



The Parish Church of  
**St Peter Great Berkhamsted**

**Trustees' report and financial statements  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025  
Registered Charity Number 1130108**

**Address for correspondence**

The Parish of Great Berkhamsted  
Parish Office, The Court House  
Church Lane  
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire  
HP4 2AX

**Bankers**

NatWest Bank Plc.

CAF Bank Ltd

CCLA Investment Management  
Ltd

**Independent Examiners**

Hillier Hopkins LLP  
Radius House  
51 Clarendon Road  
Watford  
WD17 1HP

**Rector**

Revd. Stuart Owen

**Church Warden**

Carolynne Charman

**Hon. Treasurer**

Henry Snow

## **Trustees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 up to the date of approval of this report**

<b>Ex Officio members</b>	The Revd. Stuart Owen	
	The Revd. Ben Brady	
	The Revd. John Russell	Resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Tim Hennessey	Resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
	Carolynne Charman	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Carole Dell	
	Susan Holmes	Deputy Churchwarden
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	Henry Snow	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Other members</b>	Richard Hackworth	All Saints Joint Representative Council and All Saints Council St Peter's Representative
	Hilary Elliott	Deputy Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer
<b>Elected members</b>	Chris Chatterton	
	Sarah Elder	
	Will Gore	
	Martin Moore	Resigned 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

Oliver Fradgeley is the Electoral Role Officer, whilst not a member of the PCC or a trustee.

Mike Below resigned as an elected member on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## Trustees' report for 2025

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Accounts for 2024.

Mr Asadullah Mutaheri and his family from Afghanistan continue to live in the Court House Cottage. The church community has extended its relationship with the South Bucks Jewish Community.

### Key numbers for 2025

- The PCC has met on 6 occasions with an average attendance of 90%.
- Total income across all funds is approximately £260,000 (£269,000 in 2024).
- Expenditure across all funds is approximately £234,000 (£225,000 in 2024).
- The total of all PCC funds is approximately £1.83m (£1.81m in 2024). If property assets are excluded, PCC funds amount to approximately £248,000 (£223,000 in 2024).
- Average Sunday attendance is 103 and 8 children (2024: 122 adults and 22 children).
  - The Parish Electoral Roll is 156.
- St Peter's church conducted 9 funeral services (with a further 1 at a cemetery), 4 weddings and 12 baptisms.

## **Our Parish**

The Church of England Parish of Great Berkhamsted is situated in Hertfordshire. The town of Great Berkhamsted is served by churches of all major denominations. There are two churches in the Parish of Great Berkhamsted. One is St Peter's to which this report solely relates, and the other is a self-governing Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church at All Saints Church. St Peter's is part of a Team Ministry alongside four other parishes in nearby villages – St Peter and St Paul in Little Gaddesden, St John the Baptist in Great Gaddesden, St Lawrence in Nettleden, and Holy Trinity in Potten End. Each of these parishes is self-governing.

The PCC of St Peter's is a Registered Charity, number 1130108. Its responsibilities include the care and maintenance of St Peter's Church, the Court House, the Court House Cottage and All Saints House, and parts of the Rectory Lane Cemetery, all of which are located in Great Berkhamsted.

## **Our Clergy**

The Parish Rector is the Revd. Stuart Owen. The Revd. Ben Brady, Vicar of Holy Trinity church in the nearby village of Potten End, regularly officiates at mid-week services. During the year the parish has benefited from the valued ministry of four retired members of the clergy, Fr Anthony Lathe, Fr David Lawson, Fr Christopher Rogers and Margaret Saunders.

The parish has also been supported by an intern, Rob Jenkins. He is also Assistant Chaplain at Berkhamsted School, and we are grateful to the School for enabling Mr Jenkins to work with St Peter's.

The clergy are supported by a large number of volunteers including lay ministers, Church Wardens, members of the church choir, Sunday school and youth leaders, as well as many people who serve on committees and assist with administrative and worship tasks.

## **Our Trustees**

All trustees of our charity are members of the PCC. A full list of Trustees is presented on page 3. Each member of the PCC has confirmed that they have reviewed this report and that to the best of their knowledge it is correct, and that there are no additional important matters which should be brought to the attention of the Charity Commission or the Diocese of St Albans.

