



St. Peter's Church
Live for Christ, Advance the Gospel

Registered Charity 1133803

Church Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6UR

www.ardinglychurch.co.uk

**The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of**

St. Peter's Church, Ardingly

**Annual Parish Meeting
and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**To be held on
Tuesday 21 May 2024
At 7pm**

**in
St. Peter's Church Centre
Ardingly**



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Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St. Peter's, Ardingly.

All members of the electoral roll are entitled to attend and participate in this meeting, where we review the workings and the finances of the parish over 2023 and vote for the election of church wardens and PCC members. This is your opportunity to ask questions and participate in the running of your church community.





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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 21 May 2024

in St Peter's Church Centre, Ardingly

At

7pm

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- ♦ Report of the Secretary to the PCC.
- ♦ Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- ♦ Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.
- ♦ Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
- ♦ Report on Community and Mission.
- ♦ Sides persons and Welcomers.
- ♦ Supporting St. Peter's Church and raising funds.



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Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 21 May 2024

in St Peter's Church Centre, Ardingly

At 7pm

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive and adopt the minutes of the APM held on 16 May 2023.
3. To elect the Church Wardens of the Parish.
4. To consider any other business.
5. Close.



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Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Tuesday 16 May 2023

at St. Peter's Church Centre at 7.00pm

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 16 parishioners present.

Also in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater, G McBain.

Apologies for absence were received from G Ruse, C Grossman, K James, A Collins, A Ettridge, S Laker, G Doerr, K Marshall and J & M Veasey.

2. Approval of last minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2022 were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

It was proposed by John Witherington, seconded by Mervyn James that the minutes be so adopted, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.

3. Election of Church Wardens

There were two nominations for the position of Church warden: Nigel Cheater and John Witherington. It was confirmed that nomination forms for both candidates had been received and had been correctly completed and signed.

It was proposed that John and Nigel be appointed as church wardens, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.

John and Nigel were both thanked for their hard work on behalf of St. Peter's.

John has been liaising with the architects regarding the tower and the west window and in obtaining the necessary specifications in order to get tenders for repairs. John has also been overseeing the maintenance of the graveyard. Nigel, among other things, continues to maintain the technology for the sound and vision electronics in church along with the successful zoom service.

Both John and Nigel were given a vote of thanks for their continued hard work.

4. Any other Business

There was no other business to consider.

5. Close

The meeting was formally closed at 7.06 pm.

Jane Taylor Cheater

Secretary to the PCC, St Peter's Church, Ardingly



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

21 May 2024

At St. Peter's Church Centre, Ardingly
At 7.10 pm

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the APCM held on 16 May 2023.
3. To receive and approve the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.
4. To appoint PCC Secretary.
5. To receive the report of the Church wardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.
6. To receive a report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
7. To receive a report on the Church Centre.
8. To receive a report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
9. To receive a report on Community and Mission.
10. To elect PCC Members.
11. To appoint Sides persons and welcomers
12. To appoint the Auditor for the forthcoming year.
13. To receive the report of the Chairman.
14. To consider any other business.
15. Close

Notes:

All Reports and Minutes are included in this booklet.

The circulated reports will be taken as read prior to the meeting. They will be briefly introduced and there will be an opportunity for questions.



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held on Tuesday 16 May 2023
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at 7.10pm.

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 16 parishioners present.
Also in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater, G McBain.

Apologies for absence were received from G Ruse, C Grossman, K James, A Collins, A Ettridge, S Laker, G Doerr, K Marshall and J & M Veasey.

2. Approval of last minutes

Copies of the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 10 May 2022 were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

It was proposed by Jonathan Summers, seconded by Gina Paul that the minutes be so adopted, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.

3. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Copies of the financial statements and notes to the accounts were circulated prior to the meeting.

Deb Ruse proposed, and Belinda Mclean seconded that the accounts be duly adopted. This resolution was passed unanimously by show of hands.

Sally was thanked for her work in overseeing the finances and to Jean for all her work on the day-to-day management of the church's finances as Treasurer. Sally and Jean were given a round of applause from those present to show their appreciation.

- St. Peter's is very fortunate to have generous and passionate givers
- Gift Aid is now being claimed regularly.
- Regular giving is quite stable and have also received some large bequests and donations towards the West window.
- The Diocese levies a charge on each parish known as the Parish Share. This covers the cost of ministry (stipends, pension etc) plus the administration costs of the Diocese (training, youth work etc). Currently St. Peter's is not paying 100% of this charge as this would leave very little to cover the costs of ministry in the parish. We have pledged to pay 75% in 2023 with the aim of paying 80% next year.

Continued



- One of the utility fixed rate charges comes to the end of its term. The current annual cost is currently in the region of £850 and the likely increased cost will be £2,500.
- It is hoped that getting out into the village for services at Hapstead Hall and the Recreation Ground will help to raise the church's profile.
- There is a visual display that help to explain the finances available and will be on display at the back of the church.

4. Appointment of PCC Secretary

The meeting was asked to agree to the appointment of Jane Taylor Cheater who has indicated that she was willing to continue in the role as secretary. It was proposed by Sally Crutchley and seconded by Deb Ruse that Jane Taylor Cheater be appointed as secretary, and this was unanimously agreed by show of hands.

Jane was thanked for all her hard work for the PCC and other projects.

5. Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The architect has now been given a deadline for the preparation of the specifications so that the work needed on the West Window can be put out for tender.

6. Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was reiterated that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and that if anyone has a safeguarding concern or doubt it should be reported to either John C or Jane.

Those present were asked to keep Colin Perkins, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and his safeguarding team in their prayers for the important job they do and the difficult matters they handle.

7. Report on the Church Centre

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

There is currently a chimney in need of urgent attention due to water leaking. Advice has been sought from the County Council as the building is Grade II listed and an estimate for repairs obtained.

A longer-term issue exists with the roof which has worn tiles which are slipping in places.

Thanks were given to Jill for her work in monitoring and caring for the centre.

8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Mervyn reported that this was his first year as a Synod representative and that he had found meetings to be thought provoking and had met some very interesting people through the meetings.

Deanery Synod meetings are open to all, and the next meeting is to be held in June 2023.



