



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

Registered Charity 1133803

Church Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6UR

[www.ardinglychurch.co.uk](http://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 12 May 2026  
At 7pm**

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

*Continued*



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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 2025 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 12 May 2026

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 2025.
- ◆ Report of the Secretary to the PCC.
- ◆ Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- ◆ Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.
- ◆ Sides persons and Welcomers.
- ◆ Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
- ◆ Report on Community and Mission.
- ◆ Supporting St. Peter's Church and raising funds.



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# Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2026

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 27 May 2025.
3. To elect the Church Wardens of the Parish.
4. To consider any other business.
5. Close.



## **St. Peter's Church, Ardingly**

Registered Charity Number 1133803

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting**

held on Tuesday 27 May 2025

at St. Peter's Church Centre at 7.00pm

<b>1</b>	<b>Attendance and apologies for absence</b> Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 12 parishioners present. Also, in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater.  Apologies for absence were received from D & G Ruse, K & M James, M & J Veasey, S Laker, K. Marshall & J Witherington
<b>2</b>	<b>Approval of last minutes</b> The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2024 were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting.  It was proposed that the minutes be so adopted, and this was carried by a unanimous vote by show of hands.
<b>3</b>	<b>Election of church wardens</b> There were two nominations for the position of Church warden: Nigel Cheater (proposed by J Veasey and seconded by G Doerr) and John Witherington (proposed by K James and seconded by G Doerr)  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 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.
<b>4</b>	<b>Any other business</b> There was no other business to consider.
<b>5</b>	<b>Close</b> The meeting was formally closed at 7:05pm.



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# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

## 12 May 2026

**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 27 May 2025.
3. To receive and approve the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.
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 elect Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod.
12. To appoint Sides persons and welcomers.
13. To appoint the Auditor for the forthcoming year.
14. To receive the report of the Chairman.
15. To consider any other business.
16. 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.**

*Continued*



**St. Peter's Church, Ardingly**

Registered Charity Number 1133803

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parochial Council Meeting**

held on Tuesday 27 May 2025

at St. Peter's Church Centre at 7.07pm

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Attendance and apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Those present: The Reverend John Crutchley, with 12 parishioners present. Also in attendance Jane Taylor Cheater.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from D &amp; G Ruse, K &amp; M James, M &amp; J Veasey, S Laker, K. Marshall &amp; J Witherington</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Approval of last minutes</b></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 21 May 2024 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>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024</b></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>A question was raised regarding the Burgess Fund and what it can be used for. It was noted that this was a restricted endowment trust from which St. Peter's receives interest annually. The purpose of the trust is to promote the church and its services. It is hoped to use this fund to replace the noticeboard outside the church and to install one in the graveyard. A well-maintained noticeboard is important as it symbolises a church which is alive.</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>



<b>4</b>	<p><b><i>Appointment of PCC Secretary</i></b></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 by J Rae and seconded by C Grossman 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 was given a round of applause by way of a show of appreciation.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b><i>Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments</i></b></p> <p><u><a href="#">A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</a></u></p> <p>The digital survey of the church building was carried out. It is a very large digital file and it will be investigated as to whether it could be made available for anyone interested to look at. The survey will prove to be very useful for future repairs and for applying for grants for renovation work.</p> <p>Funds for the West window and Tower Fund continue to be raised. A useful meeting was held recently with the Lotteries Heritage Fund who will also help with grant applications.</p> <p>A bat survey is required and is being arranged but this can only be carried out between May and November when the bats are active.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b><i>Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer</i></b></p> <p><u><a href="#">A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</a></u></p> <p>There is a new approach to monitoring safeguarding in Church which is being introduced called Dashboard.</p> <p>A reminder was given that safeguarding is not just about children but also the vulnerable and the elderly. If anyone has a safeguarding concern or doubt it should be reported to either John C or Jane. Non church related concerns can be raised as well though in cases of immediate harm the police and social services should be contacted.</p> <p>There are several safeguarding courses available online, these are accessible to all.</p>



<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Report on the Church Centre</b> <i>A copy of the report was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that since COVID, users of the Church Centre are required to clean after use.</p> <p>The costs and charges associated with the Centre have recently been reviewed and this review has included the amount charged to the Pre-school. This charge has been kept at a very reasonable rate and rises have been held back for as long as possible, unfortunately with rising costs it has been necessary to increase the rate from September.</p> <p>The PCC have been asked to consider carefully the cost and benefits of maintaining the Centre and whether it is financially viable to keep ownership of it. There is a large potential for repair costs to the building. The PCC members are Trustees and must give due consideration to the future of the Centre.</p>						
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod</b> <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.</p>						
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Report on Community and Mission</b> <i>Copies of the report were circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that it was pleasing to see so many community activities continuing.</p>						
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Election of PCC members</b> Nominations for election to the PCC had been received from the following.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="199 1590 1117 1713"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="199 1590 558 1635"><b>Nominee</b></th> <th data-bbox="558 1590 925 1635"><b>Proposed</b></th> <th data-bbox="925 1590 1117 1635"><b>Seconded</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="199 1668 558 1713">Glynis Doerr</td> <td data-bbox="558 1668 925 1713">J Veasey</td> <td data-bbox="925 1668 1117 1713">N Cheater</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The meeting voted unanimously by show of hands to re-elect Glynis to the PCC. PCC meetings usually take place on Saturday mornings, and this is working well as members are usually more alert than at evening meetings.</p>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	Glynis Doerr	J Veasey	N Cheater
<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>					
Glynis Doerr	J Veasey	N Cheater					