## **Major activities and public benefit**

The PCC is a Public Benefit Entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102, and it has regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The principal aims of the PCC are to serve its local community by:

- Providing a full programme of public Christian worship;
- Teaching the Christian faith;
- Encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Peter's Church and to become members of our church community;
- Offering appropriate pastoral care within the local community; and
- Promoting the pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social missions of the Church of England.

St Peter's church is open during the day, and we invite all people of any faith or none to come into St Peter's to pray, to seek help and to find peace. Clergy take worship into the church schools, and lay ministers and others carry worship and pastoral care into private and residential homes. The PCC is pleased to continue to provide meeting space to a local group of Muslims as our guests for weekly prayer.

The PCC is also especially pleased to provide living accommodation to an Afghan family, and to support them as they continue their life within our community.

The PCC supports its Christian mission by hiring out the facilities of the Court House and St Peter's Church for public and private events. The Court House is used by children's recreational and teaching groups, and by families for private occasions. It is used for regular church sponsored events such as lunch clubs for the elderly. It is also hired for private business events such as book fairs and charity sales. St Peter's hosts a range of high-quality music concerts and recitals in the church for the benefit of the local community.

The PCC generally receives fees for the use of its facilities but these amount to significantly less than total operating and maintenance costs.

## **Governance structure and PCC responsibilities**

The PCC is a body corporate and is registered as UK charity number 1130108. The Governing documents of the PCC are the Church Representation Rules and the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The PCC complies with the Charities Acts 2011 and 2022, appropriate charity accounting and reporting standards, and the management procedures of the Church of England. Annual PCC accounts are subject to Independent Examination.

Members of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2025 are listed on page 3. Elected members are appointed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for three years. The PCC has no corporate trustees and no trustees hold title to any PCC properties.

Copies of the minutes of the PCC meetings are available for reference on the St Peter's church website <http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/groups/pcc>.

## **Trustee induction and training**

New members of the PCC are provided with copies of recent accounts and meeting minutes. Significant changes in legislation are brought to the attention of the PCC from a variety of sources including regular mailings from the St Alban's Diocese and the Charity Commission. PCC members with specific responsibilities may attend relevant training courses offered by the Diocese and others as appropriate.

## **Management responsibilities**

The PCC is ultimately responsible for the conduct and management of the charity, but the majority of day-to-day management decisions are taken by the following members of the PCC, and subsequently ratified by the PCC if appropriate:

- Rector of the Parish of Great Berkhamsted (Revd. Stuart Owen),
- Church Wardens (Carolynne Charman),
- Hon Treasurer (Henry Snow), and
- Chairman of the Buildings Committee (Carolynne Charman).

The PCC delegates responsibility for church music to the Director of Music (Adrian Davis), who is not a trustee.

## **Committees**

Selected PCC activities are delegated to sub-committees which meet as required between full meetings of the Council. Reports of their activities are received and discussed at PCC meetings as appropriate, and reports of committee activities are presented to the APCM.

In addition to those listed below, informal groups are convened to manage specific parish events as appropriate.

The principal committees are as follows.

### Buildings Committee

The Buildings Committee plans and oversees the maintenance and development of the Church, the Court House and Court House Cottage. Faculty authorisation for work is obtained from the Diocese of St Albans as appropriate.

Members of this committee provide significant efforts to maintain the various properties whether this is painting, gardening or more significant activity. They also liaise with professionals who are brought in to perform specific maintenance activities.

### Fund Raising Committee

This committee was set up to focus on raising significant additional funds to enable repairs to the roof to be carried out. This entails submitting applications to various grant making bodies and providing church supervision of the work when it takes place.

### Pastoral Group

The Pastoral Group supports and visits members of the parish with pastoral needs, including bereavement support.

### Standing Committee

This committee is required by law. It consists of the stipendiary clergy, the two Church Wardens, deputy Church Wardens if they are appointed, the honorary treasurer and the honorary secretary. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings.

### Parish staff and volunteers

During the year administrative support to the PCC has been provided by Robin McMorran, Parish Administrator.

Church music has been led by our Director of Music, Adrian Davis, supported by our Organist Chris Beauchamp, who are paid fees for their professional services.

