

Parish Church of St. Peter, Ruddington

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2024

Incumbent

The Reverend Andrew Buchanan
The Vicarage,
Wilford Road,
Ruddington
Notts. NG11 6EL

Banks

Barclays Bank plc
Nottingham High Street Branch
Nottingham Group
P.O.Box No.18
Nottingham NG1 6FF

Central Board of Finance
Church of England Fund
London EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiner

J Roome

Annual Report 2024 for St Peter's Church Ruddington

Background:

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council ('PCC') is a registered charity number 1154125 with the Charity Commission. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of Ruddington, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St. Peter's Church and the property known as The Hermitage, which serves as a church hall.

Membership of the PCC:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Currently the PCC comprises 4 ex officio, 1 Deanery Synod representative and 8 elected members - the agreed establishment being ex officio members +10% of the Church Electoral Roll.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:-

Incumbent: The Revd Andrew Buchanan (Chair)

Readers: Mr Mike Houghton

Mrs Jane Robins

Wardens: Mr Mic Robins

Mrs Nikki Roe

Representative on the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Jane Robins

Elected Members: Mr David Baker

Mrs Margaret Barker

Mr Terry Boniface

Mrs Jeannette Dawson

Mrs Sue Lindley

Mrs Danielle Pickup

Mr Jon Ruben

Co-opted Members: Mr Olivier Humphrey

Mrs Louisa Sellers

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by it. There were 6 meetings held during the year 2024.

Working Groups:

Apart from the Standing Committee, the PCC has not operated through formal committees. An informal working group, The Buildings Committee, has been overseeing buildings issues.

PCC Meetings:

There were 6 regular meetings of the full PCC during the year, with an average attendance of 11 including the Chair.

Church Attendance:

The 2024 electoral roll stands at 113, including 19 who reside outside the Parish.

During 2024, the church has been open for services all year. The church live streams its Sunday services.

The average attendance at services during the week is 110. The average Sunday service attendance in October 2024 was 68 compared to 61 the previous year. Numbers have risen since then. A further 38 people attend services at other times in the week (Thursday Communion and Framework Church).

It is hard to judge attendance at online services; large numbers of 'engagements' may simply be an appearance on someone's Facebook timeline.

There were 3 baptisms, 5 thanksgivings for the gift of a child, 2 weddings and 8 funerals in church during 2024. A further 5 services were taken by the St Peter's incumbent or readers at a crematorium.

Vicar's Report:

"I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13

What an amazing and encouraging year 2024 has been! I doubt that our Church building has ever looked so good (A big thank you to our Church Wardens, Mic and Nikki, for their tireless work in supervising the renovations, both inside and out!). Jane Robins and Rev David Anderton continued to inspire and refresh, with their leadership of the 'Charismatic' and 'Classic' services respectively. We continued to be blessed with many newcomers, especially following an amazing Alpha course late in 2024. Framework Church continued to thrive and I have had the enormous privilege of leading both assemblies and Pupil Chaplaincy this year. And, we have been so blessed with an increasing number of children within our services! Praise the Lord! After many tough years – I think we are right to be encouraged!

And yet, even in good times such as these, let's take to heart, the lesson that the Apostle Paul learned. Success isn't everything – Christ is. For if we rely upon increasing numbers, and seek our value in them, then that may inhibit us from taking faith-inspired risks in the future, lest we rock the boat. So, let's be encouraged, but even more, let's be hungry for more of Jesus.

Rev Andrew Buchanan

Discipleship/Small groups

Our small groups continued to play a vital role within St Peter's in 2024. Our small groups remain the context in which most of the pastoral care and practical discipleship is given and received within our church community. I simply want to say a massive 'thank you' to all of our amazing Small Group Leaders, who give so much of their time and love! You make such an enormous difference in the lives of so many people – and we couldn't be church without you.

Rev Andrew Buchanan

Children and Youth

In 2024 St Peter's was able to engage with more children and young people than we have for many years! Little P's continued to thrive (please see Lyn's little P's report). We also sought, in cooperation with Ruddington Baptists, to provide a full range of groups for children and young people, both on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings. Assemblies in our village schools continued with, every second Wednesday, the Vicar speaking to over 700 children! Child-centred Christmas and Easter Activities, with the Christingle and (the new) Chocolate East-tingle proved to be extremely popular. However, two new features appeared both within and beyond our community; Creche during our morning Sunday service began to grow and Thursday Church morphed into Pupil Chaplaincy (please see report below).

