

**St Peter's Church
Forsbrook
Trustees'
Annual Report
2023**

*St Peter's
Forsbrook*



Knowing Jesus & making Jesus known

Contents

1. St Peter's PCC
2. Electoral Roll Report 2023
3. Proceedings of the PCC
4. Proceedings of the Parish
Including:
 - a) Churchwardens' Report
 - b) Youth & Children's Ministry Leader Report
 - c) Tiddlers Report
 - d) Connect Report
 - e) Choir Report
 - f) Warm Space Report
 - g) Rector's Report
 - h) Safeguarding Report
5. Financial Statements of the PCC
Including:
 - Independent Examiner's Report
6. Fabric Report – Buildings Committee
7. Deanery Synod Report

1. St Peter's PCC

The Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish

Aims and Purposes

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector, the Revd. Jonathan Roberts, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, and specifically fulfilling the PCC's Mission Statement – 'Knowing Jesus & Making Jesus Known'. This is undertaken in various ways and in co-operation with St Margaret's Draycott, who share the same Ministry Leadership Team (as an independent legal parish, St Margaret's is not covered by this report).

The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the parish church of St Peter's.

Administrative Details

St Peter's Parish Church is located in the ecclesiastical parish of Forsbrook, covering the communities of Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge.

Location: Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST11 9PW
Postal Address is c/o: The Revd. Jonathan Roberts
The Rectory, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire ST11 9PW
Tel: 01782 437600 Email: revdiphroberts@gmail.com
Web site: www.stpetersforsbrook.org
Facebook: St Peter's Church Forsbrook
Bank: Santander, Bride Road, Bootle L30 4EB

Ministry Leadership Team:

Rector: Revd Jonathan Roberts (Chair of PCC)
Church Wardens: Alison Fuller
Dawn Williams
Readers: Kate Bradshaw
Clive Lilley
Graham Stokes (Deputy Chair of PCC)

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader:

Sophie Roberts

(The MLT also includes Church Wardens from St Margaret's Church)

Assistants to the Church Wardens:

Howard Salt, Brian Sammons, Graham Borsley, Margaret Dale, Dawn Williams, Glennis Grainger

Verger: Howard Salt
Assistant Verger: Neil Archibald
PCC Secretary: Anita Archibald
PCC Treasurer: David Bray
Gift Aid co-ordinator: David Bray

Elected Members: (They serve a 3-year term)

2021-2024

Christine Sammons
Brian Sammons
Roy Williams
Elaine Owen
Graham Stokes

2022-2025

Clive Lilley
Thomas Jamieson
Dawn Williams

2023-2026

Joan Pritchard
David Bray
Andy Berry
Geoff Price

Elected Members of the Deanery Synod (2023-2026) (Ex-officio on the PCC)

Neil Archibald
Laura Hulse
Mick Smith

Members of the PCC are elected in accordance with Canon Law at the APCM.

PCC Constitution

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and the PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has spiritual and practical oversight of our worship, the care of the church building and mission.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our parish church and to belong to the community of St Peter's. This is undertaken according to the doctrines and structures of the Church of England.

The PCC complies with the duty to show due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016).

2. Electoral Roll Report 2023

Since my last report 3 members of our congregation have sadly died. Five new persons have been added to the electoral roll, although we have welcomed many new members to our church family in the past year. Individuals may apply to be added to the Roll at any time up to Sunday 21st April 2024. The revised numbers are therefore:

ERO Report	2023
Non Resident	26
Resident	93
Deceased	3
Moved off	0
Removed	0
Total	119

If you move house, please let me know so that the Roll can be updated. If you think you are not included on the Roll and would like to be, just ask me and we can double check your eligibility! Being on the Electoral Roll enables you to attend and vote at the Annual Meetings of the Church Council (APCM).

Laura Hulse, Electoral Roll Officer

3. Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC has sought to fulfil its responsibilities diligently and significant areas of discussion and decision have included (in no particular order):

- Policies and procedures in relation to volunteers including a Code of Conduct to be produced
- Charity Status Application
- Treasurer's Assistant Role
- Presenting the TAR for 2022 (including annual financial statements)
- Safeguarding updates and annually reviewing policies
- Rector's Admin Role – extension to contract for 12 months
- Dementia Friendly Church status
- Ordinand Link Church Arrangement

- Fire Risk Assessment and Policy going forward
- Missionary Giving Support
- Bereavement Support Group
- Music Ministry – 10 .00 am Sunday Service
- Renewed Mission and Vision statements
- Employed new Youth and Children’s Ministry Leader
- Replaced main church noticeboard (on car park)
- Joy of the gospel Lent course
- Purchased a new electronic piano
- Purchase of new Mission Praise hymn books
- Began to consider *Living in Love and Faith*
- Started to livestream our worship
- Welcome Hub established
- Paid the common fund in full

(a) Churchwardens’ Report

This year has seen some changes to our services. In our informal morning worship we now use the screen instead of books and evolving from online services provided during covid, most services are now live streamed. New hymn books have been purchased for our more traditional evening worship and also a piano which is used for choir practices.

Our links with the community include Warm Spaces which is now year round due to popular demand and goes by the new name, Welcome Hub. It meets every Monday, providing food and friendship. New initiatives with children include Open the Book where church members act out bible stories during school assemblies in our three local primary schools and a cookery course involving teenagers from Blythe High School.

