

Administrative Overview	3
Administrative Details of the Charity	3
Trustees	3
Structure Governance & Management	4
Appointment of PCC Members	4
Organisation of the PCC	4
Objectives and Activities	5
Reports	6
Rector's Report	6
Church Wardens' Report	7
The Choir	9
Pastoral Care Team (PCT)	9
Youth	10
Bellringers	10
Mothers' Union, Filton Branch	11
Ladies' Group	11
Rosary Group	12
Uniformed Organisations	12
Deanery Synod	13
Online Presence	13
Coffee Shop	14
Brabazon Belles	14
Other Groups	15
Annual Financial Report	16

## ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

As charity trustees, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter's Church Filton has pleasure in presenting the annual report and accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY

• Registered number 1131957

• Parish name: Filton

• St Peter's Church, Gloucester Road North, Filton, Bristol BS34 7BQ

• Independent Financial Examiner: Louise Russell

• Bankers: The Co-operative Bank

• Safeguarding Officers: John Chapman & Anne Duke

• Church Architect: Steve Davis

## TRUSTEES

The Revd Elizabeth L A Gregory (Chair)	Chris Gooding (Secretary)
Linda Keeble (Treasurer)	John Chapman (Church Warden)
Thomas Moller (Church Warden)	Amy Atkinson (Deputy Church Warden)
Lindon Wooster (Church Warden Emeritus)	Louise Lyddon (Deanery Synod)
Jenny Connor (Deanery Synod)	Linda Rawlings (Accessibility Advisor)
Alison Chapman	Janet Moller
Claire Eade	Faith Tutton (Parish Administrator)
Anne-Louise Pam (Safeguarding Officer)	Roy Hale
Alisa Starr (PCC Admin Support)	

# STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Management of the parish is performed by the Rector with the assistance of a number of parishioners who form the Parochial Church Council (PCC). All governance, management, procedures and policies are maintained in accordance with the standard Church of England practice.

#### APPOINTMENT OF PCC MEMBERS

PCC members are elected for a term of three years at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Candidates for election must be members of the church who following a conversation with the Rector and/or PCC Secretary (regarding the roles and responsibilities of such a position) have been duly proposed and seconded by members of the church, who are themselves registered on the electoral role.

At the end of three years, PCC members may choose to be re-elected for a further term of three years, after which they must step down. PCC members who have served for six years are not eligible for re-election for a period of not less than 12 months. The Rector is a permanent member of the PCC. The PCC Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the PCC. Members of the congregation who have been elected to represent St Peter's at the Deanery Synod are also members of the PCC.

#### ORGANISATION OF THE PCC

The Rector takes the role of PCC Chairperson and a minimum of four full meetings is held each year, in addition to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

PCC meetings are structured around discussions regarding:

- Vision, mission and values
- Financial, general purposes and Hall
- Health and Safety and well-being, including a particular emphasis on accessibility, inclusivity and safeguarding.

The Standing Committee, made up of the officers of the PCC (Rector, treasurers, secretary and church wardens) convene on an as-needed basis to make urgent decisions on behalf of the full PCC regarding the day to day management of the church.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

St Peter's is a welcoming Anglican church with its heart in the sacraments and its place in the centre of the community. At St Peter's we are devoted to developing a holy consciousness. We believe that worship is something that can be expressed in everything we do. Our philosophy is deeply rooted in the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments. We provide a place for all, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race or ability. We offer all members of the church a chance to become part of something greater, to grow their love for God and for one another in our beautiful community.

Our vision is to serve God, by serving individuals, families and the community of Filton. By placing God at the centre of all we do, we come together to grow in our faith and be sent out in our discipleship to create connections and build relationships with all those in the community. We act in and through our relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and with one another, to seek to make His kingdom known in this place. To enable us to do this as effectively as possible, our priorities are centred around four strands of growth: growing deeper; growing younger; growing in influence; and growing in number. This is detailed more fully in our Vision Plan which is updated biennially and can be viewed on our website.

Our worship is based on the Eucharist in which all are called to participate. We try to be liturgically innovative and spiritually challenging. We aim at musical excellence and try to involve our young people in worship as much as possible. The structure of the services is wide and varied, to cater to as many tastes as possible, including services taken from Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.

Pastoral care is a commitment shared by all members of the Christian community. The Rector is assisted in this by the Pastoral Care Team, made up of trained volunteers.

The church aims to be the Spiritual Hub of the Community. We are actively involved in touching the lives of people of all ages and conditions in life, both in religious and non religious contexts. We do not seek to place barriers in people's way, aim to be accessible and approachable to all and hope to encourage people to undertake their own spiritual journey.

