



St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe



Annual Report and Accounts prepared for the 2024 APCM

1 Rector's Report

This is quite a brief report as I have only been in post since 27th March. Firstly thank you to everyone for their hard work over the interregnum, it's wonderful to see the togetherness and support that you have for one another and a great example of this could be seen in the seamless coordination of my licensing service which was truly remarkable and filled with a palpable sense of God's presence, thank you. I would like to extend a special thanks to Rev. Irene whose hard work, love, and support over the interregnum has been phenomenal. On a personal note Karen and I have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support that we have received despite being in post for a short time. It's evident how much love you have for God, one another, and the community and I am very much looking forward to seeing where God leads us over the coming months and years as we work together to build God's kingdom in this beautiful parish and benefice.

Rev Kris Seward

2 Churchwarden's Report

It's been a challenging few months since Eddie left, but with the invaluable support of Revd. Irene and others we've kept the services going, together with the day to day running of things. We want to thank everyone for their cooperation and help. Whether you are a member of the PCC, Verger, helped with fundraising or provided refreshments, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

Although we are very different people I hope you'll agree that we have worked together well as Churchwardens. We have developed new skills, especially when writing and taking services. We are grateful to Elaine Goldswain and Helen Grubb for their brilliant and imaginative management of family worship services. Attendance continues to remain steady along with a good turnout for Remembrance Sunday and a very successful Mothering Sunday service.

We are no further on with discussions about whether we upgrade the Church rooms and kitchen and/or add a servery and an inclusive toilet to the Church itself. There are limits to what is achievable or allowed during an interregnum. These topics will be revisited this summer. The lane leading to the carpark is atrocious and dangerous. Please take care when you walk down it. The Diocese are still looking for quotations for extensive tree root work and resurfacing the road.

Finally, we want to say how pleased we are to have Revd. Kris in post. The induction service, because of expected large numbers attending, was relocated to St. Peter's Church at short notice. There were over 170 in the congregation. Thanks must go to parishioners from all four Churches in the Benefice who rallied round to make the event a success and provided a memorable canape and finger buffet with wine afterwards. The cooperation in the Benefice was heart-warming, and augers well for future relations between the Churches.

Kris and his wife Karen have now settled in at the Rectory. They were particularly pleased with the generous donations from all of you, which made up a welcome hamper. Kris is like a breath of fresh air as he tries to meet as many people as he can. We look forward to an exciting future ahead.

Jean Grubb and Joy Hodge, Churchwardens

3 Treasurer's Report

Financial Position at 31 December 2023

Our total funds stand at £40344.57 down £305 on the year.

Unrestricted funds stand at £10,561.84, a gain of £678 on the year.

Regular Income

All our regular donors are now on the Parish Giving Scheme. Total donations via the scheme were £11,359. Tax refunds of £3,404 include £657 from gift-aided plate giving for 2022 and £154 for Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme during the 2022-23 tax year.

Plate giving is £2082.96, all of which is gift-aided or GASDS.

Card and Gift donations

Donations through the card machine were £697. We purchased the CollecTin device for £100 in March and it has proved to be reliable. It costs £4.20 per month communications charge.

Donations through Givt were £125, all gift aided. No one has used Givt since April.

Parish and Benefice Share

We paid £10,000 towards the Parish Share of £20,399 which is 49% of the sum requested (and we also paid £1517 in January towards 2022 parish share). We paid £750 to the Benefice.

Social Events

Events made a profit of £2886. Please see the Social Group report.

Bells

We bought a set of spare stays. Taylors serviced the bells and re-bushed the front four clappers, all paid for from the Bell fund.

Parochial fees

I took over the parochial fees accounting in May. I have completed the fees return for quarters 2, 3 and 4 and paid out the Q2 and Q3 fees to PDBF. The Q4 fees were paid in 2024.

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship asked if their funds could be included in the church bank account. This is now a restricted fund within the accounts, balance is £426.67.