All our church activities involve volunteers. People take part in worship by being sides people, praying before the service, taking prayers, reading lessons, being part of the IT team, helping with X:cite, and making drinks. Meanwhile behind the scenes, heating is sorted out, flowers are arranged, brasses cleaned, the car park and gardens are tended, PCC meet to make important decisions about finance and worship and maintenance on the inside and outside of the church is carried out by the building group. The weekly bulletin keeps everyone up to date with events, many people help on stalls at the Autumn Fayre, some run Tiddlers and Messy Church for children and the Connect Group for bible study. A huge thank you to every one of you who willingly give your time and talents as part of your commitment to God. We are very lucky to have so many helpers. We would also welcome more people who are gifted in IT or could join the buildings maintenance team and also help clear snow from the pathways.

It is a rewarding job being churchwardens. We aim to support Jonathan and welcome people to St Peter’s and to help church life run smoothly. We endeavour to sort out problems that arise and are very grateful for everyone’s support.

Dawn Williams and Alison Fuller, Churchwardens

(b) Youth and Ministry Leader Report

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

What a wonderful year we have had in our outreach to Children and Youth. Thanks to our incredible groups of volunteers who have not only committed their time but have come with great ideas and enthusiasm in sharing God’s love and empowering the young people to live for Jesus. It has been wonderful to see the volunteers grow in confidence whilst leading groups, and we have had so many special moments of seeing our young people grow in their faith.

Friday Club continues to thrive with 25 children on our register, and a small waiting list. Our vision this year has been to help our young people grow in excitement and wonder in reading God’s word. The young people have enjoyed playing games, doing crafts, reading the bible and having fun whilst reflecting on how God is teaching us to live for Him. This year we had the privilege of taking a group of 12 of the older members on a Scripture Union residential where they loved learning more about God’s love for them. In Youth Fellowship we’ve also enjoyed discovering God’s word and how it has an impact on our lives today. It’s been great to work alongside JCN Christian Youth Project in attending Christian concerts, and a special highlight was seeing all the young people responding to want to know Jesus more in a LZ7 concert. We also spent some time learning new crafts and had great fun relaxing and playing games. Some of our young people left for university/work this year as we welcomed some new Year 7’s into the group. We enjoyed taking them to Ashbourne in the Summer for a weekend of fun, laughter and learning more about the character of Jesus. It has been a blessing to have some of the young people from Youth Fellowship regularly helping in Friday Club.

Over the summer we ran another holiday club for KS2 children. We explored scripture union holiday club material based around Jesus the restorer. Due to a fantastic group of volunteers including our young volunteers from Youth Fellowship, we were able to welcome 40 children along to the holiday club; most of whom were unchurched. It was a fantastic week full of fun and laughter as we learnt more about God’s restorative love. What a joy it was when we asked the children about Jesus and one of our youngest children said ‘He just keeps on forgiving us no matter what we do.’

GodSquad continued to meet every three weeks following the Christian Health and Wellbeing course, and a course which looked at preparing them for the move to university/work. It was good to reflect with the young people on the difference being a Christian made to their lives, and how this would impact the next step of their life. It was great to meet up with the young adults at Christmas and hear how they are getting on. Our group for 14-16year olds continued to meet this year. It was great to, with the help of AI technology, name the group Ignite. This has been a great space for the young people to grow in their faith whilst reflecting on how they can look after their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Messy Church has continued to grow, and we have been greatly blessed with new leaders as we think of new ways we can inspire families to grow closer to God in a fun and interactive way. Messy Light Night was a highlight of the Messy Church year as families gathered together to celebrate the Light of Jesus. It was also fantastic to welcome 400 people into church for our Messy Church Coronation as we reflected on the promises the King was making to God, and welcoming *Farm on the Wheels* to our ‘Taste of Jerusalem’ Christmas Messy was fantastic.

X:Cite continues to be a place of blessing for both leaders and children. This year we have seen the children grow in their prayer life, and it has been wonderful to see many of them praying out loud in church on Sunday mornings. The upstairs room in St Peter’s has created a great space for the young people to learn, and leaders always leave blown-away by the faith and insight of our young people. The young people did a fantastic job of decorating our reclaimed Christmas tree into a beautiful flower-

filled cross which saw many people slowing down on their way down Cheadle road to admire the beauty of the cross.

We continue to run fortnightly assemblies in all three of our local primary schools which have been appreciated by the schools. One child summed it up beautifully when she saw the team setting up for an Open the Book assembly and said 'Yes, church assembly. I love church assembly, they're the best.' What wonderful encouragement to both our Open the Book team and Assembly Team. We enjoyed running another Spiritual Development Day in Forsbrook Church of England Primary School which gave children and staff an opportunity to visit numerous prayer stations. Rev Jonathan and I continue to go into Forsbrook school for Time4Prayer which is a precious afternoon of praying for any children or staff who want to pray with us. We've also enjoyed welcoming various classes from all three of our schools to look around church and hear more about Christianity.

We enjoyed welcoming Blythe Bridge High School Year 7's in for their annual Christmas service reflecting on what Christmas means to us. We have also been grateful for the wonderful artwork which the Art department loaned to us after they painted our beautiful building. This year we began an Open House course thanks to a grant from The Community Foundation, and the support of Blythe High School letting us use their cookery classrooms. It was great to invite 6 young people on this course as we taught them how to cook and helped them to reflect on how they could grow strong healthy relationships whilst learning key skills such as forgiveness, authenticity and empathy.

Sophie Roberts, Youth and Children's Ministry Leader

(c) Tiddlers Report

The Tiddlers Team consists of both Church member and nonchurch members as volunteers, the Church family volunteers are Louise, Christine and Archie, and Sandra who helps in the kitchen.

The none-church members are Joan and Hayley, Joan is our longest serving volunteer, working in the kitchen along with Sandra. Joan is currently on a break while she is recovering from knee surgery. Hayley, who has been a regular and valued support in setting up and tidying up afterwards, is also a very flexible volunteer, fitting in where gaps in our volunteers occur.

