 2021
- b) Election of churchwardens

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- a) Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 16th May 2021
- b) Matters arising from the Minutes
- c) Review of progress and achievements
- d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled:
 - i) Treasurers Financial Report on the Accounts and matters arising, including Independent Examiner of Finances Report
 - ii) Churchwardens’ Report
 - iii) Notes from the Deputy Churchwardens
 - iv) Report from the Deanery Synod
 - v) Notes on Safeguarding
 - vi) Pastoral Care report
 - vii) Music report
 - viii) St Peter’s Flower Arrangers’ report
 - ix) Report from the Bellringers
 - x) Stewards report for 2021/2
- e) Questions and discussion on reports
- f) General questions and discussion

5. ELECTIONS

- a) PCC Members

6. ELECTORAL ROLL

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8. CLOSING PRAYER

a.

Parish of Winchcombe

Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 16th of May 2021, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: (PCC Members and officers) JP Hoskins, Rob Stone & Simon Andrews (Churchwardens), Geof Adlington (Treasurer), Sara Collins (Secretary), Rob Davies, Sue Fleck, Felicity King, Rosemary Hancock, Judith Skinner together with approximately 50 others on the electoral roll – either in person or on zoom.

- 1 **Welcome and Prayers:** JP welcomed those present and said how wonderful it was to be gathered here. He opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Tony and Christine Mason, Pauline Shaw, Tom Hancock, Kate Stebbings, Elizabeth Strong.

- 3 **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** for those on the Electoral Role and those resident in the Parish – ie the whole community.

a) Minutes of the AMP held on 18th October 2020

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting – by email.

The minutes were approved and signed.

There were no matters arising.

b) Election of two Churchwardens

The meeting was asked to elect the churchwardens for the coming year. There were two nominations received, that of Simon Andrews and Judith Skinner. There were no other nominations from the floor and a vote was carried unanimously. The Churchwardens are officially still Simon and Rob Stone until the Bishop's visitation; until then, whilst Judith will support them, she and Simon should be contacted in preference to Rob regarding new matters.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Sara Collins

PCC Secretary

May 2021

Approved:

Date:

4 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on 18th October 2020

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting.

The minutes were adopted as accurate and signed.

b) *There were no matters arising.*

c) **Review of progress & achievements:** *JP explained that the Church is now fully open – except for the Lady Chapel which is used for the choir and other select groups. JP thanked the Stewards for welcoming visitors. From tomorrow up to 30 people will be allowed to meet outdoors and to attend weddings – so weddings and blessings will resume. The Parish Office is reopening between 9.30 and 12.00 on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 1 or 2 volunteers are being sought for welcoming, typing, printing etc to free up Mark for more technical work. The bellringers and Toddler Time are resuming. There will be a choir at Evensong this evening. The next date on the roadmap is 21st June (subject to the data) – if this goes ahead coffee/refreshments will resume. Messy Church will start in September and the fete is on 11th September. There is uncertainty around when congregational singing will resume – but it will start as soon as it is safe, following the guidance given by the Church of England, the Government, scientists etc.*

Services have resumed at Stanley Pontlarge and the first services will be held at Christ Church and St Mary's next Sunday. Services have continued to be streamed with a significant number joining online instead of in person. JP expressed his thanks to all those who have helped with IT - especially Rob Davies. The camera is currently fixed, so the Clergy are "stuck" in one place. The PCC are looking at other options and the Friends have agreed, in principle, to support this.

As we open up we need opportunities to be together (socially and fund raising) under the "Together Again" umbrella. A choir concert, Son et Lumiere event and curry evening are being planned.

Teacher's House: This was bought to accommodate a youth minister but has not been used for this purpose for 6 years. An expensive modernisation is needed, and the PCC should not be "landlords". They have therefore taken the decision to sell the property which will be marketed by Adams. 25% came from donations so this amount (as a minimum) will be ring fenced as restricted funds for the ongoing Ministry of children and young people.

Children and Young People: Rob Stone is taking the lead in exploring the possibility of a joint placement for a trainee from the South West Youth Ministry (University of Gloucestershire) between WAM and the Parish.

St Mary's, Sudeley: The PCC has given their approval for a conversation to take place between the Parish, the Castle and the Church Commissioners to transfer the formal ownership from us to the Castle. Simon Andrews will represent the PCC supported by JP and Alan Thomas. If agreement is reached a formal consultation will take place – the agreement would allow for blessings and summer services to continue.

