

Registered Charity Number: 1203826



St Peter's Church, Watford

2024 Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

Incumbent: Revd Vanessa Kerswill

PCC Secretary: Janice Richardson

**Hon Treasurer: Jessica Jones from Feb 2024
Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants
from Oct 2023 to Feb 2024**

Independent Examiner: Kathryn Pickering

St Peter's Church Watford

Registered Charity Number: 1203826

Year Ended 31st December 2024

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St Peter's Church Watford
Year Ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1203826

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Charity is called "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Watford" also known as St Peter's Church Watford. The Parochial Church Council is known as the PCC for short. The Church registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales during 2023 and was an excepted Charity prior to this.

Registered Charity Number 1203826

Registered Office St Peters Church
Bushey Mill Lane
Watford
WD24 7TF

Website <https://www.stpeterswatford.org.uk/>

Incumbent Rev Vanessa Kerswill

Trustees and PCC members who served during the year

Alan Hobbs
Alison Williams (Resigned 30th April 2024)
Carlton Patterson
Catherine Heath
Colin Heath
Janice Richardson
Judith Kerswill
Julia Boydon
Leonard Kerswill
Lesley Inwards
Rev David Perry
Sharon Nixon
Susan Waylett (Resigned 28th April 2024)
Timothy Kloss
Victoria O'Kelly

Primary Bankers Barclays Bank UK Plc
62/64 High Street
Watford
WD17 2BT

Independent Examiner Kathryn Pickering

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Aims of the charity

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Vanessa Kerswill, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Through these activities we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

To facilitate this work, the PCC recognises the importance of maintaining the fabric of the church and church hall.

Objectives

The PCC is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for individuals and families to worship and to be transformed by the love of Jesus. We are an all-age family, seeking after God, belonging and serving together. The PCC is committed to prayerfully implementing the following vision (as agreed by our Mission Action Plan 2022):

- To grow the church family, particularly focusing on growing younger, by welcoming children and young families.
- To establish St Peter's as a hub in our local community.
- To encourage each other to have a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Activities

Worship & Prayer

As a parish church, we gather twice on a Sunday (10.30am and The Four) and during the week for worship and prayer. Our 10.30am service saw an average of 36 people attending in person each week (2023: 35). The Four is our service specifically aimed at children and families; the average attendance was 27 (2023: 28). We continue to offer the option of Zoom at the 10.30am for those who find it difficult to attend the church in person. We baptised 15 children (2023: 6) and led 4 funerals (2023: 8) enabling us the opportunity to support families through life events. We also introduced a new monthly worship and prayer meeting.

Special Services

We had a wonderful Easter celebration service with both services combining and 74 people attending (2023: 94). The children particularly enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt after the service!

Our Harvest and Remembrance services were well attended. We welcomed members from the local beavers, cubs and scout's groups on Remembrance Sunday.

We led two carol services at the local primary school (the one school in the parish) for all children in key stage one and two.

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Trustees' Annual Report

Despite the inclement weather on the evening of our carol service, over 100 people joined us as we sang carols and we shared about Jesus, the one true light of Christmas. Our Crib & Christingle service on Christmas Eve was a joyful service as we recounted the first Christmas and celebrated Jesus, the light of the world. Children, parents, grandparents and carers joined the celebrations.

Lent Course and Summer Sermon Series

We revisited the Prayer Course, journeying together online through Lent and for a few weeks afterwards as we spent time learning more about prayer and specifically how to pray. We also spent nine weeks taking a fresh look at the Fruit of Spirit, this was our summer sermon series at both the 10.30am and The Four.

Church Events

St Peter's & Meriden Tots

We launched St Peter's Tots in January and Meriden Tots in June. St Peter's Tots meets in the church hall and Meriden Tots in the local community centre. In term time, each week we welcome parents and carers with their tots to one of our groups for play, craft, refreshments, story and singing time. The groups provide us with a fantastic opportunity to serve our community and to build relationships. We are very thankful for our tots' volunteers who help set up, tidy away and load cars each week.

First Friday

First Friday started at the beginning of March. First Friday meets monthly, provides a warm space and an opportunity for over 50's to come together for friendly conversation; to play boardgames and read the newspaper, whilst having a cup of tea or coffee. We also make time to share a brief thought for the day and to serve a light lunch.

