

St Peter's Church Forsbrook

Trustees' Annual Report 2022

*St Peter's
Forsbrook*



Knowing Jesus & making Jesus known

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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 – 'Glorifying God; Following Jesus; Growing Disciples; Transforming Communities'. This is undertaken in various ways and in cooperation 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: revdjphroberts@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

Georgina Borsley

Licensed Readers: Kate Bradshaw

Clive Lilley

Graham Stokes (Deputy Chair of PCC)

Lay Pastoral Minister: Leigh Silcock

Childrens' & Youth Discipleship Enabler:

Christine Thompson (1st January 2022 to 7th May 2022)

Childrens' & Youth Leader (Consultancy role):

Sophie Roberts (8th May 2022 to 31st December 2022)

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader:

Sophie Roberts (3rd January 2023 following her appointment to this post)

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

Assistants to the Church Wardens:

Howard Salt & Brian Sammons (existing)

Graham Borsley, Margaret Dale, Dawn Williams, Glennis Grainger (from October 2020)

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

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

2020-2023

Joan Pritchard
David Bray
Andy Berry
Geoff Price

2021-2024

Christine Sammons
Brian Sammons
Roy Williams
Elaine Owen
Graham Stokes

2022-2025

Clive Lilley
Thomas Jamieson
Dawn Williams

Elected Members of the Deanery Synod (2020-2023) (Ex-officio on the PCC)

Neil Archibald
Laura Hulse
Mick Smith (2022-2023)

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 excepted 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 2022

One person has moved away from the area and is no longer included on the Electoral Roll. Three members of our church family included on the Roll have died this year. Six new people have been added to the roll. The revised numbers are therefore:

ERO Report	2022
Non-Resident	24
Resident	93
Deceased	3
Moved off	1
Removed	0
Total	117

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):

- Appointing PCC Officers
- Discussing our financial challenges and the deficit budget and seeking to address these – particularly through meeting with diocesan advisers and the planning and delivery of the Giving in Grace programme
- Presenting the TAR for 2021 (including the annual financial statements)
- Following the resignation and departure of our C&YDE (Chrissi Thompson) on 7th May 2022, the PCC and JMT spent much time discerning the future vision for our project with children and young people which resulted in accepting the temporary services of Sophie Roberts to oversee the work until December, and the planning and preparation for advertising a new post of Youth and Children’s Ministry Leader (appointed in December).

- Applying for funding for the Y&CML post from the Henry Smith Charity (and – praise God – being successful with a grant for 3 years’ salary and on costs).
- Safeguarding updates and annually reviewed policies
- Agreement to fund and extend Rector’s administrator contract for another 12 months
- Overseeing routine maintenance of the buildings and outside areas
- Continued oversight of a number of practical and building-related projects to improve our building for mission, including LED lighting, AV and Streaming provision, new noticeboard.
- Engaging in the CE Living in love and faith course during Lent
- The setting up of the ‘Live-in Room’ (warm spaces initiative) and successful bid for funding from the SMDC Community Fund towards the heating costs
- Holding an Autumn Fayre to bring together community as well as raising funds for St Peter’s
- Using the year to discern God’s vision for St Peter’s (launched in early 2023) – Desiring God’s renewal: renewing the building for mission and the body for ministry

(a) Churchwardens’ Report

After coming out of the restrictions on our worship imposed by the Covid pandemic, it has been a real blessing to see St Peter’s flourishing again and our church family growing. We have seen a new freedom in our morning worship and the congregation is increasing with more young families taking part in the services. People have enjoyed being able to meet together for worship and friendship and to attend the many different activities which have started up again.

Reviving Messy Church, the Autumn Fayre and Alpha, and new initiatives like the Warm Spaces, more involvement with local schools, and hosting a concert with the Staffordshire Chamber Orchestra, have helped the church to reach out more into the community of Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge.

