



## **The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Byers Green**

The Church is situated at: St Peter the Apostle Church, Church Street, Byers Green, DL16 7NL, and is part of the Deanery of Spennymoor, in the Diocese of Durham.

*Details for correspondence:*

The Revd Barbara Hilton, St David's Vicarage, 21 York Villas, Front Street, Tudhoe, DL16 6LP

01388 814093    [barbara17hilton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbara17hilton@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### **Priest-in-Charge:**

The Revd Barbara Hilton

### **Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank  
Chatham Customer Service Centre, Western Avenue, Waterside Court  
Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4, 4RT

### **Independent Examiner:**

Mr Gary Cox (ACMA Retd)  
7 The Endeavour, Nunthorpe  
Middlesbrough TS7 0HY

### **Our web site:**

[stpetersbyersgreen.org.uk](http://stpetersbyersgreen.org.uk)

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission

**Charity Number: 1211870**

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**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Byers Green,  
in the Diocese of Durham**

**Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

***Aim and Purpose***

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Barbara Hilton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As well as the Church itself, which is a Grade II Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the adjacent churchyard.

***Objectives and Activities***

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; and
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the condition of the graveyard.

## ***Achievements and Performance***

### **Priest-in-Charge's Report**

Someone once wrote you should never look back. I think it is good to look and reflect. We worship God who was, who is and who is to come. 2025 was a busy year for many reasons and St Peter's has been there for many people.

The highlight of the year was in January and the Wedding Blessing for Felicity and Philip Fletcher, marking 60 years of marriage. It was a gloriously emotional service, giving thanks for a life of love and devotion. As a parish it was an honour to celebrate with them.

During the year there were 5 funerals in church. As a parish we were deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Yvonne Davis and to bring her home for the final time was as always, a privilege. We laid her ashes in our churchyard. Sadly, as with so many such services we learned more about Yvonne in her eulogy, than many of us knew in life.

Baptisms were as popular as ever, totalling 7 including baptising a baby of a lady we baptised in 2024.

So, if that is looking to the past, the future will bring what it brings. We have sown the seeds in 2025 and God will feed, water and see the growth. I will as always sign off in thanks. Thank you to everyone who comes, worships, cares for the building, provides refreshments, companionship and a true example of Christians working where they find themselves.

The Revd Barbara Hilton

## **Churchwardens' Report**

### **Outreach and Mission**

Our coffee mornings continued to be a source of mission and outreach. Many of whom attend see it as coming to church and I think that is great. I always giggle at the great divide between the men women, separate tables and it would seem, never the twain shall meet. We are supplied each week with home made sausage rolls and a true array of home-made cakes. Ashley again, showing that he is a man of many talents.

Visiting our school each month to lead their assembly has enabled us to form a strong link with village children. We held a 'christening' in April for year 2 as well as building Easter gardens and the chaos of Christingles at the end of the year. We contributed to a number of lessons throughout the year such as why is the Bible important to Christians.

Many church members have been very visible at community events in the community centre and this helps people to get to know us, and hopefully take the fear out of coming to church.

At the beginning of the year Eleanor led a bereavement course for those who had been recently bereaved. It was an excellent course and will be repeated in 2026. From this we have started two new initiatives:

- a Crafty Coffee morning on the third Tuesday morning of each month. This is open to anyone who just wants to come, learn a new craft, finish a project over a cup of something and yet more cake.
- A Pet Memorial service in November, recognising that when we lose a pet, there can be a lack of understanding of that grief.

We launched Messy Church in September and the numbers grow slowly. On reflection quarterly may not be enough to keep people interested and so we will need to develop a team through 2026 to enable this great opportunity to continue.

As part of our regular village participation we held a Tree Festival at Christmas. Many Village organisations, businesses and school all take part in providing decorated trees. Along side this we hold our Christmas Raffle. In November we hold our Remembrance Service which is very well attended and popular with the Villagers. Barbara and Sarah do a wonderful job of bringing Church to the School. They attend on a regular basis taking assemblies and running workshops on Church Occasions like Easter and Christmas. We try hard to help the Village Parish Hall Committee when we can. We run our Treasure Hunt and help in the kitchen.