9. Report from the Community and Mission Sub-committee

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- Sue Laker is very happy to receive details of events to be included in the weekly NewsLink to be circulated with other Church notices.
- It was agreed that Zoom was now firmly established as part of the 10.30am Sunday service. This service keeps people connected if they cannot be present in church and also has a regular number of users.
- There are regular visits to St. Peter's CE School and the Year 6 leavers are presented with a Bible at the Leavers service.
- Angels and Urchins continues to flourish and is an important meeting place for new parents to meet other parents. At present around 10-15 children attend weekly.
- Advent in Ardingly has now been active since 2020 and provides a good focus between harvest and Christmas.
- It was noted a local GP has referred people to At Your Service for support, so this service is working and important to those who need help.
- Meeting Point continues to meet regularly and remains an important point of community outreach.
- The open-air services are very well received, and John was praised for taking the church out into the community.

10. To elect PCC members

Nominations for election to the PCC had been received from the following.

Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Deb Ruse	C Grossman	M Page
Mervyn James	J Witherington	G Paul
Nigel Cheater	S Laker	J Jeffery
Jill Veasey	G Doerr	S Laker
Georgina Paul	S Laker	C Grossman

The meeting voted unanimously by show of hands to elect all nominees to the PCC.

11. Appointment of Sides persons and Welcomers

A list of sides persons was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the list of sides persons and welcomers and John W agreed to produce a new rota.

12. Appointment of Auditor

Matthew Hunt of MPH and Associates had agreed to be the independent External Examiner of the financial accounts and records of the church. Nigel Cheater proposed, and Sally Crutchley seconded the motion that Matthew Hunt be appointed as independent examiner. This was agreed unanimously by show of hands and Matthew was thanked for the time and effort he donates in examining the accounts.



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13. Report of the Chairman

A copy of the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The report having been circulated prior to the meeting, John welcomed comments and questions from those present.

John stated that his mission was for the church get away from being isolated at the end of the village and to be seen among the village. There was also a need to consider tackling loneliness among those in the village. It was noted that using the church building as a warm space had been considered but it was too expensive to warm the building sufficiently.

The open air services were proving successful and it was felt important to build on these to make connection with and engage those who may come to the services but not to church. Some ideas were suggested for consideration.

14. Any Other Business

Margaret Dale thanked John for all his hard work for the parish and for his effort in producing the services, the presentations and music all of which are very much appreciated. Those present gave John a round of applause to show their appreciation of his hard work.

John noted that he was well supported by a good team and thanked everyone for their efforts.

15. Close

John thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, Grace was said, and the meeting was formally closed at 8.17 pm.

Jane Taylor Cheater
Secretary to the PCC



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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT

OF

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF

ST PETER'S CHURCH, ARDINGLY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1133803

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

Trustees Annual Report

Statement of financial receipts and payments

Statement of assets and liabilities

Notes to the accounts.

Report of the independent examiner

Website: www.ardinglychurch.org.uk

Incumbent: The Reverend John H Crutchley

The Rectory, Church Lane, Ardingly RH17 6UR

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Walthamstow Branch



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During the year ended 31 December 2023, the following people served as members of the parochial church council ("PCC"):

Incumbent:	The Reverend John Crutchley	Chairman
Ex officio members:	Mr John Witherington	Reader
Church Wardens:	Mr Nigel Cheater Mr John Witherington	Vice-Chairman
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Mrs Jill Veasey Mr Mervyn James	
Elected members:	Mrs Carol Grossman Mrs Deb Ruse Mrs Jill Veasey Miss Sue Laker Mrs Gina Paul Mr Mervyn James Mrs Glynis Doerr	
Co-opted member:	Mrs Esther Wigmore	(From May 2023)
Secretary to the PCC and Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Jane Taylor Cheater	

ST PETER'S ARDINGLY - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

OUR AIMS AND PURPOSES AS A CHARITY

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd John Crutchley, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.



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WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND HOW WE AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES' LIVES

Attendance at Worship

With New Year's Day falling on a Sunday we were able to begin 2023 together in church and by 'praying-in' the New Year in our Sunday worship. Praise and prayers for the local community were followed by the usual New Years' walk and lunch; an event enjoyed by many both in the church family and in the wider village community. Church attendance has remained very settled across the year. Happily we have been joined by some new and now regular attendees at our services and whilst we are a smaller gathering than we should prefer, we are in excellent heart and a church that offers a warmth of welcome to all those who visit whether to join in our regular praise and worship, or for baptism, weddings or funerals, or even simply to enjoy our beautiful 14th Century church building for a moment of peace and quiet reflection. A sample from the comments in the Visitors Book are testament to this: 'Lovely and peaceful;' 'What a lovely peaceful place;' 'Fantastic church for a return visit;' 'The free biscuits and water are a lovely touch!' The first comment to be written in 2023 is one that we really need to hold close and include in our mission action statement: ['Lovely. Keep it alive!'](#)

**A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH. AN OASIS OF
PEACE.**

A CHURCH VISITOR – MAY 2023

And across the year we have worked hard to do just that, to 'keep it alive.' The regular weekly services have been enhanced and improved by the use of recorded/video led music in our worship and praise. This has not been exclusive, and we have continued to benefit from 'live' music led by keyboard, drums, guitar and vocals and of course by our marvellous organ on occasions. However, the combination of the two allows flexibility in our worship and ensures that we can continue to worship well, week on week without too much demand being placed upon any one person. All in all we have praised well, prayed well and learned well allowing our worship and God's Word to empower us in our mission and in the service of our community. We also learned the positive lessons about the use of technology that 'lock-down' had to teach and so have continued to maintain a Zoom link to our main service each Sunday throughout the year. This has attracted some who now see it as their weekly church attendance, facilitating their church attendance when there are so many other competing demands, including work demands across what is nowadays a seven-day timetable for so many. But it has also enabled others who may want to be in church in person but who are restricted by ill-health or disability to remain a part of our worshipping community and church family. We have developed this across the year with better cameras allowing ever more participation in the service by those joining via Zoom. Thanks in this regard must go particularly to Nigel Cheater, one of our churchwardens, who quite rightly received the recognition his efforts deserve when in September he was awarded the Order of St Richard by the Bishop of Chichester.

LOVELY. KEEP IT




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We have always recognised that our remote location within our rural parish presents a major challenge. Whilst the church builders back in the fourteenth century built the church at the heart of the village, both geographically and spiritually, the geographical centre of the village has now moved leaving the church building a little distant. To counter this and to keep the church as a spiritual heart that welcomes all we have built upon other lessons learned from 'lock-down' by taking some of our services out of the church building and holding them instead on the Recreation Ground in the centre of the village. A walk of witness leading to one such service on Good Friday drew attention from many. And the provision of hot-cross buns and coffee after the service the attention of even more! As usual the Easter services that then followed saw us welcome many new folk both from within the village and among those visiting for the holidays.



**THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A PRAYER
AT THE PLACE MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE
MARRIED IN 1818.**

A VISITOR FROM AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER 2023

A prayer vigil for the King and Queen Consort (as she then was) on the eve of the Coronation, and a service of Celebration for the Coronation held on the Recreation Ground and an afternoon tea provided by the church for all of those engaged in the King's 'Big Help Out' following the Coronation are among the many ways that we have tried to engage and serve all in the village. The harvest service followed by a lunch for all is another example, as is the annual Service of All Souls now held in the church graveyard and attracting three times the number of people usually expected for a similar service held in the church. The best example is perhaps the annual Service of Remembrance. Held in the open and with our local uniform groups in attendance, wreaths were laid in remembrance by both Parish and District Council representatives. This service has seen a growth in numbers attending in each year since we decided to hold the service as we now do, that is outside and on the Recreation Ground. We now see more younger people attending the service and many more from across our community who may previously not have thought about attending a church service for Remembrance. It is a good example of how we are striving to make our services more accessible and so to actively demonstrate our heartfelt call to support and work for our entire community.

A year that began in prayer for the community on New Year's Day came to its close in prayer with the community and as we celebrated Christmas. Again, we sought to serve our village by working together with the local Parish Council to lead a Christingle service around the oak tree in the village. The tree is always illuminated at Christmas with the lights being turned on after the Christmas Fair. The Christingle service then followed and was attended by a very large number of people of all ages and from all across the village. Looking back on the evening afterwards a member of the Parish Council wrote: 'Well done Ardingly.' Well done indeed. It was a great evening that set us up for our annual Carols by Candlelight Service the following week which was also very well attended and then our Crib and Carol service which once again saw the church overflowing with worshippers on Christmas Eve. This was a great start to a beautiful Christmas that saw us welcome many to our services.



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AS NIGHT FELL UPON ARDINGLY, ST. PETER'S CHURCH TOOK CENTRE STAGE, LEADING A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AND CAROL SINGING. IT WAS A HEART-WARMING EXPERIENCE THAT BROUGHT VILLAGERS TOGETHER IN SONG AND REFLECTION.

ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL MEDIA REPORT

Evangelism and Outreach

The pattern of services is now settled around a traditional celebration of Holy Communion using the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer at 9.00am each Sunday. The 10.30am service follows a monthly pattern of a Morning Praise [Service of the Word] service on the first Sunday of each month; a service of Holy Communion using the liturgy of Common Worship Order One on the second Sunday; a service of Morning Praise [Service of the Word] on a Third Sunday; and a further service of Holy Communion [Common Worship Order One] on the fourth Sunday which includes each month an opportunity for prayer for healing and wholeness. Where the month includes a fifth Sunday, the main service is now usually a service of Morning Praise [Service of the Word] service. There is one evening service on the first Sunday in each month. This is called 'Open to God' and it attracts a committed congregation with a variety of services including Compline, Evening Prayer and Holy Communion. In whatever format 'Open to God' is intended as a moment of peaceful reflection at the end of the day.

Evangelism and outreach is driven by our desire to connect with and to serve the community of which we are a part. To this end, our weekly services are only a part of what we do. All true mission begins with the establishment of good and loving relationships, so we have endeavoured to build good links across the village, with the Parish Council, with our neighbours on the Showground, with Ardingly Connected Together and with our schools – both primary school and Ardingly College. Our thanks have to go to our friends at the College who do the photocopying for our parish magazine each month. A vital village resource. We enjoy very close links with our local Church of England Primary school. Three members of the church serve as foundation governors on the school's governing body (one is a highly effective chair of the governing body) and the Rector leads a school assembly each week of term time. In addition, services have been held in church for pupils, staff and families in celebration of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. And in the Summer a special service is held for those leaving the school as they move on to secondary education with each leaver being presented with a bible. This is a tradition that we have followed in every year since 2007.

'Meeting Point,' organized and led by church family members, meets every other week in the centre of the village drawing together a dedicated group of mainly older people for coffee, cake and above all fellowship. 'Angels and Urchins' established and run by the church and led by church members meets weekly in school term time providing a much-needed gathering place for those caring for very young children. With toys and games, singing, and of course coffee, tea and refreshments, it is a very important amenity serving a huge need within the village.



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'At your Service,' also established and run by church members offers lifts to appointments, help with shopping and other small acts of 'domestic service' to any in the village who need support. The importance of what it offers has been recognised by local GP's who have referred some in need to its service. And the church has been pleased to provide financial support to Ardingly Connected Together a village wide group in all its work among those in need in our village. Each of these groups in their own way bring support to our community and tackle the ever-growing problems of loneliness and isolation that are experienced by so many, young and old alike.

We also look beyond our village in trying to assist and support others. Each year we dedicate our Christmas giving to support both the work of the Children's Society and that of 'Off the Fence' – a Brighton based charity that works with the homeless.



IT WAS LOVELY THAT THE CHURCH WAS OPEN AND I STOOD AT THE DOORWAY AND
SOAKED IN THE ATMOSPHERE. MY VERY MUDDY BOOTS WERE THE REASON I DIDN'T
VENTURE FARTHER IN BUT I SAID A PRAYER WHILE I STOOD THERE.

THE CHURCH LOOKED AMAZING IN HOW IT HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR EASTER AND THE
PERFUME OF THE FLOWERS WAS WONDERFUL.

A CHURCH VISITOR AT EASTER

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

The Rector is assisted in the pastoral care for people living in the village by two pastoral care assistants, who have completed a diocesan organized training course and who have been approved in their work by the bishop. In addition, we have a team of church members who give their time and energies caring, listening, and helping people in the church family and wider village community. The Rector is also assisted by a Reader, John Witherington to whom thanks need to go for his leading of our services, for his informed and challenging preaching and for his tireless work as a churchwarden. He is a great asset to our parish.



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Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers.

Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. There were two baptisms in 2023, seven funerals in church, one funeral conducted at a crematorium and two burials of ashes. Most teaching is offered through our weekly sermons which seek to explore God's word, to apply it, to bridge the context and explain its contemporary significance. This is built upon in home groups. A large number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, lending great encouragement to those involved, as well as the whole congregation.

