



Charity Registration Number 1201334

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NORTON
THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER,
NORTON JUXTA MALTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Incumbent:

Reverend Jenny Buckler

Independent Examiner:

Mr Andrew Richardson

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**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Norton Juxta Malton
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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St Peter's Church, Norton - Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Aim and Purposes:

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the Church Hall which is within the church grounds.

Structure, Governance and Management:

St Peter's Church is situated in Norton juxta Malton Parish and is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Church House, Langton Road, Norton, Malton, YO17 9AE. The PCC is a corporate body (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006). The PCC registered with the Charity Commission in 2022 under the name '**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Norton Juxta Malton**' with a working name 'St Peter's Church, Norton'. The charity number is 1201334. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Revd. Jenny Buckler
Curate: Revd Janet Burrows

Elected Wardens: Neal Cullis
Ron Wilson

<i>Elected members:</i>	Judy Barker	(Treasurer)
	Mererid Hunt	(Secretary)
	Paul Tate-Smith	
	Graeme Wright	(Lay Vice Chair)
	Ellen Eagles	(until Easter 24)
	Matthew Burrows	
	Bunmi Lana	(until March 24)
	Jonathan Evans	(from APCM 21 st April 2024)
	Hannah Preston	"
	Heather Towse	"

Electoral Roll Officer: Rita Charvill

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Neal Cullis
Matt Burrows

Assistant Churchwardens/Sidespersons: Heather Towse, Jacqui Yard, Paul Buckle.

Church Warden Team: Matt Burrows, Rita Charvill, Paul Tate-Smith, Josh Vale.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Peter's the membership consists of the incumbent (our vicar), church wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral role of the church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees / groups each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

Public Benefit

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes

that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Norton-juxta-Malton it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- by promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Attendance

There are 102 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 30 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2024 was 66 adults and 6 children.

PCC Meetings

The PCC met 10 times during the year and standing items on the agenda included Conflicts of Interest, Finance, Safeguarding, Churchwardens' and Incumbent's reports. In addition, topical and relevant items were discussed, which this year included QI progress, Deanery & Faculty updates, Lay ministry and prayer leading updates.

The minutes are always posted at the back of church on the PCC notice board. If parishioners have questions or comments, they are encouraged to talk to any member of the PCC.

Mererid Hunt (Secretary)

The Vicar's Overview of the Year

This last year has hosted significant change for St Peter's, in many instances a 'passing of the baton' in the Kingdom building relay.

During 2024 several of our elderly dear church family were 'promoted to glory' as our brethren in Salvation Army call it: David, Eric and Robert among others. Eric and Robert in particular were those dedicated, diligent, servant-hearted men who used the gifts and provisions entrusted to them to serve God's Kingdom quietly behind the scenes. The sorts of ministries that are largely unnoticed until they stop and then everyone recognises it! With that in mind I take the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all the other 'ministry of helps' in their various forms: from counting the offerings each Sunday, setting-out chairs, replacing lightbulbs, mowing the grass, washing-up... the list is endless, but when done with love in the Name of the Lord, received by God as true worship.

We have seen the conclusion of Friday Night Club for Primary aged children, awaiting the Lord's prompting and provision for what's next. With Susan Smith stepping-down from leading Sunday School, alongside other ministries, for over 60 years, we've marked the transition by concluding Sunday School as it was and Sarah Wright has led the transition to establish a new format of Children's Church on Sunday mornings, where the youngsters are known as St Peter's 'Sparks'. We have celebrated the roles of those who have been faithful signposts pointing to Jesus and this included collecting memories of Susan's ministries to bless and encourage her as she has continued to serve at Toddlers, which is thriving and ever popular.

St Peter's hosted 'Oddments Theatre Company' who performed 'The Hiding Place' – a play about Corrie Ten Boom, a Christian Dutch woman who was detained in Nazi concentration camps for concealing and enabling Jews to evade capture. It was faith-building and challenging to witness a depiction of faith in action in the face of such persecution.

We have received with great joy, the ministry of Revd Janet Burrows, as she was ordained Deacon and begun her role as Assistant Curate in this Parish. Janet is a prayerful, compassionate, administratively astute colleague and already I have seen God release blessing and development through her ministry.

St Peter's has continued participating on the Diocesan Revitalise Programme with termly days at Wydale Hall where different areas of ministry are addressed, for example community engagement to which the Pop-up Café Team were invited and through that time of reflection their openness to offer prayer at the café was emboldened. Outside of the Parish I have been serving on York Diocesan Synod.

The input from 'D Day' (day of discernment) at the end of 2023 was collated this year. God shaped and guided the vision for the team to take it forward, known as the V Team who were gathered following the soft launch at the APCM. Predominantly for spiritual reasons there has been challenge to power of progress, but God has graciously brought revelation and provision.

In this coming year we will need courage and wisdom to address the untenable issues with both the buildings in our care, to press on in partnership with God as He further prunes and deconstructs and sanctifies ready for a

season of new growth and establishing across a number of areas of ministry and mission. We are called to develop a deeper and more robust sense of identity and call on our personal and corporate life at St Peter's.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Assistant Curate's Report

It has been a whirlwind six months for me since my ordination as a Deacon at the end of June and officially becoming the Assistant Curate at St Peter's. I have felt so very welcomed and accepted by the entire church family – and it has been great to get to know some of the ministries of the church better, as well as begin to learn the occasional offices (eg funerals and baptisms).

Given I am part-time (I work a Tuesday and Sunday and then occasional evenings and other days as required and to fit around my other role at Malton School), already knowing St Peter's and many of the members of the church family has been of huge benefit and enabled me to get involved very quickly.

I have spent a lot of my Tuesdays supporting the Toddler Group team but have also assisted with communion in the care homes and undertaken a number of pastoral visits. Tuesdays also provide a teaching opportunity in funeral ministry as well as baptismal and marriage preparation. But I've also dropped in on Pop-Up Café and YOOF. I feel very blessed to be learning at St Peter's with so many opportunities to work with others to help God's Kingdom grow.

Sundays, I have been involved in leading services and intercessions, as well as preaching, but have also had the opportunity to put together special services such as the All Souls Service of Remembrance, the Christingle service and carol service. I was also very involved in the Christmas services – all of which have taught me so much about ministry in God's church and been an absolute joy to be part of. I know many of you have commented on how I've grown in confidence throughout this time – and your words of encouragement have also helped me, so thank you.

This coming year, I will be leading some of the services at the local care homes and also start to lead funerals on my own. Working with a team from church I also hope we can set up a new church website and would like to explore ways in which we can really strengthen and build on our life of prayer.

I would very much value your prayers as I prepare for my Year 1 report and formal meeting with the Diocese – that I will be able to clearly identify and give examples of the ways in which I have grown and developed into my role as Deacon; but that God would also show me where He would like me to develop and strengthen my ministry.

Rev'd Janet Burrows

Church Wardens' Report

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:

The following routine inspection and maintenance activities have been carried out this year, including:

- The annual inspection of the church **lightning protection system** was carried out on 9th July; the resulting report indicated some remedial action may be required (yet to be undertaken due to concerns over potential cost);
- The **annual fire equipment inspection** was carried out (12th July – for both church and Church House) and all items were certified as serviceable; a powder extinguisher formerly in place by the servery has been replaced with a CO₂ alternative (as recommended by Keith Halliday, York Diocese buildings adviser);
- The **biannual tuning of the pipe organ** was carried out by Geoffrey Coffin of Principal Pipe Organs on 11th June and 5th November; no significant issues were discovered and the instrument was judged to be in good order;
- The annual 24 hour gate closure took place on 27th/28th October; an earlier arrangement had to be rescheduled due to the failure of one of the car park entrance gateposts and the consequent need to arrange for its replacement and for the gate to be re-hung;
- The annual heating system service and issue of a new **Gas Certificate** has been postponed until the late winter/early spring as the church building has been in only occasional use during the colder months and the system has been little used;
- The grounds maintenance team have kept the lawns, borders, boundary hedges etc. in excellent order throughout the year. As ever, we remain very grateful for their evident skill and very hard work. Some seasonal planting was again undertaken in the main flower border on the south side of the nave by young people from our youth club ("Yoof") – to whom we also express our gratitude.

