



Annual Report

May 2022 to May 2023

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Vicar's Introduction

In many ways, this has been a difficult year. Much time and energy has had to be devoted to the repairs in the Church Hall and to the redevelopment of the church building, there has been substantial uncertainty (and at times, considerable anxiety) about what the future will look like for us as a church, and we have often been under significant financial pressure. Meanwhile, I am acutely conscious of the struggles and the pain experienced by many in our church family – and we weep with those who weep (cf. Romans 12.15).

And yet, as we look back, we can be so thankful for all that the Lord has done amongst us. The reports that follow on the next few pages highlight not only the difficulties we have faced but also the encouragements we have received at the Lord's hand, the answers to prayer for which we are so grateful, and the reassuring sense in which the Lord has been working both in us and through us in this last year.

The testimony of God's people has always been that not one of the Lord's promises has failed (cf. Joshua 21.45). As you read this Annual Report, my hope is that our gratitude to the Lord might overflow once more. I commend this Report to you.

With best wishes,

Mark

Ministry Report

Sunday ministry

Sunday services remain at the heart of our church's ministry, and continue to be a key opportunity to welcome newcomers and proclaim the gospel. Sermons in the past year have included series in the Old Testament book of Daniel, in the New Testament letter of 1 Corinthians, and our ongoing series through the Gospel of Matthew. The increasing number of families and young people in the past year has been a particular encouragement, along with the increasing diversity of backgrounds and cultures this has represented, and we are thankful to those leaders and helpers who commit so sacrificially to the work of *St Peter's Kids (SPK)*. A further notable positive from this last year has been the growth of our Music Group to lead our singing in Sunday services.

Mid-week ministry

An increasing number of groups are now offered, both to church members and to the wider community, as opportunities for Bible Study, prayer, mutual encouragement, and fellowship. In 2022-2023, these have included:

- *Christianity Explored* and *Hope Explored* groups, which have offered opportunities for people to look into the Christian faith for themselves and discuss particular questions they might have;
- CONNECT meetings on Wednesday evenings, as our mid-week ministry continued to recover after the difficulties of the Covid-19 lockdowns;
- an evangelistic evening for Women – “ChocFest” – with an opportunity to hear a short talk about Jesus;
- Bible Study Groups, studying Judges, Revelation, Micah, and an Old Testament overview;
- monthly Prayer Meetings, as we gather to pray for the work of the church, for the needs of the world, and for particular individuals and situations;
- a group from St Peter's supporting Beacon House (a local charity supporting homeless people), and being involved in the regular ‘Everyone has a Story’ initiative;
- a Study Evening over the summer, offering ‘A Walk through the book of Exodus’ with Stephen and Sheila Lloyd;
- a group for young people in their 20s and 30s on a Sunday evening (at the time of writing, evolving into a men's Bible Study Group);
- a new Bible Study group for women on a Wednesday morning;
- and a Lent Book Group, reflecting on the new book by Timothy Keller entitled *Forgive – why should I, and how can I?*
- and ongoing monthly Communion Services at Freda Gunton Lodge.

“A group of women (there are 6 of us at the moment) have started meeting on Wednesday mornings in the church hall. When we come together we get the toys out (as there are 6 little people too), put the kettle on and spend time chatting and reading and discussing the gospel of Mark. Our hope is that, as we meet regularly and listen to God's word (over the sounds of children driving cars/eating snacks/having meltdowns), we can build each other up and encourage one another in our faith. All women are welcome to join us - most Wednesdays in term time, 10am-11.30am, in the church hall.”

There have also been increasingly popular opportunities to meet together for food, including a Women's Pudding Evening, Afternoon Tea at Stephen & Sheila Lloyd's, an Ice Cream Party with the Cox family, and picnics at the Vicarage.

Pastoral ministry

St Peter's continues to seek to offer pastoral support and encouragement for all those in the church, and for many in the wider community. Social gatherings, especially the 'Coffee & Chat' at the Mercury Theatre Cafe, continue to offer opportunities for people to get to know one another. Meanwhile, practical help is offered wherever possible, including the recent introduction of 'Kindness Meals' in association with COOK Colchester.

