



# St Peter's

COLCHESTER

## Annual Report 2023-2024

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## Vicar's Introduction

One of the greatest joys of this past year has been the successful completion of Phase One of the Redevelopment Project. We are delighted that the new kitchen and toilets are now available for use on a regular basis, and they have significantly enhanced the welcome that we can offer to worshippers, tourists, and the wider community. The work has been completed to a high standard, and we trust it will benefit the mission and ministry of the church for years to come.

More significantly, we have also experienced the joy of church growth, as our congregation has continued to flourish — both in numbers, and in diversity. In fact, with the addition of the 9:00 am early Communion Service, we now have two congregations, for which we give thanks! Since the very reason we exist here in the city centre is to help draw people together to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, this has been a cause for much thanksgiving and praise.

These two factors together mean that we can look back on a year of great encouragement. Of course, not everything has been straightforward, and there remain substantial challenges as we look to the future (not least around the ongoing concerns for our denomination). But I hope you enjoy reading in this Annual Report of all the signs of God's blessing we have received at his hand, and that you are encouraged as we look back by his great faithfulness to us.

*Mark Wallace (Vicar)*

## Ministry Report

The second half of this last year has been a time of significant numerical growth. For the first time in several decades, we have more than 100 adults as part of our worshipping community, and now more than 30 children and young people are part of St Peter's Church. For all this, we are very thankful.

Safeguarding remains a key priority and the PCC is committed to doing all it can to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected and kept safe. We are particularly grateful for the ministry of Sue Almond as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and also wish to pay tribute to the support we receive from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. We continue to ensure that all those involved in positions of leadership, especially with children, have all the required clearances and training.

The church continues to offer pastoral support and encouragement in a variety of different ways. Home Communion is made available for those who are housebound or unable to attend the church for any reason, pastoral engagement remains a priority for those on the Staff Team, and practical support continues to be provided for those with specific needs (especially in terms of offering lifts and providing meals). There are a variety of groups and several different kinds of events have been put on (see below), but informal social occasions, such as the 'Coffee & Chat' sessions at the Mercury Theatre Cafe, remain an important part of our pastoral ministry.

In this last year, we were particularly sad to say farewell to much-loved members of the congregation. Margaret Sawyer served the church for many decades with dedication and kindness before illness overtook her, and we continue to remember her Peter in our prayers. Meanwhile, Sandra Gedling was an inspiration and encouragement to so many as she continued to trust in the goodness of the Lord Jesus while battling cancer, and Matt and the girls remain in our prayers.

A particular highlight of the last year was the baptism of an Iranian convert on Easter Day, and we have been delighted to welcome the children of church members in baptism through the year. Meanwhile, we rejoiced in August at the wedding of Joe and Ellen Ruby, and again in February at the Thanksgiving for Marriage Service for Anthony and Esther Nwosu.

A new initiative in this last year has been the introduction of the Ladies' Book Club, led by Tash Froude and Anne Kavanagh. The group have been working through 'Identity Theft' and discussing how its message applies to their lives and witness. For men, bi-monthly Men's Breakfasts on a Saturday morning have been introduced, giving the opportunity for people to get to know each other socially and for a group member to share their testimony by way of encouragement. Furthermore, many have joined in with the reading of Advent ('Fixated') and Lent ('Finding Mercy on the Way of Sorrow') books of reflections.

Various mid-week groups have continued: the 'Christianity Explored' and 'Hope Explored' courses remain good opportunities for enquirers and newcomers to explore the Christian faith in an informal setting, and the Bible Study Groups are opportunities for small groups to meet together to study God's word and to consider how it applies to their Christian walk and witness. In addition, 'A Walk through Genesis' was offered by Sheila Lloyd in August, and the monthly Communion Services at Freda Gunton Lodge have been well received.

Christmas and Easter remain key opportunities to invite people to church. The Messy Church format has enabled some of the Tiny Tots parents to join us on a Sunday for the first time, and the Carol Services in December were well-attended. Small groups of volunteers have written cards to members of the wider community, which have been very well received.

More widely, the PCC continues to be concerned about the theological shifts in the Church of England, and have declared themselves compelled to resist the initiatives of the House of Bishops in the autumn of 2023. Our Vicar remains on General Synod, and has been playing an active part in the fellowship of orthodox Anglican ministers across the Diocese of Chelmsford and beyond. We have been glad, however, that our Vicar has been able to return to full-time ministry in the parish after the conclusion of his time as Chaplain to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, thanks to the generosity of those able to support his ministry financially.

