

Annual Report & Accounts 2025

Parish of Littleover & Blagreaves

St Peter's Church



Agenda VESTRY MEETING and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

Wednesday 29 April 2026 at 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Littleover & Blagreaves

Vestry Meeting

1. Opening worship and prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approve Minutes of the last meeting
(30 April 2025 Vestry meeting section, see back pages)
 0. Election of Churchwardens
(nominations to be received in advance of meeting)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approve minutes of last APCM
(30 April 2025, see back pages of this document)
 0. Matters arising
 0. Electoral Roll Report
 0. Election of Churchwardens results
 0. Election to the:
 - Parochial Church Council
(9 vacancies 3 for one year, 3 for two years, 3 for three years)
 - Deanery Synod (4 vacancies)*(tellers will be appointed to count voting papers if needed)*
 0. Financial report – Mr Paul Cheetham
 0. Reviewing reports – time for questions
 0. Results of Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod
 0. Safeguarding update
 0. Chair's report and vision – Alicia
 0. Any other business NOTE:
Please notify any other business in writing to the Vicar or the PCC Secretary (Julie Scott) at least 48 hours in advance – this will guarantee a considered response.
 0. Date of next APCM
 0. Closing prayer and worship

TO BE EDITED The PCC of St Peter's Church, Littleover and Blagreaves 2025

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1133061.

The following have served as members of the PCC since the last APCM:



NAME	POSITION	NOTES
Revd Canon Alicia Dring	Vicar and Chair	Appointed September 2013
Revd Jason Kennedy	Associate Minister	Appointed, September 2023
Revd Emma Mallord	Curate	Appointed, ordained July 2023
Revd Lianne Green	Curate	Appointed, ordained June 2025
Chris Jones	Warden	
Helen Roe	Warden	
Paul Cheetham	Finance Manager	Co-opted
John Bird		Until 2025 meeting
David Barker		Until 2026 meeting
Tim Standley		Until 2027 meeting
Bill Browne		Until 2028 meeting
Charlie Elston		Until 2025 meeting
Ali Marsh-Davies		Until 2027 meeting
Heather Newstead		Until 2026 meeting
Julie Scott	PCC Secretary	Until 2026 meeting
Margit Staehr		Until 2025 meeting
Peter Vincent	Diocesan Synod	Until 2027
Ann Vincent	Deanery Synod	Until 2026

The Standing Committee 2025

NAME	POSITION	ELECTED
Revd Alicia Dring	Vicar	Appointed 2013
Julie Scott	PCC Sec	April 2022
Chris Jones	Warden	
Helene Roe	Warden	
Paul Cheetham	Finance Manager	Co--opted
Revd Emma Mallord	Curate	Appointed 2023



Service Attendance at St Peter's Littleover 2025

Sunday Services	Holy Communion	Evening Service	
Average over four consecutive weeks in October 2025	10am	6.30pm	
Communicants	72 (80)		
Total Attendees inc children	78 (105)	NA (25)	
Wednesday Services			
Average over random four consecutive weeks	Holy Communion		
Holy Communion	30 (27)		
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
Easter Sunday 2025	8am	10am	
Communicants	10 (12)	104 (142)	
Total Attendees inc children	18 (12)	130 (160)	
	Christingle	Christingle	Holy Communion
Christmas Eve 2025	3pm	5pm	11.15pm
Communicants			44 (35)
Total Attendees inc children	229 (230)	178 (176)	53 (45)
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
Christmas Day 2024	8am	10am	
Communicants	16 (20)	52 (66)	
Total Attendees	16 (22)	57 (84)	

* The 10am Sunday Services generally alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Worship/All Age
 (XX) Figures in brackets are for the year 2024

Other Services held at St Peter's during 2025

Baptisms: <i>during the 10am Sunday Service</i>	5	(5)
Funerals/memorial	14	(25)
Interment of Ashes	14	(6)
Weddings	4	(4)
St Peter's School Services	6	(6)

Electoral Roll from April 2026

96 resident in the parish and **50** live outside of the parish = **146 total roll**

Vicar Report

This has been a challenging year on many levels as I gradually recovered from my stroke. I am hugely grateful for your prayers and support as I have attempted to find a new balance of work and rest. This is an ongoing process since I am unable to continue to work at the breakneck speed of previous years.

Consequently, I was absent for January and February of 2025 and then on part-time duties until the summer. But as you will see from this report, the work of the church has continued with great enthusiasm and we owe much to our dedicated team of volunteers, trustees and staff team.

Highlights of the year include the Street Fair in June held in conjunction with the PTFA of St Peter's Junior School and supported by plenty of local groups. It was great to welcome the Mayor of Derby and our local MP as well as a record number of visitors in the glorious weather. And as well as local choirs we welcome Dwani Dance company to reflect the breadth of cultures and faiths in our village.

Huge thanks to Emma for her organisational skills as well as the muscle and hard work of many to move tables and chairs, put up bunting and clear everything up at the end. We were pleased to be able to donate £500 to the PTFA.



There was the amazing effort that went into raising over £10,000 in six weeks in order to access a further £10,000 from the Church of England with the Give to Go Green scheme, paying for new windows and doors at St Andrew's Hub. The Creation Care team pretty much baked their own body weight in cake and church were in turn exceptionally generous and the total was reached. A huge amount of work and very much worth it. The team also received a Certificate of Appreciation at the Derby Voluntary Sector Awards 2025, a yearly event from Community Action Derby with support from Derby Homes.

It has been a joy to welcome Reverend Lianne Green to the team as curate to St Peter's, All Saints' Findern and The Haven Christian Centre, working alongside Reverend Jason Kennedy. Lianne has considerable experience across a number of churches and is on a crash course to understand the vagaries of the Church of England. A welcome addition to the team.

We have been very sad to lose three cherished members of our church family this year. Audrey Elliot died early in the year, Dave Hargreaves at Easter and Janet Guy in the summer. While we know they are restored to heaven and welcomed home by Jesus, the space they have left behind has been keenly felt.



We also celebrated the ministry and retirement from active ministry of Reverend David Ditch and Reverend Jenny Cooper, both of whom have been valued friends and colleagues. Doubtless they will continue to be involved in the life of St Peter's but with no permission to officiate from the Bishop, they can finally 'hang up' their collars. A huge thank you to them both for all they have brought to our life as a parish.



The Ashmore bequest has been an unexpectedly generous blessing, gifting St Peter's with nearly £1million, offering us opportunities to improve our facilities and broaden our ministry. There are plans to improve the car park over at St Peter's hub, including handrails up the slopes and disabled parking spaces as well as lighting for the churchyard to help with access and safety, particularly in the winter. Our biggest commitment so far is to appoint an Anna Chaplain, supporting ministry with older people. This is a part-time appointment and begins in March 2026 with our own Reverend Jason Kennedy. We are indebted to the bequest donor for their vision and exceptional generosity.

Thank you to all of you, our Church Family for your hard work, faithful service, prayerful lives and constant good-humour that make St Peter's a joyous church. Our welcome, relationships, kindness and honesty ensure that while our hearts are lifted to heaven our feet are firmly on the ground. Each of us a work in progress, growing in faith, hope and love.

Philippians 1:3-6 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

PCC Secretary

During the 2025 reporting year, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Trustees met seven times. The Fabric Team and the Mission Action Plan (MAP) teams meet throughout the year and their updates are provided in advance of every meeting so everyone has the information they need. In addition, the PCC Standing Committee (SC) met five times. All meetings start and end in prayer.

In 2025 Chris Jones and Helene Roe continued as Church Wardens. Paul Cheetham has continued as a non - Trustee Finance Manager. Margit Staehr and Heather Newstead resigned from their Safeguarding roles at the APCM in April 2025. Heather Newstead continues as a PCC member. A reorganisation has seen Iona Hague, Office Administrator, take on the Safeguarding administration and Carol Harpur to become lead for the Safeguarding Function. Margit Staehr and John Bird both stood down from their roles on the PCC in March 2025 and David Barker, Bill Browne and Lee Standley joined the PCC as new members. Ann Vincent and Peter Vincent are Deanery Synod members. Jim Britland continues with his Health and Safety Officer duties as a non-Trustee.

The SC and PCC meeting agendas are in a standard format. Most documents are distributed and stored electronically saving on paper and printing. The agenda for each meeting is comprehensive and covers such topics as finance, correspondence, the Ashmore bequest, church buildings, churchyard and Glebe Land, worship, staff and leaders, MAP update, Deanery Synod feedback, Littleover and Blagreaves Churches Together, St Peter's School, Joyce Harpur, Wardens and Clergy, Safeguarding, and what we have done during the meeting to further the kingdom of God in Littleover and Blagreaves. Significant topics over the year include:

- Major projects led by the Fabric Team including ongoing maintenance of church buildings, churchyard and Glebe land. Many thanks to the small team that work hard in this never-ending job and the involvement of Community Payback.
- We much appreciate the Give to Go Green grant and the £10.5k in donations that enabled the windows and doors to be replaced at St Andrew's Community Hub. The Hub is now more comfortable and more environmentally friendly. Many thanks to all those who made this possible.
- Thanks also to our Creation Care team who encourage us to ensure our church buildings no longer contribute to the world's rising carbon emissions and for us to be more environmentally friendly.
- We are very thankful for the Ashmore Bequest. This has given us funds to make a difference, specifically around social and missional activities and to be sure there is suitable access to them.
- Safeguarding – This is very important to us and features as an item on every agenda.
- The continuing support to St Peter's Junior School – part of DDAT Academy Trust – and the headteacher Helen Reader. Our joint street fair in the summer of 2025 was very successful and the proceeds enabled the children to go to the pantomime.

Thank you to all who have served, advised, encouraged and prayed for the PCC during this last year. We are thankful for faithful servants and sufficient resources to follow God's call.

Julie Scott

Financial Review – Overview of Financial Performance

The trustees present this financial review to explain the PCC's financial performance and position for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The PCC recorded a surplus of income over expenditure of **£578,279** during the year (2024: £350,107).

Total funds at the year end amounted to **£1,133,577** (2024: £555,298), of which **£1,120,935** was held in cash and cash equivalents.

This reflects the continued receipt of significant Ashmore Bequest income alongside stable underlying operating performance.

The accounts have been prepared on an **accruals basis**, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Comparative figures for 2024 have been prepared on the same basis.



Income

Total income for the year was **£781,280** (2024: £573,877).

This included **£685,379** from donations and legacies, of which **£543,291** related to the Ashmore Bequest.

Regular giving, Gift Aid and other voluntary income continued to provide a stable base of unrestricted income, demonstrating the ongoing generosity and commitment of the congregation.

Income from charitable activities amounted to **£34,084**, and investment income increased significantly to **£20,592**, reflecting higher interest earned on larger cash deposits.

Expenditure

Total expenditure on charitable activities was **£202,648** (2024: £223,969).

A significant proportion of this expenditure related to parish ministry and mission, including payment of **£68,746** to the Diocese towards the Common Fund, which was met in full for the year.

The PCC continued to support outreach and charitable activities, with **£8,584** distributed in grants to church and secular charities during 2025. Ongoing costs associated with maintaining the church and community hubs, together with staffing and governance costs, were carefully monitored and controlled.