We have sadly said goodbye to several much-loved members of St Peter's – including John Huke, Audrey Lambert, Heather Loyd, Ursula Maggie, and Mary Wyatt – and give thanks that as we grieve, we do so not without hope.

Safeguarding remains a key priority, and the responsibility of everyone at St Peter's. The PCC is grateful to Sue Almond for her continued work as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and to the Safeguarding Committee who support her in that work. St Peter's continues to seek to do all it can to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected and kept safe.

Christmas and Easter

The major festivals remain key opportunities for the mission and ministry of St Peter's. 2022 was the first Christmas since the final removal of all Covid-restrictions, and it was a particular joy to welcome back both North Primary School and the Sixth Form College for their Christmas Carol Services in the church. Both our Parish Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Christingle Service were once again well-attended.

Easter 2023 saw the introduction of Messy Church to St Peter's for the first time. More than 60 people gathered in the Church Hall on Good Friday morning for craft and activities, music and food, and a reminder of the true meaning of Good Friday

Before both Christmas and Easter, a small team of volunteers made and wrote cards to members of the local community (which were very much appreciated), and invitations were distributed to publicise the events being offered. Numbers at the Christmas and Easter services were higher than at any point in recent memory.

Civic Services

St Peter's was the venue for Civic Services in both May (for St George's Day) and June (for the Platinum Jubilee), with the latter followed by a celebratory "Big Jubilee Lunch" in the Church Hall. Then, after the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September, the church was again opened throughout the week for short Services of Prayer & Reflection, culminating in a third Civic Service for 2022 as St Peter's hosted the Civic Service of Thanksgiving as part of the national programme of mourning.

The usual pattern of hosting Civic Services has been put 'on hold' now the building work has begun in the church, but we hope to be able to offer these services once again in 2024 and beyond.

The Wider Church

The PCC of St Peter's remains committed to playing its part in the Diocese of Chelmsford and the Church of England. Our Vicar, Revd Mark Wallace, continues as a member of both General Synod and Diocesan Synod, and we have ensured representation at all of the Colchester Deanery Synod meetings this year. Mark continues to serve as a CPAS Patronage Trustee, as part of the leadership of the ReNew network, as vice-chair of the Chelmsford Diocesan Evangelical Network, and remains Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet (who succeeded the Bishop of Maidstone in February 2023).

Mark Wallace (Vicar)

Children's and Youth Work

Praise the Lord for another wonderful year with our children and young people!

The growth in the number of young children coming along to church has led to recent changes to our Sunday morning provision. We now have:

The Family Room

Parents of under twos are able to take their little ones to the church Hall and join in with the service as it is live-streamed onto the big television in the Family Room. This is proving to be a cheery way for the little ones to potter about while their parents are built up and encouraged.

Bible Tots and Diggers

Bible Tots (age 2 - Reception) and Diggers (school years 1-4) start off all together; singing songs about Jesus and watching a Bible story on DVD. They then separate into their two groups for age-specific teaching, discussion, craft, prayer - and biscuits! We have nearly finished our Bible overview and will be starting new material shortly.

Spark

Spark, for those in school years 5-8, now meet in the Vestry (although temporarily relocated to the Hall during the redevelopment work in church). They finished their Bible overview in February, then worked their way through Ephesians, and have recently started using new Bible reading material which we pray will help them to develop a personal daily Bible reading habit.

Ignite

Those in Ignite (school years 9-13) remain in church with the adults and are encouraged to take notes as they engage with the sermons. There are periodic 'Sermons and Puddings' evenings to discuss what they have heard over the previous weeks. It is a great joy to see our Ignite gang growing in their faith, and a thrill to see them serving our church family on Sundays: turning up early / staying late to help with technology, tea & coffee, setting-up and clearing-away.