Wider Context: The Church of England is looking at the future - this will be "Mission and Ministry driven, but financially aware". This Diocese and Parish are in a better position than many others, but the Diocese will need to lose some Stipendiary posts – on average 1 per Parish. They are being asked to come up with ways forward for the future. The Winchcombe group of Churches may need to lose members of the team – the group may need to be rebooted as before or split in to 2 Benefices. Winchcombe has over half the population of the team so would still have a Stipendiary Priest – but this could affect their role. JP will keep us in the loop as to the plans.

Questions: Chris Haslam noted that we are very lucky to have 4 Readers, and that we are the envy of other Parishes; he appreciates the support of those who attend the services. JP thanked Chris, Fliss, Steve, Cliff and Nigel for all their work at the Evening services and behind the scenes.

a) **Annual Report of the PCC as tabled** – *Hard copies were available in the back of Church for three weeks before the meeting, and the report was available electronically via the twice weekly Parish information sheet.*

i. **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** *Much of 2020 was included in the previous meeting in October – the year started well, but then Covid hit, and the financial position worsened. During covid there were savings through furloughed staff and reduced operational expenses. In the 3rd and 4th quarters the operational expenses increased (hand sanitiser, cleaning etc) and drainage repairs and other unexpected work had to be undertaken. Parochial fees (weddings/funerals) were very low and Christmas collections much reduced. An appeal was put out for extra money. Planned giving tailed off. Overall it was a bad year for the Parish with a £20,000 deficit, around £9,000 worse than budgeted. There were some major legacies including £10,000 for work on the St Peter's organ – the electronics need working on and Andrew has other plans. Quarter 1 of 2021 has seen another lockdown and there have been other unforeseen and unbudgeted expenses – such as asbestos issues and tree*

works at Christ Church. So 2021 will be no better than 2020 unless there is an improvement in income and good attendance at fund raising events.

Unlike many churches in our Diocese and nationally, including St Paul's Cathedral, this PCC has good financial reserves relative to expenditure. These stood at £100,388 at the end of the year for unrestricted funds, a drop of £14,271 from the previous year (see the statement of assets and liabilities in the annual report). It means that the Parish can have another poor year without any real cause for concern. The crisis at St Paul's Cathedral has opened the debate of how the cultural heritage of our cathedrals and historic churches should be funded; the weakness of the current model of parish giving supplemented by tourism has been laid bare by the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual cost for our parish is approximately £155,000 of which about £60,000 comes from outside sources such as parochial fees, property rental, solar power credits, and fund-raising events. At present the balance, £95,000, has to come from giving by church members – the equivalent of £35.50/month for everyone on the electoral roll. Not everyone gives this amount; in fact planned giving is down 10% on the first quarter of last year, a major problem. On a better note, an appeal to Gretton residents and churchgoers has successfully raised £3,722.80 to cover the £4471 cost of surveying and removing asbestos at Christ Church, and replacing the organ blower – the remainder comes from reclaiming the VAT. Similarly, at Stanley Pontlarge, there has been considerable success in raising funds and obtaining grants for the extensive repairs to drains, pew platforms, and roof tiles.

Geof noted that he has been Treasurer for 5 years now and is willing to do 1 or 2 more before stepping down.

Questions: Alan Thomas noted that salaries and wages are up despite the furlough scheme. Geof explained that Mark's hours have been increased, and in the past around £1,000 of this amount was included elsewhere in the accounts. Mark has now asked for fewer hours so the figures will be lower next year. Also, Mark was not furloughed.

Sue Crownshaw noted that the Parish Share is very high. Geof explained that the Diocese would not be able to continue with the current number of Stipendiary Clergy unless Parishes who can afford it (and have the reserves) pay their share. We have good reserves so can afford to pay our contribution.

ii. **Churchwardens' Report:**

Rob Stone started by thanking Simon Andrews for all his organisation, especially at St Michael's. He welcomed Judith and offered to be Deputy Warden for St Peter's. He thanked Sue Fleck, and also all those who support Stanley Pontlarge. JP noted that Rosemary Hancock is standing down as Deputy Church Warden for Stanley Pontlarge; Tom Hancock is continuing as Deputy at St Mary's with Rosemary's support.

There were no questions.

iii. **Safeguarding:** JP is very grateful for the work done by Lynne Banks and Gill Worthington to ensure that we are doing what we should with regards to safeguarding.

e) **Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled:** There were no questions.

5 Elections:

b. **Deanery Synod Representatives:** are ex-officio members of the PCC; these are currently Tom Hancock, Rob Stone and Geof Adlington. There were no other nominations, but there is a vacancy if anyone is interested.

a. **Election of PCC Representatives:** JP thanked Sue Milton who has stepped down as a member of the PCC. 3 vacancies were advertised, but there were no nominations. If anyone wishes to be a member of the Church Council JP would be pleased to hear from them. They make key decisions about strategy, and he is grateful to all those on the PCC. JP also thanked Simon as Lay Chair, Geof as Treasurer and Sara as Secretary.