The church is carefully organised and run by its PCC with day to day control in the hands of the Standing Committee. There are many aspects of church life that this report emphasises, and we publish our work through the weekly pew sheets, our web site, our social media presence, and through the wider press.

It is the parish's policy to prioritise our payment of parish share, to maintain the church structures in as best a state of repair as we can, to further our presence in the Community to support external charities as need directs, and to make a commitment to the work of the Children's Society and Christian Aid.

**Reality of Strategy to date:** This strategy has resulted in St Peter's Church enjoying a strong congregation with well-nourished souls. Our Lord calls us to be planters and sowers, not merely gatherers, and this process takes time.

## REPORTS

#### RECTOR'S REPORT

The Revd Elizabeth L A Gregory

2022, I'm glad to say, saw us eliminate the last of the Covid restrictions. One of the greatest joys of doing so was being able to share once again in the common cup at Holy Communion, a sacred and much missed act during the pandemic. It is fair to say that although Covid feels somewhat of a blur now, it really bought into keen focus that which is so often taken for granted in everyday life. So much was learnt through this time and there have been a number of blessings which have come from having to adapt the way the we worshipped, and 'did church' throughout those months. It has been great to continue with those elements which served us so well, and adapt them into the regular offerings of the church.

Finances have continued to remain a challenge and the condemnation of the church boiler towards the end of the year has brought great challenges, particularly as we continue to try and recover from the financial toll borne upon us from the pandemic. We remain very grateful for all donations, and would ask those that don't give regularly or don't yet give by the Parish Giving Scheme, to consider doing so. We have increased the ways of giving to reflect the norms seen in society, obtained grants to improve the ease with which people can donate to the church and have continued to be mindful of ways to fundraise for life, work and mission of the church. This included in 2022 our first 'summer fair' in over 15 years, something which was well received and a wonderful community event.

One of the great joys this past year has been the work of the Coffee Shop. With the Coffee Shop management position in vacancy, a wonderful opportunity arose whereby we were able to employ an individual who has being using the coffee shop since it first opened. It was truly a good news story that we have been able to give that individual an opportunity, when perhaps that wouldn't have been possible elsewhere in the current climate. Beckie has already made a wonderful difference to the Coffee Shop, uniting the volunteers, increasing the opening hours, and ensuring the community offerings are as good, if not better, than they always have been.

The service pattern that was introduced in the aftermath of the pandemic has continued to work well, and has seen an increase in the numbers, especially at our monthly evensong and benediction service. It is at this point that a special mention must be made to our choir and organist, for all their hard work and contribution to worship. The family service continues to be a source of joy for many. Whilst the numbers of young people remain low, we have some regular children who attend, sing in the choir and serve at the altar. Having baptisms as part of this service and inviting the children to stand at the altar as Holy Communion is celebrated has enabled those attending the church with children to feel a welcomed and valued part of the congregation; something which is truly lovely to see. Numbers of occasional offices (weddings, baptisms and funerals) have increased steadily throughout the year, and we had our first post-covid confirmations take place in November. Having the increased technological capabilities, such as live-

streaming and on-screen provisions, has been welcomed by wedding couples and funeral families when using the church for such important times.

Our reach within the community has remained strong and we have been able to continue to assess and speak into those ever changing needs. The financial crisis which hit towards the end of 2022 saw us able to establish the Coffee Shop as a 'Warm Space' for those in need and enter into talks to provide hot meals free of charge on a weekly basis. Contact with schools has continued, with school visits to church happening once more, and links have been forged between St Peter's Mother's Union and the Children's Centre in Filton, increasing our outreach to the young families in the parish. Fellowship groups have continued and adapted, the church hall is being used increasingly by community groups, and I continue to be involved with BBC Radio Bristol religious provisions.

On a personal note, it has been wonderful to welcome towards the end of the year The Revd Rod Cosh and his wife Pam to St Peter's. As a retired priest, Rod brings with him a wealth of experience and has kindly offered to help and serve the community of Filton through St Peter's. He will balance doing so not only with retirement but also with his ministry at St Marys' Henbury. I am sure his presence will be a blessing to us all. Your leadership team at St Peter's have continued to work tirelessly throughout the year, and the support of the church officers and PCC has been invaluable. The collaborative nature of this team, the sense of commitment shown by volunteers and the blessings that we continue to see in our midst, can encourage us all as we face another year where we seek to further and deepen God's Kingdom here in Filton.

