



St Peter

BALSALL COMMON

St Peter's Church, Balsall Common Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

Reports for the year ended 31 December 2025

Sunday 26 April 2026

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APCM Reports

Section 1 — Officers & Statutory Reports

Vicar's Report

Suzy Pearson

On the Sunday that marked one year since my arrival at St Peter's, our Gospel reading was The Feeding of the 5000. A little child offers what he has, and in Jesus' hands, it is more than enough – a huge crowd is fed and there are even 12 baskets of leftovers.

That image has stayed with me as I reflect on 2025, because it captures something true about what God has been doing among us. When we bring what we have, however small it might seem, God does extraordinary things with it. The reports that follow bear witness to that. We have seen people growing in faith; baptisms and confirmations; The Bereavement Journey offering a valuable space to both members of our church and the wider community; a new monthly youth group; growing relationships with our local primary and secondary schools; a cracking Easter Fun Day; and a full church at Christmas (in no small part thanks to everyone's tremendous effort to deliver Christmas cards to every home in the parish).

We finally saw the repair of the flèche (the wooden spire on the church) and God's provision to make that happen. We give thanks for the funding we received from the Lant Charity, the Benefact Trust, the Church of England, and from individuals in the congregation who gave generously. With the flèche repair now complete, our attention is now turning to the hall. Sunday 29th June 2025 (St Peter's Day) marked 60 years since the church hall was built. Significant repairs are needed for it to continue serving us well. We have submitted several grant applications towards the roof repair and launched a JustGiving page to fund new chairs. Please do pray that these applications bear fruit.

We have also seen the Heart of England Oversight Area (Marston Green, Bickenhill, Hampton-in-Arden, Barston, Balsall Common, Temple Balsall and Knowle) begin to take shape. Representatives from each of the parishes met in February to discern the vision and mission of the oversight area. We have held joint services, gathered to discuss children's and youth work across the area, and launched a quarterly newsletter sharing news from across the parishes. There is a growing sense of shared purpose as we learn to support one another and work together for God's Kingdom.

Working together is at the heart of what God's Kingdom looks like. Notice that when Jesus feeds the crowd, he doesn't do it alone. He takes the bread, gives thanks, and then hands it to his disciples for *them* to distribute to the crowd. And God invites us into the miracle. God gives to us so that we might be fed and share what we have been given to feed a hungry world.

That is what I have seen at St Peter's. You have been the hands that have passed the bread around. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, energy, prayers, and gifts in ways both seen and unseen. You are all part of the miracle. Every one of you has been distributing the bread. I also want to thank those beloved members of St Peter's who died in 2025 and for all they contributed to our church family. We give thanks for their lives and we hold those who grieve in our prayers.

As we look ahead, I want to leave you with the question that this story puts to each of us: *What has God given you? How might God be inviting you to share it so that others might be fed?* This story shows us that God doesn't need much to do something extraordinary. When we offer what we have, we will find that it is more than enough, with baskets left over.

Churchwardens' Report (including Fabric)

Stuart Lee and Sarah Roth

Firstly we must give a big thank you to Christine Hornsby who officially resigned as Churchwarden on 1st July 2025. We are very grateful for her hard work and commitment over the last 6 years, which covered the challenges of Covid and the interregnum. She cheerfully and conscientiously shouldered a vast workload, and made sure that the life of the church continued, with barely a break in our services.

The other highlight of the year – finished on 31st December! – was that the fleche was finally replaced, rather than removed, as instructed by the Diocese. This was as a result of hard work by members of the premises committee, including the late Ted Perkins, and some incredible fund-raising efforts by Reverend Suzy.

Regular church cleaning was augmented by a thorough clean of the church ceiling, although the problem of flies remains. A working party in December helped clear through several years' accumulation of rubbish and unwanted items, and free up some much needed storage.

Grounds maintenance and window cleaning are now carried out by third parties. We are grateful to Eileen Lamb and others who regularly clean the brass in church, and to those who have maintained the planters and the church flowerbeds.

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered, officially or unofficially, to act as sidesperson. We miss Pat Eyre, who was always ready to step up, and we send her our very best wishes.

The annual inventory is underway, and results will be available soon.

List of Sidespeople

Sarah Roth

Bryan Marlow
Linda Marlow
Chris Lee
Diane Perkin
Eileen Lamb (SWITCH)
Chris Hunnisett (SWITCH)
Margaret Morgan (unwell)

Several people have stepped down this year (e.g. due to illness), so Stuart and I are thinking of others to ask.

Electoral Roll

At the time of reporting (11/04/2026), there were 85 on the electoral roll.

PCC Secretary's Report

John Pearson

Meetings at a glance

The PCC met 5 times during 2025, in addition to an Away Day in July. Meeting recordings were used to help prepare the minutes, which were reviewed for accuracy before circulation.

Membership of the PCC

A full list of PCC members who served during the year is included in the Trustee Report within the Annual Report and Accounts. There were several changes to PCC membership in 2025.

At the APCM held on 18 May, Christine Hornsby stepped down as Churchwarden after many years of faithful service in the role, and continued as Vice Chair. Stuart Lee was elected Churchwarden alongside Sarah Roth, who continued in post. Chris Lee continued as Treasurer.