6. **Electoral Roll:** Jennifer Soltau explained that there are now 226 people on the roll; JP thanked her for all the work she does on this issue.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Jennifer Soltau offered to continue in this role. The meeting agreed.

8. **Forthcoming Events:**

PCC meeting: tomorrow on Zoom.

Climate Service: Sunday 18th July 2021.

Parish Fete: Saturday 11th September 2021

9. **Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm with the Grace.

Sara Collins, PCC Secretary

May 2021

Approved: Dat

PCC Financial Report for 2021

2021 was another difficult year for our churches due to Covid -19 related restrictions imposed by the government through the first half of the year and then by the “guidelines” later in the year when the delta and omicron variants of Covid became a problem.

Church attendance was the biggest victim of the epidemic and that initially had severe consequences for the churches’ income at services. The restrictions on attendees at funerals and weddings initially moved funerals to crematoria and weddings to registry offices with a consequent negative on income from parochial fees for our churches. But there was good news too. We saved money on utility bills. Our fund raising events did really well. The parish benefited from several generous legacies. It was a year in which we started building up our “war chests” for the major projects we will undertake in 2022 at Stanley Pontlarge and in our parish church. Whilst it is good to have achieved this, it obscures the true financial picture of the year.

To reveal the true financial picture of the year, you need to note that the excess of receipts over payments on restricted funds stated as £15,314 on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities page of the accounts includes the legacies and non-recurring grants totalling £40,701 which were given in the past year specifically for capital projects for which expenditure will not occur until this current financial year. Also included in expenses in 2021 was a down payment of £6131 in respect of organ repairs which will start in St Peter’s in 2022. Therefore the true excess of receipts over payments on restricted funds in 2021 was a net outflow of £19256.

This net outflow of funds arose despite stellar performances in fundraising, up £8,000 from 2020, the exceptionally low utility bills, £3000 less, due to the church being closed for worship services in the 1st Q of 2021, and the substantial improvement (roughly £6700) in casual giving at church services, donation receipts from visitors, and parochial receipts from weddings and funerals.

These benefits were unfortunately more than offset by two negatives in 2021. The first of these, and the most worrying for the PCC, is the big drop (£6500; 9%) in planned giving by our parishioners and the fact that maintenance costs were very high and unavoidable. The maintenance costs included organ repairs, woodworm treatment, tree surgery, stained glass window repairs, drain pipes and gullies, and electrical works at St Peters Centre. Not a good year, but be warned, even worse is to come next year! There was a silver lining to this cloud of despair. You can see it in the statement of Assets and Liabilities page of the financial accounts. You may remember that I moved a lot of our investments away from interest bearing accounts to dividend accounts. The benefit of this can be seen in the increase of our investments accounts of £10,273 in 2021. The war in Ukraine has in 2022 taken some of the shine off this bonus but that is tomorrow’s problem.

In 2022 we are facing serious funding issues for maintenance projects to which the PCC has committed. But we have a “war chest”. If you look at Notes 1 & 2 to the annual accounts, you can see the PCC has nearly £10,000 in Restricted funds from last year and a further £13,796 in Designated funds received this year for the organ repairs at St Peter’s and then £27,714 in Designated funds towards the repairs at Stanley Pontlarge which will augment the funds held by the Friends of St Michael’s for this work.

So 2022 is going to a tough year for our parish finances. We need to redress the issues we are having with planned giving receipts falling. We also need to maximise the financial support we get from the community within our parish by continuing to excel in fundraising. All our costs in 2022 will rise significantly but most noticeable will be the cost of utilities. A challenging year ahead but from 2023 I believe we can expect fewer financial problems.

*Geof Adlington
Treasurer*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Winchcombe
with Gretton, Sudeley Manor, and Stanley Pontlarge Parochial Church Council**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

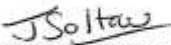
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission. An Examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the account, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met, or;
2. Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

 (dated) 21/3/22

J Soltau (Mrs)

