



**The Parochial Church Council Of The
Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Peter & St Paul,
Great Bowden, In The Diocese of
Leicestershire**

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St.Peter & St Paul,

Great Bowden, In The Diocese of Leicestershire

Annual report for the year ending 31 December 2025

The Trustees of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Peter & St Paul, Great Bowden, In The Diocese Of Leicestershire (the "PCC") present their report and the financial statements of the parish for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Administrative Information

The Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Great Bowden consists of the St Peter & St Paul Church, situated in Great Bowden, Market Harborough. The parish is part of the Harborough Anglican Team in the Deanery of Gartree and the Diocese of Leicester. The Charity Registration Number is 1212693.

Correspondence with regard to the business of the parish is welcomed and should be addressed to:

Mrs Margaret Powell
The Secretary of the PCC
61 Great Bowden Road
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7DF

The following persons have served as members of the PCC during the year ending 31st December 2025 and to date.

Ex Officio members

Rev Hilary (Hils) Corcoran	Vicar, Chair
Mr P Crowe	Church Warden
Ms C Silcott	Church Warden
Mr K Wilson	Treasurer
Mr L Webb	Deanery Synod Rep
Mr P Rhodes	Deanery Synod Rep
Dr Q Appleton	Resigned 18/5/25

Elected Members

Mrs M Powell	PCC Secretary
Prof M Lund	
Mr S Jones	
Mr A Smith	
Mrs C Treanor	
Mr D Storey	Appointed 18/5/25
Ms J Mason	Appointed 18/5/25
Mr A Trotter	
Mrs H Trotter	Resigned 18/5/25
Ms M Reinhard	Resigned 18/5/25
Mrs J Wilson	Resigned 18/5/25

The Independent Examiner is Mr Adrian Bentley A.C.A. of Edward Thomas Peirson & Sons, 21 The Point, Rockingham Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NU.

The affairs of the church are managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprising elected representatives of the laity and representatives of the laity elected to the Deanery Synod, co-opted members and ex-officio members (clergy, readers, wardens and officers). This Council has delegated some of its responsibilities for the day-to-day business of the church to the Standing Committee (SC). The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Church Wardens, PCC Secretary and Church Treasurer. Together the PCC and SC are responsible for the organisation of worship, ministry and mission with the parish community and for the care, maintenance and development of its buildings, all subject to the PCC retaining financial responsibility.

The Church building, Churchyard and Vicarage are vested in the name of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance as custodian trustees for the parish. The church hall is vested in the name of the PCC.

Structure, governance and management

The role of the PCC is that of an accountable executive body with the responsibility to review and regulate the affairs of the parish. It is supported in this role by the SC. A Building Committee deals with all building matters. A Safeguarding representative oversees all safeguarding in conjunction with the vicar, reporting to each PCC meeting. All PCC members are safely recruited, as are all volunteers involved in any area of ministry within the church, particularly those involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Reverend Hillary (Hils) Corcoran is the part-time vicar of the Parish, and also part-time Team Vicar with the Harborough Anglican Team.

Aim and purposes

The primary object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC are required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to cooperate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the parish community. We strive to be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, enabling everyone, whatever their background, to experience the love of God. The main activities that have been adopted to achieve these objectives are the provision of regular

worship services, provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish as well as the organisation of and participation in community events. The church is open during worship services and the grounds are open to the public to always provide space for private reflection and remembrance.

The PCC members have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Parish has adopted Promoting a Safer Church, the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults.

Church Attendance

A range of different services are provided, each aimed at different congregations, as detailed below:

Service	No.	Avg. Attendance
Baptism	6	Child 15 / Adult 70
Café Church	11	Child 7 / Adult 55
Faith Explorers	7	Child 5 / Adult 10
Holy Communion	20	Child 1 / Adult 51
Messy Church	4	Child 26 / Adult 21
Service of the Word	10	Child 4 / Adult 54
Soul Space	10	Adult 9
Funeral	6	Child 3 / Adult 170
Wedding	3	Child 4 / Adult 90
Xmas Special	4	Child 51 / Adult 150
Easter Special	3	Child 4 / Adult 40
School Services	6	Child 64/ Adult 66
Ultreya	1	Adult 33

Review of the Year

The church continues to provide a strong witness to Jesus within the Great Bowden community. We are viewed positively within the wider community, often participating in community activities. We maintain a strong connection with Great Bowden Academy, our local church school. This involves conversations with the other families by our church families, 2 church members acting as governors on the school board (in addition to the Vicar) and a weekly Open the Book assembly with the children.

The church was utilised in 91 different services during the year. Whilst we saw a small growth in new attendees, we also lost some dear members to death. The cafe style church continues to be a popular service, especially with local families where we are seeking some growth in those attending. A strong steady core of members forms the regular community at Holy Communion, though this does tend to skew towards those who are 60 plus. Our

worship director departed in the year and has yet to be replaced. Our choir remains a strong component of our church worship.

A Monday evening Bible and discussion group has proven very successful.

Our new congregation, Faith Explorers has struggled to grow numbers and finding the right time slot seems to be critical.

The PCC met regularly throughout the year to oversee our activities.