VAT (Listed Places of Worship grant scheme)

We recovered £619 during 2023.

Louisa Burnham charity 309760

We have received donations from Amazon Smile of £18.95 and CCLA dividends of £50.80 so far. This has been paid as a grant into the Junior Church restricted fund. Amazon Smile has now been discontinued.

St Peter's Centre

We paid out £1225 including energy, architect (£355) and woodworm survey (£330). The survey confirmed active woodworm in the floor but not in the roof.

John Grubb

4 Verger's Report

Maintenance has been carried out throughout the year as necessary. Both boilers are functioning and currently causing no problems.

The annual inspection of our roof, masonry and drains has taken place. Following the inspection a number of minor defects were identified and these will be rectified at a cost of £1440 ex VAT.

Quinquennial arrangements are in place and the survey will take place 8th November. An electrical inspection will take place prior to this.

The drain by the north door requires remedial work and a drain to the east wall of the south aisle needs further inspection. Both drains appear to be allowing damp to the internal walls of the north and south aisles.

The security 'shed' housing churchyard machines has proved invaluable with power and light. The two external electrical sockets to the east wall of the chancel have proved extremely useful.

Churchyard maintenance continues to be carried out by myself and Jon Bailey. The tractor mower will be serviced in the coming weeks.

A fallen tree from the 'Padbury' field has been removed as have branches fallen from trees in The Grange.

A church vacuum cleaner has been replaced with a restored Dyson. We hope to restore a further vacuum cleaner for use in the St Peter's Centre.

A low and high cobweb clean has taken place.

We continue to prepare the church for events such as funerals and weddings which have all run smoothly with one funeral in particular attended by over 200 people.

The car park has been spread with gravel and will be finished by the end of April. Thanks to Jon Bailey and Robert Monk for helping with this. The need to re-gravel was hastened by damage caused by heavy lorries and vans using the car park.

The access road to the church car park continues to cause problems for cars and pedestrians as the tree roots push the tarmac higher. Clearly this needs to be resolved with the Diocese and the owners of The Grange after a number of years without a resolution.

Rod Goldswain

5 Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding issues reported in the past year. All members of the PCC have satisfactory DBS certificates and have completed online Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training courses. I have completed the Leadership Course and Joy has booked to do hers soon. New "who to contact" information posters will be displayed, with one going in the Church porch, after the Peterborough Safeguarding Policy is adopted at the APCM.

Jean Grubb

6 Church Bell Ringers Report

On 6th May 2023, we rang after the Coronation of King Charles III at Cogenhoe and then several of us went to Brafield and rang there too.

Four clappers were sent to Taylor's Bell Foundry to be re-bushed.

On July 12th, we had a visiting band come to ring as part of an outing.

We held the Northampton Branch practice on October 26th.

This year marks the 100th year of the formation of the Peterborough Guild of Church Bellringers (5th January 2024).

50 years ago a Peal of 5040 changes of Plain Bob Minor was rung for the 50th Anniversary, so we decided we would ring a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Minor for the 100th Anniversary and in memory of Dorothy Stopps, who rang in the Peal 50 years ago.

On 24th March 2024 a Peal was arranged by Guild members to welcome Reverend Kris Seward to the Wymersley Benefice, unfortunately when they were 2/3rds through the Peal the 5th rope partially broke. As a result of this we found out that the ropes were last replaced in May 2002. A new set of 6 ropes has been ordered, as the life span of a rope is 20 years.

All of the ringers have improved significantly this year, all learning about Plain Hunting.

My thanks go to Giles Willson and Mike Brown, who regularly come to our practice to help us improve.

Marcia Morgan

7 Social and Entertainment Committee

We had a busy year in 2023 with a variety of events, some more successful than others.

Anything involving food is always well received.

We started the year with a Lenten Lunch of soup and sandwiches, held in the church. This was well attended by regular churchgoers and villagers. Many said they enjoyed the time to sit and chat.

