



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 27 May 2025
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 2024 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 27 May 2025

in St Peter's Church Centre, Ardingly

At

7pm

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- ♦ Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Report on Bellringing
- ♦ Sides persons and Welcomers.
- ♦ Supporting St. Peter's Church and raising funds.



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Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 27 May 2025

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 21 May 2024.
3. To elect the Church Wardens of the Parish.
4. To consider any other business.
5. Close.



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St. Peter's Church, Ardingly

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Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Tuesday 21 May 2024
at St. Peter's Church Centre at 7.00pm

1	<p>Attendance and apologies for absence</p> <p>Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 18 parishioners present. Also in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from D & G Ruse, K James & M Veasey.</p>
2	<p>Approval of last minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2023 were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed that the minutes be so adopted, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.</p>
3	<p>Election of church wardens</p> <p>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.</p> <p>It was proposed that John and Nigel be appointed as church wardens, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.</p> <p>John C gave both a personal thanks and the thanks of the whole church family to Nigel and John W for all that they do for St. Peter's. The appreciation of those present was shown by a round of applause.</p>
4	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business to consider.</p>
5	<p>Close</p> <p>The meeting was formally closed at 07:06pm.</p>



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

27 May 2025

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 21 May 2024.
3. To receive and approve the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.
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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Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parochial Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 21 May 2024
at St. Peter's Church Centre at 7.07pm

1	<p>Attendance and apologies for absence</p> <p>Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 18 parishioners present. Also in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from D & G Ruse, K James & M Veasey.</p>
2	<p>Approval of last minutes</p> <p><i>Copies of the minutes were circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 16 May 2023 were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed that the minutes be so adopted, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.</p>
3	<p>Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023</p> <p><i>Copies of the financial statements and notes to the accounts were circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was proposed that the accounts be duly adopted. This resolution was passed unanimously by show of hands.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Jean Jefferies for all that she does in her role of Treasurer. The day to day business of the Church could not be done without Jean and she was given a round of applause by way of a show of appreciation.</p>
4	<p>Appointment of PCC Secretary</p> <p>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 that Jane Taylor Cheater be appointed as secretary, and this was unanimously agreed by show of hands.</p> <p>Jane was thanked for all her hard work for the PCC and many other projects and was given a round of applause by way of a show of appreciation.</p>

Continued/



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5	<p>Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments <i>A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that there was a need a need for a digital structural survey of the church. This would give an accurate layout of the building that could be used for many years to come. (It was noted that the only other such survey is the diagram on the wall by the main door.)</p> <p>Every five years, church buildings are required by law to have an inspection carried out, known as a quinquennial inspection. This inspection will be carried out by our architect and covers all aspects of the building's external and internal fabric. This inspection is due to be held in July 2024.</p>
6	<p>Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer <i>A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and everyone should remain vigilant, not just with regards to children but also adolescence and vulnerable adults. The online Safeguarding courses offered by the Diocese are thought provoking and interesting and everyone was encouraged to consider completing them.</p> <p>If anyone has a safeguarding concern or doubt it should be reported to either John C or Jane.</p>
7	<p>Report on the Church Centre <i>A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that there are some very heavy expenses that will arise in the near future, The windows need replacing and the roof is leaking and needs attention. It is becoming harder to maintain without carrying out major renovations and making the Centre more appealing to other users.</p>
8	<p>Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod <i>A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that anyone is welcome to attend Deanery Synod meetings and the dates are usually published in the magazine. The value of these meetings is in the exchange of ideas. A recent talk on finances was interesting and highlighted that what we are doing is generally good practice.</p>
9	<p>Report on Community and Mission <i>Copies of the report were circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the St. Peter's is doing well in reaching out to the community and should be encouraged in this. The Review of the Year album (in the back of church) is a good reminder of the year's events.</p>

Continued/



10	<p>Election of PCC members Nominations for election to the PCC had been received from the following.</p> <table><tr><td>Nominee</td><td>Proposed</td><td>Seconded</td></tr><tr><td>Esther Wigmore</td><td>J Witherington</td><td>J Veasey</td></tr><tr><td>Sue Laker</td><td>N Cheater</td><td>G Paul</td></tr><tr><td>Carol Grossman</td><td>D Ruse</td><td>M Page</td></tr></table> <p>The meeting voted unanimously by show of hands to elect all nominees to the PCC. The members of the PCC were thanked for all they do and the responsibilities they take on.</p>	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Esther Wigmore	J Witherington	J Veasey	Sue Laker	N Cheater	G Paul	Carol Grossman	D Ruse	M Page
Nominee	Proposed	Seconded											
Esther Wigmore	J Witherington	J Veasey											
Sue Laker	N Cheater	G Paul											
Carol Grossman	D Ruse	M Page											
11	<p><i>Appointment of Sides persons and Welcomers</i> <i>A list of sides persons was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i> It was unanimously agreed to accept the list of sides persons and welcomers. It was noted that all these volunteers are carrying out essential ministry and their interaction with visitors gives the church its welcoming and friendly nature.</p>												
12	<p><i>Appointment of Auditor</i> 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.</p>												
13	<p>Report of the Chairman <i>A copy of the report as contained in the Trustees Report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>As well as the report already available, John C gave the additional report on finance.</p> <p>“I wanted to make some additional comments regarding finance because like many other churches, indeed, like so many people and organisations more generally, and indeed like our own diocese, we are facing financial pressures. Costs go up. The demands upon our purse increase. But our income remains much more settled.</p> <p>Our biggest annual expenditure is our parish share. Three years ago, we were paying 65% of the share that was asked by the diocese to cover the costs of ministry in this parish, and our share of the central costs and expenses incurred by the diocese for</p>												



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the benefit of all parishes. At that time, we were asked to try and increase our share by 5% per year across three years. In the first year we managed the 5% increase to 70%, and in the second year, which is last year (2023), we paid 75% of the parish share (a total of a little over £59,000). This year we have pledged 80% which will amount to around £65,000. Bear in mind, that when we increase by 5%, the diocese have also added an annual increase of around 2% to the sum they invite us to pay. Looking at our accounts you will see that the parish share takes up by far the largest part of our annual income.

