

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter's Church, Thurston

For the year ended 31st December 2022



Prepared under the Receipts and Payments Accounting Basis

2022 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Thurston

Aim and Purposes

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) takes pleasure in its responsibility of cooperating with the Rev'd Benjamin Edwards. The members look forward to continuing to promote, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC cooperates with the PCC of Holy Innocents, Great Barton, within the Benefice of Great Barton and Thurston to share resources and fellowship.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Peter's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate these objectives, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Peter and we work closely with the Thurston Ecclesiastical Charity in the use of "The Rock" church building.

Reflections from the Reverend Benjamin Edwards

This year we have embraced change, that scariest of words in the church! We have made various changes to the way that we worship, our mission to our communities and most notably, and sadly,

the change from praying for our Queen to our King: May she rest in peace and rise in glory. So lots of change spoken about in this briefer report, but we also made stable the roots of our church past in ensuring that the Book of Common Prayer services of Holy Communion and Evensong continue as part of the worshipping life of the benefice.

Worship

The Remembrance-tide services in both churches were well attended, with large crowds gathering at Thurston by the memorial, and most poignant as we remembered the life and service of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II.

It was a joy to be able to engage in a full Christmas service programme, with both schools enjoying excellent Christingle services, as well as the Scouts Association in Thurston, and to host the 863rd Air Training Corps for their Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's. Again, MY particular thanks to the churchwardens and helpers who cleaned up after we had a snow machine for the Crib services! Two different but excellent Christmas tree 'festivals' – Holy Innocents 'A Quiet Place for Christmas' was of course very quietly successful; I know that there are many who appreciated the opportunity to get away from Xmas hustle and bustle.

St Peter's Church was once again lit up in all respects – mention must go to Richard Fawcett who is stepping down from the festival this year; we thank him for his expert wiring and of course organising those participating in St Peter's and the library.

Due to some demand, we have reverted to a pattern of holding Benefice services in each church, with the addition of Together Family Church, first in both Great Barton and Thurston, and latterly just Thurston. We found the Great Barton endeavour to be poorly attended, despite advertising, and so have laid this aside for the time being. It may be that we consider Messy Church later this year for Great Barton, subject to volunteers.

BCP Holy Communion services moved to 08.30, to make this more manageable for this vicar's family life, relieving pressure on my day off (Saturday). It has made a difference, both to the fullness of my day off and to my energy levels on Sunday afternoons. I'd like to thank those who received the change with good grace and understanding.

Easter has been a mixed bag in terms of worship. Holy Week is the most important Christian festival of all, and especially the 'Triduum' of services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We had services across these three days, with the Walk of Witness in conjunction with Freedom Church included. Maundy Thursday, including the washing of the feet, was not well attended; the Good Friday Walk of Witness again saw a handful of congregation members' support, and the Hour at the Cross, a very powerful and moving service, attracted a handful of congregants.

I am very grateful for the presence of those who came to these services and events, particularly the Walk of Witness which was our first ecumenical event for quite some time, as I understand it.

Aside from the hard work that goes in to the Holy Week services, not just from me but from other lay leaders and from the choir, our faith culminates around the events that are commemorated in the Holy Week liturgies, and the small number of folk attending the services is worrying.

It is appreciated that Easter is also a time for families to get together, particularly after recent times of isolation due to Covid, and that Covid has been resurgent in the area too. Perhaps these are factors. We shall review the timing of these services for 2024 to allow more people to attend.

Easter Sunday, however, felt like the community rallied around – Holy Innocents had a good number in attendance, and at St Peter’s the church was full of the buzz of children as the Together Family Church Easter service attracted some 23 children and 35 adults to join in with hot cross buns, songs, activities, Easter egg smashing and an Easter egg hunt. The highlight for me was the congregation gathered around the altar as we shared a simple Communion together, with homemade bread. It felt like the Kingdom breaking through.