Finally, we are grateful for the opportunity to meet Sunday by Sunday — to hear God's word from the Bible, to sing his praises, to call on him in prayer, and to encourage one another in our Christian lives. As a church community, we are thankful to all those volunteers who make this possible — and the number of volunteers who serve on a Sunday in one way or another is steadily increasing. But most of all, we thank God for what he has been doing in us and through us over this past year.

*Mark Wallace (Vicar)*

## Children's & Youth Work Report

It is now a year since we made some significant changes to our Sunday morning provision: setting up the Family Room with live-streamed service, splitting Bible Tots and Diggers into two separate groups, and moving Spark into the Vestry. These changes have worked well, and have enabled us to cater for the growth that we have seen in our Children's and Youth Work. Over the course of this year, we have been blessed by the safe arrival of new babies at St Peter's, several new families have joined us, and we have welcomed a considerable number of young visitors.

Tiny Tots, our evangelistic toddler group, has continued to be well-attended on Thursday mornings in term-time. We have also been delighted to welcome some parents from Tiny Tots to the Messy Church services at Christmas and Easter, which have served as a helpful stepping-stone towards becoming part of the church community.

The reality is that, since our Children's & Youth Worker moved on from her role in May 2023, much of our children's and youth work has been over-stretched and under-resourced. We remain extremely grateful to those volunteers who continue to serve the church by serving so sacrificially as leaders and helpers in St Peter's Kids, but the PCC acknowledges the urgent need for additional support for the team.

The leaders' and helpers' prayer, as always, is that we will grow together in knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus, knowing him better and making him better known. And so - amidst the crafts, games, activities, and biscuits - the main thing in every group is always the faithful teaching of God's word.

On Sundays:

- Bible Tots (Age 2-Reception): Tash and Lizzie have used a variety of materials from Faith in Kids, Mustard Seeds, and TNT to teach both Old and New Testament stories and truth to our little ones.
- Diggers (School Years 1-4): Clare, Peter, and Lizzie have taught their way through 'Meet the King' and several of the Mustard Seeds series, helping these slightly older children to think about the implications of who Jesus is, and why it matters for them.
- Spark (School Years 5-8): Karen and Andy have used Discover Bible Notes to help our older children to practise reading the Bible for themselves and engage with God as he reveals himself in His word.
- Ignite (School Years 9-13): Our older teens remain in church on a Sunday morning. They are encouraged to take notes if that helps them to retain what they hear, and they have the opportunity to discuss the sermons with Mark at regular Sunday night Ignite events.
- The SPK Holiday Club has run during holidays and half-terms, thanks to Caroline Sheldrick and Wendy Whitfield, and gives the opportunity for the regular leaders and helpers of SPK to have a short break from their responsibilities.

Additionally, members of our Ignite group have benefitted from 'Growth Groups' (a couple of teenagers meeting regularly with an adult to read the Bible and pray) and from 'Contagious' (a Christian camp in the summer holiday, looking in 2023 at the gospel of John). This year, we had the particular joy of seeing the first of our young people coming through to serve as a leader at Contagious.

Finally, SPK continues to be involved in the church's sponsorship of Richard and Mary, through writing cards and letters, organising a Cake Sale to raise funds, and supporting the 'Make a Mother's Day' initiative each spring.

At the end of another year, we remain grateful to the Lord for entrusting us with this precious gospel work, and thankful for all the leaders and helpers who serve in this way. Our ongoing prayer is that the Lord might continue to give SPK growth in numbers and maturity, along with supplying our needs for more leaders and helpers to resource this growth.

*Lizzie Wallace*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

Looking back at the past year we can see God's hand at work at St. Peter's. The Redevelopment Project went ahead as planned and we are enjoying the benefits of our new kitchen and amenities on a weekly basis. The memories of carting various items back and forth from the church hall kitchen or even the sound of the urn cranking up at the back of the church seem distant now. Likewise progressing from one toilet, which could be best described as 'functional', to two modern ones is something we now take for granted. We are thankful firstly to our God for his provision but also to Wendy, Richard, Mark, and all who assisted in getting the job done.

A preacher once described the local church building as a "rain shelter". Essentially that is what it does, it keeps us sheltered from the elements while we have our church service. Sometimes the shelter feels very thin, cold, and leaky, but we are grateful that it is still standing and able to be used and enjoyed.