The work of the whole church in every area of activity is supported by many unpaid volunteers who receive only out of pocket expenses. The PCC is very grateful and appreciative of the untiring and voluntary support to the mission of the church. Since the life of the church is defined through these donations of time and talents, the PCC considers that it would be inappropriate to quantify them across the whole church community. However, a reasonable and conservative estimate of the total contribution donated by members of the PCC alone has been and remains in the region of 500 person-days per year.

### Safeguarding and Compliance

The PCC seeks to implement recognised and appropriate best practice to comply with relevant legislation, regulation and standards. In particular, the PCC attaches a high priority to safeguarding matters and has appointed a Safeguarding Officer (with an assistant), and the PCC has implemented controls and procedures to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. Clergy and Trustees attend relevant

safeguarding courses run by the Diocese of St Albans appropriate to their roles and responsibilities. The PCC complies with all relevant policies of the Church of England and the Diocese of St Albans.

### Related organisations

The Parish of Great Berkhamsted is not a parent or subsidiary undertaking of any other organisation and is not in an Associate, Joint Venture or Joint Arrangement relationship with any other organisation. However, the PCC is active within the local community in several ways and the following allied self-governing organisations may be noted.

#### Church schools

Mrs R Roberts is Executive Head Teacher of the Castle CE Federation.

The Castle Church of England Federation is a partnership of two Church of England schools within the parish of St Peter's, and supported by the PCC:

- a) Thomas Coram Church of England School, Head of School Miss L Hill.
- b) Victoria Church of England Infant and Nursery School, Head of School Mrs L Freeman.

#### All Saints Church

All Saints Church, Berkhamsted (Registered Charity Number 1153162) is an Anglican/Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). The LEP is administered as part of the West Hertfordshire and Borders Methodist Circuit and is also part of the Parish of Great Berkhamsted. Ultimate responsibility for the management of All Saints Church lies with the Anglican Methodist Association (Berkhamsted) Ltd (Registered Charity Number 280703 and Company number 01493109). All day-to-day management responsibility is delegated to the All Saints Council which is funded directly by the All Saints congregation.

#### The Friends of St Peter's

The object of the Friends of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted (Registered Charity Number 1160314) is the preservation, repair, maintenance and improvement of the fabric of St Peter's Church and associated Churchyards, the Court House, the Court House Cottage and Rectory Lane Cemetery.

#### Other local charities

The PCC nominates trustees for some independent local charities.

## **Property**

As well as the core properties of the Church and the Court House, the PCC owns two residential properties, All Saints House and Court House Cottage.

#### **St Peter's Church and the Court House**

St Peter's Church is a Grade II\* listed building parts of which date from the thirteenth century. The Court House is a Grade II listed building that dates from the sixteenth century. Maintenance of these important properties is a continuing and generally expensive responsibility. The PCC sets money aside for routine building maintenance in a (Designated) Building fund.

#### **All Saints House**

All Saints House is rented on the open market, and the regular income provided is important to the charity. A local estate agent, Ashtons, is employed to manage tenancies and the property itself.

## Court House Cottage

The Court House Cottage is separate from but adjacent to the Court House. The Court House Cottage is let through Hertfordshire County Council to a family of Afghan Refugees and managed by members of the PCC and the Buildings Committee. The charity is delighted to be able to provide accommodation for this family.

## **Principal plans, constraints and risks**

The PCC aims to strengthen resources and develop skills in order to successfully to grow church membership and to serve the community well in the foreseeable future. PCC initiatives are constrained by available funds. In addition to the traditional method of donating through bank Standing Orders, significant donations are also received through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which provides administrative and financial advantages to the PCC. During the year donations have also been made through on-line services available through the parish website, text-giving (Donr), Easyfundraising, and through contactless donation terminals deployed in church and at parish events. The PCC encourages all donors to Gift Aid their donations.

The average age of the congregation continues to rise, with associated medium to long term risks of reducing donated income and reducing numbers of volunteers for some roles. The PCC is attempting to address these risks by encouraging new members and through outreach to the community.

Property maintenance and development is limited by funds available for building work, these funds are allocated to projects according to practical priorities and available resources. It is therefore sometimes necessary to postpone lower priority, but nevertheless important, work and the PCC recognises the potential risks entailed.

