

Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
Of St Peter, Balsall Common
Year ended 31st December 2023
Registered charity number 1184291

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Trustee Report

Aim and purposes

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter, Balsall Common ("PCC") has the responsibility of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church and church hall buildings and grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to ensuring that as many residents of the parish as possible are able to worship at the church, and to become part of our church community. The PCC's charitable objects are primarily focused on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. All regular worship is provided free of charge and is open to all. In addition the PCC's activities include:

- The provision of sacred space for private prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for parents and babies and young children
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Provision and maintenance of a hall for regular public worship and other church activities, and also as a community facility available to all for recreational activities when not in use by the church

To facilitate our whole mission it is important to maintain the fabric of the church and the hall.

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Alison Bennett is appointed Safeguarding Officer.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry

Reverend Peter Thomas retired from ministry, leaving the parish on 9th April 2023. This means that we have been in a period of interregnum. We are delighted that the Reverend Suzy Pearson will be installed as our incumbent on 24 September 2024. Our services have been led by a rota of locum clergy, some retired, and assisted by Moira Johnson, Alison Bennett and Chris Price as readers. The PCC would like to thank all those who have ensured that we can continue to run a full program of services.

Worship and Prayer

St Peter's embraces diverse worship styles, providing traditional and informal services alongside special events for all ages. Since COVID-19, we have introduced online access to our services, reaching a wider audience. Key services include weekly Sunday services with a mix of formats, lay-led services focused on accessibility, and community engagement sessions.

Readers, lay leaders and volunteers play crucial roles in service delivery and pastoral care. We actively collaborate with other local churches through joint services and community events, fostering cooperation and support.

We continue praying for our work with the children and their parents and new people.

Throughout 2023 we have continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices, baptisms, weddings, funerals and burial of ashes services, which are significant occasions for many members of the parish and beyond.

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Church Centre

This year we continued to open the church daily, for all who seek a place for quiet contemplation and prayer. In response to the Ukrainian crisis, St Peter's hosted an English conversation club for refugees. St Peter's continues to hold drop-in Warm Hub sessions

The hall is usually used not only for church events but is hired out to a range of community groups, including exercise, drama and activities for the retired, as well as being available for private parties. Letting of the Hall is moving back towards pre-Covid levels, which is pleasing as a service to the local community, but also for funds to maintain and improve the Hall.

Pastoral

We organise several groups who meet regularly to learn more about Christianity, ask questions and express fears and doubts in a safe environment. This year these groups have moved back to meeting in person, which has been a great joy. Each group has a different audience and structure, so that as many as possible can attend one or more. Home communions are also available for the sick and housebound.

Mission and Evangelism

We have a small but active branch of the Mothers' Union at St Peters, who take part in activities such as knitting clothes for premature babies, and blankets and teddies. Through the Mothers' Union we have a strong link with our sister diocese in Malawi and this year we arranged a large donation of clothes, blankets, tools and school necessities via the container that the Diocese organises. A weekly group called Teenies, Tummies and Toddlers meets during the school terms to provide support and company for parents and carers of pre-school children. We also run a monthly tea party, proving a friendly place to meet particularly for older members of our community. We fundraise on a regular basis for The Children's Society, including at the annual Christingle service. We have continued to collect food and other essentials for Helping Hands, a local food bank.

We are active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and we have a church website where people can contact and connect with the church. In addition we have introduced a YouTube channel, where members of the congregation, and others who would not normally attend church, may access recordings of our services, along with activities for families.

Ecumenical Relationships

We are members of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell, joining with other churches in the area for coffee mornings, Lenten breakfasts, and other social activities, as well as fundraising for local and international charities.

Volunteers

The church would be unable to function without the hard work and dedication of a band of volunteers, and the PCC would like to place on record our heartfelt thanks to them all. There are too many to mention by name, but the Churchwardens, Chris Hornsby and Sarah Roth bear a huge responsibility in organising the life of the church, particularly in this period of interregnum.

In December 2023 our lay chair, Dr Mark Johnson sadly passed away. He made an enormous difference to our church life, he contributed freely of his time and skills in many areas, and we are still looking to fill all the positions that he so cheerfully took on. He is greatly missed.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The current incumbent is ex officio chair of the PCC, and the Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members are ex officio members of the PCC. Other members are elected to the PCC by members of the electoral roll at the Annual General Meeting, and may also be co-opted during the year. Members of the congregation are actively encouraged to register on the electoral roll, and to stand for membership of the PCC.

The PCC are responsible for making all decisions concerning the general running of the church, the raising of funds, and the use of those funds. The PCC met 5 times during the year, and discussed a range of issues including Safeguarding, discussing the Diocese's "People and Places" initiative, and fundraising. The Standing Committee, comprising of the incumbent, Churchwardens, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer also meet outside PCC meetings when there are urgent issues to discuss. There are also a number of sub-groups which meet on a regular basis, such as the Hall Committee, who are granted powers to make decisions on particular areas, and to report back regularly to the main PCC.

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Administrative Information

The church is situated in Holly Lane, Balsall Common, CV7 7EA. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham, within the Church of England. The church does not have a parish office phone number, but emails can be sent to spcbsall@outlook.com. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measures 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1184291.