Children and Youth Activities outside church time

Growth Groups

Our first three Growth Groups started up in the New Year. These groups provide the opportunity for pairs of young Christians to meet up with an older Christian to study the Bible and talk about life as a follower of Jesus. This initiative has been well-received and is a model of discipleship that we would like to see further integrated into the DNA of our church family.

Contagious

Last summer six members of Ignite (along with Lizzie Wallace as a Leader) joined hundreds of young people for the Contagious Christian Camp. It was a fantastic time of fun, and we worked our way through the whole book of Revelation. We currently have five young people signed up for this year's Camp where we will be studying John's Gospel.

There are also occasional social activities involving food, or games, or both!

Tiny Tots

This has been going for over a year now and is well-loved by many. About a hundred families have come along over that time (happily not all at once!) On most weeks about 25 families join us to play, chat, enjoy the hot drinks and homemade cakes, and to listen to the Bible story. We sing songs that teach truths about Jesus and each week we encourage people to join us at church on a Sunday. We also advertise any evangelistic events that the parents might like to come along to (most recently our Good Friday 'Messy Church' service and ChocFest.) Our hope and prayer in all of this, is that people will come to know the Lord who loves them and their children more than they can even imagine.

Compassion

As a church we have continued to financially support our sponsored children Mary (15) and Richard (14). A few people from St Peter's write letters and pray for these precious children through the year. We receive letters from both Mary and Richard which are always encouraging and humbling to read - overflowing as they are with thankfulness to us and to the Lord. The children and young people at St Peter's will be holding a cake sale in May to raise money to send gifts to their brother in Brazil and sister in the Philippines.

St Peter's Youth Team

We remain hugely grateful for all members of our Youth Team who pray for our children and youth and, where possible, also help in person. None of the aforementioned groups could run without our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. We thank God for you all!

Lizzie Wallace (Children's & Youth Worker)

Churchwardens' Report

Hello from Matt and Trevor! What a year of challenges and answered prayer!

Both the Redevelopment Project and Mark's ongoing ministry here both seemed to faced the real threat of ending abruptly in the last 12 months due to unexpected external financial pressures. But in different ways, God overruled, through the generosity of His people, to enable both to proceed. We are delighted to see many new faces in our church family recently and in particular the growth in our youth work. We thank our Heavenly Father for his great faithfulness and again give Him the glory!

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

No repairs to the church building have been needed since the last APCM anon redecoration has taken place. However, regular maintenance has been ongoing.

The vestry remains in poor condition, and work is required to the walls and ceiling.

The nave roof: there are a number of lead sheets that show signs of slippage but no evidence of leaks internally.

The oil painting of the church remains on loan to The Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service as per the Faculty granted in 2020. It is reported to be in good condition and is currently on display in the Town Hall where it is expected to remain for at least another 12 months.

Grand piano: following consultation with the Archdeacon this has been sold on line.

Kneelers: due to lack of use, the number of these in the pews has been greatly reduced.

Pews: As advised by the Registry, the pews being removed from the north aisle will be offered for sale into the architectural salvage market.

The Church Hall

Following a fall of plaster from the ceiling of the main hall in June, a risk assessment found other areas to be unsafe. The hall was therefore closed June to August whilst the ceiling was replaced, main hall re-decorated and cupboards installed. The Church Hall roof remains in poor condition and will need replacing in the next five years or so.

The Redevelopment Project

Having faced a significantly larger than expected increase in costs due to inflation, God provided sufficient funds in order for works to start before an important deadline. A Faculty (2022-0778090) was granted on 24th January 2023, allowing us to "remove pews from the side aisle (north) and re-locate the font; install kitchen/servery, disabled toilet and improve existing toilet facility". This work began on 27th March 2023.

Work is progressing rapidly at the time of writing and is expected to be finished by late summer. We are greatly looking forward to how these improvements will enable us to make much greater use of our historic church building to serve our growing congregation, but also to host events and outreach to our wider community. There does however remain a shortfall in the funds raised and our fundraising team is working hard to cover this.