Barbara and Sarah do a wonderful job of bringing Church to the School. They attend on a regular basis taking assemblies and running workshops on Church Occasions like Easter and Christmas. We try hard to help the Village Parish Hall Committee when we can. We run our Treasure Hunt and help in the kitchen. In the Summer at the Village Carnival we had display boards containing plans and schedules on the work we are doing at Church, therefore keeping villagers aware of what is happening in THEIR church.

### **Worship and Prayer**

We continued to be blessed by those who lead worship. Ashley has offered a welcome diversity in the services. It has been a delight to watch Eleanor and Sarah grow in their respective ministries and they will leave a huge gap when they move on in 2026. Lisa's confidence continues to grow and gradually building on contributing to services. There is an army of people who lead our lay led service: Juliet, Mags and Janet. The absolute joy for me is that numbers do not drop off for these services. Finally, we have Felicity and Nick, along with Juliet who read and lead intercessions for us. This is done with such care and prayerful thought, adding a richness to all worship.

## **Fundraising**

The Coffee Mornings continue to be our biggest fundraiser at the moment. £2,280.81 was raised in 2025. Our attendees continue to be very generous. Many, like Pat and Ashley regular bake goodies and others bring cakes and biscuits. Wendy is a blessing and keeps us going with a supply of bottled water and serving teas and coffees. Mags and. I would like to thank everyone for their help. We have had several Treasure Maps and two main raffles which also brought in extra funds

## **Church Building Project**

There is some frustration about perceived slow progress on the toilet and kitchen project.

Margaret Gilson & Janet Bell

## **Safeguarding Officer's report**

### **Incidents**

No safeguarding incidents were reported during 2025.

### **Training of Church officers**

All lay church officers are overdue for up-dating their Safeguarding Training. The list of officers and the training they need to undertake, in order to bring it up to date is being distributed at this meeting. Please would each person take responsibility for completing this training at the earliest opportunity. Please forward a copy of the certificate for each completed course to the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Please see her if you are unsure how to proceed.

### **DBS Checks**

All lay members of the PCC were due for renewal of DBS checks this year. Reminders of this have been given to each member prior to her individual due date. A further reminder will be distributed to each member at this meeting, as the DBS checks are now overdue.

### **Publicity**

The Church website has a full page about safeguarding, with a link to it on the front page as required. On the Safeguarding page there are links to "The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy" and "The Church of England Safeguarding Pages". A third link to "The Diocesan Safeguarding Pages" does not connect and I am not sufficiently technical to know how to remedy this. On appointment or re-appointment of the Parish Safeguarding Officer at this meeting, the date of appointment will be amended.

The following notices are displayed on the church notice board and are to be reviewed, up-dated and adopted at this ACPM.

- Adoption of the Durham Diocesan Safeguarding Policy version 2023
- A copy of the Durham Diocesan Safeguarding Policy (summary)
- Appointment of Safeguarding Officer
- Photographs of all Church Officers are displayed in the porch.

### **Risk Assessments**

The Risk Assessment for the weekly coffee morning is due for review. Please will all church officers who attend the coffee morning read the risk assessment and support the leaders by following the agreed safety requirements.

A risk assessment needs to be undertaken for the weekly Bible Travellers Group if it re-starts, and any one off event planned during the year.

It has come to my attention that, necessarily, there are times when church officers are alone in the church building. Because this renders that person vulnerable, I propose that this meeting agree on a policy that the front door be kept shut on such occasions.

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

Juliet M King – Parish Safeguarding Officer

## Deanery Synod Report

There were three meetings in 2025.

In February at St Elizabeth of Hungary, Woodham Annwen Stone was our guest speaker, promoting “Thy Kingdom Come”. This was a whistle stop tour through the work and remit of the ‘Growing churches’ team. We were reminded that here are resources and support in a wide range of things including: church planting; Mission and discipleship: Prayer and Prayer spaces including running a prayer room, prayer stations, open church.

In March Revd Canon Matt Tarling stepped back from Area Dean (AD) for personal reasons and I agreed with Bishop Sarah, to be interim AD until he was able to step back into the role.

We visited Whitworth Church in July and Alastair Prince came to talk of the diversity of vocations and the training provided by the Diocese. He was a popular speaker, enhanced by the presence of his dog Alex.