Our musical tradition continues to stay steady – much thanks to our choir, to organist Chris Bartrop and to Bridget Read. We’re very much looking forward to both recruiting for additional choir members to join now that we have an established pattern of worship, and promoting the upcoming Coronation service with the ‘Sing for King’ initiative, based upon the Royal Society of Church Music specially commissioned hymn.

We have been blessed by some excellent sermons from Kathy Drakes, our Reader-in-Training (to be licensed this September) and from our ordinand on placement, Dr Karen Smith.

Finally, mention must go to not only our church wardens for their hard work in ensuring worship happens, but also our retired clergy Reverend David Crawley and Reverend Mark Hunt, who have made themselves available for various worship and occasional office duties which is an enormous help to me personally.

Ministry & Mission

Our ministry to the wider community has been consistent, and we look to building upon that ministry as we begin to make plans to upgrade areas in the church buildings to reflect a commitment to the ‘Growing Younger’ part of our three point plan of focusing on Youth and Family, Deepening Prayer Life and Modelling Eco Approaches.

In focusing on youth and family, I will continue the good relationships I have with both primary schools as governor and leading collective worship weekly. Having a continued presence in the schools has been helpful in attracting more families to consider attending Together Family Church, bring their children to baptism and support the church in seasonal services.

The beginning of a relationship with the Sixth Form campus of Thurston Community College has begun, as I took an A Level philosophy class to examine the 'Problem of Evil', and I hope to be invited to further assist the College in this way.

We also look to fundraising for the upgrading of our children's areas, with both children's 'corners' needing updating, and the inclusion of a space for older children/young adults, with resources aimed at the younger generation.

Meeting Point continues to serve folk in Great Barton, moving to a weekly meeting.

And whilst primarily a fundraising event, the Gala Evening for the Windows appeal was a huge success, very enjoyable and a wonderful way to bring the village together for a common cause and we are now enjoying its benefits in the refurbished windows. I know the originator of the idea is quite humble in their acceptance of plaudits, as are her confederates in the matter, but with a committee of very thorough planners, Annie Wallace's wonderful idea turned into a BIG wonderful idea, and we are all very grateful for the hard work that the entire committee put in.

Many more ideas for mission and ministry are in embryonic form – look out for Church Explained, which is another opportunity to examine modern parables in the return of Dis-Course, and a seekers course, 'Being With', hopefully to come over the next year.

Endings, beginnings and thanks

Firstly, I wish to thank wholeheartedly Pat Sadler, Irene Churchus, Tim Frost and Angie Pearce for their enormous support to me in the first eighteen months of ministry. We also say goodbye to Irene Churchus' time as churchwarden of St Peter's at this APCM. Irene's warmth and positive attitude were a boon to me when I became vicar here, and her presence in this role will be sorely missed.

We also say goodbye to Mary Fawcett, who is stepping down from both PCC and Safeguarding. She has been involved since 1986, serving as churchwarden for many years and a member of the Ecclesiastical Charity since at least 1995. More recently, as you know, she has made an excellent job of the safeguarding responsibility which is a significant role these days and she is always willing to step in and help with services such as Together Family Church, to help clean, etc. I know Mary has said that, despite stepping down from the PCC, she will continue to help with events, which we're very grateful for.

We have as a benefice joined the Inclusive Church national family of churches – an organisation that helps signpost folk who may not find a welcome elsewhere to our churches, especially LGBT+ folk, differently abled, from any racial heritage, neurodiverse etc. We have seen first hand just how quick some churches are to turn their backs on their own Church just at the suggestion of welcoming LGBT+ folk, for instance, so our being a visible light to all those who may not find a

warm welcome to their local church is good, right, courageous and Christlike. I am absolutely brimming over with pride at how our churches engaged with the issue of universal welcome to ALL God's children, talked sensibly about it and then voted unanimously to join Inclusive Church, whose guidance will help form us into the sort of churches that we want those moving to our ever-growing villages to find. For the long-term future of the benefice, this puts us streets ahead and I hope that all will seek to embrace our journey to becoming a church known for its considered and holistic welcome to ALL.