Winchcombe

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021						
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021						
31 December 2020		Total	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds (note 2)	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Properties
£		£	£	£	£	£
	Fixed Assets					
271,440	Teacher's House (at cost)	271,440	-	-	-	271,440
57,000	St Peter's Centre (at cost)	57,000	-	-	-	57,000
328,440	Subtotal	328,440	-	-	-	328,440
99,911	Investment Assets	115,854	115,854	-	-	-
	Current Assets					
41,381	Bank balances	55,842	(22,648)	59,059	19,430	-
269	Cash balance	445	445	-	-	-
41,650	Subtotal	56,287	(22,202)	59,059	19,430	-
	Current liabilities					
41,650	Net current assets	56,287	(22,202)	59,059	19,430	-
£470,001	Net Assets	£500,581	£93,652	£59,059	£19,430	£328,440
	Represented by:					
479,597	Reserves brought forward at 1 January 2020	475,583	100,338	26,785	20,020	328,440
(19,639)	Net excess of receipts over payments on unrestricted funds	15,314	15,314	-	-	-
11,043	Receipts and allocations to restricted and designated funds made during the year	1,000	(45,137)	45,137	1,000	-
-	Adjustment for change in investment values over the year	10,273	10,273	-	-	-
(1,000)	Adjustment for restricted and designated funds used during the year	(1,590)	12,863	(12,863)	(1,590)	-
£470,001		£500,581	£93,652	£59,059	£19,430	£328,440

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Summary Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds
	2021	2020	2021
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts:			
Planned giving	64,734	71,184	-
Collections at services	4,157	2,915	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	7,562	4,047	-
Legacies received	12,701	1,800	-
Gift Aid recovered	18,353	18,224	-
Special Appeals and Grants	31,068	3,268	1,000
Activities for generating funds	8,179	4,369	-
Investment Income	3,033	3,262	-
Church Activities	6,873	4,599	-
Other income	19,636	13,758	-
Total receipts	176,297	127,425	1,000
Expenses			
Church Activities:			
Parish share	(78,900)	(78,900)	-
Clergy and Staffing costs	(10,526)	(14,149)	-
Church running expenses	(54,478)	(41,300)	(1,590)
Mission giving and donations	(2,830)	(4,160)	-
Costs of trading	(4,734)	(2,960)	-
Third party costs relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals	-	(170)	-
Administration Costs	(4,478)	(3,346)	-
Cost of generating funds	(509)	(184)	-
Other costs	(4,548)	(1,894)	-
Total payments	(£161,003)	(£147,063)	(£1,590)
Movement in this year's balances after allocation	1 £15,314	(£19,639)	(£590)

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2021

Note 1 - Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts during year	Payments during year	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Chime Machine	5,696	-	-	5,696
Bells	6	-	-	6
St Peter's Organ	10,000	-	(120)	9,880
Fresh Expressions	723	-	-	723
Christ Church, Gretton	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
St Peter's, Winchcombe	-	-	-	-
Vicar and Churchwardens	3,126	-	-	3,126
Video Project for St Peter's	469	-	(470)	(1)
	£20,020	£1,000	(£1,590)	£19,430

Note 2 - Analysis of Designated Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts during year	Allocations used during year	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Christ Church, Gretton - general	1,908	2,390	(3,495)	803
St Peter's Church - general	10,793	13,796	(6,131)	18,458
St Peter's Church -bell fund	1,084	-	-	1,084
Stanley Pontlarge - general	2,000	28,951	(3,237)	27,714
Pioneer Minister Reserve	11,000	-	-	11,000
	£26,785	£45,137	(£12,863)	£59,059

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
Note 3 - Detailed Analysis of Receipts

Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted
	2021	2020	Fund for 2021
	£	£	£
Total planned giving	64,734	71,184	-
Other collections at services	4,157	2,915	-
Other Giving & Donations - Recurring	-	-	-
Other Giving & Donations - Non-Recurring	7,562	4,047	-
Legacies received	12,701	1,800	-
All tax recovered through Gift Aid	18,353	18,224	-
Special Appeals	3,068	1,190	-
Non-Recurring Grants	28,000	1,958	1,000
Fund Raising Events	8,179	120	-
Bookstall, Magazine etc	6,384	4,369	-
Dividends & Interest	3,033	3,262	-
Total Parochial Fees Income	6,873	4,599	-
Income from Properties	8,310	8,250	-
Hall Lettings	135	-	-
Income from other Church Activities	20	106	-
Insurance Claims	-	-	-
Reimbursement of costs by other Parishes	-	681	-
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Service Fee Reimbursement by DBF	-	-	-
Income from solar panels	4,788	4,721	-
Other income	-	-	-
	£176,297	£127,425	£1,000

Winchcombe Parish Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
Note 4 - Detailed Analysis of Payments