In November, Nikki Chater Diocesan chaplain to the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities came to talk to us as we met at St David’s. this truly was an enlightening talk as she explained how each of the communities came into being.

Barbara Hilton



## Church Fabric Report

The 2024 Quinquennial Inspection Report highlighted many deficiencies in the church fabric. Since the 2024 Quinquennial Inspection Report, other detrimental matters regarding the church structure have arisen. These include the discovery of structural subsidence in both the Chancel's and the Boiler Room's external walls.

The church fabric matters that have been discussed in the Buildings Group concern six main areas. Action has been undertaken on a number of these matters:

**External Main Walls:** The use of incorrect materials in the historic repair of the external walls re-rendering and mortar re-pointing has created various problems.

Following David France's works in early 2025 on the Nave's southern elevation wall, D&T Stone Masonry have progressed these required repair works and replaced the cement-based rendering and mortar pointing, with lime-based materials, on the Nave's western gable end wall, the Nave's eastern gable end wall, together with the Vestry and the Boiler House walls. D&T Stone Masonry have also carried out strengthening works to support the stone cross on the roof ridge line above the Nave's eastern gable wall.

Similar lime-based rendering and mortar pointing replacement works on the remaining external walls will be required in due course to protect the church's structural fabric.

**Subsidence:** Vertical cracks have been noted on the Chancel external walls (both southern and northern elevations). Telltales have been placed to monitor this subsidence movement. Subsidence was also noted in the Boiler Room's northern elevation external wall which will require attention once the main Chancel movement has been fully ascertained.

The telltales have been monitored throughout the year, and this has indicated continuing movement. Further monitoring is required.

**Roof Covering:** Slates and their fixings are potentially a future problem. Many slates are now thin and fixing nails failing and therefore further investigations are needed. Quotes will be required to progress this matter further.

**Drainage:** Sections of the Nave's southern elevation cast-iron rainwater roof guttering has failed and the central drainage downpipe on this elevation is missing. Other drainage downpipes are also corroded and cracked and require replacing. As the church has Grade 2 Listing, cast iron materials are required to be used unless the Diocese approves an alternative material.

The ground drainage in places is also not now effective, especially for sections draining the Nave's southern elevation roof and that draining the Boiler room roof (and part Chancel roof).

Quotes from Contractors for works for the repair and/or replacement of guttering and drainage down pipes have been received. Additional quotes may be required to progress this matter further.

**Internal Damp:** Water ingress at the junction of the Nave and Chancel at roof level.

Works on the external walls to eradicate this water ingress was carried out by D&T Stone Masonry whilst they carried out the works on the Nave's gable wall. Following the removal of the plaster and the render internally in the both the Nave and the Vestry by David France last year, the dampness particularly in the Nave has been monitored and appears to be drying out.

**Internal Flooring:** It has been discussed that to provide accessible WC facilities, the internal flooring on the southwestern corner may be required to be lowered. This work will require Faculty approval.

Simon Kings

## Website Report and Recommendations

The recommendations in the Annual Report for 2024 have now all been implemented:

*A review of our current website was completed in December 2024. The following recommendations were made:*

- *Updates to policies and procedures*
- *Ensure emails from the site are directed to the appropriate recipient (usually the Priest-in-Charge, or the Safeguarding Officer)*
- *URGENT – update safeguarding officer’s email address*
- *Check for minor errors and correct*
- *The Revd Dr Ashley Wilson, as treasurer, should be given full access to edit the website*
- *Visitors page and Contact page to be updated*

*Documents to be added to the website:*

1. *The PCC photo board*
2. *The Data Protection Policy*
3. *The Graveyard Policy*
4. *The Diocesan Guidelines for memorials etc.*

The accessibility of the website has been improved by the addition of a Site Index to make navigation easier for users of screen readers. Structure and menus have been changed for clarity.

A new page has been added to the site, with members of both the Parochial church council and Ministerial team that includes photos and contact details.

Further photographs are to be added soon. The site is ready for further expansion – the only limitation is imagination...

Lisa Oram

## Data Protection

We have received no complaints or enquiries relating to Data Protection Matters

## Risk Management

The Risk Register is designed to be a **living working document**, open to constant review and change. The PCC considers (and, if necessary, amends) a section of the Risk Register at each meeting. Any trustee can suggest changes at any time.