The charity buys energy on annual fixed price contracts using the Energy Basket scheme managed by Parish Buying. The costs involved with the provision of gas and electricity remain significant. Because of the built-in price advantages of this scheme the charity does not benefit from government energy price caps.

PCC policy is to manage normal business risks in line with best practice. The charity has not suffered any material damage due to failures of, or inadequate management of, controls.

## **Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

**Revd. Stuart Owen, Rector**

**Date**

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Parish of Great Berkhamsted, St Peter for the year ended 31 December 2025**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 11 to 28.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity 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.

I 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.

**Gary Wong BFP FCA**  
**Hillier Hopkins LLP**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Radius House**  
**51 Clarendon Road**  
**Watford**  
**Herts WD17 1HP**  
**Date:**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds (£)</b>	<b>Designated funds (£)</b>	<b>Restricted funds (£)</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 (£)</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 (£)</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds		-		-	-	-
Voluntary income	8	138,978	26,791	9,138	174,906	198,253
Activities for generating funds		1,437	8,783	-	10,220	2,013
Investment income	10	50,309	6,176	292	56,776	45,056
Incoming resources from charitable activities		16,323	-	780	17,103	22,749
Other incoming resources		495	-	-	495	1,165
<b>Total income</b>		<b>207,542</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>10,210</b>	<b>259,502</b>	<b>269,235</b>
<b>Resources used</b>						
Cost of generating funds		9,202	4,494	-	13,696	6,151
Cost of generating voluntary income		5,266	1,372	-	6,638	5,762
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs		-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		195,806	9,605	4,777	210,188	210,055
Governance costs		3,270	-	-	3,270	3,000
Other resources used		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>213,944</b>	<b>15,471</b>	<b>4,777</b>	<b>234,191</b>	<b>224,968</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(6,401)</b>	<b>26,279</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>25,310</b>	<b>44,267</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in		-	29	-	29	37,036
Gross transfers between funds - out		(29)	-	-	(29)	(37,036)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>		-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		-	-	-	-	41,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(6,430)</b>	<b>26,308</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>25,310</b>	<b>85,267</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>33,907</b>	<b>1,741,178</b>	<b>32,313</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>	<b>1,722,131</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>27,477</b>	<b>1,767,486</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>1,832,708</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>

**Balance Sheet (Separate funds)  
at 31st December 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	Total funds at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
Tangible Assets	1	400	1,584,000	-	1,584,400	1,584,800
		<b>400</b>	<b>1,584,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,584,400</b>	<b>1,584,800</b>
<b>Current assets</b>						
Cash at bank and in hand	2	30,167	183,487	39,344	252,998	227,413
		<b>30,167</b>	<b>183,487</b>	<b>39,344</b>	<b>252,998</b>	<b>227,413</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	3	3,090	-	1,600	4,690	4,815
		<b>3,090</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>4,690</b>	<b>4,815</b>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>27,077</b>	<b>183,487</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>248,308</b>	<b>222,598</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>27,477</b>	<b>1,767,487</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>1,832,708</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>		<b>27,477</b>	<b>1,767,487</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>1,832,708</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>

<b>Represented by</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Total funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
Unrestricted - General Fund	27,477	-	-	27,477	33,907
<b>Designated</b>					
Designated - 800th	-	3,056	-	3,056	2,964
Designated - Buildings Fund	-	21,715	-	21,715	29,567
Designated - St Peters Choir	-	1,097	-	1,097	1,085
Designated - Church Roof	-	24,588	-	24,588	14,741
Designated - Coronation	-	743	-	743	735
Designated - Court House	-	281	-	281	-
Designated - Legacy	-	126,393	-	126,393	103,051
Designated - Little Fishes	-	2,831	-	2,831	2,355
Designated - Parish Magazine	-	2,638	-	2,638	2,536
Designated - Property	-	1,584,000	-	1,584,000	1,584,000
Designated - Social Committee	-	145	-	145	145
<b>Restricted</b>					
Restricted - Court House	-	-	500	500	-
Restricted - Church Roof	-	-	36,533	36,533	31,677
Restricted - Flower Fund	-	-	712	712	635
Restricted - Agency collection	-	-	0	0	0
<b>Fund Totals</b>	<b>27,477</b>	<b>1,767,487</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>1,832,708</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>

The Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2025 were approved by the PCC at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and signed on its behalf.