We say a goodbye to Together Church in Great Barton for the time being, as we lay it aside and take time to reflect and rethink how we might offer ourselves to the families and children in Great Barton.

Huge thanks again goes to the assistance with administration from Peter Robinson, who often also acts as my back-up diary for when things get misplaced in my mind! Thank you Peter for putting up with the frustration of being my admin assistant – I hope our triumphs outweigh my less glorious efforts!

We sadly said goodbye to faithful Christians from our communities- to Alf Nightingale, former churchwarden of St Peter's, and to Marie Bass, member of Holy Innocents and the community who reside in Montana Care Home. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

And something to look forward to – the licensing this year of Kathy Drakes as Reader; we have already benefitted from her wisdom in sermons and assistance with courses on prayer – it will be excellent to work alongside Kathy as we seek to deepen our prayerful lives as a Christian community; Kathy has been instrumental in starting and developing our 'prayer chain'.

Final Note

So much has been achieved, so much promises to begin to blossom in the year ahead, and new buds forming all the time as we tend to that which grows in our communities. We are beginning to shine, to cast a light over the patches of our villages that suffer from gloominess. We will, as we go, uncover more. The rootedness and depth of those who have faithfully attended the churches for decades is the bedrock upon which we continue to build these churches – the good earth from which we all grow. That good earth has been enriched by those who grow in and alongside it, and eventually, bit by bit, pruning by pruning, season by season, our churches will be a vibrant garden that all of those in our communities will be happy to walk in – they may even stay long enough to cast roots into that rich soil themselves!

Please continue to support our churches – with your presence above all else; your prayerful presence is the greatest gift of all as we give thanks to God for our Saviour Jesus Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit through us and with us and in us. Amen

Achievements & Performance compiled by the Churchwardens

The past year, like the previous one, was a challenging time for our church and our lifestyle, as we still tried to overcome the effects of Covid. Exercising care, we were able to return to something like normal as we began to share the cup and welcomed old friends and new ones to our services. We sang joyously, prayed for people and tragedies around the world, and opened our doors to all people, irrespective of race, gender, disability or other need.

We continue to work with our Benefice Church, Holy Innocents at Great Barton, to provide a regular pattern of services to include Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship, as well as Sung Eucharist. This year Reverend Ben has done much work to connect with young families and to this end a monthly, 'Together Family Church' has been held at Thurston Primary Academy. Most recently, on Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday, this group worshipped in our church, where several families enjoyed a fun packed morning of crafts and singing, and an informal communion with homemade bread.

Over the past year, five couples were married at St Peter's and four children baptised there and this brought happiness and laughter into our church. We also held funerals and interment of ashes services, and heard stories of lives lived and memories shared.

During 2022 we welcomed many young people into our church for special services. Thurston Primary Academy held their regular services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, although their Christingle service had to be conducted at school, due to icy weather conditions. The Scouting Association joined us for Remembrance Sunday and then for their Christingle service in December. Through Reverend Ben we renewed our association with the Air Training Corps Cadets, and a Carol Service for them took place near Christmas.

Other memorable events were held throughout the year. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee service took place in June to celebrate 70 years of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II being on the throne. In September we invited the community through our doors to sign the book of condolence on the sad occasion of Her Majesty's death. The Christmas Tree Festival weekend was a great success and on the Saturday evening we were entertained by the Thurston and Elmswell Ladies Voices choir.

Fundraising was uppermost in our minds during the year and a plan of action was discussed and will carry forward following our APCM in 2023. We organised our usual 'Gift Day,' which was generously supported by members of our church and the wider community. We held coffee mornings and our Christmas Bazaar as always, raised much-needed funds for our church.

Our new churchyard was used for the first time with several burials taking place. A plan for future 'Green Burials' and 'A Garden of Remembrance' has been formulated. We are thankful to the

village Tree Officer for acquiring and planting hedging around the boundary of the new churchyard and to those who have offered to help cut the grass. This is very much a work in progress.