We have paid and pledged the increases because the PCC believe, as I hope most of us would agree, that ministry is our primary purpose. It is what the church is here for: to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God in and to our parish. That is ministry.

But second, the PCC recognise that we may be one small parish, but we are a part of larger and wider diocesan family, and we have to pay our way: if we do not there is an overall shortfall in the diocesan budget and so our ministry comes at the expense of ministry elsewhere. If we are struggling to balance the books, so are the diocesan accountants. There is a budget shortfall of in excess of £1 million in the diocese that is eating into reserves. That clearly cannot be sustained indefinitely and as a part of addressing that there are, I believe, proposed cutbacks of half a million pounds at Church House.

As an aside, I sometimes think we are less than clear about the value of some of those roles that are under threat at Church House, but we shouldn't be. John Witherington and I recently had a meeting with a lady at Church House (Katherine Prior) who advises on grant funding for the repair and restoration of ancient church buildings like ours. She was exceptionally well briefed about us when we arrived; she was exceptionally knowledgeable and helpful; and we left feeling very encouraged by the encounter. Sadly, a month or so later she left to work for another diocese and there is uncertainty as to whether her role will be filled. In my view it is a vitally important role.

Third, in pledging and supporting the increases to our parish share the PCC have 'stepped out' in faith. Taken the leap of faith! Quite simply trusting to God. And that faith and trust have been rewarded. Last year the 75% total seemed a challenge but then we received two large and quite unexpected gifts to general income which

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enabled us to pay our share and pretty well balance the books – as you can see from the accounts.

This year, the pledged figure of £65,000 looks daunting. I stand behind no one in my respect and loving admiration for the generosity of people in this church family. It is quite simply extraordinary. But in truth we're all getting older, pensions are having to stretch further in these days of a 'cost of living crisis,' interest rates on investments have been so very low for so very long, all adding to the pressures we all feel. What is more, over the years St Peter's has had some very substantial gifts month on month from just a few 'givers.' And we have relied upon them. But lose just one of those 'big giving eggs' as we have done recently, and our income basket experiences a very substantial blow. On current predictions based on income and expenditure predictions we will have an income shortfall of £18,000 this year.

Let me very clear: We are not broke! But we are under great pressure. and all I have said so far relates just to income and expenditure. Because then must also take into account the costs we face in respect of the repair and maintenance of our church building. We are about to spend £11,000 fixing the north aisle roof. We also need to obtain a digital survey of the church building. In the first instance this will allow us to consider how best to re-order the layout of the bell floor at the top of the tower so as to provide for safe and proper access through that part of the tower and out on to the roof.

But a proper digital survey will also be of use in many other ways and across many years in the general maintenance of the building (like all of us the building is only going to require more and more maintenance as the years go by!). The only vaguely similar thing we have at present to a digital survey is the floorplan prepared by Sandy Hett's uncle (Keir Hett) some 130 years ago that now hangs in the South Aisle. We have one estimate for this survey so far and that is for £3300. That seems on the conservative side, so we expect the two other companies we have asked to quote for this to be much higher. Then, our Quinquennial inspection is due in July of this year at a cost of £1500 +VAT and we would like to replace the noticeboard outside the church and add a new noticeboard in the graveyard across the road from the church.

All of that, and then there is the tower restoration project that requires what, £100K! For which we will of course be seeking grant funding as well as appealing across the village and online (that's already on our webpage) and trying to draw

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those who value having a church building if not the mission of the church to help us to raise the costs needed to restore our beautiful building. And I believe that there are people like that who will want to do so.

I do not want to drive you all into despair! Please do not despair. As I say, we are not broke and more importantly, we must never leave God out of the equation. We all need to pray and ask Him what we should do. What we should be doing personally and as a part of our walk with Christ. And what we should be doing collectively. In this sense, one thing we have had to begin to consider is the future of the Church Centre. It has seen a shrinking of usage across recent years and increasing competition from other venues in the village. It is also hugely vulnerable to some very expensive repairs, and I have to ask: does it still fulfil the missional purpose it had when it was acquired. On a more legal basis the PCC are all charitable trustees and as such they have a duty to consider the viability of the Centre in the context of its income and expenditure. It is fine for us to operate on a no profit basis if we choose to do so because in that way, we can support an important village amenity. But it isn't right if we're operating at a loss.

Let me close by asking: what could we do to re-order, refurbish and re-equip our church building if we had the money to do so? What could it be like if we could re-imagine it and refit it to serve this community for the next few hundred years? What a service the Church Centre would have done if its sale facilitated all of that! "

A discussion and sharing of ideas then followed. It was stressed that no decision regarding the Church Centre had been made but there was a need to be transparent and once the PCC had come to any conclusions then the congregation would be kept informed.

14 Any other business

- a) Jill O'Mant gave thanks on behalf of all parishioners to John for all that he does and the encouragement, love and hope that he gives to others and also for the recent Romans course.
- b) Nigel gave details of the Wakehurst Community Access Scheme that St. Peter's has signed up for. This gives free access to Wakehurst for those who would benefit from being in the natural surroundings but who would otherwise experience a barrier to going. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from the scheme, they should contact Nigel for details.