The group dynamics has evolved since being back from this year's school summer holidays, in that the average age of child has dropped to 1 ¾ years old, this is possibly due to the influx of new mothers and babies from the closure of a Church Toddler group in Meir Heath. So our foyer is now becoming a little choked with push chairs and prams so we have very newly decided to make the downstairs office a trial buggy park.

Our current registered number of children is 50, although we get an average of 20 to 25 children each week, along with around 20 to 25 carers. We have had some Mums come who have told us that their grandparent used to bring them as a toddler themselves.

One of the newer members fed back to us that after the first session she had attended with us, that we were 'the gold standard' of a toddler group. We frequently get lovely feedback in our WhatsApp group after each session. This WhatsApp group for the members has continued to be a valuable tool letting us know who might not attend due to sickness, reuniting carers with lost socks and hats, and also informing members of any upcoming none-Tiddlers related Church events, such as Messy Church and our Halloween alternative Light Night.

Rev. Jonathan attends once a term, Jonathan comes along during playtime and introduces himself and chats with our members, bridging the gap between the Church family and community. He brings an interactive bible themed talk, engaging with both the little people and carers.

Our doors open at 10am, once we have set up the environment, clearing most of the chairs to the side of church to protect little people from hot radiators in winter, as we now use all of the Church area downstairs.

We recently moved the story time into the welcome room to reduce the older children running around and crashing into tots, and to focus on the message being told, also this makes it feel more intimate, although with the reduced average child age this could be reviewed.

We have free play for around 55 minutes, then we play the 'tidy up' song, and the adults and children help tidy the toys away. We then sit down together and have a lidded hot drink and some toast.

Sometimes one of the carers bring in some cakes if there is a child birthday. We make sure that the butter we used is vegan to cater for all the children, and when we buy cakes, sweets, or biscuits for an occasion we have a vegan option available as well.

After snack time we tell a bible themed story or have a game which is usually influence by the bible theme. We have changed and adapted how we convey this story due to the changing members-dynamic and what their ability is to listen, understand and/or take part.

After this we activate our bubble machine which fills the air with soapy bubble while we play a bubble song, and at this point the members drift off.

Louise, Archie, and Christine, Main Leaders Tiddlers

(d) Connect Report

It remains immensely encouraging that Connect continues to be very important in the lives of many within the church family. It continues to meet on both Tuesday mornings at St Margaret's and Tuesday evenings at St Peter's and has maintained a combined number of 24 people who are committed to it. This demonstrates the importance that people in this group place on regular Bible study and without exception comment on how important these sessions are for them in their growth as Christian disciples.

Despite attempts to encourage more people to participate in Connect they haven't been over successful and as a benefice we perhaps need to look at ways of encouraging new members. This really is quite a priority area as knowledge, understanding and love of scripture is vital if people are going to grow and mature as Christian disciples and grow in faith. Moreover new people bring fresh insights and experiences of the Bible and this helps and encourages existing members.

We do need more people to help lead the sessions and this is a real area for prayer.

We predominantly use scripture guides provided by the excellent Good Book Company which are outstanding and help lead us through the complexities of Bible study. As a bonus they come with brilliant leader's notes which makes the task for the leader so much easier. In the past year we have studied:

- Romans 1-7
- John1-12
- Luke 1-12
- Acts 13-28

Clive Lilley

(e) Choir Report

St Peter's choir continues to meet for monthly choir practices on the first Wednesday of the month, at 6:30pm. The choir is embedded in the nave to support the congregational singing at evening services. The choir is very well led by Organist Ian Goodwin, who inspired the development of "St Peter's Singers", a pop-up adults choir which sang at the Christmas Carol Service and re-formed again in February to head up a special Psalm Praise service, written by Ian. This was a truly enjoyable service and it was good to worship differently. We hope to continue to develop the choir and the leadership of traditional worship at St Peter's.

Laura Hulse, Chorister on behalf of Choir 2023

(f) Warm Space Report

The Welcome Hub has evolved from the original "Warm Space", which started in November 2022. It is open from 10am to 2 pm every Monday for anyone in the local community who wishes to join us, young and old alike. Although predominantly older members of the community, we do attract some younger people, from all walks of life. Many are members of the congregation at St Peters with some from St Margarets Church. Others had not been to the Church before but one or two have since joined some of the Church services.

The Welcome Hub offers good company, games, hot food and hot and cold drinks. We serve a hot snack lunch with offerings such as soup, beans on toast, crumpets, and toasted teacakes and most popular are the cheese oatcakes. There are regularly cream cakes, which a very generous member of our community brings every week.

The most popular game is Bingo, with prizes donated by the attendees. We also have a raffle each week with a number of prizes, which has also proven to be very popular. We have visits from Forsbrook Primary School and it is lovely to see the children mixing with The Welcome Hub regulars.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the Christmas Party in December. Santa and his elf (In full costume of course) gave out presents to everyone and we all joined in various games with a Christmas theme.

The Welcome Hub would not function without the able assistance of all the helpers, (12 members of the congregation) who take it in turns to join in and ensure everything runs smoothly. We treated ourselves to Christmas Lunch together at Heath House Farm in December, which was a very enjoyable get together.

The Welcome Hub continues to grow and evolve and is now a well established regular date in the Church weekly calendar.

(g) Rector's Report

On entering 2023, we have reminded ourselves that our **mission** is centred on ***Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus known***. We want to grow as disciples of Jesus and make the most of the opportunities we have in sharing him with others.