Description	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted
	2021	2020	Fund for 2021
	£	£	£
Parish Share	(78,900)	(78,900)	-
Salaries & Wages	(8,016)	(10,197)	-
Local Mission and Evangelism Projects	(809)	(528)	-
Children/Youth Work costs	(552)	(249)	-
Clergy and Other Expenses	(2,510)	(3,176)	-
Insurance costs	(11,473)	(12,029)	-
Cleaning costs	(991)	(822)	-
Minor Repairs/Routine Maintenance	(6,241)	(3,529)	-
Other Church Expenses/Provision of Services	(1,611)	(4,007)	(470)
Churchyard Maintenance	(1,418)	(4,046)	-
Flowers	(243)	154	-
Music costs	(8,175)	(7,938)	(120)
Major Repairs/Redecoration to Church Building	(12,856)	(1,146)	-
Major Repairs/Redecoration to other properties	(1,043)	-	-
Utilities (incl Heat, Light and Water)	(3,831)	(6,780)	-
Donations/Grants to Charities & Mission Giving	(2,830)	(4,160)	-
Costs of Trading	(4,734)	(2,960)	-
Parochial Fees Remittance to DBF	-	-	-
Parochial Fees Remitted to visiting Ministers	-	-	-
Parochial Fees Remitted to other 3rd party	-	-	-
Parochial Fees Remitted to other PCC	-	-	-
Service Fee Remittance to visiting Minister	-	(170)	-
Payment of costs to other Parishes	-	-	-
Administration costs	(4,478)	(3,346)	-
Governance Costs	-	-	-
Fund Raising Costs	(509)	(184)	-
Deanery Costs	-	-	-
Sundry Expenses	(4,548)	(1,894)	-
Alterations/Extensions to Church Building	(5,236)	(1,157)	(1,000)
Total Expenses	(£161,003)	(£447,063)	(£1,590)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT 2022

With the current Vacancy, there is no incumbent's report and any points to be made have been included within the Churchwardens' report.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2022

As noted earlier in this report, with the Parish now in Vacancy, this Churchwardens' report includes some themes perhaps that a priest-in-charge might have mentioned. We were and are still dealing with the effects of Covid. The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through the mouthful of a named group called the Winchcombe Community Covid Action Group (WCCAG). This included bi-weekly coordination and action meetings between Winchcombe's Help Force, Medical Centre, Town Council and churches. Our thanks to Margaret Batterbury and Pookie Shaw who were the foci for a time with this, in particular regarding helping JP with pastoral support to the more vulnerable within our congregation. Of course, the need to look out for each other always remains and Judith Skinner has very proactively taken on the pastoral care coordination mantle from Margaret and Pookie; thank you both for all you have done in the past.

The weekly Parish bulletins - now named "Signpost" (thank you Margaret Holloway) - as well as access to the PCC's meeting Minutes available on the Parish website have, we trust, continued to keep Parishioners up to date with wider goings on. We understand that effective information flow plays an important part in maintaining the cohesion of our community.

The number and geographical spread of services within the Parish was a key objective of JP as the constraints of Covid restrictions were eased and it is with enormous thanks to our retired clergy and Readers that service provision has been able to expand. We are very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such a pro-active team. We were able to put on a full Easter, Advent and Christmas service schedule at St Peter's, with Christmas specific celebrations at St Michael's and Christ Church. This was achieved with the strong support of a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Work is ongoing in seeking a Families and Children worker to support efforts to grow our representation in these age groups. Indirectly related to this is the ongoing work to sell Teacher's House owing to it failing to be as useful as originally hoped in supporting finding the Families and Children worker. Funds attained will, in part be allocated to funding the worker.

Whilst our entertainments were limited as a Parish, we did achieve three significant money earners: the fête, book fair and choir concert. All got terrific support from the wider town with the fête attracting a really positive family and children response. Finally, it just makes sense timewise to recognise the departure of JP to Worcester Cathedral in January 2022 and to thank him for his contributions to the Parish over the

last 6 years. We wish him, Liz and Suzanna well in their respective new appointment and lives.

Other major achievements or events include:

1. The A Rocha Bronze award as a result of the direct action and overall coordination by the EcoChurch group and wider in the Parish. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their work whether it be Christ Church's and St Peter's insect hotels and wildflower areas, swallow nests in Christ Church or the general willingness to maintain our churches by the groups who support our churches' maintenance days.
2. Toddlers has been restarted and, with the departure of Liz Hoskins, Gill Worthington heads up the team. Messy Church, which although Covid 'killed' in 2021, was being investigated as to how to re-instate in 2022. Our thanks to Mike Holloway and Judith Skinner for pushing this although illness means that a start date is yet to be confirmed.
3. We were sorry (for us) but delighted (for her) to lose Rachel (Murray (now Forrest ☺)) in October on secondment to 'lead' Longlevens Parish. It is to her great credit that she was asked by Bishop Rachel to take on this rôle which went so well that she has subsequently been confirmed as the Interim Priest-in-Charge for three years starting June 2022. Our congratulations both on the appointment and marriage to George.
4. Teacher's House was put on the market for sale. After a number of false starts, the sale activity is ongoing.
5. We celebrated and thanked Rosemary and Tom Hancock as they stood down after so many years of service as Deputy Churchwardens for St Michael's and St Mary's. Our thoughts are with Rosemary regarding Tom's recent passing as they are for all those bereaved.