<b>11</b>	<p><b><i>Appointment of Sides persons and Welcomers</i></b> <i>A list of sides persons was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to accept the list of sides persons and welcomers. It was noted that all these volunteers carry out an important role within the church. Recent safeguarding courses emphasise this importance in making people feel welcome, comfortable and valued.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b><i>Appointment of Auditor</i></b></p> <p>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>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Report of the Chairman</b> <i>The Trustees Annual report formed the main part of the Chairmans report and this was circulated in the APCM pack prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the Trustees report was an important opportunity to reflect on what we have done in the year. The report was also an important tool when applying for grants. It is easy to forget what has happened in the past year and it is good to be reminded of all the things that have happened and what a lovely community we have at St. Peter's.</p> <p>The Church is also involved with the primary school with currently 3 Governors as well as being involved in village activities such as the Christingle, VE Day celebrations etc.</p> <p>Sadly, the church building is closed at the moment except during services. The insurers and police are supportive of us reopening and this will happen once security measures have been improved.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Nigel thanked John for all his work and dedication. Nigel commented that he sees how much work that John puts into preparing services and in making sure that services run smoothly even when he is on holiday.</p> <p>Those present showed their appreciation by way of a round of applause.</p>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>John thanked everyone for coming to the meeting</p> <p>The meeting was formally closed at 7.42 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 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

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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](http://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 2025, the following people served as members of the parochial church council ("PCC"):

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

## ST PETER'S ARDINGLY - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

### 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; utilising 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 2025. The current electoral roll has 55 members.

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## WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND HOW WE AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES' LIVES

### Attendance at Worship

A parish church is there to serve all of those living in the parish as the local, stable community of faith, providing regular worship, sacraments, and pastoral care to its parishioners. But more than that it also serves as "God's house" in the local area and as a central hub for evangelism, community service,

spiritual formation, and pastoral guidance for both believers and the wider neighbourhood. That is very much the essence of how St. Peter's understands its mission and role and its success in all of that can be

“A LOVELY LADY WELCOMED US IN AND WE WERE  
TAKEN ON A TOUR BY A LOVELY MAN ”

COMMENT IN THE VISITORS BOOK, JUNE 2025

seen to some extent by the many encouraging comments left year after year in our visitors book. Some just call in whilst out on a walk: *'I was just walking by!'* (a comment from a visitor in January 2025). Others visit with a clear purpose: *'visiting family,' 'visiting my father's grave,' 'Thirty years ago we were married here!'* (comments left in April 2025). Others are struck by the place, by the peace, and by the beauty and so experience something of God's presence: *'The beauty shows us God!'* (a comment left in September 2025). The parish may be small, but our visitors come from across the country and the world a reminder of just how important is the outreach of an open and available church. Sadly, not all of our visitors this year came seeking the Lord or to remember a loved one. For a while in the Summer we experienced a spate of thefts and petty vandalism which is upsetting, and which forced us to keep the church locked for a short while and as we considered how best to tackle the problem. The installation of discreet CCTV cameras and a notice reminding all of our visitors that the only thing of any value we keep is the Bible and that they are welcome to take a copy seems to have solved the problem and so now the church is once again available to any who want to visit: *'So pleased the church is open again – thank you!'* (a comment left in the visitors book in September 2025). Once again the church is welcoming, it is a place of rest, a place of shelter for some and a home from home for many.

Which 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 and welcome.

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The New Year started—as it has for several years now—with some people joining together for a short hike, followed by a longer shared lunch at the Church Centre! This event also continued the tradition of raising funds for our two local charities: Ardingly Old Jeshwang and Imara Uganda.

Sharing meals is a fundamental aspect of church life at St. Peter's. We gather for lunch on New Year's Day, share a meal together on Maundy Thursday, enjoy Hot Cross buns on Good Friday morning, and hold a bring-and-share lunch for Harvest Festival. Even during graveyard weeding and tidying up, we provide refreshments. Though the church family is small and getting older, it remains vibrant, active, and deeply committed to serving and connecting with the entire Ardingly community as we grow in both our understanding and love for Christ.

**“WHAT A KIND MESSAGE YOUR CHURCH SHOWS  
TO OTHERS”**

**A VISITOR FROM BERKSHIRE, MAY 2025**

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, where we are '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 gathered for Evening Prayer each day of Lent where we focussed daily on one of the top 50 countries where Christians continue to face persecution. This 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.