As always there are many people to thank for their invaluable support. There is a long list, and we apologise if we miss anyone out. We thank, the band of church cleaners who turnout every week, whatever the weather; the flower arrangers who add beauty to the altar and throughout our church on special festivals; to those who open and close our doors every day; to the gentleman who just turns up to tidy our churchyard; to those who read lessons, prepare intercessions, welcome people to services, and serve at the altar; to those who provide coffee; to our guest organists, in the absence of a permanent organist; to our choir who sing so dutifully; to our bell ringers who keep the tradition alive and to Barbara who offers a listening ear for those in need of prayer.

We also thank our Parochial Church Council, our treasurer Gillian, our secretary Vicky, and Peter, for helping out with all things technical.

Thank you one and all, your help and assistance is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to what 2023 will bring and welcome new offers of help. We are here if you want to get in touch and would like a chat.

Pat and Irene.

On a personal note, I would like to say a big thank you to Irene who is stepping down as churchwarden after faithfully serving in office for ten years. I know only too well how much time Irene has put in, and she has more than fulfilled her duty.

She and I have shared many experiences over the years, from clearing what seemed like a huge area of the churchyard to locate a grave, to taking down the remains of cupboards, to repairing numerous items and to organising people and events. Carpenter, electrician, locksmith, florist, cleaner, general dogsbody and peacemaker, Irene has done it all.

Her answer to most things was to spray it with WD-40. I was the sceptic, but nine times out of ten it worked, hence she became known as the Queen of WD-40.

Irene will also be remembered for being instrumental in obtaining our new churchyard. It was a passing remark she made, to Muriel Myatt, that set the wheels in motion to the church being gifted the land from Edward and Muriel.

Irene: we will definitely stay in touch, but enjoy your retirement; you deserve it.

Best wishes

Pat

Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2022, there were 64 on the Church Electoral Roll.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC currently sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Building

The building is Grade II listed since 15 November 1954 and its English Heritage Building ID is 281245. It is medieval, but virtually rebuilt in 1861 by J H Hakewell following the collapse of the medieval tower onto the nave. The chancel was restored in the mid 19th Century.

The roof alarm system continues to work well and there have been no call outs in 2021. All electrical inspections are up to date. The first burials have taken place in the new churchyard and the hedging around it is now planted.

Financial Review

This has been another challenging year financially but we ended the year with our budget showing a small surplus to carry forward to our plan for 2023.

We are extremely grateful to all those who continued to make donations through the Parish Giving Scheme, regular standing orders, weekly envelopes at services and the Gift Day. Despite continuing difficulties this year, these donations, and the Gift Aid they generated (plus a grant from the Thurston Ecclesiastical Charity of £12,848) totalled £ £43,651, which was around £5000 more than was received in donations last year. This is largely due to the generosity of the Charity and we are very grateful to them.

We thank all those who helped with the organisation of our fundraising events and those who supported them. This enabled us to raise £3375, which is some £500 more than in 2021. The 2022 Christmas profits and will appear in the 2023 accounts as they were received in January.

During 2022 we were able to meet the Parish Share requirements from the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Once again we were not able to add to our reserves in 2022. However in line with our Reserves Policy, the amount in the undesignated general fund in the deposit account at year end still just equates to roughly two months' estimated running costs.

We are especially grateful to Gillian Bush who continues as our Treasurer.

Thurston Ecclesiastical Charity

The Charity is connected to St Peter's Church with Trustees being the Vicar, the Churchwardens and two additional members elected by the PCC, currently Mary Fawcett and Christopher Wells.

Income is applied for furthering the religious and other charitable purposes of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter's, Thurston.