Craft

We continued to facilitate a craft morning once a month for the church family and wider community. An opportunity to bring along your own craft project, to encourage each other and enjoy refreshments.

Holiday Club & Light Party

We hosted our three-day holiday club at the end of August. This was a new missional activity as we welcomed children from the church family and the community for three mornings of games, craft, worship, Bible study and fun. Our Light Party was extremely well attended with over 60 (2023: 30) children, parents and carers attending. We hosted an evening of light themed crafts, shared the good news of Jesus and served hot dogs.

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May Day & Christmas Fairs

Building on the successful events of 2023, we again held a May Day and Christmas Fair to raise funds for our Growing Together building project. Local craft sellers were invited to purchase a table along with the church stalls and refreshments. Both events were exceptionally well received and attended by the local community.

Social Events

We had another varied year of social activities. Including ladies' breakfasts, church lunches, our sponsored 5K egg hunt around the parish raising funds for Growing Together. Plus, our summer canal boat day trip, fundraising quiz night with fish and chips, Christmas pudding making evening and our Christmas social.

Church Hall

The church hall is in regular use not only with our church activities, but it is also used by local groups. Including, 21st Watford Brownies, Meriden Community Choir, Noise Makers, Seated Exercise and Sceptre Angling. The hall was also hired for many children's birthday parties. All the above activities have furthered our links with our local community.

Growing Together

Growing Together is the name for our church hall building project which we launched in April 2023. God has given us an incredible vision to become a hub for the local community. The plan is to knock down the existing church hall and to build a new church centre and hall with offices, kitchen, toilets and meeting rooms. We also plan to sell part of the land for two houses to be built. The total project will cost £1.3m. Planning permission and a DAC faculty for the project were granted in July and September. We started to work with a fundraising consultant in the latter half of the year to keep the project moving forward.

Deanery and Ecumenical Relationships

St Peter's is an active member of Deanery Chapter and Synod, Churches Together in Watford and Christians Across Watford.

Financial Statement and Management Accounts

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were similar to 2023 at £79,979 (2023: £80,160).

Total payments on unrestricted funds were £74,992 (2023: £87,755). This was largely due to a reduction in our parish share payments.

Total receipts for restricted funds were £69,042 (2023: £46,165), the increase being due to higher donations and fundraising income for the Growing together fund, as well as a £20k donation towards the Children's and families worker.

Total payments on restricted funds rose to £47,130 (2023: £28,818). This was due to having a full year of the Children's and families worker, as well as fundraising costs for the Growing together fund.

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

The opening bank balance was £97,696 (2023: £87,944); with an income of £149,021 (2023: £126,325) and expenditure of £122,122 (2023: £116,573) the net surplus was £26,899 (2023: £9,752) leaving a closing bank balance of £124,595 (2023: £97,696). This is represented as unrestricted funds £24,958 (2023: £19,164) and restricted funds £99,637 (2023: £78,532).

Total assets were £197,370 (2023: £173,331) and include the bank balance as above, plus the investment and deposit funds held £72,776 (2023: £75,635).

Reserves policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £20k to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Our current unrestricted reserves stand at £25k (2023: £19k) so we are happy that we have met our target reserves policy. The slight excess in reserves will be used during 2025 towards the outstanding fuel bill and parish share balances.

Volunteers

The ministry of St Peter's could not take place without the selfless giving of finances and time by a host of many volunteers. The PCC is deeply grateful for the support of everyone.

Structures, Governance and Management

The PCC is a registered charity number 1203826 and PCC members are trustees of the charity.

The PCC is committed to complying with the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has met bi-monthly through the year.

The PCC operates through several committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee has the authority to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the full Council.

Buildings Committee

The buildings committee attends to all matters concerning the maintenance and upkeep of the church and hall. Coordinating the maintenance and day-to-day repairs and improvements.

Faith & Life Committee

The committee ensures the vision of the church is upheld and meets to discuss the worshipping life of St Peter's.

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Finance Committee

The remit of the finance committee is to: agree and set the budget for the year; monitor the church finances and review trends throughout the year in income, both giving and hall rental, and also in expenditure; and ensure the Financial Policies Statement remains relevant, proposing changes as necessary.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee is primarily responsible for sourcing fundraising opportunities for the Growing Together building project and organising fundraising events alongside the social committee.

Social Committee

The committee is responsible for planning and hosting the various social and fundraising events that brings the church and parish together.