Regardless of the day to day demands of the virus much practical work has been achieved and below is a summary of some of the projects that have been taken forward. Our thanks to the work of Geof Adlington, Rob Davies and Deputy Churchwardens for their involvement in work in addressing many of these issues, and Friends of St Peter's and St Michael's for their respective financial support.

- 1) Parish Wide;
 - a) Asbestos survey, management plan and mitigating repairs.
 - b) Inventory of Parish belongings completed (thanks to Dep Churchwardens, Margaret & Nigel Bearne, Penny Kain, Gill Badger).
- 2) St Peter's, Winchcombe:
 - a) West door repair.
 - b) Loo door refitted.
 - c) Eastern Gloucester Street facing wall repaired (Town Council).
 - d) Kitchen dishwasher and cupboards.
 - e) Decluttering of Parvis Room (Michael Hand).
 - f) Bin in NW of churchyard (Mark Sorenson).
 - g) Repair of clock motor.
 - h) Ringing Chamber window repair.
 - i) Stonework repairs to porch gate and base of North tower.
 - j) West door repair.
 - k) Cockerel lighting repair.
 - l) Bell Chamber lighting repair.
 - m) Audio-visual upgrade
- 3) Christ Church, Gretton:
 - a) Repair to a partial ceiling collapse.
 - b) Putting in place of protection against owl nesting in the porch and steeple staircase.
 - c) Management of overgrown trees.
 - d) Repair and removal of asbestos from the organ. This was achieved at no cost to the PCC after fundraising led by Sue Fleck.
 - e) Repair of steeple louvre barriers, removal of nesting debris within the steeple and the inclusion of a steeple bird scarer.
 - f) Roof repairs as identified in the Quinquennial Review.
 - g) Woodworm eradication in the steeple.
 - h) Ground level gulley stonework repaired.
 - i) St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge:
 - j) Restoration work progressed in completing the sub-surface drainage work in Spring 2021. Grant fund searching having culminated, whilst there are sufficient funds to complete the re-roofing in Autumn 2022, the pew platform work is currently unfunded.

k) St Mary's, Sudeley Castle:

l) Stonework and downpiping repairs were programmed to finish the tasks identified in the Quinquennial Review (now completed).

4) St Peter's Centre:

a) Office Stable door (*in memorium* of Joan Holgate).

b) Workplace standard electrical testing and upgrade.

Finally, whilst we inevitably will not have thanked everyone who deserves it, the continued voluntary contributions by the PCC, choir, bellringers, stewards, welcomers, sacristans, vergers, holy dusters, coffee makers, etc, etc are not taken for granted. Thank you to all our volunteers but we remain ready to accept new names to fill more gaps.

Simon Andrews

Judith Skinner

Churchwardens, Winchcombe Parish

NOTES FROM THE DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS

St Peter's

Covid clearly put a bit of a dampener on activities, particularly entertainment, during the year, but services got into a more 'normal' routine by the end of the year culminating in a full Christmas service programme.

Our Deputy Churchwarden has also started the undertaking of a review of the heating in St Peter's with a view to heating the people using the building rather than the building. Readers of the Parish magazine will be aware that the experience of other churches is being sought via open questions in a questionnaire which is available from the parish office. Tim Hall, a previous churchwarden, has also been considering what we can do to make the building warmer during the colder months of the year. These issues have become more pressing following the increases in energy prices. Hopefully our combined efforts will result in one or more recommendations going to the PCC in Autumn 2022 after parishioners have had an opportunity to have their say.

Christ Church

Since services were restarted following the pandemic closure, they are being held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship, following which we enjoy a social time with coffee and biscuits. Revd Mike Holloway has also instituted a short, informal service of Morning Prayer on Thursday mornings at 9:30am.

The Christ Church Mini Team has restarted meeting every two months; thanks to Revd Mike Holloway and Judith Skinner for attending.

About 18 of us, including some non-church-going villagers, turned out in July for a major clean-up of the churchyard.

Because of the continuing Covid risks we were uncertain as to whether we should hold a Crib Service and a Carol Service on Christmas Eve; it was decided to hold an al fresco Carol sing in the churchyard at 4pm instead, led by Revd Mike. Despite a very wet afternoon, a large number turned out under umbrellas!

St Michael's

Following the lifting of the lockdown closures, Holy Communion has been held on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

In September, we had our annual maintenance day, clearing gutters, weeding the wildflower area and a general tidying of churchyard, as well as clearing cobwebs and cleaning the windows inside the church.