WE ALL WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS FOR TODAY, WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PERFECT, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY WHAT MUM WOULD HAVE WANTED. MANY PEOPLE COMMENTED ON WHAT A TRULY LOVELY SERVICE IT WAS.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy.

It has always been important to us that the church is available for private prayer not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end the church building is open daily and the many entries in the Visitors' Book testify to the benefit this brings. It is a joy to welcome so many visitors, from the village and from across the UK, and also from overseas.

In July we were pleased to welcome The Monumental Brass Society who held both their annual meeting and a general meeting in the church as they focussed upon the 'Culpepper' brasses.

Many of those who visit remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and spirituality the church pervades. Other remarks include the sense of history within; that people of much earlier generations found life and presence there. There are also many comments on and appreciation of the architectural beauty of the building and biblical archaeology.

CAME HERE TO SEE MY FOURTEENTH CENTURY GREAT GRANDPARENTS, RICHARD AND ELIZABETH CULPEPPER, BURIED IN THIS CHURCH. THE CULPEPPERS. MY FAMILY!

A VISITOR TO THE CHURCH JUNE 2023



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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Unrestricted incoming and outgoing resources

The PCC is grateful to be able to record that planned giving via direct debits remained at almost the same level as the previous year 2022. Planned giving via the parish Giving Scheme remained constant and this method continues to be the preferred mechanism for the congregation to give. It is an extremely helpful way of managing cash flow and allows for gift aid to be paid to us at the time the gift is made.

For other donations, gift aid is claimed on a quarterly basis and total gift aid from these unrestricted donations amounted to £6,682.23. This is lower than in 2022 as claims for gift aid were brought up to date during that year. Thanks in particular to some generous additional donations, unrestricted giving was over £4000 higher than in 2022.

Income received via the envelope scheme continued to fall and now only a small minority of the congregation use this method. The "Tap" machine located near the entrance of the church continues to grow in popularity, averaging approximately £120 per month throughout 2023 – an increase of 70% on 2022.

Lettings of the Church Centre remained steady compared to 2022, though income was down due to the late payment of one regular user. This meant that, when taken in isolation, there was a significant increase in deficit (42%) compared to 2022 (15%).

The PCC remains most grateful for the continued generosity of those who faithfully give to the Church and their resilience in continuing to do so with all the financial challenges we currently face.

Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £59,096 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. In 2023, we pledged to pay 75% of the amount asked by the Diocese. This was an increase of 5% of that paid in 2022. The Diocese are conscious of the financial pressures facing both individuals and congregations and have once again expressed their extreme gratitude to Parishes who have been able to meet their pledged giving in these financially challenging times.

Overall, the unrestricted spend for the year was £82,001.

Restricted Income and Expenditure

Note 10 shows a breakdown of income and expenditure by fund.

The largest expenditure over the year was in respect of the repair work that is needed to the West Window and Tower. This largely relates to preparatory work that was necessary to obtain quotations, etc and this was all met from restricted gifts. Other significant expenditure was in relation to church maintenance and upkeep of the graveyard. In 2023, a grant of £500 was again received from the Parish Council towards the cost of maintaining the graveyard. All other costs are met by the church family itself.

Just under £5,500 was received in the year, which includes gift aid receipts.

The total value of restricted funds at the end of 2023 was £39,661 and this figure includes the Burgess Trust.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of St Peter's to aim to return to a surplus in the year and to transfer to reserves an amount equal to or less than this surplus. The objective is to provide for future years where a deficit has been returned. Current reserves are £15,000 and have been maintained for 2023. It is the policy of St Peter's to invest these funds on a short-term basis with CBF Church of England deposit fund.



St. Peter's Church

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Balance Sheet

As At 31 December 2023

Unrestricted	As At 31/12/2023 £	As At 31/12/2022 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1.00	1.00
Heritage Assets	150,913.83	150,913.83
Investments	5,068.56	4,632.70
	<u>155,983.39</u>	<u>155,547.53</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	71,688.28	73,139.39
	<u>71,688.28</u>	<u>73,139.39</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>71,688.28</u>	<u>73,139.39</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>227,671.67</u>	<u>228,686.92</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>227,671.67</u>	<u>228,686.92</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds		
Unrestricted—General Fund	22,115.83	23,339.53
Designated Funds		
Designated—General Funds	15,000.00	15,000.00
Designated—Church Centre Capital	150,914.83	150,914.83
Restricted Funds		
Restricted—Village Discretionary Fund	640.50	393.00
Restricted—Youth Worker Fund	7,411.12	7,411.12
Restricted—Church Centre Upgrade Fund	1,640.85	2,181.89
Restricted—Mission Fund	344.49	344.49
Restricted—Other Restricted Funds	845.18	1,086.99
Restricted—West Window and Tower Fund	16,135.30	17,315.30
Restricted—Church Maintenance Fund	6,339.93	4,906.93
Restricted—Burgess Trust Fund	6,283.64	5,792.84
	<u>227,671.67</u>	<u>228,686.92</u>
Funds of the Church	<u>227,671.67</u>	<u>228,686.92</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	General & Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and Endowments</i>				
Donations and Legacies	72,258.23	5,319.51	77,577.74	67,007.24
Income from charitable activities	3,095.00	-	3,095.00	2,475.00
Other trading activities	4,934.85	-	4,934.85	6,406.00
Investments	421.90	177.34	599.24	323.10
Other income	71.10	-	71.10	-
<i>Total Income</i>	80,781.08	5,496.85	86,277.93	76,211.34
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	82,001.28	4,360.44	86,361.72	76,116.57
Other expenditure	3.50	1,363.82	1,367.32	1,534.28
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	82,004.78	5,724.26	87,729.04	77,650.85
<i>Net expenditure before transfers</i>	-1,223.70	-227.41	-1,451.11	-1,439.51
<i>Transfers</i>				
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<i>Other recognised gains/losses</i>				
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charities own use	-	435.86	435.86	-618.11
<i>Net movements in funds</i>	-1,223.70	208.45	-1,015.25	-618.11
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>				
Total funds brought forward	189,254.36	39,432.56	228,686.92	230,744.54
Total funds carried forward	188,030.66	39,641.01	227,671.67	228,686.92

For further breakdown of income see Note 2,
For further breakdown of expenditure see Note 3



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared, as far as applicable, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, Charity Law, Financial Reporting Standards and the current SORP, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRSSE), effective 1st January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and the revaluation of fixed assets. 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 affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b) Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds – general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds - i) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest;
ii) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis and accounted for gross.