Prayer points

Church family

- Give thanks for many new faces within our church family and outreach groups
- Give thanks for unity within the church family
- Give thanks for the wonderful generosity God has shown through the sacrificial giving of his people to support both Mark and the Redevelopment Project
- Give thanks for Lizzie's hard work with our children and young people over the last year
- Give thanks for Bernice's ongoing ministry as Church Manager in the Office
- Please pray that all would feel warmly welcome and encouraged to walk together in faith
- Please pray that we would all grasp new opportunities to 'love our church' and the community around us
- Please pray for ongoing perseverance and joy in their work for Mark and Bernice

Buildings, contents and Redevelopment Project

- Give thanks for God's wonderful provision of what we need, just when we need it
- Give thanks for the opportunities offered by our central location to reach out to Colchester and how this will be enabled by the Redevelopment Project

- Please pray that the church would still be a welcoming and safe environment during the building works
- Please pray for ongoing fundraising

Matt Cox and Trevor Froude (Churchwardens)

PCC Secretary's Report

St Peter's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev Mark Wallace, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. St Peter's is a city centre church, with a gathered congregation and a valued heritage of evangelical and expository ministry. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church building and Church hall on North Hill, Colchester.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Peter's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the people that live within our parish, and beyond.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through study of God's word, prayer, music and sacraments. We also have a concern to provide practical help to those around us in particular need - especially the homeless, families and the elderly.

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, and members of the congregation.
- Evangelistic, social and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Peter's and its Hall.

Safeguarding remains a high priority for the PCC. The safeguarding at St Peter's operates through a Committee to enable the responsibilities in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults to be more effectively shared.

Our thanks to Mrs Clare Reid, our Electoral Roll Officer, for her upkeep of the electoral roll. The number on the roll had at the time of writing risen to 72. Of those, 14 are resident in the parish.

In the past year, the PCC met six times formally.

Benefice

The pastoral scheme dissolving the joint benefice of St Peter's and St Botolph's came into effect on 1st April 2023. St Peter's is now a single-parish benefice once more, and the suspension has been lifted. The Revd Mark Wallace (who had previously been Priest-in-Charge of the joint benefice) is now legally the Vicar of the new benefice of St Peter's.

The Redevelopment Project

The church reached an important milestone this year with regards to the redevelopment project. After years of planning and fundraising, with an improved church building in focus, a building company was appointed, and the work finally began. Looking back, it has been a long process with several decisions to make and hurdles to overcome. We still have a long way to go but are thankful to God for His provision and guidance so far and pray for the church to be a place which is used well for our God's ministry and His work.

The Maidstone Commitments

St Peter's receives the ministry of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, by permission of the Bishop of Chelmsford, under the terms of the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, in light of its convictions about the distinctive ministry of men and women. Last summer, the PCC reviewed the five commitments which the then Bishop of Maidstone had outlined. These concerned safeguarding practice, the treatment and training of women and transparency about complementarian evangelical beliefs.

Living in Love and Faith

A number of discussions, both informal and formal, have taken place. Concern was expressed at the proposals brought to the General Synod in February 2023 by the House of Bishops. The PCC of St Peter's is supportive of the work of the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) and the Chelmsford Diocesan Evangelical Network (CDEN).

Appointments & Roles

The PCC approved the proposal of the transfer of Paul Larkin's role as Authorised Pastoral Assistant (APA) from Greenstead to St Peter's. This is an unpaid role and we are delighted that Paul is willing to take it on.

Lizzie Wallace continued working as an employed member of staff with the church as a Children's and Youth Worker, until her resignation from the post at the end of April 2023. However, Lizzie continues to be involved with some of the youth and children's work as a volunteer for which we are very thankful.

Bernice Watts (Church Manager) and Dave Lacy (Caretaker) remain employed by the PCC, both on part-time ongoing contracts.

Administration of Holy Communion

After the outbreak of Covid-19, and in line with the guidance from the House of Bishops, we changed the way we distribute bread and wine to reduce the risk of infection. In March 2023, it was agreed by the PCC that we should return to pre-Covid forms of administration, with effect from Easter Sunday.