With love and prayers, Revd Lizzie

## CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

John Chapman & Thomas Moller - Church Wardens

Like most parishes in the country, it is fair to say the last year has been a difficult one for the church. Depleted funds have meant that when things have gone wrong or needed repair, considerable thought has had to be given to what we can afford to repair and prioritising those things that are more urgent. Despite this, great progress has been made and we are weathering the storm as well as we can.

Both heating systems in the church and the church hall have been condemned, after considerable service to the church, within weeks of each other. Both now need to be replaced with no prospect of repair. A fundraising scheme is well underway and it is intended to create a designated heating fund going forwards so that money is kept aside for the time when the new systems will need replacing.

One of the other main events taking place over the past year was the Sacristy being broken into, causing considerable damage to the outer door, outer drain pipes as well as money being taken. A police report made suggestions in which we can secure and protect the belongings of the church. The Sacristy door will

be strengthened and the other external doors will also be reinforced. One of the church hall windows was also damaged in this attack and will be replaced imminently. We urge everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity around the church and also to be generous and kind to all those struggling during this 'cost of living crisis.'

The Quinquennial report highlighted a few minor cracks in the 1844 area of the church and the more modern 1960 boiler house and roof that will need to be repaired over the next five years. The report highlighted it is apparent the church is being well cared for and we would like to thank all those who help to support the running of the church. We are particularly grateful for all the coffee shop volunteers who carry out an essential outreach to our friends in the community and for the care they provide for our sacred space during their volunteer work.

Repairs and maintenance have been carried out including: the coffee shop lock being cleaned and oiled; the aisle gates being realigned; the paths in the churchyard having cracks filled in by the council; and Chris Eade repairing the Churchyard gate, which was damaged several years ago and replacing a very rickety handrail at the back of church which now should last for many years to come. Woodworm was found in the pews which has been treated, and we ask for those sitting in the pews to keep a close lookout for any signs of further attack.

The Triennial inspection has also been carried out by the Co-area Dean Revd David Stephenson who also commented on how well the church is being kept and how it was uplifting to see all the various groups operating from the church. With this in mind, it is important the church continues to be maintained and kept clean so that it may be a worthy place to worship together and celebrate the Eucharist. Please be mindful, regardless of what is happening in the building, it is foremost a church, with the Blessed Sacrament being reserved in the Aumbry, so the space should be treated with the respect that it deserves.

The highlight of the past year was the dedication of the four Riddel post angels given by Eve Parry. Extended thanks are given to her for this and her contribution towards ringing at Filton going back to the 1960s. The angels were dedicated by Revd Lizzie and named: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel at the High Mass for the First Sunday of Advent. The High Altar looks particularly beautiful and it is wonderful to have them reinstated serving their original purpose.

We finally ask that you continue to pray for Revd Lizzie as she leads our Parish alongside our PCC and to also pray for the church over the next year. Please support the life of the parish in any way you can if that be financially, towards the boiler fund, or if it is time that you can offer to support in the running of the church or simply attending more of the services that are on offer on Sundays and throughout the week.

#### THE CHOIR

Viv Wilkinson, Musical Director

Church choir rehearses Fridays 7-8.30pm in the church. All are welcome to join, you do not need to be able to read music or be a fine singer. Help is given at rehearsals.

It is wonderful to be able to sing full services again and we look forward to being fully robed when it is warm enough. We are still finding new hymns to sing in our latest Ancient and Modern hymn book, which we are introducing slowly into the services. The family service now has its own Sanctus which is easier to learn and sing. More child friendly and modern hymns are chosen for the family service also.

Autumn Leaves sing a long has now become established once more; it is popular as always. All are welcome, you don't have to sing, just come and enjoy the fellowship and the banter! We have moved venue to the coffee shop 10.30-12 noon first Saturday of the month.

I wrote some new words to the Autumn Leaves song which reflect our philosophy...

At Autumn Leaves we have some songs We meet our friends and sing along We have some coffee we have some tea There are nice biscuits for you and me

But even more than this, our love we share. We help our friends and show we care. And we have a laugh as well 'cause it's good for us Our Autumn Leaves Sing-a-long.

Viv Wilkinson 07884374448

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT)

Louise Lyddon

We are a small group of church members who work on behalf of Rev Lizzie and the church. The group either ring, visit, or take communion to our ill or housebound church members when necessary.

Your PCT members are Alison Chapman, Janet Moller, Alan Williams, Claire Eade & Louise Lyddon.

#### YOUTH

The Revd Elizabeth L. A. Gregory

Whilst the number of children seen regularly at church remains relatively low, families are made welcome through the dedicated family service once a month and the strong links with the uniformed organisations.