From 8th-10th April we held an Easter Egg hunt around the village ending at the church. People in the village were happy to put an "egg" question in their window and some of the answers were very entertaining. This event was popular with parents and grandparents, as an activity to do with children in their own time and pace, and the prize of chocolate at the end made it even more rewarding.

On 22nd April we welcomed the Northampton Concert Band to perform in the church. This was a very popular event, and we had attendees from all over the county, as well as the village, who filled the church to

capacity. The band is held in high regard and we were fortunate they agreed to come to St Peter's, and they enjoyed the event so much they have offered to come again. The band needed a lot of space to perform and the acoustics of the church suited them. The flexible seating made this event possible. It was good to have positive comments about the church, and how friendly and welcoming we were.

The Quiz Night on 19th May was not very successful but none the less was enjoyed by those who came. The quiz master had put a lot of time into preparing the questions, but he has said he would be willing to try again. A comment was made that the poster made it sound that the questions would be church based not general knowledge, which may have discouraged people.

The Open Gardens had to be cancelled early in the year as the organisers were not available to organise the event.

Our major event of the year, on 1st July, was the Summer Fete. We were fortunate to have good weather on the day, which enabled us to have stalls outside. It was a happy event with whole families coming together and having the opportunity to meet and catch up with friends. This is how we hope people will remember their experience with the church. Again the comments were positive, saying how welcoming and friendly we are.

The Harvest Supper on 29th September of fish and chips, which we collected from the shop, was delicious and plentiful. It also gave the ladies a break from cooking. The Bingo, which followed, was a huge success, and seeing how many "Bingo" events take place in the village now, shows how successful and enjoyable this was. We will certainly do this again. Holding events in the centre of the village mean more people are happier to attend, as access is easier, especially when it is dark in the evening. We have to thank Cogenhoe Sports and Social Club for letting us use their function room and bingo equipment. Also keeping our voices lubricated enough to enable us to shout "Bingo" or whatever word we could remember!

Unfortunately, at short notice, we had to change the date of the Christmas Fair to 25th November. This meant some stall holders we had booked, had to drop out. Nevertheless it was a successful family event, and as at the fete in the summer, the children's activities were well supported. We have ensured this event will be on the usual date this year, the first Saturday of December the 7th .

The first event of 2024 was the Shrove Tuesday Supper on 13th February. As this was on the night when Ladies Fellowship would normally meet, they joined us so we ended the meal with a Beetle Drive, which would have been their event that evening. As usual the ladies came up trumps, cooking delicious lasagnes, which were very welcome at the end of another cold wet day.

The concert planned in March, was cancelled, and as yet another date has not been arranged. This was the concert planned for last November, which was cancelled then as it clashed with another event in the Benefice.

The Open Gardens have been cancelled again this year, as the date we had hoped to hold them, clashes with Little Houghton's event. Instead we will hold a Plant Bring and Buy sale on June 8th.

The 2024 Fete will be on June 28th. This year it will run from 1- 4pm so there will be the opportunity for people to come at lunchtime. Donations and offers of help are welcome.

Other events organised this year, are the Harvest Supper on 27th September and the Christmas Fair on December 7th. It is hoped to hold a musical event in the Autumn.

We will be planning next year's events in the autumn and welcome suggestions for future events.

As I said, food led events are always successful, and any gentlemen who would like to help with cooking will be very welcome.

We hope the events we organise are taking us out into the community, and are bringing the village to the church, which is our aim.

There are so many people to thank for helping at events, but special thanks must go to Ann, Chris, Elaine, Elizabeth, Helen, Jackie, Jean, John, Jon, Joy, Liz, Rod and Tessa.

Anna Trimble.

8 St Peter's Church Ladies Fellowship Report

Our current membership stands at 25 and it's good to know that we have new members joining us each year.