Future ministry at St Peter's

In the autumn of 2022, the Vicar alerted the PCC to the implications of him finishing as Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet (with effect from 31st August 2023). The PCC were concerned that, as the post of Vicar at St Peter's receives only a half-stipend from the Diocese, Mark might be forced to seek a full-time post elsewhere. The Churchwardens co-ordinated a Gift Day in early 2023, at which pledges were received to make it possible for Mark to be employed half-time by the PCC for at least two years (with effect from 1st September 2023), alongside his ongoing half-stipend from the Diocese. Legal advice on how best to make this work is being sought by the PCC.

Bernice Watts (PCC Secretary)

PCC Treasurer's Report

Overview

I continue to be thankful for the sacrificial and generous giving of the congregation to support the ongoing work and ministry of St Peter's. Planned giving (standing orders and offering envelopes) rose by 7.3% compared to 2021, whilst collections at services rose by nearly 150%. We also received some substantial donations, all of which contributed to an increase of 36% in Gift Aid recovered from HMRC. Overall, there was an increase of 63% in receipts for our General Fund.

We paid our Parish Share in full, and other general expenditure was much in line with that of 2021, with an overall increase in payments of 7.6%. At year end, the General Fund balance was £33,503.

Expenditure on the buildings was all on the hall, and comprised the provision of a new entrance door, essential electrical work to rectify safety concerns highlighted by the regular inspection, and substantial work to repair the ceiling, redecorate and refurbish. Some of this expenditure was reclaimed from Colchester City Council under the Section 106 scheme. However, the hall continued to be a drain on our funds, particularly as it was not used much by external groups, and energy costs kept increasing. Despite using a substantial amount of our reserves, the Hall Fund ended the year over £9,000 in deficit. There is some more Section 106 funding to reclaim in 2023 which will help defray this, and it is to be hoped that we can increase the income received from external hirers.

Our Redevelopment Fund received a substantial donation in 2022, whilst payments made comprised ongoing Architect's and Quantity Surveyor's fees. At the end of the year, the fund stood at £116,175. This excludes grants that we have been promised (£50,000), but which we can only claim when we actually do the work.

Despite our relatively healthy financial position, costs are likely to increase significantly in 2023 and beyond - increases in energy prices, Parish Share, and staff costs contributing to this.

Our 2023 Parish Share request from the Colchester deanery is 26% more than the 2022 figure, at £46,791; however, we have received offers of financial help totalling £5,357 from two other Essex churches to help us manage this steep transition, for which we are extremely grateful.

We do give thanks to God for his ongoing provision for our needs - and trust Him for the future as well.

Detailed Financial Review

Total receipts into unrestricted funds (General Fund) in 2022 were £121,093, and payments from the General Fund were £90,964, which includes the full payment of the Diocesan parish share (£36,878). There was an excess of receipts over payments of £30,129. The balance of unrestricted funds at the end of 2022 was £33,503.

The hall was hired out more than in 2021, but still not enough to cover our costs. We received £3,107 in Section 106 grants towards repair work and improvements. However, payments were substantial, with energy costs rising by 81%, caretaker costs by 96% (due to reduced caretaker work in 2021, whilst the hall was not in use), and £19,232 was spent on repairs and improvements. The Hall Fund was again supported from reserves (£12,500). There was an excess of payments over receipts of £20,221, leaving the fund with a balance of -£9,172. Additional section 106 funding should be available in 2023, but will not cover the total costs of repairs.

Fabric Fund expenditure was on the new hall door, and on electrical work in the hall. There was an excess of payments over receipts of £3,956, and the fund had a balance at the end of the year of £4,538.

The Guest House fund is for the provision of shelter and food for the homeless during the winter. As the Guest House was not operating again in 2022, there was just a small amount of interest, leaving the fund with a balance of £4,549.

Our only Investment fund is the Sears Fund, which yielded the usual level of interest, although the capital value fell by £532, due to the general poor performance of stock market investments in 2022.