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	<p>c) Mervyn gave a short talk on how God had given him the gift of visions and how his recent Gifts of spirit had given him the words 'cost' and 'sacrifice'. These words should be considered in the coming times along with people's prayer and faith.</p>
15	<p>Close</p> <p>John thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded those present <i>"Be excited and encouraged, and Keep God in the Equation."</i></p> <p>The meeting was formally closed at 8.35 pm.</p>



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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 2024

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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 2024, the following people served as members of the parochial church council ("PCC"):

Incumbent: The Reverend John Crutchley
Ex officio members: Mr John Witherington

Chairman
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
Mrs Esther Wigmore

Secretary to the PCC and Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator Mrs Jane Taylor Cheater

ST PETER'S ARDINGLY - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

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 PLANNED TO DO TO ACHIEVE OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion.'

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

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small 'home group' situations
- Engaging with our local primary school on the Governing body and through regular weekly assemblies, services in school and church and in any other way required.
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Aiding the poor and needy of the parish
- Making gifts to missionary organisations
- Reaching out to the unchurched through 'Zoom' based services; through services held outside of the church building and in the heart of the village to mark important events and national celebrations; utilizing the graveyard as a location for services to remember those loved and lost; and in our Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance and Christmas services.
- Enhancing our worship through the use of sound and visual technology.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.

There were six meetings of the PCC in 2024. The current electoral roll has 81 members.

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WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND HOW WE AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES' LIVES

Attendance at Worship

It is always a joy to read the church visitors book and to see how far some of our visitors have travelled and how much they have appreciated finding that the church building is open to welcome them. The building is open every day to allow those who are passing to stop, to rest awhile and maybe to pray. But also for those who simply want to explore their connection with Ardingly through family ancestors or friends or who want to appreciate the beauty of the building and so grab a moment of peace. Our very first visitor in January 2024 had come all the way from Sante Fe, in New Mexico USA but across the year she was joined by visitors from Canada, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa and many other countries all across the world as well as by those from all across this country and many who are local. What joins them all together are the comments they all leave, because they all say much the same: peaceful, tranquil, beautiful, well-kept. But above all else, so many of our visitors record exactly what we want to hear. That the church is welcoming, that it is a place of rest, a place of shelter and a home from home

“WHAT A LOVELY HAPPY FEELING CHURCH.
WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT OUR SLIPPERS!”

COMMENT IN THE VISITORS BOOK, MARCH 2024

This is exactly what we strive to be first and foremost: a place of welcome for all who visit, whether to join us in our worship and prayer or to experience the building as a place of personal spiritual rest and refreshment.

One of the earliest comments left by a visitor in February 2024 was as to how the church felt 'well-used'. Which is also how a church should feel, alive, used, and active. 'The atmosphere is so like home' recorded another visitor, which is also as it should be. St. Peter's is the spiritual home of the church family and that is a family that is welcoming of all. New Year's Day 2024 saw the year begin with a three and a half mile walk for some of that family (and their friends!) in soggy weather and around footpaths, roads and tracks as an appetite was built up for a meal then shared together in the church Centre. Nine walkers and twenty 'diners' enjoyed the best start to the New Year and raised a substantial sum that was donated to the work of our two locally grown charities: Ardingly Old Jeshwang and Imara Uganda. Sharing food is a regular part of church life: a meal together on Maundy Thursday; Hot Cross buns on Good Friday; Harvest Festival barbecue; graveyard weeding, tidying up and refreshments; a day of Bible study – naturally, with food! The church family is small, and it is ageing, but it is alive, active, and still actively engaged in reaching out to and serving the whole community of Ardingly as it grows together in its knowledge of and love for Christ.

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**"THE ATMOSPHERE IS SO LIKE A HOME; THE SPIRIT
IS DEFINITELY LIVING HERE!!!"**

A VISITOR FROM LONDON, APRIL 2024

This is primarily achieved through our regular weekly worship. Our services use the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship whilst others are simply moments of quiet prayer and personal reflection, just 'Open to God!' Our main

service on a Sunday morning is now offered as a screen presentation that is enhanced and improved by the use of recorded/video led music for 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. We took a deep dive into St. Paul's Letter to the Romans throughout Lent and accompanied this with a gathering for prayer each day of Lent where we focussed daily on one of the top 50 countries where Christians face persecution. It was both empowering and humbling. All in all we have praised well, prayed well and learned well throughout the year allowing our worship and God's Word to encourage us in our mission and in the service of our community.

Our main Sunday morning service is also offered via a Zoom link each week which has enabled some who are housebound, in hospital or no longer still resident in Ardingly to continue to worship together with friends and so to feel a continuing part of the church family and the worshipping community. Additionally, the use of a Zoom link has allowed us to open up funeral services so that family and friends from all across the world are now able to 'attend' the funeral services of loved ones. It has been a real blessing for many and a joy for us to know that many who may not otherwise have been able to share in a funeral service, have been enabled to do so.

Thanks have to go to Nigel Cheater, one of our church wardens who handles the 'tech' and week by week arranges the Zoom link.

We believe that our services are accessible and welcoming. Many more attendees would always be welcome but the many who come at Christmas and Easter give us heart that the message of the church still has a strong resonance in our village.

We have always recognised that our remote location within our rural parish presents a major challenge. Back in the fourteenth century, the church builders built the church at the very heart of the village, both geographically and spiritually. But 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 everyone we have continued to take some of our services out of the church building.