To all the people who help to organise these activities as part of their commitment to God, and to all those who quietly get on with all the important jobs that go unseen but keep our church warm, clean and inviting, thank you. All these activities could not of course take place without the help of many volunteers who give freely of their time and talents. There is a job for everyone and if you would like to be more involved or have suggestions to offer, please ask one of the churchwardens. It is a privilege to be churchwardens and to support the clergy and congregation to help our church to run smoothly and flourish. We endeavour to sort out any problems people may have and are very grateful for everyone’s support. Thank you.

George Borsley and Alison Fuller
Churchwardens

(b) Children's & Youth Consultant's Report

In May 2022 I had the privilege of working with St Peter's as a consultant to continue the fantastic work that Chrissi Thompson had been doing with our young people since her last report. The role was to continue supporting our Youth and Children's work so that we could continue running our groups until someone else was appointed so that there wasn't extra strain put on volunteers, and so our groups could continue to run. It quickly became apparent that following the Covid pandemic, there was an increased hunger from children, youth, schools and families to gather together, and an openness to hear more about Jesus as young people deepen their faith. There was also an infectious enthusiasm from our existing volunteers who God has used to bless our children's work throughout the pandemic, plus new volunteers who were keen to be involved so we could provide many opportunities to share our faith with the young people in our community.

As a church, we have been inspired over the year by God speaking to many of our congregation about how He wants to do a New Thing in St Peters (Isaiah 43:19), and this has been a vision that our young people in X:Cite have embraced and encouraged. As a group we spent time waiting on God and reflecting on how He wanted to lead us which led to amazing conversations about reaching out to those outside our church building, caring for those in need, and sharing God's love in our community in practical ways. Our older X:Cite members have taken on roles as young leaders – it has been a real encouragement to see God using them in this way. As well as our existing super team of helpers, it has been a blessing to welcome new helpers to the group. We recently shared a meal together and all of us felt that God had blessed us in so many ways through sharing God's word with our children and hearing what they had to say. We were running out of space in the downstairs room, so have moved upstairs again leaving us plenty of space to dance to worship songs, play games, do crafts whilst learning more about God.

Friday Club and Youth Fellowship have continued to flourish to the point we have had to bring back a waiting list in our Friday Club. How amazing that so many young people want to meet up on a Friday evening and hear about God. Our incredible team of volunteers has grown in number, and we have been able to meet on a weekly basis again which the children and parents have appreciated. Our vision for our Friday night groups has been to create a safe place for young people to meet up, bring their friends, and hear about Jesus. As one of our leaders shared, it really is a safe space wrapped in God's arms where the young people can be themselves whilst hearing about God's love.

Over the summer a group of us decided to put together a holiday club for KS2 children. We used some scripture union holiday club material which was based on the life of Jesus, and although it felt like there was lots to read, we quickly realised that when we all used our unique gifts to run a small section of the day, it quickly came together to create a fun week blessed by the gifts God had given each of us. We welcomed 30 children along to the holiday club, many of which were unchurched. We all reflected on how well the material used everyone's gifts in sharing the gospel, and it was great fun for children and leaders!

GodSquad has been meeting every three weeks following a Christian Health and Wellbeing course, and generally enjoying fun times together including a day trip to the beach and a residential at 3Generate. The young people recently reflected on their prayer life and how it had helped them especially during the pandemic. Many of the young people have become volunteers in our younger children's group which has been a great blessing. We have a group of 14-16year olds who have started to meet every three weeks who will be following the same course which we are excited about.

Messy Church continues to be a great outreach, and we are blessed to welcome between 100 and 350 people each time. The team has been incredible in creating exciting ways to share God's word in our community. We have been grateful to Blythe Bridge Library who kindly loaned us their sensory suitcase, so we have been able to create a space for children with SEN if they need to escape the noise. We ended the year celebrating Light Night, which was a fantastic opportunity to shine God's light on what could have been a dark night. And our Messy Christingle where we were joined by a Pop-Up Choir of local children who we had asked to sing. It was very special seeing the glow of the Christingles whilst we sang about the birth of Jesus.