Voluntary Income

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the tax is recovered. Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.

Income from investments

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

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is received.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investment is sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation on 31 December.

d) Resources used

Resources expended are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis and are accounted for gross.

Grants

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

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

e) Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar 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 but are not included in the accounts. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since 2000 have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their useful economic life (see note (d)).

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £5,000 are written off on the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful life. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixture and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	30% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values as high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

f) Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

Analysis of Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Note 2

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
<i>Donations and legacies</i>					
0100 Planned giving GA	11,990.45	-	40.50	12,030.95	11,970.00
0110 Planned giving non-GA	35,176.40	-	-	35,176.40	35,002.30
0120 Envelope Scheme GA	383.00	-	-	383.00	669.00
0140 Church collections GA	2,545.49	-	-	2,545.49	2,272.20
0150 Church collections non-GA	30.43	-	-	30.43	-
0160 Donations GA	11,200.00	-	3,970.00	15,170.00	3,153.93
0170 Donations non GA	3,500.22	-	80.00	3,580.22	1,727.66
0180 Gift Aid tax recovered	6,682.23	-	229.01	6,911.24	9,373.05
0190 Legacies and endowments	-	-	-	-	-
0200 Fund-raising (non trading) income	-	-	-	-	165.00
0220 Special collections	667.64	-	-	667.64	1,964.76
0230 Grants received	-	-	500.00	500.00	540.00
0390 Other donations	82.37	-	500.00	582.37	169.34
Donations and legacies Total	72,258.23	-	5,319.51	77,577.74	67,007.24
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
0400 Fees for services	3,095.00	-	-	3,095.00	2,475.00
Total Income from charitable activities	3,095.00	-	-	3,095.00	2,475.00
<i>Other trading activities</i>					
0500 Centre hire	4,276.00	-	-	4,276.00	5,679.00
0510 Magazine income	259.50	-	-	259.50	359.00
0520 Sale of goods for fundraising	399.35	-	-	399.35	368.00
Total Other trading activities	4,934.85	-	-	4,934.85	6,406.00
<i>Investments</i>					
0600 Deposit interest received	421.90	-	-	421.90	170.89
0610 Investment interest received	-	-	177.34	177.34	152.21
	421.90	-	177.34	599.24	323.10
<i>Other Income</i>					
0790 Other income	71.10	-	-	71.10	-
Total Other incomes	71.10	-	-	71.10	-
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	80,781.08	-	5,496.85	86,277.93	76,211.34



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

Analysis of Expenditure

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Note 3

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure					
Raising Funds Totals	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities					
220 Parish contribution	59,096.00	-	-	59,096.00	53,877.00
2210 Charitable giving	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	10.00
2220 Church utilities	1,824.88	-	-	1,824.88	1,472.41
2230 Church service expenses	1,427.11	-	-	1,427.11	2,076.09
2240 Church maintenance and equipment	5,796.89	-	3,447.00	9,243.89	3,541.20
2250 Rectory expenses	4,142.26	-	-	4,142.26	4,483.90
2260 Rector's expenses	1,410.67	-	-	1,410.67	1,282.55
2290 Administrative expenses	157.99	-	122.40	280.39	81.99
2300 Children and young people	155.21	-	-	155.21	699.43
2320 Giving from special collections	667.64	-	250.00	917.64	1,994.36
2330 Gifts made	-	-	-	-	200.00
2600 Centre utilities costs	4,036.64	-	-	4,036.64	3,453.56
2610 Centre running costs	1,198.79	-	-	1,198.79	1,080.75
2620 Centre maintenance and equipment	837.20	-	541.04	1,378.24	1,863.33
2650 Magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	82,001.28	-	4,360.44	86,361.72	76,116.57
Other expenditure					
2990 Other expenditure	3.50	-	1,363.82	1,367.32	1,534.28
Total Other expenditure	3.50	-	1,363.82	1,367.32	1,534.28
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	82,004.78	-	5,724.26	87,729.04	77,650.85
TOTAL OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-1,223.70	-	-227.41	-1,451.11	-1,439.51



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Staff Costs

No-one was employed by the PCC during the year and there were no transactions in respect of PCC members, or persons closely connected to them or other related persons.

5 Analysis of transfer between funds

See Note 10.

6 Fixed Assets

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or Valuation	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Church Equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
Additions/disposals/revaluations	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	-	-
Provided in year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2023	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
At 31 December 2022	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83

As a freehold building, according to the PCC accounting policies, the value of the church centre is not subject to depreciation.

The Church Centre was insured for losses up to £2,960,000 inclusive of buildings and contents, although the building is carried on the balance sheet at its cost.

b) Investments

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Market value at 1 January 2023	4,632.70	5,250.81
Increase/(2022 Decrease) in market value	435.86	-618.11
Market value at 31 December 2023	5,068.56	4,632.70

An investment is held by the Diocesan Board of Finance (G L Burgess Trust) as CBF Investment Fund (Income) Shares the income from which is restricted to be used for the maintenance of church notice boards or similar communication-related items.



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

7 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Fund Balances at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	150,914.83	-	-	-	150,914.83
Investment fixed assets	-	-	6,283.64	-	6,283.64
Current assets	22,783.47	15,000.00	32,689.73	-	70,473.20
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2023	173,698.30	15,000.00	38,973.37	-	227,671.67

8 Debtors

There were no debtors as at 31 December 2023.

9 Creditors

There were no creditors as at 31 December 2023.