We also held our Harvest Festival in September, when we decorated the church with flowers and produce from our gardens, and held a collection for the Winchcombe Food Bank. Following the evening service, we had drinks and nibbles in the churchyard. We held our Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight in December. People booked their places in their family bubbles so social distancing could take place and we were able to accommodate everyone who wished to attend. JP invited us to choose a poem or piece we would like to read, as well as the traditional readings, and it was a very special service. Afterwards we had refreshments outside in the churchyard around a brazier.

St Mary's

Only one of the planned six Evening Prayers was able to be held, which was in September 2021; guess why yes, Covid. Work is ongoing between Sudeley Castle, the Church Commissioners and our PCC regarding the potential transfer of ownership of St Mary's to the Castle. Our current Summer church services programme would continue as currently done.

REPORT FROM THE DEANERY SYNOD

There were effectively no Deanery meetings in 2021 other than the Deanery finance meeting to discuss and agree the level of Parish Share donations from each of the benefices. However a youth work facilitator was appointed to our Deanery and initial discussions held with WAM in Winchcombe.

Deanery meetings recommenced in April 2022 so there will be more to report at next year's APCM

*Geof Adlington
May 3 2022*

NOTES ON SAFEGUARDING DURING 2021

The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC also has a Parish Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually.

Our Commitments:

- b) Promoting a safer environment and culture
- c) Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- d) Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- e) Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- f) Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- g) Responding to those who may pose a present risk

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

1 DBS

Gill Worthington continues to do an excellent job ensuring that those who work with children or adults at risk and any others in roles eligible for DBS clearances apply for and have their DBS clearances approved and renewed as required. This includes all members of the PCC as Trustees of a charity that provides services for children or adults at risk. Clearances were sought for the members of the newly re-formed Pastoral Team.

2 Safer Recruitment

All those working for the church in activities involving children or vulnerable adults, whether the role is paid or voluntary, should now be recruited using the Safer Recruitment process. The Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Churchwardens have completed Safer Recruitment Training.

The members of the newly re-formed Pastoral Team have been recruited using the Safer Recruitment Process. This process is also being used for the Toddler Time helpers.

3 Parish Dashboard

We have begun to use the Parish Dashboard, which is an online Safeguarding Tool provided by the Church of England. The Dashboard acts as an audit of safeguarding for the Parish and produces an action plan.

4 Safeguarding Training

The Church of England has produced a new list of Safeguarding Training courses available and of those who should take the different courses. Most of the courses can be taken online at any convenient time via the C of E training portal. The courses available at present are: Basic, Foundation, Leadership, Safer Recruitment and Domestic Abuse. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, in conjunction with the PCC, will contact those whose roles require training to explain what is needed. Training should be renewed every three years.

*Lynne Banks
Safeguarding Officer*

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

As mentioned earlier in the Churchwardens' Report pastoral care within the parish has been challenging during Covid especially when lockdowns were in place but both the clergy and Margaret Batterbury's team of Pastoral Visitors did their best to maintain contact with as many as possible in the parish.

Both Margaret and Pookie Shaw stepped back and retired in the Summer and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to them for their years of dedicated pastoral service to the whole parish.

John Paul was anxious that this area of ministry should not fall by the wayside and so in September, 2021, I agreed to take on the role of co-ordinator of the Pastoral Team. In order to revitalise the team a training day was arranged and this took place on 27th November with ten participants. It was led by the Revd Canon Pauline Godfrey, Head of Discipleship and Vocation and Deputy of the Department of Mission and Ministry for the Diocese of Gloucester. She helped us understand the role of a Pastoral Visitor and guided us in working out their place within our own parish.

On Sunday, 12th December at the 10.30 Parish Communion John Paul commissioned, Lynne Banks, Lesley Davies, Shelley Everall Hoban, Jill Hargreaves, Roger Hargreaves, Gaye Kimber, Margaret Lloyd and Judith Skinner as Pastoral Visitors. Since then the team have been in contact with and visited many members of the parish who have been housebound or felt isolated during Covid restrictions, (I refrain from saying all but that would be my hope). We are grateful for the 'referrals' both formal and via the grapevine that come to our notice and are allocated at our monthly meetings. Of course we are aware that much pastoral work goes on by many members of the congregation, quietly, unpretentiously and unnoticed, and we thank you for this.

Judith Skinner
Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care

MUSIC REPORT

We entered our third lockdown on 6th January 2021 and the following year was again a period of changing regulations and guidance. For the first three months, Shelley and I provided the musical input to services which were streamed from a very cold church. Such was our offering on Good Friday but the rules were relaxed a little for Easter and we had a “family bubble” choir in the Lady chapel.