Alla Pavuka stepped down as PCC Secretary at the APCM, and the PCC co-opted me to serve in her place. The PCC records its thanks for Alla's careful stewardship of the role.

Ted Perkin resigned from the PCC and the Premises Committee in May due to illness. We were saddened by his death later in the year, and give thanks for his dedicated service to St Peter's.

Peter Lee resigned from the PCC and Deanery Synod in September after many years of service and is warmly thanked.

Matters discussed and decisions made in 2025

Worship, mission and community life

The PCC discussed and supported a range of new initiatives and changes during the year, including the launch of the Bereavement Journey course, the parish Christmas card delivery, the new Longest Night service, and the decision to move Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve to a 9:30pm "Midnight in Bethlehem" service.

The Heart of England Oversight Area

Rev'd Suzy is also Oversight Minister for our oversight area and provides updates on how the work is developing. Oversight Area updates now stand as a regular item on the PCC's agenda.

Premises

In November, the PCC agreed to appoint a Hall Manager – the first operational role of its kind at St Peter's. The role absorbs the Hall's cleaning duties and bookings into a single post in place of previous cleaning costs.

Policies and governance

During the year, the PCC formally adopted:

- A **Data Privacy Notice**, setting out how the parish handles personal data through ChurchSuite and other systems.
- A refreshed suite of **safeguarding documents** – a Safeguarding Policy based on the diocesan template, a Safer Recruitment Process for those working with children and vulnerable adults, and a Safeguarding Procedure Flowchart. Further safeguarding developments during the year are covered in the Safeguarding Officer's Report.
- **Scheme of Financial Delegation and Terms of Reference for the PCC's subcommittees**, clarifying lines of authority and responsibility across the Standing, Ministry, Premises, Eco, Communications and Events Committees.
- A **Garden of Remembrance Policy** (September), formalising the long-standing use of the Garden, with a faculty application submitted to the diocese for retrospective permission.

Away Day and emerging vision

At our PCC Away Day, we took time to reflect on where God has been at work among us and answering the prayer for growth that we say in our services. We explored how we might encourage more of that growth, including what we might need to cut back and what values we need to be rooted in. The day also generated a range of practical ideas, some of which have already been put into action – including Back to Church Sunday in October and the parish Christmas card.

Thanks

Many thanks to every member of the PCC for the time, care and prayer they bring to the life and governance of St Peter's.

Deanery Synod Report

Eileen Lamb

What is a Deanery?

A Deanery is a strategic mission unit within the Diocese, acting as a vital link between people in the parishes, the Diocese, and the Church of England nationally (The General Synod).

Every three years each church within the Deanery appoints lay representatives to sit on Deanery Synod. The parish Vicar is also part of the Deanery Synod.

We belong to the Deanery of Yardley and Solihull. Tony Rindl serves as Area Dean, as well as being Vicar of St Leonard's Church, Marston Green. This covers a very wide area with many types of churches and churchmanship represented and is one of the interesting aspects of serving on Deanery Synod – we can share ideas with people who come from diverse backgrounds.

During 2025 we were informed about and discussed the following:

- **A Place for Hope** – an organisation which accompanies and equips people and faith communities so that they might reach their potential to be peacemakers who navigate conflict well.
- **Safeguarding**
- **Children and Families Missioners**
- **Interserve** – mission within an ethnically diverse area
- **Review of Transforming Church** -What opportunities does our deanery offer for learning, serving, and witnessing together in all our parishes?
- **Environmental Concerns** – Talk by the Deanery Environmental Champion
- **Birmingham Diocese Bid for £17.8 million** – successful bid by Birmingham Diocese to fund:
 - Financial sustainability through the payment of Common Fund
 - Finding, forming, and deploying leaders
 - Growth within parishes
 - Revitalising existing churches and creating new ones
 - Eileen Lamb (Deanery Synod Representative)

Safeguarding Officer's Report

Alison Bennett

Introduction

At St Peter's Church, Balsall Common we recognise that the few who are determined to harm children or adults, deliberately seek out groups or organisations where they can meet children or other vulnerable people. The Church is particularly vulnerable to these people. Creating and maintaining a safeguarding culture will discourage them from becoming involved for the wrong reasons and make it difficult for them to harm or abuse children or adults if they do.

Formal Obligation

In respect of all reported Safeguarding concerns, St Peter's Church, Balsall Common has complied with our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), working in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Safeguarding Roles

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Alison Bennett
DBS Recruiter and Verifier – Alison Bennett
Safeguarding Lead for Domestic Violence – Moira Johnson

Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

Up to date information pertaining to St Peter's Safeguarding Policy can be found at:
<https://www.spcbalsall.org.uk/safeguard>

Safeguarding Learning and Development

During 2025, several members of our congregation completed or updated their Safeguarding Training in line with the guidance issued by the Church of England, Birmingham.

Opportunities and challenges in safeguarding learning:

All safeguarding training is completed online. This may be a challenge for some people and a provision will be made to support those unable to do this independently.