Each Sunday our principal morning service is offered via a Zoom link. This 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.

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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 once again must go to Nigel Cheater, one of our church wardens who handles the 'tech' and who week by week arranges and manages the Zoom link.

"THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND AND  
THOUGHTFUL ON SUNDAY – I NEEDED THOSE  
PRAYERS. LIFE TAKES UNWANTED AND SAD  
TURNS AT TIMES AND SOMETIMES IT IS SO HARD  
TO UNDERSTAND WHY. YOU HELPED ME.  
THANK YOU"

A COMMENT FOLLOWING A SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

parish is a significant obstacle. Centuries ago, the church was built right in the heart of the village, both geographically and spiritually. However, as time has passed, the centre of the village has shifted, making the church somewhat removed from where most people live. To address this, we've taken steps to bring some services outside the church building, ensuring it remains a welcoming spiritual centre for all. This approach has surprisingly made our services more accessible—especially for those who find it challenging to attend inside the church. In recent years, for example, the annual Service of All Souls has been held in the graveyard instead of the church, drawing far more participants than usual and offering a meaningful space for collective remembrance and grieving.

A prime illustration of the benefits of holding services outside the church can be seen in the annual Service of Remembrance each November. This event takes place on the Recreation Ground, placing it at the centre of village life, with local uniform groups present. This year, a group of pupils from the local primary school also participated. Wreaths were laid by both Parish and District Council representatives, as well as on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Since moving the service outdoors and into the heart of the community, attendance has increased annually. The service now attracts more young people and members of the community who previously may not have considered attending a church service for Remembrance. It is fascinating to observe how many morning dog-walkers pause, stand in silence, and join in remembrance simply because the service is so accessible.

Our services are designed to be open and inviting to everyone. While we would always welcome more attendees, seeing large gatherings during Christmas and Easter and at Remembrance reassures us that the church's message still connects deeply with people in our village. We've always understood that being remotely located in a rural

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This exemplifies our ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive environment and reflecting our dedication to serving the entire community. Over the past year, we provided practical assistance to the village by donating all of our harvest gifts to local families experiencing hardship. Additionally, proceeds from our Christmas services were earmarked for the Children's Society and 'Off the Fence,' a Brighton-



based  
organisation  
supporting  
individuals  
experiencing  
homelessness.  
We have  
maintained

DEAR JOHN, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SHOW US AROUND  
ST. PETER'S CHURCH.  
LOVE, CUCKOO CLASS.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

support for Ardingly Old Jeshwang initiatives in The Gambia, Imara's efforts in Uganda, and Ardingly Connected Together's work within our village. Through these endeavours, as well as through our involvement in other charitable projects, our church continues to demonstrate its core values of compassion and neighbourly support.

### Evangelism and Outreach

Services follow a regular schedule: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9:00am every Sunday, with varied 10:30am services—Morning Praise on first and third Sundays, Holy Communion (Common Worship Order One) on second and fourth Sundays, with prayer for healing on the fourth. On fifth Sundays, Morning Praise is held. The first Sunday evening each month features 'Open to God,' providing



I REALLY APPRECIATED THE  
CALM.

A VISITOR FROM GERMANY, NOVEMBER  
2025

peaceful reflection through different service formats. A rota of readers and prayer leaders ensures broad participation from the church family.

Evangelism and outreach aim to connect with and serve our community beyond weekly services. We maintain strong relationships across the village, including the Parish Council, Showground neighbours, Ardingly Connected Together, and both local schools.



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Ardingly College kindly manages our monthly parish magazine photocopying and the secretary at St. Peter's CEP School has for many years helped with our photocopying for Christmas and Easter services. Our thanks go to them both. The church has a very close relationship with the local Church of England Primary School, with three foundation governors from our congregation on the school governing body and with the Rector leading weekly assemblies. Primary classes also visit the church for educational activities and services are held in church for key events like Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and a summer leavers' service where departing pupils receive a bible, continuing a tradition started in 2007.

**“BEAUTIFUL CHURCH WITH WONDERFUL  
BRASSES AND CLEARLY A LOVELY COMMUNITY  
WHO CARE FOR IT”**

A COMMENT IN THE VISITOR BOOK,  
SEPTEMBER 2025

'Meeting Point' brings together mainly older villagers every other week for coffee, cake, and fellowship. 'Angels and Urchins' meets weekly during school terms, offering a vital space for carers of young children with toys, games, singing, and refreshments. Sadly, 2025 was the final year of 'At your Service' which for many years provided rides, shopping help, and other domestic support to anyone needing assistance. Finding enough volunteers is always a problem and organisational challenges made continuing the service too difficult. Each group has helped to combat loneliness and isolation for people of all ages in the village.