A Quinquennial inspection was conducted on our church building in 2024. Whilst no major items were identified for attention, several items were raised that do require work which have been actioned and are in the process of being dealt with.

Financial Review

Like many smaller village churches, finance continues to be a challenge to provide for all the activities that we have underway. We continue to work with the Parish Giving Scheme to develop our regular giving, as well as undertaking a number of fundraising activities during the year to raise additional funds.

Aside from the quarterly contribution made to the diocese, energy bills continue to represent a substantial portion of our ongoing costs. Where possible we applied for grants to assist, including the Listed Places of Worship Grants scheme and we remain grateful to the Market Harborough & Bowden Charity (which covers maintenance costs to the fabric of the listed church building.)

Total income for the year amounted to £104,229 of which £101,074 had no restrictions on how they were to be spent and of the remainder £1,211 was designated unrestricted and £1,944 was restricted. This consisted of £81,455 voluntary donations and other operating receipts, £7,692 from one-off grants, £14,442 from renting of our church hall and £640 bank interest. Overall income was down by 11% on 2024.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £97,658, of which £40,008 was the contribution to the diocesan parish share. Other major expenses were utility bills £9,981, Harborough Anglican Team Expenses £6796, insurance £6496, maintenance £10,068 and Church Hall expenses of £8,631. It is always concerning to see how much of our income is spent on the building and wider team/diocese commitments, £81,980, leaving just £15,678 being actively used for the core ministry of the church. Allowing for the purchase of the Sound System last year, expenses were still down 14% on last year which indicates careful spending in line with the reduced income.

The Church Hall provided a small surplus of Income over Expenditure of around £5000, allowing for insurance. Whilst this is great, it is also noted that there are a number of areas of maintenance outstanding on the building and so it's future remains under review.

Reserves

Unrestricted general funds: The PCC policy is to retain a minimum £25,000 expenditure as “free” reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense for the Church, and an amount of £5,000 is kept likewise for the Church Hall. The balance on 31 December 2025 (£30,000) represents sufficient funds to meet this requirement, however given that a deficit is forecast for 2026, these sums will need to be reviewed.

Designated Funds: The following funds are maintained for specific designated purposes:

Church Hall	Funds to be used specially in relation to the Church Hall, overseen by the PCC	£7,500
Messy Church	A buffer fund for use within Messy Church, overseen by the PCC	£362.12
Youth	A sum that is to be used specially with ministry with young people, overseen by the PCC	£200
Planting	Funds now derestricted by donors for use within worship, overseen by the PCC	£2,000
Music	A sum that is to be used specifically within the music area, overseen by the Music Director	£126.25
Legacy	Formed primarily from legacies that have been received less transfers to maintain general reserves. The PCC oversees the use of this fund for expenses.	£63,212.91
Vicar Wellbeing	A sum that the vicar is able to use for their personal well being	£453.53

Restricted Funds:

Youth	A sum donated for teenage youth work, overseen by the PCC	£1,146
Faith Exploration	Used for the Monday night study group to study and explore the faith. Pays for Materials, foods, etc. Administered by Christine & Hils	£440.97
Open The Book	Funds materials for the Open the Book ministry in schools. Administered by Helen Foreman	£141.58
Other	This comprises other small funds not yet spent as follows: Monies raised for specific causes not yet spent/paid over, namely Bird Boxes	£25.70

Faith Explorers Balance of 2024 Faith Explorers grant £145.46

Approval

This report was approved by the PCC on 22 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Rev H Corcoran



Mr P Crowe



Ms C Silcott

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Peter & St Paul,
Great Bowden, In The Diocese Of Leicestershire**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, the members of the PCC 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity 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.



Adrian A. Bentley A.C.A.

Dated 22 March 2026

For and on behalf of:
Edward Thomas Peirson & Sons
Chartered Accountants
21, The Point
Rockingham Road
Market Harborough
Leics, LE16 7NU

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Peter & St Paul, Great Bowden, In The Diocese Of Leicestershire