Safer Recruitment and People Management

St Peter's Church, Balsall Common is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults, and the care and nurture of children within our church communities. We will carefully select, train and support all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles. This means that we will:

- Ensure that our recruitment and selection processes are inclusive, fair, consistent and transparent.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent those who might harm children or adults from taking up, in our Church, positions of respect, responsibility or authority where they are trusted by others.
- Adhere to safer recruitment legislation, guidance and standards, responding positively to changing understandings of good safer recruitment practice.
- Always seek advice from the diocesan safeguarding team to achieve best possible practice.
- Ensure training on safer recruitment practice guidance is completed by appropriate post-holders.

Concerns Raised (2025)

- a. Number of safeguarding concerns shared with Parish Safeguarding Officer – 2
 - b. Number of referrals made to Diocesan Safeguarding Team – 1
 - c. Number for which advice on necessity of external referrals received – 1
- Actioned – 2
Outstanding actions – 0

Additional Information

None

Next Steps

Whilst there is no legal requirement to update DBS certificates on a 3-yearly basis, this is considered best practice by the Church of England. The DBS register is up to date for St Peter's church.

Health & Safety Report

Sue Williams

Sue Williams is the Health & Safety person for St Peter's Church. She took up her position in May 2024. My responsibility is for the day to day implementation of the arrangements outlined in the Health & Safety Policy.

In January 2026 the Health & Safety Policy was reviewed and approved by the Parish Church Council. The next review date is January 2027.

In Autumn 2025 the Fire and Water Extinguishers were serviced in the Church and in the Hall and the Fire Alarm System was inspected.

In March 2026 a Fire Risk Assessment took place for the Church and Hall which we are responding to.

We will endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all members of the congregation, contractors, visitors and others who may visit the Church and the Hall.

Section 2 — Worship

Readers' Report

Chris Price, Moira Johnson and Alison Bennett

Firstly, we would like to express what a joy and privilege it is to serve alongside you as Readers licensed to this parish. Over the past year, we have sought to share the Good News through the very wide variety of services offered at St Peter's and to engage with all ages within our congregation.

As a Ministry Team, we meet with Suzy about every six weeks for prayer, spiritual reflection, and to discern God's calling for our church. These meetings also provide an opportunity to review and plan services and events. During the year, we have welcomed Mary to these meetings as she undertakes the Church of England Birmingham, *Growing Gifts* programme. The course is a formation and teaching programme for those called within their church to lead worship and preach occasionally. Mary will be locally authorised in 2026. Anyone interested in exploring this pathway is encouraged to speak to Suzy.

Moira and Chris along with Mary, have continued to support our Family, SWitCH, and Café Church services. It is a pleasure to work alongside the dedicated and gifted teams who plan and lead these services. We are especially encouraged to help members of our church family recognise and develop their gifts as they respond to God's calling to share His love.

Moira, Alison & Chris also continued to lead the Ministry of the Word and preach at the 9:30am Holy Communion and All-Age Communion services on a rota basis, alongside our Vicar, Suzy. In addition, we have led and preached at Evensong and have served as deacon for visiting clergy when required.

An important part of St Peter's outreach is the ministry at the local care home, Harper Fields, led by Moira and team. St Peter's leads services there three Fridays each month, with the Methodist Church leading on the fourth Friday. The management and staff are very supportive, and the residents greatly value the opportunity to worship and receive Holy Communion.

Funeral ministry continues to be a significant aspect of Alison & Moira's ministry, and both consider it a privilege to support families at such a difficult time. Both were also involved in running the *Bereavement Journey* sessions in the autumn. The course supports adults who have experienced loss, helping them to understand and process their grief and consider their next steps.

During Lent, Moira & Chris assisted Suzy to run a *Start Course* for those wishing to learn more about Jesus or explore questions of faith. Sessions were offered both in the afternoon and evening. We have also supported baptism preparation visits during the year.

Together with Suzy & Guy Hawes, we endeavour to maintain contact with those unable to attend church, including offering Home Communion from the Reserved Sacrament to those who wish to receive it.

As part of our ongoing development, we have attended various diocesan training and Bishop's Study Days. Alison continues in her role as a tutor on the Diocesan Reader Training Course. This demanding role includes leading online and in-person training, providing coaching, and visiting trainees' home churches to hear them preach. The current cohort will be licensed in Spring 2026. Despite the significant preparation involved, Alison has found this ministry both rewarding and enriching.

We would like to thank the entire congregation for your continued support and encouragement. We are especially grateful for the leadership, energy, and genuine care shown by Suzy over the past year—it is deeply appreciated.

Please continue to pray for our church as we journey together into the coming year.

Intercessors' Report

Joan Lancaster

Sadly 2025 saw the passing of Claire Laland, who had organised the rota for many years. Suzy scheduled the prayers for August, September and October, before handing over to me for November and December and for the foreseeable future.

We also lost intercessors during the year, leaving just six people: Moira, Guy, Chris Lee, Chris H, Leslie and myself — all who have taken on the load of extra dates without complaint. Many, many thanks to them for leading the prayers with thoughtfulness and sensitivity.

I have recruited a new intercessor, Ann Sleath, who will start in May.