The following incidental tasks were actioned during the course of the year:

- A catch-up Fire Safety Audit of the church building was carried out by the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue fire safety auditor, Sarah Dargue on 30th May, following an accidental small electrical fire on Saturday 23rd March in the server room at the north-west corner of the building which was reported to the Fire & Rescue Service; appropriate actions to reduce the risk of recurrence had been taken in the interim; we were advised that the next Fire Safety Audit of St Peter's buildings would likely be a minimum of 5 years hence (i.e. at least 2029);
- Minor roof leaks were reported on a couple of occasions in both the north Aisle and chapel roofs during periods of exceptionally heavy rain and strong winds; the former could not be traced back to any obvious roof defect so no remedial action could be taken; debris was removed from the chapel roof at the location water was deemed likely to have got in to prevent pooling and a sealing compound applied; neither leak has recurred to date;

Other issues:

- Two diseased and storm-damaged trees in the eastern boundary plantation were felled following the grant of faculty by the Archdeacon of York and a wind-damaged large bough of a further tree at the western boundary of the site, in front of Church House, was removed to make this tree safe. The effect on the visual amenity of the site's remaining trees was judged to be minor.
- A very significant roof leak at the south-east corner of Church House, in an area where significant work was carried out quite recently, was remedied (at no charge) by the original contractor and has not so far recurred.
- Fire safety: a number of issues arising from the fire safety audit in 2023 have now been addressed. A full **fire risk assessment** has been completed, **Radio-linked smoke alarms** have been installed such that a fire detected by any of the devices will provoke a chain reaction and sound all of the alarms simultaneously – including one in the ringing chamber to ensure any occupants at the time are alerted to evacuate in a safe and timely manner. Signage to indicate both the **location of emergency exits** and the **location of firefighting equipment** has been displayed at key points around the building. An emergency **Fire Assembly Point** sign has been installed on the church field to facilitate orderly evacuation of either building in the event of fire or other emergency. High luminance **emergency torches** have been obtained to be sited near to each emergency exit in the church to assist evacuation. The Churchwarden Team will form the core of a **Fire warden team** to be deployed in emergency. One quotation has been obtained for the installation of LED illuminated **Emergency Exit** signage for the church. A further quotation will be obtained shortly.
- An unsuccessful attempt was made to replace a failed High Intensity Discharge tube (HID) in the westernmost luminaire in the north side of the nave (clerestory level). It is assumed that the fitting itself has failed. Work has been suspended pending possible inspection of all these fittings to assess their viability and potential for repair.
- The collection of historic prints etc. displayed on the north internal wall of the tower at ground level has been re-hung to make a better and tidier display.
- Members of the Churchwarden Team attended various Deanery and Diocesan training courses, such as preparation of the Communion table, writing intercessions, The Church Organiser administration system and managing repair, re-ordering and conservation projects.
- A meeting was held with **Repair & Restoration** personnel to discuss a programme of minor repairs to the external fabric of the building (mostly re-pointing of open joints and consolidation of mortar around the clerestory window saddlebars) with a view to obtaining an initial quotation for the work.
- A drone survey of the external fabric and features of the church building was commissioned and delivered with a view to preparing a plan for any necessary work to the rainwater goods (potential repair and redecoration), the various slate roofs, external stonework, leadwork etc.
- No further progress has been made on resolving ongoing performance issues with the **church heating system** (apparent inefficient transfer of heat from the dual-boiler source via a plate heat exchanger to the distribution pipework) as further investment in this system (other than in routine maintenance and gas safety checks) is difficult to justify.

- It has been observed that when the heating system was switched on over the Christmas period to permit our seasonal services to be held in the church (we are once again otherwise holding our main Sunday services in Church House with the Bishop's permission), significant heat output from the entrenched cast iron pipes running down the centre of the Nave is only detectable towards the eastern end of the pipe run. The screwed steel distribution pipework appears still to be in good and serviceable condition. Fairly rapid loss of detectable pressure in the circulating pipework (over a week or so during operation) suggests there is one or more significant leaks in the system, most probably in failed/failing caulked joints in the cast iron pipework in inaccessible locations.

Philippians 4v6 tells us *in every situation "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"*. Looking into the next year, we would be grateful if you would join us in praying specifically for:

- Increased financial provision to allow us to tackle the less pressing elements of the **Quinquennial Inspection** report and those that we can't currently afford.
- Wisdom to discern the **way forward** for both the church building itself and also Church House: to reduce energy use, to make better and more effective use of our estate for both our church and wider community, and to find innovative ways to repair and maintain our buildings to the glory of God and in the service of His Kingdom.

The Churchwardens would again like to thank the Churchwarden Team for its diligence, dedication and resilient good humour in their invaluable contribution to the service of our church and its people.

Yours in Christ,

Neal Cullis and Ron Wilson

Safeguarding Report

Ensuring that all of our church activities continue to follow safeguarding best practice is a real priority for St Peter's as we recognise the importance of creating a nurturing environment to grow in faith whilst reducing the risk of abuse of any kind. At the time of writing, the St Peter's Safeguarding Dashboard is currently at "96%" progress, with most requirements currently met, although some will need reviewing in the next couple of months. The outstanding item (red on the Dashboard) refers to the Procedure for Data Protection, which is to be prioritised by the PCC this year. We are also planning on strengthening our safeguarding processes for lone working and pastoral visiting.

The Safeguarding Administrator has been using the Safeguarding Dashboard throughout the year and has begun to populate the Safeguarding Hub. The Safeguarding Hub is currently quite time-consuming but it is believed that it will be worth the effort in the longer term, as maintaining the system will be much less onerous. This process will move all of our documentation online and into one place, allowing us to easily see what next steps need to be taken at any given time.

Our prayer for next year is that we are blessed with grace and understanding as we implement and improve our safeguarding practices.

Lynn Cullis (Safeguarding Coordinator), Sarah Wright (Safeguarding Officer)

Gift Aid

Figures for Gift Aided Giving for 2024 (together with the comparative figures for 2023) are as follow:-

PLANNED GIVING	2024	2023
Number of people giving by Standing Order	38 *	29
Amount given	£67,902	£45,767
No of people giving by Weekly Coloured Envelopes	6	6
Amount given	£ 5,490	£ 4,512
OTHER GIVING FOR COLLECTIONS		
Amount given in White Envelopes	£ 5,241	£ 1,888
Contactless Giving	£ 354	£ 417

TOTAL GIVEN AS COLLECTIONS	£78,987	£52,584
TAX RECOVERABLE on Collections	£19,747	£13,146
Other Gift Aided Miscellaneous Giving	£ 7,689	£ 6,115
TAX RECOVERABLE on Other Income	£ 1,922	£ 1,529

* Following a comment last year I have endeavored to reflect where 1 standing order is on behalf of a couple hence the huge hike in numbers here. On the same basis as last year we ended the year on 25 separate gift aided standing orders.

