

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley

Aim and purposes

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Dave Berry, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the Church building, owns the Community Hall at High Street, Bentley and also has a lease on Town End Community Hub on Conyers Road in Bentley.

Objectives and Activities

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. In setting out our objectives, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Our vision as a church is to grow faith, hope and love in Bentley and beyond by following the commands of Jesus to love God and love one another. We help the Church and the community to grow in the following ways.

Adoration. We worship God together on a Sunday morning in Church. We make our services as welcoming as possible and ensure that there are low barriers to participation in our worship.

Belonging. We work hard to ensure that everyone can belong at St Peter's. This means building connections within the church family, but also ensuring that the wider community is able to feel at home in and around our church.

Compassion. As well as loving God, we look to show his love to the people around us with ministries that are focussed on those in need.

Discipleship. We help people to develop in their own personal reading of scripture and prayer so that their individual faith is growing and developing too.

Evangelism. We are so excited by the Good News and the change it brings to our own lives that we want to tell other people about it.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church, the Community Hall and the Town End Community Hub.

Achievements and Performance

Adoration.

In February 2024 we moved from two services on a Sunday to just one at 10.30am. Attendance at services dropped from an average of 46 in 2023 to 39 in 2024, although this is not a result of this change. This was disappointing, but the community feels sustainable and we are working hard to help people take up new roles of responsibility which will help us to grow further over the coming years.

During our Sunday worship children between the ages of 4 and 12 take part in Rock Solid with Jade, our Children and Families Worker, and her team of volunteers. Where possible, they look at the same ideas as the sermon in church so when the families go home everyone can talk about the same thing. We build on our knowledge and learn together through games, group discussions and crafts. We use a wide range of activities to keep their attention and open up learning through different forms of teaching. We have introduced a reward system to help build on confidence and other social skills. We often see friendships form in this group when doing team building activities or icebreakers to get to know each other better. The children stay in church through the sung worship before leaving for Rock Solid.

As well as our regular services, we enable our wider parish community to celebrate significant moments in life in Church. We help people start a journey of faith at baptism, both for adults who are usually prepared through the Alpha course and children, whose parents attend the Christening Course. We had the privilege of marrying two couples in Church too and we also took a number of funerals during the year commending those who had died into God's care.

Belonging

Stepping Stones, our baby and toddler stay and play group moved from the Community Hall into Church which has gone well. The Church is a more cozy and welcoming atmosphere. We currently have team of 6 at this group. There are 30 families signed up to Stepping Stones and we usually see around 12 of them on a given Tuesday morning. We stick to the same pattern weekly so the children can get used to the routine, building life skills for school such as tidying up together and sitting down for a story. We are looking to start a mini Stepping Stones at the Town End Community Hub in 2025.

Jade is also in charge of Boulder Gang, our afterschool club. This was launched just before the summer holidays after a visit from an American team. Everyone from reception to Year 6 is invited. It's been great to see around 20 children a week coming along and the sessions combine sport and teaching. We hope that relationships formed at this event could lead to new families trying Church and coming to faith.

In October 2024 we finally launched our community cafe - The Beacon Cafe. The aim is to provide a safe warm space where people can meet, chat, reduce social isolation and share the word of Jesus Christ. Long term we envision planting a church congregation here. We started by opening on Fridays which have been a great hit and well attended. We now open on Thursdays too which are quiet, but we are working on a marketing plan.

Compassion

We work to share the love of God in our community in a number of ways.

CMA Bentley is our debt advice service, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. CMA Bentley has had its busiest year to date in 2024, which hasn't come without its challenges. We had to completely close to new referrals as we hit our peak waiting time of 5 months to take on a new client.

In January 2024 due to improved funding, we were able to hire a trainee debt advisor. We have also recruited for a new administrator this year. The new team has bonded really well.