Restricted Funds and Legacies

The PCC holds a number of restricted funds, the most significant of which is the **Ashmore Bequest**, received to “facilitate the Church in its activities, social and missional, and to ensure the whole of the community has suitable access and transport when required”. At the year end, this fund totalled **£926,711**. Expenditure from this fund during the year related mainly to taxi transport to and from Church services and activities in line with the specific purposes of the bequest.

The established Ashmore Bequest Team is a PCC working group which meets regularly to consider the appropriate and responsible long-term use of this bequest, ensuring compliance with the donor’s intentions and alignment with the PCC’s mission and objectives. As a result, the PCC have committed to the appointment of an Anna Chaplain for a minimum of three years funded from the Bequest.



Reserves Policy

The PCC’s reserves policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately **three months’ operational expenditure**, currently estimated at **£50,000**.

At 31 December 2025, unrestricted general reserves amounted to **£199,800**, which exceeds the target level. The trustees consider this level of reserves to be appropriate in light of future financial uncertainties, ongoing maintenance obligations, and the need to provide financial stability to support the PCC’s mission and ministry.

Acknowledgements

The trustees express their gratitude to **Iona** for her continued diligence and cheerful disposition in managing the PCC’s day-to-day financial administration, and to **Johnson Tidsall Limited**, the PCC’s Independent Examiners, for their professional support.

Paul Cheetham Finance Manager

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER'S
LITTLEOVER AND BLAGREAVES**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	129,586	555,793	685,379	509,692
Charitable activities					
Church activities	4	16,359	17,725	34,084	22,286
Investment income	3	5,595	14,997	20,592	7,153
Other income		41,225	-	41,225	34,746
Total		<u>192,765</u>	<u>588,515</u>	<u>781,280</u>	<u>573,877</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Church activities	5	166,527	36,121	202,648	223,969
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(353)	-	(353)	199
NET INCOME		<u>25,885</u>	<u>552,394</u>	<u>578,279</u>	<u>350,107</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		173,915	381,383	555,298	205,191
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>199,800</u></u>	<u><u>933,777</u></u>	<u><u>1,133,577</u></u>	<u><u>555,298</u></u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER'S
LITTLEOVER AND BLAGREAVES

BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	11	8,526	-	8,526	8,879
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	7,376	-	7,376	7,614
Cash at bank and in hand		187,158	933,777	1,120,935	541,376
		<u>194,534</u>	<u>933,777</u>	<u>1,128,311</u>	<u>548,990</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,260)	-	(3,260)	(2,571)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>191,274</u>	<u>933,777</u>	<u>1,125,051</u>	<u>546,419</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>199,800</u>	<u>933,777</u>	<u>1,133,577</u>	<u>555,298</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>199,800</u>	<u>933,777</u>	<u>1,133,577</u>	<u>555,298</u>
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				199,800	173,915
Restricted funds				933,777	381,383
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>1,133,577</u>	<u>555,298</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 March 2026
and were signed on its behalf by:


A Dring - Trustee


H Roe - Trustee

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER'S
LITTLEOVER AND BLAGREAVES**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	558,614	341,622
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>558,614</u>	<u>341,622</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(199)
Sale of fixed asset investments		353	-
Interest received		20,592	7,153
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>20,945</u>	<u>6,954</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		579,559	348,576
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>541,376</u>	<u>192,800</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,120,935</u>	<u>541,376</u>

Gift Aid

For 2025, Tax recovered on Gift Aided regular giving and unrestricted one off donations claimed under the Gift Aid Small Donations scheme amounted to £22,691 (£24,327 in 2024). This represented 12% (12% in 2024) of underlying church income.

Gift Aided Donations for the Give to Go Green fundraising campaign allowed a further £2,114 to be claimed.

The figures show what an enormous difference Gift Aid continues to make to the funding of the work of our church, so a huge thank you to everyone who supports the church with donations whether through their bank or through the electronic giving terminal in church.



Please remember that it is very important for you to notify the church office if your contact details change, if your circumstances change and especially if you no longer pay an amount of income and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations. Further information on Gift Aid is available from the church office.

Paul Cheetham Gift Aid Secretary

Church Administrator

I continue to enjoy my role as Church Administrator, and can't believe I've been here for 6 years now - doesn't time fly! The work I do continues to be varied, and sometimes very challenging, but I really enjoy the fact that no two days are ever the same!

I'm still part of the finance team, which looks after the banking and Church accounts, and I continue to look after our regular hirers at the community hubs.

In addition to this, I have also taken on the administrative side of the Parish Safeguarding role. I am mainly responsible for the Parish safeguarding dashboard and ensuring everyone's safeguarding training and DBS certificates are up to date. I'm only in the early stages of this role, but hope to be on top of things very soon!



I was lucky enough to receive a new office computer this summer, which is so much quicker than my old one, and I can't believe the difference a slightly larger monitor has made for my eyes!

Thank you, as always, to Alicia, Emma, Jason, Lianne, Paul, Helene and Chris for their continued help and support over this last 12 months, and I look forward to what 2026 brings.

Iona Hague

Ashmore Bequest Team

This team was established by the PCC in 2025 to manage the exceptionally generous Ashmore Bequest made in 2023 and finalised in 2025, totally £935,000. The purpose of the bequest is:

“To facilitate the Church in its activities, social and missional and to ensure the whole of the community has suitable access and transport when required.”

While this originally started out as the idea of a mini-bus, it soon grew into other ideas along with the increasing financial total.

We have been offering a free taxi-service to church services and activities for about 18 months and this averages out at £700 to £1000 per month. We encourage vehicle sharing where possible and have endeavoured to negotiate a new contract with a different firm, but no firm proposals have been offered.

Issues of access have been foremost in the thinking and we have been keen to offer practical solutions for building access for those who are living with physical and mental frailty. While some of these are ‘small wins’, bigger projects such as resurfacing St Peter’s hub car park as well as providing handrails and disabled parking spaces and lighting the paths to church, all take much longer in the planning and executing.

In addition, we were happy to accept proposals from members of the congregation for how the money might benefit their own ministries – which included the purchase of new equipment for Messy Youth.



The PCC were delighted to appoint Jason Kennedy in December 2025 as the new Anna Chaplain – supporting older people in the church and wider parish – taking up his role in March 2026. More details to follow next year.

The bequest is considerable and the interest means the fund grows swiftly and changes monthly – currently we are unable to spend it faster than it grows. However, this is not money we can sit on – the charity commission will expect us to steward it well, including spending it for the purpose for which it was intended.

The generous donor who made the bequest had some great ideas for how we could use it – including bus trips as a church family – and so the team will continue to consider a wide variety of ideas, balancing them against the statement of purpose and the original desires of the donor.

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Reverend Jason Kennedy – Associate Minister

As always, it is difficult to try and squeeze the joys and challenges of ministry at St Peter's for a whole year into just a few short paragraphs. It continues to be an enormous privilege to serve alongside colleagues and friends in the church as together we seek to worship God in Christ, serve our community and share the Good News with those around us. As I do each year for my annual report, however, I'd like to just pick out some standout experiences and events that have shaped me and my ministry over 2025.



I have been able to get involved in one of our local schools this year, developing a relationship from previous years, as I continued to visit Griffe Field Primary School in Heatherton. I've led class lessons across the years. Some of the questions can really make you think, and the level of knowledge is often surprising. In a multi-faith context, it's fascinating to hear the experiences of the children and draw our own faith alongside that of others. It's always a highlight to dress one of the children up as a vicar as we 'baptise' a doll for the class!

Of course, we're not ministering alone as a church. We partner with other churches through the Littleover and Blagreaves Churches Together network. We once again journeyed through Holy Week together as we visited one another's churches and went on our Good Friday Walk of witness. Throughout the year we have met together as ecumenical church leaders to talk, pray and share. I value those ecumenical relationships highly – I am of the view that as Jesus prayed, "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me," (Jn 17:21) he probably meant it! Worshiping and ministering alongside others enriches our own faith and is a powerful witness in the world.

In June was the ordination of Lianne Green as curate to St Peter's, All Saints' Findern and The Haven. I am acting as Training Incumbent to Lianne, and it has been wonderful to get to know her better and work with her, seeing all the gifts and experience that God has already placed within her. I look forward to her priesting in June 2026 and to seeing her continuing to flourish and develop in her ministry.

But perhaps the most significant moment for me has come late in the year, as I announced my stepping down as Enabling Minister to Haven Christian Centre. I will finish at The Haven at the end of February.

However, as one season comes to an end, another begins – I am thrilled to be appointed as Anna Chaplain at St Peter's, alongside my continuing half-time role as associate vicar. Anna Chaplains work alongside a local team of Anna Friends to serve and provide pastoral and spiritual care to people who are older in our community, through care homes, community connections and through our own church programmes such as our dementia services and lunch club. I will be starting in this role soon after I finish at The Haven. Do ask me about the role, but if you'd like to know more, you can go to <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/about-anna-chaplaincy>.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." (Ecc 3:1) As one thing ends, another is birthed. Nothing is wasted in the economy of God! I am hugely looking forward to working more at St Peter's, particularly in my new role from March, and seeing what God will do in and through us all.

Reverend Emma Mallord – Curate

This year of my curacy has been busy and filled with lots of activities. In particular I was excited to take my first wedding, as I married Mark & Precious Pomroy. It was such a joy and delight, and the couple were wonderful.



Alongside this I've been involved in a wide range of groups and activities. I love that my day can be so varied – from Holy Communion in care homes to Collective Worship in School, from enjoying services and food at Lunch Club, to getting involved in Messy Church and Messy Youth. This year I have taken, and been involved in several funerals, which has been sad, but also a privilege to help families as they work through these difficult times.

One of the highlights of this year has been engaging with the Prayer Course. Having gone through this 1:1, it led me to suggest it for a sermon series which we started in January and ran for several weeks. I really enjoyed the research and reading I got to do for this sermon series. Finally, all those books I have about prayer on my bookcases got to be dusted off as I loved learning more about prayer, and in turn seeing others learn too.

Another highlight was the Street Fair, and although quite possibly the hottest day, it was a wonderful event, with lots involved from both the school and Church. (Possibly the first time I would willingly have taken to the stocks and had cold sponges thrown at me!) There were a large variety of stalls with lots to get involved with. The School Choir performed alongside Bollywood dancers from Dhwani Dance Academy, which brought us a lot of joy and colour. The cake stall was particularly successful as they sold out of their wonderful baked treats. This year we were blessed by lots of volunteers helping to set-up and clear away at the end of the day which really added to the success of the event.

One of the biggest challenges for this year was when Alicia was off following her stroke at Christmas. For a Curate, having my Training Incumbent suddenly out of action was a bit of shock and I really missed her support. However, I quickly got into my stride, and I enjoyed getting to put into practice all I'd learnt through my curacy. Life was suddenly very busy as I took on more responsibilities but it was also good practise for my future incumbency! It also coincided with the Prayer Course sermon series, so I was really pleased to have some extra sermons to get into then.