Giving has gone up significantly over 2024 but in several categories that is slightly skewed by some unusually large single gifts. However, the trend is definitely upwards which is great to see although I find myself reading my report from last year and noting that the negative things I mentioned are still broadly the same.

So to repeat last year's comments from your Gift Aid Secretary:-

- Reviewing your giving is very important to retain the grateful spirit that first inspired your annual giving.
- As a church we have been given the precious gift of Jenny to lead us and inspire us and there is an expectation that we should return this generous gift to us with our own giving to the diocese, which we can only achieve if we all prayerfully keep our giving up to date.
- White envelope regular givers – please consider setting up a standing order as the envelopes add considerably to the recording, and I have to treat each envelope as a new gift aid declaration which adds hugely to the workload involved in submitting the returns to HMRC.

HM Revenue & Customs are continuing to allow the reclaim of tax on non-gift aided cash donations up to a limit of £8,000 (ie £2,000 tax reclaim) in any given tax year. For the calendar year 2024 we were able to claim £1,922.10 (on anonymous cash donations of £7,688.67).

If anyone would like to gift-aid their giving, by monthly standing order, or would like further information on other ways of giving, please have a word with either Judy Barker - Treasurer, or myself. Gift-aiding increases giving by 25% at no extra cost to the donor, providing you are paying the tax to cover it.

1 Chronicles 29:14 ***“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand”.***

Cate Tate-Smith

Achievements and Performance

Prayer

Thy Kingdom Come 2024

This year we distributed TKC prayer booklets for personal engagement with this prayer initiative.

Revd Jenny Buckler

Women's World Day of Prayer 2024

Representatives from approximately 9 churches in Malton and Norton (including St. Peter's) form the committee who organise the yearly service which is held on the first Friday of March for the World Day of Prayer. The service for 2024 was put together by the women of Palestine and held in St Michael's Church, Malton.

We also organise a Bible Study each year, about a month before the service, and also a coffee morning once a year and send some money to WDP charities.

Mary Coldbeck

Weekly Thursday Intercession 2024

Thursday Night Prayers for the Church and for the World is a chance for us to meet in heartfelt communal prayer for the mission and ministry of St. Peter's and of the worldwide Church, for suffering fellow Christians, and for God's World. The latter can entail prayer for Governments, for public professions (armed services, emergency services, health workers, teachers, etc.), for world peace, for public health and environment, and for people in the world affected by physical or mental ill health or any other type of challenge.

We meet every Thursday (with a few, pre-advertised exceptions). We seek first to humble ourselves and exalt the Lord with prayers and hymns of praise and a prayer of confession, before lifting to Him the needs of Church

and World. Since Easter 2024 we have devoted the last part of the hour to praying for one theme in particular—a different theme each week—of which everyone is notified in the previous Sunday service's notices. No one has to pray out loud. No-one has to sing out loud. No-one has to attend for the whole hour or every week. But Jesus declared His Presence whenever "two or three" (or more!) are gathered together in prayer. Amazing things can happen when we pray together in a humble spirit but with confidence and expectation. God is not feeble – He is all-powerful and all-loving – so let us all be bold, come together, and ask Him to move mountains!

Keith Edghill

Worship

Services

The fortnightly 8am BCP HC service continues to be a steadfast sanctuary and communion with the Holy Lord. The weekly 10am Common Worship services have continued in the church building in the warmer months, and Church House through the winter.

We hosted the Archdeaconry's Admission of Churchwardens, which was graciously visited by the presence of God, and the offer of prayer ministry after the service was appreciated.

In addition to the traditional additional seasonal services, which included an Ascension service at sunrise at the top of Scott's Hill, we were honoured once again to host the Royal Airforce Association (RAFA) Battle of Britain Memorial Service at St Peter's Church and to strengthen that link. We welcomed visiting ministers to preach or lead us in worship this year, including Lee from Open Doors and Paul from the local branch of the Christian Motorcyclist's Association.

We tried a different way of celebrating Harvest this year by having a Songs of Praise on the Saturday followed by a Ceilidh and Harvest Supper jointly with First Norton Scouts. It was truly a joy-filled celebration and knees-up!

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Prayer Ministry

Where possible we have been developing opportunity for the Holy Spirit to minister to people's hearts during some services. Sarah has kindly continued to coordinate prayer ministers to offer a confidential, safe space for the Holy Spirit to minister deeper still after each service should anyone wish to seek Him.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Worship Group

The Worship Group has worked on a more focused repertoire over this last period. The main aim of this has been to prayerfully ensure we have songs that reflect where we think God has been leading us through this season. The increased familiarity has allowed a deeper connection in worship, and seems to be allowing more space for the Holy Spirit to minister through these times. We are gradually widening and developing the song list. We have moved from monthly Worship Group Discipleship evenings to an 'Hour of Power' which gives a time of prayer and worship, deepening our connection as a group and being sensitive to the Lord's leading. We continue to try and build the relationships across with other elements of service leading, something which seems to be yielding benefits.

Over the coming year, we will be pressing into where God wants to develop and lead us, and will endeavour to be open to his nurturing, stretching and deepening. We continue to look for opportunities to grow the group both in numbers and spirit, and are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in this next season.

Graeme Wright

'A New Thing'

This year we launched the aptly named "A New Thing". An evening gathering, creating space for worship and prayer, exploring the ancient ways of worship, through modern songs and short snippets of scripture. It's been great to pause and go deeper into the Psalms and Old Testament prophecies. And God has turned up!

This coming year we want to press in further to the plans God has for us, by aligning our meeting dates more purposefully with the church calendar. We hope this will bring space for deeper connection, to these key moments, in our community.

Georgie Kelham

Discipleship

Whole Church Discipleship

During 2024 we had an introductory sermon series exploring the spiritual realm. We mirrored the Kingdom Explorers' themes through the summer and had a sermon series called 'Champions' (direction, overcoming

distraction, dedication, determination, decoration). During this we encouraged the discipline of committing a bible verse to memory, which was embraced by many – can you still remember it?! Early in the autumn we enjoyed the way God expresses His love for us through the five love languages (words of affirmation, acts of service, quality time, touch, gifts). This was followed by a gentle introduction to sharing that love with others through 'friendship evangelism' ably described by the Christian Motorcyclists, then the triple lock keys: 1) pray for your five (five people you regularly connect with who don't yet know Jesus); 2) invitation; 3) share your story.

During Lent the whole church were invited to engage with devotional material: 'Watch and Pray' by Carlton Turner from the Church of England – the images were admired. During Advent we used devotional material: 'Sing in Exultation' by Jonathan Landry Cruse which explored some of the biblical truth in Christmas Carols.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Fellowship Groups

We have welcomed new members into groups and the Tuesday group reconfigured and multiplied so 2024 concluded with five fellowship groups meeting in homes on Mondays or Tuesdays. The groups explore the areas of discipleship that are most poignant for them, which has included 'What's so amazing about grace' by Philip Yancy and sessions led by David Woollard to deepen meditative prayer.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Deeper Through Prayer

*"This is what the Lord says,
'stand at the crossroads and look,
ask for the ancient paths,*

ask where the good way is, and walk in it" Jer 6:16

This year under the umbrella of Deeper Through Prayer (a combination of bible study and meditation) we have attempted to do just that in a six-week course on Walking with God - Our journey to freedom.

In it we have explored the major Way Marks of every Christian's journey with God in being:

Called & Chosen; Reconciled & Reborn; Growing & Fruit bearing; Tested & honed; Empowered & Sent; Ending with a final session of Thanksgiving & rededication.

These are huge subjects that we can only scratch the surface of in the limited time we have. But why not speak to either Sarah Wright, Sue Evans or Heather Towse to find out if they found them useful.