### **Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.**

The Rector receives support in providing pastoral care for village residents from three assistants, all of whom have completed diocesan training and received authorisation from the bishop. A new team member began their ministry in 2025. Additionally, a dedicated group of church members volunteer their time and energy to care for, listen to, and assist people within the church family and the broader village community. The Rector is also helped by a Reader, John Witherington, who deserves thanks for leading services, offering insightful and thought-provoking sermons, and working tirelessly as church-warden. His contributions are invaluable to the parish.

**“I JUST SAT AND SAID A PRAYER FOR MY DEAR BROTHER.”**

A VISITOR TO THE CHURCH, NOVEMBER 2025

*Continued*



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

Registered Charity 1133803

Church Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6UR

[www.ardinglychurch.co.uk](http://www.ardinglychurch.co.uk)

### **Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers.**

The church remains valued by parishioners and others as a place for celebrating significant life events. Funerals, including those of some longtime members who will be greatly missed, have taken place both in the church and at the crematorium, with several services for the burial of ashes being conducted too. Teaching primarily happens through weekly sermons that relate God's word to modern life and is reinforced in home groups. Many church members participate in leading worship, which encourages both leaders and the congregation.

### **Provision of the church building for people to enjoy.**

Visitors to the church often appreciate its openness, peaceful atmosphere, and spiritual ambience. In recent years, it has hosted recitals by young musicians from Ardingly College. Guests also value the church's historical significance, architectural beauty, biblical archaeology, and careful maintenance.

St. Peter's Church is a Grade I listed 14th-century building featuring a stone tower from the late 1300s, built without a spire for defence or as a beacon. The tower houses six bells, ranging from the 14th century to one added in 1912; all were restored in 2009 and are regularly rung by local and visiting teams. It also contains a stained-glass window by James Powell and Sons from 1847.

Maintaining such a historic structure requires ongoing care. Our routine five-year report has highlighted significant repairs needed on the tower. This includes removing and restoring the West window, repairing its surrounding stonework and the protective ferramenta, replacing Victorian mortar in the masonry, fixing the upper windows' stonework, and reworking drainage channels to protect the building from water damage. While conducting these repairs, we also aim to improve access through the belfry so the tower parapet can be safely reached. The wooden stairs leading up to the belfry have become hazardous and must be replaced.

**REMEMBERING ALL OF THE TIMES IN ST.PETER'S,  
HAPPY AND SAD!**

**A VISITOR FORMERLY FROM ARDINGLY NOW LIVING IN CANADA  
NOVEMBER 2025**



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We've started fundraising to support this extensive restoration project for the tower and West window. Alongside local efforts, we are exploring national grant opportunities, which remain ongoing. To help with these applications and future restoration needs, we commissioned a comprehensive digital survey of the church, generously funded by members of our church community.

In addition to caring for the church building, we are also tasked with maintaining the Church Centre.

Although our worshipping community is quite small, we paid £55,000 in parish share in 2025. Sadly, this covered only 68% of the total amount requested by the diocese. The financial difficulties we face are significant, but so too is the church family's remarkable generosity in addressing these challenges.

## **Financial Review**

### **Unrestricted incoming and outgoing resources**

2025 was another financially challenging year for our Church. The loss of a few major donors had a significant impact on planned giving and this, with other regular income remaining fairly constant during the year, meant that we were expecting our income for the year to be some £12,000 lower than in 2024.

Having shown a net deficit of over £15,000 the previous year and with limited reserves, some difficult decisions had to be made. The key impact was to reluctantly further reduce our Parish Share contribution to £55,000. This is the amount paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs and our PCC remains committed to paying as much as we can realistically afford towards these costs. As such, the amount pledged still reflected 100% of all planned giving (including gift aid recovery) that had been received in 2024 and the PCC once again stepped out in faith that other expenditure would be met from other income sources.

This faith was rewarded when a very generous donation, described as a "gift from God" by the donor, was received towards the end of 2025. The impact of this donation and the careful control of all expenditure meant that income exceeded expenditure during the year by nearly £7,300.

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.

### **Restricted Income and Expenditure**

Note 10 shows a breakdown of income and expenditure by fund. No significant expenditure from these restricted funds was required during the year and they generally remain at similar levels to the start of 2025.

The total value of restricted funds at the end of 2025 was £32,732 and this figure includes the Burgess Trust.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of St Peter's to aim to broadly break even in the year and to maintain reserves at a realistic level providing for any future years where a deficit is been returned. Current reserves are £15,000 and have been maintained for 2025.