It's been exciting to continue growing our relationship with our local schools in leading fortnightly assemblies in all three primary schools. The new assembly team has been incredible, and we've had some fantastic feedback from staff and teachers. We also have a team of volunteers leading Open the Book assemblies where volunteers act out bible stories. We're excited to begin these after the Easter holidays. Each half term we go along to Forsbrook Primary School to offer prayer for students or staff who would like to be prayed for. This has been such a privilege and has been well received by the school. We have also run Spiritual Development days in the school where children have been encouraged to spend time in prayer aided by different activities. It was a very special time when we welcomed y7 from Blythe High School into church again for their Christmas service as we reflected on what Christmas meant to us.

Following the PCC's successful grant application to The Henry Smith Charity, this has secured the future of the youth and children's ministry project for the next three years. As the newly appointed Youth and Children's Ministry Leader I look forward to leading and developing our work with children and young people, working alongside the Ministry Team at St Peter's and our dedicated team of volunteers.

But our biggest thanks is to God for opening up so many doors and blessing children and leaders in this incredibly privileged ministry 1 Corinthians 1:4.

Sophie Roberts

(c) Tiddlers Group Report

The Tiddler group has very much settled back into St Peters Church.

The original Church family volunteers were Sophie, Louise, Christine and Archie, A couple of the kitchen volunteers still remain joined by another member from our community. Hayley, an ex-member and volunteer from the community has been a regular helper in Tiddlers and valued support in setting up and being present throughout the sessions plus helping to tidy up the carnage afterwards, which is no small thing, since we opened up the whole church to increase our play-area and helped with COVID people spacing, means us moving a lot of chairs then moving them back.

Sophie withdrew from the Tiddler group after becoming Church Youth Worker, before the summer break of 2022, it was sad to see her go. Myself, Christine and Archie decided that we would share and discuss activities and responsibilities within Tiddlers as a triad.

The structure of the group seems to be working well, we initially have about 50 minutes of free play, alternative puzzles and playdoh weeks, and alternate between chalk board with chunky chalk and our messy pasta play. During this time kitchen team Joan, Sandra Jenny prepare toast, a universal comfort food, tea and coffee in our new, better than plastic, sealable mugs. Then we have an all-hands to the deck tidy up time followed by the toast, which has been a very good good move. This section of Tiddlers feels like a very warm, chatty cohesive toast time group!

We then have our story/activity time, which suits some but Tiddlers is constantly evolving, and we now have several new families with babies that attend and a few returning grandparents with their new grandchildren, this suggests to us how established and welcoming our Tiddler group is and newcomers have frequently commented on our WhatsApp group how they have felt welcomed into the group, so much so that some of the Tiddler families have recently started to come to our Messy Church events and even come to the occasional Sunday service, which is fabulous to see.

The dynamic of the group having evolved, i.e. babies sitting on laps, plus a few very active three-year-olds mean we have had to adapt our bible story time to fit this better. At the moment lots of movement and games with the bible theme entwined seems to be more appropriate than sitting on a cushion and listening to a children's parable.

The team had a discussion recently about the story time and it still deemed as an important component, even if the little ones were running around the area and distracted with each other, that the caregivers with the babies were listening attentively.

At the end of each academic term and half term we have had Rev Jonathan come and join us and to do a mini service and be present throughout the playtime of the session.

Our vision is to continue growing the connections between our Church and the community and families.

Louise Purnell

(d) Connect Group Report

'Connect' continues to be very important for many people in our benefice. Both groups still continue, Tuesday mornings at St Margaret's and Tuesday evenings at St Peter's. When we recommenced in-person meetings post Covid we had a combined number of 16 people being involved. It is extremely encouraging that this has now grown to a combined number of 24. In particular this group of people is very faithful and regular in attendance and barring holidays, or illness always come along. 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. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that one senses a real hunger for the Word of God from those participating.

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:

- Jesus through Old Testament eyes
- Isaiah
- Real Prayer
- Titus
- Nehemiah

Participants continue to say how important the sessions are for them in their growth as Christian disciples.