Rev Andrew Buchanan

Thursday Church/ Pupil Chaplaincy

In October 2023 we established a new worshipping community at St Peter's School called 'Thursday Church @ St Peter's School.' And it was excellent! The volunteers were brilliant, the material inspiring and engaging and those who attended loved it. Sadly, for a whole variety of good practical reasons not many people did attend it! So, with a heavy heart, we decided to cease Thursday Church, and we prayed for discernment about what should come next. And what came next was Pupil Chaplaincy.

Pupil Chaplaincy is a lunch time activity, devised and led by me, which forms just one of many groups established by the headteacher Michael Bradley and teacher Vicky Shaw, at St Peter's School, to nurture participation and leadership within the school. Pupil chaplaincy is all about fostering Spirituality, and meets on a Wednesday, once a fortnight, to learn about Christian spirituality to design and establish a Prayer/quiet/ reflective space within the school. Although over 90 applied to become Pupil Chaplains, through interviews, 24 eager children were enrolled as Pupil Chaplain in September 2024. And it's been going brilliantly! Wonderfully supported by Jon Ruben and Louisa Sellars, Pupil Chaplain gatherings have been well-attended, thoughtful, creative and very enthusiastic.

Rev Andrew Buchanan

Framework Church

Following the successful launch of Framework Church in June 2023, it has grown and continues to flourish, going from strength to strength. From a steering group of 8 people, total current members exceed 40. Originally meeting alternate weeks, Framework church now meets every week, alternate Thursday mornings and evenings, with an average attendance at each meeting of 16-20. There is some crossover, but despite that a diverse and different group attends each meeting. Not everyone attends every week, but most members remain in contact whether they attend or not.

There have been many surprising and exciting things happen this year. A lesson we have been forced to learn is that whilst we may have our own ideas and plans, God develops and grows this church in line with His will, which isn't necessarily the same as ours; or maybe we sometimes just take a while to catch up!

The steering group, now the leadership team, envisaged that this church would always be about mission. Which it is. But alongside that, an encouraging and second strand to the ongoing development is the discipleship growth that has matured within the leadership group. Many started with a heart for community and a desire to take church 'out there' but with little or no experience in church leadership. Through their involvement in leading this church, we now have a team of eight people who are all able to confidently deliver a bible talk, who are mentoring new Christians, who have grown and matured in their own faith and who play an ever-increasing ministerial role in both this church and St Peters. They are an amazing, committed and encouraging team.

Another interesting development, again not envisaged, is the desire from Framework members to be part of the life and work of St Peters as well. Increasingly members attend Sunday services alongside the Thursday meetings of Framework. The infectious and joyous enthusiasm that is so special from a new Christian plays an exciting part in encouraging and refreshing others.

We look to the future with excitement and thanks for what God is doing. Please continue to pray for the life and growth of this community church; God tells us in His word that he will do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think". May we be alert to His prompting, alive to His will, confident in the task He has set before us.

Jane Robins

Little Ps

Little Ps. Is a Christian Ministry for babies and toddlers. We meet in St. Peter's Church on Mondays 9-10.45am during term time. We have a lovely fun filled time together in a safe environment while also learning about God in a gentle way. We have one hour's free play from 9-10 with lots of toys and a Bible craft. Then at 10-10.45 we all join together for a Bible story and Bible songs mixed in with general nursery songs and sometimes bubbles. We have lots of families who are registered with us, some who come occasionally and others every week. Our average weekly numbers of children are between 25-30. The numbers have dropped slightly from last year, but this is because government funding for children has increased from fifteen and thirty hours a week from the age of three so consequently the children are younger when they leave us. This Ministry is donation only and is self-funding. Any money donated goes towards buying things we might need toys, books, crafts etc. The surplus goes to the church.

We also send money to Children In Need.

Little Ps has a very dedicated team of volunteers who all do an amazing job and without their help and hard work we could not provide this Ministry so I would like to say thank you to everyone involved.

Lyn Smith, Little Ps leader

Friendship Group:

The Friendship Group meets once a month, except August, in church. The group lasts an hour and half, providing cake and hot drinks. This year there has been a change of leadership, as our wonderful Honor stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the group. Three people have taken on the job that Honor did alone, which says it all! Margaret, Lyn and Rosemary are joint leaders and hope to do the same excellent work.

Each month, Friendship Group has an activity, e.g. a quiz, armchair exercises, a film or poetry readings in the style of Pam Ayres! Last Christmas, leaders decided to form a group to sing songs from the musicals with a few volunteers. This went down so well there could be a repeat performance...watch this space.