The Charity owns The Rock building, which provides excellent facilities for St Peter's. It gives a warm venue for coffee after the main services and is used regularly for Church meetings, informal worship, coffee mornings and activities run by the Mothers' Union. In addition the Charity owns the Church Field and the Cottage.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Peter's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar, when we have one), churchwarden/s, currently two members of the Thingoe Deanery Synod and others elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services and are members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

During the year the St Peter's PCC met four times during the year, once in the church porch and the remainder in the church with ventilation, social distancing and masks under Covid regulations.

Administrative information

St. Peter's Church is situated on Church Road, Thurston. It is part of the Benefice of Great Barton and Thurston, within the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich of the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Barton, Bury St. Edmunds, IP31 2QR

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: Benjamin Edwards

Churchwardens: Mrs Irene Churchus
Mrs Pat Sadler

Deanery Synod Members: Mr Alf Nightingale
Mrs Elizabeth Wells

Elected members:

Mrs Margery Ashford
Mrs Joy Bolwell
Mrs Gillian Bush (Treasurer)
Mrs Mary Fawcett
Mrs Vicky Neale (Secretary)
Mrs Noreen Reeve
Mrs Ann Reeve
Mr Peter Robinson (co-opted)
Col Christopher Wells

Approved by the PCC on 14th April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Signed

Dated

Reverend Benjamin Edwards, Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St Peter's Church, Thurston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met; or

- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Place

Sarah Place Accountants

Unit 4B Boldero Road

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7BS

Signed: Sarah Place ATT Date: 12 April 2023

ST PETER'S CHURCH, THURSTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		General	Designated		2022	2021
		£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Receipts from Donors						
Planned Giving		12024.40			12024.40	13808.75
Collections at services		5090.35			5090.35	4600.80
Gift Day		5225.00			5225.00	6289.50
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3(i)	13892.36	500.00	1675.09	16067.45	7676.17
Gift Aid recovered	3(ii)	5244.25			5244.25	6296.30
		41476.36	500.00	1675.09	43651.45	38671.52
Fund Raising	3(iii)	2323.37	1051.45		3374.82	2890.76
Investment Income		118.82		51.12	169.94	7.10
Transfer from Deposit account		743.04			743.04	
Church Activities						
Parochial Fees (net)	3(iv)	6409.33			6409.33	3691.40
Tiny Toes (non PCC funds)				1490.22	1490.22	962.60
Other Credits		57.49			57.49	80.25
Bellringers' Fund			151.00		151.00	
Other Income Choir Fund / New sletter			608.00		608.00	2654.25
Total Receipts		51128.41	2310.45	3216.43	56655.29	48957.88
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities						
Diocesan Parish Share		29308.00			29308.00	27113.00
Clergy costs	3(vi)	1533.89			1533.89	1817.84
Interregnum costs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Church running expenses	3(v)	15261.97			15261.97	10511.87
Any other payments		13.50			13.50	196.00
From Tiny Toes Funds				997.16	997.16	244.00
		46117.36		997.16	47114.52	39882.71
Mission giving and donations	3(vi)	100.00		1675.09	1775.09	788.09
Cost of Generating Funds				301.50	301.50	7144.16
Extra Payments						
Honoraria		0.00			0.00	745.00
Extra Parish Share		1887.00			1887.00	12776.00
Capital Payments		0.00				0.00
Total Payments		48104.36		2973.75	51078.11	61335.96
Excess (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments						
Transfers between funds		3024.05	2310.45	242.68	5577.18	-12378.08
		3024.05	2310.45	242.68	5577.18	-12378.08
Cash at bank and in hand 1 January		504.08	48.00	2449.11	3001.19	15954.09
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December		2643.05	1394.94	4312.95	8350.94	3001.19