PCC members who have served at any time since 1st January 2023 to the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members

The Reverend Peter Thomas (resigned 9th April 2023)
Christine Hornsby (Churchwarden)
Sarah Roth
Eileen Lamb (Deanery Synod member)

Elected Members

Alla Pavuk (Honorary Secretary) (appointed 26 March 2023)
Christine Lee (Honorary Treasurer)
Dr Margaret Eyre (resigned 12 May 2024)
Christine Hunnisett
Dr Mark Johnson (deceased 19 December 2023)
Moira Johnson
Amy Kershaw
Bryan Marlow
Susan Clinton (resigned 26th March 2023)
Rachel Westwood
Robert Farmer
Ted Perkin
Rosemary Birse (appointed 26th March 2023)
Margaret Mayhew (appointed 26th March 2023)
Dr Leslie de Chernatony (appointed 26th March 2023)
Susan Williams (appointed 5th May 2024)
William Chamberlain (appointed 5th May 2024)
Kimberley Wright (appointed 5th May 2024)

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Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members / trustees of St Peter Balsall Common Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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 accounts 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.

Signed

All Lowe

Allison Lowe

01 October 2024

Financial Review

The accounts for the year show a surplus of incoming to outgoing resources for the year of £7,096 as opposed to a deficit of £10,432 in the previous year. This is principally caused by a gradual increase in revenue as the church and hall return to pre-coronavirus pandemic activity levels, a reduction in our common fund payment, and lower exceptional maintenance costs.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary giving, excluding legacies, decreased by £3,724, mainly due to lower charitable donations. The increase of £2,767 in income from charitable activities is due to increased levels of hall rental income as the hall returns to pre-coronavirus pandemic activity levels.

Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs are generally under control. We reduced our voluntary additional payment to Common Fund. The rest of the reduction in expenditure is due to higher exceptional maintenance costs in 2022.

Reserves Policy

Following our significant refurbishment project in 2013, our reserves policy is to rebuild our financial reserves to cover our commitments, particularly in respect of necessary maintenance of the church building.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2023
Unrestricted Restricted Funds Total
Note: funds funds Funds Total
2022

Income and Endowments				
2	63,308	1,140	64,448	68,172
3	22,033	596	22,629	19,862
4	1,554	0	1,554	1,493
Total income and endowments				
	86,895	1,736	88,631	89,527

Expenditure				
	0	0	0	192
Cost of raising funds				
	0	0	0	0
Cost of generating funds for voluntary income				
5	79,819	1,717	81,536	99,767
	79,819	1,717	81,536	99,959

Transfer Unrestricted Funds to Restricted Funds

	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds				
	7,076	19	7,095	-10,432
Reconciliation of funds				
	20,678	3,353	24,031	34,463
Funds brought forward				
	27,754	3,372	31,126	24,031
Funds carried forward				

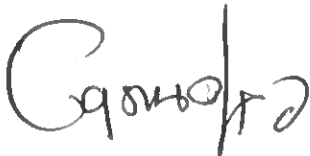
BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2023

2023	2022
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts at HSBC	23,804
Bank Accounts at CBF	227
	<u>24,031</u>
Current Liabilities	
Creditors	0
Net Current Assets	<u>24,031</u>
Net Assets	<u>24,031</u>
Represented by	
Unrestricted Funds	27,754
Restricted Funds	<u>3,372</u>
	<u>31,126</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

And signed on its behalf by: C Hornsby



Acting Chairman

The notes on pages 11 to 12 form part of these accounts

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		2023			2022		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds	Total funds	
2)	Donations and Legacies	42,535	0	42,535	43,191	2,569	
	Planned giving: tax efficient	2,443	0	2,443	11,232	0	
	Other planned giving	11,277	0	11,277	11,232	0	
	Tax recovered from Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	
	Other giving	2,704	0	2,704	1,021	0	
	Grants	0	0	0	0	0	
	Legacy	4,349	1,140	5,489	10,159	0	
	Donations and charitable donations	63,308	1,140	64,448	68,172		
3)	Income from charitable activities	18,805	18,805	18,805	15,655	962	
	Lettings	2,194	2,194	2,194	962	0	
	Parish fees	0	0	0	0	0	
	Magazine sales	1,034	596	1,630	3,245		
	Fundraising	22,033	596	22,629	19,862		
4)	Other Trading activities	1,554	0	1,554	1,493	1,493	
	Contribution from solar panels	1,554	0	1,554	1,493		
5)	Charitable activities	45,833	0	45,833	50,501	6,165	
	Salaries	6,430	0	6,430	6,165	3,379	
	Clergy and church expenses	3,028	0	3,028	1,508	0	
	Mission giving	104	1,140	1,244	0	0	
	Mission & evangelism	305	0	305	0	0	
	Church running costs	7,852	577	8,429	19,704	0	
	Cost of trading	14,976	0	14,976	17,218	0	
	Utilities	1,291	0	1,291	1,292	0	
	Hall repair and maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	
	Audit fee	0	0	0	0	0	
6)	Creditors	0	0	0	0	0	
	Charitable donations	0	0	0	0	0	
7)	Funds	At 1st January 2023	At 31 December 2023	At 1st January 2023	At 31 December 2023	At 1st January 2023	At 31 December 2023
	Unrestricted	20,678	27,754	7,076	19	0	7,095
	Fabric	1,688	1,688	0	0	0	0
	Children's and Families	1,665	1,684	19	0	0	0
		24,031	31,126	7,095	19	0	7,095