**"I WANTED TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THE
SERVICE. I WAS ABLE TO WATCH IT FROM NEW
ZEALAND THANKS TO THE ZOOM FACILITY THAT
WAS IN PLACE. I WAS VERY MOVED BY ALL
ASPECTS OF THE SERVICE."**

**A LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND WRITTEN FOLLOWING A FUNER-
AL HELD AT ST. PETERS, MAY 2024**

"THANK YOU FOR THE SACRED SPACE. I LOVE TO PRAY HERE ALONE"

VISITOR NOVEMBER 2024

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Unexpectedly, this has also made them more accessible to some who may find it quite difficult to enter a church building and attend a service. For the last few years, the annual Service of All Souls has been held in the church graveyard attracting a great many more people than might usually be expected for a similar service held in the church and allowing some the opportunity to grieve and remember with others and in a space that they value.

Perhaps the best example of the advantage of taking a service outside of the church building is the annual Service of Remembrance in November. Held on the Recreation Ground and so in the heart of the village and with our local uniform groups in attendance, this year we were delighted to be joined too by a group of pupils from our local primary school. Wreaths were laid in remembrance by both Parish and District Council representatives and on behalf of the Royal British Legion. 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 in the heart of the village. We now see many 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 so interesting to see how many dog-walkers, out for their morning stroll, take the opportunity to stop, to stand silent and to remember, because the service is so accessible.

It is a great example of how we are striving to make our services more welcoming and so to actively demonstrate our heartfelt call to support and work for our entire community. This year we offered practical help to the village by donating all of our harvest gifts to the support of local families in particular need. We also donated all of the 'giving' at our Christmas services to the work of the Children's Society and to 'Off the Fence' a Brighton based charity working with the homeless. We have continued to support our homegrown charities Ardingly Old Jeshwang in their work in the Gambia and Imara in their work in Uganda and Ardingly Connected Together in their work in our village. In all of this and in our support of several other charitable projects too, a small church family has tried to put into practice all that we believe about loving our neighbour.

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.

**"THANK YOU FOR THE WATER. I'VE BEEN RIDING MY BIKE FOR THE PAST THREE
HOURS WITHOUT A DROP. AND WHAT A VERY NICE PIANO. I PLAYED
CLAIR DE LUNE AND BACH IN G MINOR."**

A VISITOR FROM A NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE, JUNE 2024

Continued



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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 that has included 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. A rota of readers and intercessory prayer leaders ensures that all of our services benefit from the inclusion of gifts from across the church family.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE WHITE CYCLAMEN THAT WAS BROUGHT TO ME JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS. WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE. IT CERTAINLY HELPS TO BRIGHTEN THESE DREARY DAYS.

A NOTE FROM ONE OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM ST. PETER'S

Evangelism and outreach is also driven by our desire to connect with and to serve the community of which we are a part: our weekly services are only a part of what we do. 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.

"I VISIT HERE OFTEN. MY PARENTS AND BROTHER REST IN PEACE HERE. SO CALM"

A COMMENT IN THE VISITOR BOOK, AUGUST 2024

'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. '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. 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.

Continued



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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 authorised in their work by the bishop. A new member of this team began their training in 2024 and will be authorised in the new year. 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.

Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers.

The church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. There was one wedding in 2024 and there were two baptisms. Three funerals were conducted in church and two were conducted at a crematorium. There were also two burial 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. In 2024 the biblical teaching was also enhanced by the Romans course previously mentioned. 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.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy.

Many of those who visit the church remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and spirituality the church pervades. Over the last few years it has provided a marvellous venue for young musicians from Ardingly College to offer recitals. Many also remark on 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 and the way in which the church is maintained. The Summer of 2024 saw a large group from the church family gather over two days to clean and maintain the interior of the building but also to attend to the needs of the graveyard that surrounds the church. Although adopted into public maintenance the graveyard still required some TLC, and much time was given to clearing the brick drainage channel around the church as required by the quinquennial inspection. Another huge

**WE WANTED TO WRITE A NOTE TO SAY THE BIGGEST
THANK YOU FOR THE MOST AMAZING SERVICE ON
SATURDAY. THE WHOLE THING WAS INCREDIBLY
MOVING, ABSOLUTELY PERFECT AND WE LOVED IT SO
MUCH. OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY KEPT MENTIONING
HOW MOVED THEY WERE BY THE WHOLE THING. WE HAD
THE BEST DAY OF OUR LIVES!!**

A NOTE FROM A COUPLE WHO MARRIED AT ST. PETER'S IN 2024



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effort was made in the Autumn by a similar group this time tidying and maintaining the newer graveyard across the road from the main church.

St. Peter's Church is a Grade I listed church dating from the 14th century with some Victorian additions. The stone tower was added towards the end of the 14th Century. This is one of the few church towers in the area with no spire. It is thought that the reason for this is for its use as a defensive structure against possible invasion or to act as a beacon to warn of any such invasion. The tower is home to six bells which vary in age from the oldest dated from the late 14th Century to the treble added in 1912. The bells were fully restored in 2009 and being extremely popular are now rung by both local and many visiting teams. The tower is also home to a stunning stain glass window created by James Powell and Sons which dates back to 1847.

Such a building requires constant and sympathetic maintenance. In the Summer of 2024, a leak in the roof to the north aisle was fixed at a cost of £11,500 an expense that was generously met by members

of the church family. However, our regular quinquennial report has also revealed major repairs required to the tower. This will entail the removal and repair of the West window, the removal and repair of the stonework around it and the fer-

**A LOVELY CHURCH. SO WELL CARED FOR. THANK
YOU FOR BEING OPEN!**

A COMMENT IN THE VISITOR BOOK

ramenta protecting it; the Victorian mortar in the masonry needs replacing, the stonework of the upper windows needs repair, and we will have to re-channel the drainage to keep water away from the structure. Whilst undertaking this work and so as to address further issues raised in our quinquennial inspection we also want to improve access through the belfry to allow the tower parapet to be reached in safety. The wooden stairs leading to the belfry are in need of replacing having become dangerous to climb.

