

Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
Of St Peter, Balsall Common
Year ended 31st December 2024
Registered charity number 1184291

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

Table of Contents

Trustee Report.....	3
Independent Examiner's Report.....	8
Financial Review.....	9
Statement of Financial Activities.....	10
Balance Sheet.....	11
Notes to the Accounts.....	12

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.

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

Achievements and Performance

Ministry

The parish has been in a period of interregnum since 9th April 2023. We are delighted that the Reverend Suzy Pearson was installed as vicar on 24 September 2024. Until her installation, 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. We also offer online access to our services held in Church, to allow us to reach a wider audience, including those unable to visit in person due to illness or infirmity. 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 for more new people to join our congregation.

Throughout 2024 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.

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

Church Centre

This year we continued to open the church daily, for all who seek a place for quiet contemplation and prayer. St Peter's continues to hold drop-in Warm Hub sessions on Thursday afternoons.

The hall is 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. 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, Tinies 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, alongside the Warm Hub, providing a friendly place to meet, particularly for older members of our community. We fundraise on a regular basis for The Childrens' 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.

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

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, Christine Hornsby and Sarah Roth bear a huge responsibility in organising the life of the church, particularly in this period of interregnum.

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 the process for appointing a new incumbent, 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 several sub-groups which meet on a regular basis, such as the Premises Committee, which are granted powers to make decisions on particular areas, and to report back regularly to the main PCC.

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

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 vicar@spcbalsall.org.uk. 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 2024 to the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members

The Reverend Susan Pearson (appointed 24th September 2024)
Christine Hornsby (Churchwarden)
Sarah Roth
Eileen Lamb (Deanery Synod member)

Elected Members

Alla Pavuk (Honorary Secretary)
Christine Lee (Honorary Treasurer)
Dr Margaret Eyre (resigned 12 May 2024)
Christine Hunnisett
Moirra Johnson
Amy Kershaw
Bryan Marlow
Rachel Westwood
Robert Farmer
Edward Perkin
Rosemary Birse
Margaret Mayhew
Dr Leslie de Chernatony
Susan Williams (appointed 5th May 2024)
William Chamberlain (appointed 5th May 2024)
Kimberley Wright (appointed 5th May 2024)

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

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 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

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



Alison Lowe

13 May 2025

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

Financial Review

The accounts for the year show a surplus of incoming to outgoing resources for the year of £2,394 as opposed to a surplus of £7,095 in the previous year. The reduction is principally caused by slightly lower income from charitable activities, particularly fundraising and parish fees, and a higher contribution to Common Fund.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary giving, excluding legacies, increased by £452, due to lower planned giving and tax recovered from gift aid, offset by an increase in donations. The decrease of £2,854 in Income from charitable activities is due to lower income from fundraising and parish fees.

Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs are generally under control. We increased our voluntary additional payment to Common Fund by £2,167, which accounts for most of the increase in costs of £2,277.

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.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts, in accordance with s10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the incumbent Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a special faculty for disposal are inalienable church property, listed in the Church's terrier which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

Equipment used on the Church premises is capitalised if it is over £5,000 and written off over a 5 year period.

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note:	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	2	63,273	1,627	64,900	64,448
Income from charitable activities	3	18,968	807	19,775	22,629
Other trading activities	4	1,532	0	1,532	1,554
Total income and endowments		83,773	2,434	86,207	88,631
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds		0	0	0	0
Cost of generating funds for voluntary income		0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	5	81,525	2,288	83,813	81,536
		81,525	2,288	83,813	81,536
Transfer Unrestricted Funds to Restricted Funds		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		2,248	146	2,394	7,095
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward		27,754	3,372	31,126	24,031
Funds carried forward		30,002	3,518	33,520	31,126

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

BALANCE SHEET		
As at 31 December 2024		
	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts at HSBC	33,270	30,891
Bank Accounts at CBF	<u>250</u>	<u>235</u>
	33,520	31,126
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Net Current Assets	<u>33,520</u>	<u>31,126</u>
Net Assets	<u>33,520</u>	<u>31,126</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	30,002	27,754
Restricted Funds	<u>3,518</u>	<u>3,372</u>
	<u>33,520</u>	<u>31,126</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13/05/25

And signed on its behalf by: Reverend S Pearson, Chairman



The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
2) Donations and Legacies				
Planned giving: tax efficient	41,465	0	41,465	42,535
Other planned giving	1,819	0	1,819	2,443
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	10,640	0	10,640	11,277
Other giving	0	0	0	0
Grants	1,153	500	1,653	2,704
Legacy	0	0	0	0
Donations and charitable donations	8,196	1,127	9,323	5,489
	63,273	1,627	64,900	64,448
3) Income from charitable activities				
Lettings	18,031		18,031	18,805
Parish fees	556		556	2,194
Fundraising	381	807	1,188	1,630
	18,968	807	19,775	22,629
4) Other Trading activities				
Contribution from solar panels	1,532	0	1,532	1,554
	1,532	0	1,532	1,554
5) Charitable activities				
Contribution to Common Fund	48,000	0	48,000	45,833
Salaries	6,170	0	6,170	6,430
Clergy and church expenses	1,401	0	1,401	3,028
Mission giving	360	1,127	1,487	1,244
Mission & evangelism	0	0	0	305
Church running costs	9,045	1,161	10,206	8,429
Cost of trading	15,651	0	15,651	14,976
Utilities	898	0	898	1,291
	81,525	2,288	83,813	81,536
6) Creditors				
Charitable donations	0	0	0	0
7) Funds	At 1st January	At 31 December	Movement	
	2024	2024		
Unrestricted	27,754	30,002		2,248
Fabric	1,688	1,688		0
Children's and Families	1,684	1,830		146
	31,126	33,520		2,394