We have sadly lost a few members due to ill health, moving away or other reasons. We try to keep in touch with our members. We send birthday, Christmas and Easter cards and every member knows that we are only a phone call away.

The group continues to grow, and we have so much help with everything we do. Our thanks go to all the people who give their time so willingly. Our aim is to provide a happy, safe environment for all our wonderful members.

Friendship Group Leaders, Margaret Barker, Lyn Smith and Rosemary Savage

Heat n Eat:

Heat n Eat provides a two-course lunch and refreshments on the first and fourth Monday of each month (Bank Holidays excluded). There are no restrictions on who can attend.

On average we have between 30 and 40 guests at each lunch. The cost of the lunch remained at £1 for all of 2024. It will go up to £1.50 from February 2025. There was consultation with attendees about this proposed change and I am delighted to report that there was no dissension because of the increase, in fact guests either understood or were quite vocal saying they believed it was a bargain anyway!

Whilst the number is fairly static, we have a considerable number of new guests since last year but sadly have lost a few through ill health or mobility issues.

One of the pluses we have noticed is the number of people who come early and stay late to socialise. Friendship and support is obvious to see and it's a lovely additional benefit.

We have a great team of regular helpers, for which I am very grateful and would like to record my thanks to Margaret, Rosemary, Eva, Sue, Zoe, Suzanne and Angi. Along of course with Chris from Sycamore who supplies the excellent food. It would not be possible without these marvellous volunteers!

Jeannette Dawson, Heat n Eat Lead

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding must always be a high priority. Actions taken in 2024 were as follows:

- The safeguarding policy and other statutory policies were agreed by PCC on 15th January 2024.
- A Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer, Olivier Humphrey, was appointed.
- An up to date list of volunteers was made, and this was followed up with safeguarding training and DBS checks. We have new volunteers and need to keep updating this list.
- Some PCC DBS certificates were applied for or renewed.
- One incident was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, relating to information about a non-current situation from 50 years ago.

We need to keep vigilant; events in the national Church of England show that terrible things can happen and have happened. It's vital that we keep safeguarding at the top of our agenda.

Nikki Roe, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Musical Worship

Over the past year, our Musical Worship Group has grown in size, abilities and repertoire. The changes in our worship services throughout the month, with each being a different style of worship, has given us the opportunity to vary our musical style as well. The 2nd Sunday Traditional Services were quite often solo services, mainly focusing on traditional hymns with a few intermittent “old contemporary” songs. The brand-new 4th Sunday Charismatic Service quickly became a chance to create an all-encompassing large group, mainly focusing on well-known contemporary music along with quite a few very new songs. The 1st Sunday Altogether Service and 3rd Sunday Mixed Service have been a blend of different worship styles. These challenged us to balance the types and age of the music to facilitate the worship of our diverse church body, providing a little bit of something for everyone.

The leadership of the Musical Worship Group remained the same, with three of us sharing the burden of planning each week. We had one musician retire from the group but also saw another three join us in 2024. Having been blessed with so many musicians, the burden hasn't been overbearing. We intentionally planned time for everyone to be a part of the congregation, to worship without leading.

With the 2nd Sunday Traditional Service being a solo instrumentalist service, this allowed us to use the practice in the week before for our New Music Practice. During the New Music Practice, everyone is welcome to bring music for us to try. This has also been a relaxed atmosphere for new people who are interested in joining us to try out singing/playing new music alongside our regular musicians.

Other than the normal Sunday services, we also provided music for other services and events throughout the year, including Framework Church, our first Eastingle, both Christingles, the Christmas Fair, Pentecost on the Green, and more. There is always some event on the horizon for us to prepare.

Overall, 2024 was a year of challenges. As a team, the Musical Worship Group met and enjoyed these challenges, supporting each other and our church throughout.

Deborah Smith, Musical Worship Leader

Churchwarden's Fabric Report:

This year, a good deal of money has been spent on the church building, more than in previous years. This is because we have addressed key stonework issues identified in the quinquennial report. We have also fulfilled a long-standing PCC decision to put additional storage in the Nave. We also needed to make sure that water coming into church when it rained stopped coming in! This involved repairs to the roof and guttering. We also paid the deposit on the new servery, which was completed in early 2025.

Other general works include the repair of vandalised windows in the church porch area, Hermitage roofing and guttering cleaning and repairs, improvements to flat 2 in the Hermitage and improvements to church grounds.