Fundraising has begun to enable us to undertake this major restoration project of the tower and west window. So far we have raised over £16,000 of the approximately £110,000 that is required. In addition to fundraising locally we are investigating possible national grant funding and this continues. To properly facilitate such applications and future works and restoration work that may be required we have commissioned and received a full digital survey of the building, the costs of which were also met through the generosity of church family members.

**MANY THANKS TO THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMI-
LY FOR THEIR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY.**

FROM THE RECTOR

Alongside of the church building we are also responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre. The Summer of 2024 saw repairs to the roof of the Centre completed at a cost of £2,500, again, an expense that was met through the generosity of church family members.

As a small church with a small worshipping community we paid £65,000 in parish share in 2024 (an increase of £6,000 on that paid in 2023) but this was still only 80% of the total sum requested. The financial challenges we face cannot be overstated and neither can the generosity of the church family in meeting those challenges.



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Financial Review

Unrestricted incoming and outgoing resources

2024 was a challenging year for our Church. Whilst planned giving through our preferred method of collection (the Parish Giving Scheme) remained constant, the death of a major giver meant that other planned giving was down compared to 2023. There were some generous one-off donations made during the year and nearly £4,000 was received in Gift Aid, which continued to be claimed on a quarterly. However, both of these were lower than had been received during 2023.

Lettings for the year were higher as four terms hire charges were collected from one regular user, instead of just two in 2023.

Overall, unrestricted giving was approximately £10,000 lower than the previous year.

These factors, combined with a pledged commitment to increase our Parish Contribution (see below), meant that a significant shortfall during the year was expected. Despite other outgoings being contained as far as possible the shortfall for the year was in line with early expectations at just over £15,000

Despite this, 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 £65,156 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. In 2024, we pledged to pay 80% of the amount asked by the Diocese. This was an increase of 5% of that paid in 2023. 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 just under £86,000.

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 was needed to the roof over the North aisle. This was largely met from some generous gifts that were received. Other significant expenditure was in relation to church maintenance and upkeep of the graveyard. In 2024, 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. A grant of £3,000 was also received towards the ongoing costs.

Just over £24,000 of restricted income was received, and £30,500 was paid out during the year.

The total value of restricted funds at the end of 2024 was £33,485 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 2024. It is the policy of St Peter's to invest these funds on a short-term basis with CBF Church of England deposit fund.



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

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

Unrestricted	As At 31/12/2024 £	As At 31/12/2023 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1.00	1.00
Heritage Assets	150,913.83	150,913.83
Investments	5,184.57	5,068.56
	<u>156,099.40</u>	<u>155,983.39</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	50,523.90	71,688.28
	<u>50,523.90</u>	<u>71,688.28</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>50,523.90</u>	<u>71,688.28</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>206,623.30</u>	<u>227,671.67</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>206,623.30</u>	<u>227,671.67</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds		
Unrestricted—General Fund	6,771.80	22,115.83
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	20.50	640.50
Restricted—Youth Worker Fund	7,161.80	7,411.12
Restricted—Church Centre Upgrade Fund	-	1,640.85
Restricted—Mission Fund	344.49	344.49
Restricted—Other Restricted Funds (note 10)	-	845.18
Restricted—West Window and Tower Fund	16,422.80	16,135.30
Restricted—Church Maintenance Fund	3,251.86	6,339.93
Restricted—Burgess Trust Fund	6,735.22	6,283.64
Funds of the Church	<u>206,623.30</u>	<u>227,671.67</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf

21.05.25



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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	General & Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and Endowments</i>				
Donations and Legacies	59,310.95	24,098.06	83,409.01	77,577.74
Income from charitable activities	2,575.50	-	2,575.50	3,095.00
Other trading activities	8,117.50	260.65	8,378.15	4,934.85
Investments	721.11	335.57	1,056.68	599.24
Other income	-	-	-	71.10
Total Income	70,725.06	24,694.28	95,419.34	86,277.93
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	85,932.06	30,514.63	116,446.69	86,361.72
Other expenditure	137.03	-	137.03	1,367.32
Total Expenditure	86,069.09	30,514.63	116,583.72	87,729.04
Net expenditure before transfers	-15,344.03	-5,820.35	-21,164.38	-1,451.11
<i>Transfers</i>				
Transfers between funds				-
<i>Other recognised gains/losses</i>				
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charities own use	-	116.01	116.01	435.86
Net movements in funds	-15,344.03	-5,704.34	-21,048.37	-1,015.25
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>				
Total funds brought forward	188,030.66	39,641.01	227,671.67	228,686.92
Total funds carried forward	172,686.63	33,936.67	206,623.30	227,671.67