Again, we had a variety of speakers, including Mick Pendry (Doreen's husband) telling us about his drive to Prague to raise money for Macmillan, which was very entertaining.

Other speakers of note were Georgina Miles speaking about a school she sponsors in Uganda, and Firas Sarhan talking about the ABCD charity (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability). Some of you may not know this, but since Firas's talk in January this year, the Nur Shams Refugee Camp in the West Bank was raided by the IDF. They ransacked the building, destroyed equipment and damaged all the rooms. They took their food and clothing, even ink from the printer and threw walking frames, mattresses and beds out onto the street, so our support of ABCD must continue through the tireless work of Liz Hopes and Lesley Palmer.

Our fundraiser at the end of September was very well supported by our village community, including our members, and I would like to thank everyone who helped make this such an extremely successful event, raising over £700 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our Christmas meal at the Royal Oak was, as usual, delicious and we will miss Kath and her team, as they always made us very welcome and served us excellent food at a good price.

Thank you to our committee for putting together a varied and interesting programme. I must also thank our ladies who have volunteered to make teas at our meetings and also everyone at St Peter's for providing Easter Eggs for the food bank at St Albans church in Northampton.

Jackie Allen

9 Outlook Magazine Report

Content

As in previous years it has been easy to fill the magazine with copy with assistance from many in the village. Many months I have been able to fill 32 pages rather than the usual 28. I produced one edition in June with 4 colour pages in the middle to cover the Kings Coronation Celebrations. We are now able to report more on village events which is a good sign.

Printing Size

A number of complaints have recently been made about the size of the font (characters) in the magazine in a number of the articles. The latest copy of the magazine (May 2024) therefore has much increased font size in a number of the articles. This should make the magazine more 'readable' but has increased the number of pages from the usual 28 to 36. I await feedback as to whether this is worth repeating in the future.

Advertisers

We have had a significant number drop out and not renew. The May 2024 magazine had 7 pages of adverts, the January 2023 had 10.5 pages therefore a drop of a third. The advertisers' income will likely therefore drop by similar for this year.

Printing

Sharon Press of Bolton (the printers) have continued to be very reliable aside from the April 2024 edition which due to a combination of Easter and sickness at the printers was printed significantly later than usual. They print 300 copies per month which are very well distributed through Anna Trimble and her village helpers. This year's (2024) monthly printing costs have increased from £176 to £182. Each extra 4 pages on top of the usual 28 costs an extra £14 a month. The cost of the extra colour 4 pages was £59. I have checked online and the printing costs are very reasonable compared to other printers.

Outlook Magazine 2023

The Outlook account is a designated fund. At the start of 2023 we transferred £1000 to the general fund, leaving a balance of £2450.

Outlook subscriptions and advertising income were £2743 for 2023 of which advertisers paid (for 2023) £1160. We kept the subscription at £6 for 2023. Printing costs were £2225

So far £596 received in 2024.

We had a £500 grant from the PC in Nov towards printing costs as we are including lots of PC notices. The parish council regularly have 6 pages of information each month. We were up £518 on the year so only just into profit if we hadn't had the grant.

The 31 Dec balance was £2968.40

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are approximately 228 out of the roughly 620 households in the village. I believe this is a very good percentage.

Jon Bailey (Editor)

10 Accounts for 1 January – 31 December 2023

The accounts of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. The accounts were independently examined by Mr Mike Hamborg FFA and were adopted by the PCC on 8 February 2022. The Examiner's report was carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act and found the accounts to have been satisfactorily compiled in accordance with the Act.