The Redevelopment fund is for the major work taking place to the church building. Receipts were £63,637 (donations and interest), and payments £17,633 (Architect's and QS costs). The balance at the end of the year was £116,175.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has no stated policy on the minimum balance of unrestricted funds. The General Fund balance of £33,503 will be used in part to pay for ongoing staff costs.

The end-of-year balance of £4,538 in the restricted Fabric Fund is to pay for any urgent maintenance of the church building (for which our policy is to maintain a minimum balance of around £5,000). Any expenditure beyond this will involve raising additional funds.

The Guest House fund balance of £4,549 will be used towards our future care for the homeless in Colchester. The Redevelopment Fund balance of £116,175 is for the work to be carried out for our Redevelopment project. Our Reserve Fund had a balance of £4,058.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund.

Full Accounts for 2022

The full accounts can be viewed on the church website via <https://stpeterscolchester.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/accounts-2022.pdf>

Richard Lawn (PCC Treasurer)

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod is the first level of church government above the PCC. The Synod for the Deanery of Colchester usually meets three times a year and most of each meeting is taken up with a talk on a particular matter. However, in 2022 there were only two meetings as the new Bishop of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani had proposed that Lent should be an opportunity to give up meetings, and the March gathering was therefore cancelled. The Bishop herself addressed the June meeting, and apart from routine business, her talk was the only item on the agenda.

Previous visits of senior clergy to Synod have often resulted in pronouncements of policy. This was very different. Bishop Guli arrived in ordinary dress with no real agenda except to be introduced to us, and spent a considerable time just talking about her upbringing in Iran, where her father (Hassan Dehqani-Tafti) was Bishop. Then the revolution took place, and the family fled the country after an assassination attempt and the murder of her brother, and she has not yet been able to return. Studying in the UK, she trained for ordination and served a curacy in Southwark Diocese before becoming a chaplain. After a seven-year career break to bring up her children, she became Curate training officer in Peterborough. She said that she was not expecting then to be invited to be suffragan Bishop of Loughborough. She said that

it was only after she had accepted the appointment to become Bishop of Chelmsford that she was told about the Diocese's perilous financial situation! She is planning to visit all the Deanery Synods. After she spoke, she answered a few questions from the floor before the Area Dean invited us all to pray for our new Bishop.

The Area Dean at the start of the year was Canon Paul Norrington, who retired after the June Synod and has been succeeded by Revd Erwin Lammens, who was commissioned by the Archdeacon at the October meeting of Synod. That Deanery Synod was taken up discussing finance. Michaela Southworth, the Diocesan CEO, presented the new Share Scheme. Unlike in the past, this has been done by working out a target figure for each parish and then inviting offers. The important information that came out is that this is "not a share scheme forever, it is a share scheme for 2023 and will be reviewed". The full costs for a stipendiary minister are about £89k per year; the average a parish with one stipendiary is asked for under the new scheme is £69k with a range from £26k for the poorest to £96k for the wealthiest.

The Deanery finance officer then gave the breakdown for the Deanery. There was no discussion on how the increases were to be allocated; it had already been decided to take the best offers from each parish towards the target. Charts were shown to explain the changes from last year, and figures given in the full minutes of the meeting, but some were only provisional. Some parishes have offered more than they have been asked for, some less; some have received a discount which they have accepted, others have only taken part or none of the discount. Because of the large increase that was asked of us, St Peter's offer appeared at the most generous end of the chart. For 2024 the figure requested will be based on a new assessment, not on how well we did on the 2023 assessment.

The Synod met again in March 2023, with a report on Nightstop Essex, a charity for homeless young people, and an extensive report on deanery statistics.

The three year period for which parish representatives are elected onto the Deanery Synod has now come to an end, so elections are due at this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

Duncan Breckels (Deanery Synod Representative)

Appendices

Committees of the PCC

The PCC operates through committees, all of which report back to PCC meetings:

The Standing Committee has power to transact any urgent business between meetings. Its members are the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Church Administrator.