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

**Balance Sheet**

**As at 31 December 2025**

<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>As At 31/12/2025</b>	<b>As At 31/12/2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	1.00	1.00
Heritage Assets	150,913.83	150,913.83
Investments	4,977.30	5,184.57
	<u>155,892.13</u>	<u>156,099.40</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	57,811.89	50,523.90
	<u>57,811.89</u>	<u>50,523.90</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>57,811.89</u>	<u>50,523.90</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>213,704.02</u>	<u>206,623.30</u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u><b>213,704.02</b></u>	<u><b>206,623.30</b></u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Unrestricted—General Fund	15,057.35	6,771.80
<b>Designated Funds</b>		
Designated—General Funds	15,000.00	15,000.00
Designated—Church Centre Capital	150,914.83	150,914.83
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Restricted—Village Discretionary Fund	208.00	20.50
Restricted—Youth Worker Fund	6,820.17	7,161.80
Restricted—Church Centre Upgrade Fund	-	-
Restricted—Mission Fund	344.49	344.49
Restricted—Other Restricted Funds ( <i>note 10</i> )	412.99	-
Restricted—West Window and Tower Fund	15,948.80	16,422.80
Restricted—Church Maintenance Fund	2,253.94	3,251.86
Restricted—Burgess Trust Fund	6,743.45	6,735.22
	<u>213,704.02</u>	<u>206,623.30</u>
<b>Funds of the Church</b>	<u><b>213,704.02</b></u>	<u><b>206,623.30</b></u>

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by**

**Rev John Crutchley**



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

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	General & Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b><i>Income and Endowments</i></b>				
Donations and Legacies	76,077.47	3,124.22	79,201.69	83,409.01
Income from charitable activities	3,467.50	-	3,467.50	2,575.50
Other trading activities	8,089.00	-	8,089.00	8,378.15
Investments	647.47	215.50	862.97	1,056.68
Other income			-	-
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>	<b>88,281.44</b>	<b>3,339.72</b>	<b>91,621.16</b>	<b>95,419.34</b>
<b><i>Expenditure</i></b>				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	79,962.03	4,337.28	84,299.31	116,446.69
Other expenditure	33.86	-	33.86	137.03
<b><i>Total Expenditure</i></b>	<b>79,995.89</b>	<b>4,337.28</b>	<b>84,333.17</b>	<b>116,583.72</b>
<b><i>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</i></b>	<b>8,285.55</b>	<b>-997.56</b>	<b>7,287.99</b>	<b>-21,164.38</b>
<b><i>Transfers</i></b>				
Transfers between funds				-
<b><i>Other recognised gains/losses</i></b>				
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charities own use	-	-207.27	-207.27	116.01
<b>Net movements in funds</b>	<b>8,285.55</b>	<b>-1,204.83</b>	<b>7,080.72</b>	<b>-21,048.37</b>
<b><i>Reconciliation of funds</i></b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>172,686.63</b>	<b>33,936.67</b>	<b>206,623.30</b>	<b>227,671.67</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>180,972.18</b>	<b>32,731.84</b>	<b>213,704.02</b>	<b>206,623.30</b>

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



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

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2025

#### 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.



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

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Analysis of Income**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

<b>Note 2</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
<b><i>Donations and legacies</i></b>					
0100 Planned giving GA	30,990.61	-	-	30,990.61	9,679.87
0110 Planned giving non-GA	3,373.42	-	-	3,373.42	36,461.47
0120 Envelope Scheme GA	15.00	-	-	15.00	159.50
0140 Church collections GA	2,589.82	-	-	2,589.82	2,569.50
0150 Church collections non-GA	-	-	-	-	-
0160 Donations GA	28,275.00	-	1,812.98	30,087.98	19,675.40
0170 Donations non GA	1,305.13	-	-	1,305.13	2,605.51
0180 Gift Aid tax recovered	8,549.35	-	398.25	8,947.60	8,509.96
0190 Legacies and endowments	-	-	-	-	-
0200 Fund-raising (non trading) income	182.00	-	-	182.00	50.00
0210 Events Receipts	500.00	-	-	500.00	-
0220 Special collections	-	-	412.99	412.99	441.32
0230 Grants received	-	-	500.00	500.00	3,068.13
0390 Other donations	256.14	-	-	256.14	188.35
0590 Other trading income	41.00	-	-	41.00	-
<b><i>Donations and legacies Total</i></b>	<b>76,077.47</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,124.22</b>	<b>79,201.69</b>	<b>83,409.01</b>
<b><i>Income from charitable activities</i></b>					
0400 Fees for services	3,467.50	-	-	3,467.50	2,575.50
<b>Total Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>3,467.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,467.50</b>	<b>2,575.50</b>
<b><i>Other trading activities</i></b>					
0500 Centre hire	7,527.00	-	-	7,527.00	7,580.00
0510 Magazine income	362.00	-	-	362.00	419.50
0520 Sale of goods for fundraising	200.00	-	-	200.00	378.65
<b>Total Other trading activities</b>	<b>8,089.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,089.00</b>	<b>8,378.15</b>
<b><i>Investments</i></b>					
0600 Deposit interest received	647.47	-	-	647.47	721.11
0610 Investment interest received	-	-	215.50	215.50	335.57
	<b>647.47</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>215.50</b>	<b>862.97</b>	<b>1,056.68</b>
<b><i>Other Income</i></b>					
0790 Other income	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other incomes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>	<b>88,281.44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,339.72</b>	<b>91,621.16</b>	<b>95,419.34</b>