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 2024

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 2024

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 2024

Note 2

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
<i>Donations and legacies</i>					
0100 Planned giving GA	9,679.87	-	-	9,679.87	12,030.95
0110 Planned giving non-GA	36,461.47	-	-	36,461.47	35,176.40
0120 Envelope Scheme GA	159.50	-	-	159.50	383.00
0140 Church collections GA	2,569.50	-	-	2,569.50	2,545.49
0150 Church collections non-GA	-	-	-	-	30.43
0160 Donations GA	4,800.00	-	14,875.40	19,675.40	15,170.00
0170 Donations non GA	1,465.51	-	1,140.00	2,605.51	3,580.22
0180 Gift Aid tax recovered	3,936.75	-	4,573.21	8,509.96	6,911.24
0190 Legacies and endowments	-	-	-	-	-
0200 Fund-raising (non trading) income	50.00	-	-	50.00	-
0220 Special collections	-	-	441.32	441.32	667.64
0230 Grants received	-	-	3,068.13	3,068.13	500.00
0390 Other donations	188.35	-	-	188.35	582.37
Donations and legacies Total	59,310.95	-	24,098.06	83,409.01	77,577.74
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
0400 Fees for services	2,575.50	-	-	2,575.50	3,095.00
Total Income from charitable activities	2,575.50	-	-	2,575.50	3,095.00
<i>Other trading activities</i>					
0500 Centre hire	7,580.00	-	-	7,580.00	4,276.00
0510 Magazine income	419.50	-	-	419.50	259.50
0520 Sale of goods for fundraising	118.00	-	260.65	378.65	399.35
Total Other trading activities	8,117.50	-	260.65	8,378.15	4,934.85
<i>Investments</i>					
0600 Deposit interest received	721.11	-	-	721.11	421.90
0610 Investment interest received	-	-	335.57	335.57	177.34
	721.11	-	335.57	1,056.68	599.24
<i>Other Income</i>					
0790 Other income	-	-	-	-	71.10
Total Other incomes	-	-	-	-	71.10
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	70,725.06	-	24,694.28	95,419.34	86,277.93



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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 2024

Note 3

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure					
Raising Funds Totals	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities					
2200 Parish contribution	65,156.00	-	-	65,156.00	59,096.00
2210 Charitable giving	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	1,250.00
2220 Church utilities	3,314.32	-	-	3,314.32	1,824.88
2230 Church service expenses	993.01	-	1,170.95	2,163.96	1,427.11
2240 Church maintenance and equipment	3,203.81	-	23,376.39	26,278.70	9,243.89
2250 Rectory expenses	4,355.47	-	949.00	5,605.97	4,142.26
2260 Rector's expenses	1,437.01	-	-	1,437.01	1,410.67
2290 Administrative expenses	187.56	-	-	187.56	280.39
2300 Children and young people	18.99	-	384.32	403.31	155.21
2320 Giving from special collections	-	-	701.97	701.97	917.64
2330 Gifts made	-	-	500.00	500.00	-
2600 Centre utilities costs	4,311.04	-	-	4,311.04	4,036.64
2610 Centre running costs	1,226.65	-	-	1,226.65	1,198.79
2620 Centre maintenance and equipment	478.20	-	3,432.00	3,910.20	1,378.24
2650 Magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	85,932.06		30,514.63	116,446.69	86,361.72
Other expenditure					
2990 Other expenditure	137.03	-	-	137.03	1,367.32
Total Other expenditure	137.03		-	137.03	1,367.32
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	86,069.09	-	30,514.63	116,583.72	87,729.04
TOTAL OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-15,344.03		-5,820.35	-21,164.38	-1,451.11



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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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 2024	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
Additions/disposals/revaluations	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	-	-
Provided in year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2024	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
At 31 December 2023	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 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Market value at 1 January 2024	5,068.56	4,632.70
Increase in market value	116.01	435.86
Market value at 31 December 2024	5,184.57	5,068.56

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.



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

Registered Charity 1133803

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

7 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Fund Balances at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	150,914.83	-	-	-	150,914.83
Investment fixed assets	-	-	6,735.22	-	6,735.22
Current assets	6,771.80	15,000.00	27,201.45	-	48,973.25
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2024	152,686.63	15,000.00	33,936.67	-	206,623.30

8 Debtors

There were no debtors as at 31 December 2024.

9 Creditors

There were no creditors as at 31 December 2024.

10 Fund movement summary

Fund	Fund Balances as at 01/01/2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains/losses	Fund Balances as at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Village Discretionary Fund	640.50	15.00	635.00			20.50
Youth Worker Fund	7,411.12	-	249.32			7,161.80
Church Centre Upgrade Fund	1,640.85	1,791.15	3,432.00			-
Mission Fund	344.49	-	-			344.49
Graveyard	730.63	755.71	1,486.34			-
West Window and Tower Fund	16,135.30	287.50	-			16,422.80
Church Maintenance Fund	6,339.93	18,801.98	21,890.05			3,251.86
Bibles		1,056.40	1,056.04			-
Flowers	114.55	-	114.55			
Christmas Collections		701.97	701.97			
Mower		949.00	949.00			
Burgess Trust Fund	6,283.64	335.57			116.01	6,735.22
General Reserves	15,000.00					15,000.00
Church Centre Capital	150,914.83					150,914.83
	205,555.84	24,694.28	30,514.63	-	116.01	199,851.50
General Fund	22,115.83	70,705.06	86,069.09	-		6,771.80
	227,671.67	95,419.34	116,583.72	-	116.01	206,623.30



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

Independent Examiner's Report 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council St. Peter's Church, Ardingly

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out above.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by 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 Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with of my examination, no material matters have come to my attention

which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the members have not met the requirements:

to keep accounting in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounts records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met: or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Matthew Hunt
MPH & Associates
Delta House Bridge
Street Haywards
Heath RH16 1UA

Date 15 May 2025



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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 five times (in addition to the APCM) this year and has passed 2 resolutions remotely in order to facilitate urgent repairs. The PCC meeting held in April 2024 was also attended by The Venerable Angela Martin, Archdeacon of Horsham. The reports contained in this Annual Report will give further insight into the full work of the PCC.

The work of the PCC is organised through six subcommittees who report their dealings at the main PCC meetings. These committees are

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

The PCC also regularly review and update its policies and procedures.