Of course, the Church is really about God's people, and we have seen growth in numbers and diversity which is further reason for thanksgiving.

We also thank God that we have been able to retain Mark as our full-time Vicar due to the generosity of our congregation. Therefore, Mark has been able to continue to equip God's people for works of service.

We have been observing with concern the changes in our denomination regarding "Prayers of Love and Faith". We are encouraged that the PCC has been united in our opposition to the initiatives proposed by the House of Bishops. We long for the day when our attention can be diverted towards more fruitful matters.

### ***Fabric, Goods and Ornaments***

The Quinquennial Inspection due in October 2022 is arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This was deferred due to the Redevelopment Project and the associated work for the architect. The inspection will identify and prioritise any work required on the fabric of the church.

Work to complete Phase One of the Redevelopment Project was carried out by Bakers of Danbury between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This involved removal of all the pews

from the side aisle (north), re-location of the font, upgrading of our existing toilet facility and the installation of an accessible toilet and kitchen/servery.

During this work the foundations of one of the columns supporting the balcony were strengthened, additional electrical sockets were fitted, and the north wall was re-plastered and painted. A small area still requires painting once the plaster has dried sufficiently. The wooden floor was sanded and lacquered.

*Tower Clock:* Having been unreliable for some time, the clock stopped in April 2023.

*Vestry:* The vestry remains in a 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 due to failure of the nails. Cracks have appeared in the lead at the west end/south side resulting in some ingress of rainwater near the font. The roof will need to be replaced at some point.

*Removals:* 17 wooden pews from the side aisle. The ends of the 4 pews that were unsold have been retained.

*Acquisitions:* Purificators x 6 (white cloths used at Communion). For the kitchen: Coffee machine, dishwasher, fridge, freezer, microwave oven, soup kettle, and 150 white china cups.

*On loan:* The oil painting of the church, circa 1770, remains on loan to Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. It remains in a generally good condition with no change over the past year and is currently on display in the Town Hall. The 10-year loan period ends in February 2030, when the City Council would like to have ownership of the painting. This would be achieved as a gift or purchase.

*Church Hall:* While the hall is a great asset for both the church and the local community, its age poses certain challenges.

The hall roof, apart from the section over the kitchen and office, is in a poor state due to its age. Slates on the pitched roof are prone to slipping and are sometimes removed by strong winds which has recently resulted in some ingress of rainwater. The flat roof over the toilets is in need of replacement.

The boiler continues to function, but we are advised that, due to its age, parts are difficult to obtain, and a replacement is recommended.

### Prayer points

	Things to give thanks for	Things to pray for
Church family	Many new faces within our church family	Continued funding to employ our Vicar full-time
	Unity within the church family	That we would all grasp new opportunities to 'love our church' and the community around us
		Ongoing perseverance, and joy in their work, for all in service at St. Peter's
Buildings, contents	God's wonderful provision	Ongoing fundraising for various items needing repair
	The opportunities offered by our central location to reach out to Colchester	

*Trevor Froude and John Hartwell (Churchwardens) and Wendy Whitfield*

## 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 town 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. Our Safeguarding Committee enables 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 78, of whom 18 are resident in the parish.

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

*Mick Kavanagh (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. In particular, the response to our Gift Day in February to enable Mark's continued full-time ministry in the parish (£82k pledged or donated), and the final push of donations and loan to make the redevelopment project happen (nearly £31k).

Planned giving (standing orders and offering envelopes) was slightly less (1.5%) than in 2022, due to a number of causes: changes in people's circumstances, deaths, leavers, and the withholding of some donations in response to the Living in Love and Faith situation. There were significantly fewer regular donors (31) at the end of the year compared to 2022 (39). Collections at services, however, rose by 42%.

Our Parish Share request for 2023 was £46,791, a significant increase (26%) on the 2022 share. We are very grateful for the help given by two other parishes in the diocese, who between them contributed £5,357 towards our share. The remaining £41k was paid in full by us. At year end, the General Fund balance (excluding fixed assets) was £23,296.

We are also grateful to those trusts who made grants towards our redevelopment work, providing £67k towards the total. These were: Fowler, Smith and Jones (£50,000), Colchester Churches Charitable Trust (£10,000) and Benefact (£7,000).

There is still some expenditure to be made from the Redevelopment Fund – the purchase of tables and chairs, the builders' retention and the repayment of a loan. At the end of the year, the bank balance was just over £13k, but we will need an additional £15k to fully meet our commitments (including repaying the loan).