What next? Good question. I have a few thoughts I'm mulling over. One being is there a call for a simplified Day Time course leaning more towards the model we used in our past Advent Prayer courses.

What do you think?

Rev'd David Woollard

Residential Homes

A monthly rhythm of visiting and celebrating Holy Communion at Rivermead Care Home, Beechwood Place Nursing Home and Deansfield Court Housing continued through 2024, providing opportunity to encourage our brothers and sisters in their faith whilst they are unable to attend church services. It has been a delight to welcome Rev'd Janet into this ministry. The residents at Rivermead and Beechwood have latterly enjoyed Tracey playing the flute to accompany our hymn singing and to minister comfort to some who are bed-ridden. Rita has been lovingly assisting at Rivermead, and Ron and Neal assisting at Deansfield where Mary kindly also comes to play the piano for us in the service.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team has been in place for 18 months now and we have provided support for six members of our St Peter's family and one person who wants to be able to get to church.

Support has been mainly sharing a cuppa, talking and praying.

The service has been highly valued by those who have used it.

We look forward to serving our fellow Christians in 2025. More team members are now required as two members are no longer able to provide a regular service.

Taxi service to church is also needed.

Heather Towse (Pastoral Care Team Lead)

Monthly Newsletter

The monthly Newsletter is still going strong. We have 26 addresses to which the newsletter is hand delivered and 2 to which it is posted. The front page is mostly taken up by a reflection by one of the congregation and the

back page by "What's on", Prayers and prayer information plus contact information. Aimed at those who cannot take advantage of the weekly emails it is now actually attached to one of the emails once a month as the reflections have become a popular source of inspiration and the monthly summary of up-and-coming activities is an easy reference for many. As more and more people can access email the need for a hardcopy newsletter diminishes, but for the moment I think there is still a need and I am happy to continue.

Lynn Cullis

Children and Young People

Prayer for Children and Youth

During the May half term, instead of providing children's activity, we set aside 12 hours of a day to pray for the children, and for ministry and mission amongst them. We had prayer stations around the church and invited people to sign-up/ turn-up and pray, which was a blessed and fruitful time.

We have taken to blessing the children each Sunday as they leave for Children's Church.

In rolling notices and weekly emails there are regular reminders to pray for the children and ministry amongst them.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

Toddlers

The Toddler Group has undergone a number of changes this year. Susan Smith temporarily stepped back from leading over summer whilst she took some time out to care for Robert during his illness. A team of mums (Beth, Felicity and Monika) stepped up and took responsibility for the morning sessions, supported by Val and George. Ann Brown held the afternoon sessions together but stepped down herself at Christmas. We would like to thank Ann for the many years of support she has provided to this group.

Since September Janet has been supporting the morning helpers and provided an extra pair of hands on an afternoon. A number of church helpers have also volunteered to support the afternoon session. Story time has been re-introduced on an afternoon as well as action songs, assisted by Tracey, who has purchased some toddler sized instruments so the children can 'play along'. Stories are sometimes Bible stories (eg at Christmas) but are often everyday children's books through which we can discern an aspect of God's character or nature, so providing gentle discipleship.

It was great to see a number of the mums and children at the Christingle service, and there have been several opportunities to offer to pray for as well as share testimony with the mums. With very few Toddler Groups still running locally, this is a much-used service – with new mums attending both sessions over the course of the year – and a great way to very gently sow seeds of faith amongst the local community.

As we go through 2025, we are looking to build a core team to help run Toddler Group and are also starting termly get-togethers over a "bring & share lunch" so helpers at both sessions can get to know each other, share best practice and we can provide training and support.

We would value your prayers as we go through a time of transition and seek to build a team to enable us to continue this ministry through 2025 and beyond.

Rev'd Janet Burrows

Sparks

In September we launched our new Children's Church, called 'Sparks'. This takes place during term time each Sunday, aside from one Sunday a month where the service is 'all age'. The children start in the main service until about 10.15am, when they leave to join Sparks, having been prayed for by the adult congregation.

Sparks uses 'Urban Saints – Energize' resources, and we are grateful to the diocese for equipping us with the subscription. The session sometimes mirrors the theming of the adult church service, and sometimes is stand alone. In the Autumn term we looked at the character of God, then mirrored the adult church to look at the advent themes of hope, joy and peace.

Each session tends to have a similar structure, involving a game or introductory activity, song, teaching slot and craft / activity, finishing with a time of prayer. In the Autumn term we made banners and bunting, played with Lego, went on treasure hunts and made friendship bracelets among other activities. It has been such a joy to spend time exploring the bible with our young people and hearing their thoughtful contributions to discussions. We have some real prayer warriors in the group and it's always a joy to partner with them in times of prayer.

Whilst I've taken a lead role in establishing Sparks, we are moving to a model where the sessions are led by two volunteers each week on a rota basis. Please pray for the team of volunteers as they step into this new role, and

also that more people will be called into this rewarding ministry. Pray also for our 'Sparks', that they may grow in number and also in their understanding and love of God.

Sarah Wright

Friday Night Club

Friday Night Club has been a steadfast provision for Primary aged children to encounter some bible stories and enjoy fun fellowship on Friday nights. It has been faithful and well-loved but with the Holy Spirit not prompting others to take-up the baton of serving in this way when Susan and Ann stepped down at the end of the summer term, this Club has been laid to rest as we await the Lord's leading for the coming season.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler

YOOF

YOOF is our St Peter's Youth Club, ministering to young people of secondary school age. We meet every other Friday during term time. The number of young people attending in 2024 has stayed stable at around 12-18 young people every week. It has been lovely to welcome some new faces this term.

Each week we try to provide activities for all including sports, crafts, games and general silliness. This year we have been using resources created by both 'Youth for Christ' and 'Urban Saints' which includes videos, games and ideas around specific themes. Themes this year have included happiness, taming the tongue, jealousy, what is Church? And footie and faith. It's been great to explore these topics together and consider how God feels about them.

Each week we also give the young people a light supper, being aware that some of our children come from low-income families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that provide this, including a generous donation from Pop-Up cafe for end of term pizzas.

This summer, we once again offered two different fun trips. Early in the summer we visited Helmsley outdoor pool. The young people had a fabulous time and were a lot braver than most of the helpers when it came to taking the plunge. Pick and Mix and a warming hot chocolate finished the trip. Then in September we spent a fabulous few hrs at Scarborough North Bay, playing and paddling. Bags of chips and hot chocolate were a delicious way to finish a fun filled evening. We did return with a few soggy teenagers who, despite it being fairly cold and fairly dark, thought it would be fun to dunk themselves. Thanks to the Cullis family for use of their chalet. It is a real honour to be able to partner with God in this ministry, offering a safe place and a listening ear to young people in our community. We are a small team of volunteers, who find that God blesses the time that we give, and we enjoy it as much as the young people do. It's been wonderful to see one of our young people volunteer to help with Kingdom Explorers in the summer holiday, and three of our young people attended an evangelism event organised by Elim in the Autumn term. Please continue to pray for this ministry, for these seeds of faith that have been planted to take root. Please also join us in praying for more volunteers to come forward so that we can make YOOF a weekly event.

Sarah Wright

Kingdom Explorers

Kingdom Explorers is the name we give to our outreach work with children in the local community, working together with our friends from Elim Church. In 2024 we hosted two very different events under the 'Kingdom Explorers' banner.

In February half term we hosted a family afternoon entitled Love and Lent. There were lots of activities for families to complete together with the aim of showing God's amazing love for each of us. These included a treasure hunt around the church, singing and dancing, Lego creations and a pancake obstacle course. As it was Shrove Tuesday we also had pancakes for a snack and everyone had a *flipping* good time!