The heating system in church is very old and it is now almost impossible to get parts. We are spending a good deal of money keeping it going and it has just about survived this year. Richard Bird kindly agreed to lead a team to find the best replacement heating system. PCC have been monitoring progress on this, with Richard giving reports to PCC meetings. All options have been considered and we have come across many obstacles! We hope that a new heating system will be in place by winter 2025/6.

We have liaised with the Parish Council over the lease of St Peter's Rooms, which is due for renewal in 2027. We are currently waiting for the Council to complete a condition survey of the building.

A priority for 2025 is the new heating system, as above. We are pleased that some long overdue works, such as the servery and the repairs to the churchyard wall, have been done in early 2025.

Keeping the church buildings going is a huge job, and many people have contributed. We have a duty to keep the church in order, as generations of Church Wardens have done before us. Thanks to everyone who works so hard to ensure that this can be done.

Mic Robins and Nikki Roe, Church Wardens

Treasurer's Report:

Summary

Our long-standing Treasurer, Mike Houghton, stepped down last year. Mike left the finance in a very organised and healthy state, and we are all appreciative of this hard work over many years. Thank you Mike.

We have formed a Finance Team this year, with five different people covering different areas as follows:

Jeannette Dawson – Treasurer and team leader

Nikki Roe – day to day finance, bookkeeping, payroll, reports

Sarah Durke – Gift Aid

Bryan Willson – Cashier

David Baker – Utilities

2024 was a year when some long-awaited projects came to fruition, so it was a year of increased spending which had been planned for some years. The projects were improvements to the church building, and funding for these came from designated funds (the installation of new cupboards and the initial payments for the new servery) and from the Chancel Fund (essential repairs to stone works identified in the last quinquennial report.) We withdrew £16,000 from the Chancel Fund to pay for the stone works.

The General Fund

Unrestricted receipts and payments are recorded in the General Fund. Payments and receipts this year are shown in the financial statements.

The Hermitage Fund

The Hermitage continues to be a valuable source of income for the church, and the Hermitage Fund transferred £14,000 to the General Fund this year to support the budget. Payments and receipts are shown in the financial statements.

Restricted Funds

St Peter's Church has several funds, established over many years, which can only be used for purposes established by the original donors, or agreed by the PCC. Changes in these funds this year are shown in the financial statements.

Conclusion

As mentioned in the introduction, we have spent more money on planned building works than usual this year. Some of these works were agreed by the PCC some time ago, others came as a result of the quinquennial inspection.

There will be challenges to come if St Peter's congregation and regular giving declines in line with national trends. But, at present we are able to pay the bills, including some financial support for our new worshipping communities. As always the church leadership is grateful for the long term generosity of the St Peter's family, which enables us to engage in mission and ministry to Ruddington and the surrounding area.

Jeannette Dawson, Treasurer

Charity number: 1154125

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent	The Reverend Andrew Buchanan The Vicarage Wilford Road Ruddington Nottingham NG11 6EL
Banks	Barclays Bank PLC Nottingham High Street Branch Nottingham Group PO Box No 18 Nottingham NG1 6FF Central Board of Finance Church of England Fund London EC2V 6DZ
Independent Examiner	Joanne Roome FCCA Jo Roome Chartered Certified Accountants Room 1, 27A High Street Ruddington Nottingham NG11 6DW

Responsibilities of PCC

The PCC are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Accounts.

The Charity's trustees 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.

Responsibility of Independent Examiner

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions 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 trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required of an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner Statement

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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

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

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

Joanne Roome FCCA
Jo Roome Chartered Certified Accountants
Room 1, 27A High Street
Ruddington
Nottingham
NG11 6DW

Date: 13th March 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts and Payments Account

