St Peter & St Paul's Church, Wem

Trustees Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter & St Paul's Church for the year ending 31st December 2025

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul's is the primary decision making body for the Parish Church. The PCC works with the Rector in promoting the whole mission of the Church and consults on all matters of concern in both the church and the wider parish where appropriate.

During the year the Rector and Churchwardens of St Peter & St Paul's have taken on responsibility for administering the Harley Harris Charity. The charity was set up many years ago with legacy funds which are gifted annually to "the Poor of the Church".

The PCC is responsible for the church of St Peter & St Paul and for the Church Hall located on the same site.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

Wem is a small historic market town in North Shropshire with a population of 6500. Traditional agriculture based industries such as dairy, timber and tanning as well as brewing have disappeared over latter years and the town has become much quieter with many of the working population travelling for employment. It is a friendly and sociable town making it attractive for many in retirement.

The town is very slowly growing with new development and construction of housing.

Today, there are Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Quaker places of worship in the town.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our community.

The church is a welcoming space for our locals and visitors alike. It is accessible throughout the day six and a half days per week.

The PCC regularly reviews worship with particular reference to patterns of service and how services might evolve to bring faith to a wider community. Our dedicated Worship Group meets specifically to develop and grow worship and feeds into the main PCC meetings.

The Rector continued to lead weekly worship throughout the year at St Peter's Primary School forging strong links with the school and pupils. The Rector was made a Foundation Governor during the academic year. Regular assemblies and lunchtime meetings were held at Thomas Adams Secondary School.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship

A regular pattern of Sunday services with Holy Eucharist at 8.00am and 9.45am remained throughout the year with morning worship at 9.30am every Thursday. An informal Praise and Prayer service open to all was delivered on the 4th Sunday of the month for the majority of the year.

Attendance at regular worship has, in common with many churches, continued to be lower than pre pandemic levels particularly reflecting on the age profile of the majority of our congregation.

Special services at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance were all well attended as were other notable dates throughout the year of the church. The church hosted services for St Peter's Primary school throughout the year with every leaver being presented with a copy of St Luke's Gospel.

Events and Group Activities

The year saw three very successful concerts not only raising much needed funds but also bringing together a diverse audience to enjoy an evening of entertainment set in our beautiful church.

The Christmas Tree Festival established itself as an annual event attracting many visitors.

Other social events such as wreath making workshops, Pancake Day tea proved to be equally popular in the church's calendar.

The PCC, together with the Rector as a trustee, has continued to support the local charity, Wem Store Cupboard. The charity along with our local Youth Club has hosted monthly community lunches in the Church Hall.

FABRIC

A window was replaced as part of the 2020 Quniquennial Inspection. Smaller projects were carried out as part of regular maintenance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

Receipts	Unrestricted	£47300
Receipts	Restricted	£15153
Total Receipts		£62453

Payments

Payments	Unrestricted	£81219
Payments	Restricted	£11479
Total Payments		£92698

The shortfall was funded from our reserves. Please see attached Financial Statement for details.

Voluntary giving, including regular planned giving and giving through envelopes, continued the year on year downward trend. A 7.7% decrease on the previous year with the year out turning at £28873. The downward trend continued with donations and legacies falling from £7.73k in 2024 to £2.5k in 2025. On a more positive note Charitable Activities income more than doubled on the previous year from £3150 in 2024 to £6850 in 2025.

The Common Fund (formerly Parish Share) of £47016 was paid in full. This sum representing a 2% rise on the previous year. The Common Fund is paid to the Lichfield Diocese to support the mission and ministry of the Church.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC reviews Reserved Funds through PCC meetings and extraordinary meetings as necessary.

Reserved funds were used to meet the financial commitments of 2025 as Receipts were insufficient.

A planned schedule of works has been brought forward from the previous year and will be funded out of Reserves when implemented.