Part of the Hall Fund deficit was written off by the receipt of some more Section 106 funding from Colchester City Council. 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. The Hall Fund ended the year over £6,500 in deficit. There is some more Section 106 funding to claim in 2024 which will help pay for further maintenance, and it is to be hoped that we can increase the income received from external hirers.

The PCC decided to close the Guest House fund in 2023, as alternative provision is now available for the homeless in Colchester. The balance of £4,637 was donated to Beacon House (a local Christian charity helping the homeless).

Thanks are due to Alan Gray, who procured a donation of £1,000 from Damon Albarn towards the repair of our church clock.

Despite our relatively healthy financial position, costs are likely to remain high in 2024 and beyond - energy costs, Parish Share, and staff costs in particular contributing to this.

The funds held by St Peter's bellringers were transferred to the care of the PCC during 2023, as there is no longer a permanent group of ringers.



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

### **Detailed Financial Review**

As our total income exceeded £250,000 in 2023, the accounts have had to be prepared on the 'Accruals' basis for the first time, and the 2022 figures used for comparison have also been recalculated, so some values may differ from our published 2022 accounts. The General Fund balances include a value for the Church Hall.

Total income for our unrestricted funds (General Fund) in 2023 was £79,956, and expenditure was £90,899, which includes the full payment of the Diocesan parish share (£41,019 by us). There was an excess of expenditure over income of £10,943, and the balance at year end, excluding fixed assets, was £23,296.

The hall was hired out more than in 2022, but still not enough to cover our costs. We received £9,277 in Section 106 grants towards repair work and improvements which had been completed in 2022. However, expenditure was substantial, with energy costs doubling. There was an excess of income over expenditure of £3,355, leaving the fund with a balance of -£6,555.

The new Bell Fund had a balance of £1,183 at year end. The only movement was the interest earned.

The balance of unrestricted and designated funds (General, Hall and Bells) at the end of 2023 was £17,923 (excluding fixed assets).

There was no Fabric Fund expenditure during the year, and the fund had a balance at the end of the year of £5,758.

The Redevelopment fund is for the major work taking place to the church building. Income was £130,134 (donations, grants, loan and interest), and expenditure £232,908. Taking into account the £20,000 loan to be repaid, the balance at the end of the year was -£6,719.

The Ministry Support fund is to enable the full-time employment of Rev Mark Wallace within the parish (effective from October 2023), as he only has a ½ post from the diocese. Income was £32,921 (donations and interest), and expenditure £5,457. The balance at the end of the year was £27,465.

There was no movement in our Reserve Fund except for interest earned. The balance at year end was £4,130.

Our only Investment fund is the Sears Fund, which yielded the usual level of interest. The capital value increased by £570, and the fund value was £5,413.

### **Reserves Policy**

The PCC has no stated policy on the minimum balance of unrestricted funds.

The end-of-year balance of £5,758 in the restricted Fabric Fund is to pay for the clock repair, and 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.

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

*Richard Lawn (PCC Treasurer)*

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Colchester Deanery Synod is the level of church government next above the PCC. Unlike the national body, the General Synod, the Deanery Synod's activities are quite prosaic and it is more often just a talking shop.

It met in March 2023 at St Botolph's church, and after the normal business we were given a talk about Nightstop Essex, a charity for homeless young adults that had then been in the town for only three months and which seeks to provide overnight accommodation and breakfast to young people. This is with host families that offer a spare room for perhaps as little as one night a month, as a "stepping stone" to more permanent accommodation. There are 33 churches across the country operating "night stop" services, and they are looking for people with "a big heart and a spare room".

We then had a presentation of complex statistics on the deanery, with many charts and figures, and a report on the happenings at General Synod in February. The various notices at the end included the reminder that this was the last meeting before the election of new Deanery representatives, and that the Roger Ennals is to step down after 15 years as Deanery Lay Chair.

At St Peter's last APCM your new reps on Deanery Synod were duly elected, and are now Duncan Breckels and Wendy Whitfield.

The reconstituted Synod met for the first meeting of the new "triennium" in July at St Matthew's, the church converted out of an old school building on Harwich Road, and part of Greenstead parish.

The meeting elected Miss Lynne Gettings as the new lay chair, to replace the previous lay chair Canon Roger Ennals who had retired.