It is our hope and prayer that more people will come along and share in the Bible studies and bring their own unique insights and life stories to the groups. We share and learn together. Above all we pray for the Lord of the Scriptures to continue to use Connect as a major way for the church community to grow in discipleship and in the love of His Word.

Clive Lilley

(f) Choir Report

The choir has continued to sing as an "embedded" choir through the past year in the evening services. This has become a settled system and works well in many ways with stronger congregational singing and everyone sitting together in the nave.

The choir meets for occasional practices generally before or after the evening service (depending upon the time of the year) where it has been working on special pieces for the church festivals and also on the sung settings for the BCP evensong and sung communion services to gradually recover the sung parts which were included pre-Covid, especially the Psalms and Canticles. Ian has written a new setting for the sung responses in Evensong which we have all now learned and enjoy singing.

The choir practices are a bit variable as members often have other commitments on a Sunday evening which means that we are rarely all together in a practice session.

Other members of the congregation have been invited to stay and join practices. This worked well for Christmas when choir numbers swelled considerably for the Carol Service contributions. This was enjoyed by all who took part, and could be a model for gaining more members on other occasions.

Thinking about the future, the whole choir have had two meetings this year, one with Jonathan in which we thought about how the future might look and the options and opportunities for the choir as a part of the church.

There was agreement that the choir would like to retain its own identity for the time being, and some enthusiasm for the choir still wearing robes for special occasions where that added something to the worship. There was a lot of interest in the choir meeting more regularly for practice, perhaps during the week, and making it something that we could more easily invite others to join again. There was some discussion about the choir being a part of the congregation which might grow and even have a missionary focus, but to progress this we need to resolve the current issues with practise night.

Dominic and Laura
Choir Members

(g) Warm Space

The warm spaces started in November 2022 offering warm drinks and soup to the local community. The church opens on Monday and Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.00pm. We had a few people to start with and then as it became known we would have around 18 people on Mondays as well as the Wednesday group.

We had a visit from the Chairman of the Parish council who stayed for lunch, also the local police popped in to enjoy a hot drink and cream cakes.

Most weeks we have a lovely mix of St Peters folk along with local residents who have made new friends as they play games and chat together.

As the time is drawing to a close for the warm space project our visitors asked if we could continue with the Monday group as they enjoy it so much.

Walter has offered to coordinate, and the wonderful volunteers have offered to continue serving.

From 3rd April the Live in room will start its new venture serving the local community with a welcoming space to come and meet together.

Special thanks to our hard-working volunteers who made this a venture such a success.

Walter and Carol

(h) Rector's Report

I sometimes wonder what it must have been like for Noah and his family coming out of the ark after the flood (Genesis 6-9). They had experienced the 'old' world, the trauma of the flood and were stepping out into a 'new' world which probably felt both the same as and yet different from before. There would have been some familiarity with the physical features of the world they had previously inhabited and yet a sense of a new beginning in which nothing would ever be the same again. This was a new chapter in which God invited them to partner with him afresh in his mission to the world. We can only imagine how Noah and his family felt, but I wonder if they shared a sense of anticipation about the coming days.

I feel a similar sense of anticipation as I reflect on 2022 and the direction of travel we are now journeying as a church. Having 'come out of' the trauma of the covid pandemic, it has taken a while to adapt to discerning which familiar things we still need and which new things we must embrace, but we have done so with a confident sense that God is 'doing a new thing' here in our midst. We began the year with a strong sense that God's words through the prophet Isaiah were very relevant to us at St Peter's at this moment:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up – do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Endings and beginnings are a normal part of the life of God's people and part of moving forward with God is to accept both these aspects of church life with gratitude and joy. We have been reminded of this as friends have died or moved on to new pastures (both Chrissie and Sam moved on this year) and by the arrival of new members and initiatives.

Our Friendship Group, having served countless members of our church and community over many years, sadly came to an end (much gratitude to those involved, led by Mary and her team) but we have also seen the establishing of our 'Warm Spaces' project which has provided a new place for friendship and support to flourish, particularly during a time of challenging living costs (thanks to Walter and Carol and their teams for their oversight of this project).