Net Assets (excluding CBF endowed Funds)- see Financial Statement

Reserved funds	Unrestricted	£229569
Reserved Funds	Restricted	£92091
Total Reserved Funds		£321660

STRUCTURE

The PCC membership is made up of the incumbent, churchwardens and elected members of the congregation.

The full PCC met six times during the year with extraordinary meetings scheduled as necessary. Worship and Social sub committees fed into the main PCC meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name: St Peter & St Paul's Church, Wem.

Location: High Street, We, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 5DP

Charity Number: 1205063

PCC Members:

PCC Chairman	Reverend John Jukes
PCC Lay Chair/ Churchwarden	Sybil Farmer
Churchwarden	David Murray
PCC Members	Kim Archer
	Karl Gough
	Caroline Sinclair
	Glyn Williams
Bankers:	SANTANDER
Independent Examiner	James Holyoake Parker Ltd.

Person to whom day to day management is delegated:

Reverend John Jukes

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St. Peter's and St. Paul's, Wem
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Funds: Unrestricted	Restricted see page 3	TOTAL 2025	Funds: Unrestricted	Restricted see page 3	TOTAL 2024	Funds: Unrestricted	Restricted see page 3	TOTAL 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES										
Giving	1	28,873	-	28,873	31,282	-	31,282	38,681	-	38,681
Donations and Legacies		1,277	1,261	2,538	5,581	2,151	7,732	8,370	11,381	19,751
Grants & Insurance Claims				-			-			-
Fees		5,407		5,407	10,766		10,766	9,230		9,230
Charitable Activities	2	6,580	-	6,580	3,150	-	3,150	2,696	-	2,696
Investments		4,771	13,892	18,663	4,689	17,898	22,587	4,606	12,827	17,433
Magazine sales and advertising		357		357	286		286	187		187
Sundries		35		35	425		425	55		55
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		47,300	15,153	62,453	56,178	20,049	76,227	63,825	24,208	88,033
RESOURCES EXPENDED										
Parish Share		47,016		47,016	46,096		46,096	45,192		45,192
Fees to Diocese		3,167		3,167	5,638		5,638	2,482		2,482
Church Running Expenses	3	17,814	3,901	21,715	21,370	4,180	25,550	18,058	4,038	22,096
Church Property expenses	4	7,229	4,247	11,476	8,164	34,466	42,620	4,300	2,681	6,981
PCC management and administration	5	3,351	-	3,351	4,722	-	4,722	5,024	-	5,024
Magazine Printing				-			-	300		300
Charitable Giving	6	898	-	898	1,249	-	1,249	927	-	927
Fundraising Costs	7	1,744	-	1,744						
Interregnum Exps Rectory Costs				-			-	257		257
Advertising				-			-			-
Clergy				-			-	1,035		1,035
Professional fees			3,331	3,331	540	1,080	1,620		250	250
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		81,219	11,479	92,698	87,769	39,726	127,494	77,575	6,969	84,544
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		- 137	- 1,730	- 1,866	77	968	1,045	290	3,666	3,956
NET INCOME/ -EXPENDITURE		- 34,056	1,944	- 32,112	- 31,514	- 18,708	- 50,223	- 13,460	20,905	7,445
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		- 6,018	6,018	-	-	-	-	- 2,184	2,184	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		- 40,074	7,962	- 32,112	- 31,514	- 18,708	- 50,223	- 15,644	23,089	7,445
TOTAL FUNDS brought forward 1st Jan		269,643	84,129	353,772	301,157	102,838	403,995	316,801	79,749	396,550
TOTAL FUNDS carried forward 31st Dec		229,569	92,091	321,660	269,643	84,129	353,772	301,157	102,838	403,995

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Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of Wem

We report to the council on our examination of the PCC accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 laid out on pages 1 to 5.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

We report in respect of our examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:-

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James Holyoak & Parker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Shrewsbury SY1 3GA

DATED 21 APRIL 2026