The other area of challenge that I have been working hard on over the last year is my preaching and speaking style from the front. I know I have a tendency to be a bit too quick especially when I am nervous or excited. (And it only gets faster when it's both!) But I have been practising slowing down, projecting my voice, and being comfortable at the front. This has been a key part of my curacy and an important element in embodying the role of Priest.

St Peter's has been a wonderful place for a curate as you are all so supportive. Thank you for all the many times you've given me encouragement, brought me cups of tea, and generally been willing to help when asked. Next year is going to be bit different as I begin to look for jobs, and consider my future beyond Littleover, but for now I look forward to several more months with you.

Reverend Lianne Green - Curate

At the time of writing, I have been a Deacon for six months, and I can honestly say that the time has passed in something of a blur. I feel greatly blessed that, since finishing my time at theological college, there has been little disruption for my family and me. We have remained in our own home, my children have stayed at their schools, and I have not moved to a new parish, unlike many of my college friends.

The main change (apart from now being a Curate!) is that my working time is shared across the Parish of Littleover. I am no longer based solely at the Haven Christian Centre (which now accounts for 50% of my time), but also have the joy and privilege of serving at St Peter's Church, Littleover, and All Saints Church, Findern.



Although my time at these two new churches has been somewhat limited so far, I have been warmly welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people within both congregations. Thank you for your continued patience as I try to remember the many new names and faces I encounter each month!

I came to faith and grew up within the Assemblies of God denomination. Although I spent two years training at an Anglican theological college, I am continually discovering just how much there is still to learn within this wonderful denomination that God has called me to be part of. It is a tradition I have come to love deeply, not least for its enthusiasm for abbreviations, which my brain is still working hard to keep up with!

During December, I was excited to take on the new challenge of becoming a governor at St Peter's Junior School. While it is still very early days, I am keen to explore how I might contribute to helping our Church school flourish even further.

One of my highlights of the year so far was seeing an overflowing church at All Saints' Findern, as we built, and I talked them through the symbolism of the Christingle. What a joyful act of community worship this was.

At the beginning of March 2026, my curacy will transition to working solely within the two parish churches. I hope this will allow me greater opportunity to engage more fully in the missional life of the parish, to join a house group, and to continue getting to know you all better.

Churchwardens

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3 v 17

As we sit down to pen this report, it’s hard to believe that Helene has now done almost two years as Church Warden and Chris is about to complete his sixth (and final) year! Helene is enormously relieved that Chris intends to continue in his role on Fabric Team because his practical knowledge and servant-heartedness are invaluable (as demonstrated by his awarding of the Bishop’s Badge in September 2025).

As always, this year has been a busy one in terms of maintaining the property for which we are responsible: the church itself, plus the churchyard, and the two church hubs. Our to-do list is self-perpetuating. At least one new job gets added every time a completed job is ticked off! We are ever-grateful to the volunteers who help us to manage such a huge undertaking.

Diocesan Faculties (permission to undertake work)

Bell tower

Our intention to install a ladder in the bell tower stalled somewhat when our builder’s metalwork expert became unable to do the job. Plans for an alternative way of getting the work completed are well advanced and we will be moving this forward in the New Year.

Balcony

A team of volunteers gathered to remove the old bench seats and another team helped to build the new cupboards. Although still a bit of a work in progress, the balcony storage is looking a lot more organised and accessible. A huge thank you to everyone who helped – by demolishing, by building, or by tidying up their ‘stuff’.



St Peter’s Hub

After the fitting of the brand-new kitchen in summer 2024, it’s been a relatively quiet year (fabric-wise) at St Peter’s Hub but plans are coming together for some maintenance and improvements in 2026

St Andrew's Hub

The new windows were installed over the summer and the outer door went in during October half-term.



They look so good and will have a really positive impact on our energy use to heat the building. Thank you to the Creation Care Team for driving this initiative – to Ali M-D for applying for planning permission, Ali D-M for taking a lead in the fundraising events, all of the cake bakers (and eaters) and everyone who donated to the Give to Go Green Scheme.

During the school holidays, Lee Smith has been maintaining the outside of the building, painting and restoring the woodwork. There's still more to do but it's looking much smarter. In the spring, we'd like to get together a work-party to redecorate the main hall, which is now looking rather tired. Please could you spare a day/half a day to help? Details will follow in the new year.

Storage

We're on a bit of a drive to sort out our storage across all three buildings, getting rid of unneeded clutter and reorganising those things we want handy. We've found more than one useful item which we didn't know we'd got!!

Paul Cheetham and Iona have been looking at our saved finance records and Paul has shredded an enormous pile of documents which go back beyond the required seven years, plus we sent away eight bags to a specialist shredding service.

Churchyard clear-up has finished for the season, running from March until October on the third Saturday of every month. Thank you to those faithful people who come and help. Also, thank you to Chris Woodhams who coordinates the work done by Community Payback. We'd be overwhelmed without their help.

I would also like to give a shout-out to one wonderful lady who has been quietly litter-picking around the car park and Glebe Land on a regular basis after the Sunday morning services. Thank you!

We are also enormously grateful to the Duty Wardens, Coffee teams and Welcome teams who enable our regular services to take place on Wednesdays and Sundays. Thank you to all who help monthly, those who step in when there is a gap, and those who volunteer to cover the 'Specials' (Christmas, Easter, schools, dementia etc), not forgetting weddings and funerals. If anyone feels that they would like to join any of these teams, please speak to Helene.

And, as always, a huge thank you to Iona!

Chris Jones and Helene Roe

Safeguarding 2025

A few changes took place during the year when both PSOs stepped down from their respective roles at the APCM on 30 April 2025.

PSO (lead) Margit Staehr has covered Children & Young Persons' safeguarding including the overall administration of DBS and safeguarding training. PSO Heather Newstead has covered Vulnerable Adults' safeguarding.

After some reflection on the tasks involved in each role, the PCC decided to offer the administrative part of safeguarding work as a paid position, and the post was advertised over the summer. When, unfortunately, that did not produce any applications, our Church Administrator (Iona) came to the rescue offering to take on this additional administrative responsibility. Iona is owed a huge thank you - we are very relieved to be able to hand over this important record keeping to a safe pair of hands.

At the time of writing (Nov. 2025), the PCC has yet to appoint an out-facing PSO Lead, a voluntary role. Since safeguarding remains a standing item at each PCC meeting, it is an advantage, if not imperative, that the future PSO Lead is an elected member of the PCC.

Change of DBS provider.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team announced in March that the DBS provider would change from APCS (Access Personal Checking Services) to 31:8 Thirtyone:eight from April 2025. This admin change affected mainly PSO administrators, and the Safeguarding Team organised a workshop with 31:8 for them to share an overview of the DBS process, an induction on how to use the service, what to expect, who to contact with questions or queries, and an opportunity to ask them questions directly.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team in Church House continue to handle and process DBS checks of clergy, lay readers and PSO/s.

For those of you who have signed up to automated renewal of your DBS certificate, please note that you will still need to renew and fill in a Confidential Declaration Form every three years.

Training update

Safeguarding Leadership training The Church of England is currently revising the Leadership course, with updates expected by April 2026. The course content is renewed every three years, and those due for renewal will need to complete the updated version. It migrated during the year to the Church of England Training Portal
<https://safeguarding.cofeportal.org>

We have come across a few who have an issue logging on to the Portal and advise you to get in touch with elarning@mail.safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org since neither PSOs nor the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can help with access to the portal.



Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Training

This course saw various revisions during 2025. Currently, there are three different ways to complete the course; either as e-learning via the Church of England portal, or as a zoom session, or as an in-person training. All Zoom and in-person courses have pastoral support available for delegates. When yours is due for renewal, please choose the method which best suits your needs.

Completed safeguarding courses from 1st January to 30th April 2025

- 9 Basic and Foundation modules (self-directed e-learning)
- 4 completed Safeguarding Leadership Training
- 6 completed Domestic Abuse Awareness training

DBS

- 3 Basic DBS applications
- 6 Enhanced DBS applications

Safeguarding Incidents/Referrals

We reported a safeguarding disclosure to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team who recorded it in their system. It was not church related abuse and pastoral support is in place; the police are involved.

General

A list of Safeguarding Policies & Action Plan on the safeguarding dashboard was reviewed and approved by the PCC at the first PCC meeting following the APCM last April. This is the usual annual renewal along with the PCC Trustees' letter to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and Head of Team, Ms Lisa Marriott, confirming that "The Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Littleover and Blagreaves, has adopted and will continue to implement the Safeguarding Children, Young Persons and Adults Policy, Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines as published by the Dioceses of Derby".

Thankyou

It has been a privilege to serve church in this important, trusted role. It has been quite an eye-opener, and I am glad I took it on. I wish to extend a warm thank you to all for never ending support and help during the nearly five years that I served as PSO.

Margit Staehr, PSO Lead (retired 30/4/2025)

Mission Giving



Every three years we review our mission giving and it is based on a number of criteria. We give to those working internationally, nationally and locally and the amount we give is based on 10% of our income (less gift aid). This year, at our review we were delighted to be able to increase our giving from £7,000 per annum to £10,000.

The congregation were surveyed regarding who to donate to and many of our existing mission partners were retained, for some their gift was amended and we welcomed two new partners – Green Christian (supporting a UK Christian response to climate change) and Upbeat Communities (a local Christian charity offering support to refugees in our city).



We would also like to take on a new international mission partner but have yet to find someone suitable. All suggestions welcome.

We are grateful to all who give throughout the year for specific charities like the Children's Society and The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. These donations are also included in this report.



Ordinary Christians,
extraordinary times

MISSION GIVING FOR THE YEAR 2025

Name	Year 2024 Restricted	Year 2024 Unrestricted	Year 2025 Restricted	Year 2025 Unrestricted	Area of work
Bible Society		500		500	Overseas
CMS (Jigsaw)		1,400 (+ 1,150 fundraiser)		1,500 (+ £896 fundraiser)	Overseas
Barnabas Fund/ Open Doors		500		500	Overseas
de Marces		1,400		1,500	Overseas
PASH Kenya	3,000 concert	500		500	Overseas
Tearfund		500		500	Overseas
Care for the Family		500		500	National
Derby City Mission		500		700	Local
Food4Thought		200		500	Local Foodbank Hub
Borderline Arts		500		200	Local
Green Christian				500	National
Upbeat Communities				700	Local
Children's Society		696.19		693.05	National Christingle
Harvest Appeal Bishop of Derby		125		30.00	Overseas
Christmas Lunch on Jesus		800		556.33	Local and Overseas
Royal British Legion		174.89		176.50	Secular Charity/national
St Peter's School PTFA		500 for street fair		500	Church school
Emergency Fund		500 not spent		500	Tearfund – Myanmar Earthquake appeal
TOTAL	3,000				
	Total 2024	12,946.08	Total 2025	11,451.88	

Church Hubs

St Peter's Hub

The hub is used regularly by church and community groups across the year.