	2024					
	General	Hermitage	Designated & Restricted	Endowment	Total	2023
	Fund	Fund	Funds	Fund		
Receipts						
Regular giving	71,425	-	-	-	71,425	71,205
Flat rent	-	15,276	-	-	15,276	15,166
Gift Aid recovered	15,786	-	-	-	15,786	14,204
Hermitage Hire	-	14,996	-	-	14,996	13,799
Donations	3,574	-	9,696	-	13,270	8,968
Sundry Income	7,425	-	-	-	7,425	6,830
Wedding and funeral fees (Gross)	4,825	-	-	-	4,825	6,684
Collections	5,420	-	-	-	5,420	2,913
Church hire	2,035	-	-	-	2,035	1,873
Bank Interest	234	1	2,697	-	2,932	1,841
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income	-	-	-	1,603	1,603	1,578
VAT reclaim	-	-	-	-	-	737
FYC ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	110,724	30,273	12,393	1,603	154,993	145,798
Payments						
Parish Share	70,008	-	-	-	70,008	65,010
Utilities	13,155	10,814	-	-	23,969	16,856
Repairs & maintenance	25,839	3,839	6,000	-	35,678	15,463
Charitable giving	10,633	-	-	-	10,633	11,097
Insurance	7,673	1,875	-	-	9,548	9,284
Fees, ministers, organists, vergers	4,557	-	-	-	4,557	7,800
Wages	5,029	-	-	-	5,029	4,860
Mission	248	-	-	-	248	160
Framework	544	-	-	-	544	664
Heat n Eat/Friendship Gp	-	-	3,058	-	3,058	3,158
Music & technical	1,379	-	-	-	1,379	3,851
Vicars expenses	1,053	-	-	-	1,053	2,845
Office Costs	1,413	-	-	-	1,413	1,487
Sundry	1,940	258	-	-	2,198	1,398
Professional fees	1,100	-	-	-	1,100	1,133
Cleaning	-	1,623	-	-	1,623	1,061
FYC ministry	398	-	-	-	398	994
Worship resources	2,096	-	-	-	2,096	809
Bank charges	133	108	-	-	241	238
Training & discipleship	40	-	-	-	40	22
HMRC	62	-	-	-	62	-
	147,300	18,517	9,058	-	174,875	148,190
Movement in funds	- 36,576	11,756	3,335	1,603	- 19,882	-2,392
Transfers between funds	30,000	-14,000	-14,397	-1,603	-	-
Funds b/fwd	62,023	16,440	90,853	-	169,316	171,708
Funds c/fwd	55,447	14,196	79,791	-	149,434	169,316

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Restricted Funds

	Ruddington Chancel Fund	Refugee	Development (was Project)	Mission	Church Grounds	Bell Ringers	Community (was Co-op)	Organ	Heating	Total
2023 B/fwd	50,068	845	21,474	160	1,185	1,344	7,270	1,036	3,088	86,470
Receipts	3,201	-	-	-	-	-	4,500	-	-	7,701
Payments	-	-	-	160	-	-	3,158	-	-	3,318
C/fwd	53,269	845	21,474	-	1,185	1,344	8,612	1,036	3,088	90,853
2024 B/fwd	53,269	845	21,474	-	1,185	1,344	8,612	1,036	3,088	90,853
Receipts	4,300	-	-	-	-	-	1,196	-	8,500	13,996
Payments	16,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	3,058	-	-	25,058
C/fwd	41,569	845	15,474	-	1,185	1,344	6,750	1,036	11,588	79,791

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington
Year Ended 31 December 2024
Permanent Endowment Funds

	2024	2023
Ruddington (Mills) Fund		
Value b/fwd	3,617	3,306
Unrealised gain/reduction on investment	105	311
Value c/fwd	<u>3,722</u>	<u>3,617</u>
Ruddington Chancel (shares) Fund		
Value b/fwd	57,734	52,769
Unrealised gain/reduction on investment	1,321	4,965
Value c/fwd	<u>59,055</u>	<u>57,734</u>
Ruddington Chancel (cash) Fund		
Funds b/fwd	53,269	50,068
Transfer from Endowment	1,603	1,578
Interest received	2,697	1,623
Withdrawal	- 16,000	-
Value c/fwd	<u>41,569</u>	<u>53,269</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ruddington
Year Ended 31 December 2024
Charitable Giving For The Year

	2024	2023
Aminit High School	831.00	925.00
NG11 Food Bank	831.00	925.00
Refugee Roots	831.00	925.00
Teso Development Trust	831.00	925.00
Simeons Trustees	831.00	925.00
The Friary	831.00	925.00
West Bridgford Debt Centre (CAP)	831.00	925.00
Jericho Road Project	-	925.00
Stewardship London	-	925.00
Eternal Wall	1,756.00	-
Open Homes Nottingham	831.00	925.00
Streamsinn	-	921.90
Stathern Childrens	831.00	925.00
Amen Tender Heart	831.00	-
Donations to nominated charities	<u>10,066.00</u>	<u>11,096.90</u>
The Childrens Society	567.00	
Total Charitable giving for the year	<u>10,633.00</u>	<u>11,096.90</u>