Our work with pre-school children and their families is flourishing in Tiddlers (thanks to Louise, Christine, Archie & the team) and our ministry with children and young people, overseen by Sophie for over half the year until her appointment as our new Youth and Children's Ministry Leader, has seen encouraging growth and impact in our churches and schools (thanks to all those who serve and lead in these dedicated teams).

Our Connect groups (thanks to Clive and those who lead each week) have continued to nourish a hunger for God's Word, and alongside this we have begun to trial a new cell group model of discipleship which we hope will take root in the coming year (thanks to George).

Whilst our 'Parish Magazine' no longer exists (and our thanks to Michael, Barry & Ro and their team for their years of service) we now have a weekly 'Benefice Bulletin' sent electronically (with a few paper copies for those who need them) and a growing social media presence; we are grateful to Laura for overseeing this vital ministry of communication across the benefice.

Our worshipping community is also growing which is very exciting. It's been great to see longstanding members 'returning' to in-person worship and also wonderful to welcome many new members over the last year. There has been a growing sense of expectation in our worship as we have continued to cultivate an informal and contemporary service on a Sunday morning, with particular provision for our primary school age children (thanks to those who lead and teach in xcite week by week), and a more traditional evening service – both of which seek to enable us to encounter Jesus as we gather around his Word and his table, by the power of his Spirit. These acts of worship require countless numbers of people to serve in a variety of ways in order to take place: those who provide a musical lead and operate technology; those who welcome and set up our buildings; those involved in administration and hospitality, leading, preaching and caring, teaching and serving and cleaning. If you fulfil any of these roles – thank you!

Our Wardens and PCC members continue to prayerfully lead and manage our resources and direction of travel and I am grateful for the privilege of being here to lead with them into the exciting chapter ahead. I am also grateful for the support and diligent work of my administrator, Ruth.

On entering 2023, we have reminded ourselves that our mission is centred on Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus known.

Our vision for the coming 3 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

Please join me in praying for his renewal and for the growth of his kingdom in this place.

Jonathan Roberts
Rector

(i) 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 last year 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.

There have been 5 safeguarding concerns reported to me during 2022.

The Safeguarding Policies for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults were reviewed and updated on the 5 June 2022 and approved by the PCC on the 15 June 2022. Both these policies can be viewed on St Peter's Church website at www.stpetersforsbrook.org.

DBS Requirements: In 2022 the Church of England revised the renewal period for DBS Certificates from 5 years to 3 years, this now coincides with the renewal of the Safeguarding Training. However, anyone whose DBS check was completed prior to 2022, this will still be valid for the full 5 years. During 2022, 3 certificates were renewed, and 8 new certificates issued. The Church of England now require anyone serving on the PCC to hold an Enhanced DBS Check covering both the child and adult workforces. There are still 3 PCC members checks outstanding due to an administrative delay at the Diocese. The Safer Recruitment procedures outline the necessary requirements for a DBS Check to be carried out, which is dependent upon the specific role being undertaken.

Training Requirements: This year has been a busy year for training as many of our volunteers and PCC members training certificates were due for renewal. We were able to offer in-house training options on the 26 April 2022 and 30 April 2022 for both existing and some new volunteers. 19 people (including 6 from St Margaret's Church) attended over the two dates, in addition throughout 2022, 26 people completed the training using the online Church of England Training Portal. Our Rector and one of our lay readers also completed the Leadership Module which is an additional requirement for these roles.

New Volunteers: 9 new volunteers have joined the team working with our children and young people and 13 volunteers for our Warm Spaces Project. The Safer Recruitment process was followed and relevant DBS checks and the Basic and Foundation Safeguarding Training courses through the Church of England online portal completed. These volunteers are included in the statistics outlined above for both Training and any relevant DBS check.