Regular bookings include:

Crossed Keys Café, Tiddlywinks, Lunch Club, Knit and Natter, ReCreate

Littleover School of Dance, Baby Sensory, Art Club,

Singing Together, Salsa, Shape Fitness, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



We were also able to appoint a Bookings Manager this year to deal with one-off hires. These were mainly successful aside from one broken window (football) and one party that didn't clean up – but on the whole it has been great to increase the community use.

However, the bookings manager role is currently vacant and we really need someone who can take this on (paid role) in order to manage the interest and bookings. We are happy to lease the space to groups across the community on the proviso that no worship, prayers or teaching from other faiths takes places on the premises. This is respected and accepted by our hirers.

2025 Income £25,454

St Andrew's Hub

The primary users of the hub is Little Angel's pre-school who use the building in the daytime weekdays, with half days on Wednesday and Friday. It is a busy pre-school with lots of children who have benefitted from the new windows and doors.



In addition, StAnd Home Group meet there once a fortnight, there is an after school drop on fortnightly called Hot Chocolate and Toast and a drop in café for parents and children after the pre-school on a Friday.

There is also a weekly 24-Fit Zumba Class on a Tuesday evening

2025 Income £15,771

Fabric Resources

The Fabric Team comprised: Chris Jones, Jim Britland, Helen Roe, Jan Jackson, Bernie Burton and Dave Hargreaves for part of the year.

There were five meetings throughout the year

St Peter's Church

Bell Tower. Access to upper belfry is presently via vertical ladder rungs and these are not protected by rings, except at top. PCC agreed to a telescopic metal ladder. Order placed on Tony Roe at £2700. To stop unauthorized people accessing the upper belfry the ladder would be padlocked. Installing the ladder in the Belfry, had to wait for lengthy process. Permission eventually given by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Derby. A Public Notice of Intent was posted. The project should have proceeded in July, but Tony's subcontractor pulled out. We are proceeding to procure a ladder and the Team will fit in December. The ladder will be one piece, with hoops above 2.2m. Lower section will have locked ladder guard to prevent access.

Balcony cleared of excess of "gifted" stuff. Financial records removed to the wardens office. Bench seats by wall removed and replaced by metal cabinets, tall and low level to not obscure windows.

Television on front South pillar was too low, presenting a hazard. Jim fabricated a custom mount to raise the TV by ~200mm.

Toilet re-secured to floor. One stiff door catch replaced.

Churchyard

Water Supply from water meter in Church Street to Church. Sean McAndrew changed original lead water pipe from meter to Church from lead to PVC in December 2024. But two sources for further leaks remained, lead pipe being the weakest link from the water meter. There remained just a short section of lead pipe entering Church to the kitchen by the East wall. Chris and Jim drilled the hole through 1m of Church wall, dug out a 1m hole in the kitchen floor. Dave Thornton connected the pipework through the wall. Chris and Jim backfilled inside and outside holes and reinstated the kitchen cabinets. Lead pipe to Churchyard tap has been disconnected and stand pipe removed.

Scout Hut grounds. Ed Bentley did an Annual Tree Survey. Three self-planted Ash trees were creating a subsidence problem for neighbours near Barncroft. These were removed. Ed trimmed a further Ash tree bordering the same property.

Drive from Church Street to West door. Very dark at night. Battery powered temporary lights were purchased for Christmas services. Looking to install permanent light activated LED lamp post on the bank between the drive and 33 Church Street. The drive belongs to the Church.

War Graves. Fabric Team again placed crosses on all 21 war graves during November. Graves now identified by Grid References.

There were eight **Churchyard cleanups**, March to October, with a BBQ in October.

Chris Woodhams managed **Community Payback's** work this year, caring for the hub grounds as well as the Churchyard. New contract, new supervisors so learning curve for them.

Churchyard Plan. An area was defined by Churchyard Clear-Up to leave fallow, May to September. Community Payback managed to NOT cut the plot and wild flowers were de-seeded end of September.

Tree Management. Ed Bentley pollarded the Churchyard perimeter Lime and Maple trees during Easter holidays for £1000. Four trees left until autumn due to nesting birds.

Steps accessing Normanton Lane entrance are dark in Autumn and Winter. Solar powered lighting was installed on the temporary sign posts near the War Memorial.

Yew Hedge by Normanton Lane. Trimmed on road side by Churchyard Clear-Up team in June.

A depression in the **footpath** by the North door caused by previous water leak has been repaired and no longer a trip hazard.

Saint Peter's Hub

New Kitchen. Weight of waste disposal unit broke the sink to work surface seal causing a water leak when hand washing up. Kitchen Solutions replaced water damaged cupboard and better supported Insinkerator.

Entrance door now does not scrape new floor. Locking corner cupboard door damaged (by lock). Lock modified, door replaced.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm fitted outside Kitchen door.

CDS Glass and Glazing Ltd to quote for double glazing small hall, replacing frames as well. Project for 2026 Summer holidays.

Lamp post on Glebe path. Peter Goodman has replaced sodium light with an LED fitting.

Large Hall windows. Outside woodwork is in poor condition. Needs filler, sanding, staining and painting. In view of height to ground, a project for a decorator. We were quoted £2700, but decorator could not give any timeframe so contract placed on Lee Smith. He will also do exterior woodwork of old hall on the White Swan side, outside of Entrance Vestibule and exterior of fire doors.

Blue locking Poster Cabinet. Removed by contractors to fit new Saint Peter's Hub signage. Re-erected it on East wall with book type opening. Hooks for the Messy Church / Messy Youth banners repositioned.

Chubb tested all **Fire Extinguishers** in March. All good.

Saint Andrews Hub

Wi-Fi installation. Wired and wireless internet solutions considered by Peter Vincent. A low signal strength area, so wireless preferred. Typical cost will be £30 to £40 per month. There is a telephone pole directly outside the Hub and a telephone wire goes to the Green Room. Jim will try to find a solution (possibly Hive) to change old heating controls, so this can be operated from the office.

Bell push fitted to entrance steel gate post to signal wirelessly to hub. Hedge cut back to access bell push. Primarily for Pre-School.

New Notice Boards on Hut reflect new name / status. The main notice board near the front boundary hedge was turned around. But it obscured the new board on the building, so was subsequently removed – leaving the posts.

Main door lock sticking. Pre-School having to leave by fire exit, so had to replace lock and cut 18 additional keys.

Double Glazed Windows. To replace all 24 windows (and frames to maintain structural integrity). To supply and fit replacement aluminium commercial double doors with window above. Contract only placed on CDS Glass and Glazing Ltd. in July, due to protracted DCC delays with planning permission. CDS installed windows in summer holidays and doors by end of October. Windows cost £19,278 inc. Doors and window above cost £4,284 inc. Twenty keys provided by manufacturer. Spy glass re-instated. A late request for opening windows was accommodated at no extra cost.



Project funding and grant application was under the Creation Care team. Funding was helped by getting £10K from the Church of England's "Give to Go Green" fund.

Smart meter. Ongoing query regarding back power board, suspected to be asbestos. Sample safely taken. Dave sent sample away for independent testing by TTL proving it to contain no asbestos. Smart meter was finally installed February.

Gate security strengthened by welding extra length to gate bolt and new padlock provided. Gates now adequately lock and Pre-School children are now safe playing.

Bulkhead light in porch replaced by a PIR and LED version to safely exit Hub.

Ring Main Circuit breaker failed. Replaced by Nick Northover for £200.

Electrical Installation inspection arranged for Hub in December. Nick Northover has stopped doing this work and we will use Cripwell Building Services for £470 inc.

Painting of **exterior woodwork** has been done by Lee Smith. Inside has been done by a small team, including Lee Smith.

Thanks to all who took part throughout 2025.

Chris Jones

Creation Care



**THE GREAT BRITISH
SPRING
CLEAN.**

**Littleover Great
British Spring Clean
Litter Pick**

**Saturday 8 March
10.00am - 11.15am**

Starting at St Peter's Church, Church Lane
Tea and cake available from 11.15am

Pickers and bags will be provided
We recommend wearing gloves
Children must be accompanied by an adult
Event will take place whatever the weather

Organised by the Creation Care
Team of St Peter's Church,
Littleover & Blagreaves

St Peter's Church **Creation Care**

Loving God and serving the people of Littleover & Blagreaves

St Peter's Church, Littleover & Blagreaves, Church Street, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6GF
Office@StPeterLittleover.org.uk www.StPeterLittleover.org.uk
01332 767802 StPeterLittleover

Our mission objective: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of earth.

In 2025 we continued with community litter picking in Littleover and Blagreaves started in the years before. We promoted communal Easter and Christmas cards to reduce the number of cards that are recycled or can't be recycled. During Lent we promoted a Carbon Fast using the Church Family Facebook page with daily posts of ideas and suggested actions.

During Great Big Green Week we supported an outdoor church service held at Hannah Fields. Whilst in the churchyard we hosted No Mow May to encourage wildflowers, and during GBGW we held butterfly counts. We commissioned Derbyshire Wildlife Trust advice on managing churchyard land and how best to improve biodiversity. We planted

spring bulbs and erected more bird nest boxes. Creation Care had a table at July's Street Fair introducing people to Carbon Footprints and subsequently the Carbon Literacy Course.

Creation Care took the lead on activities to fund raise for the Give to Go Green campaign and ate a lot of cake whilst successfully raising over £10K from generous donors which was matched pound for pound by the G2GG project allowing us to replace the windows at St Andrew's Hub. Reducing heat loss, saving money on electricity bills, and making the environment warmer with the aim of reducing our carbon footprint.

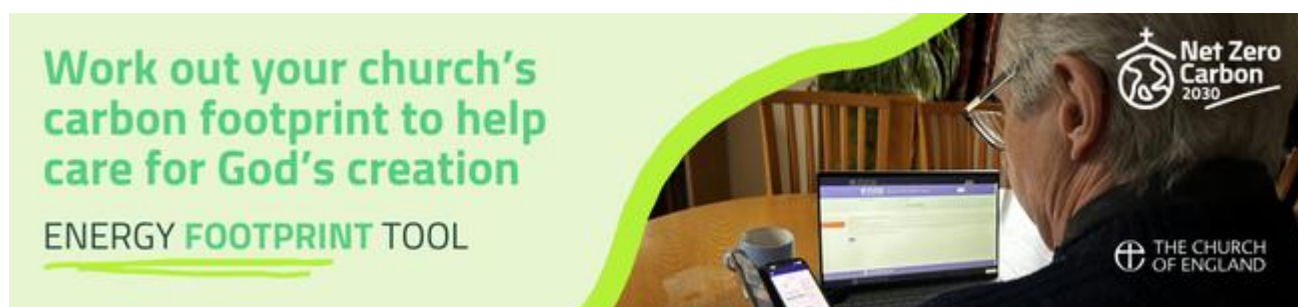
We led on delivering the first Carbon Literacy course for the congregation, educating participants on how to reduce their individual and the church carbon footprint. Having calculated the Church's carbon footprint, we are engaged with the PCC on delivering a Net Zero Carbon plan by 2030 (see following report).