Our regular children and young people take part in the services and baptism numbers are as they were pre-Covid. Older children also have the opportunity to meet in fellowship at the monthly Youth of God service. At the moment the church is not in a financial position to employ a youth worker so I would encourage you to continue to pray and discern whether there is something you could offer in this area.

Strong links continue to exist between the church and uniformed organisations, and also with the schools in Filton, and it has been wonderful with the help of the Mothers' Union to establish links with the Children's Centre in Filton.

#### BELLRINGERS

David Haslum, Tower Captain

The bells were rung for Sunday services and practice nights throughout the year.

On April 9th we welcomed a visiting band of retired university graduates from Devon. For the Summer Fayre on Saturday 26th June the tower was open for visits and demonstrations. In September the bells were rung half-muffled to mark the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II . They were also rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

On Saturday 19th November they were rung for the wedding of Tom and Joy Leslie.

However, in November during a maintenance inspection of the bells, the crown staple on the second bell was found to be broken. The clapper assembly was removed and taken to Matthew Higby, a bell hanger in Somerset, who was able to repair it in time for Christmas.

Two quarter peals were rung, one for the Christingle service on Christmas Eve and the other for Evensong and Benediction at Candlemas.

The clock has been inspected and serviced by Smiths' of Derby. At present, the bells and the clock are in good working order.

Sunday service ringing is for 10am Family Eucharist and practice night is Thursday at 7.30 pm.

## MOTHERS' UNION, FILTON BRANCH

Rachel Williamson, Branch Leader 07718 089474

We meet in the coffee shop on the 2nd Thursday of the month 2pm.

Our membership is 18: 16 full members and 2 IMPC members. Our average at meetings is about 8/9.

In January Louise talked about her journey to becoming Deanery Leader with Dolly Mixtures! February saw our AGM. In March, Daphne talked about Aled Blessings with his book and CD. In April, we held a Taizé service with Horfield in the Lady Chapel. In May, Rachel talked about MU. In June, we attended the Deanery Festival at Horfield and the next day we had an outing to Leaf and Grounded in Dursley for a Cream Tea.

In July our member Daphne held an afternoon tea as a fund raiser at her house. She raised approximately £60. Henbury organised the Deanery lunch which we attended. We also had an AFIA coach from Filton to take families to Weston Super Mare for the day. August saw us celebrate Mary Sumner day with a Eucharist service and a picnic afterwards.

September was our opening Eucharist and Wave of Prayer held in church. October was a joint meeting with Horfield; unfortunately Jacky our MU president was ill and unable to attend, so Rachel talked about MU and the new MU leaflet.

November we held a Remembrance service. In December, Filton Children's Centre asked us if they could come to church and record MU reading the Christmas Story. Rev Lizzie started the proceedings with the Crib on show and also finished the story with a prayer and then we wished everyone a Merry Christmas. We joined the Deanery with the Advent service at Shirehampton, and also had an afternoon of carols Christmas verse/poem and a Christmas card swap.

Our members have been knitting toys and blankets. We supported the church, organising the cake stall at the Christmas fayre raising £123 for church funds.

#### LADIES' GROUP

Jennifer Deeks

Leaders: Jen Deeks 0117 9041035 & Pam Cook 0117 3823067

Secretaries: Jane Curtis 0117 9699987 & Janet Porter 0117 9696958

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month at 2 pm in the Church Hall. Our aim is to encourage friendship and companionship within the context of the Christian faith and to raise money for charities

Once again we have had a varied programme and our first event of the year was when Mary Naylor had her head shaved to raise money for the charity BUST, also our charity for the year. Mary raised £1540 and our group raised £500 to add to the £1000 we had already given to BUST.

Speakers have included Gill Edwards from Avon Riding Centre; Ian Brailey talking about the work of the Bristol Street Pastors; Imogen McCabe on the very varied work of the Southmead Project; Amy Atknson for the RNLI; and Margaret Marshfield on behalf of BRACE. We also enjoyed a Beetle Drive, a Bingo evening, a cream tea and another pleasant afternoon in the Community garden. We brought the year to a close with our annual Carol Service, led again by David Deeks.

#### ROSARY GROUP

Linda Rawlings

Our friendly intimate group meet monthly at Mary's. We use the rosary to focus our prayers through fellowship. New members are always welcome.

#### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Deb Wilkey

We have had a full packed year with lots of activities.

St Peters Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers took part in decorating a flag for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was then put together with others from the Division and bunting was made and displayed at Elm Park. It was then moved to Patchway school where we took part in a Concorde Division event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with many activities and a sing song to end the day.