10 Fund movement summary

Fund	Fund Balances as at 01/01/2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains/losses	Fund Balances as at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Village Discretionary Fund	393.00	497.50	250.00	-	-	640.50
Youth Worker Fund	7,411.12	-	-	-	-	7,411.12
Church Centre Upgrade Fund	2,181.89	-	541.04	-	-	1,640.85
Mission Fund	344.49	-	-	-	-	344.49
Other Restricted funds	1,086.99	1,122.01	1,363.82	-	-	845.18
West Window and Tower Fund	17,315.30	-	2,280.00	-	-	16,135.30
Church Maintenance Fund	4,906.93	3,700.00	1,167.00	-	-	6,339.93
Burgess Trust Fund	5,792.84	177.34	122.40	-	435.86	6,283.64
General Reserves	15,000.00	-	-	-	-	15,000.00
Church Centre Capital	150,914.83	-	-	-	-	150,914.83
	205,347.39	5,496.85	5,724.26		435.86	205,555.84
General Fund	23,339.53	80,781.08	81,337.14		-	22,115.83
	228,686.92	86,277.93	87,729.04		435.86	227,671.67



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER'S ARDINGLY—1133803

Independent Examiner's Report 2023

The Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Peters' Ardingly

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out above.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Church Accounting Regulations and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (*the 2011 Act*) do not apply.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under the Church Accounting Regulations and section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions of the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance, 2013 edition. That examination 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 accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no 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 section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date – 4 May 2024

Matthew Hunt
MPH & Associates
Delta House
Bridge Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1UA



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Report of the Secretary to the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter's, Ardingly

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met in person six times this year and has passed 2 resolutions remotely in order to facilitate urgent repairs.

The PCC consists of Rev John Crutchley, two Churchwardens, two members of the Deanery Synod, a Safeguarding Officer plus elected members. The role of secretary is currently an appointed post.

- Our gratitude goes out to all the PCC members for their hard work and dedicated service to the church community.
- The following PCC members have come to the end of their term of service and have submitted nomination forms for election correctly signed

Esther Wigmore
Sue Laker
Carol Grossman

There remains a vacancy for membership of the PCC.

- Nigel Cheater and John Witherington have indicated that they are willing to continue their terms as Church Wardens.

In order to operate more efficiently the PCC has 5 sub-committees. These are

- Ministry and Mission
- Finance
- Fabric
- Community Action
- Safeguarding

At each PCC meeting the reports of their deliberations were received from each of the committees and discussed where necessary. The PCC have also reviewed and updated policies during the year. Reports are also received from the Deanery Synod representatives on the meetings and actions of the Synod.

The reports contained in this Annual Report will give further insight into the full work of the PCC.

Jane Taylor Cheater
Secretary to the PCC



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Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding and Safety Policies

As part of St. Peter's commitment to safeguarding, the PCC has continued to review, update and confirm safeguarding and safety policies during 2023. Users of the Church Centre have also been required to confirm their adoption of such policies.

Training

We encourage everyone to consider completing a Safeguarding Training course. National Safeguarding Training Courses include the Basic Awareness Course - for everyone within Church communities who need to have a basic awareness of safeguarding issues, and the Foundation Course - for those who hold positions of responsibility for the safeguarding of others within church settings. The online courses can be accessed at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Defibrillator

The defibrillator machine situated on the outside of the Church Centre continues to be regularly maintained and fortunately has not been called into use during the past year.

Jane Taylor Cheater

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**



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Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.

Introduction

The Churchwardens wish to thank all those who have contributed to the refurbishment, beautifying, maintenance, upkeep and cleaning of the buildings, land, goods and ornaments of the church. We praise God for all those who are willing to give their time, labour and resources to help keep two listed buildings and associated land in such good condition. Many of the repairs and improvements we mention below have been funded wholly or partially by individual donors. Without these contributors, including the Rector for work on the Rectory and its garden, our finances would be in a poorer state.

But there are many also who contribute in a myriad of other ways: providing and arranging flowers, washing and ironing linen, emptying bins, collecting re-cycling, gardening, hoovering, cleaning and polishing, and providing refreshments and leaflets to enhance the welcome we give to visitors. If there are names of contributors in any form whom we have not mentioned below, we beg forgiveness, but there are so many of you! There is always -and will continue be- work that needs doing, but we are pleased to report that much progress on the routine work has been made, as well planning for the future.

The Church

The tower project includes renovation of the West window, its surrounds and ferramenta, the replacing of Victorian pointing in the stonework, repair to the stonework around the top windows and improvement to the drainage to keep water away from the walls. All the specifications were completed by our architect, Jonathan Cerowski, and four firms invited to tender. Two submitted quotes for the work in August and September, PAYE (for ex-VAT £96,317 = £115,581 including VAT) and DBR Southern (for ex-VAT £95,995.72 = £115,995). The specifications did not include a laser survey of the belfry so that specifications can be accurately drawn up for the construction of safe access through the belfry to the tower parapet. This is in hand. The cost, therefore, of creating the design and specifications for the work and its construction must be added to the quotes above.

The excessive rainfall in the latter half of the year caused repeated tripping of the electrics as well as leaks from the North aisle valley gutter in four places. The relevant lighting cables in the North Aisle were eventually disconnected altogether and we took advantage of the electrician's presence to have the majority of the bulbs in the church replaced. The roof was inspected by two roofing firms who provided recommendations and quotes both for immediate repair and longer-term restoration. Just before the Carol Service, Gareth Howes came to carry out the urgent repairs and Christmas was leak-free. He also returned in the New Year to add to his work (free of charge) as further heavy rainfall had found its way in again behind the organ and in one of the three places in the North aisle.

Elsewhere in the church, the new water heater is working well, as are the technological additions made last year to improve the zoom experience for those joining our services remotely. The ongoing issue with the frequent drop in water pressure was resolved by Nigel tracing a leak in the pipework under the tower floor. This was repaired and heating fully restored, although the overworked pump is too noisy and will have to be replaced soon. A new thermostat has also been installed to enable the church to be warmed up remotely in advance of a service or other event



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Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.

The Churchyard

Outside the church, the paths were weeded on the day of Ride and Stride and, thanks to Jim Sloane and Sara Chapman and the generous loan of their garden contractor, the yew hedge around the east and north sides has once again been smartly trimmed. We are very grateful to them. The provision of a replacement noticeboard is ongoing. A Faculty having been granted, it remains to seek planning permission and purchase the board.

St Peter's Centre

The Centre has continued to be a useful resource, both for the church and for the community. While we use the Centre less for services than we used to, the Maundy Thursday Communion and the Harvest Supper remain very special occasions. PCC meetings are held in the small hall, which is also used for the weekly Angels and Urchins gatherings on Thursday mornings during term-time and church members are able to use the facilities for our charity events. The regular outside users have continued to be the St Peter's Pre-School and the Tanzen Dance Company who between them provide the bulk of the income. The building has also been hired out for various kinds of social events on 6 occasions (8 in 2022) between February and December, raising a further income of £701.00, more than double last year.