The Finance Sub-committee assists the PCC in overseeing financial and budgetary matters. Its members are the Vicar, the Treasurer, Mr Duncan Breckels, Dr Mick Kavanagh and Dr Dan Watts.

The Safeguarding Committee consists of the Vicar, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, the Children & Youth Worker, Mrs Clare Reid, Mrs Caroline Sheldrick, and Mrs Bernice Watts (as Secretary).

Miscellaneous information

St Peter's Church is situated on North Hill, Colchester. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

St Peter's receives the pastoral and sacramental ministry of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, in accordance with the 2014 House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, by permission of the Bishop of Chelmsford.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006). The PCC was granted charitable status in its own right on 24th October 2015.

The PCC's Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Clare Reid.

Our website is <https://www.stpeterscolchester.org>

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Balcerne Close, Colchester CO1 1NZ.

Vicar's Conclusion

As we look to the year ahead, there is much to be excited by: this phase of the Redevelopment Project is due to be completed by mid-August, our Church Hall is now fully functional (and frequently filled with children and young people!), we continue to welcome newcomers most Sundays, and there is a sense of purpose and mission about so much of our church life. I do hope you are enjoying being part of St Peter's at this moment in time.

But, of course, we need to remind ourselves, again and again, that we are dependent on the Lord for all things. Let us resolve in this year ahead to continue to come to him in prayer, to continually humble ourselves before him, to trust him for all that we need, and to look to his Spirit to lead us in all we seek to do. May the year ahead be a year in which we, together, continue to grow in godliness.

As we close, there are, of course, some specific words of thanks to be said:

- to Matt Cox and Trevor Froude – our Churchwardens – who have worked hard to serve both the gospel and the church over this last year, and I am deeply grateful for their wisdom and support;
- to Richard Lawn – our PCC Treasurer – who has yet again maintained a gracious and godly oversight of our finances, and all this through a year that has been particularly difficult for him personally;
- to Bernice Watts – our Church Manager and PCC Secretary – who has humbly and diligently continued to keep everything working smoothly, often going not only the second but also the third and fourth miles!
- to Lizzie Wallace – and all our Youth Team – for sacrificially serving our children and young people, and helping this area of church life to continue to grow in such an encouraging manner;
- and to all who have served in the different ministries of our church: serving coffee, sweeping steps, playing music, adjusting sound levels, leading prayers, tidying-up, and all the 101 different jobs that need doing behind the scenes to keep church life going.

Most importantly, let us continue to thank the Lord. Not one of his promises has failed. Not one of his people has been lost. And nothing, absolutely nothing, done in his name has been done in vain. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

St Peter's Church Colchester

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Fund (General) £	Designated Funds (Hall) £	Restricted Funds (Other) £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts							
Regular Giving							
Planned Giving		53,130	0	0		53,130	49,525
Collections at services		3,083	0	0		3,083	1,235
All other giving/voluntary receipts		42,274	3,107	50,050		95,431	16,213
Gift Aid tax recovered		14,644	0	12,500		27,144	10,720
		<u>113,131</u>	<u>3,107</u>	<u>62,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>178,788</u>	<u>77,693</u>
Activities for generating funds		0	0	0		0	0
Investment income	1	236	0	1,329		1,565	82
Church Activities	2	2,436	1,653	0		4,089	545
Other receipts		5,290	0	0		5,290	7,300
Total Receipts		<u>121,093</u>	<u>4,760</u>	<u>63,879</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>189,732</u>	<u>85,620</u>
Payments							
Church Activities:							
Parish Share		36,878	0	0		36,878	37,374
Clergy and Staffing costs		25,259	1,914	0		27,174	24,647
Church running expenses	3	14,907	0	0		14,907	12,838
Hall running costs	4	0	23,066	0		23,066	7,021
Evangelism		0	0	0		0	0
Mission giving and donations	5	2,550	0	0		2,550	4,767
		<u>79,593</u>	<u>24,980</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>104,573</u>	<u>86,647</u>
Cost of generating funds		0	0	0		0	0
Governance Costs		150	0	0		150	0
Other payments		11,221	0	21,707		32,928	16,540
Total Payments		<u>90,964</u>	<u>24,980</u>	<u>21,707</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>137,652</u>	<u>103,187</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		30,129	(20,221)	42,172	0	52,080	(17,566)
Transfers between funds		0	12,500	-12,500		0	0
Excess adjusted by transfers		<u>30,129</u>	<u>(7,721)</u>	<u>29,672</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,080</u>	<u>(17,566)</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		3,374	(1,452)	99,647		101,570	119,127
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		<u>33,503</u>	<u>(9,172)</u>	<u>129,319</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>153,650</u>	<u>101,560</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund (General) £	Designated Funds (Hall) £	Restricted Funds (Other) £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Cash Funds							
Bank Current account		21,527	(9,172)	1,719		14,074	4,541
Petty Cash		27				27	7
Deposit account		11,949		127,600		139,549	97,012
		<u>33,503</u>	<u>(9,172)</u>	<u>129,319</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>153,650</u>	<u>101,560</u>
Other monetary assets							
Gift Aid recoverable		896				896	661
Refund of expenses overpayment		101				101	
Investment Assets							
Investment fund shares (at market value)	6	-	-	-	4,844	4,844	5,375
Assets retained for Church use						0	
Liabilities		0				0	0