Notes to the Accounts					
<i>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022</i>					
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
ASSETS					
<i>Cash Funds</i>					
Bank Current Account & Cash in hand	2643.05	1394.94	4312.95	8350.94	3,001.19
CBF Dposit Account	9024.06		4044.06	13068.12	13,641.22
Total at bank	11667.11	1394.94	8357.01	21419.06	16642.41
Gift Aid Recoverable	601.96			601.96	465
Expected Parochial Fees	715.00			715.00	
Expected 2022 Draw Club profit	764.45			764.45	
Expected 2022 Christmas Tree Festival profit	457.56			457.56	
Expected 2022 Christmas concerts profit	131.5			131.50	
Expected 2022 Christmas services donations	501.84			501.84	
<i>Total Assets</i>	14839.42	1394.94	8357.01	24591.37	17107.61
LIABILITIES					
Insurance 2 premiums to start new policy	407.23			407.23	
Electricity payments for last quarter 2022	1004.24			1004.24	248
Unpresented cheques & unpaid debts at year end	1394.94			1394.94	
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	2806.41	0.00	0.00	2806.41	248

<i>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022</i>					
Current A/c	Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Transfers To General Fund	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated					
Legacy for drapery		500.00			500.00
Bell/Tower Fund		151.00			151.00
Choir Fund		608.00			608.00
	0.00	1259.00	0.00	0.00	1259.00
Restricted					
Tiny Toes Toddlers Group	1458.51	1490.22	997.16	0.00	1951.57
Deposit A/c					
Restricted					
Fabric Fund (interest)	3992.94	51.12	0.00	0.00	4044.06

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

Note		Designated	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£
3(i)	All Other Giving & Voluntary Receipts				
	General Fund				
	Offertory Box			65.73	57.73
	Other collections cash			264.5	117.22
	Other cheques with no Gift Aid			399.75	1480.00
	Other transfers with Gift Aid			300.00	30.00
	SumUp			14.82	14.70
	Grants from Thurston Ecclesiastical Charity			12847.56	5348.43
	Bequests	500.00		500.00	390.00
	Collections for other Charities				
	Red Cross Ukraine Appeal		1265.16	1265.16	0.00
	Queen's Trust Jubilee Tea		130.00	130.00	0.00
	Royal British Legion		279.93	279.93	238.09
		500.00	1675.09	16067.45	7676.17

Note		2022	2021
3(ii)	Gift Aid		
	Parish Giving Scheme (claimed monthly)	1695.23	1722.74
	Received from HMRC in year (some from 4th quarter of preceding year)	3549.02	4573.56
	Claimed in year from Standing Orders	1081.00	1076.00
	Pew Envelopes	838.75	842.00
	Gift Day	1178.75	1516.13
	Loose Cash	586.35	398.07
	Total claimed from HMRC in year	3684.85	3832.20
	Total Gift Aid received in year	5244.25	6296.30

Note		Net Profit 2022	Net Profit 2021
3(iii)	Activities for Generating Funds for General Fund	£	£
	Draw Club		
	2021 Draw Club to General Fund in Jan 2022	925.00	
	2020 Draw Club to General Fund in Jan 2021		889.00
	Gross Draw Club receipts in 2022	1051.45	
	Coffee Mornings	289.30	71.00
	Harvest Supper & Big Weekend		155.35
	Christmas Bazaar with £17.50 from 2021	1079.13	973.13
	Jigsaw Puzzles Roundabout	196.10	363.00
	Jam Jar collections	3.01	0.00
	Other		359.28
	Sponsored Bike Ride from 2021	10.00	80.00
	Sale Trail	228.00	0.00
	Christmas Tree Festival from 2021	367.83	0.00
	Ride & Stride	150.00	0.00
	Totals re General Funds	3374.82	2890.76

Note		Total	Total 2021
3(iv)	Church Activities	£	£
	Fees for Weddings, Funerals & Memorials	7675.93	5187.00
	Less quarterly payments to Diocese	1266.60	1495.60
	Total fees retained by St Peter's	6409.33	3691.40

Note		Total 2022	Total 2021
3(v)	Church Running Expenses	£	£
	Electricity, water, insurance	9150.00	8,984
	Church Repairs & Maintenance	1080.40	292
	Churchyard costs	404.50	0
	Banking costs	337.96	292
	Administration & Support costs	4289.11	252
	Total	15261.97	9,820