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 2022

Update from the Treasurer

2022 was better than 2021 in the fact that St Peters 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 to an achievable target. The monies received in 2022 were from a variety of sources including generous donations from the church family at St Peters, through various grants especially for help with heating and warm spaces and through other well attended church activities that have resumed since the lockdown restrictions were removed. The Parish Share has been replaced by the common fund and was paid at the reduced amount with the support of the Diocese. There is a significant outstanding balance still owed from 2021 but has agreed to be written down over 3 years if we continue to keep up with the incremental common fund amount.

The Giving in Grace initiated towards the end of 2022 saw an increase in promised donations of £4,432 which given the current economic situation was graciously given by the church family at St Peters.

In the financial statements, a significant proportion of the youth fund has been utilised. This was owing to no grants being awarded to us for this role during this time frame. The previous Youth and Childrens Ministry Leader left the role and a new temporary consultancy position created to allow for the ministry to continue whilst more permanent funding and recruitment could be arranged. This consultancy position was financed using the accrued youth fund. We have been since 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 Rectors administrator has been secured for 2023 through kind donations of the St Peters and St Margarets community.

We did make a payment to the St Chad Charity as the grant was made prior to the Covid 2019 pandemic and the money was not spent as intended owing to the participant in the project having to return to their home country during the lockdown phase of the pandemic. As such the remaining money in the fund has been returned to the Charity and donors so that they are able to continue their mission.

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
For the year ending 31st December 2022

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 2022.

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 2022.

Appendix 1

St Peters Forsbrook PCC Statement of Financial Activities For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	25,129	12,124		37,253	32,832
Collections and other giving	7,988			7,988	194,465
Other voluntary				-	2,824
Gift Aid recovered	7,256	2,043		9,299	-
Other receipts	4,788			4,788	-
Activities for generating funds	2,470			2,470	143
Investment Income	100	267		367	118
Receipts from church activities	3,609	1,490		5,099	6,334
Total income	51,340	15,924	-	67,264	236,716
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	508			508	1,196
Missionary and Charitable giving	797	5,279		6,076	95
Parish Share	32,476			32,476	26,943
Clergy and Staffing Costs	1,306	22,597		23,903	25,302
Church running Expenses	8,767			8,767	4,354
Church Repairs and Maintenance		2,872		2,872	8,491
Governance Costs	2,657			2,657	-
Miscellaneous				-	1,238
	46,511	30,748	-	77,360	67,619
Net income / (expenditure resources before transfer	4,829	(14,824)	-	(10,096)	169,096
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - In		2,668		2,668	2,422
Gross transfers between funds - Out					

Other recognised gains/losses

Gain/losses on investment assets
Gains on revaluation, Fixed assets
charity's own use

Net Movement in funds	4,829	(12,156)	(7,327)	12,937
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds Brought Forward	884	234,498	235,382	62,213
Total Funds Carried Forward	4,829	222,342	227,171	235,382

Appendix 2**St Peters Forsbrook****2022 Balance Sheet (Summary)**

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
<u>Current assets</u>		
Cash at Bank and in hand	227,177	235,382
Total net Current Assets	<u>227,177</u>	<u>235,382</u>
<u>Less: Current liabilities</u>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	-	(15,690)
	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>227,177</u>	<u>219,692</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>227,177</u>	<u>219,692</u>
Less: Long term Liabilities	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>227,177</u>	<u>219,692</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	4,827	1,691
Designated funds:		
- Christians against poverty	1,815	535
- Friendship group/messy		476
- Rectors PA	2,734	1,658
- Tiddlers group	299	766
- Service Book Fund	1,262	1,262
- Social Committee Emergency Fund	-	-
-Parish Magazine	1,838	1,838
Designated Sub-Total	<u>7,948</u>	<u>6,535</u>
Restricted Funds:		
-Henry Smith Grant	-	746
-Youth Account	13,624	21,895
- St Chads Volunteer	-	2,192
- Choir Robes	1,041	1,024
-F Jones and B Spencer Fund (music)	626	616
- Organ Fund	527	519