In the summer we again joined with Elim to run our summer club. This year we did one week, Monday to Friday and were joined by about 40 children each day. As it was an Olympic year, we decided on the theme of 'Champions' and used materials designed by Jon Hardwick. Our bible memory verse was, '*Let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in whom our faith depends*' Hebrews 12 1-2). We looked at different bible stories each day and there was plenty of sports, activities, crafts, singing, and general silliness. The event culminated on the Friday with a giant inflatable obstacle course which was enjoyed by all the children (and some of the adult helpers).

We were really blessed this year by a group of teenagers from both churches who gave up their holiday time to help out with our Champions week, and it was great to be able to bring them back together in September and treat them to pizza.

Please continue to pray for this ministry, particularly that God will raise up people who feel able to take a bigger role in the planning and oversight of these activities.

Sarah Wright

Norton Primary School

During 2024 we have welcomed Year 1 into the church building as part of their curriculum to explore sacred spaces and they left with a palm cross each. We have hosted the whole school and their parents for their Harvest and Christmas services. As part of 'Churches Together Southern Ryedale' (CTSR) we have continued to deliver 'Open the Book' into the Grove Road site assembly (Y1-4), which continues to be warmly welcomed and popular with the pupils. We are seeing some of them take ownership of their faith, growing in knowledge of the Bible and prayer.

Revd Jenny Buckler

Mission and Outreach

Plan for Growth

We have seen the persistent resilience and commitment to prayer, which is THE plan for growth. Growth in prayer will lead to growth elsewhere.

It is edifying to see people grow deeper in their discipleship and stronger in faith through this last year. I've heard more testimonies of people actively engaging with the evangelism keys of praying for their five, inviting and sharing your story and that has led to some new people being invited to Christmas services for the first time. These are some of the signs of growth we've seen in 2024. We've seen new people stepping forward to explore new ways of serving, particularly with Toddlers and children, as well as in services and assisting behind the scenes.

Looking ahead we will build on the basics of evangelism and will be hosting Gram Seed to inspire and coach us, whilst extending this invitation to all the church congregations from the area.

Once again, we will be partnering with Churches Together to deliver the Alpha Course from after Easter. Many more invitations were shared at the 2024 Christmas services than have been shared before, so once again, prayer is the plan to see growth from those efforts.

We have hope and expectation to see growth in the number of home groups, the context in which discipleship truly deepens. The discernment of the V Team has guided some of the whole church teaching journey and this, we pray, will lead to growth in faith and demonstration of Jesus' ministry amongst us.

Revd Jenny Buckler

CTSR Alpha

- For us - that is Jonathan and Sue it was a privilege and a Blessing to remain involved and work with others from CTSR to deliver Alpha - between January and April 2024.
- It was great to have Mike and Jan Talbot join the team, strengthening representation from St Peters. Also Andrew from Elim who was new to the team.
- The course was well supported by others within the fellowship at St Peters in terms of signing up to regularly pray for Alpha (coordinated by Janet at Elim) and others providing Soup and Tray bakes - Thank you.
- The course was well attended with an initial significant increase in the number of guests - initially around 18 guests which became a regular core of 8 - 10 guests.
- At the end of the course a celebration bring and share supper was well attended and enjoyed by all including Janet and Tony Walton from Elim whom had coordinated prayers throughout the course.
- The Holy Spirit weekend was perhaps fewer in number than anticipated but for those who attended it was a valuable part of doing Alpha - with some receiving individual prayer and encouragement. Thanks to Jenny for leading and to Brandsby Hall for Hosting us again.
- Approx 6 guests followed up by attending the Bible course - run by Mike and Jan supported by the Alpha core team.
- Two guests went onto commit to a full immersion baptism held at St Peters and are now part of the fellowship and one of whom has joined a small group attending regularly. One other guest is starting to attend St Peters and has come to other events like Pop up Cafe and a small group social.
- The Alpha core team met after the course was completed and reviewed the course concluding that to run the course annually followed by a bible course was preferable to running two alpha courses in one year.

- The Core Team continue to meet for monthly prayer and planning and the Next Alpha is scheduled to start on April 30th - 3 previous Guests have offered to act as helpers on the next course and one has joined the core team, playing a significant role in re- designing posters to advertise the next course.
- Finally, it goes without saying that we owe a huge thanks to Emily and Dean hosting both Alpha and The Bible course at the Citadel.

One could safely say "Fruit" has been born from folk from CTSR working together, supported in prayer and it's been a blessing to be involved.

Sue and Jonathan Evans

Pop-Up Cafe - St Peters Church House

This past year has seen an encouraging increase in the number of visitors supporting Pop-Up.

There is a good mix of age groups and conversations with each group flourishes. It is also good to see the young mums still supporting us after school drop off, where they can catch up with each other for an hourly chat.

Lynn incorporated the Autumn craft stall at one of the sessions and this was very popular and successful.

Ann Scurry has continued to support us with her stall selling her lovely jams and knitwear etc and raising money for St Peters Church funds throughout the year.

It has been especially good to have visits from our Curate Janet, when her work commitments have allowed this.

Also, Tracey has entertained us with her musical talent, a much-appreciated occasional addition to our Pop-up.

We are also privileged to offer prayer to our visitors, should it be requested, which is also very encouraging.

Our supporters voted for the charity nominations in December, approved and distributed via the PCC. The charities nominated this quarter are Ryedale Special Families, Next Steps, 1st Norton Scouts, YOOF, Christingle and Food for Everyone York.

After 7 years Richard and I have decided to hang up our pinnies and let the other volunteers who have offered their services continue, we will of course continue to support this very important community resource.

Rita Charvill

Pop-up café seems to be gathering momentum providing an excellent social gathering and the pop-up table goes quite well - over a £1,000 we made the coffers swell.

As long as the punters keep rolling in I'll do marmalade and jumpers till the cows come in!

A prosperous new year to all from Mrs. Scurry and her best friends – a pair of size 3 knitting needles.

Ann Scurry

Staying on a pop-up theme, this year's pop-up crafts stall expanded to include a mini "Late Autumn Fayre" to include some extra stalls to start the pop-up season. Nearly £1500 was raised and more people got involved. This is a good fundraiser, but more importantly it brings back the sense of "doing it together" we lost during the Covid'19 Pandemic.

Lynn Cullis

St Peter's Church House: community use

Thanks to God's Ministry in providing us with Church House we have been able to continue sharing our wonderful space with our Church family and the wider community of Norton and Ryedale during 2024. The activities include toddler group sessions, Pop up Café, Youth Clubs and Prayer sessions. This great space has also been hired for Karate sessions, other local groups and numerous children's parties.

During the winter months, to reduce our overall carbon footprint, Church House was also used for our Sunday morning worship.

We were also pleased to welcome The Nomads Production Company who hosted their autumn production in Church House.

The administration of all the bookings was once again coordinated by Anna Barker and I would like to thank her for all her help during the year.

Paul Tate-Smith

Social Media

Our Church social media profile remains relatively low, mainly focused on our Facebook page and our 'A Church Near You' page on the internet. Our Youth Club (YOOF) also has an Instagram page. Facebook messenger is sometimes used by the wider community, for example, to ask about timings of services or booking the Church Hall.

We have a social media policy which has been ratified at PCC and those who have access to our social media accounts adhere to this.

The main use of our social media is to inform the wider community of what we do and invite people to our events and activities.