In addition the Deanery Synod representatives report back on the dealings of the Synod.

Members of the PCC serve a three years term. Mrs Glynis Doerr, having completed her term of office has indicated that she is willing to stand for election to another term.

Nigel Cheater and John Witherington have also indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election as Churchwardens.

Jane Taylor Cheater
Secretary to the PCC



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Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding and Safety Policies

Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda for all PCC meetings. Users of the Church Centre have also been required to confirm their adoption of such policies. A copy of the Safeguarding policy as approved by the PCC is displayed in the Church and the Church Centre as well as on the Church website.

Training

The Safeguarding C2 Leadership training is currently up to date for the Rector, those holding Authorised Lay Ministry positions and the Safeguarding officer.

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





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Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.

Introduction

Last year, we wrote the following 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, making candles and wreaths, washing and ironing linen, emptying bins, collecting re-cycling, gardening, hoo-vering, 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, we beg forgiveness, but there are so many of you! There is always -and will continue be- work that needs doing...

We are delighted to be able to repeat these remarks for the calendar year 2024, which reflect our gratitude for the whole-church participation in the upkeep of our buildings. This is particularly so in a year of exceptional demand on our finances with major roof repairs to both buildings and a digital site survey carried out on the church.

The Church

The repairs to the roof and valley gutter over the North aisle were completed at the beginning of the year. These have been effective in preventing further leaks over several places, including the vestry. The lighting was reconnected, but there remains to be found a more permanent solution to the water-damaged patch of carpet currently covered with plastic to prevent a trip hazard.

Elsewhere in the church, as part of a summer's day of cleaning and clearing both inside and outside the church, the accumulated clutter around the West door was removed, not only improving the look and ease of passage, but importantly to keep the screen free from obstruction. The boiler room, and the steps down to it, was cleaned. Later, the lighting there was fixed and a smart new door and frame specially made and fitted by Nick Brand.

In August, the whole church and churchyard, including the adjoining roads, underwent the first measured survey in over a century. This was carried out by Warren Peters of WGP Digital. This included plans and elevations, inside and out and details of the belfry, through which we intend to provide a safer access route to the tower roof. This represents an investment which will save time and expense in any future work in or around the building.

In September, the church also underwent its Quinquennial Inspection by our inspecting architect, Jonathan Cerowski. He inevitably highlighted a number of areas which need attention, some of which are already in hand and/or can be included in the tower project. Other issues mainly related to some of the guttering and downpipes which can also be dealt with relatively easily. The porch is also showing signs of



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Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.

The gutters were inspected and cleaned out twice in the year (March and October), our fire-fighting equipment updated annually (October) and the boiler serviced. The organ is also inspected annually and currently needs remedial action on its moth-eaten parts at a potential cost of a few hundred pounds.

In order for Sally Crutchley to be able to present to grant-awarding bodies a fully detailed application, we intend to carry out a bat survey this summer which will probably be in two stages.

The Churchyard

Outside the church, the paths were weeded, some tombs cleared of accrued vegetation 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.

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 Lunch remain very special occasions and a lunch at the end of the Lent/Summer Romans course was a fitting conclusion. PCC meetings were held in the small hall, which was also used for the weekly Angels and Urchins gatherings on Thursday mornings during term-time and church members were able to use the facilities for charity events: both Imara and AOJA AGMs were held here during the year. A New Year lunch was also organised by George and Deb Ruse and church members used the main hall for birthday celebrations and other social events, for which donations were received. 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 (£2,325). The building was also hired out for various social events on 4 occasions (8 in 2022, 6 in 2023) between May and July raising a further income of £280.00, less than last year (£701.00).

A major repair was carried out in August to the North side of the roof over the toilet block, where tiles had broken and fallen away and the underlying slats had rotted. The repair work, carried out by Wakehurst Roofing, has improved the appearance as well as the safety and effectiveness of the structure.

We are very grateful both to Carol Grossman for handling all the Centre 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.

Graveyard

The graveyard is in good order, although the brambles in the unused areas present an ongoing problem. 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 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
January						
February						
March	4.5	115.20				
April	12	307.20				
May	11	290.11				
June	5.25	149.86				
July	5	129.00				
August	5.75	148.36				
September	6.25	161.26				
October	5.5	149.10				
November						
December						
Annual cost	54.25	£1450.09	£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 2024:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Private donations | £40 |
| Ardingly Parish Council | £500 |
| Total | £540 |
- We are very grateful both to the Parish Council and to private donors who help to offset some of our maintenance costs.
- (ii) The hourly rates charged for the routine maintenance increased in 2024 by about 10%: £27.50 (strimming & hedge-cutting) and £21.50 (mowing and general garden work), (following an 11% and 7% rise respectively in 2023).
- (iii) An additional £177.30 was spent in April hedge-cutting, mowing and tidying up around the Rectory Garden.
- (iv) The plan to re-construct the compost area is still in hand.
- (v) Following a £100 donation from the closing funds of the Ardingly Horticultural Society, two terracotta pots with shrubs were purchased for the Memorial Garden.
- (vi) We would also like to thank the many people, known and unknown, who not only tend their family graves but who often tidy the surrounding area as well.

Nigel Cheater
John Witherington,
Churchwardens, May 2025



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Report on proceedings of the Cuckfield Deanery Synod.