Receipts & Payments Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025				2024
	Unrestricted		Restricted		
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Other	Youth Fund	All Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Operating Receipts					
Deed of Covenant Giving	47,495.32	-	-	-	47,495.32
One Off Gift Aid Gifts	-	446.55	303.45	-	750.00
Gift Aid Recovery	12,853.46	112.50	-	-	12,965.96
Legacies	100.00	-	-	-	100.00
Collections at Services	-	-	-	-	-
General	5,962.00	11.70	28.78	-	6,002.48
Special Causes	-	-	444.85	-	444.85
Weddings & Funerals	3,756.00	-	-	-	3,756.00
Donations including Fundraising	7,204.88	-	1,167.00	-	8,371.88
Sale of Pews	1,568.79	-	-	-	1,568.79
Church Hall Hire Charges	14,442.00	-	-	-	14,442.00
Grants Received					
Market Harborough & Bowdens Charity	7,019.93	-	-	-	7,019.93
VAT recovered under LPOW Scheme	671.95	-	-	-	671.95
Diocesan Grant Faith Explorers	-	-	-	-	-
Section 106 Grant HDC re hall equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Receipts					
Bank/Building Society Interest	-	639.99	-	-	639.99
TOTAL RECEIPTS	101,074.33	1,210.74	1,944.08	-	104,229.15
PAYMENTS					
Operating Payments					
Parish Contribution	40,008.00	-	-	-	40,008.00
Team Administration	6,796.32	-	-	-	6,796.32
Working Expenses of Incumbent	1,046.92	105.52	-	-	1,152.44
Ministry Expenses	730.71	-	522.42	-	1,253.13
Faith Explorers costs	-	-	41.98	-	41.98
Open the Book	-	-	121.68	-	121.68
Music	2,260.05	-	-	-	2,260.05
Utilities	9,981.17	-	-	-	9,981.17
Insurance	6,496.12	-	-	-	6,496.12
Equipment Purchase	2,605.94	-	-	-	2,605.94
Maintenance	10,067.96	-	-	-	10,067.96
Weddings & Funerals	2,015.00	-	-	-	2,015.00
Messy Church	-	63.05	-	-	63.05
Donations to Special Causes	-	-	994.01	-	994.01
Catering at Services	902.03	-	-	-	902.03
Fundraising costs	547.99	-	-	-	547.99
Miscellaneous & Consumables	312.64	-	-	-	312.64
Support for Great Bowden Academy	-	-	303.45	-	303.45
Church Hall Expenses	8,630.55	-	-	-	8,630.55
	92,401.40	168.57	1,983.54	-	94,553.51
Administration Costs					
Internet & Telephone	557.98	-	-	-	557.98
Computer costs	659.00	-	-	-	659.00
Bank charges	327.94	-	-	-	327.94
Accounts Examiner	1,560.00	-	-	-	1,560.00
	3,104.92	-	-	-	3,104.92
TOTAL PAYMENTS	95,506.32	168.57	1,983.54	-	97,658.43
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	5,568.01	1,042.17	(39.46)	-	6,570.72
NET TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(4,305.53)	4,305.42	0.11	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCES	1,262.48	5,347.59	(39.35)	-	6,570.72
CASH AT BANK & IN HAND					
Brought Forward	26,233.48	68,507.22	818.41	1,146.00	96,705.11
Carried Forward	27,495.96	73,854.81	779.06	1,146.00	103,275.83

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Statement of Assets & Liabilities As At 31 December 2025

These accounts are presented on a receipts and payments basis, which is a factual record of the money received and paid by the Charity during the financial year. This basis is considered to be the most appropriate for non-company charities with an annual income of less than £250,000. A Statement of Assets & Liabilities, listing the significant possessions and outstanding financial commitments of the Charity at the end of the financial year is set out below.

NON-MONETARY ASSETS

These comprise the following:

- Moveable Church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC, namely the Church Hall
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC are free to dispose of such assets without such faculty

MONETARY ASSETS & LIABILITIES	2025				2024
	Bank & Cash £	Debtors £	Creditors	All Funds £	All Funds £
Unrestricted					
Church General	22,535.96	4,158.18	1,694.14	25,000.00	25,000.00
Hall General	4,960.00	40.00	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
Designated & unrestricted					
Hall Fund	7,500.00	-	-	7,500.00	7,500.00
Messy Church	362.12	-	-	362.12	413.47
Youth Fund	200.00	-	-	200.00	200.00
Planting Fund	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
Music Fund	126.25	-	-	126.25	126.25
Legacy Fund	63,212.91	-	-	63,212.91	58,267.50
Vicar Wellbeing	453.53	-	-	453.53	-
Restricted					
Faith Explorers	170.81	-	25.35	145.46	212.79
Faith Exploration	440.97	-	-	440.97	-
Bird Boxes	25.70	-	-	25.70	25.70
Open the Book	141.58	-	-	141.58	-
Youth Fund	1,146.00	-	-	1,146.00	1,146.00
	103,275.83	4,198.18	1,719.49	105,754.52	99,891.71

Cash at bank and in hand comprises:

	Current Account £	Hall Account £	Deposit Account £	Cash £	Total Bank & Cash £
Unrestricted					
Church General	22,535.96				22,535.96
Hall General		4,960.00			4,960.00
Designated & unrestricted					
Hall Fund		7,500.00			7,500.00
Messy Church	362.12				362.12
Youth Fund	200.00				200.00
Planting Fund	2,000.00				2,000.00
Music Fund	126.25				126.25
Legacy Fund	1,453.56	10,635.44	51,123.91		63,212.91
Vicar Wellbeing	453.53				453.53
Restricted					
Other short term	779.06				779.06
Youth Fund	1,146.00				1,146.00
	29,056.48	23,095.44	51,123.91	-	103,275.83

Debtors comprise:

HMRC Gift Aid to 29/12/2025	190.55
Parish Giving Scheme Dec Gift Aid	714.30
2025 HAT Surplus Funds	1,849.35
LPW Grant Scheme (2025 VAT Refund)	1,403.98
Just Fitness Hall Hireage	40.00
	4,198.18

Creditors comprise:

ET Peirson Ind. Examination	1,248.00
Funeral expenses owed to DBF	229.00
Rev Corcoran expenses Nov & Dec	242.49
	1,719.49