2024 at CMA Bentley in a snap shot:

- We saw 80 new clients, dealing with a debt total of £1,025,189.39
- We helped our clients gain £6,728.53 in income, which is an average of £84.11 per client
- 33 of these clients applied for an insolvency (Debt Relief Order or Bankruptcy)
- We supported 5 clients into repayment plans

Our high quality service continues to have a great reputation with local professionals, and we are now seeing a wider spread source of incoming referrals not just from Doncaster Council. The most significant shift in our statistics is that in 2023, none of our clients were referred to us from previous clients. However in 2024, a staggering 17% of our clients were referred to us from a previous client. This is the highest compliment we can receive considering the stigma associated with debt, and the fact that people will talk about how great our service is to others is something we are extremely proud of.

Getting sustainable funding in place is a continuous challenge. In 2024 we were blessed to have support for our funding plan from the Diocese of Sheffield and the stress was significantly reduced. We are working with the diocese to make progress towards sustainability over the coming years.

The School Wardrobe continues to provide high quality second hand uniforms for free to the DN5 community. This service is run by volunteers. In 2024 we supported 700 children, which is an increase on the 680 children supported in 2023. The service has been run by 22 volunteers over the year, however we currently have only 4. Retaining volunteers in 2024 due to their personal circumstances has been a challenge, and we are looking to grow a larger team.

We continue to work with other local charities and organisations, such as The Clothing Bank, ACTS 435, Baby Basics, The Hygiene Bank, National Data Bank, Riverside Addiction Recovery and Domestic Abuse Services to ensure positive outcomes for all who we support in our local community.

Discipleship,

We are working on ways to grow people in their personal relationship with God. As well as sermons on Sundays we launched small groups and started a series of monthly Saturday morning groups open to all where we can grow in faith together.

Almighty Fusion is the church youth group which we run in partnership with Bentley Baptist Church. It is small (around seven members), but they are growing in faith, hope and love. For now, this is focussed on growing the faith of our church youth, although it is open for them to invite their non-Christian friends.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley is a registered charity 1191023.

Evangelism.

We have been running the Alpha course each year as a way to help people discover the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment. In 2024 we held three Alphas. As is usual for us, attendance varied wildly between the different courses, but there are people in our church family today who have come through Alpha.

In June we hosted a team from Church of the Cross, Orlando. They did schools work, talking about what it's like to live in America and helped with an evangelistic quiz and a youth event. It helped us make some great connections with the community. They also shared their hope in Jesus Christ.

In October we hosted the Bishop of Doncaster for a 'grill a bishop' evening. She shared some of her story and a number of those who attended have started coming to church.

St Peter's Community Hall

The Community Hall serves Bentley well by hosting a number of events every week including bingo, line dancing, slimming world and fitness classes. It is also well used by local families for parties and other private bookings. In 2023 we had a feasibility study done to price up renovating the hall. Our conclusions were that it would likely be cheaper to knock it down and start again, which isn't financially viable for us now. We are, therefore, focussed on extending the life of the current building while we make plans for the future. In 2024 we tried to improve the aesthetics and make some other improvements. We were able to complete significant improvements to electrics in the hall thanks to a grant from Well Doncaster. We spent some money trying to improve the toilets and decorating to spruce the area up and put some life back into it. Sadly the hall roof was vandalised which led to us making an insurance claim.

Excitingly in November 2024, the PCC agreed we could convene a 'Hall Committee' made up of a clergy person, the church wardens, two hall users, and two church members. They will be responsible for

- Ensuring the hall is kept clean and tidy, this includes appointing or contracting a cleaner/cleaners.
- Setting hall hire rates for 2026
- Making and executing plans to drive up use of the hall to increase revenue
- Working with hall users and the PCC to create plans (including a fundraising plan) for refurbishment or replacement and securing faculty and/or planning approval
- Ensuring the hall is well maintained.

Town End Community Hub

The PCC holds a lease for the Community Hub until October 2027. It has been successfully operating as the base for CMA Bentley and the School Wardrobe all year. The Beacon Cafe space opened in October and we are planning further developments in 2025.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Adwick-le-Street Deanery Synod meets twice a year to hear about things that are happening in the wider church and locally too.