The main part of the meeting was a lively presentation by Beccy Hills, who is Diocesan Parish Giving Advisor for the Dioceses of Chelmsford. It is useful to know that there is a central source of advice and assistance available when we next need to consider the issue of giving and fund raising. However, a major part of what is on offer is centralised management of regular giving and gift aid, which we at St Peter's manage ourselves.

The third meeting of the Deanery Synod in 2023 was at Lexden church in October, where the opening worship was led by Revd Matt Simpkins, who many will remember from when he was a member of the congregation at St Peter's.

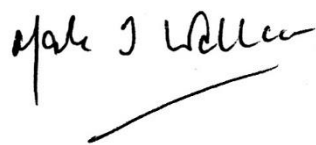
The main presentation was by Revd Canon Pauline Scott, about the "Tendring Border Colchester Garden Community" which is the one remaining of three sets of plans for huge new populated areas around Colchester. It is proposed to build between 7,500 and 9,000 houses, a community the size of Harwich, on open land currently part of the parishes of Ardleigh, Elmstead, and Greenstead. The plans suggest a rapid transit system into Colchester, and a new country park. Revd Scott has been involved from the start of the planning and there are hopes it may become a parish in its own right. However, there will be no church building and any ministry will have to be funded by grants or unpaid. There was no explanation of why there was to be no central funding available. She called for prayer, for the planning, the existing communities in the area, the new community and for the right Christian people to move in and plant the new church.

We then heard from Kate Clifton, the Deanery Environmental Advocate. She wished to receive contact details for an environmental advocate in each church, and encouraged us to complete the energy footprint tool that is part of the parish return and register for the A Rocha Eco Church Award.

The Deanery Treasurer reported that it had not proved possible to transfer the Deanery bank account to new postholders, and no bank would allow them to open a new account as the Deanery was not a charity in its own right. They had therefore moved the funds to a restricted fund held by St Luke's church.

*Duncan Breckels and Wendy Whitfield (Deanery Synod Representatives)*

Approved by the PCC Standing Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and signed on their behalf by Rev Mark Wallace (Chairman).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Appendices

### *The PCC of St Peter's, Colchester 2023-2024*

#### **Vicar**

Revd Mark Wallace (ex officio & Chair)

#### **Churchwardens**

Mr Trevor Froude (Vice-Chair)      Mr John Hartwell

#### **Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mr Duncan Breckels                      Mrs Wendy Whitfield

#### **Elected Members**

Mr Ed Bradley	Mr Tim Hearn
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	Dr Mick Kavanagh (Secretary)
Mr Richard Lawn (Treasurer)	Mrs Val Morris
Mr Brian New	Mrs Clare Reid (Electoral Roll Officer)
Dr Dan Watts	

### *PCC Committees*

#### ***Standing Committee***

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

#### ***Finance Sub-Committee***

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.

#### ***Safeguarding Committee***

The Safeguarding Committee consists of the Vicar, Miss Sue Almond (Parish Safeguarding Officer), Mrs Clare Reid, Mrs Caroline Sheldrick, and Dr Mick Kavanagh (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 Bishops' 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 church website is <https://www.stpeterscolchester.org>

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

The PCC's independent examiner (of accounts) is Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE. His website can be found at: <https://independent-examiner.net/>

**St Peter's Church Colchester**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	85,019	160,178	-	245,197	183,598
Church activities	2(b)	3,254	-	-	3,254	2,084
Other trading activities	2(c)	3,595	-	-	3,595	2,741
Investments	2(d)	625	4,258	-	4,882	1,565
Other income	2(e)	1,258	-	-	1,258	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>93,751</b>	<b>164,435</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>258,186</b>	<b>189,986</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Church activities	3(a)	98,180	258,364	-	356,544	130,480
Missionary and charitable giving	3(b)	1,939	4,637	-	6,576	2,550
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Other	3(d)	37	-	-	37	361
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>100,156</b>	<b>263,001</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>363,157</b>	<b>133,391</b>
Net income before transfers		(6,405)	(98,566)	0	(104,971)	56,596
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net income before investment gains/losses		(6,405)	(98,566)	0	(104,971)	56,596
Revaluation gains on investments	5(b)	-	-	570	570	(532)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(6,405)</b>	<b>(98,566)</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>(104,401)</b>	<b>56,064</b>
Balances b/f 1st January		664,329	129,199	4,844	798,371	742,307
<b>Balances c/f 31st December</b>		<b>657,923</b>	<b>30,633</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>693,970</b>	<b>798,371</b>