Ali Marsh-Davies



Our carbon footprint and plan for reduction

In 2020 the General Synod of the Church of England agreed that all parts of the church would aim to become 'net zero' by 2030. This resolution comes out of the church's recognition of the importance of the health of our natural world and our place as stewards of God's earth. It is recognised that global warming is happening as a result of human activities and that it is the poorest in the world who are suffering soonest and most (and also contribute least to global warming) so tackling climate change is an issue of justice. For us, this means that we need to plan and make changes in order to reduce our church carbon footprint as much as we can, and we have come up with a plan that tackles each area of carbon emission production.



In 2025, I worked out the carbon footprint of the activities associated with the church. For 2024, this worked out at 38.57 tonnes CO₂e. This is made up of about 20 tonnes from the gas & electricity used our three buildings, 4.4 tonnes from our travel to church and by staff during their work; 5.9 tonnes from the food and drink we serve, and 8 tonnes from 'other stuff'. 'Other stuff' includes emissions associated with upkeep of the buildings, IT equipment, web hosting, paper and postage, insurance, accountancy etc.

The largest contribution to our total footprint is from the gas heating used in the church and St Peter's Hub. The first part of working out whether we can reduce this is to understand how well or badly the heating systems work. We have been doing this over the winter period and are continuing with this into spring.

For 2025, I have calculated the carbon footprint associated with our energy use in the three buildings, and the 'other stuff' as the figures to do this are easily available. I have not repeated the transport and food and drink surveys as these were done in summer 2025 and retrospectively applied to 2024.

The 2025 total footprint is xy tonnes CO₂e. This is made up of about f tonnes from the gas & electricity used our three buildings, g tonnes from our travel to church and by staff during their work; h tonnes from the food and drink we serve, and j tonnes from 'other stuff'.

Part of the increase in the energy use footprint is because we moved in late 2024 from a 100% renewable/nuclear electricity tariff to a tariff based on the national grid: the electricity for this in 2025 is k % renewable or nuclear.

I hope that in 2026 we can begin to look at our options going forward for heating the church and St Peter's Hub. If you are interested in helping with this work, please do let me know.

Rachel Whitehorn

Worship Group

We have continued to provide varied worship across all the main Sunday Services including Communion, Morning Prayer, All Age Worship and “God Space” Evening Services. We are blessed to have excellent, varied resources including organ, keyboard, rhythm guitar, bass, cajon, flute, cornet and singers. This enables us to provide a variety of styles of sung worship.

We lost Rachael Smith to St Peter’s in the city but have found a lovely replacement singer in Heather Newstead. Sadly, we lost our brilliant cornet player, Dave Hargreaves, a few months ago; he added such glory to our sound. Dave is really irreplaceable and we miss him a great deal both as a musician and as a human being.

Earlier in the year we also lost Audrey Elliott, previous singing member, so it has been a year of much sadness as well as joy that they are home to heaven.

However, we continue to worship and look forward to meeting new challenges in 2026. Psalm 133 continues to be the inspiration for our ethos - where there is unity God commands a blessing.

David Barker and Peter Goodman.

Mission Action Plan

This has settled into ongoing work across the parish and we are grateful to the teams who helped to kickstart new initiatives and bring life into projects that had become tired.

With thanks to the prayer team who have continued to meet monthly to pray for Littleover and Blagreaves and how we may engage with the wider community. This valuable foundation keeps us rooted in our parish and God’s call on us to serve wholeheartedly.



The ‘Welcome to your New Home’ bags continued to be shared and for one church couple has led to a lovely relationships with their Muslim neighbours. Demonstrating kindness and love to those who are new to our neighbourhood always brings blessing. If you’d like to take a bag to share, they are kept in the black trunk near the pigeonholes at the back of church. Just add the latest magazine and maybe a cake, plus a greeting in the card provided and you’re away.

The Giveaway Days continued throughout 2025 from St Andrew’s Hub and are always popular, but the planning and physical work involved in setting up and clearing away the day has become too much for the team – many of whom are 10 years older than when the scheme first started – and sadly they will not continue in 2026 unless more people are willing to join the team.

The legacy of the Mission Action Plan continues and we remain grateful to John Bird for his leadership and encouragement.

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Messy Church

Messy Church offers a space for children and their families to explore Christian themes and stories through craft, story, song and interaction – and like any good church event we always end with food.

We have held Messy Church six times this year with lots of families attending from church and Tiddlywinks. We provide crafts, baking, painting and puzzles on a Biblical theme followed by a song talk and prayers.

The messy youth team offer additional 'older' games and crafts and give a separate talk on the theme appropriate for the over 11s. The over 11s can use both rooms as they wish and we have a lot the older children who enjoy this. Many of them have been attending over the last ten years and still enjoy the atmosphere of Messy Church.

We then finished with either a buffet tea, pizza or pancakes.

We also provide crafts for the King George V Preschool harvest service and St Peter's Junior School events.

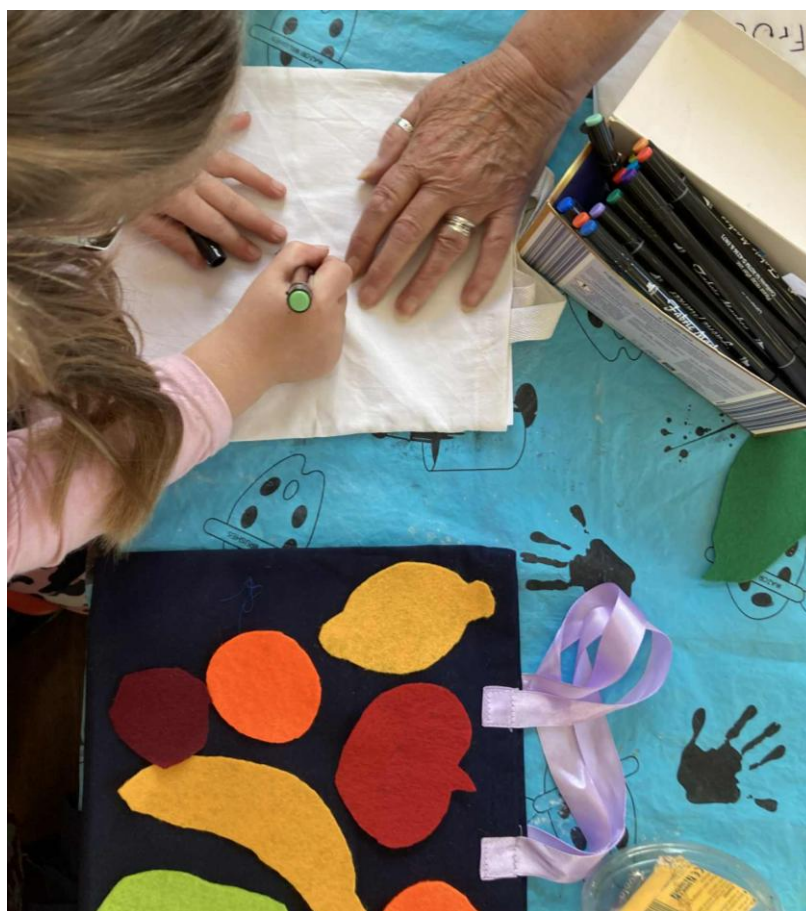
We like to offer Advent Calendars to each child and Easter eggs too and we are grateful to those who help toward the cost of this. As we use the Meaningful Chocolate Company, they include booklets outlining the story, so it's not just more chocolate. Any spares are shared with Tiddlywinks families.

Thank you to Joan, Fiona and Paul, Charlie and Ruth, Chris and Linsey, Ann and Bernie, Irene, Ann, Joy, Sue, Angie, Jane, and the messy youth team for all the help this year in preparing the crafts games and refreshments.

Liz Eley and Joan Ditch

Messy Youth

Messy Youth was formed to meet the needs of the 11-16 year old youth who attend or are associated with St Peter's and St Andrew's. It provides a space where tricky questions can be asked that relate to faith, all within a fun and accepting environment; our mantra is 'No question is a silly question'. The ultimate goal is that the youth who attend will personalise and strengthen their faith. The Messy Youth Team is made up of people who have a heart and gifting for youth work and who are not fazed by the questions they are asked, such as 'Can you be a Christian and still believe in evolution?', or 'If God can do everything, why doesn't He end the war in Ukraine?'



We were originally meeting once a month to fit in with the hectic schedule many of our youth have. Over the course of the past year, we have had a core of two youth who attended most sessions, with occasional extra youth joining them. Our format has been to set up the upper hall at St Peter's Hub with games-board games, snooker, table-tennis etc. We gather together to look at and discuss a Bible passage, with the aim of applying it to our lives; the subsequent activities would then relate to the Bible passage so the youth had something physical to take home as a reminder of our discussions. Because of the low number of youth who choose to attend monthly, it was felt Messy Youth should run at the same time as Messy Church; this way the youth who attend Messy Church with younger family members can be catered for at an age-appropriate level.

Helen Homes

Tiddlywinks

Tiddlywinks have a regular group of mums and grandmas who meet in St Peter's Hub on a Monday afternoon together with their children, where we enjoy playing with small world and construction toys, puzzles and games, and finish each session with songs and a story. There are also refreshments and opportunities to chat and share together.

It's great to see some of our families coming to messy church and Christmas services.

Thank you to Liz S, Fiona, Di and Irene for all your support.

Liz Eley

Energise and Go!

Sunday mornings in St Peter's Hub 10 am -11 am with children aged from 5 to 15 years.

Energise (2nd and 4th Sundays) meet on a Sunday morning when the adults are in Church. We use storytelling, drama, crafts, puzzles, questions and games to share a Bible story with the children and young people, often finishing with a game of indoor hockey or volley ball. We use themes like relationships, bible characters and festivals.

Go (3rd and 5th Sundays) is a Lego© themed session and the children hear a story, think about what it means for them and create their response to the story using Lego. It's a great way to engage with the story and it helps them to remember what they have heard. Thank you to Richard, Joy and Ann plus others for being on the teams and all the work you do.

Liz Eley

Diddy Disciples - Sundays under fives

Diddy Disciples has enjoyed a stable year to date. We have been blessed with the very regular attendance of two members with occasional other friends.

As young children do our members have grown up very quickly in the few months since April. They are also very enthusiastic to take part in everything we do! This is both a delight and has caused us to look for additional material to work from in order to offer new and more varied material. This has not been easy but we have continued to have fun on Sunday mornings and hopefully to continue learning about Jesus as our friend. We have been blessed with an additional leader to our team which is great. Anyone else wanting to join us would be very welcome.

Our children appear comfortable in Church and want to attend. It is testament to our Church Family that our young members are happy to mix in Church, we thank you very much for this. We look forward to another year of learning and growing in our love for Jesus as our friend.

Ruth Elston, Ann Lunn, Ann Partridge & Fiona Taylor

Hot Chocolate & Toast Café St Andrew's Hub 2nd and 4th Wednesday 2:45pm

This after school drop-in café is for the young people in Yr 7-9 travelling home from Derby Moor Spencer Academy at St Andrew's Hub. This involves inviting them in, as they pass by, to have a cold drink and a biscuit or alternatively a mug of hot chocolate (aka choccie mountains) and some toast with toppings and stay for activities. The activities include table tennis, table games and craft; now including jewellery making following a kind gift.