Fabric Report

The Quinquennial report was received in February 2024 and with the support of the buildings officers at the Diocese we are working towards the issues raised in the report. We secured a grant from the national church towards minor repairs and the work took place in early 2025 (which is also when the grant money was paid).

There have been no significant issues with the building in 2024.

Financial Review

Our accounts for 2024 are reported on an accruals basis. They have been independently examined and agreed by the PCC.

Total income for 2024 was £176,530 of which £74,001 was unrestricted, the remaining £102,529 was mostly restricted grant funding. The largest source of income was from such grants which totalled £101,042 followed by donations and legacies totalling £43,685. The hall was the third largest contributor at £24,733. Further details can be found in the full accounts at the end of this report.

We spent £163,171 on the running of the church, with a significant proportion of that being CMA Bentley. We paid £12,720 to the Diocese of Sheffield towards the stipend of the Vicar. Further details of expenditure can be found below.

We started 2024 with a small surplus on our general fund of £3,435. Over the year we have been able to increase this to £20,459. We set a reserves target of £14,000 by 2028, but we have now exceeded this and will review our reserves policy in 2025.

Volunteers and staff

We simply wouldn't be able to function as a church without our amazing volunteers, from the churchwardens and PCC, to those who help at the School Wardrobe to the people who make tea and coffee on a Sunday morning. There are too many people to name individually, we're so grateful to you all.

We also are exceptionally grateful to our staff team who have served the needs of the church and our community with hard work and grace.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Peter's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar) and curate, the churchwardens and members elected by the people on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are the trustees of the charity. They oversee the governance of the Church including agreeing the budget and ensuring we are compliant with safeguarding and other rules. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met ten times during the year.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley is a registered charity 1191023.

Safeguarding

The PCC has paid due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. All team members are required to undertake safeguarding training as per their role and all levels of training should be updated every 3 years.

Danielle Lumby was appointed to the position of Pariah Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in November 2024 and has been busy familiarising herself with the training and DBS requirements of the St Peter's team as well as starting to gain an understanding of the Parish Dashboard which became a mandatory requirement for all churches in the Diocese to use from September 2024 onwards. The Parish Dashboard has been designed as a tool to give a clear, simple way to stay on top of safeguarding responsibilities.

Administrative information

St. Peter's Church is situated on High Street, Bentley. It is part of the Diocese of Sheffield within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Peter's Community Hall, High Street, Bentley, Doncaster, DN5 0AA. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity number 1191023, registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

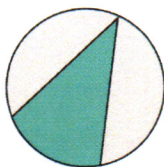
- Incumbent: The Reverend Dave Berry (Chair)
- Curate: The Reverend Rachel Price
- Churchwarden: Abigail Clarke
- Churchwarden: Luke Davies

Elected

- Patricia Paine (Deanery Synod Rep)
- David Walker (Deanery Synod Rep)
- Rachael Clowes (Treasurer) until 24 March 2025, remaining treasurer.
- Kate Davies
- Andy Farmer
- Anne Siddle
- Christine Walker

Approved by the PCC on 7th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Dave Berry (PCC chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Berry', written in a cursive style.



St Peter's Bentley

Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2024

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2023 Funds
Incoming Resources						
Donations and Legacies	2a	42,199	1,487	—	43,685	57,323
Fundraising Activities		—	—	—	—	—
Church Activities	2b	3,850	—	—	3,850	2,562
Trading Activities	2c	24,733	—	—	24,733	20,598
Investments	2d	1,898	—	—	1,898	186
Other		1,322	—	—	1,322	—
Grants	2e	—	101,042		101,042	78,436
Total		74,001	102,529	0	176,530	159,105
Resources Expended						
Cost of Fundraising				—	0	735
Charitable Activities		56,977	106,194		163,171	146,764
Total		56,977	106,194	0	163,171	147,498
Net income (expenditure)		17,024	(3,665)	0	13,358	11,607
Funds brought forward		3,435	47,581	7,912	58,928	46,641
Gains on investments		0	0	181	181	680
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Funds carried forward		20,459	43,915	8,093	72,467	58,928