We are very grateful both to Carol Grossman for handling all the bookings so efficiently and to the Centre Manager, Jill Veasey for her vigilance and drive to keep the kitchen and other rooms clean and the building well-maintained. Our thanks to Tracy for her role in this.

A scheme by West Sussex County Highways to create a pedestrian crossing at the Centre is still under consideration.

Please note the addendum to this report: *The Future of the Church Centre*.

Graveyard

The graveyard is in good order. We would like to thank Jim Botting and his team at the Showground for clearance of the compost heap and cutting the tops of the hedges on the north and west sides.

The new row of graves on the southern side, begun last year, currently continues away from the church, but we have instructed Rob Newman, our contractor, to clear and re-seed the area between them and the hedge, so that a further 6 graves can fill the space back towards the church. Spoil from grave digging has been used to fill depressions and so work towards levelling the 'modern' graves and make maintenance easier.



Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The table below outlines the monthly and total expenditure on the routine maintenance of the graveyard:

Month	Hours	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
January	3.5	84.30			
February	3	70.80			
March					
April	7	166.06			
May	6	153.60			
June	6	153.60			
July	6	153.60			
August	6	153.60			
September	6.75	171.60			
October	3.5	88.50			
November	4	103.50			
December					
Annual cost	51.75	£1299.16	£1541.48	£1333.08	£1286.40

Notes:

- (i) The cost of the routine maintenance of the graveyard came within the £1500 budgeted. The Graveyard Fund received the following contributions during 2023:

Private donations and Gift Aid	£534.51 (includes £104.01 Gift Aid)
Ardingly Parish Council	£500

Total	<u>£1034.51</u>
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We are very grateful both to the Parish Council and to private donors who help to offset so much of our maintenance costs.

- (ii) The hourly rates charged for the routine maintenance will be increasing from May 2024 from £25.00 to £27.50 (strimming & hedge-cutting) and from £19.50 to £21.50 (mowing and general garden work), rises of approx. 10% and 10.3% respectively (following an 11% and 7% rise respectively from April 2023).
- (iii) The contribution of £40 p.a., made by the War Graves Commission, was discontinued for cost-cutting reasons, although their volunteers will continue to tend them where needed.
- (iv) The plan to re-construct the compost area is now in motion.
- (v) The Simmonds gate had a replacement post and the gates themselves were refurbished and re-hung. Similar treatment has now been applied to the double gates and we would like to record our gratitude to the Hett and Thompson families who funded these two significant improvements.



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Addendum to the Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments cont/.

The Future of the Church Centre

Since its acquisition in the 1980s, the Centre has been a valuable resource for the church and Christ's mission; it has afforded us the opportunity to **worship** in the main hall, holding both principal Sunday services and special services (e.g. Easter Vigil). The small hall has been used for **bible study** (especially Lent courses) and prayer and to hold special **mission events**, using both halls (e.g. Messy Easter, the Light Party and Who Let the Dads Out?). We have met, using either or both halls, for **fellowship** meals (e.g. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, Harvest supper, bring-and-share lunches). It gives us the space for **charity events** (e.g. outside speakers such as Samara Levy) or fund-raising for church members' charities (e.g. AOJA, I-UEF, plant sales, etc.). We have been able to provide **support** and encouragement **for carers** (annual meal) and families with **toddlers** (weekly Angels & Urchins) as well as, in the past, a location for **youth activities** on Sundays and/or during the week. As a resource for the wider church, the space has been made available for **Deanery Synods** and **Cursillo**.

The Centre gives us a location for **PCC meetings**, provides **toilet facilities** and **parking** for the church and enables the **hosting** of village volunteers (e.g. Graveyard Day, Big Help Day). It provides a venue for church members' **private functions** (children's parties, funeral wakes, wedding receptions, etc. and a **storage** facility, as well as a parish 'base' in the **office**. As a **resource for the community**, the space has been hired by the St Peter's Pre-School, the Tanzen Dance Company, local businesses (e.g. Fellowes Bakers) outside organisations (e.g. uniform groups, cyclist events) and outside individuals for functions.

In July 2023, a small group (John Crutchley, Nigel Cheater, John Witherington and Mervyn James) met to explore possible futures for this building and the site. We did so because the church's needs and uses of the building have changed, the community's rental of the building has diminished and the costs of utilities, maintenance and repairs have risen; the Centre no longer 'pays its way'. Furthermore, as a congregation we are physically increasingly less able to contribute our labour to maintain the building and financially stretched to meet our Parish Share. Major expense on the roof and windows will be needed within a few years and damp is already invading the office and small hall through the chimney and leaking skylights. The potential translation of this asset into cash may afford exciting opportunities for the longer-term refurbishment and development of the church building.

It is important to stress that no decisions were made; this was just an exploratory meeting and the exploration continues as we consult more widely to discover potential asset values and look to see how we can meet elsewhere our current and future needs which this space at present affords us. The PCC is aware of this review of the Church Centre and the group will keep it and the wider church family informed of any significant developments or recommendations.

*John Witherington,
Churchwarden.*



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Report on proceedings of the Cuckfield Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod representatives, Mervyn James and Jill Veasey attend meetings of the Cuckfield Deanery Synod and report back to the PCC on the main themes of the meetings.

The Cuckfield Deanery Synod meets three times a year and the meetings comprise a number of talks covering a wide range of issues.

These meetings provide opportunities to bring together the views of all the parishes in the deanery so that we can work together to promote the Mission of the Church.

The meetings enabled us to:

- worship and pray together, and pray for each other,
- learn from each other and to share experiences,
- hear from Visiting Speakers.
- consider the business of the Diocesan Synod.

Time at the meetings is spent in cluster groups sharing news - a time to share things parishes are doing to serve their communities. Time is also spent praying for one another - especially asking for God's guidance with the challenges faced and thanking Him for the many blessings we have.

The Deanery meetings are lively, interesting, and open to anyone. Please do consider coming to the meetings, you will be most welcome and by attending you are likely to feel encouraged, strengthened and well informed. The next meeting of Deanery Synod is 22nd May, 2024.

Mervyn James
Deanery Synod Representative





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Report on Community and Mission.

As we are aware, St. Peter's Church is more than just a beautiful church. Whilst there are services and events celebrated in the church building itself there are also many events and services that include the wider community of Ardingly and beyond.

Weekly newsletters

The weekly newsletter keeps the community well informed of events as well as providing the link to the Zoom service.