- Illuminated Cross Appeal	480	480
- Roy Harvey Fund	187,679	189,413
-Building Fund	<u>10,425</u>	<u>10,271</u>
Restricted Sub-Total	<u>214,402</u>	<u>227,156</u>
Restricted plus Designated Sub-Total	<u>222,350</u>	<u>233,691</u>
Funds of the church	<u>227,177</u>	<u>235,382</u>

Appendix 3

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid Collections	25,129	1,915	7,230	-	34,274	31,121
0110 - Non-Gift Aid Collections Direct Debit/Standing Order	-	896	2,083	-	2,979	1,711
0301 - Loose Plate Collections	7,588	-	-	-	7,588	3,696
0550 - Donations over £20	-	-	-	-	0	0
0701 - Legacies	400	-	-	-	400	190,619
Donations and legacies Totals	33,117	2,811	9,313	0	45,241	227,146
Income from charitable activities						
1111 - Messy Church Income	-	450	-	-	450	150
1113 - Youth Activities - Residential and Others	-	-	720	-	720	360.00
1555 - Friendship Group	-	-	-	-	0	0
1556 - Tiddlers Group	-	60	-	-	60	275
1557 - Poverty Relief	-	360	-	-	360	360
Income from charitable activities Totals	0	870	720	0	1590	1,145.00
Other trading activities						
1250 - Magazine	-	-	-	-	0	143
Other trading activities Totals	0	0	0	0	0	143
Investments						

1020 - Bank and Building Society Interest	-		267		267	18
1030 - Rent - Lands and Buildings	100	-	-	-	100	99
Investments Totals	100	0	267	0	367	118
Other income						
0601 - Gift Aid Recovered	7256.26	330	1713	-	9299.26	0
0801 - Recurring Grants	-	-	-	-	0	0
08A1 - Non-Recurring one-off grants	2470	-	-	-	2470	150
0901 - Other Funds Generated	4688.52	-	-	-	4688.52	2,824
1101 - Fees Weddings and Funerals	3608	-	-	-	3608	5,189
1234 - Worship Resources	-	-	-	-	0	0
Other income Totals	18,023	330	1,713	0	20,066	8,163
Income and endowments Grand totals	51,240	4,011	12,013	0	67,264	236,715

Expenditure on:

Raising funds

1730 - Costs of Fetes and other Events	507.97	-	-	-	507.97	240
2501 - Magazine Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raising funds Totals	507.97	0	0	0	507.97	240

Expenditure on charitable activities

1112 - Messy Church Resources	-	322.86	-	-	322.86	-
1115 - Youth Activities	-	-	2,516.29	-	2516.29	1889
1801 - Giving to Missionary Societies	265	2192	-	-	2457	50
2340 - Worship Resources Literature	531.67	-	-	-	531.67	233
2556 - Tiddlers Resources	-	248.36	-	-	248.36	599.69
2557 - Poverty Relief	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	796.67	2763.22	2516.29	0	6076.18	2771.69

Other expenditure

1114 - Discipleship Hosting	-	-	-	-	-	-
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1910 - Ministry Common Fund etc..	32,476	-	-	-	32,476	26,943
2050 - Youth Worker	-	-	-	16,741	16,741	18,920
2051 - Salaries - Other	-	5,856	-	-	5,856	5,142
2101 - Clergy Expenses	1,306	-	-	-	1,306	721
2130 - Vicarage expenses	-	-	-	-	0	519
2150 - Vicars Telephone	-	-	-	-	-	704
2201 - Parish Training and Mission	234	-	-	-	234	405
2301 - Church Running - Insurance	2,537	-	-	-	2,537	2,585
2310 - Church Office Expenses Paper, Post, Printer	492	-	-	-	492	236
2320 - Organ/Piano Tuning	-	-	-	764	764	576
2340 - Worship Resources Literature	-	-	-	-	0	403
2330 - Church Maintenance	0	2,208	-	-	2,208	1,798
2341 - Worship Resources - Communion	90	-	-	-	90	-
2342 - Worship Resources - Licences	900	-	-	-	900	767
2370 - IT Expenses	1,155	-	-	-	1,155	889
2401 - Church Running - Electricity	1,025	-	-	-	1,025	421
2410 - Church Running - Gas	3,234	-	-	-	3,234	1,692
2721 - Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,757	-	-	-	1,757	2,993
Other expenditure Totals	45,206	8,064	17,505	0	70,775	64,607
Expenditure Grand totals	46,511	10,827	20,022	0	77,360	74,726