During coffee after services I have approached many of the congregation asking them to come on the rota, and promising them guidance and help like I have done with Ann, but to no avail. A couple are "thinking about it" and others gave a definite no.

Obviously, the more volunteers we have would lessen the frequency for everyone else. So, if anyone has suggestions on how to increase our number, please let me know.

Music Report

Kim Rawson

Another successful year with regard to music in general.

As always, **my thanks go to our choir** (which has grown a little in recent months ... three new members: Leslie, Hazel and a welcome return from Sian, who sang a number of years ago).

Over the year we're proud to say that there were some notable events with fund-raising: our 3 concerts in August (raising over £860 for church funds at St Peter's, and similar amounts for Hampton and Curdworth churches); our choir was represented with other churches in early November at Hilliers Garden Centre which was followed up in early December with another visit, raising £125; on Christmas Eve, we sang at The Belfry, raising a further £250 (and huge thanks to a good number of 'non-choir folk' ... our invite is extended for any of those people who'd like to join us, more permanently!).

In Holy Week, the joint choirs of St Peter's and Hampton Church led a service on Palm Sunday, repeated (to some extent) at Hampton on Good Friday. It was reasonably well-attended – we hope that our congregation, for these services, will grow, in time.

Similarly, our service of Nine Lessons and Carols went very well and another collection for Ukraine (towards the purchase of a car to take supplies to the front lines and hospitals) was very much appreciated by our Ukrainian friends. Thank you ALL.

Evensong services, thankfully, continue, and our thanks go to our readers and Suzy for leading them. More folk in the congregation would always go down well as it's such a calming experience.

Our 9.30am services are well-attended by ladies in the choir but if I'm honest, a few more men joining up and singing at these services would be brilliant (please!).

No auditions!

The sad news, last year, was the number of funerals, especially for those who had been members of the church (and some in the choir) for such a long time. We said our farewells to Colin Lamb, Ted Perkin, John Shuttleworth (our oldest member of the church, at the time), Canon Claire Laland, Ken Dickens and Dot Price ... along with quite a few other folk – ALL sadly missed!

Our choir still supports Hampton choir/church, as they have only 7 singers – we help out with weddings and funerals.

Our thanks to many people who help us in different ways – to Guy Hawes, Chris Hornsby, Sarah Roth, Stuart and Chris Lee; to Anton Rawson, Steve Blaber and Angela/Mike Beddoes (who all travel long distances for choir practices and various services/concerts); to Graham Robinson and Frances Hooper for covering me when I'm not around; and to all the 'desk workers' who operate the computers for powerpoint displays in the various services in church and the hall.

Lastly, as always, thank you 'congregation' people!! For supporting our church in so many ways, especially singing in services, (AND during communion ... in the many churches I've played over the last 49 years [!!] it's often the case that the congregation use the Eucharist time to catch up on the week's events), supporting our concerts and 'special' services ... and my thanks, too, for not applauding at the end of our 9.30am services.

It is a complete JOY to play at St Peter's.

Section 3 — Discipleship Groups

Exploring Faith — Monday Evening Group

Eileen Lamb

The Monday Exploring Faith Group meets under the guidance of Eileen Lamb at 7.30pm, in various venues, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. During these sessions we explore our faith together using The Bible, Online Resources, and appropriate Study Guides. We enjoy lively discussions and learn from each other.

Spring 2025: We studied '**Women of Faith**', a 'Good Book Guide' by Mary Davis, looking at women from The Old Testament who had the same ordinary lives, common hardships, and crises that we experience.

Session1 – **Sarah** – from unbelief to grace

Session 2 – **Rahab** – from fear to faith

Session 3 – **Esther** – making a difference through discretion and courage.

Session 4 – **Deborah** – from oppression to praise

Session 5 – **Abigail** – from folly to wisdom

Summer 2025: We studied '**Confidence in a Complex World**' by Joe Warton, looking at **1 Peter**.

Session 1 – Confident in the Gospel

Session 2 – Confident in Identity

Session 3 – Confident in the World

Session 4 – Confident in Witness

Session 5 – Confident in Community

Autumn 2025: We used the LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) course '**Growing on the Frontline**'

Session 1 – Growing Wherever We Are

Session 2 – Our Choices Affect Our Fruitfulness

Session 3 – Our Desires Influence Our Choices

Session 4 – Our Emotions Reveal Our Desires

Exploring Faith — Monday Afternoon Group

Sue Williams

After the sad passing of Claire Laland who was the leader of the group, we wanted to continue to meet. We meet on alternate Monday afternoons. We are a small group which is warm, friendly and supportive of each other's needs. If you are interested in joining please make enquiries.

We have enjoyed our studies to date which included: Women in the Bible whom Jesus met; the Ten Commandments; and during Lent the Last Week of Jesus' Life. Through discussion and reading God's Word we are growing in our Faith.

Exploring Faith — Friday Group

Moira Johnson

The Exploring Faith Friday Group meets on alternate Fridays between 7pm and 8.30 pm to discuss various aspects of our faith in a "safe space". We all feel able to ask questions, express doubts and support each other in our faith journeys.