# St Peter's Church Colchester

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Tangible	5(a)	640,000	-	-	640,000	640,000
Investments	5(b)	-	-	5,413	5,413	4,844
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>640,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>645,413</b>	<b>644,844</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Debtors	6	1,139	706	-	1,845	897
Short term deposits		14,598	50,031	-	64,629	139,549
Cash at bank and in hand		3,249	199	-	3,448	14,101
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>18,986</b>	<b>50,936</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,922</b>	<b>154,546</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Creditors - due within 1 year	7	1,062	303	-	1,365	1,019
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>17,923</b>	<b>50,633</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,556</b>	<b>153,527</b>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>657,923</b>	<b>50,633</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>713,970</b>	<b>798,371</b>
Creditors - due more than 1 year	8	-	20,000	-	20,000	-
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>657,923</b>	<b>30,633</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>693,970</b>	<b>798,371</b>
<b>Funds</b>						
Unrestricted					657,923	664,329
Restricted					30,633	129,199
Endowment					5,413	4,844
<b>Total</b>					<b>693,970</b>	<b>798,371</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2024, and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Mark Wallace  
Chairman

Richard Lawn  
PCC Treasurer

*Mark J Wallace*

*Richard Lawn*

The accompanying notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts.

# St Peter's Church Colchester

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared using the accruals accounting method. Previous years' financial reports did not include fixed assets. These have been included this year.

#### Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

#### Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the income, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All income is accounted for gross.

#### Expenditure

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

#### Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £2,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the anticipated life of that item. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

## 2 Income

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>						
Planned giving		51,322	1,110	-	52,432	53,860
Collections at services		4,381	0	-	4,381	3,083
Gift Days		796	30,480	-	31,276	3,043
Grants:						
- Church of England energy costs grant		1,045	-	-	1,045	-
- Fowler, Smith and Jones redevelopment		-	50,000	-	50,000	-
- Colchester Churches Charitable Trust		-	10,000	-	10,000	-
- Colchester City Council Section 106		9,277	-	-	9,277	3,107
- Listed places of worship VAT recovery		-	32,000	-	32,000	-
Donations		6,696	13,082	-	19,778	90,125
Legacies		500	0	-	500	3,000
Gift Aid recovered		11,002	3,506	-	14,508	27,380
Loans		-	20,000	-	20,000	-
		<u>85,019</u>	<u>160,178</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>245,197</u>	<u>183,598</u>
<b>2(b) Church Activities</b>						
Fees for weddings and funerals		1,800	-	-	1,800	1,348
Tiny Tots		1,120	-	-	1,120	668
Bookstall		40	-	-	40	11
Chocfest		231	-	-	231	56
Toy sale		63	-	-	63	-
		<u>3,254</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,254</u>	<u>2,084</u>
<b>2(c) Other Trading Activities</b>						
Church hire		260	-	-	260	1,088
Hall hire		3,335	-	-	3,335	1,653
		<u>3,595</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,595</u>	<u>2,741</u>
<b>2(d) Income from Investments</b>						
Bank and CCLA Deposit Fund interest		587	4,258	-	4,845	1,528
Sears fund income		37	-	-	37	37
		<u>625</u>	<u>4,258</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,882</u>	<u>1,565</u>
<b>2(e) Other Income</b>						
Bell fund received from bell ringers		1,157	-	-	1,157	-
Return of overpaid expenses		101	-	-	101	-
		<u>1,258</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>93,751</u>	<u>164,435</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,186</u>	<u>189,986</u>