Note		2022	2021
3(vii)	Mission Giving & Donations	£	£
	Mothers' Union	0.00	110.00
	Mind	0.00	50.00
	Local Charity	100.00	
		100.00	160.00

Note							
3(vi)						2022	2021
Vicar's costs			Mobile	Stationery	Breakfast food	Total	
Date	Mileage	Broadband	Phone	& equipment	Family Church		
15/01/22	27.90	13.50				41.40	
14/02/22	27.00	13.50		9.99		50.49	
17/03/22	43.65	13.50	5.75	19.99		82.89	
09/04/22	33.84	13.50	5.75	14.48		67.57	
02/06/22	81.23	27.00				108.23	
05/07/22	54.45	15.00	10.00	75.00		154.45	
01/09/22	44.11	15.00	5.75	30.32		95.18	
25/09/22	78.98	15.00	5.75	7.50		107.23	
06/11/22	125.17	15.00	5.75		71.22	217.14	
01/12/22	78.75	15.00	5.75	49.31		148.81	
Total	595.08	156.00	44.50	206.59	71.22	1073.39	1597.84
Retired Clergy costs							
Date	Mileage	Services taken					
15/01/22	122.40						
09/02/22		30.00					
23/03/22	101.70						
02/06/22	49.50						
28/06/22	16.20	30.00					
05/08/22	24.30						
06/09/22	9.00						
14/10/22	32.40						
01/11/22	20.70						
08/12/22	24.30						
Total	400.50	60.00				460.50	220.00
Total Clergy Costs						1533.89	1817.84

St Peter's APCM Report

Safeguarding

This is on the agenda at every PCC meeting and we are complying with our duty of care given by the House of Bishops to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults in our church community. We have adopted the Diocesan statement 'Promoting a Safer Church'. I have continued to use the new method of applying for DBS clearance, which is working well.

Lisa Hicks from the Diocesan Team led a Face-to-Face training session in the Institute in Great Barton in July for those not happy with on line training. This means all PCC members are up to date with their Safeguarding Training. Rev Ben dealt with a Safeguarding issue in December with advice from the Diocesan office.

Mary Fawcett

GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) is currently being updated. The updated version has not been published. As soon as this becomes available, I will check to see if we require any changes. However, we must continue to ensure that we do not share personal information via emails, when sending an email to multiple addresses please use the BCC function. This way all addresses are hidden.

We must also ensure that when an officer of the Church, Church Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Officer, or anyone leaving the Church, that holds personal information, we must ensure this information is deleted from their computers and hard copies destroyed or returned to the Church. We must also receive confirmation from the member that this has been done. A copy of this confirmation should be held on file.

Peter Robinson

Benefice Website and Facebook

Our website and Facebook pages are an important part of communication for our churches. Thurston is growing and most new residents are young families, which look for their news and information online. So, to reach these new people, we must continue to utilise our Social Media pages and websites. We are receiving extremely good numbers of people viewing St Peter's Facebook page, in the 28 days ending 14th March we had 1260 views.

Our figures for views on the website are also encouraging, over the same period of 28 days up to 14th March, we had 900 views. Although this is not as many as Facebook, people seem to visit the website to get more details from information they have gained from Facebook. However, the sad thing is that I receive very little information about events happening in St Peter's, or as individuals, raising funds. I would encourage everyone to share events that are being planned.

Peter Robinson

The Draw Club

The Draw Club has continued throughout the year with monthly draws and a summer and a winter Grand Draw.

As usual we held our summer Grand Draw as part of a strawberry and cream tea outside in the church grounds and the Winter Draw was held during the Christmas Tree Festival. The annual profit raised for St. Peter's was £764, which was paid into the General Fund at the start of 2023.

Members have continued to be loyal but, sadly having lost a few, we now have only 67 members.

Ann Reeve

Bell Ringing Report

Life seems to have returned to normal this year. We have had three visitors this year including a Summer Ringing Tour in July, a Quarter Peal rung by a group from Cambridge in late December and the Ladies Guild for East Anglia this month.