Our **vision** for the coming years focuses on **Desiring God's Renewal** (Isaiah 43:19). In particular, we are praying that God will use us to **renew our building for mission**, through a programme of improvements to our church building that will make our mission more effective. And also, that he will **renew his body (us!) for ministry**, especially as we focus on:

- Making missionary disciples of Jesus

- Releasing God's gifts in everyone
- Reliance on the Holy Spirit
- Growing Christ-like leaders
-

Traces of our stepping into this vision and of seeing our mission flow into our community can be found throughout this TAR as you read other more detailed reports about particular areas of our life together. However, it is worth highlighting a few here.

Renewing the building for mission

A large building such as ours will always require constant maintenance and we are grateful for those with the gifts and time and money to make this possible. Whilst our **lighting project** has faced various challenges, we are hopeful this will soon be done. This will enable us to better control the lighting for services and events; it will reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our energy consumption.

We have fully working **cameras** which now enable us to **livestream** our Sunday morning worship. How wonderful to know that there are people who can't come to our building physically but can still join us live on a Sunday morning.

This year we were also able to replace our **noticeboard** facing the main road. Good signage really helps us be noticed (excuse the pun) – just think how many people walk or drive past us every day and are reminded that we are an active and welcoming church. We pray that those who see posters sharing Christian truth will receive it for themselves.

Renewing the body for ministry

There is nothing more encouraging than seeing people join our church family and we have been blessed by a number of **new members** this year. What a joy it was to journey the **Alpha course** with such a great mix of people on different stages of their faith journey. It was a particular joy to see the friendships develop on this course and also celebrating with those who wanted to be **confirmed** or **re-affirm** their baptismal faith.

2023 saw the employment of our new **Youth and Children's Ministry Leader** having received a grant from the **Henry Smith Charity** alongside the generous donations of those who are able to support this work (and towards our other valuable employees). Just reading through what has happened this year with our children and young people is further **evidence of our vision becoming reality**: youngsters growing in faith, wanting to serve by using their own gifts and seeing the flourishing of leaders of all ages. Our Messy Church Light Night was another example of **making Jesus known** to 400 people who were celebrating Jesus as the light at 'Halloween' as well as helping local families celebrate the Coronation and recognizing Jesus as the King of Kings. Being able to partner with **local schools**, and have a **Christian presence and influence** has also been a real privilege and joy.

The evolution of our 'Livin' Room' (warm space) into the '**Welcome Hub**' has been another highlight of 2023 and is another example of so many using their gifts of serving, welcoming and listening as friendship is given and received to anyone who comes along. Of course, our prayer is that as people experience the warm welcome of friendship from those present, they will also experience something of the **life-transforming welcome of Jesus** which he offers unconditionally to those who will receive it. The same is true of the ministry offered by our **Tiddlers** team who welcome pre-school children and their carers week by week to play, make friends and hear stories of Jesus. The atmosphere is joyous.

I have also been conscious of a greater **openness to the work of the Spirit** in the life of our church, evident in people's own personal experience and in public worship. It has been a challenge and a joy to have started **preaching** about the gifts of the Spirit – a series which is on pause but will be picked up again. It is always a joy to see the Spirit at work in stirring people to **speak about Jesus** and how he has been at work; in prompting the **use of their gifts**; in a growing desire to **pray**; in **generous giving**

(we were able to pay our common fund contribution again in full this year); in a greater **desire to grow in faith** and to **make Jesus known** to others.

In 1 Corinthians 12, in the context of his teaching on the *charismata* (grace-gifts), Paul describes the church using the image of a body; he writes: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it..." (1 Corinthians 12:27) – it is one body with many parts, and only truly functions when all the parts are working together for the whole. The analogy is a good one and needs no explanation. It is a privilege to be able to work as part of the body at St Peter's and I would like to thank **everyone** for the part they play in contributing to fulfilling our mission of **knowing Jesus and making Jesus known**.

Please join me in continuing to **pray** for **his renewal** and for the **growth of his kingdom** in this place.

Jonathan Roberts, Rector

(h) Safeguarding Report

St Peter's Church PCC is committed to caring for all the children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate in any aspect of our church life. The safety and security of children, young people and vulnerable adults is of the utmost importance and the Church of England guidelines and policies underpin this.

As reported in previous years Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC Agenda, thus ensuring through the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, members are regularly informed and updated to ensure the PCC complies with its responsibilities.

The Safeguarding Policies for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults were reviewed and updated on the 11 September 2023 and approved by the PCC on the 18 September 2023. Both these policies can be viewed on St Peter's Church website at www.stpetersforsbrook.org. There have been 6 safeguarding concerns reported to me during 2023.

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks: The Church of England Safer Recruitment procedures outline the necessary requirements for a DBS Check to be carried out, this is dependent upon the specific role being undertaken. During the past 12 months, there were six volunteers working with our children and young people whose role required them to undertake an Enhanced DBS Check, 1 Volunteer's Certificate was renewed (3 year renewal requirement). Our Youth and Children's Ministry Leader and three of the PCC Trustees also required a new Enhanced DBS Check, one of which was a renewal.

Training Requirements: The majority of the Safeguarding Training is completed using the Church of England online training portal, 5 new volunteers have completed the safeguarding training relevant to their role. 2 Students from Blythe Bridge High School, who undertook a work placement with our children and youth groups, also completed the training. The Church Wardens have undertaken the Safer Recruitment and People Management Course; the Parish Safeguarding Officer, one of our Lay Readers and our Youth and Children's Ministry Leader have in addition to the Basic and Foundation levels of Safeguarding Training, completed the Safeguarding Leadership Training Module.