We started the year by continuing our study of Revelation chapters 1-3 with the letters written by John the beloved disciple to seven churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey.). Some of the churches had lost their initial zeal and these letters were written to both challenge them and encourage them to be strong in their faith so they could stand firm in the face of persecution which was going to come their way.

We were all challenged by these letters and in our discussions tried to think what Christ might say to us, the church in Balsall Common. What might we be praised for and what might we be challenged about?

During Lent we used the Church of England's "Living Hope" booklet as our theme . We thought about what hope means for us today in a messy and uncertain world, how we can find hope in ourselves and offer it to others and how we can trust in the hope of God's promises even when we feel uncertain about the future. This course was accompanied by a booklet of daily Bible readings which we found very helpful.

Our next topic was “Easter to Pentecost” when we thought about the dramatic change in the early disciples with the coming of the Holy Spirit. We discussed what this means for us today and looked at the gifts we have been given and how God wants us to use these gifts.

We then looked at the lives of some men in the Bible – Noah, Moses, Thomas and Barnabas and what we could learn from them. We were particularly encouraged by the fact that all these men had their faults and yet God used them. Our challenge from this series was how does God want to use us?

In all our sessions we look at the context of when a particular Bible passage was written, what was happening at that time and then try and see what God is saying to us today. None of us are experts but we all learn from each other and it always amazes me just how much comes out of these discussions. It is also a great opportunity to get to know each other a little better and helps us to feel a greater sense of community.

Mothers' Union

Alison Bennett

St. Peter's Mothers' Union now only has 4 members of which just 2 are able to be involved in fund raising and charitable activities. The Mothers' Union is based on prayer and members have been able to support each other in prayer as well as praying for the wider church.

We were saddened by the loss of Claire Laland, former St. Peter's branch leader and past president of Birmingham Diocese Mothers' Union. We were pleased to be able to welcome Rowena Nichols, the current president, as well as the Mothers' Union Zimbabwe Choir, to St. Peter's, to celebrate Claire's life and her contribution to the MU.

The knitting project continues to have support from members of our congregation as well as from people at the local Methodist Church and those outside the church. Sadly, there was no container for Malawi during 2025 due to difficulties with customs, however we pray that this will be resumed in the near future. We continue to collect knitted items for babies in the special care units (hats, blankets, cardigans, angel pockets and bonding squares).

Chris Price continued to sell Mothers' Union cards throughout the year. The cards remain popular with our congregation, and this is an important fund-raising activity. We thank you for your support.

Please speak to Chris Price or Alison Bennett if you wish to find out more about The Mothers' Union. Membership is open to all, male, female, married, single etc. It has around 4 million members worldwide and is involved in a vast number of projects in just over 80 countries.

Section 4 — Community Engagement

Open the Book

Eileen Lamb

The 'Open the Book' team visits local schools to tell and act out stories from 'The Storyteller's Bible'. We involve all the pupils by inviting them to join in with actions and appropriate sounds to help to bring the stories to life. We currently visit Balsall Primary School and Springfield House twice a term and we visit Lady Katherine Leveson and George Fentham Endowed School once a term.

During 2025, we presented the following stories:

Spring Term 2025:

- The Story of Esther
- Palm Sunday

Summer Term 2025

- David and Goliath
- The Lost Sheep

Autumn Term 2025

- Moses, the Secret Baby
- Shepherds and Angels

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you enjoy reading stories, acting or just occasional making of props or costumes, why not join us? For more information, please contact Eileen Lamb on 07976 647891

Teeny Tinies & Toddlers

Linda Marlow

Teeny Tinies and Toddlers runs every Friday from 1.30 to 3pm in St. Peter's Church Hall, except during the school holidays, INSET days & occasional closures when the hall is needed for funerals etc.

Regular members of our volunteer team are Sue Clinton, Margaret Eyre, Angie Gordon, Linda Marlow, Chris Price & Kaye Thomas, with Alison Bennett, Anne Sleath and Fran Wilkins very kindly stepping in when we are otherwise unable to fill our minimum requirement of 3 volunteers per session.

During the past year, Rev'd Suzy has continued to lead the sing-song at the end of each session, for which we are all very grateful.

We have free play from 1.30pm to 2.45pm – we have a wide range of toys and play equipment which we rotate on a regular basis, and we are always open to special requests for any particular toys from our young patrons. From 2.45 to 3pm we have our sing-song, whilst the volunteers tidy-up, wash up and store everything away, ready for the next session.

We have maintained our charge at £3 per adult – this includes tea/coffee/squash & homemade cake.

In the Academic year since September 2025, we have met 24 times and have had a total of 62 Children on our register.

The maximum number at any one time was 17 and the minimum was 3!

The average weekly attendance was 9 children accompanied of course by Parents, Grandparents or Carers.

It is worth noting that in the Calendar Year 2026 we have met 9 times with an average attendance of just 6 Children.

TT&T continues to provide a safe space for everyone to socialise and hopefully friendships will be formed there, which last well beyond the years of babyhood and toddling.

Warm Welcome Café

Moira Johnson

In 2022 with the rising costs of energy and the forecast of a severe winter many churches and community centres throughout the country opened their doors to provide a “warm hub” for those who might be struggling to heat their homes.