Revd Stuart Owen, Rector

Henry Snow, Hon Treasurer

Date:

## Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

### Notes to the financial statements

#### Financial responsibilities of trustees

The PCC is responsible for preparing annual financial statements in accordance with Charity law which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the PCC and of its financial activities. In summary, Trustees' financial responsibilities are to:

- Evidence the trustees' responsibility for public accountability and Stewardship.
- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the PCC will continue in operation.
- Keep proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Acts 2011 and 2022.
- Safeguard the assets of the PCC and take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.
- Maintain reserves at an adequate level appropriate to the Charity objectives and responsibilities.

#### Accounting standards

Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with relevant requirements of the Charities Acts 2011 and 2022, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 (SORP 2015) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (January 2022).

The accounts include all material transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups which owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Eligibility for Independent Examination and application of Small Entity Accounting Standards.

For the year ending 31st December 2025, the charity has a turnover of less than £10.2m, it has less than £5.1m on its balance sheet and it employs less than 50 staff. The charity therefore qualifies to prepare its Report and Accounts in compliance with the Accounting Standards for Smaller Entities (FRS 102, 1a). In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP 2015 the charity is not required to commission a formal audit and may rely upon Independent Examination of its Annual Report and Accounts.

#### Risk management

The PCC considers that there is no significant risk of material adjustments to transactions relating to the current or previous reporting periods.

Day to day operational risks are managed in an appropriate and proportionate manner in accordance with recognised best practice.

An important operational risk is potential loss of computer data which would severely reduce the PCC's ability to function. Reputable security software is installed on computer equipment and important computer data is stored and automatically backed-up off-site.

The greatest financial risk is inadequate General fund cash flow to support regular commitments. The PCC finance committee and the PCC itself meet every two months to review the financial condition of the Charity and the financial outlook, to inform the PCC of potential risks and contingency actions identified.

### Remuneration

#### Staff (note 12)

Since 2024, the PCC has employed one person to staff the Parish Office from Monday to Friday, and two musicians (the Director of Music and the church organist). The PCC offers all employees membership of a workplace pension in accordance with the Pensions Act 2008.

#### Trustees

Clergy are employed by the Diocese of St Albans and receive no additional remuneration from the PCC. Members of the PCC are not remunerated for their services as Trustees. During the year, no Trustee has been employed by the PCC.

### Parochial church services

The church offers individual trained members of the church to provide assistance and support to parochial church services such as weddings and funerals. Examples include bellringers, vergers and musicians. This assistance and support is paid for by the people commissioning the services concerned (such as wedding couples and families for funerals), and not by the charity. Parochial fees are set out in a schedule approved by the PCC. The PCC collects Parochial fees on behalf of the people concerned and holds funds in an agency account where they are not counted as PCC assets, until they are disbursed.

### Related Party Transactions

All trustees have confirmed that neither they, nor any of their relatives, nor any company in which they have financial interests, have been party to any PCC transactions in the year ending 31st December 2025. No trustees have any financial interests in any PCC assets.

### Trustee Donations

Details of all personal donations, including those of PCC members and their families, are confidential to authorised parish officers. Donations to the Charity made by trustees and their family members are typical of donations made by the church congregation as a whole.

### Reimbursement of expenses (note 13)

Clergy, employees and trustees may incur out-of-pocket expenses on behalf of the PCC which are reimbursed against reasonable evidence of payment. The total of unclaimed trustee expenses is considered to be immaterial.

### Going Concern basis for accounts

The charity's financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have also considered the balance of funds held, and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from the date of authorising these financial statements. Trustees consider that reserves and the expected levels of income and expenditure are sufficient to enable the charity to continue as a going concern.

There are no matters to bring to the attention of the Charity Commission or the Diocese of St Albans, and no post balance sheet events are to be noted.

## Notes to the accounts

### 1. Fixed assets

#### Property

Property assets are as follows.

a) Consecrated and benefice property including St Peter's Church and the Rectory Lane Cemetery. These are not included in the accounts in accordance with sections 10(2) to 10(4) of the Charities Act 2011. The PCC has maintenance responsibility for these properties and for ensuring that they are adequately insured.

b) The Court House. The PCC considers that the potential market value of the Court House, and the costs of a potential sale, would depend heavily on several important considerations none of which can be reliably identified nor assessed in advance. This property is therefore valued at zero for the purposes of the accounts.

c) Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal. These are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected by arrangement at any reasonable time. These assets are valued at zero.

d) Residential property consisting of the Court House Cottage and All Saints House. During the year ending 31st December 2025 both properties have been rented on the open market. The Trustees believe that the combined fair market value of these two properties is £1.584m.