### 3 Expenditure

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>3(a) Church Activities</b>						
Parish Share		41,020	-	-	41,020	36,878
Clergy and staffing costs	4	18,927	4,639	-	23,566	27,174
Church running costs and maintenance		18,994	-	-	18,994	23,236
Hall running costs and maintenance		7,735	-	-	7,735	23,066
Vicarage maintenance		-	-	-	-	1,539
Major building work		-	252,908	-	252,908	7,753
Loan repayment		-	-	-	-	5,000
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		795	-	-	795	632
Other wedding and funeral costs		317	-	-	317	149
Printing and stationery		4,129	-	-	4,129	-
Ministry costs		1,499	818	-	2,317	678
Organ & music		854	-	-	854	1,012
Books and course materials		111	-	-	111	-
Children's work		1,084	-	-	1,084	1,123
Audit		150	-	-	150	150
Chocfest		399	-	-	399	-
Catering		1,499	-	-	1,499	2,091
Website and email		667	-	-	667	-
		<u>98,180</u>	<u>258,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>356,544</u>	<u>130,480</u>
<b>3(b) Missionary and Charitable Giving</b>						
Beacon House		63	4,637	-	4,699	96
Christian Youth Outreach		-	-	-	0	630
Clergy Support Trust		90	-	-	90	85
Compassion UK		1,174	-	-	1,174	1,411
Friends of Essex Churches		176	-	-	176	-
Samaritan's Purse		37	-	-	37	33
Simeon's Trustees		200	-	-	200	195
St John's Church, Colchester		100	-	-	100	-
The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund		100	-	-	100	100
		<u>1,939</u>	<u>4,637</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,576</u>	<u>2,550</u>
<b>3(d) Other Expenditure</b>						
Sears Fund income distribution		37	-	-	37	37
Mayor's charities (St George's Day)		-	-	-	-	324
		<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>361</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>100,156</u>	<u>263,001</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>363,157</u>	<u>133,391</u>

#### 4 Staff Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	19,458	22,782
Income tax and Social Security costs	2,762	3,690
Pensions - NEST pensions	448	701
Pensions - CEFPS via the Diocese	898	-
	<u>23,566</u>	<u>27,174</u>

Average number of paid staff	3	3
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CEFPS is the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme. Rev Wallace's pension contributions for his employment by the PCC are made on our behalf to CEFPS by the Diocese, and the PCC reimburse the Diocese.

During 2023 the PCC employed no staff earning £60,000 or more  
No employee benefits were received by any staff

Salaries paid in 2023 to members of staff having a connection to the PCC:

Rev Mark Wallace (PCC chairman)	£2,921
Mrs Elizabeth Wallace (wife of chairman)	£3,903
Mrs Bernice Watts (wife of PCC member)	£9,415

#### 5 Fixed Assets

##### 5(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Total
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>		
At 1 January 2023	640,000	640,000
At 31 December 2023	<u>640,000</u>	<u>640,000</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 January 2023	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 1 January 2023	640,000	640,000
At 31 December 2023	<u>640,000</u>	<u>640,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall on North Hill, Colchester. For accounting purposes the historical cost of this property is unknown and was valued in August 2011 for insurance purposes at £640,000.

##### 5(b) Investments

Our investments comprise the Sears Fund, which is a trust in two parts.  
£400 is invested for growth, with interest available to use if needed, and £400 is invested with the interest to be used for the poor and needy of the parish, at the Vicar's discretion.

The fund is held in the Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares

	£
Value at 1st January 2023	4,844
Additions	-
Revaluation	570
Disposals	-
Value at 31st December 2023	<u>5,413</u>

## 6 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	769	897
CCLA Deposit account interest	865	-
Hall hire December	210	-
	<u>1,845</u>	<u>897</u>

## 7 Creditors due within 1 year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Energy usage December	865	899
Sears Fund income distribution	37	-
Chelmsford DBF - December pension	303	-
Organist fees October - December	160	-
Colchester Archaeological Trust	-	120
	<u>1,365</u>	<u>1,019</u>

## 8 Creditors due more than 1 year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Redevelopment fund loan - due 2033 (interest-free)	20,000	-
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>

## 9 Funds

	Balance B/F	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gain on Investments	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General	674,239	79,956	90,899	-	-	663,296
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Bells (new in 2023)	-	1,183	-	-	-	1,183
Hall	(9,910)	12,612	9,257	-	-	(6,555)
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Fabric	4,538	1,220	-	-	-	5,758
Guest House (closed in 2023)	4,549	88	4,637	-	-	0
Ministry Support (new in 2023)	-	32,921	5,457	-	-	27,465
Redevelopment	116,055	130,134	252,908	-	-	(6,719)
Reserve	4,058	72	-	-	-	4,130
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Sears	4,844	-	-	-	570	5,413
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>798,371</u>	<u>258,186</u>	<u>363,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>693,970</u>

**The Parochial Church Council of the  
Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Colchester**

**Independent examiner's report on the accounts to the Trustees of  
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter Colchester  
("the charity")  
for the year ending 31 December 2023**

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

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

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

**Signed**



**Date: 21 March 2024**

**Name:** Jason Foxwell

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body**

Chartered Certified Accountant

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

**Address** 39 Enfield Road  
Poole  
BH15 3LJ