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

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Analysis of Expenditure

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

Note 3	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Raising Funds Totals</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
2200 Parish contribution	55,000.00	-	-	55,000.00	65,156.00
2210 Charitable giving	2,750.00	-	-	2,750.00	1,250.00
2220 Church utilities	3,913.47	-	-	3,913.47	3,314.32
2230 Church service expenses	1,841.68	-	-	1,841.68	2,163.96
2240 Church maintenance and equipment	3,044.74	-	3,366.92	6,411.66	26,278.70
2250 Rectory expenses	4,634.96	-	-	4,634.96	5,605.97
2260 Rector's expenses	1,370.91	-	-	1,370.91	1,437.01
2270 Other clergy expenses	157.54	-	-	157.54	-
2280 Training costs	36.90	-	-	36.90	-
2290 Administrative expenses	192.31	-	-	192.31	187.56
2300 Children and young people	-	-	341.63	341.63	403.31
2320 Giving from special collections	-	-	-	-	701.97
2330 Gifts made	7.00	-	-	7.00	500.00
2350 Bank charges	51.26	-	-	51.26	-
2600 Centre utilities costs	4,456.46	-	-	4,456.46	4,311.04
2610 Centre running costs	2,469.35	-	628.73	3,098.08	1,226.65
2620 Centre maintenance and equipment	35.45	-	-	35.45	3,910.20
2650 Magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>79,962.03</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,337.28</b>	<b>84,299.31</b>	<b>116,446.69</b>
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
2990 Other expenditure	33.86	-	-	33.86	137.03
<b>Total Other expenditure</b>	<b>33.86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33.86</b>	<b>137.03</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>79,995.89</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,337.28</b>	<b>84,333.17</b>	<b>116,583.72</b>
<b>TOTAL OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,285.55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-997.56</b>	<b>7,287.99</b>	<b>-21,164.38</b>



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

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 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

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£
At 1 January 2025	150,913.83	1.00	150,914.83
Additions/disposals/revaluations	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>150,913.83</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>150,914.83</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2025	-	-	-
Provided in year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 December 2025	<b>150,913.83</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>150,914.83</b>
At 31 December 2024	<b>150,913.83</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>150,914.83</b>

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	Total
	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2025	5,184.57	5,068.56
(Decrease)/Increase in market value	<u>(207.27)</u>	<u>116.01</u>
<b>Market value at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>4,977.30</u></b>	<b><u>5,184.57</u></b>

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.



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

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**7 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Fund Balances at 31/12/2025</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	150,914.83	-	-	-	150,914.83
Investment fixed assets	-	-	6,743.45	-	6,743.45
Current assets	15,057.35	15,000.00	25,988.39	-	56,045.74
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2025</b>	<b>165,972.18</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>32,731.84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>213,704.02</b>

**8 Debtors**

There were no debtors as at 31 December 2025.

**9 Creditors**

There were no creditors as at 31 December 2025.

**10 Fund movement summary**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund Balances as at 01/01/2025</b>	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Outgoing resources</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains/losses</b>	<b>Fund Balances as at 31/12/2025</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Village Discretionary Fund	20.50	187.50	-	-	-	208.00
Youth Worker Fund	7,161.80	-	341.63	-	-	6,820.17
Church Centre Upgrade Fund	-	628.73	628.73	-	-	0.00
Mission Fund	344.49	-	-	-	-	344.49
Graveyard	-	1,070.00	1,070.00	-	-	0.00
West Window and Tower Fund	16,422.80	-	474.00	-	-	15,948.80
Church Maintenance Fund	3,251.86	825.00	1,822.92	-	-	2,253.94
Special Collections	-	412.99	-	-	-	412.99
Mower	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burgess Trust Fund	6,735.22	215.50	-	-	-207.27	6,743.45
General Reserves	15,000.00	-	-	-	-	15,000.00
Church Centre Capital	150,914.83	-	-	-	-	150,914.83
	<b>199,851.50</b>	<b>3,339.72</b>	<b>4,337.28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-207.27</b>	<b>198,646.67</b>
General Fund	6,771.80	88,281.44	79,995.89	-	-	15,057.35
	<b>206,623.30</b>	<b>91,621.16</b>	<b>84,333.17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-207.27</b>	<b>213,704.02</b>



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

### Independent Examiner's Report 2025

#### 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, 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 01/05/2026



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Live for Christ, Advance the Gospel

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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 (in addition to the APCM) this year. 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. Copies of these are accessible via the Church website.

In addition the Deanery Synod representatives, Mr Mervyn James and Mrs Jill Veasey report back on the dealings of the Synod.

Members of the PCC serve a three years term. Mrs Deb Ruse, Mrs Jill Veasey, Mrs Gina Paul and Mr Mervyn James have completed their current term of office and are thanked for all their work on the PCC.