Sarah Wright

Website

We have continued our presence on "A Church Near You" which still generates enquiries for occasional offices such as baptisms and weddings and is also a useful way of promoting special services such as Christmas and Easter. However, we have put together a small working group to progress the development of our own website. Over the last year the group (consisting of Graeme, Jenny, Matt and Janet and latterly Martin) has done a lot of the preparatory work for this, considering layout, content, as well as design of the website. We are now working on a site map before going out to tender for the design work. The aim by the end of 2025 would be to have our own website operational again.

Alongside the website, we continue to use social media to advertise church events - thank you to Sarah for taking on this role. Any future development of the website would include a link to our social media presence so the two can work together to be both a "shop window" for St Peter's as well as a resource for the church family.

Please do pray for us that we find the right designer for the website at the right price.

Revd Janet Burrows

Occasional Offices

During 2024 we celebrated 1 infant baptism, 3 weddings, 24 funerals in St Peter's Church, supported by Margaret and Julie as Vergers and a further 5 funerals elsewhere.

In the summer we had the delight of celebrating four adults reaffirm their baptismal vows by full immersion. St Michael le Belfry kindly lent us their baptismal pool, which we set-up by the font. There was a spirit of gentleness and deep encounter with the presence of the Lord.

Revd Jenny Buckler

Bellringing

We have been ringing regularly during 2024 and have consolidated the learning of our team, (currently 10 members) with 2 joining us most weeks from Kirkbymoorside. A father and son, James & Robin, currently living in Malton, join us when they can.

At the start of the year one of our ringers, Vicki Rowland, very sadly passed away. She spent her last days at St Catherine's hospice in Scarborough where some of us were able to visit her. A quarter peal was rung in her memory, and in the hearing of her family, on the 26th May when 8 bells rang Grandsire Triples.

Our ringers continue to be active in the Scarborough and District Branch (S&DB) of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR) where we regularly have members attending monthly meetings at different towers around the District. Steve Waterworth represents the S&DB on the YACR Education Committee. We have shared our practice night on several occasions with All Saints, Hovingham, as they also ring on Thursday evenings.

Our ringers continue to progress and we do have a regular visitor from Kirkbymoorside who is a relatively new learner. One of our ringers regularly attends a day time practice at Brompton, and another, Helen, rings where ever she can around the country and in our area. Helen has progressed to the point of successfully completing her first quarter peal which took place at St Peter's on the 25th November.

Our tower hosts a "steppingstones" practice for the district "improving" ringers once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

We again had our annual meal at the Wentworth Arms in Old Malton where the majority of our ringers were able to enjoy each other's company with good food and drink.

Paul Buckle and Steve Waterworth have recorded several successful quarter peal attempts during 2024.

We continue to try to develop the capabilities of all our ringer's endeavor to support all our ringers and make any new members feel welcome. We are always happy to welcome new faces who would like to give bell ringing a try.

Steve Waterworth (Tower contact)

Mission Partners

We have continued to develop our relationship with our chosen Mission Partners, offering a share of God's provision with them as well as setting aside time to pray for them and our extended ministry through them, particularly lifting them each Sunday during Advent. These include Christian Motorcyclists Association, Christian Police Association, Bible Society, Open Doors, Christians Against Poverty, Hope for Justice. We also lovingly support The Children's Society, Children in Distress and Compassion UK.

We have welcomed representatives from Open Doors and Christian Motorcyclist's Association to come and speak to us during 2024. We look forward to welcoming others in the coming years. It would be good to pray for named 'champions' for each of these mission agencies from within our fellowship, as well as for the deepening of partnership and their ministry and mission.

Revd Jenny Buckler

Ecumenical Relations

Southern Ryedale Deanery

The following meetings were attended this year:

- Deanery Synod meeting: Thursday 8th February @ St Mary's, Old Malton
- Deanery Synod meeting: Thursday 6th June @ Rillington Church Hall

Note that the "Deanery Gathering" meeting format (open to all, not just Deanery Reps) has been in abeyance this year, due to falling attendance, whilst other ways to engage with the wider Deanery are explored by the Deanery Leadership Team.

The first of the Synod meetings (above) was mostly given over to an interesting presentation by the Diocesan **Generous Giving Team** (GGT). The learning outcomes for St Peter's were the significant advantages accruing from joining the **Parish Giving Scheme** and the potential for the use of **QR codes** attached to congregational seating to enable and encourage in-the-moment online donations from personal devices (mobile phones). Research has demonstrated a significant increase in giving, particularly from attendees at Occasional Offices (baptisms, weddings, funerals etc), at churches where this facility has been introduced. GGT staff are able to generate custom QR codes for churches requesting them and provide supporting resources as necessary.

The June meeting (above) included a presentation on the national **Living In Love & Faith** project progress by Revd. Jenny Buckler. She mentioned that LLF "listening resources" are still available on the Church of England website. It was reported that Revd. Bill Ankers (retired) had agreed to put on some short training courses on behalf of the Deanery in the areas of leading intercessions and for Communion assistants. Several members of St Peter's Churchwarden Team attended one or both of these courses. The results of a questionnaire about the future of the Deanery Gatherings were shared: respondents wanted these meetings to continue, 4 times a year, possibly at Wydale, and to focus on "practical church subjects" (e.g. eco church, deepening discipleship, styles of prayer, different spiritualities etc.). The possibility of worshipping together as a Deanery, perhaps once or twice a year, was mooted.

The Synod meetings continue to be valuable opportunities both to learn and to network with colleagues and friends from other Deanery churches and to share news, good practice and to offer help and support. If the "Gathering" meetings are reinstated, I would encourage all church members to consider attending at least one in the year to find encouragement and to encourage others!

Neal Cullis (Deanery Synod Rep)

Churches Together Southern Ryedale (CTSR)

I have continued to Chair CTSR this year, aiming to hand over the responsibility in Spring 2025. We have seen a change in membership with Revd Peter Sheasby retiring from the Methodist Circuit and Revd Glyn Diggins resigning from St Michael's, Malton. We have welcomed Revd Andy Lindley to the Methodists and Steve Crosse to Pastor Elim Ryedale. The new group is forming well and since the autumn the Norton church leaders have committed to pray together monthly.

We marked Good Friday together in St Michael's Marketplace with service for believers, refreshments and outreach conversations to passers-by.

Churches Together deliver 'Open the Book' assemblies in Norton Primary School.

Revd Jenny Buckler

Financial Review

God has continued to bless St Peter's financially throughout 2024. Overall receipts were £141,801.37 compared to £116,172.32 in 2023 which is an increase of 22% (£25,629.05). Within this £138,448.63 were unrestricted funds (£115,639.66 in 2023) and £3,352.74 were restricted (£532.66 in 2023). The main source of the unrestricted income was planned giving (monthly standing orders and the envelope scheme) which totalled £73,158.74, up £14,189.74 (24%) versus 2023. This increase was primarily from new church member giving. We have also continued to hire out the church and church hall and this has generated £14,770.00, (up £3,315

(29%) versus 2023). Our Gift Aid refunds generated £21,636.82 of income, up £5,151.33 (31%) compared to 2023. Other drivers of the increase include increases in income from bank interest, wedding and funeral income and legacies.

£116,283.92 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Peter's Church and includes the running of Church House. This is down by £1,102.32 (1%) versus 2023. The main reasons for this decrease being a decrease in repair costs (last year we had a large £11,694.20 Church House roof and French door repair bill) and utility costs, offset by increases in Free Will Offer (up £6,000 as agreed by PCC in 2023), bookings administrator salary costs and an increase in year-end giving to our mission partners.

We have an overall decrease in our restricted funds of £2,221.36 which is driven by the final payment relating to the 2023 visual installation project (which is now complete).