We are now regularly greeting around 40/45 young people and see regular girls and boys whom we are able to engage in small conversations about our faith and about why we are there.

Since September we have set up a regular give-away table which offers booklets, Bibles and free literature. We try to source new and differing leaflets and booklets to keep it fresh. Also, we now have posters and leaflets relating to mental health which point to where they may obtain help or support should they need it. We continue to see items being taken and pray that the Lord will use any literature to reach the young people with the gospel. Over the past 12 months we have also given away several Bibles.

Our challenges, which need your prayer and consideration, are:

- As the number calling in this year has risen we need extra adult helpers to enable us to ensure that we can continue to invite any young people to come inside the hall for the activities etc. Please consider offering any amount of time you are able
- Pray that more young people will return their Parental Consent form. Currently we have approx. 17 names and if all these stayed at the same time we would need more help.

This is a great place and position to be in but we would love to do so much more and be able to offer more. Your help and prayers are vital! Come along and have a look – you would be most welcome.

Deidre Cheetham

Easter Trail

A family friendly Easter Trail was organized between 7-21 April leading up to Easter , where story cards were used to bring the Easter story to life using QR codes on smart phones to open animated stories of different parts of the Easter week. The idea was to engage children and adults together. Starting on Church Street and continuing around St Peter's Church the QR codes led the user through the route and links.

We offered a free Easter Egg to those who had completed the trail, although many did complete the trail some forgot to collect their eggs!!

St Andrew's Pre-School drop in Cafe

First of all, I want to extend my thanks to all the faithful volunteers who have come weekly to the St Andrew's pre-school on a Friday lunchtime to offer refreshments and a chance to chat to the parents/carers of the children there. We have now been running for a year. Our relationship with the staff is good. They put up a team for the quiz night in support of the fund-raising towards the new windows and doors – for which they are really grateful. The children look forward to our coming and have no hesitancy in engaging with us. We make cakes for them each week and there is no shortage of demand for these even if the parents don't stay!

Before the summer we had a few parents who regularly stopped for a drink and chat. With the new school year, they no longer come as their children have moved on. So fewer parents have accepted our invitation since then. Nevertheless we are slowly building contacts with the aim of being able to be a bridge to local sources of support such as the Neighbourhood board. We are considering ways in which we may increase our engagement with the parents.

Paul Taylor

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter meet weekly on Wednesday afternoon which we have done for about ten years. We are a group that love and care for each other, to knit, crochet and enjoy each other's company. This year we again worked on items to sell for charity at our summer fair stall. Our trauma teddies are very popular and welcome at care homes and for vulnerable children and adults locally. This year we were very pleased to raise over £200 for St Peter's School at the fair. All are welcome to join us at 2.15 pm every week.

Di Learnman



ReCreate

Our report comes in the form of feedback from those who have joined us over this last year:

I look forward to each ReCreate meeting. Being creative with other Christian women is a real blessing. EG

A friendly fun space. Each session is focused on God, and we are encouraged to develop our thoughts and journey with God in our own creativity. JR

It's been an honour to be a part of this Christian creative arts group. diverse activities, always with Christ at the centre. P

An oasis of calm, creativity and conversations. A time to be inspired by the leaders and those around us and to meet with God in the process of creating. JL

Time and space set aside, with others for thinking, reflecting, creating, crafting and doing. DB

A safe place to learn & share new creative techniques whilst learning about scripture & God's world. It is pure escapism to create in such a relaxed, non-judgemental atmosphere with our brothers & sisters in Christ. SB

I have appreciated the opportunity to dedicate time at ReCreate to my own project in a prayerful space and I enjoy seeing the creations of other participants. JC

A time when I can slow down and focus on the Lord, whether I join in with the activity or do my own creation. It's also a time to take space from everyday busyness, to be quiet or to talk and share with friends. JB

ReCreate is a space where I can experience spiritual refreshment through being creative. I am not a member of St Peter's, yet have found a warmth of welcome and friendship.

ReCreate Finances For 2025

Opening Balance	£ 326.60	
Donations Received	£ 242.91	Less Expenses £195.28
Closing Balance	£ 374.23	

Carole Dickinson, Joy Pomroy and Carol Harper

Keyhole

The magazine has been produced monthly throughout the year and I am particularly grateful to those who compiled the January and February editions in my absence. We have received some additional advertising and subscribers but this is not a money making venture, rather an opportunity to keep the church and community updated with our activities.

To that end we have increased our circulation to include our residential and nursing homes to keep guests, family and staff up to date with all that we offer. Contributions of articles or ideas are always welcome

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Pastoral support and home communions

I am grateful to David and Joan Ditch for their continued pastoral care of various members of the congregation, who along with our clergy team offer home communions as well as friendly care and support.

Since David and Jenny Cooper's retirement from active ministry in August 2025 some of that responsibility has shifted and new patterns are emerging. This will adapt again when Reverend Jason Kennedy takes up his Anna Chaplain role in March 2025 along with the establishment of a team, known as Anna Friends.

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Ministry in residential and nursing homes

This ministry has really flourished over the last year with regular visits to Derby Heights, Heatherton House, Brookfields and Cedar Tree. Other visits have also been made to Rykneld View, Linden House and Manorfields.

Sometimes we visit individuals, other times we offer a worship service with Holy Communion, sometimes taking communion afterwards to others who are isolated in their rooms. Residents, staff and families are appreciative of the care and support.

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Dementia Services

We started to offer dementia friendly services in October 2024 and have continued to hold them once every two months on Thursday afternoons in church. Each service has a theme, a reading, a short talk and some prayers. The main focus is the singing of familiar hymns and the opportunity for discussion over refreshments. The service content is coordinated by Alicia, Carol Harper and Viv Lucas. Maggie Browne leads the music and Paul Taylor and Joan Ditch organise the refreshments with support from Jane Wall. We have a small congregation, with a number of regular attendees. The services are equally beneficial to the carers as well as those living with dementia.

Following the success of the dementia choir it is probable that the services will move from Thursday to Wednesday afternoons so that people don't have to choose which to attend. A huge thank you to all who join us to make our time together so special. If anyone would like to know more then please do be in touch via the church office.

Viv Lucas and Carol Harper

Prayer Ministry Team

In Matthew 11 v 28-30 Jesus says *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

We often say a problem shared is a problem halved because talking with someone else can make it feel less overwhelming and easier to deal with. It is always a tremendous privilege to share concerns in confidence and to be able to pray with people each week through the power and presences of the Holy Spirit. Not everyone wants to share and so we simply pray and ask for God to bring His blessing.

For those of you who receive answers to prayer it is really encouraging to hear about it, thank you. Please continue to do this to help build our faith together. We enjoy meeting as a team throughout the year for breakfast, sharing together and praying together.

Thank you to the team for their commitment to this ministry, who complete safeguarding training every three years: Ruth Allen, Bill & Maggie Browne, Julie Degg, Les Dickinson, Phil Eley, Irene Hargreaves, Heather Newstead, Joy Stanwell and Robin Wood.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3 v 20-21

Lesley Edwards

Home Groups

Over 80 people from our church family of 146 belong to a home group that meets either weekly or fortnightly. This is a tremendous number and we are indebted to our leaders and co-ordinators who care for their groups meeting on either a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Home Group studies are linked to our sermon series and I am grateful to Reverend Emma Mallord who ensured this pattern was continued throughout the year. In addition to studies, groups are encouraged to have regular socials to which they can invite family or friends – sharing hospitality.

Home Groups are a way to get to know a smaller group of people, learn and prayer together as we continue to grow as disciples. If you would like to join a home group please get in touch.

Reverend Canon Alicia Dring

Lunch Club

We started back after the Christmas break in mid-January 2025 and during the year the numbers of members has been gradually increasing. We continue to benefit from the new bigger ovens in the kitchen, which makes it easier to manage larger numbers.



A number of our regular helpers have “retired” during the year although continue to come each week as members. We have welcomed some new helpers who have fitted in beautifully ensuring we are able to continue providing this lovely social gathering and fellowship.

We must make special mention of Janet Guy, a loyal member of the team, who died very suddenly and unexpectedly following knee surgery, but will be rejoicing in heaven with her Saviour, Jesus. Janet was there week in and week out taking the money and serving and is sorely missed.

We have managed to keep the cost of the meal unchanged at £5 and our members continue to look forward to catching up with each other’s news and share a meal together each week. The service on the first Tuesday of each month continues to be well supported.

A number of members have taken advantage of the free taxi service following a most generous bequest, which has made their journeys to and from Lunch Club much easier and enabled them to continue attending.

We continue to be blessed by all involved either on the team or as members and are thankful for all that God provides for us so we can continue Lunch Club.

Sarah Sherrington

Crossed Keys Café

The Crossed Keys Café has continued to run on Monday mornings (9:30 - 12:30) during term time serving a slowly growing regular clientele plus occasional visitors. We are pleased that our customers enjoy the café and consider our prices to be very reasonable. We are especially pleased that many members of the Singing Together group that Phil Eley runs on a Monday morning stay for a considerable time afterwards. We believe that providing a welcoming space for social interaction is an important service that we can offer to the community of Littleover. We are excited that the café is fulfilling this need and we hope to continue to build on this.



The Mickleover walking group continue to visit us periodically which is pleasing. When they do, they double our usual footfall! And we were happy to be part of the Street Fair in the summer, offering refreshments in church, rather than the hub.

We record our thanks to all our helpers, especially Linsey Jones (and Chris), Irene Hargreaves, Jaqueline Woodhams, Doreen Bird and Rod Bissett from Findern. Thanks too to Ann Dean who continues to provide us with her ever-popular Victoria sandwich.

In 2025 the café has made a profit of £1654.79 towards church funds.

Paul and Fiona Taylor.

Thirsty Thursday

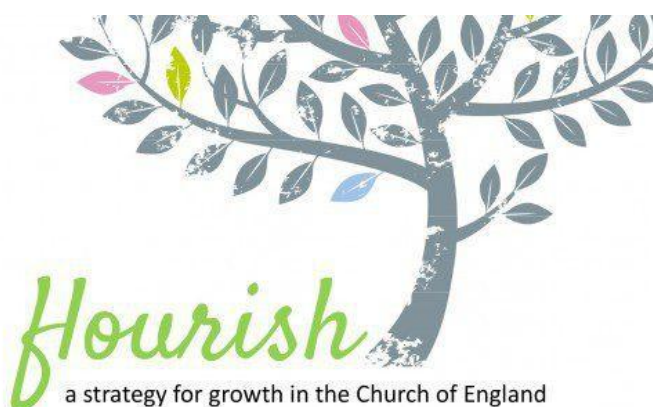
This continues every second Thursday of the month at The White Swan over the road from church, it's an opportunity for the men of the church to meet and chat over a pint. The pub are always very welcoming and members of the Worship Group often join us later after their practise in church. There are some steady regulars and no one is under pressure to come, but everyone is welcome.

Steve Dring

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod now meets three times a year.