In October 2022 Churches Together agreed to work together to provide a warm place of welcome to those in our community who might value this and we at St Peter’s volunteered to open our church each Thursday afternoon.

This venture has proved very successful with a regular core of between 14-20 people coming mainly to chat, knit or crochet. The people who come have told us that the main reason they come is because of loneliness – most of them live alone and many have been widowed quite recently. While the initial plan was only to open during the winter months the people who attended our sessions asked if we would continue over the summer and we were very happy to do so.

I feel this is a tremendous outreach for our church into the local community. Most of the folk coming on Thursday afternoons are not church goers but they value what we do and have told us that the fact that the sessions are held in church makes them feel it is a safe space.

We have been supported by a grant given to Churches Together in Berkswell and Balsall Common by the Heart of England Foundation. This has covered the costs of refreshments and heating.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who bake cakes, serve the teas and ensure that the Baptistry is warm and welcoming for our visitors. We could not continue without this support.

Harper Fields

Moira Johnson

During 2025 our team of Sarah Roth, Miriam Griffiths, Chris Hunnisett and myself have continued to take regular services at Harper Fields Care Home on each of the 4 units. This has been a real privilege and we have been able to get to know many of the residents who so appreciate this weekly service. We have had great support from the manager and activities staff who have told me what a difference this has made to the spiritual life of their residents. We also visit residents who are unable

to leave their rooms. Numbers attending our services have increased and we are now seeing between 25-30 each week. Some of the care staff also attend and have told me how much they value this opportunity, as often their work schedules don't allow them to attend their own churches.

Some of our congregation who have moved to Harper Fields have really appreciated our services as this keeps them in contact with St Peter's.

I have also been privileged to have been asked to pray with residents who are near the end of life and to take the funerals of a number of the residents who have died.

Bereavement Journey

Amy Kershaw

The Bereavement Journey course run by our church in the Autumn last year was both well-attended and deeply impactful. Attendance remained strong throughout the duration of the course, reflecting both the need for this support and the welcoming environment created.

Participants engaged thoughtfully with the material and with one another, forming meaningful connections along the way. Encouragingly, these connections have continued beyond the course itself, with many attendees choosing to stay in touch and now meeting together on a monthly basis for ongoing mutual support. Some of the attendees were members of our Church, whilst others came from the community and had no previous connection to St. Peter's.

The course provided a safe and compassionate space for individuals to process many different kinds of grief. It was supported by services in church, including our remembering service and a new Longest Night service before Christmas.

Churches Together (CTBB)

Eileen Lamb

Churches Together includes the following churches:

St Peter's Church Balsall Common; St John Baptist Berkswell; St Mary's Temple Balsall; Blessed Robert Grissold Church; The Methodist Church; St Swithin's Church Barston.

Listed below are events that have taken place between **January and December 2025**.

- **St. Swithin's Church, Barston** have rejoined CTBB and is represented on the Committee by Linda Maxfield
- **Service of Prayer for Christian Unity** took place at Temple Balsall. The theme was 'Do You Believe This?' and was written by the women of Bose in Northern Italy
- **World Day of Prayer** took place at St Peter's. The theme was 'You Are Wonderfully and Fearfully Made', written by the women of The Cook Islands.
- **Lent Reflections** – The theme was 'The Nicene Creed' as 2025 was the anniversary of the setting up of the Council of Nicaea in 325AD.

- **Walk of Witness** on Good Friday which started at St Peter's Church and ended at the Methodist Church with a Simple Lunch prepared by members from Blessed Robert Grisold Church. Stops were made on the way for readings, prayers, reflections, and hymns.
- **Dawn Eucharist** led by Revd. Debbie Collins. The service started at 6am in the Old Hall and continued in the woodland area along the Bread Walk.
- **Quiet Mornings** have been organised by Doug Timmis and are held at Temple Balsall.
- Saturday 7th June - Pentecost – led by Revd. Jenny Dyer
- Saturday 13th September – Harvest – led by Revd. Suzy Pearson
- Saturday 29th November – Advent – led by Revd. Kathryn Darby
- **Coffee Together:** Held on the first Saturday of each month. This is a community venture, led in turn by each church. At the Christmas Coffee Together, St Peter's led the carol singing. Money donated was given to Crisis at Christmas.
- **Eco-Church** – Jo Hands, who works for Coventry Diocese, encouraging churches to be more aware of good eco-habits, alerted us to the revised expectations of the A Rocha Eco Award Scheme. This resulted in a possible new focus of thought.
- **Warm Welcome Cafés** run by The Methodists and St Peter's. Suzy secured funding of £500 which, together with the surplus from 2024, covered the costs for 2025.
- **Open the Book:** The team visit Balsall Common Primary School and Springfield House twice a term to tell and enact Bible stories. They also are now visiting Lady Katherine Leveson School and George Fentham Endowed School once a term. The team are always looking for new members.
- **Publicity:** Both Christmas and Easter Services for all the churches are advertised in The Residents' Newsletter since the demise of The Bugle.
- **Donations:** During 2025, the following donations have been given from CTBB:
 - Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral - £74.40
 - World Day of Prayer - £183.04
 - Myanmar (through the DEC) - £314.58
 - Father Hudson's Caritas - £200
 - Embrace the Middle East - £114.57
 - Crisis at Christmas - £252.01