The net result for the year on ordinary unrestricted funds was an increase of £22,164.71. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year the balance carried forward on unrestricted funds at 31 Dec 24 was £86,893.05. Total balances including restricted funds stands at £101,880.14. For more details see the notes at the end of the report.

The PCC are immensely grateful for to all those who support St Peter's both financially and through volunteering their time and extend our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Looking forward to 2025 and beyond, our financial focus continues to be to ensure we 'pay our way' in terms of covering our clergy costs and support from the Diocese. We have therefore pledged to increase our Free Will Offer to the Diocese for 2025 from £70,000 to £73,000. Further financial direction awaits the outcome of our ongoing discernment process for the future direction of St Peter's Church.

Judy Barker (Treasurer)

Reserves Policy

Our policy is to keep a cash balance equivalent to approximately 3 months of running costs (for both the Church and Church House) in reserve to cover unforeseen costs. This equates to approximately £30,000. There is also £10,000 held in reserve which will be spent over the next 5 years on Quinquennial expenditure. Any cash held above this is reviewed regularly to ensure it can be used for projects as needed. The reserves policy is reviewed annually.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds.

Judy Barker (Treasurer)

Approved by the PCC on 12th February 2025, signed on their behalf by Graeme Wright (Lay Chair)



..... 12.ii.2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Peter's Church, Norton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Peter's Church, Norton for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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:



Name:

ANDREW WESLEY RICHARDSON

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

FCCA

Address:

1 WHOLEGATE
MARTON

Date:

5th APRIL 2025

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NORTON
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Voluntary Income	105,096.61	3,700.00	3,100.98	111,897.59	91,163.77
Activities for generating funds	1,464.51	582.67	-	2,047.18	3,322.98
Income from Investments	2,460.66	1,947.56	201.76	4,609.98	2,997.45
Church Activities	10,041.62	13,155.00	50.00	23,246.62	18,688.12
Total Receipts	119,063.40	19,385.23	3,352.74	141,801.37	116,172.32
Payments					
Costs of generating funds	71.43	-	-	71.43	146.14
Charitable Activities	7,300.00	-	-	7,300.00	6,000.00
Church Activities	91,449.07	17,463.42	5,574.10	114,486.59	113,585.76
Total Payments	98,820.50	17,463.42	5,574.10	121,858.02	119,731.90
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	20,242.90	1,921.81	(2,221.36)	19,943.35	(3,559.58)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	29,500.00	-	29,500.00	12,400.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(29,500.00)	-	-	(29,500.00)	(12,400.00)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(9,257.10)	31,421.81	(2,221.36)	19,943.35	(3,559.58)
Net movement in funds	(9,257.10)	31,421.81	(2,221.36)	19,943.35	(3,559.58)
Reconciliation of funds					
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	16,456.72	48,271.62	17,208.45	81,936.79	85,496.37
Excess of receipts over payments at the year end	7,199.62	79,693.43	14,987.09	101,880.14	81,936.79

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NORTON

Analysis of Receipts and Payments Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
				This year	Last year
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving - Gift Aided (envs)	5,459.00	-	-	5,459.00	4,440.00
Planned Giving - Gift Aided (SCs)	59,562.00	-	-	59,562.00	46,837.00
Planned Giving (SCs)	7,471.00	-	-	7,471.00	6,367.00
Planned Giving (envs)	666.74	-	-	666.74	1,325.00
Cash Collections - Gift Aided	1,772.00	-	-	1,772.00	1,712.00
Cash Collections - Other	2,972.52	-	-	2,972.52	2,589.31
Wedding & Funeral GA	845.00	-	-	845.00	30.00
Wedding & Funeral Collections - Other	3,604.18	-	537.88	4,142.06	3,309.04
Contactless Donations	687.83	-	-	687.83	708.92
General Donations - Gift Aided	300.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,300.00	6,038.10
General Donations - Other	1,441.02	200.00	63.10	1,704.12	1,321.91
Tax refunded on Gift Aided income	20,636.82	500.00	500.00	21,636.82	16,485.49
Legacies	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-
Voluntary Income Totals	105,418.11	3,700.00	3,100.98	112,219.09	91,163.77
Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising Events etc - Other	1,143.01	582.67	-	1,725.68	3,004.98
Fundraising for Sunday School funds	-	-	-	-	318.00
Activities for generating funds Totals	1,143.01	582.67	-	1,725.68	3,322.98
Income from Investments					
Bank & other interest	1,236.06	1,947.56	201.76	3,385.38	1,772.85
Wayleaves & Rentals	1,224.60	-	-	1,224.60	1,224.60
Income from Investments Totals	2,460.66	1,947.56	201.76	4,609.98	2,997.45
Church Activities					
Wedding & Funeral Fees due to PCC	7,720.55	-	-	7,720.55	7,233.12
Community Cafe	706.07	-	50.00	756.07	-
External Hire Charges	1,615.00	13,155.00	-	14,770.00	11,455.00
Church Activities Totals	10,041.62	13,155.00	50.00	23,246.62	18,688.12
Receipts Grand Totals	119,063.40	19,385.23	3,352.74	141,801.37	116,172.32
Payments					
Costs of generating fund					
Envelopes for Weekly Planned Giving	71.43	-	-	71.43	146.14
Costs of generating funds Totals	71.43	-	-	71.43	146.14
Charitable Activities					
Support/Donations-Overseas Mssions	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	3,800.00
Support/Donations - Home Mssions	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	1,910.00

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
				This year	Last year
Community Cafe charitable donations	300.00	-	-	300.00	-
Helping Hand	-	-	-	-	290.00
Charitable Activities Totals	7,300.00	-	-	7,300.00	6,000.00
Church Activities					
Freewill Offering	70,000.00	-	-	70,000.00	64,000.00
Cleaner	1,574.50	-	-	1,574.50	2,288.00
Vicar's expenses	-	-	-	-	764.76
Administrator Salary	-	3,160.37	-	3,160.37	585.00
Vicarage upkeep	975.32	-	-	975.32	594.95
Mission & evangelism projects	-	435.45	214.55	650.00	250.95
Insurance premiums	5,080.90	896.66	-	5,977.56	5,737.52
Repairs & renewals - Fabric	-	-	-	-	12,402.20
Repairs & renewals - Installations	3,445.06	247.10	-	3,692.16	328.99
Miscellaneous minor repairs	46.72	-	-	46.72	40.97
Health & Safety	1,340.64	655.26	-	1,995.90	475.65
Organ & piano tuning	-	186.63	-	186.63	220.39
Electricity	1,248.63	6,888.34	-	8,136.97	9,639.11
Gas	2,902.92	237.62	-	3,140.54	4,943.21
Water	92.66	400.40	-	493.06	1,961.86
Wi-Fi/Office Telephone Costs	834.68	-	-	834.68	689.80
Website	221.24	-	-	221.24	195.64
Music	270.00	-	-	270.00	127.00
Candles, wine, wafers etc	140.85	-	-	140.85	79.79
Church Services	76.98	-	13.32	90.30	31.25
Subscriptions	60.00	-	-	60.00	94.99
Licences	866.37	-	-	866.37	734.28
Printing, stationery & postage	46.90	-	-	46.90	127.14
Computer support	300.00	-	-	300.00	300.00
Flowers	38.00	-	-	38.00	-
Upkeep of grounds	820.80	42.00	-	862.80	284.20
Refreshments expenses	344.32	106.08	-	450.40	312.83
Miscellaneous expenses	389.71	-	-	389.71	-
Lesson books & teaching aids	-	15.99	-	15.99	273.09
Children's parties & outings	-	-	126.86	126.86	223.00
Holiday Club expenses	-	-	117.05	117.05	70.75
Youth Club	-	107.81	15.00	122.81	-
Toddlers' Group expenses	-	-	7.99	7.99	-
Purchases of Equipment	35.93	-	5,079.33	5,115.26	1,429.80
Training & Education	-	-	-	-	342.88
Caretaker's wages	-	3,819.00	-	3,819.00	3,718.00
Cleaning materials	-	264.71	-	264.71	269.76
Administration expenses	-	-	-	-	48.00
Bank Charges	295.94	-	-	295.94	-
Church Activities Totals	91,449.07	17,463.42	5,574.10	114,486.59	113,585.76
Payments Grand Totals	98,820.50	17,463.42	5,574.10	121,858.02	119,731.90