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. Additional policies relating to Safeguarding have been adopted by the PCC and these policies as well as the Safeguarding policy as approved by the PCC is available to read on the Church website. Copies of the Safeguarding policies are also 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. Members of the PCC are encouraged to complete the Foundation level module, updating this every 3 years. A training session for this module was held in October 2025 and was attended by 5 people.

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/>

### Concerns Raised

There were no safeguarding concerns shared with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and no referrals made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team during 2025

### Next Steps

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is used to ensure safeguarding matters are kept up to date and to indicate areas for focus.

*Jane Taylor Cheater*  
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Safeguarding



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## **Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.**

### ***The Church***

Regular maintenance and servicing ensure that the heating, electrical and fire appliances are in good order and the organ is tuned. The gutters are also inspected and cleaned twice a year. A spring and summer clean in and around the building helps to maintain a cared-for appearance and thereby a welcome both for regular worshippers and visitors. The Churchwardens are very grateful to those who clean the church, polish the brass, arrange the flowers, empty the bins, launder the linen, tidy shelves and noticeboards, make candles and uncomplainingly carry out so many necessary chores.

Particular issues that have arisen include: an overflowing hopper outside the vestry, a broken gutter on the North side, a faulty radiator near the organ and moth damage to the organ. The latter has been repaired. Faulty bulbs, which were causing the main fuse to trip, were replaced. The full 5-year electrical survey is due in 2026.

At the back of the church where the roof of the nave joins the tower, loose mortar and cracked stonework have allowed an ingress of water. A temporary emergency repair has been carried out but one estimate for a more long-lasting solution will present us with a bill of £5600 (+VAT). Another estimate will be obtained in due course.

Following a series of thefts, resulting in a temporary closure of the church during weekdays, PCC discussed and approved the installation of a CCTV system which has been installed and monitored by Nigel Cheater. The police and insurers support this and the result is as unobtrusive as possible. There are 3 cameras: one by the organ looking back down the church, one in the tower looking toward the main body of the church and one on the pillar facing the main door. There is no recording of sound and no recording during services. There is an App that allows for monitoring of movement in the building. The use of CCTV has been registered with the ICO at an annual cost of £47.



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## **Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.**

In the course of applying for grants for repairs to the tower and West window, it became evident that a bat survey was needed. A preliminary roost assessment was carried out by Corylus Ecology on 18 July, which found that, although bats were clearly visiting parts of the tower (and somehow finding their way into the nave), there is no evidence for a significant or permanent roost here. The report can be used at this stage to support grant applications to show that the effect of proposed work on the bats has been considered, but other reports will be needed nearer the time when planning permission is being sought and the faculty applied for.

Regarding the funding for repairs to the tower and West window, the Churchwardens would like to record their immense gratitude for the painstaking work of Sally Crutchley in researching possible sources of grants. She had a useful meeting with the National Heritage Lottery Fund; though there is a lot of work to be done in preparing the application, the NHLF will help with this. If successful, a grant of up to £25,000 may be awarded. The PCC has been indebted to Sally's valuable information-gathering, which has stressed the need to do some serious fund-raising of up to 50% of the likely £110K project costs before grant-awarding bodies will consider applications. So far we have about 15%.

### ***St. Peter's Centre***

Regular maintenance ensures that the heating and fire appliances are in good order. The gutters have been inspected and cleaned. The annual spring clean includes much washing and scrubbing of the kitchen area, toilets and other rooms, with filling and re-painting carried out where needed. The outside is meticulously weeded. The Churchwardens are grateful for all those who have helped maintain both the interior and exterior of the building as far as is possible with the resources we have. Our particular thanks go to Jill Veasey for her tireless efforts in keeping the kitchen to such a high standard of cleanliness, monitoring other parts of the building, liaising with Pre-School and arranging for necessary repairs to be carried out.



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## **Report of the Churchwardens on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.**

We also thank Carol Grossman for managing the hiring and invoicing so efficiently. In addition to the Pre-School and Tanzen Dance company, our two most regular hirers, we have also hired out the facilities for the Scouts and Cubs, for four children's parties, three Pre-School discos, one party and one funeral reception. The halls have been used by the Church for occasional services, PCC and Finance Committee meetings, funeral receptions for Church members and AOJA, Imara and Cursillo meetings, as well as Angels and Urchins and spaces for the sorting of Mothering Sunday flowers and Christmas post.

Particular issues that have arisen include: a blocked downpipe on the East side, a broken gutter near the toilet block fire exit, a cracked basin in one of the toilets, a boiler failure (now repaired) and storage.

We are also grateful to Jim Botting and his team for the replacement gate opposite the Centre, which has made access easier. We would like to thank SEAS for continuing to allow us to use their space for our overflow parking.

The fire alarm and emergency lighting are due for servicing. The PCC has engaged TSS on a 3-year service agreement. They have already carried out an inspection and audit prior to taking over the annual maintenance contract. Their preliminary findings suggest that many of the batteries and appliances have reached the end of their expected lifespan and will need replacing during the summer holidays.