Report and Accounts

The Parochial Church Council Of St Peter, Balsall Common

Year ended 31st December 2025

Registered charity number 1184291

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Trustee Report

Aim and purposes

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter, Balsall Common ("PCC") has the responsibility of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church and church hall buildings and grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to ensuring that as many residents of the parish as possible are able to worship at the church, and to become part of our church community. The PCC's charitable objects are primarily focused on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. All regular worship is provided free of charge and is open to all. In addition, the PCC's activities include:

- The provision of sacred space for private prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for parents and babies and young children
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

- Provision and maintenance of a hall for regular public worship and other church activities, and also as a community facility available to all for recreational activities when not in use by the church

To facilitate our whole mission it is important to maintain the fabric of the church and the hall.

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Alison Bennett is appointed Safeguarding Officer.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry

The Reverend Suzy Pearson is our vicar, and assisted by Moira Johnson, Alison Bennett and Chris Price as readers, and Mary Partridge as a lay leader of family services.

Worship and Prayer

St Peter's embraces diverse worship styles, providing traditional and informal services alongside special events for all ages. We also offer online access to our services held in Church, to allow us to reach a wider audience, including those unable to visit in person due to illness or infirmity. Key services include weekly Sunday services with a mix of formats, lay-led services focused on accessibility, and community engagement sessions.

Readers, lay leaders and volunteers play crucial roles in service delivery and pastoral care. We actively collaborate with other local churches through joint services and community events, fostering cooperation and support.

We continue praying for our work with the children and their parents and for more new people to join our congregation. Thanks to a grant from Knowle United Charities, we hope to expand our work with local secondary school pupils in 2026.

Throughout 2025 we have continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices, baptisms, weddings, funerals and burial of ashes services, which are significant occasions for many members of the parish and beyond. In particular we held the funerals of several long-standing and much loved members of the congregation. We remember with grateful affection their loyal service to this church.

Church Centre

This year we continued to open the church daily, for all who seek a place for quiet contemplation and prayer. St Peter's continues to hold drop-in Warm Hub sessions on Thursday afternoons.

The hall is used not only for church events but is hired out to a range of community groups, including exercise, drama and activities for the retired, as well as being available for private parties. This year we carried out a survey of hall users on how they use the hall, and what improvements they hope to see. We are looking to raise funds to carry out these improvements in 2026.

Pastoral

We organise several groups who meet regularly to learn more about Christianity, ask questions and express fears and doubts in a safe environment. Each group has a different audience and structure, so that as many as possible can attend one or more. Home communions are also available for the sick and housebound.

Mission and Evangelism

We have a small but active branch of the Mothers' Union at St Peters, who take part in activities such as knitting clothes for premature babies, and blankets and teddies. A weekly group called Teeny Tinies and Toddlers meets during the school terms to provide support and company for parents and carers of pre-school children. We also run a monthly tea party, alongside the Warm Hub, providing a friendly place to meet, particularly for older members of our community. We fundraise on a regular basis for The Children's Society, including at the annual Christingle service. We have continued to collect food and other essentials for Helping Hands, a local food bank.

We are active on Facebook, and we have a church website where people can contact and connect with the church. In addition, we have a YouTube channel, where members of the congregation, and others who would not normally attend church, may access recordings of our services, along with activities for families.

Ecumenical Relationships

We are members of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell, joining with other churches in the area for coffee mornings, Lenten breakfasts, and other social activities, as well as fundraising for local and international charities.

Volunteers

The church would be unable to function without the hard work and dedication of a band of volunteers, and the PCC would like to place on record our heartfelt thanks to them all. Christine Hornsby retired as Churchwarden this year, and the PCC wish to thank her for all her work for the church, and for the hall during many years of faithful service.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The current incumbent is ex officio chair of the PCC, and the Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members are ex officio members of the PCC. Other members are elected to the PCC by members of the electoral roll at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and may also be co-opted during the year. Members of the congregation are actively encouraged to register on the electoral roll, and to stand for membership of the PCC.

The PCC are responsible for making all decisions concerning the general running of the church, the raising of funds, and the use of those funds. The PCC met 5 times during the year and discussed a range of issues including Safeguarding, discussing the Diocese's "People and Places" initiative, and fundraising. The Standing Committee, comprising of the incumbent, Churchwardens, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer also meet outside PCC meetings when there are urgent issues to discuss. There are also several sub-groups which meet on a regular basis, such as the Premises Committee, which are granted powers to make decisions on the buildings and to report back regularly to the main PCC.

Administrative Information

The church is situated in Holly Lane, Balsall Common, CV7 7EA. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham, within the Church of England. The church does not have a parish office phone number, but emails can be sent to vicar@spcbalsall.org.uk. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers

Measures 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1184291.