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NORTON

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2024**

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
1: NatWest Current Account (Church)			
Church House (Hall) Fund F	Designated	645.43	438.89
Contingency/Fabric Reserve	Designated	2,592.98	279.61
Development Projects Fund D	Restricted	-	214.55
Mission Opportunity Fund	Designated	454.34	500.00
Project Fund	Designated	1,000.00	-
Restricted Donations Fund E	Restricted	-	654.79
Sunday School & Youth Work Fund H	Restricted	3,376.43	505.67
General fund	Unrestricted	3,276.20	4,508.75
Agency collection	Restricted	(43.74)	154.68
		11,301.64	7,256.94
3: CBF Deposit Acc 001D (Church)-Unrestrict			
Church House (Hall) Fund F	Designated	3,180.07	6,014.68
Contingency/Fabric Reserve	Designated	37,624.31	34,662.18
Helping Hand	Designated	2,144.80	2,061.46
Mission Opportunity Fund	Designated	4,551.50	4,314.80
Project Fund	Designated	27,500.00	-
General fund	Unrestricted	3,923.42	11,687.36
		78,924.10	58,740.48
31: Cash in hand			
General fund	Unrestricted	-	50.00
		-	50.00
5: CBF Deposit Acc 002D (Church) - Restrict			
Restricted Donations Fund E	Restricted	-	4,424.54
Sunday School & Youth Work Fund H	Restricted	2,695.39	2,493.63
General fund	Unrestricted	-	210.61
		2,695.39	7,128.78
	Cash At Bank And In Hand	92,921.13	73,176.20
Investments			
17: CBF Investment Fund (Sunday School)			
Sunday School & Youth Work Fund H	Restricted	8,915.27	8,915.27
		8,915.27	8,915.27
	Investments	8,915.27	8,915.27
Agency Accounts			
6699: Agency collections			
Agency collection	Restricted	(43.74)	154.68
		(43.74)	154.68
	Agency Accounts	(43.74)	154.68
	Grand Total	101,880.14	81,936.79

Notes

1. Basis of preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Funds Maintained:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Balance</u> £
Church General Fund	routine transactions	unrestricted	7,199.62
Contingency/Fabric Fund	contingency/quinquennial/fabric maintenance	designated	40,217.29
Church House (Hall)	routine transactions	designated	3,825.50
Sunday School & Youth Work	all relevant transactions	restricted	14,987.09
Development Projects	youth and mission	restricted	0.00
Mission Opportunity Fund	missional work	designated	5,005.84
Restricted Donations	donations for specific items	restricted	0.00
Helping Hand	donations to those in need	designated	2,144.80
Project Fund	ad hoc projects	designated	28,500.00

2.1 Church General Fund (Unrestricted)

This year has seen an increase in the General Fund income of £17,714.28 (17%). Of note, planned giving (standing orders and envelope scheme) was up by £14,189.74 (24%). Gift Aid tax refunds were also up by £4,151.33 (25%). There were also increases in church hire income, funeral and wedding collections and bank interest. These were offset by a reduction in gift aided donations.

Overall costs were up by £10,085.34 (11%) compared with last year (£98,820.50 versus £88,735.16 in 2023). This was driven by an increase in Freewill Offer of £6,000 as agreed by PCC at the end of 2023. It was also agreed by PCC to give £7,000 (representing approximately 10% in forecast planned giving) in year-end mission partner giving. This has been allocated between seven local, national and international Christian organisations. Other cost increases have been due to electrical repairs and health and safety related expenditure and the repair of the gate posts. These have been offset by savings in cleaning and utilities costs.

During the year a transfer of £500 was made from the General Fund to the Church House Fund and £1,500 to the Contingency/Fabric Fund in line with the reserves policy. Additionally a £27,500 transfer was made to the newly established Project Fund.

2.2 Contingency / Fabric Reserve (Designated)

This fund currently sits at £40,217.29 and is up £3,775.50 this year. Of this approximately £26,000 (3 months church running costs) is held onto for emergency use and £10,000 has been set aside for Quinquennial / fabric maintenance (in line with the Reserves Policy). This year a generous donation of £2,000 was received which is set aside for the purchase of an organ stool. Nearly £1,500 has been earned in interest and a transfer in of £1,500 from the General Fund was made at the start of the year in accordance with the Reserves Policy.

2.3 Church House (Hall) Funds (Designated)

There is an overall deficit on the Church House Fund this year of £3,128.07 (down compared to last year's deficit of £15,312.74). Church House income was £13,520.39 up £692.44 versus 2023 primarily

driven by an increase in lettings income of £2,510 (24%). Costs were £16,648.46, down significantly versus last year due to a decrease in repair costs (last year we had a large bill for roof and French door repairs) and a reduction in utility costs. These have been slightly offset by an increase in bookings administrator hours. A transfer of £500 was made from the General Fund to ensure a sufficient balance on the fund to cover approximately three months of church house running costs (in accordance with the Reserves Policy).

2.4 Sunday School and Youth Work Fund (Restricted)

This fund has seen an increase of income over expenditure this year. The main driver for the increase was a gift aided donation of £2,000 and funeral collection income of over £500. The balance on this fund was £14,987.09 at the year end.

2.5 Development Projects Fund (Restricted)

The balance on this fund has been used to pay some of the costs of the Oddments Theatre production leaving it now at zero. Future mission and evangelism costs will be met from the Mission Opportunity Fund (see below).

2.6 Mission Opportunity Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up at the start of 2022 for future missional work. Movements on the fund over the last year relate to income and related expenditure to the Oddments Theatre production, Yoof expenditure and interest earned. The fund now stands at £5,005.84.

2.7 Restricted Donations Fund (Restricted)

This fund has been directed at the upgrade to the visual installation in the church which was completed at the end of 2023. The final bill for this was paid in early January 2024 leaving the balance on the fund now at zero.

2.8 Helping Hand (Designated)

This is a fund set up to offer help to those in the parish who need a bit of a "helping hand". The decision to award payments lies with the incumbent in conjunction with the PCC. There have been no payments made this year.

2.9 Projects Fund (Designated)

This has been set up to fund new projects including those to work towards the Church of England net zero carbon route map. This year it has had transferred in a £6,000 donation received in 2023 (plus its related Gift Aid), a legacy of £1,000 and a transfer of surplus funds from the General Fund of £20,000. The balance now stands at £28,500.

3. Trustee payments / Related party transactions. Trustee payments – the following payments were made to PCC members in 2024: Paul Tate Smith provision of communion wine and refreshments £174.71, Neal Cullis provision of audio-visual services at funerals £340, Mererid Hunt provision of bell ringing services £40. Related party transaction payments in 2024 - Margaret Wilson provision of verger services £506, Lynn Cullis £44, Anna Barker Church House Bookings administrator £3,160.37.
4. Investments. Our policy is not to revalue investments. If revalued, the CBF Fund would have a value of £9,572.73 as at 31/12/2024.