Thank you to everyone who completed the online DBS Applications and training or attended the training courses, for giving their valuable time and commitment, ensuring we meet our obligation to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church community.

Joan Pritchard, Parish Safeguarding Officer

5. St Peter's Parochial Church Council
Financial Report and Statements
31st December 2023

Update from the Treasurer

2023 was better than 2022 in the fact that St Peter's were able to pay for the renegotiated Common fund amount. This was owing to the generous giving of the church family and a kind contribution from the Diocese which enabled us to be able to reach an achievable target. The monies received in 2023 were from a variety of sources including generous donations from the church family at St Peter's, through various grants especially for help with heating and warm spaces and for youth ministry activities and through other well attended church activities. The Generous grant from the Henry Smith Charity fully funds the post of the Youth and Childrens Ministry Leader and significantly increases the reach we are able to have in the surrounding community allowing young people to develop their faith. The other allocated funding for the Youth and Childrens ministry has been used to offer more opportunities to explore their faith regardless of income.

The Giving in Grace initiated towards the end of 2022 saw an increase in promised donations and this was continued by an additional £2,868 in 2023 which given the current economic situation was graciously given by the church family at St Peters. The additional donations were achieved by new members of the church family contributing to the activities of the church and by existing donors increasing their contribution.

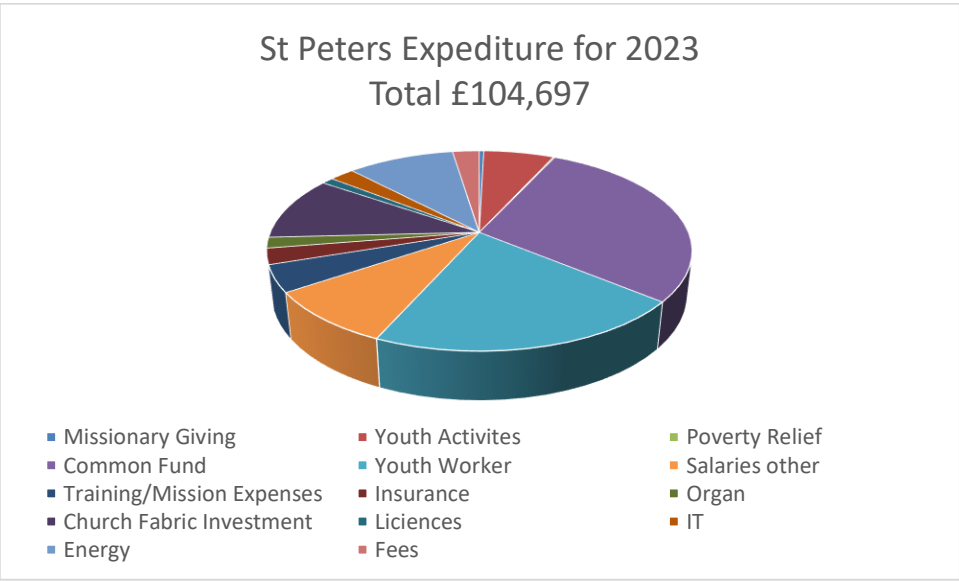
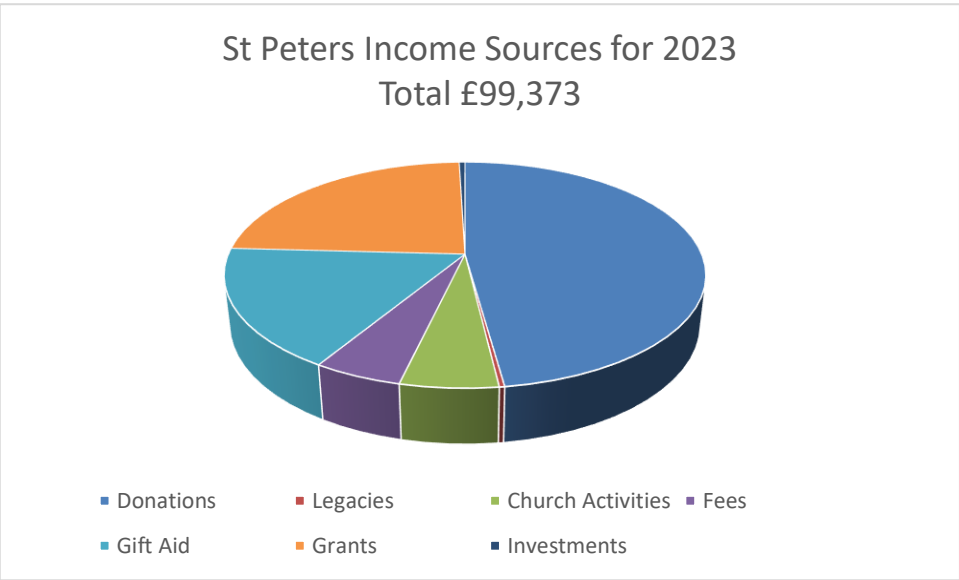
At the start of 2023 we were awarded a gracious grant from the Henry Smith Charity for the Youth and Childrens Ministry Leader role in 2023 for three years and this covers the salary and on costs of supporting this role. The recruitment for this role was successfully completed at the end of 2022 to start from the beginning of 2023. This work has really enabled many children and young people in their faith development and continues to strengthen our partnerships within the community.

The funding for the post of Rector's administrator has been secured for 2024 through kind donations of the St Peter's and St Margarets community.

Significant increases in energy costs have been seen we were shielded by a fixed energy Tariff in 2023 but this expired in Oct 2023. The energy costs have been slightly lower on the floating tariff and expect another reduction in April 2024.