Zoom

The 10.30 morning service on Sundays continues to broadcast live via Zoom allowing those unable to attend in person to continue to be part of the Church Community.

At Your Service

This project continues to serve the village community by helping in a variety of ways such providing lifts, shopping and transport to appointments.

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings provide an opportunity to get together and enjoy the company of others as well as enjoying the refreshments provided.

Coronation Celebrations

The Coronation of King Charles III was marked by participation in both the Big Help Out, where volunteers tidied the church yard, graveyard and Church Centre Ground, and the Coronation Afternoon Tea, where volunteers and friends enjoyed tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake together.

Angels and Urchins

Our youngest members in the community continue to enjoy the weekly Adult and Toddler Group. This year the King's Coronation was marked with bunting, crowns and cupcakes. The children also enjoyed a Rainbow themed session in the summer and Story Time with Father Christmas in December.

Advent in Ardingly

This year the period of Advent was marked by the building of a nativity scene. Members of the church, families from Angels and Urchins as well as children from St. Peter's School took turns to add a character, animal, tree or building to the scene with the last piece completing a full nativity scene on Christmas Eve.

Open Air Services

During the year services have been taken out to the community including a Christingle and Carol service following the lighting of the oak tree at Hapstead Hall. Services held on the Recreation Ground included a Walk of Witness and a Good Friday Service (followed by hot cross buns and tea/coffee) and a Remembrance Day service and parade of local uniformed organisations. A service of Remembrance was also held in the Graveyard followed by refreshments in the Church Centre.

A service of celebration for the Coronation was also held at the Recreation Ground and was followed by a bring and share picnic.

An album of photographs of the year's activities is available in church for all to enjoy.



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Sides persons and Welcomers

During the year, the following served in this role (by Sunday of the month):

9.00 a.m.

1. Carol Grossman
2. Caroline Rich
3. Mike and Jill Veasey
4. Deb and George Ruse
5. Lyn Wood

10.30 a.m.

1. Mick Lucas, Gina Paul
2. Mervyn James, Jean Jeffery
3. John Read, Margaret Dale
4. Glynis Doerr, Sue Laker
5. Belinda Maclean

5/6 p.m.

1. Adele Collins

They greet churchgoers at the door, distribute orders of service, attend to special needs, guide the administration of Holy Communion, tidy the church at the end and process any donations made. We are immensely grateful for their dedication to this important role; the warmth of the welcome at the door especially creates a lasting impression on visitors and newcomers.

On the assumption these sidespersons are prepared to continue in this service, we would like to propose and second all the above names for re-election for 2024.

Although not an official sidesman, the Churchwardens would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Jeffery for his unstinting service to the 10.30 congregation, working quietly behind the scenes, recording attendance and ensuring everything is put away at the end of the service and the gifts accurately counted and recorded. He and Sally Crutchley also act as vergers for weddings, funerals and major occasions. We are very grateful to them both for faithfully carrying out these mundane but essential tasks with great good humour.

*Nigel Cheater
John Witherington
April 2024.*



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Supporting St. Peter's Church

The maintenance of our beautiful Grade 1 listed Church, its graveyard and grounds is an ongoing task which takes considerable time and expense. If you wish to support the work of the church and the maintenance of its fabric, donations can be made

- ♦ via our website
www.ardinglychurch.org.uk/getinvolved/supporting-st-peters
- ♦ by using the contactless machine in church
- ♦ or by scanning this QR code



Parish Giving Scheme

If you are ready to give regularly, we encourage you to use the Parish Giving Scheme. This method means that we receive 100% of your regular giving (as all costs are met by the Diocese) and allows us to recover any gift aid quickly and simply each month. You can easily set up a regular gift by visiting

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ardingly-brighton/>

Gift Aid

As a registered charity, St. Peter's Church can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. That's as long as you've paid the basic rate of tax and make the donation from your own funds. That means Gift Aid can increase the value of your donations by 25%,

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please ask for a Gift Aid declaration form.



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Raising funds for St. Peter's Church

Many of us now use online shopping for both our day-to-day essentials and for those important items with the convenience of items delivered to our doors. As online shopping is likely to remain important to us all why not take the opportunity to raise valuable funds for St. Peter's Church at the same time.



St. Peter's Church are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us raise funds, at no cost to you, just for shopping! Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Sainsburys, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more are included in this scheme. This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying.

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up. To get started just sign up to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk, and select St. Peter's Church, Ardingly.



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St. Peter's Church **Preserving the history,** **Looking to the Future.**

Our beautiful village church has been welcoming visitors since the **14th Century**. For generations, local families have been baptised or married here, celebrated life events or marked the passing of a loved one with services at **St. Peter's Church**. As children, memories are made of candle lit Christmas services, leading the prayers and singing with school services or visits to learn about the history of the church. Peaceful and decorated to mark the passing seasons, local and national events, the Church stands as an unchanging landmark in this fast paced and uncertain world.

Having stood proudly at the edge of the village for **700 years**, the church building is beginning to feel the effects of time, weather and environmental factors. The wooden stairs leading to the **belfry** are in need of replacing having become dangerous to climb. The iron supports used by the Victorian custodians to secure the stunning **stain glass windows** have become affected by rust, causing damage to the surrounding masonry. This particularly affects the **West Window** which dates back to **1847**.

All repairs and maintenance to buildings are expensive and even more so with a **Grade 1 listed building** such as St. Peter's Church. Although the PCC are actively seeking grants towards the **£100,000** needed to carry out all the essential repairs, donations are also sought to ensure this vital work can be completed.



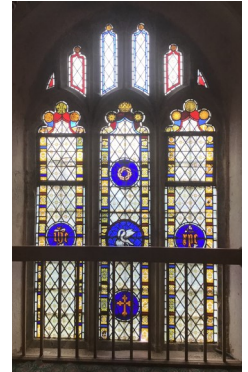
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How you can help Preserve St. Peter's Church



If you wish to help preserve this beautiful building for future generations, donations can be made in the following ways.

- by visiting our website

www.ardinglychurch.org.uk/restoration

- by using the contactless machine in church
- by cheque made payable to St. Peter's Church*
- or by scanning this QR code



**Gift Aid is a tax relief allowing UK charities to reclaim an extra 25% in tax on every eligible donation made by a UK taxpayer. If you are a tax payer and wish your donations to St. Peter's Church to be eligible for Gift Aid please speak to a member of the PCC. Thank you.*