Regarding the future of the building, the Churchwardens have been seeking the advice of various surveyors, valuers and developers to investigate possible ways forward to relieve us from the increasing burden of maintenance, while at the same time ensuring we have alternative space and facilities for Church functions and community engagement. These investigations have been shared with the PCC and remain an ongoing topic.



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

### ***The Graveyard***

The Graveyard continues to be maintained by Rosy Gardens usually twice a month. The cost increased from £21.50 to £23.75 per hour and for hedge strimming from £27.50 to £30 per hour. From July 2026, the cost will increase again to £25 and £32 (+ VAT) respectively. We acknowledge our gratitude for the continuing annual grant of £500 from the Parish Council to help with these costs. We again offer our thanks to Jim Botting and his team for their help in keeping the compost heap down and the hedges bordering the showground trimmed. Ongoing issues remain: the re-construction of the compost area, the vigorous growth of the brambles and the spoil heap on the South side.

*Nigel Cheater and John Witherington, April 2026.*





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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. 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. Gina Paul, Mick Lucas
4. Glynis Doerr, Sue Laker
5. Belinda Maclean

### 5/6 p.m.

1. Adele Collins

Our thanks go to all those who ensure our welcome continues to be warm and friendly. If there is anyone who would like to join the team, 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 of the service 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 for re-election for 2026/7.

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 so effectively.

*Nigel Cheater*

*John Witherington*



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## Report on the proceedings of the Cuckfield Deanery Synod

Members were invited to attend a Vivaldi concert at St Mary's Church, Balcombe. This was to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. To celebrate this important anniversary, a new choral imagining of this famous work "A Season to Sing" has been composed. There were other religious pieces by famous composers such as Bach and Mozart.

There was a meeting at Ascension Church, Haywards Heath on Art and Prayer asking such questions as "How do art and Christianity talk to one another?" by Reverend Charles Pickstone, Anglican priest and freelance art critic.

Finally, Sarah Rogers, Parish Advisor (Finance, Stewardship and Governance) is to speak on the theme of "Generous Giving". (Date and venue to be announced, shortly.)

Everyone is welcome to attend The Deanery Synod meetings.

*Mervyn James & Jill Veasey*

*Deanery Synod Representatives*

### **Deanery Synod Lay Representatives**

Every parish needs to elect new lay representatives to the deanery synod at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in 2026. The term of office of all existing elected lay representatives to the deanery synod will expire on 30 June 2026. Any person wishing to serve as a Deanery Synod lay representatives from 1 July 2026 will need to be elected at the APCM. The newly elected representatives will hold office for a term of three years beginning on 1 July 2026 ending on 30 June 2029.



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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.

### ***Zoom***

The 10.30 morning service on Sundays continues to be 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 be part of the service.

If you wish to receive the weekly Zoom log in details, please send your contact details to [homeworship@ardinglychurch.net](mailto:homeworship@ardinglychurch.net)

### ***Weekly newsletters and Parish magazine***

The weekly newsletter keeps the community well informed of events as well as providing the link to the Zoom service. A monthly Parish magazine is also published giving details of Church services and activities as well as news from village organisations.

### ***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.

### ***Angels and Urchins***

The Carer and Toddler group continues to be well attended. Our themes for crafts and stories have included Nursery Rhymes, Arctic animals and Bugs and butterflies as well as seasonal activities for Easter and Christmas. The children enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas at our last meeting of the year with each child receiving a gift and having the opportunity to have their photo taken with Father Christmas.

### ***Advent in Ardingly***

This year we celebrated Advent by adding nativity characters to the Advent tree. Nativity themed activity books were also provided for our younger visitors.



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## Report on Community and Mission

### ***Village Day***

The church building was open for visitors during Ardingly Village Day. A demonstration of bellringing with a chance to visit the ringing platform was available as well a chance to view the Culpepper brasses and hear about some local history.

### ***Bell Ringing***

At St. Peter's church there are six bells which, thanks to an extensive restoration project 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.

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.

### ***Flower Arranging***

The Church building is always beautifully dressed with seasonal floral displays marking the changes throughout the church year thanks to the team of flower arrangers.

### ***Open Air Services***

During the year services have been taken out to the community including a Christingle and a community Carol service following the lighting of the oak tree at Hapstead Hall.

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.





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

- ◆ via our website  
[www.ardinglychurch.org.uk/getinvolved/supporting-st-peters](http://www.ardinglychurch.org.uk/getinvolved/supporting-st-peters)
- ◆ by using the contactless machine in church
- ◆ or by scanning this QR code



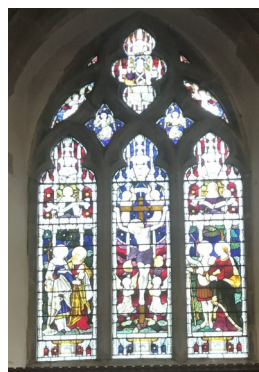
### Parish Giving Scheme

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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), and select St. Peter's Church, Ardingly.



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