10.1 Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

			2023	2022
Cash			£45.30	£82.34
NatWest Current			£100.00	£100.00
NatWest Reserve			£26,159.76	£26,457.79
CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund			£13,742.01	£13,315.27
Lloyds Youth Group account			£297.50	£297.50
Subtotal			£40,344.57	£40,252.90
Less unrepresented cheques				-£30.00
TOTAL			£40,344.57	£40,222.90

Represented by

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2022
General Fund	£8,818.14			£8,818.14	£6,731.08
St Peter's Outlook		£2,968.40		£2,968.40	£3,450.40
St Peter's Centre		-£1,224.70		-£1,224.70	-£297.61
Junior Church			£668.25	£668.25	£872.60
Fabric Fund			£382.01	£382.01	
Vestry reordering			£2,847.65	£2,847.65	£2,847.65
Clock Fund			£2,941.84	£2,941.84	£4,480.84
Churchyard			£6,443.12	£6,443.12	£4,839.11
Bell Fund			£16,073.19	£16,073.19	£17,185.30
Ladies Fellowship			£426.67	£426.67	
Choir					£113.53
Totals	£8,818.14	£1,743.70	£29,782.73	£40,344.57	£40,222.90

Note: Ladies Fellowship account at Santander was closed during the year and balance transferred to the PCC. It is now a new Restricted Fund within the church accounts.

The Choir Fund was closed during the year.

10.2 Receipts during 2023

* Refer to further details

* Income from donors	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2022
Planned giving PDBF	£11,359.09			£11,359.09	£11,572.14
Plate collection GA	£1,027.00			£1,027.00	£2,625.00
Plate collection GASDS	£1,055.96			£1,055.96	£767.64
Tax recovered	£3,403.54			£3,403.54	£3,342.57
1 Other donations	£1,245.57			£1,245.57	£1,580.61
11 Bells			£362.04	£362.04	£17,467.30
5 Fabric			£586.01	£586.01	£469.53
7 Clock			£307.80	£307.80	£0.00
8 Churchyard			£3,576.00	£3,576.00	£1,298.00
2 Fund Raising	£3,988.55			£3,988.55	£4,341.11
10 Junior church groups			£86.92	£86.92	£85.76
Income from investments	£470.38			£470.38	£211.06
Other Income					
Parochial Fees	£1,016.00			£1,016.00	£1,538.00
Trading and fees to be disbursed	£1,502.00	£2,743.00		£4,245.00	£3,237.64
Totals	£25,068.09	£2,743.00	£4,918.77	£32,729.86	£48,536.36

10.3 Payments made during 2023

* Refer to further details

*		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2022
	Work of the Church					
	Parish Share	£10,217.00			£10,217.00	£15,170.82
	Benefice	£750.00			£750.00	£1,000.00
3	Payment to Charities	£30.00			£30.00	£67.00
	Running expenses					
4	Upkeep of the building	£2,203.59		£204.00	£2,407.59	£1,321.48
	Insurance	£2,566.02			£2,566.02	£2,332.88
	Energy	£3,320.68			£3,320.68	£1,437.79
	Upkeep of services	£465.08			£465.08	£263.56
	Mission	£0.00			£0.00	
	Organist	£426.47		£113.53	£540.00	£990.00
	Churchyard			£1,971.99	£1,971.99	£4,986.02
10	Junior Church			£291.27	£291.27	£94.04
	Support costs	£732.78			£732.78	£809.63
	Costs of trading				£0.00	
	Outlook		£2,225.00		£2,225.00	£2,158.99
	St Peter's Centre		£1,224.70		£1,224.70	£297.61
	Trading + fees disbursed	£1,646.03			£1,646.03	£265.98
	Fundraising				£0.00	
2	Fundraising	£1,325.77			£1,325.77	£619.37
	Repairs					
11	Bells			£1,474.15	£1,474.15	£282.00
7	Clock			£1,846.80	£1,846.80	
	Flowers					£37.78
	Totals	£23,683.42	£3,449.70	£5,901.74	£33,034.86	£32,134.95