At the meeting held in March, Reverend Canon Julian Hollywell gave a report from the General Synod. Most of his report was devoted to proposals on management of Safeguarding. There were two options presented to the Synod. One gives independence to the national oversight body but Diocesan Safeguarding teams will remain employed by the Dioceses, and the second would also transfer the Diocesan Safeguarding teams to the independent body. It was considered that there are legal changes required to implement the second option, which would take same time, so Synod voted to implement the former option now, and work towards a subsequent move to the latter option.



Reverend Sarah Watson (Area Dean) gave a report on the Flourish initiative that she and Reverend Rachael Brooks are running in Walter Evans C of E Primary School. They have had two events for the children and their parents, which were both very well attended. The format is similar to Messy Church, with games, crafts, a short worship session and food. They hope to be able to expand as time goes by.

Reverend Paul Desborough gave an update on the Greenhouse initiative. This involves using fresh expressions of faith, especially in new housing developments. There are now 34 examples in the Deanery. At the following meeting in May, a video was shown, showing how this is working in practice.

The Venerable Matthew Trick, Archdeacon to Derby City, gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the Deanery Synod Rules and the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). Comments included the fact that the new DLT seemed to be moving the control of Deaneries to the Diocese and was very administrative heavy.

At the May meeting, Reverend Sarah Watson introduced Rowan Rankin, who is part of the Diocesan Parish Resource Team, who explained the function of the team and urged members to use the available resources. Samuel Ojok, the Diocesan Environmental Engagement officer, explained a spreadsheet he had circulated showing how Parishes are getting on with their efforts to reach net zero carbon emissions, whether they have an Eco Award, and whether they had achieved their Energy Footprint Tool level each year since 2021 (St. Peter's managed every year except 2022.) Reverend Susie Curtis then presented Sharing Good Practice, in which members were encouraged to visit two stations out of five to share top tips and what they were doing.

At the October meeting, Reverend Jason Ward, the new chair of the House of Clergy gave a report on the last Diocesan Synod. He said that new badges/logos have been produced by the Disability Inclusion Group which churches can use to help those with disabilities find their

way around the church building to make them feel more welcome and involved. He also said that the Diocese needs more clergy, and therefore needs more money!



The Diocese Of Derby Disability Inclusion Action Group

The main business of the meeting was a presentation on Growing Faith Networks by The Director of Mission, Evangelism and Parish Revitalisation, Reverend Canon Matt Barnes, and Sam Frith, the Strategy Lead. Matt said that there is a growing interest being shown by young people in the church, but that many churches lacked the resources to provide the teaching that these young people need. Growing Faith Networks are being developed so that a group of churches can share resources and ideas and work together to reach out to children, young people and families. One initiative in the Diocese is Music in Schools, which links children from various schools through performing together. As a start in this, the Diocese needs to find out what churches are currently doing for children and young people, so the Synod members were invited to set down a record of what each church is doing. This will help the Growing Faith Network Team to work out how different churches can be linked to offer the best resources.

Ann Vincent

St Peter's Church of England Junior School

2025 was a fantastic year for St Peter's Church of England Junior School, marked by exciting achievements and significant changes!

In January our 'Young Voices' choir once again attended the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham where they sang with thousands of other children from around the country.



We continued our development of performing arts skills in February when we hosted drama, dance and singing workshops for all pupils. Following these workshops, we launched St Peter's first school drama club and pupils from all year groups worked together throughout the rest of the year to rehearse and perform an amazing production of Disney's 'Aladdin.'

As we approached Easter, we prepared to say a heartfelt goodbye to our headteacher, Mr Smith and the school dog, Nelson. Mr Smith had been at St Peter's for just over 4 years and had guided the school on an amazing journey and had helped the school achieve many milestones.

Shortly after this we celebrated a huge anniversary – St Peter's was 180 years old. To mark the occasion, we had a special day within school where children explored the different eras of St Peter's and came to school dressed as Victorians. On 10 May we celebrated the occasion with the local community by welcoming past and present pupils into school to see how St Peter's had changed over the years. The event featured displays of archive material, photos, artefacts, and a performance from our drama choir. It was a joy to meet many alumni and hear their stories, including tales from World War II and evacuations.

Towards the end of the academic year, we again held our hugely successful St Peter's Summer Street Fair in collaboration with St Peter's church and an exciting, albeit hot, sports day. Our PTFA funded some fantastic new opportunities, including a planetarium visit in our school hall and a challenging maths escape room activity. We concluded the year with a heartfelt church service, a celebration party, and an awards ceremony to honour our Year 6 pupils.

We returned to school in September to a new leadership team – with a newly appointed Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. In addition, we also welcomed a new class teacher and learning mentor. Despite the changes, St Peter's embraced the start of the new year with the same dedication and enthusiasm, ensuring a smooth and positive start.

As the year drew to a close, we enjoyed festive celebrations including a lovely Christmas Fair, a special Christmas church service led by our Year 5 pupils and a whole-school trip to see Dick Whittingham at Derby Arena.

It has been a busy but exciting year at St Peter's and we're looking forward to another year of growth and achievement in 2026.

Helen Reader Headteacher

Joyce Harpur

2025 was another busy year for the charity – especially through December as the effects of the ever-rising cost of living is sadly affecting people in our parish and beyond, although we received less applications this year than last.

Background: The Joyce Harpur Charity was set up in the 16th century to benefit the poor of the parish and over the centuries has shared financial support with individuals in desperate need. The applicants must live within the parochial parish boundaries of St Peter's Littleover and Blagreaves and each application is assessed in the strictest confidence on a case-by-case basis. Grants are given out just before Christmas at the discretion of the trustees.

The current Board of Trustees comprises of six people plus the clerk. There are five members from St Peter's Littleover and Blagreaves: our vicar, both church wardens, one church member and our curate. One councillor appointed by Derby City Council, Emily Lonsdale.

The AGM is held in the spring and the annual accounts are received at this time. Once accepted, the accounts are audited, many thanks to Tiffany Hey and submitted to the Charity Commission as part of the annual return. The Trustees meeting that followed on from the AGM reviewed the previous year's application process (along with the application form) and make plans for the autumn application window. At the November meeting, the finances and grants are reviewed.

In 2025, 10 applications were received including 1 late application. 9 grants were given. 9 children received gifts from the Derby City Mission Christmas Connection, 17 adults had gifts from Derby City Council's Secret Santa and 9 families received Reverse Advent



Calendar Food Hampers donated by church members. 9 families were encouraged to apply for Christmas Lunch on Jesus, who provide a Christmas Day Hamper. A lot of people from the congregation have made a huge difference through their generosity to those struggling in our parish at Christmas, so THANK YOU.

If you would like to know anything further about the work of the Charity, please do ask.

Ellen Goodman, Clerk to Joyce Harpur

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Parishioners

of the Parish of St Peter's Littleover & Blagreaves held on 30 April 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Revd Alicia Dring, Lesley Allen, Ruth Allen, Jenifer Baines, David Barker, Doreen Bird, Jim Britland, Sally Britland, Margaret Browne, William Browne, Bernie Burton, Paul Cheetham, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Ali Davies-Marsh, Leslie Dickinson, Carole Dickinson, Jennifer Downing, Steve Dring, Phil Eley, Liz Eley, Charles Elston, David Elston, Linda Elston, Ruth Elston, Merryl Faleiro, Michael Furniss, Julia Furniss, Ellen Goodman, Peter Goodman, Penny Halfpenny, Carol Harper, Jonathon Hemingray, Jane Hughes, Linsey Jones, Christopher Jones, Aubrey Learman, Diane Learman, Alison Marsh-Davies, Heather Newstead, Andrew Proctor, Helene Roe, Angie Rollinson, Jonathan Russell, Julie Scott, Sarah Sherrington, Margit Staehr, Joy Stanwell, Christine Taylor, Fiona Taylor, Ann Vincent, Peter Vincent, Richard Whitehorn, Rachel Whitehorn, Revd Emma Mallord, Revd Jason Kennedy.

On zoom - Ann Dean, Patrick Dean, Deirdre Cheetham, Neville Ditchfield, Margaret Ditchfield, Lesley Edwards.

1) Opening Prayer and Worship

Jason Kennedy read from John 15: 9-17. Emma Mallord led the prayers.

Alicia Dring then chaired the meeting.

2) Apologies for Absence: Catherine Barker, John Bird, Anne Burton, Janet Edwards, Mike Edwards, Wendy Gretton, Paul Taylor, Chris Woodhams, Jacqueline Woodhams.

3) Minutes of previous meeting (24 April 2024 Vestry Meeting Section)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

Proposed by Jane Hughes and seconded by Jenifer Baines.

Passed and signed by Rev. Alicia Dring.

4) Election of Churchwardens

Alicia explained the rules of voting and that she would like to thank Chris and Helene for a year of faithful and hardworking service and particularly for their tenacity when dealing with various rules and regulations.

Alicia then said that she is delighted to announce that Chris Jones and Helene Roe are offering to stand once again as warden.

She explained that no further nominations have been received in advance of this meeting, which is the required protocol, and asked if anyone had a question for Chris or Helene.

There were no questions. The elections then took place:

Chris Jones Proposed: Merryl Faleiro

Seconded: Jim Britland

Helene Roe Proposed: Jim Britland

Seconded: Merryl Faleiro

Both were elected unanimously.

Alicia then explained that this will be Chris's sixth and therefore final year as Warden so we will be looking for someone else to undertake the role from April 2026. The plan is to review the duties involved as currently there is a cross over with the duties of the Fabric Team.

The Vestry Meeting then closed and the APCM commenced.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
of Church Electors of the Parish of St Peter's Littleover & Blagreaves
Held on 30 April 2025

Present: Revd Alicia Dring, Lesley Allen, Ruth Allen, Jenifer Baines, David Barker, Doreen Bird, Jim Britland, Sally Britland, Margaret Browne, William Browne, Bernie Burton, Paul Cheetham, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Ali Davies-Marsh, Leslie Dickinson, Carole Dickinson, Jennifer Downing, Steve Dring, Phil Eley, Liz Eley, Charles Elston, David Elston, Linda Elston, Ruth Elston, Merryl Faleiro, Michael Furniss, Julia Furniss, Ellen Goodman, Peter Goodman, Penny Halfpenny, Carol Harper, Jonathon Hemingray, Jane Hughes, Linsey Jones, Christopher Jones, Aubrey Learman, Diane Learman, Alison Marsh-Davies, Heather Newstead, Andrew Proctor, Helene Roe, Angie Rollinson, Jonathan Russell, Julie Scott, Sarah Sherrington, Margit Staehr, Joy Stanwell, Christine Taylor, Fiona Taylor, Ann Vincent, Peter Vincent, Richard Whitehorn, Rachel Whitehorn, Revd Emma Mallord, Revd Jason Kennedy.

On zoom - Ann Dean, Patrick Dean, Deirdre Cheetham, Neville Ditchfield, Margaret Ditchfield, Lesley Edwards.

Revd. Alicia Dring chaired the meeting. Alicia explained that we have now moved on to our Annual Church meeting and she reminded us that we can **only** vote this evening if we are on the electoral roll or membership roll of the parish. Printed name labels had been supplied to identify those eligible to vote.