The Charity Commission for England & Wales offers guidance to charities on risk management in their document: *Charities and risk management (CC26)*<sup>1</sup>

Charity trustees should regularly review and assess the risks faced by their charity in all areas of its work and plan for the management of those risks. Risk is an everyday part of charitable activity and managing it effectively is essential if the trustees are to achieve their key objectives and safeguard their charity's funds and assets.

They identify five general areas of risk:

- governance
- operational risk
- financial risk
- external risk
- law and regulation compliance risk

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1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-risk-management-cc26>

**Other Activities**

**Volunteers**

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Our special thanks go to our Churchwardens, Mags Gilson and Janet Bell.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Assistant Curate, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met four times during the year.

The PCC has a working group dealing with Buildings and Maintenance. This group reports to the full PCC, with the minutes of their meetings.

**PCC members** who served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until the date this report was approved were:

*Ex Officio Members*

The Incumbent	The Revd Barbara Hilton	Chair
The Assistant Curate	The Revd Sarah Heslop	
The Churchwardens	Mrs Margaret Gilson	
	Mrs Janet Bell	

*Elected Members*

Ms Lisa Oram  
Mrs Juliet King  
Mrs Marjorie Sutton

*Co-Opted Members*

Mrs Wendy Kings	Secretary
The Revd Dr Ashley Wilson	Treasurer

**One PCC member** served from 1<sup>st</sup> January until 19 April 2025

*Elected Member*

Mrs Yvonne Davies

## **Approval of Report**

Annual Report approved by the PCC on 21 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



**The Revd Barbara Hilton (PCC Chair)**



**Mrs Wendy Kings (PCC Secretary)**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Byers Green,  
in the Diocese of Durham

***Accounts & Financial Statements***

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

GENERAL FUND

Receipts	Note	2025
Planned Giving	5	8,702.00
Loose Plate Collections		782.19
Occasional Collections		873.28
Donations		359.25
Gift Aid recovered		939.59
Fundraising Income		114.98
Magazine Adverts	2	
Magazine Sales	2	
Social Events		0.00
Hall Letting	2	
PCC Fees		2,584.00
Bank Interest	6	5,232.07
Sale of Land	2	
Other Income		0.07
Utility Grant	2	
Charity Collection IN	1	
DBF Fees IN	1	
Total Receipts		19,587.43

2024
9,630.74
544.45
555.81
248.99
447.32
125.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
1,914.00
1,721.43
0.00
160.00
0.00
100.00
792.00
16,239.74

2023
8,318.88
630.75
800.71
339.87
699.11
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
1,562.00
331.74
20,000.00
250.00
0.00
144.50
892.00
33,969.56

2022
7,385.41
1,009.62
816.68
305.00
110.67
35.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
1,800.00
1,800.00
100.94
0.00
384.00
115.65
318.00
14,180.97

Payments		
Parish Share	7	8,000.00
Deanery and Churches Together		90.00
Church Insurance		2,583.79
Church Utilities	8	2,416.96
Church Maintenance and Repairs		1,151.76
Clergy Expenses & Water rates		788.14
Churchyard		0.00
Visiting Clergy		0.00
Upkeep of Services		418.42
Children's Activities		0.00
Church Administration		211.69
Fundraising costs		26.88
Donations		1.69
Hall Insurance	2	
Hall Utilities	2	
Hall Maintenance and Repairs	2	
Hall Cleaning	2	
Social Event expenses		0.00
Magazine Expenses		
Professional fees (surveyor / photos)		0.00
Other Costs		98.40
Portaloo	9	885.41
Charity Collection OUT	1	
DBF Fees OUT	1	
Total Payments		16,673.14
Surplus/shortfall	4	2,914.29
Opening General Fund Balance		-2,267.29
Transfer out to Fabric fund		0.00
Transfer to Reserve		0.00
Transfer out to Churchyard fund		0.00
Add surplus/loss		2,914.29
Transfer in from Legacy fund		3,491.15
Transfer in from Mission & Ministry fund		1,331.99
Asset Purchases		0.00
Closing General Fund Balance		5,470.14