10.4 Detailed breakdown

1	Grants	Receipts	Payments
	LPW Grant Scheme	£619.05	
	Cogenhoe Parish Council	£1,500.00	
	Northants Historic Churches Trust	£80.00	
	Louisa Burnham Charity	£86.92	
		£2,285.97	
2	Fundraising		
	Shrove Tuesday Supper	£518.00	£93.01
	Lenten Lunch	£131.30	£45.50
	Party in the Park	£128.70	
	Npton Concert Band	£615.00	£279.45
	Quiz	£20.00	£0.00
	Fete	£1,068.75	£200.29
	Harvest Supper	£736.00	£475.00
	Christmas Fair	£829.00	£68.00
		£4,046.75	£1,161.25
3	Payments to Charities		
	Royal British Legion poppy appeal via Parish Council		£30.00
			£30.00
4	Upkeep of Church		
	Routine maintenance		£2,203.59
	Alarm response fees		£597.60
			£2,801.19

10.5 Restricted Funds

	Receipts	Payments	Balance
5	Fabric Fund		£0.00
	Coffee Mornings	£586.01	£0.00
	G J Kinns roofer		£204.00
	Carried forward	£0.00	£0.00
			£382.01

6	Vestry Fund			£2,847.65
	Carried forward			£2,847.65
7	Clock Fund			£4,480.84
	Cumbria Clocks		£1,846.80	£2,634.04
	LPW Grant	£307.80		£2,941.84
	Carried forward			£2,941.84
8	Churchyard Fund			£4,881.11
	Parochial fees		£3,576.00	
	Shed floor		£396.00	£8,061.11
	Roberts Electrical		£528.00	£7,533.11
	R Stripp ground clearance		£400.00	£7,133.11
	Mowers maintenance and repair		£647.99	£6,485.12
	Carried forward			£6,485.12
9	Choir Fund			£113.53
	Organist		£113.53	£0.00
	Fund Closed			£0.00
10	Junior Church Fund			£872.60
	Grants Louisa Burnham	£86.92		£959.52
	Puppets		£204.85	£754.67
	Craft materials etc		£86.42	£668.25
	Carried forward			£668.25
11	Bell Fund			£17,185.30
	Taylors		£1,434.00	£15,751.30
	Rope splice & bolts		£40.15	£15,711.15
	Donation Anne T	£50.00		£15,761.15
	Interest	£312.04		£16,073.19
	Carried forward			£16,073.19
12	Ladies Fellowship			£0.00
	Transfer from Santander account	£426.67		£426.67
	Carried forward			£426.67

11 Louisa Burnham for Sunday School (Registered Charity 309760)

This is independent of the church but the trustees are the PCC members.

The assets are units in the CBF Investment Fund held by the PDBF. Income is paid as a grant to the Junior Church fund.

During 2023 we also received income from Amazon Smile, however Amazon have now discontinued the scheme.

The accounts of the charity have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis. The accounts were independently examined by Mr Mike Hamborg FFA .

Capital Investment	CBF Investment Fund Income Units		
01 January 2023	110 units at £20.6614 mid-market	£2,272.75	
31 December 2023	110 units at £22.6503 mid-market	£2,486.58	
	Gain on year	£213.83	

Income paid to PCC Junior Church Fund (Restricted)				
		Received	Paid	Balance
01 January 2023	BF from 2020			£0.00
28 February 2023	CBF Dividend	£17.18		£17.18
28 February 2023	Grant to PCC		£17.18	£0.00
24 April 2023	Amazon Smile	£5.00		£5.00
24 April 2023	Grant to PCC		£5.00	£0.00
19 May 2023	Amazon Smile	£13.95		£13.95
19 May 2023	Grant to PCC		£13.95	£0.00
31 May 2023	CBF Dividend	£16.81		£16.81
31 May 2023	Grant to PCC		£16.81	£0.00
31 August 2023	CBF Dividend	£16.81		£16.81
31 August 2023	Grant to PCC		£16.81	£0.00
30 November 2023	CBF Dividend	£17.17		£17.17
30 November 2023	Grant to PCC		£17.17	£0.00
				£0.00
Year		£86.92	£86.92	£0.00