Deanery Synod

Two 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.

Administrative Information

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Incumbent & Chair: Rev. Vanessa Kerswill

Churchwarden: David Perry

Lay Vice Chairman: David Perry

Deputy Churchwardens: Carlton Patterson & Tim Kloss

Reader and Deanery Synod Representative: Colin Heath

Reader and Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vicky O'Kelly

Hon Treasurer: Wyatt & Co (Oct 2023 – Feb 2024) Jessica Jones (Feb 2024 onwards)

Second Deanery Synod Representative: Alan Hobbs

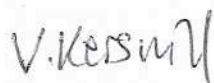
Electoral Roll Officer and Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Julia Boydon

Pastoral Assistant: Cathy Heath

PCC Secretary: Janice Richardson

Elected Members: Janice Richardson, Carlton Patterson, Judy Kerswill, Julia Boydon, Len Kerswill, Lesley Inwards, Sharon Nixon and Tim Kloss

Signed:



Rev. Vanessa Kerswill

Date:

16/02/2025

St Peter's Church Watford
Year Ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1203826

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of St Peter's Church Watford ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.



Kathryn Pickering
Independent Examiner

Date: 21 March 2025

St Peter's Church Watford
Year Ended 31st December 2024
Statement of Receipts and Payments

Registered Charity Number: 1203826

		2024			2023		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts							
Donations and legacies		61,217	62,143	123,360	62,812	41,961	104,773
Charitable activities		12,107	5,930	18,037	14,593	4,204	18,797
Investment income		6,655	969	7,624	2,755	-	2,755
Total Receipts	2	79,979	69,042	149,021	80,160	46,165	126,325
Payments							
Payments on charitable activities	3	74,992	47,130	122,122	87,755	28,818	116,573
Total Payments		74,992	47,130	122,122	87,755	28,818	116,573
Net Receipts / (Payments)		4,987	21,912	26,899	(7,595)	17,347	9,752
Net Movement in Funds (Cash)							
Total funds (Cash) brought forward	8	19,164	78,532	97,696	27,267	60,677	87,944
Transfers	8	807	(807)	-	(508)	508	-
Total Funds (Cash) Carried Forward		24,958	99,637	124,595	19,164	78,532	97,696
Represented by							
General (Unrestricted)		24,958	-	24,958	19,164	-	19,164
Restricted funds		-	99,637	99,637	-	78,532	78,532
		24,958	99,637	124,595	19,164	78,532	97,696

These financial statements were approved by the Church leaders and authorised for issue:

Name of leader:

REVD VANESSA KERSMILL

Signed on behalf of the Church leaders:

V. Kersmill

Date of approval:

18/03/2025

St Peter's Church Watford

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis and thus there is no formal Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position. Instead a statement of assets and liabilities is outlined giving an indication of the charity's assets at the year end.

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
CCLA investment	9	69,604	67,464
CCLA deposit account	9	3,172	8,171
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		72,776	75,635
 Current Assets			
Cash at bank and petty cash		124,595	97,696
Debtors	10	8,409	4,908
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		133,004	102,604
 Current Liability			
Creditors	11	30,565	6,256
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		30,565	6,256
 NET Current Assets/ (Liabilities)		<hr/>	<hr/>
		102,439	96,348

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis when receipts and payments take place through the bank account or petty cash.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of a specific appeal, often known as a 'special offering' in the church.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources and the money has been paid.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on a cash basis when payments have been made through the bank account or by petty cash.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Receipts and Payments as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

St Peter's Church Watford

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

Registered Charity Number: 1203826

2 Analysis of Receipts

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies						
Donations	47,287	51,365	98,652	52,085	37,462	89,547
Gift aid	13,930	9,039	22,969	10,227	4,304	14,531
Grants	-	1,000	1,000	500	-	500
Legacies	-	739	739	-	195	195
	<u>61,217</u>	<u>62,143</u>	<u>123,360</u>	<u>62,812</u>	<u>41,961</u>	<u>104,773</u>
Charitable activities						
Church & hall rental	6,886	-	6,886	10,012	-	10,012
Church events	3,216	5,282	8,498	1,854	4,204	6,058
Funerals	1,191	-	1,191	1,581	-	1,581
Baptisms	178	-	178	272	-	272
Other income	480	648	1,128	874	-	874
Weddings	156	-	156	-	-	-
	<u>12,107</u>	<u>5,930</u>	<u>18,037</u>	<u>14,593</u>	<u>4,204</u>	<u>18,797</u>
Investment Income						
Bank interest	83	969	1,052	105	-	105
Funds drawn down from investment accounts	6,572	-	6,572	2,650	-	2,650
	<u>6,655</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>7,624</u>	<u>2,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,755</u>
Total Income	<u>79,979</u>	<u>69,042</u>	<u>149,021</u>	<u>80,160</u>	<u>46,165</u>	<u>126,325</u>