Some of the projects using the Legacy from Roy Harvey have been undertaken and allowed us to improve our services to the church community and greatly enhanced our online service quality.

Once St Peter's income exceeds £100,000 we will be compelled to register as a charity with the charity commission. It is expected that the income for 2024 will reduce slightly owing to the expected reduction in the Gift Aid to be received to be around £8K. The diocese currently has several churches going through the registration process, and we will follow the registration process once these have successfully gone through testing the current guidance has been tested.



St Peter's relies heavily on the generosity of its' congregation to flourish, and the PCC continues to be grateful for this, however, it also relies heavily on all the volunteers who give up their time and offer their skills but there is always room for more volunteers to support the work of the Church, this can be by:

- Supporting the work of the Tiddlers Group who meet every Tuesday
- Support the work of the Messy Church team
- Connect Bible Study groups
- Helping out during the services by
 - operating the sound system and/or projector
 - be willing to read one of the Bible readings
 - lead our intercessions
 - be a Sides-person
 - provide refreshments
 - be there to say *hello and welcome* to a visitor
- Helping the Ministry Team
- Supporting the Pastoral Team
- Be part of the Flower Arranging Team/Brass Cleaning Team

- Help the Building Committee
- Supporting the administrative/financial aspects by:
 - Producing the weekly notice sheet; photocopying service sheets; counting money etc

The list is endless, and I am sure I will have missed something out, but this is something you can be part of, why not ask a member of the PCC for more information.

David Bray, Treasurer & Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Notes to the Financial Statements below
For the year ending 31st December 2023

Introduction

The role of the Independent Examiner is to provide an independent scrutiny of accounts and the examiner plays a part in maintaining public trust and confidence in the PCC.

The Independent Examiner's Report can be found on the back page of this report.

All financial reports are taken from Myfundaccounting which is the software that is recognised and approved by the Dioceses in the Church of England for use by Treasurers and Gift Aid Co-ordinators.

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standards (FRSSE) or (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

The Financial Statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments method and therefore are shown as such and a statement of assets and liabilities.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purpose of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are restricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Incoming Resources

- Voluntary income and capital sources
- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Income tax recoverable as Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recovered.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the income is received.
- Funds raised by fairs and similar events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the income is received.

Income from Investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as received.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on re-valuation of investments at 31 December 2023.

Resources Used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The whole of the Diocesan Parish Share is accounted in this financial year.

Fixed Assets**Consecrated property and movable church furnishings**

Consecrated and beneficial property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s 96 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Clergy and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. There is insufficient cost information available to facilitate inclusion of these assets in the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

All such expenditure relating to beneficed or consecrated property is written off in the year of acquisition.

Other property

Other church buildings are included in the accounts as deemed or actual costs if known.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2023.

St Peters Forsbrook PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	26,060	13,944		40,004	37,253
Collections and other giving	7,446			7,446	7,988
Other voluntary				-	-
Gift Aid recovered	11,908	5,138		17,046	9,299
Other receipts	850	23,036		23,886	6,545
Activities for generating funds	4,003			4,003	2,470
Investment Income	100	362		462	367
Receipts from church activities	5,021	1,505		6,526	3,342
Total income	55,388	43,985	-	99,373	67,264
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	2,537			2,537	508
Missionary and Charitable giving	2,442	6,838		9,280	6,076
Parish Share	30,410			30,410	32,476
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4,546	26,420		30,966	23,903
Church running Expenses	17,722			17,722	8,767
Church Repairs and Maintenance		12,665		12,665	2,872
Governance Costs	1,117			1,117	900
Miscellaneous				-	-
	58,774	45,923	-	104,697	75,502
Net income / (expenditure resources before transfer)	(3,386)	(1,938)	-	(5,324)	(9,633)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - In	1,039			1,039	2,668
Gross transfers between funds - Out		1,039			
Other recognised gains/losses					
Gain/losses on investment assets					
Gains on revaluation, Fixed assets charity's own use					
Net Movement in funds				-	(2,668)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total Funds Brought Forward	884	226,649		227,533	235,382
Total Funds Carried Forward	8,512	211,327		219,839	227,533

Appendix 2		
St Peters Forsbrook		
2023 Balance Sheet (Summary)		
	<u>As at</u> 31/12/2023	<u>As at</u> 31/12/2022
Current assets		
Cash at Bank and in hand	219,839	227,177
Total net Current Assets	219,839	227,177
Less: Current liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	-	-
	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	219,839	227,177
Total assets less current liabilities	219,839	227,177
Less: Long term Liabilities	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	219,839	227,177
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	8,512	4,827
Designated funds:		
- Poverty Relief	663	1,815
- Friendship group/messy	260	
- Support Wages	2,250	2,734
- Tiddlers group	89	299
- Service Book Fund	246	1,262
-Parish Magazine	-	1,838
Designated Sub-Total	3,508	7,948
Restricted Funds:		
-Henry Smith Grant	-	-
-Youth Account	19,368	13,624
- Choir Robes	1,061	1,041
-F Jones and B Spencer Fund (music)	672	626
- Organ Fund	538	527
- Illuminated Cross Appeal	-	480
- Roy Harvey Fund	175,546	187,679
-Building Fund	10,634	10,425
Restricted Sub-Total	207,819	214,402
Restricted plus Designated Sub-Total	211,327	222,350
Funds of the church	219,839	227,177