2024
6,000.00
30.00
2,522.98
3,157.93
1,079.93
766.27
0.00
0.00
343.37
0.00
47.91
0.00
0.00
320.21
683.45
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
118.99
100.00
792.00
15,963.04
276.70

2023
6,000.00
150.00
2,479.54
2,698.56
1,095.38
969.87
0.00
0.00
334.88
0.00
15.58
0.00
0.00
717.58
335.14
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
145.50
941.00
15,883.03
18,086.53

2022
6,000.00
120.00
2,373.36
6,898.69
898.62
686.88
0.00
0.00
210.37
0.00
74.89
2.98
0.00
681.65
2,355.68
235.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
436.00
0.00
115.60
318.00
21,407.72
-7,226.75

17,456.01
-10,000.00
-10,000.00
276.70
0.00
-2,267.29

369.48
0.00
0.00
-1,000.00
18,086.53
0.00
17,456.01

6,437.55
158.68
1,000.00
-7,226.75
0.00
369.48



## ASSETS at 31/12/2025

Fixed Asset Church Hall		
Natwest 00619957		14,023.08
Natwest 81163371		0.00
CBF Church of England Deposit		103,300.00
Cash		102.26
Gift Aid Receivable		0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>117,425.34</b>

<b>2024</b>
0.00
12,261.42
0.00
108,300.00
224.55
0.00
<b>120,785.97</b>

<b>2023</b>
120,000.00
12,103.68
0.00
16,000.00
127.08
0.00
<b>148,230.76</b>

<b>2022</b>
120,000.00
0.00
1,317.72
6,000.00
0.00
676.12
<b>127,993.84</b>

## SUMMARY OF FUNDS

<b>Designated Funds</b>		
General Fund		5,470.14
General Fund Reserve		10,000.00
Fixed Asset Fund		0.00
Fabric Fund (D)		97,244.98
Churchyard Fund		3,222.65
Legacy Fund	3	0.00
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Fabric Fund (R)		152.61
Stained Glass Fund		1,334.96
Ministry and Mission Fund	3	0.00
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>117,425.34</b>

<b>2024</b>
-2,267.29
10,000.00
0.00
102,278.51
4,616.65
3,491.15
0.00
1334.96
1331.99
<b>120,785.97</b>

<b>2023</b>
17,456.01
120,000.00
4,616.65
3,491.15
0.00
1,334.96
1,331.99
<b>148,230.76</b>

<b>2022</b>
369.48
120,000.00
4,616.65
3,491.15
0.00
1,334.96
1,331.99
<b>131,144.23</b>

## FUND MOVEMENTS 2025

Fabric Fund (D)			102,278.51
	10	VAT Reclaim	3,580.60
		Pointing & roofing	-8,614.13
Balance			<b>97,244.98</b>
Fabric Fund (R)			0.00
		Pointing & roofing	-12,869.47
		Friends	8,426.27
		Coffee Mornings	2,095.81
		Grant	2,500.00
Balance			<b>152.61</b>
Legacy Fund			3,491.15
	3	General	-3,491.15
Balance			<b>0.00</b>
Mission & Ministry fund			1,331.99
	3	General	-1,331.99
Balance			<b>0.00</b>
Churchyard Fund			4,616.65
		Tree Survey	-390.00
		Spennymoor Council	-804.00
		Ashley Wilson	-200.00
Water butts and Planter			
Balance			<b>3,222.65</b>

part -21,483.60

part -21,483.60

## BANK RECONCILIATION

Balance per Bank		<b>13,582.17</b>
	Transfer	330.70
£419 funeral fees less 162 DBF fees	Funeral	257.00
	DBF	162.00
	Gift Aid	232.00
	Clergy Expenses	-352.39
	Charity Donation	-65.00
Royal British Legion	Coffee Mornings	90.60
	DBF Fees	-214.00
<b>Balance per Cashbook</b>		<b>14,023.08</b>