In May we took part in the annual Suffolk Guild Striking Competition and Thurston was presented with a trophy for coming first in call changes section. This is the first time we have won this award.

We celebrated the Queen's 70 years on the throne with several ringers being involved in ringing the bells of several local churches.

We have rung at a number of weddings, both in Great Barton and Thurston. Doug has tolled on one or two occasions for local funerals this year.

We ring most Sundays using call changes and this involves ringers from several villages, Sally and Simon, Jill and Doug, Becky and Carl, Maurice and Stephen, Taff and Luke, also Clare and Chris come and assist sometimes. This means that we now help them out by ringing at Pakenham and Rougham as well as Great Barton and Thurston.

We also mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth by tolling bells in various villages in September.

We were very busy in the services leading up to Christmas with ringing in many of the services around that time in both churches.

I would like to say thank you to Sally Veal who spends much time ensuring that we have enough ringers for covering services in the four churches. She also organises the practice nights, which are held on Thursdays from 7.30pm at Holy Innocents Church and on Fridays in various locations.

Jill Rood, Tower Captain

Benefice Choir Report

In February 2022, Joy retired after over thirty years of dedicated service as organist and choir leader, coinciding with the end of all the Covid restrictions regarding singing. This marked the beginning of what has turned out to be a busy year for the choir.

With the help of organist, Chris Bartrop, the choir has sung and practised regularly at St Peter's for a range of services. These have included a monthly Choral Evensong, Sung Eucharists, weddings and funerals. Across the two churches in our Benefice, it is particularly noteworthy that we have sung twice on two Sundays each month. The Benefice Choir, with Kathleen Sewter as accompanist, sang at New Green as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for our late Queen and ten members attended the RSCM Festival in St Edmundsbury Cathedral in October. Most of the choir members

have long standing experience of singing in church choirs and their commitment has been excellent. The choir has greatly appreciated the help of visiting organists including James Thomas, Dan Soper, Jeremy Harding and trainee organist, Logan Williamson, ex Head Chorister from St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Bridget Read

The Mothers Union

We have been a benefice group for well over a year meeting on the second Tuesday of each month in either The Rock or the Institute and have enjoyed a varied programme of events incorporating the best of the ideas that have come from each group. Our small group of 'leader' ladies have not changed; Jill, Gill, Linda and Pat who encourages us when she is able.

We have welcomed speakers; Christians Against Poverty and Simply Good Food, John Pitcher on scouting, Joy as an Organist, Dr Karen Smith on her Christian journey to date, Amanda and Clare from the Diocese, craft afternoon, A Quiet Day retreat at Wkepstead (which was delightful) afternoon tea and carols at Christmas.

We enjoyed taking Communion together in September when we issued certificates to many members for long service, one member since 1957. We said hello to Cora who joined us from another branch and welcomed two new members Linda and Sheila. We said 'farewell' to Myrtle and a few who have moved away from the two villages. Some of us attend the Council meetings and remember Mary Sumner Day in August. We entered the Christmas tree festival with a stunning 'Pantomime Dame' tree.

We arrange the World Day of Prayer services, this year at Montana Care Home.

We advertise our meetings on the benefice website, Messenger and the parish newsletter and are happy to increase our membership if anyone is interested in joining us!

Jill Rood

Deanery Synod Meetings

This year all our meetings have been face-to-face. Topics included finance and General Synod reports. We also had local speakers and considered mission in Suffolk and beyond. The meetings always keep us updated on clergy posts that have been filled.

Elizabeth Wells

The Fabric Report

The fabric of the church both outside and inside as far as can be seen from the ground looks to be safe and sound. The builder has been to do the annual cleaning and inspection of the gutters and down pipes on the church. At the same time he gave a visual inspection of the whole roof. I am pleased to report that he found no problems. The asbestos drainpipe that was causing problems to the outer wall has now been replaced with a plastic one.

Christopher Wells