Appendix 4

St Peters Forsbrook PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st Dec 2022

Cash at bank and in hand

001D: CCLA 620161001D - Asset	Type	Balance	Previous Balance
Service Book Fund	Designated	659	649
002D: CCLA 620161002D - Asset			
Choir Robes	Restricted	1041	1,026
003D: CCLA 620161003D - Asset			
Building Fund	Restricted	10425	10,271
004D: CCLA 620161004D - Asset			
Frank James and Bert Spencer	Restricted	626	617
005D: CCLA 620161005D - Asset			
Building Fund	Restricted	-	-
006D: CCLA 620161006D - Asset			
Youth Worker	Restricted	4782	4,711
007D: CCLA 620161007D - Asset			
Organ Fund	Restricted	527	519
61468702: Bank account - Asset			
General Fund	General	2,016	884
Designated Funds	Designated	10,580	9,353
Restricted Funds	Restricted	196,521	207,352
	Cash at bank and in hand	227,177	235,382

Liabilities

Agency Collections

Parish Share Due	-	15690
	<hr/>	
Total Liabilities	-	15690
	<hr/>	
Grand Total	227,177	219,692
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Independent Examiner's Report

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 2022, 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.

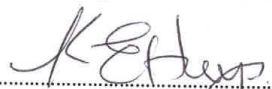
Independent Examiner's Statement

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: 

Date: 16 May 2023

Name: Karen Elizabeth Hays

Address: 10a The Fillybrooks
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 0DJ

6. Fabric - Building & Grounds Group

The year started with proposals for car park resurfacing and works to the organ under consideration due to funding from the Roy Harvey Legacy. Priorities changed later in the year; the car park was seen as a big drain on the legacy fund; the organ was perceived as only needing regular maintenance together with occasional upgrades; and other priorities came to the fore.

The first priority is now lighting and electrical rewiring, especially following an electrical failure during a service. This is to be followed by audio/visual improvements. Church decoration, the outside noticeboard and the welcome room floor were also to be progressed. The only project with concrete action was the noticeboard, which was ordered. The lighting and wiring project has proved to be quite complex and time consuming.

The only improvement was a replacement of the motion sensor light outside of the porch. There was also the regular maintenance of the grounds, mainly weeding and pruning around the car park.

Group members: Archie Archibald; Andy Berry; Alison Fuller; and Brian Sammons.

Brian Sammons
Building and Grounds Co-ordinator

7. Deanery Synod Report

Your Deanery Synod Representatives are Laura Hulse, Mick Smith, and Neil (Archie) Archibald. Deanery Synod has been busy. Led by our Chair, Rev Michael Follin, and Lay Chair, Sylvia Bainbridge, we receive regular updates about Shaping for Mission, which is the Diocesan initiative to drive onwards with discipleship, vocation and evangelism at the heart of everything we do as churches. There's a particular focus on our gifts, strengths and opportunities within and across Deaneries.

In April 2022 Revd Dr Megan Smith (Archdeacon of Stoke) held a Q&A session with the Synod. In October Revd Mike Bridgewater delivered an interesting talk about dementia and how we can improve the experiences of people living with dementia in our churches.

On Saturday 24th July 2023, St Peter's will be hosting a special Deanery Event: A Prayer and Worship Workshop. Book your place now! We would also appreciate volunteers to lend a hand with setting up the building, turning it back round ready for Sunday worship, and of course helping with refreshments!

If you would ever like to know more about what's happening at Synod, then please look out for updates on the weekly Bulletin or speak to us in church.

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