Subsequently, although the rules were supposed to have been relaxed, we found that we were restricted to a maximum of six singers, and, as much music is written in four parts, this rather limited what we were able to offer. At last, in September, the regulations allowed a more meaningful group of singers, and gradually a small choir, often masked and socially distanced, was able to reform.

On 16th October were able to put on a Choir Concert; this was a little shorter than in previous years but was followed by “Bring and Share” refreshments, and a bar managed by the Friends of St Peter’s. The format was very successful and 120 tickets were sold, contributing handsomely to the PCC and Organ funds. The 2022 Concert will follow a similar pattern.

New variants of the coronavirus resulted in changing guidance and practice, but we were able to field a full choir for the Remembrance Service on Abbey Terrace and for the Advent Service on 28th November. However, we restricted the choir to 20 for the Carol Service and Christmas Day.

Over the last two years some of our younger voices have broken or moved schools, so it is not surprising that Covid has added to the problems of recruiting young choristers. However, we are delighted that some of the past choir members continue to support us as and when their family and work commitments allow. And we have welcomed several singers who have recently moved into Winchcombe. The Covid situation has prevented much outreach to local schools but hopefully this will improve, and Shelley plans to develop opportunities with young people. We are not despondent and will play to our strengths in the meantime.

The cold and damp weather early in the year caused damage to many organs; fortunately, ours escaped with a few sticky notes which gradually resolved themselves as we enjoyed warmer days, and more frequent playing, with the onset of summer. A while ago we identified some repairs to the blower and the mechanism of the organ which are necessary to maintain the instrument in good order and to mitigate the risk of sudden failure. I am delighted that with the benefit of two legacies and the support of the Friends we were able to sign a contract with Nicholsons Organs to undertake the work, and hopefully this will be done in the next few months.

Andrew Horton – Joint Director of Music

ST PETER'S FLOWER ARRANGERS' REPORT

The group have continued to provide an arrangement next to the altar each week, except in Advent and Lent. Extended decorations for Christmas, Easter and Harvest have been appreciated by the congregation and the Group is grateful for all the compliments received. We plan to continue this pattern for the coming year.

In line with the work currently being done by the Eco-Group on lowering the church's carbon footprint, we have decided to phase out the use of Oasis floral foam in our arrangements as it is very damaging to the environment. We are investigating alternative foams currently available, but none seem to work as well, and many are almost as eco-unfriendly as Oasis, so more radical changes are needed. As a result, there may be changes to the style of the altar arrangements in the coming months as we seek alternative ways of presenting flowers in large arrangements. Further to this, we will also be looking into the possibility of sourcing our flowers locally or at least from this country.

At present we cannot provide additional flowers for weddings. Couples are welcome to put additional arrangements in church or bring in a florist, but we do ask that they do not move or remove the altar arrangement. In line with our policy on the use of floral foam, we have asked that it is not used in any additional arrangements.

There are only 7 of us in the Flower Group. More members would be most welcome – you do not have to be an expert (some of us are certainly not) just enthusiastic and willing to have a go. Advice and encouragement are always on hand and the commitment is not onerous. Talk to either of us if you are interested.

Margaret Bearne and Margaret Holloway

REPORT FROM THE BELLRINGERS

We are still suffering the effects of Covid, in that we really do not have enough ringers, but we are also suffering from absences due to other illnesses/ injuries. On the whole this year we are managing to maintain “normal” ringing, which is ringing for Sunday Services and practicing on a Wednesday. We are also managing to ring for special services and weddings, but only a couple of those so far this year. We are hoping to boost our numbers by holding a couple of Open Days, which will have happened by the time you read this! Edward Kain, as usual, is seeing to it that the bells are in good repair. We had a new set of ropes in February 2010, but all of these are now showing wear in the tail ends (the rope below the sally), as these were made of hemp, whereas the majority of the new ropes were made of terylene. One of these is currently out for repair, and it may be necessary to repair the remainder of the ropes for safety’s sake.

Clare Pritchard

STEWARDS REPORT FOR 2021/2

Covid has meant that visitors were down on previous years and we saw many long serving Stewards resigning. John Paul Hoskins wrote thanking them for their help.

With fewer Stewards we have been unable to keep accurate records. Once the Church was re-opened, we saw a trickle of visitors returning. 2022 indicated an increase in visitors but the numbers registered are far from accurate.

Tom Hancock, the creator of the Stewards team died this year and one of the founder Stewards Alan Cogbill died in April. A Stewards’ appreciation has been given to the PCC.

A big thank you to all our wonderful Stewards who have turned out inspite of health concerns.

Lynn Gorman