# Saint Peter Byers Green – Agency Transactions 2025

20/05/2025	Funeral	St Peter's Church - Cash	Charity Collection IN	Agency	120.00
09/11/2025	Remembrance	St Peter's Church - Cash	Charity Collection IN	Agency	63.31
09/06/2025	Diabetes UK	St Peter's Church - Current	Charity Collection OUT	Agency	-120.00
2025 12/11/2025	Royal British Legion - Poppy App	St Peter's Church - Current	Charity Collection OUT	Agency	-63.31
10/07/2025	St Peter's	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	1.98
01/09/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	4.94
22/09/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	9.88
29/09/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	39.48
30/09/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	0.01
31/10/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	0.05
03/11/2025	Give A Little	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	227.29
10/11/2025	St Peter's	St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Contactless payment	Agency	-6.98
03/11/2025	St David's PCC	St Peter's Church - Current	Contactless St Davids	Agency	-39.48
04/11/2025	St David's PCC	St Peter's Church - Current	Contactless St Davids	Agency	-227.29
02/10/2025	St John's PCC	St Peter's Church - Current	Contactless St Johns	Agency	-9.88
01/12/2025	DDBF	St Peter's Church - Current	DBF Fees Payments	Agency	-702.00
2025 31/12/2025	DDBF	St Peter's Church - Current	DBF Fees Payments	Agency	-214.00
06/12/2025	Funeral Director	St Peter's Church - Cash	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	52.00
07/03/2025	Co-Op Funerals	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	52.00
12/05/2025	Funeral	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	162.00
17/06/2025	Funeral Director	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	162.00
07/07/2025	Funeral Director	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	145.00
23/09/2025	Funerals	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	181.00
2025 31/12/2025	Funeral Partners	St Peter's Church - Current	Funeral Fees : DBF	Agency	162.00
03/11/2025		St Peter's Church - Current	Transfer From : St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Agency	39.48
04/11/2025		St Peter's Church - Current	Transfer From : St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Agency	227.29
03/11/2025		St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Transfer To : St Peter's Church - Current	Agency	-39.48
04/11/2025		St Peter's Reserve (Contactless)	Transfer To : St Peter's Church - Current	Agency	-227.29
Agency					0.00
Total Agency					



1. The Parochial Church Council is registered with the Charities Commission. Registration was required because the annual income exceeded £100,000 in 2024 (following the sale of the Church Hall)  
Charity name: ***The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Byers Green, in the Diocese of Durham.*** Charity number: **1211870**
2. The PCC has a **Reserve Policy**. It aims to keep at least £10,000 in the General Fund. This represents approximately six months of routine expenditure
3. “Agency” transactions represent money we collect on someone else’s behalf  
  
e.g. DBF Fees, Charity Collections, Contactless giving
4. These categories are no longer used and will be deleted before next year’s accounts
5. These funds have been closed
6. **The General Fund shows a £2,922 surplus this year compared to a £2,267 deficit in 2024**
7. **However planned giving is down by £1,000**
8. **The General Fund figures are propped up by £5232 bank interest**
9. This results from money invested in CCLA from sale of hall
10. We paid our pledged amount of Parish Share £8,000
11. **I expect utilities** to be more expensive in 2026. We are a member of the Parish Buying Energy Basket and are obtaining favourable rates on a fixed tariff. However, prices are unstable and may well rise due to global instability in the market. We need to be vigilant about minimising gas and electricity usage
12. Our Electricity supplier is now Ecotricity. Our Gas supplier is Corona Energy
13. The Portaloo has cost £885 during the year
14. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT reclaim) will end on 31/03/2026  
It will be replaced by a Places of Worship Renewal Fund but it is uncertain whether our improvements (toilet/kitchen) will qualify for assistance. If not our project costs will increase by 25%
15. **overall, this is still a worrying position.** The PCC will need to work hard to increase income (and reduce expenditure) if it is to carry out essential maintenance, install a toilet and kitchen, and not find itself with a deficit

The Revd Dr Ashley Wilson  
PCC Treasurer





# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Byers Green

On accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Charity no (if any) 1211870

Set out on pages 13 to 15

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

3/3/26

Name:

Gary Cox

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

ACMA (retd)

Address:

7 The Endeavour, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS7 0HY

## **Approval of Accounts**

Approved by the PCC on 21 March 2026

Signed on behalf of the PCC by



.....  
The Revd Barbara Hilton  
PCC Chair



.....  
Mrs Mags Gilson  
Churchwarden