All expenditure incurred on PCC property, whether for maintenance or improvement, is written off.

#### Insured value

As at 31st December 2025 PCC property and contents are insured for a total replacement cost of approximately £37m, £32m of which relates to St Peter's church.

#### Other fixed assets

Fixed assets with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. Other fixed assets, such as office and kitchen equipment, with a purchase price greater than £1,000 are depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years unless the PCC determines otherwise.

#### **Property**

Property at estimated fair market value at 31st December 2024 and 31st December 2025	1,584,000
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#### **Office and kitchen equipment**

Net book value of equipment at 31st December 2024 (dishwasher)	800
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Additions and disposals during 2025

Depreciation during 2025	(400)
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Net book value at 31st December 2025	400
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### 2 Cash investments

PCC policy is to hold cash in excess of that required for day-to-day activities in a CCLA CBF cash deposit account. This account is considered to represent negligible investment risk. Funds can generally be accessed within 10 working days.

### 3 Liabilities

Liabilities represent parochial fees collected by the Charity on behalf of third parties and professional fees incurred.

### 4 Reserves

PCC policy is, if possible, to maintain a sufficient General fund cash balance to cover expected day to day transactions.

Monthly committed donated income and Gift Aid is approximately £10,000. The end of year General fund balance is approximately £27,000. PCC policy is to determine no formal reserve policies for other funds since these would serve no useful management purposes.

### 5 Incoming resources

All income is recognised upon receipt of that income by the PCC and is accounted for gross. The value of the considerable amount of time and expertise given free of charge by volunteer members of the congregation in a wide variety of ways is not quantified.

### 6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when it is incurred. Grants and donations are recognised when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.

7 Cash Flow Statement

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total year ended 31st December 2025	Total year ended 31st December 2024
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Fund income from SOFA	207,542	41,750	10,210	259,502	269,235
Less investment (rental) income	(47,517)	-	-	(47,517)	(38,844)
Less bank interest	(2,791)	6,176	292	(9,259)	(6,211)
Cash income from operating activities	157,234	35,574	9,918	202,726	224,179
Fund expenditure from SOFA	213,944	15,471	4,777	234,192	224,968
less increase in creditors	(330)	214	241	125	(638)
less depreciation	(400)	-	-	(400)	(400)
Cash expenditure on operating activities	213,614	15,685	5,018	233,917	223,930
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(55,979)</b>	<b>19,889</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>(31,191)</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Reconciliation of movement in funds to net operating cash flows</b>					
Net movement in funds as reported in the SOFA	(6,430)	26,308	5,432	25,310	85,267
Less investment (rental) and interest	(50,309)	(6,176)	(292)	(56,776)	(45,056)
Less revaluation of property assets	-	-	-	-	(41,000)
Less cash fund transfer in	-	(29)	-	(29)	(37,036)
Plus cash fund transfer out	29	-	-	29	37,036
Depreciation charges	400	-	-	400	400
Decrease in Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
Plus increase in creditors	330	(214)	(241)	(125)	638
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(55,978)</b>	<b>19,889</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>(31,191)</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Cash flows from investments and interest</b>					
Rental income	47,517	-	-	47,517	38,844
Bank interest	2,791	6,176	292	9,259	6,211
Equipment purchase					
Net cash flows from investments and interest	50,308	6,176	292	56,776	45,056
<b>Net change in cash from operating activities, investments and interest</b>	<b>(5,671)</b>	<b>26,065</b>	<b>5,191</b>	<b>25,585</b>	<b>45,305</b>

**Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities with cash at bank and in hand**

Change in cash during 2025 before interfund transfers	(5,671)	26,065	5,191	25,585	45,305
Cash at bank and in hand brought forward from 2024	35,867	157,393	34,153	227,413	182,108
Plus cash transfers in during 2025	0	29	0	29	37,036
Less cash transfers out during 2025	(29)	0	0	(29)	(37,036)
Cash at bank and in hand reported in Balance Sheet	30,167	183,487	39,344	252,998	227,413

**Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at banks and in hand	30,167	183,487	39,344	252,998	227,413
Notice deposits	0	0	0	0	0
Overdraft facilities	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>30,167</b>	<b>183,487</b>	<b>39,344</b>	<b>252,998</b>	<b>227,413</b>

8 Donations, voluntary income and Gift Aid

A summary of voluntary income is set out below.