Brownies and Rainbows also celebrated in the units where the girls had a deportment lesson, made crowns and had a Royal teddy bear picnic. The Rainbows and Brownies have done a Pig Challenge badge where we made mud packs, made moving pigs, made truffles and had a truffle hunt. The girls have taken part in a Mythical Creature Pheonix badge where they have made bird boxes, dream catchers and made bird chalk pictures. The Brownies made quill pens and also made a quill picture of a Pheonix.

We took 45 Rainbow and Brownies bowling for their end of term treat which was a lot of fun. The Leaders were very competitive! We took 10 Brownies on a pack holiday to Bitton where we did a Harry Potter theme badge and we also held a Thinking Day Activity afternoon after Church parade.

Guides and Rangers spent the summer term between the hall and outside activities which included out door cooking, Foil fencing, Karate. We also went orienteering at Blaise Castle The theme for guides in the summer was Our Planet and for Rangers Food 4 All – so many activities based on these.

A team of guides took part in the Scout and Guide monopoly run around Bristol; they had a map to find places to gain points. We also attended a large activity camp in Cirencester call Strategy, On the Saturday they completed challenges at bases to earn points. The evenings had a disco and games.

Rangers attended the County Ranger camp at our Activity centre – Briarlands. This was called Camptastic with many activities – Bristol City ladies for Football skills and the Navy engagement team for team building, as well as crafts, archery and a disco.

Christmas party for Guides and Rangers was a beach party, complete with Chip butties and Ice Lollies.

#### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Louise Lyddon

3 meetings were held in 2022. In February we concentrated on Community Organising; in June we looked at Expressions of Mission as hospitality across the City Deanery; and in October we discussed Youth, Children and Estates ministry.

We also enjoyed a Deanery Parish walk to every church, starting in Filton.

Your Deanery Synod members were John Chapman, Jenny Connor, Linda Keeble and Louise Lyddon.

#### **ONLINE PRESENCE**

Faith Tutton, Parish Administrator

Online worship continues to remain vital. There is a whole group of people for whom online worship has become their preferred mode of worship. This group is valued as part of the church community just as much as those who come in person. For this reason, worship throughout 2022 has been "mixed mode", with a variety of services for both online and in-person worship.

Numbers have remained consistent throughout 2022.

#### **COFFEE SHOP**

Interim report, Louise Lyddon

We decided to open the Coffee Shop in February for 3 days a week with Rev Lizzie and the volunteers organising everything. Nic the new manager started in March. She organised a very successful Easter Egg hunt around Filton and the children and parents had to come into the Coffee Shop to pick up their winnings and certificate. In May, Nic decided that the Coffee Shop Manager position was not for her so resigned. We were very fortunate that the position was offered to one of the volunteers Beckie Jones who took up the position in July.

Beckie Jones, Coffee Shop Manager

I became the coffee shop manager in July 2022. At the time we were open Monday - Thursdays, and now we open Fridays too.

We have a steady flow of customers that come in daily as well as new ones who have now become regulars.

We do a raffle every few months, pub quizzes, and we have a lady that comes in on a Wednesday and cuts hair for a donation to the church.

We're hoping to pitch a cake stall at the Filton Festival this year, not only to raise money but also to advertise the coffee shop.

As of February 23rd, we will be serving soup on a Thursday between 12 – 2pm. We are now registered as a Warm Space.

Our volunteers are absolutely amazing and I really couldn't have done what we've achieved without their love, help and support.

#### **BRABAZON BELLES**

Amy Atkinson

First Monday of the month 7pm in the Church Hall.

We have found it difficult to get back to our pre-Covid numbers, but have a solid core of ladies who attend regularly and enjoy the activities on offer.

This year we have enjoyed games nights, quizzes, crafts, making Christmas stockings for the food bank, and tea blending. In the coming year we are committed to putting on an even more varied programme of activities to appeal to ladies of all ages in the local area.

### OTHER GROUPS

Open House: Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.00am in the Church Hall.

Leaders: Caroline and Richard White, 0117 975 5681

We offer tea, coffee, toast and Richard's home made cakes. Our group exists for friendship, companionship and a good natter, an antidote to loneliness. Open House is free to attend, donations appreciated.

Knitting Group: Thursday 5pm in the Coffee Shop

We are a small group of ladies for knitting and natter. It is wonderful being able to get together again after Covid. We have a great friendship and enjoy our coffee and cake. All are welcome to join us - our meetings usually last around 1.5 hours.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see additional document 'Accounts 2022'