3 Payments on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building costs	13,993	11,958	25,951	7,951	18,536	26,487
Staff salaries	11,598	24,754	36,352	8,367	6,604	14,971
Administration costs	5,459	-	5,459	5,232	352	5,584
Parish share	29,733	-	29,733	48,023	-	48,023
Fundraising costs	-	3,640	3,640	-	-	-
Church activities	9,416	5,526	14,942	13,080	1,618	14,698
Giving	3,600	1,252	4,852	3,995	1,708	5,703
Staff related costs	1,193	-	1,193	1,107	-	1,107
	<u>74,992</u>	<u>47,130</u>	<u>122,122</u>	<u>87,755</u>	<u>28,818</u>	<u>116,573</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Volunteers

The church benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time and money by its formal members and regular attendees. Please refer to the trustee's report for further detail about volunteer contributions in the organisation.

5 Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	36,352	14,791
	36,352	14,791

The average head count of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Average Head Count	2	2

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: none).

Rev Vanessa Kerswill is employed by the Diocese and not by the PCC so the employee costs and head count have not been included in the figures shown. Parish share costs can be seen in note 3.

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year three trustees incurred out of pocket expenses which were all incurred for the day to day running of the charity's activities. The types of expenditure include administration costs, pastoral gifts, licences, support costs and other charitable activity expenditure.

7 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions which took place during the year (2023: £0).

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General	19,164	79,979	(74,992)	807	24,958
Total Unrestricted	19,164	79,979	(74,992)	807	24,958
Restricted Funds					
Flower Fund	322	277	(182)	-	417
Legacy Fund	196	745	(594)	-	347
Friday Tea Party	1,099	-	-	(1,099)	-
Children's & Family Worker	38,190	20,341	(24,754)	-	33,777
Chair Fund	-	1,517	-	(508)	1,009
Churchsuite Subscription Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Special Offerings	1,512	1,256	(2,298)	(470)	-
Meriden Tots	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Building Fund - Grow Together	37,213	43,906	(18,302)	1,270	64,087
Total Restricted	78,532	69,042	(47,130)	(807)	99,637
Total Funds	97,696	149,021	(122,122)	-	124,595

Fund Descriptions

Flower Fund	Income and expenditure on church flowers.
Legacy Fund	Fund for legacy donations given in memory of loved ones for one off or large church projects.
Friday Tea Party	Donations for weekly social group serving the elderly in the parish. Friday Tea party came to an end in December 2023.
Children's & Family Worker	Income and expenditure for our children's and family Pastor salary.
Chair Fund	Giving to replace the church pews with new chairs. Note that the fund transfer of £508 back to general funds is to correct a fund transfer made in 2023 accounts due to a delay in gift aid claims.
Churchsuite Subscription Fund	Giving to fund our annual subscription to Churchsuite.
Special Offerings	Giving for special projects and special offerings for others at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
Building Fund - Growing Together	Church building project. Involving knocking down the existing church hall and building a new church centre - a hub for the local community. Receipts and payments in the fund include donations and building project costs as well as those relating to fundraising events.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

9 CCLA Investments

	Opening balance £	Dividends reinvested £	Withdrawn £	Gain/ (loss) £	Closing Balance £
Eastlea Investment Fund	67,464	1,875	(1,272)	1,537	69,604
	Opening balance £	Deposits made £	Withdrawn £	Interest reinvested £	Closing Balance £
CCLA Deposit Fund	8,171	-	(5,300)	301	3,172
TOTAL	75,635		(6,572)		72,776

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid	1,122	3,731
Hall hire	804	1,177
Statutory maternity pay	6,483	-
	8,409	4,908

11 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Energy supplier	2,184	4,000
Parish share	27,122	-
Other suppliers	1,259	2,256
	30,565	6,256