St Peters Forsbrook							
Appendix 3							
Analysis of income and expenditure							
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023							
						Total	
		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies							
0101 - Gift Aid Collections	24,608	3,174	9,360 -			37,142	34,274
0110 - Non Gift Aid Collections Direct Debit/Standing Order	1,452	460	950 -			2,862	2,979
0301 - Loose Plate Collections	7,079 -	-	-			7,079	7,588
0550 - Donations over £20	429 -	-	-			429	0
0701 - Legacies	300 -	-	-			300	400
Donations and legacies Totals	33,868	3,634	10,310		0	47,812	45,241
Income from charitable activities							
1111 - Messy Church Income	-	610 -	-			610	450
1113 - Youth Activities - Residential and Others	-	-	535 -				720
1556 - Tiddlers Group	-	-	-				60
1557 - Poverty Relief	-	360 -	-				360
Income from charitable activities Totals	0	970	535		0	1,505	1,590
Investments							
1020 - Bank and Building Society Interest	-		362			362	267
1030 - Rent - Lands and Buildings	100 -	-	-			100	100
Investments Totals	100	0	362		0	462	367
Other income							
0601 - Gift Aid Recovered	11,908	742	4,396 -			17,046	9,299
0801 - Henry Smith Charity - Youth Worker salary	-	-	21,000 -			21,000	0
08A1 - Non-Recurring one-off grants	850	1,674	-			2,524	2,470
0901 - Other Funds Generated	3,119 -	-	884 -			4,003	4,689
1101 - Fees Weddings and Funerals	5,021 -	-	-			5,021	3,608
1234 - Worship Resources	-	-	-			0	0
Other income Totals	20,898	2,416	26,280		0	49,594	20,066
Income and endowments Grand totals	54,866	7,020	37,487		0	99,373	67,264
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
1730 - Costs of Fetes and other Events	0 -	-	-			0	507.97
2501 - Magazine Expenses	-	-	-			-	-
Raising funds Totals	0	0	0		0	0	507.97
Expenditure on charitable activities							
1112 - Messy Church Resources	-	0 -	-			0	322.86
1115 - Youth Activities	-	-	6,433.23 -			6433.23	2516.29
1801 - Giving to Missionary Societies	430	0 -	-		0	430	4914
2340 - Worship Resources Literature	1585.57 -	-	-			1585.57	531.67
2556 - Tiddlers Resources	-	163.55 -	-		0	163.55	248.36
2557 - Poverty Relief	-	151.19 -	-			151.19 -	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	2015.57	314.74	6433.23		0	8763.54	8533.18
Other expenditure							
1114 - Discipleship Hosting	-	90 -	-			90 -	-
1910 - Ministry Common Fund etc..	30,410 -	-	-			30,410	32,476
2050 - Youth Worker	-	-	21,000 -			21,000	16,741
2051 - Salaries - Other	4,546	4,740	680 -			9,966	5,856
2101 - Clergy Expenses	847 -	-	-			847	1,306
2130 - Vicarge expenses	-	-	-			0	0
2150 - Vicars Telephone	-	-	-			0 -	-
2201 - Parish Training and Mission	426	-	-			426	234
2301 - Church Running - Insurance	2,696 -	-	-			2,696	2,537
2310 - Church Office Expenses Paper, Post, Printer	1,301 -	-	-			1,301	492
2320 - Organ/Piano Tuning	-	-	1,827 -			1,827	764
2340 - Worship Resources Literature	-	-	-			0	0
2330 - Church Maintenance	0	10,838 -	-			10,838	2,208
2341 - Worship Resources - Communion	356 -	-	-			356	90
2342 - Worship Resources - Licences	1,117 -	-	-			1,117	900
2370 - IT Expenses	2,356 -	-	-			2,356	1,155
2401 - Church Running - Electricity	1,984 -	-	-			1,984	1,025
2410 - Church Running - Gas	8,182 -	-	-			8,182	3,234
2721 - Fees for Weddings and Funerals	2,537 -	-	-			2,537	1,757
Other expenditure Totals	56,759	15,667	23,507		0	95,933	70,775
Expenditure Grand totals	58,775	15,982	29,940		0	104,697	79,817

Appendix 4				
St Peters Forsbrook PCC				
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st Dec 2023				
Cash at bank and in hand				
001D: CCLA 620161001D - Asset	Type	Balance	Previous Balance	
Service Book Fund	Designated	672	659	
002D: CCLA 620161002D - Asset				
Choir Robes	Restricted	1061	1,041	
003D: CCLA 620161003D - Asset				
Building Fund	Restricted	10634	10,425	
004D: CCLA 620161004D - Asset				
General Savings	Restricted	1039	626	
006D: CCLA 620161006D - Asset				
Youth Worker	Restricted	4478	4,782	
007D: CCLA 620161007D - Asset				
Organ Fund	Restricted	538	527	
61468702: Bank account - Asset				
General Fund	General	7,473	2,016	
Designated Funds	Designated	3,508	10,580	
Restricted Funds	Restricted	190,436	196,521	
	Cash at bank and in hand	219,839	227,177	
Liabilities				
Agency Collections		-	-	
Parish Share Due		-	-	
	Total Liabilities	-	0	
	Grand Total	219,839	227,177	

AUDITORS REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Peter's Church, Forsbrook

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulation 2016 (the "Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 (the "Act").

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statement in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examinations includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not expression an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In accordance with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met.

OR

- (2) To Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed: K. E. Hays F.C.C.A.

Date: 8 April 2024

Name: Karen Hays

Address: The Accountants Ltd
Suite 3 8 The Westbury Centre
Westbury Park
Newcastle Under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 4 4Y.

6. Fabric Report – Buildings Committee

The lighting and electrical rewiring project faced many difficulties in its preparation during 2023. But by the end of the year the diocesan lighting adviser was satisfied with the proposals, and the PCC had approved the project to go forward for diocesan approval.