PCC members who have served at any time since 1st January 2025 to the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members

The Reverend Susan Pearson

Christine Hornsby (Churchwarden until 1st July 2025)

Sarah Roth (Churchwarden)

Stuart Lee (Churchwarden appointed 1st July 2025)

Eileen Lamb (Deanery Synod representative)

Moira Johnson (Deanery Synod representative)

Rachel Westwood (Deanery Synod representative)

Peter Lee (Deanery Synod representative resigned 13th September 2025)

Elected Members

Alla Pavuk (Honorary Secretary until 18th May 2025)

John Pearson (Honorary Secretary appointed 25th May 2025)

Christine Lee (Honorary Treasurer)

Christine Hunnisett

Amy Kershaw

Bryan Marlow

Christine Hornsby (resigned 12th February 2026)

Robert Farmer

Edward Perkin (resigned 2nd April 2025)

Rosemary Birse

Margaret Mayhew

Dr Leslie de Chernatony

Susan Williams

William Chamberlain

Kimberley Steele

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members / trustees of St Peter Balsall Common Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 24 to 27.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

Signed

Alison Lowe

2026

Financial Review

The accounts for the year show a surplus of incoming to outgoing resources for the year of £14,775 as opposed to a surplus of £2,394 in the previous year. However, £3,000 was granted for work with secondary school children in 2026, and £9,896 was granted for additional solar panels and battery storage for the hall, which will be spent in 2026.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary giving, excluding legacies, increased by £21,415. This includes the grants mentioned above, plus grants of £10,000 to allow for the repair of the fleche. The increase of £8,202 in Income from charitable activities is due to higher income from fundraising, parish fees and hall lettings.

Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs are generally under control, although there were increases in utility costs of £1,269 and increased costs of maintenance. We increased our voluntary additional payment to Common Fund by £2,000. We repaired the fleche on the church roof at a cost of £12,000.

Reserves Policy

We aim to keep at least £22,000 (three months' running costs) in reserves. In addition to restricted reserves of £13,555 at 31 December 2025, we are also holding funds to cover the costs of necessary improvements to the hall in 2026.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts, in accordance with s10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the incumbent Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a special faculty for disposal are inalienable church property, listed in the Church's terrier which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

Equipment used on the Church premises is capitalised if it is over £5,000 and written off over a 5-year period.

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	2	62,618	23,694	86,312	64,900
Income from charitable activities	3	27,013	960	27,973	19,775
Other trading activities	4	1,309	0	1,309	1,532
Total income and endowments		90,940	24,654	115,594	86,207
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds		0	0	0	0
Cost of generating funds for voluntary income		0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	5	87,983	12,836	100,819	83,813
Total expenditure		87,983	12,836	100,819	83,813
Transfer unrestricted funds to restricted funds		1,781	-1,781	0	0
Net movement in funds		4,738	10,037	14,775	2,394
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward		30,002	3,518	33,520	31,126
Funds carried forward		34,740	13,555	48,295	33,520

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Current assets		
Bank accounts at HSBC	48,033	33,270
Bank accounts at CBF	262	250
	48,295	33,520
Current liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Net current assets	48,295	33,520
Net assets	48,295	33,520
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	34,740	30,002
Restricted funds	13,555	3,518
	48,295	33,520

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

And signed on its behalf by: Reverend S Pearson, Chairman

The notes on pages 25 to 27 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Note 1 — Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations (2006) together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial statements contain all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

FUNDS

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific purpose and may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any surplus of income over expenditure must be carried forward to the following year, to be expended on the same object.

Unrestricted funds represent donations or grants which may be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Planned giving, collections and donations are accounted for when they are received. Tax refunds are accounted for when they are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when they are received. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

EXPENDITURE

Donations are accounted for when they are awarded. The Common Fund is accounted for when it is due. All other liabilities are recognised when they are due and are accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts, in accordance with s10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the incumbent Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a special faculty for disposal are inalienable church property, listed in the Church's terrier which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

Note 2 — Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Planned giving: tax efficient	40,656	0	40,656	41,465
Other planned giving	3,448	0	3,448	1,819
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	11,545	0	11,545	10,640
Other giving	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	22,896	22,896	1,653
Legacy	0	0	0	0
Donations and charitable donations	6,969	798	7,767	9,323
	62,618	23,694	86,312	64,900

Note 3 — Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Lettings	21,816	0	21,816	18,031
Parish fees	2,668	0	2,668	556
Fundraising	2,529	960	3,489	1,188
	27,013	960	27,973	19,775

Note 4 — Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Contribution from solar panels	1,309	0	1,309	1,532
	1,309	0	1,309	1,532

Note 5 — Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Contribution to Common Fund	50,000	0	50,000	48,000
Salaries	6,425	0	6,425	6,170
Clergy and church expenses	2,243	12,000	14,243	1,401
Mission giving	246	798	1,044	1,487
Mission and evangelism	0	0	0	0
Church running costs	7,096	38	7,134	10,206
Cost of trading	19,804	0	19,804	15,651
Utilities	2,167	0	2,167	898
	87,983	12,836	100,819	83,813

Note 6 — Creditors

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Charitable donations	0	0	0	0

Note 7 — Funds

	At 1 January 2025	At 31 December 2025	Movement
Unrestricted	30,002	34,740	4,738
Fabric	1,688	9,896	8,208
Children's and Families	1,830	3,659	1,829
	33,520	48,295	14,775