1) Apologies for Absence: Catherine Barker, John Bird, Anne Burton, Janet Edwards, Mike Edwards, Wendy Gretton, Paul Taylor, Chris Woodhams, Jacqueline Woodhams.

2) Minutes of previous meeting (24 April 2024)

These are at the back of the published report. There were no amendments or comments on these minutes. Proposed by Chris Jones and Seconded by Helene Roe. There were four abstentions and everyone else voted in favour. The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3) Matters Arising - None.

4) Electoral Roll Report – Jane Hughes

Jane confirmed that a new Electoral Roll had now been produced and thanked everyone for the real team effort that had enabled it to happen. She confirmed that there are now 97 residents and 55 non-residents on the Electoral Roll making a total of 152.

Jane Hughes proposed that the Electoral Roll be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded: Merryl Faleiro. Passed unanimously.

On behalf of us all, Alicia thanked Jane for her time of service in keeping this roll. It's a crucial part of monitoring our life here – thank you.

Jane confirmed that she is happy to remain in the role for one more year and will step down at the 2026 APCM. Alicia said Jane would be happy to support whoever took over the role next year.

5) Election of Churchwarden Results

Helene Roe and Chris Jones were duly elected as Churchwarden for the coming year at the Vestry Meeting.

6) Elections to the PCC and Deanery Synod

PCC - Alicia gave our thanks to John Bird for his service to us as he has now completed his term of office. John's work leading our MAP implementation has been particularly appreciated and it could not have happened without him and his determination. In recognition of this service Doreen was presented with a garden rose in his absence. Thanks also to Margit Staehr who is stepping down from the PCC and her safeguarding role. More about this in the Safeguarding Section below.

We have 9 PCC member vacancies, 2 for one year, 3 for two years and 4 for three years.

- **Tim Standley** has been proposed by Steve Dring and seconded by Margit Staehr. All voted in favour of electing Tim Standley to the PCC.

Term of office TBC.

- **William Browne** has been proposed by Carol Harper and seconded by Margaret Browne. All voted in favour of electing William Browne to the PCC. Term of office TBC.
- **David Barker** has been proposed by Lynn Elston and seconded by Aubrey Learman. All voted in favour of electing David Barker to the PCC.

Term of office – one year.

- **Charles Elston** has been proposed by David Elston and seconded by Linda Elston. All voted in favour of electing Charles Elston to the PCC.

Term of office – one year.

Deanery Synod – Alicia confirmed that there is 1 vacancy.

There were no nominations.

7) Finance Report – Paul Cheetham

Paul summarised the finance report shown in the Annual Report. Thanks were expressed to former treasurer Lesley Edwards for her service until October 2024.

Recognition was given to Iona for her outstanding work in day-to-day financial operations.

The Financial Position

- **Surplus:** Over £350,000 surplus of income over expenditure.
- **Cash Deposits:** Over £540,000 in reserves – a strong and healthy financial position.
- Transitioned from Receipts and Payments to Accruals accounting due to increased income levels.

Income Highlights

- **Regular giving:** £102,122
- **Donations & collections (including Gift Aid):** £30,376
- **Ashmore Bequest:** Interim payment of £375,000 received in October; more expected after estate finalisation.

Key Expenditures

- **Common Fund (Diocese):** £66,744 – paid in full.
- **St Peter's Community Hub Kitchen Replacement:** £40,000
- **Church Water Pipe Replacement:** £12,000
- **Charity Giving & Mission Projects:** Over £16,000

Ashmore Bequest

- Designated for church social and missional activities, and improved access/transport.
- Taxi account opened as an immediate step.
- PCC-formed group to meet in 2025 to propose usage recommendations.

Reserves Policy

- Target: Three months operational expenditure (£42,500).
- Current unrestricted reserves: **£173,915** – comfortably above target.

Independent Examination

- Johnson Tidsall Limited were appointed as new independent examiners for 2024.

Following Paul's summary there were two questions:

Is the interest from the bequest restricted? Paul explained that yes, in that it is not part of our day-to-day finances, however it can be spent on areas deemed to be relevant to the bequest. For example, it is currently being used for the taxi service that enables people to attend church who would not otherwise be able to travel.

Could the bequest be used to purchase the Glebe land, which is currently owned by the Diocese? Alicia explained that we currently pay a peppercorn rent and to buy the land is not something we have considered. The likely cost involved would mean using all of the bequest money, which isn't really wise stewardship.

Paul then proposed that the 2024 accounts be accepted and Angie Rollinson seconded this. All voted in favour.

Paul also proposed that we continue with the current auditors and Helene Roe seconded this. All voted in favour.

Alicia thanked all involved for their work, time and efforts.

8) Reviewing Reports

There were no questions. Alicia expressed her thanks to all.

9) Election Results

As above.

10) Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adult Procedures

The report is published in the Annual Report. Margit Staehr and Heather Newstead have been managing this together. Margit is responsible for Children and Young People and Heather for Vulnerable Adults. They have both decided to stand down from their roles with effect from this APCM.

Alicia thanked them both for their hard work and dedication, and said we are all very grateful. In recognition, Margit was presented with a garden rose and Heather with an olive tree. In response Margit thanked Alicia and all her colleagues on the PCC, and Heather said it had been an honour to serve and she was very thankful to Margit who had done the lion's share of the work.

Alicia responded to a question about who will take over the safeguarding duties by explaining that the duties will be reviewed first. It is possible that it will be split across two roles, one administration role and one safeguarding support role. We will then look to see who would be able to fill them.

11) Chair's Report and Vision – Alicia

Brothers and sisters, it is good to be able to be with you today and a huge thank you to all of you who have been so supportive during my stroke and ongoing recovery – particularly to Emma, Iona and Jason who not only stepped in while I was off, but also constantly have my back on the days when I'm struggling.

2024 was going really well until December 20th – particularly the work of our Mission Action Plan or MAP team who have brought new projects to fruition so that we are reaching those in our parish in exciting ways. You will have noticed the new logo in our report – this indicates that the project outlined has come to fruition because of the MAP team.

We've already thanked John Bird, our MAP team leader but it's worth a repeat that we wouldn't have made it this far without him. He has cajoled, encouraged, inspired and led us as a team – ensuring that we are not merely focussed on our own projects but that all things dovetail together and that we are all pulling in the same direction. We are very grateful.

Behind the scenes of everything that we do is the safeguarding work. Over recent years the Church of England has not done well in safeguarding responses – leading last year to the resignation of the ABC – but here at parish level I believe safeguarding has never been more thorough and here that is directly because of the work of Margit and Heather.

This isn't just about our DBS check but also ensuring the training is completed, safer recruitment practises followed, the volunteer contract issued and signed, risk assessments completed and the forever hungry Safeguarding Dashboard kept up to date. Over 100 people in this parish carry a DBS and have undergone training. This is administratively very busy AND THEN you need to step up when there are queries or reports or agreements. We are grateful for all their work.

Consequently, we have vacancies in this crucial area. BUT we are looking to divide the role differently – one for someone who thrives on admin and spreadsheets and someone else who is happy to get stuck in with the sticky end of safeguarding, across all the ages. It might be possible that the admin role will be paid but this will be something that will be considered by the new PCC. If you would like more information, please let me know.

We have also experienced some bereavements in 2024 and they have included some longstanding friends. While they are lost to our sight, we know they are home to heaven, where they are restored and reunited with their Lord and saviour. Would you please join me in standing to remember:

Pam Phillips, Ray Chick, Pat Childs, Hazel Saxelby and Stella Crofts.

A minute of silence followed.

Let us pray: Lord, we give you thanks for those we love who have been called home to heaven, thank you for all they shared with us. They will always be remembered. Obviously, we have also lost other friends more recently and they will be remembered at the APCM next year.

We have been exceptionally blessed to be in receipt of a very generous bequest to the church – and you will have seen this in the report and accounts. The Ashmore Bequest is specifically marked to “facilitate the Church in its activities, social and missional and to ensure the whole of the community has suitable access and transport when required.”

As many of you will know this has meant the establishing of a free taxi service to help people get to church, or church groups when they otherwise might struggle to get there. The interest from the bequest, more than paid for this service in November.

How we manage and spend this money will come under the auspices of a team who will consider requests for funds on an individual basis, ensuring it is in line with the wording of the bequest and making recommendations to the PCC. We have received an interim payment and the remaining funds will come later this year as the estate is concluded.

However, this considerable amount of money does not mean that we can rest on our financial laurels. The bequest is not there for running costs or to top up things when we fancy. We have always been a pragmatic and generous church family, giving in line with scripture and giving thanks that we have had what we needed, when we needed it. I hope this will continue and we will not allow our heads to be turned by cash but instead, let the bequest work for us through the years.

An example of this is our successful application to the Church of England ‘Give to go Green’ project – where the central church is helping ecologically friendly parish projects with match funding. We are replacing the single glaze windows at St Andrew’s and for every £1 that we raise, Give to Go Green will match it with another £1 – up to £10,000. The project is costing around £24,000 and we could get £10,000 funded, which would be amazing.

But we cannot use money that is already in the bank. We have to fundraise. And we have a specific time to do it and a specific account to put it into and a specific number of weeks in which to do it. That means we will each be asked to prayerfully consider giving towards this project, in order to help access that central money that otherwise would not be available. This will be launched next month, so please keep an eye out.

We will also have an opportunity this year to review our Mission Giving. We do the review every three years to reconsider how we share a portion of our income – usually about £7,000 – with other charities. Usually on a local, national and international basis. This means that we don’t just give to the same people year after year, but prayerfully consider where we feel our donations will be best used. We should have done this last Autumn, so please accept my apologies. Our current mission partners received their final, year three donation this January. So once we have decided we will let everyone know and our new giving will begin in January 2026. Keep a look out for that paperwork.

The other thing we were due to discuss was the prayers of living in love and faith – a project led by the church of England to encourage a deeper understanding of sex and marriage including same sex relationships. Prayers have been produced for use in church – this is not marriage and if you read it carefully it isn’t even a blessing on a relationship but it is a starting place that many people have yearned for over many years.

In General Synod the feelings around LLF are very high. But we need to decide what we are doing as a parish. Will we be offering prayers of love and faith? Will it make a difference to us as a parish? How do we hold different theological positions and remain united? These were questions, originally for earlier this year, but circumstances clearly overtook us.

We need to discuss this as a church and as a PCC. It is very unlikely we will all be of one mind. So, we will disagree. But we enter into this discussion respectfully, valuing one another and finding that which unites us rather than that which divides us.

Back in the 1980s the church faced a similar challenge when remarriage of divorcees in church was permitted. It survived that. And by the grace of God, we will work this out. Together.

So, my friends, this has been a long speech – which I am sorry for. But also, not sorry for the privilege of so much going on in our parish as we are attentive to God and His leading. I thank Him for each and every one of you – for all you have done and all you will do. For your faithfulness, commitment, good humour and joy. And a heartfelt thank you to my husband Steve, for all your care and support.

In the words of Paul from 1 Thessalonians:

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.” Amen

12) Any Other Business- None.

13) Date of Next APCM Meeting – Wednesday 29 April 2026.

All members of the new and present PCC were invited to a short meeting following the APCM to elect a Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and members of the Standing Committee.