Notes to accounts

	Unrestricted Fund (General) £	Designated Funds (Hall) £	Restricted Funds (Other) £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Note 1 Investment income						
Sears Investment	37	0	0		37	36
Bank and deposit interest	199	0	1,329		1,528	46
	<u>236</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,565</u>	<u>82</u>
Note 2 Church Activities						
Parochial fees	1,348				1,348	215
Church hire	1,088				1,088	0
Church hall hire		1,653			1,653	330
	<u>2,436</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,089</u>	<u>545</u>
Note 3 Church running expenses						
Insurance	5,200				5,200	5,033
Electricity	671				671	348
Heating oil	1,820				1,820	1,631
Water	141				141	153
Ministry costs	678		0		678	796
Organ & music	1,012				1,012	801
Children's work	2,088				2,088	792
Catering	2,146				2,146	672
Rubbish clearance	784				784	579
Repairs, maintenance & miscellaneous	367		0		367	2,032
	<u>14,907</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,907</u>	<u>12,838</u>
Note 4 Church Hall running expenses						
Insurance		1,141			1,141	1,105
Gas		1,378	0		1,378	618
Electricity		1,115	0		1,115	605
Water		199	0		199	263
Repairs & maintenance		19,232	0		19,232	4,431
	<u>0</u>	<u>23,066</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,066</u>	<u>7,021</u>
Note 5 Mission Giving and donations						
Beacon House	96				96	0
Christian Youth Outreach	630				630	1,080
Clergy Support Trust	85				85	85
Compassion UK	1,411				1,411	3,307
Samaritan's Purse	33				33	0
Simeon's Trustees	195				195	195
The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund	100				100	100
	<u>2,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,550</u>	<u>4,767</u>
Note 6 Investments held						
Sears Fund				4,844	4,844	5,375
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,844</u>	<u>4,844</u>	<u>5,375</u>

Statement of Funds

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
General	33,503				33,503	3,374
Hall		(9,172)			-9,172	-1,452
Fabric			4,538		4,538	8,493
Guest House			4,549		4,549	4,491
Redevelopment			116,175		116,175	70,165
Reserve			4,058		4,058	16,490
Sears				4,844	4,844	4,610
Total Funds	<u>33,503</u>	<u>(9,172)</u>	<u>129,319</u>	<u>4,844</u>	<u>158,494</u>	<u>106,171</u>

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Peter's Church, Colchester

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The PCC 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 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.

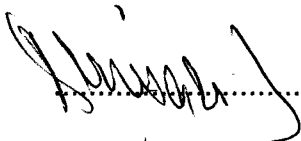
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Signed:



Date:

23 APR 23

Peter Wigglesworth
41 Albany Road
Crawley
RH11 7BY