Services are now streamed after new equipment was installed. The diocese unfortunately opposed the proposed new television due to the plaques which would be hidden behind it. A new screen with a projector above is now under consideration.

A new outside noticeboard was installed.

Severn Trent installed a new water main to Woodthorpe which required holes to be dug in the car park and then reinstated. This followed water streaming across the public pavement.

The capstones on the office and toilets extension were sliding down. They were replaced, now with ties between them to reduce slippage. This was undertaken by a church member with building skills, thus reducing the cost, which was just the scaffolding.

There was also the regular maintenance of the grounds, mainly weeding and pruning around the car park. The working party welcomed some new volunteers.

Group members : Archie Archibald; Anita Archibald; Hollie Archibald; Louise Purnell; Andy Berry; Alison Fuller; and Brian Sammons.

Brian Sammons, Building and Grounds Co-ordinator

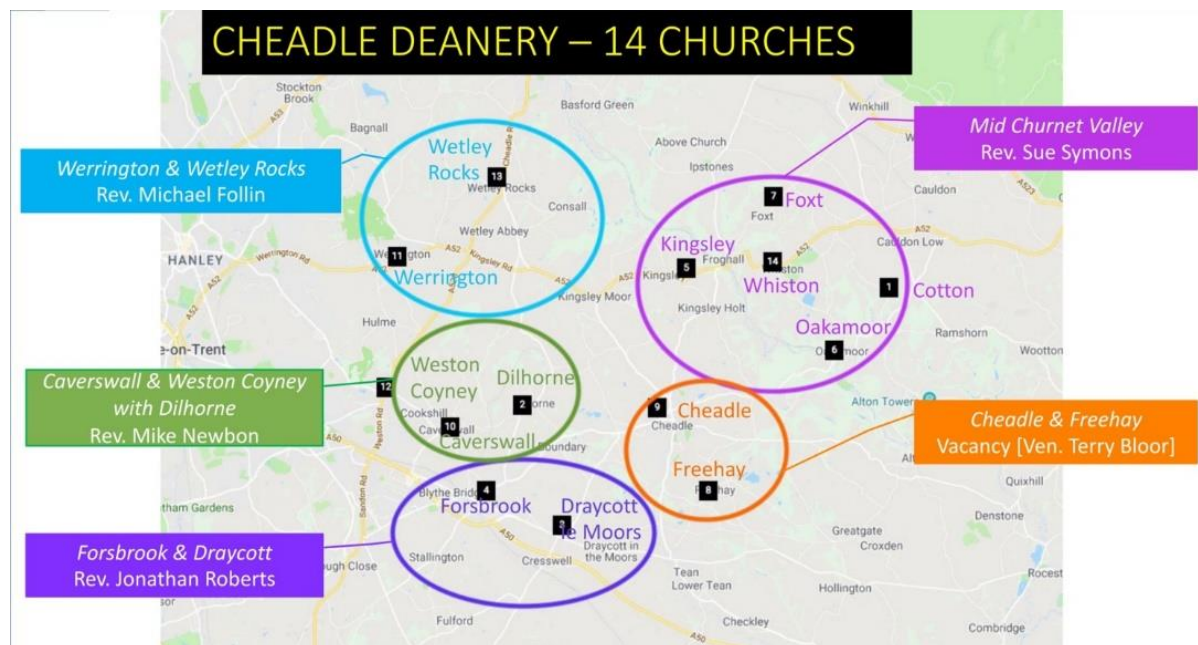
7. Deanery Synod Report

St. Peter's Deanery Synod Representatives are Laura Hulse, Mick Smith, and Neil (Archie) Archibald.

Deanery Synod is led by the Rural Dean Rev Michael Follin and Lay Chair Sylvia Bainbridge.

Deanery Synod has met three times this year and the focus remains on the Shaping for Mission a Diocesan led initiative to help Deaneries become more efficient, in sharing skills.

Our Deanery consists of 14 churches, see image:



St. Peter's hosted a special Deanery Prayer and Worship Workshop on 24 July 2023 feedback was positive with participants suggesting perhaps a full day event to enable people to attend more than one of the workshops. We also hosted a Deanery Psalm Praise Workshop on Sunday 25 February 2024.

And a Deanery Dementia Awareness Training Day was held on 7 March 2024.

Open Deanery Posts

The Deanery Synod is looking to appoint a new Deanery Synod Secretary, we would ask that you remember this in your prayers or consider yourself, if you could step into this roll?

The Deanery Lay Chair has recently stepped down after 5 years, so this post is also available should you feel the calling.

Although there is no job description for Lay chair, a brief outline of the role would be the following:

- Co-lead deanery synod, which meets three times a year and one social/training/informal meeting.
- Represent laity of Cheadle Deanery in decision making (mostly via occasional email, in the diocese).
- Attend diocesan events as requested, usually a couple of times a year. (Next event is with Rural Deans and Lay Chairs DVE day with Bishop Michael, 9th March 10-4 at Barlaston Church. The other is usually a meal and prayer time at the Rural Deans retreat at Shallowford. Occasionally, one more.)
- Attend/support events/services or have contact with the church families in the deanery and support the Rural Dean during any interregnum with key people from each benefice at least twice a year outside of synod meetings.
- Lastly and most importantly, pray for the deanery and share the positive good works and encouragement within the deanery.

Upcoming Deanery meetings if you would like to consider yourself to join us, talk to our incumbent:

17th April 2024 at St Andrews Weston Coyney

17th July 2024 at All Saints Dilhorne

13th November 2024 at St Johns Wetley Rocks

Laura Hulse, Mick Smith and Neil (Archie) Archibald, Deanery Synod Representatives