Three meetings have been held over the last 12 months. All the meetings comprised a time for small groups to meet together and share progress, developments and issues within each church. Each meeting had a guest speaker, as follows:

- In Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, Revd Buff Forbes Stone, Diocesan Environment Officer, spoke on 'eco-church initiatives', November 2024;
- Bishop Ruth led the Deanery Celebration Service for 'the Year of Faith' at All Saints Church, Lindfield, January 2025; and
- Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins gave an excellent talk, entitled 'Uncovering the Nicene Creed' at Ascension Church, Haywards Heath, March 2025.

The Deanery meetings are interesting, and are open for anyone to attend. Do consider coming along to these meetings as by attending you are likely to feel encouraged, strengthened and well informed.

Mervyn James
Deanery Synod representative



**Celebrating
Faith**



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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. Zoom can also be available for weddings and funerals allowing family and friends all round the country and the wider world to part of the service.

If you wish to receive the weekly Zoom log in details please send your contact details to hmeworship@ardinglychurch.net

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. Volunteers are always needed to keep this important village service going.

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

Meeting Point coffee mornings were started by the church for the community well over 35 years ago. They present an opportunity for villagers to meet together and chat over a cup of coffee and homemade cakes. We meet fortnightly in Hapstead Hall. In August we enjoy an outing together and in December we have a Christmas party. Last year we went to Haskins, Snowhill for a cream tea. We were given a warm welcome and a corner of the cafe was attractively set up especially for us. The outing was enjoyed by all.

Numbers attending the fortnightly coffee mornings are low at present but our faithful regulars and new friends alike can expect a big welcome, service with a smile, and a good time.



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Report on Community and Mission.

Angels and Urchins

Our youngest members in the community continue to enjoy the weekly Adult and Toddler Group with toys, puzzles crafts and of course music and stories. In 2024 the children were excited to be able to investigate a fire engine and meet the firefighters. Easter was marked with an Easter Egg Hunt in the Church Centre and they also enjoyed Story Time with Father Christmas in December with all the children receiving a small gift. During the summer holidays we made good use of the Wakehurst Community Access scheme with a visit to the mud kitchen for some messy play in the sunshine.

Advent in Ardingly

This year we celebrated with an interactive way for visitors to experience the Christmas Story. Story cards were placed around the Church and with the use of a smart phone an animated Lego image come alive to tell the Christmas message.

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. High winds and a storm warning necessitated moving the Christingle service into Hapstead Hall but this was still well attended.

The annual Remembrance Day service and parade of local uniformed organisations was held on the Recreation Ground and a service of Remembrance was also held in the Graveyard followed by refreshments in the Church Centre.



An album of photographs of the year's activities is available in church for all to enjoy. If you wish to have your own copy of this publication, this is available for a donation by contacting Jane at



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Report on Community and Mission.

Bell Ringing

Bellringing is a quintessential part of the English Christian heritage. Although bells are of course used worldwide as a call to worship, 'Change Ringing,' whereby bells are turned full circle by rope and wheel and their order changed in rhythmic patterns or 'methods,' is peculiarly English.

There are many hundreds of churches in England where bellringing regularly takes place, and has done for centuries and, depending on the size of the tower and resources of the parishes, their towers contain anywhere between 4, in smaller churches, up to 12 bells in major cathedrals.

Here in Ardingly, we have six bells and, thanks to an extensive restoration project in 2008/9, they are in very good working order. While of course the bells themselves are high up in the tower, the ringing chamber (where ringers stand) is one floor above offering a splendid view of the ringers from ground floor level and also for the ringers to see the progress of service activities.

Bellringing is not difficult to learn – it requires no musical knowledge or physical strength. What is required is commitment and a sense of rhythm and timing so that the resultant sound is correct and even. While a probable minimum age to start to learn is about 12 years old, this is not by any means a hard and fast rule, nor is there a maximum age – what is important is health and safety and, to that end, all learners are properly supervised by experienced ringers (with the appropriate DBS safeguarding certification.)

Once able safely to handle and control a bell, a bellringer is welcome in any tower, not just in England but all over the world where, although less frequent, bellringing as we know it is practiced, in Canada, the United States, Australia and South Africa, for example.

In common with other small parishes, we share our bellringing practice sessions with a neighbouring church, in our case alternating with St. Margaret's, West Hoathly, each Friday morning, beginning at 10.00am until 12.00 noon with a welcome break for refreshments.

If you are interested in joining the team of bell ringers please contact me.

Lynn Wilson, Tower Captain
(01444) 892113 lynn@ardingy.clara.co.uk



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Sides persons and Welcomers

Sides persons

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

We note with sadness both the death of John Read as well as the move of Margaret Dale during the year. Our thanks go to the kind people, especially Gina Paul, who have stepped in to ensure our welcome continues to be warm and friendly. If there is anyone who would like to be a Sides person for that third Sunday, please make yourselves known!

The role is an important one. 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 sides persons are prepared to continue in this service, we would like to propose and second all the above names still with us for re-election for 2025.

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

Churchwardens, May 2025.



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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 **£110,000** needed to carry out all the essential repairs, donations are also sought to ensure this vital work can be completed.

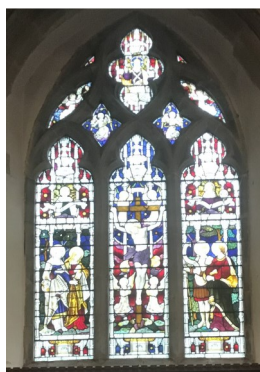


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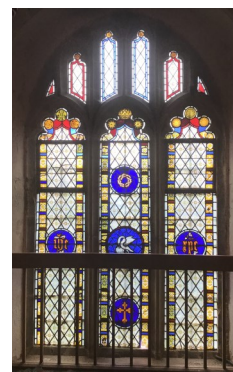
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How you can help Preserve St. Peter's Church



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.*



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