Balance Sheet				
	Note	2024	2023	
Non-Current Assets				
Investments		8,093	7,912	
Total		8,093	7,912	
Current Assets				
Stocks		365	974	
Debtors		2,439	3,294	
Cash at bank and in hand		64,605	65,579	
Total		67,409	69,847	
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable		2,043	16,885	
Deferred Income		992	1,946	
Total		3,035	18,831	
Net Assets		72,467	58,928	
Parish Funds				
Unrestricted		20,459	3,435	
Restricted		43,915	47,581	
Endowment		8,093	7,912	
Total Funds of the Church		72,467	58,928	

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24 April and signed on its behalf



The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

1 a) The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2018 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by the Charities (SORP(FRS102))

1 b) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

Incoming Resources

1 c) These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources;
- and inflow of economic benefit is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure and liabilities

1 d) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Assets

1 d) In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

1 e) Moveable church furnishings are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's Inventory in any case.

1 f) Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

2 Income and Endowments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2023 Funds
2a) Donations and Legacies					
Regular Giving	25,141	160	—	25,301	27,401
Donations	3,747	1,184	—	4,931	7,568
Collections at Services	1,527	67	—	1,594	2,540
Tax recoverable	6,784	76	—	6,860	8,331
Legacies	5,000	—	—	5,000	—
Fundraising	—	—	—	—	3,941
Gift Days	—	—	—	—	7,540
Total	42,199	1,487	0	43,685	57,323
2b) Church Activities					
Funerals	2,505	—	—	2,505	1,705
Weddings	706	—	—	706	620
Heating and Travel	406	—	—	406	220
Other Fees	36	—	—	36	17
Events Income	207	—	—	207	0
Total	3,860	0	0	3,860	2,562
2c) Trading activities					
Bookstall	30	—	—	30	103
Hall Rental	24,298	—	—	24,298	20,495
Beacon Café	404	—	—	404	0
Total	24,733	0	0	24,733	20,598
2d) Investments					
CAF Bank interest	36	—	—	36	—
CCLA Deposit a/c interest	1,862	—	—	1,862	186
Total	1,898	0	0	1,898	186

2e) Grants received

Wharfedale Trust	—	25,000	—	25,000	—
Awards for All	—	20,000	—	20,000	—
Henry Smith Charity	—	11,300	—	11,300	10,000
Diocese of Sheffield	—	11,000	—	11,000	12,350
Trusthouse	—	10,000	—	10,000	—
Benefact Trust	—	6,800	—	6,800	—
The Brelms Trust CIC	—	6,000	—	6,000	6,000
Doncaster City Council	—	5,192	—	5,192	1,650
Liz and Terry Bramhall Foundation	—	5,000	—	5,000	5,000
Doncaster Rotary	—	750	—	750	—
COCOLF	—	—	—	—	38,637
Social Isolation Alliance	—	—	—	—	2,239
Hillards Trust	—	—	—	—	1,000
DCMS Listed Places of Worship	—	—	—	—	630
Local Giving Ltd	—	—	—	—	500
Voluntary Action Doncaster	—	—	—	—	330
Blakemore Foundation	—	—	—	—	100
Total	—	101,042	—	101,042	78,436