Each year a large proportion of total donations are made as regular gifts with other occasional gifts, some of which are for a specific purpose, e.g. maintenance of the church roof or the bells.

Source	2025	2024
<b>All donations excluding Gift Aid</b>		
Planned Stewardship direct to PCC	27,544	29,734
Planned Stewardship through PGS	70,792	70,122
Other one off donations	9,451	1,196
Donations specifically to the buildings fund	575	891
Donations specifically to the roof fund	9,453	16,140
	117,815	118,083
<b>Other gifting mechanisms</b>	31,796	13,927
<b>Total donations excluding Gift Aid</b>	149,611	132,010
<b>Gift Aid received</b>		
Planned stewardship claimed by PCC	6,626	8,885
Planned stewardship received through PGS	15,668	17,051
Other	3,001	6,217
	25,295	32,153
<b>Total voluntary income</b>	174,906	164,163

For Stewardship direct to the PCC, the donations line shows the income that was transferred to the PCC account during the year. The gift aid figure shows the amount of gift aid that was received from HMRC during the year.

For Stewardship through PGS, the donation and gift aid lines show the amounts that were transferred to the PCC through the scheme during the year. The donations transfer occurs within the first 10 days of the following month of the donation, and the gift aid transfer normally follows about 10 days later.

9 Not used

10 Investment income

Investment income consists of:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest earned on cash deposits	9,259	6,211
Rental income from All Saints House	30,669	22,392
Rental income from Court House Cottage	16,848	16,452
	<u>56,776</u>	<u>45,056</u>

11 Outward giving

During the year the parish made no donations to external charities (2024: £2,964).

12 Employment costs and pension scheme

Total employment costs in the year are £33,772 including salaries, pension contributions, income tax and National Insurance. The PCC has no liability for post-employment or post-retirement benefits.

The Charity participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
  - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

#### Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2025: £383, 2024: £383).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2026, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10% to both pensions

not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 1997 service so that the pension increase was also 10% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to an annual cap of 5% for pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 2006 and 2.5% for pensions in payment in respect of service post April 2006 ). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2025. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation is being carried out as at 31 December 2025.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the Charity could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

#### 13 Reimbursement of expenses

During the year Trustees claimed £155 in reimbursement of expenses.

#### 14 Professional fees

The Charity has incurred a total of £2,940 in professional fees in the year.

#### 15 Fund management

During the year the PCC has operated fourteen funds which are set out below.

#### Unrestricted funds

*General fund* - receives the regular income of the PCC and is used for normal operating and recurring expenses including insurance, utility, administration and housekeeping costs.

#### Designated unrestricted funds

*800th fund* - to hold funds for activities and events for the 800th anniversary of St Peter's church in 2022. This is in the process of being wound down.

*Building fund* – to support general property maintenance and improvements.

*Choir fund* – to hold money that is for the benefit of the choir.

*Church roof fund* – to hold money which the PCC has set aside for resolving the challenges with the Church roof

*Coronation fund* – to manage funds received and spent on projects associated with the Coronation.

*Festival of Light fund* – to manage funds received and spent for the Festival of Light.

*Legacy fund* – to hold all legacies bequeathed to the PCC. All money received from legacies is accounted for through this fund.

*Little Fishes* – to support the Little Fishes children's group.

*Parish Magazine fund* – to support the production and distribution of the parish magazine, "Your Berkhamsted".

*Property fund* – represents the value of the properties held for the benefit of the PCC. The properties are legally vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee.

*Social Committee fund* – to manage the income and expenditure associated with the running of various social events during the year.

#### Restricted funds

*Flower fund* – to hold money received for the provision of flowers in St Peter's Church.