Unrestricted Restricted Endowment Total 2023

	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
3) Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising expenses	—	—	—	—	735
Total cost of generating funds	0	0	0	0	735
Church Activities					
Mission giving and donations	—	—	—	—	—
Common Fund Contribution	11,660	1,060	—	12,720	15,100
Salaries, wages and honoraria	67	63,095	—	63,162	51,218
Clergy and staff expenses	2,136	277	—	2,413	2,447
Total	13,863	64,432	0	78,295	68,765
Church expenses					
Mission and evangelism	4,691	1,533	—	6,224	15,677
Running costs	20,245	24,671	—	44,916	44,037
Utility bills	10,055	2,949	—	13,004	17,710
Costs of Trading	492	219	—	711	210
Total	35,483	29,372	0	64,855	77,634
Major Capital Expenses					
Major Works (Not Church)	3,719	4,269	—	7,988	
New building work	3,751	7,672	—	11,422	365
Total	7,469	11,941	0	19,410	365
Other expenses	181	1,491	—	1,672	196
Total	56,996	107,236	0	164,232	147,695

	b/fwd 31/12/202 3	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Fund transfers	Investment gains/losse s	c/fwd 31/12/202 4
4) Movement in Funds						
General Fund	3,435	74,001	56,977	0	0	20,459
Flood Fund	4,155	0	0	0	0	4,155
Future Youth	3,925	1,400	2,486	0	0	2,839
Sheffield DBF Area Dean Admin	1,396	2,600	3,192	0	0	804
St Agatha Trust	500	0	90	0	0	410
CMA Bentley Trust Fund	268	193	91	0	0	369
Building and Maintenance Fund	533	163	448	0	0	247
Community Projects	1,289	5,972	10,328	3,177	0	110
Uniform Bank - Shoes	888	145	977	0	0	56
Awards for All	0	20,000	4,028	0	0	15,972
Trusthouse Foundation	0	10,000	3,825	0	0	6,175
Community Wealth Builder	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Wharfedale Foundation	0	25,000	20,096	0	0	4,904
Benefact Trust	0	6,800	3,967	0	0	2,833
Henry Smith Charity	0	11,300	11,261	0	0	39
COCOLF	17,807	0	17,807	0	0	0
CMA Bentley	4,517	15	4,532	0	0	0
Well Doncaster	4,269	0	4,269	0	0	0
Community Projects (2)	3,177	0	0	(3,177)	0	0
The Brelms Trust CIC	3,000	6,000	9,000	0	0	0
Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	1,677	5,000	6,677	0	0	0
Uniform Bank	179	0	179	0	0	0
Small Grants	0	2,942	2,942	0	0	0
Jowett Bequest	7,912	0	0	0	181	8,093
Total	58,928	176,530	163,172	0	181	72,467

5 Investments

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley is a registered charity 1191023.

The investments consist of the proceeds of the Jowett Bequest. This is invested in a CCLA Share Account. The proceeds are to be used for the augmentation of the Vicar's stipend and, as such, are paid directly to the Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance.

6 Debtors

Hall rental unpaid invoices	1,502
Funeral Fees outstanding	775
Gift Aid	243
Total	2,520

7 Creditors

Trade creditors	1,460
HMRC	461
Other Creditors	120
Total	2,041

8 Staff costs

	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	55,007	46,004
Pensions	4,671	3,813
Honoraria	1,400	1,200

All NI payments due are covered in full by the Employment Allowance.

9 PCC staff members

During 2023 the following member of the PCC was paid as an employee of the Church.

Abigail Clarke has been employed at CMA Bentley, our debt advice centre, since 2022. She was elected to serve as Churchwarden in line with Church Representation Rules. She is not allowed to take part in PCC conversations about remuneration of staff or terms and conditions to prevent conflict of interest.

No member of staff received total emoluments of more than £60,000.

11 Trustee expenses

No trustees received payment for expenses incurred in order to carry out trustee duties. (2023:0)

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Bentley (the PCC) for the year ended 31 st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC 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 PCC'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.

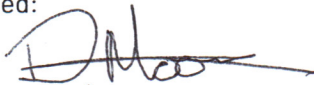
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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:



Name: Mr David Moore

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): FCCA

Address: 2 Pentland Chase, Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3FX

Date: Monday, 26 May 2025