*Church roof fund* – to hold money specifically received for resolving the challenges with the Church roof

#### Agency funds

These hold money collected by the PCC acting as agent for independent organisations and individuals. No formal Agency Agreements are in place.

Independent organisations include charities and the Diocese of St Albans. Money held for charities is usually collected during church services such as funerals, or in “red bucket” appeals on behalf of specified charities. The PCC ensures that the identities of the charities concerned are made clear to church congregations at the time of the collection.

Money collected on behalf of the Diocese consists of fees for parochial church services such as weddings and funerals.

Money collected on behalf of individuals includes fees due to musicians, bell ringers and church vergers for optional services provided at weddings or other special events. These fees are paid by those commissioning the services concerned and not by the PCC.

These funds are referred to collectively as “Agency Funds”. They are not PCC assets although they generally reside temporarily in PCC bank accounts until disbursed, which the PCC aims to complete promptly. The Balance Sheet shows the value of Agency funds held at year end. During the year the PCC has collected and disbursed £10,500 through Agency funds.

Fund movement summary

**PCC of Great Berkhamsted St Peter**  
**Fund movement summary**  
**Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains and Losses</b>	<b>Fund balances Carried forward</b>
800th - 800th	2,964	92	-	-	-	3,056
Buildings - Buildings Fund	29,567	5,051	12,933	29	-	21,715
Choir - St Peters Choir	1,085	797	785	-	-	1,097
Church Roof - Church Roof	46,418	20,137	5,434	-	-	61,122
Coronation - Coronation	735	8	-	-	-	743
Court House	-	1,000	219	-	-	781
Flower - Flower Fund	635	791	715	-	-	712
Legacy - Legacy	103,051	23,343	-	-	-	126,393
LitFsh - Little Fishes	2,355	638	162	-	-	2,831
Magazine - Parish Magazine	2,536	102	-	-	-	2,638
Property - Property	1,584,000					1,584,000
SocComm - Social Committee	145	-	-	-	-	145
General - General fund	33,907	207,542	213,944	- 29	-	27,477
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,807,398</b>	<b>259,502</b>	<b>234,191</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,832,708</b>

**PCC of Great Berkhamsted St Peter**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)**  
**As at: 31 December 2025**

		Balance at 31st December 2025	Balance at 31st December 2024
<b>Tangible Assets</b>			
<b>0500: Property</b>			
Property	Designated	1,584,000	1,584,000
		1,584,000	1,584,000
<b>0510: Equipment</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	400	800
		400	800
<b>Tangible Assets</b>		1,584,400	1,584,800
<b>Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>			
<b>0600: NatWest Current xx266</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	10	10
		10	10
<b>0601: CAF Bank Account 00030116</b>			
Buildings Fund	Designated	(8,534)	383
St Peters Choir	Designated	1,097	1,085
Court House Restricted	Restricted	500	-
Church Roof	Designated	8,229	164
Church Roof	Restricted	4,940	375
Court House	Designated	281	-
Flower Fund	Restricted	712	635
Legacy	Designated	20,000	-
Little Fishes	Designated	2,831	2,355
Social Committee	Designated	145	145
General fund	Unrestricted	(4,948)	13,576
Agency collection	Restricted	1,600	1,841
		26,850	20,558
<b>0605: CCLA Account 632232001D</b>			
800th	Designated	3,056	2,964
Buildings Fund	Designated	30,249	29,399
Church Roof	Restricted	31,594	31,302
Church Roof	Designated	16,360	14,578
Coronation	Designated	743	735
Legacy	Designated	106,393	103,051
Parish Magazine	Designated	2,638	2,536
General fund	Unrestricted	34,995	22,271
		226,027	206,835
<b>0625: NatWest Stewardship Account xx304</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	10	10
		10	10

**0651: St Peters Choir Float**

General fund	Unrestricted	100	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		100	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>	252,998	227,413

**Agency Accounts**

**6699: Agency collections**

Agency collection	Restricted	1,600	1,841
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,600	1,841
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>Agency Accounts</b>	1,600	1,841

**Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year**

**0700: Accruals**

Buildings Fund	Designated	-	214
General fund	Unrestricted	3,090	2,760
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,090	2,974
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year</b>	-	2,974

	<b>Grand Total</b>	<hr/> <b>1,832,708</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>1,807,398</b> <hr/>
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