

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2024



Rector:	The revd. Mark Haworth (interim Priest-In-Charge), until 31 st August 2024. Interregnum From 31 st August 2024 until present,
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, Ely and CCLA – CBF Church of England Fund, Victoria Street, London.
Independent Examiner:	Lindsey Gillett, [REDACTED]
Web site:	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13955 https://www.facebook.com/StPetersCoveney

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the functions and powers of a PCC. St. Peter ad Vincula Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector and Team Vicar (both positions currently vacant) in promoting 'the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Grade 1 listed building.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enable as many people as possible to feel safe, welcome and included within and inside the Church and the Church grounds, to have the opportunity to experience a range of worship styles appropriate to its context, and to feel affirmed and encouraged to bring forward suggestions about how the Church may develop its mission and outreach.

Mindful of the Charity Commissions' guidance on public benefit we try to enable ordinary people of faith, and those who are exploring or unsure of their faith, to feel engaged and supported by our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, developing knowledge and trust in God, through regular Sunday services and seasonal study groups (especially during Advent and Lent)
- Administering to the pastoral needs and concerns of the community, especially through use of occasional offices, services, and prayer requests.
- Establishing the Church building in the minds of the community as a place where daily prayer and intercessions for the community and the world are said.
- Missionary and outreach work through Forest Church and the work being done to enhance the Churchyard for visitors and wildlife, in pursuit of our responsibility to care for God's creation.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Peter ad Vincula.

Achievements and Performance

Our context is that of a small rural church within a small rural parish, with an accordingly small PCC in terms of numbers of trustees. Yet the Church has continued to see growth not just in attendance at services but in wider community engagement and support.

Worship and Prayer

- The pattern of regular Sunday services continues to offer a sustainable level of mixed-ecology worship for this Parish, ranging from BCP Communion, an acknowledgement of St Peter's inherited tradition, through to Forest Church which aims to engage with those who feel more comfortable with an informal style of worship rooted in nature.
- The church is open daily from dawn to dusk. Weekday morning prayer has become an important activity within the spiritual life of the Church, offering the opportunity to hold the community in prayer, signalling this role with the tolling of the Church bell, and encountering parishioners during their morning routine.
- The addition of a new prayer station, made from reclaimed wood by volunteers from a nearby town has resulted in an increase in the number people leaving prayers and lighting candles on a regular basis. More people are visiting the church and making use of it as a quiet place of prayer and reflection.

Forest Church meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month, offering more accessible form of worship.



- Study groups this year took the form of Lent Book Club and Advent Film Nights, held variously at parishioners' houses and the Village Hall. Both groups provided an opportunity for regular and occasional worshippers to come together and study Biblical themes and ideas through the lens of narrative storytelling. These are becoming important groups within the spiritual life of the parish.
- Occasional services have continued to play an important role in the life of the Church. This year there have been four funerals, one interment of ashes, and one Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child. The families of the bereaved were invited to the All Souls service in November, a number of whom attended and expressed appreciation for the chance to establish contact with the Church once more as they remembered their dearly departed.
- The annual Remembrance Sunday service also saw a notable increase in people attending, with a refreshed liturgy and inclusion of the Commonwealth War Grave during the service being commented on as welcome additions.



A small choir was formed at the request of a parishioner and directed by the Churchwarden (a trained musician) to sing at the Christmas Carol Service. Together with a band of village musicians who accompanied the congregational carols, this led to a packed Church of nearly 100 people.

The Christingle procession on Christmas Eve also attracted a big congregation of 60 people, 20 of whom were children. This continues to be an opportunity to engage with many families, as we come together to tell the Christmas story and distribute Christingle oranges.



Caring for God's Acre

'To show reverence to our forebears, provide Sanctuary to all in God's Creation, to hand on a sustainable haven to all who follow.' (mission statement adopted by the PCC)

“ The predictions about the future of life on this planet make for alarming and depressing reading and the need to repent of the past and live more sustainably is abundantly clear. Treasuring creation is an implicit part of proclaiming the Gospel. And we can give expression to this with our churchyards which can be 'arks for vulnerable species'. I am delighted to support this Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme.”

The Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter
The Bishop of Huntingdon
Currently Acting Bishop of Ely



- The churchyard remains a much loved and visited place of sanctuary and reflection for many in the community, and from further afield. The hard work done by the Churchyard Working Group to maintain it for the benefit of humans and wildlife has a strong missional element.
- The PCC adopted a mission statement proposed by this working group (see above) and a grass management scheme. This hard work was rewarded with a Silver Award from the Wildlife Trust as part of its Churchyard Conservation scheme.
- An outdoor Climate Sunday service in June was held following a weekend of events to mark 'Love Your Burial Ground' week, during which over 100 people visited the churchyard. Nearly 30 people attended this service, many of them not regular churchgoers, and this reflects not only the strong support for the work being done to enhance the biodiversity of the churchyard, but also a readiness and desire amongst the community to explore ideas about faith within the context of nature and the environment.



Love Your Burial Ground weekend attracted hundreds of visitors to the churchyard and concluded with an outdoor service to mark Climate Sunday

Mission and evangelism

The PCC has continued to look for ways to support the work of Rackham CofE school in Witchford, to which the majority of children from this parish go. Via the Education Fund the PCC was able to fund a visit of Christian theatre company 4FrontTheatre with their production 'The Parable Keeper', following which the Headteacher emailed the PCC to say, "It was a super show and wonderful experience for our pupils, thank you so much!". Leavers books for the Year 6 pupils (The 'Minecraft' bible) were also purchased with Education Fund money. This is in-line with the terms of the Education Fund which states it must be used 'for the provision of religious instruction in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England by means of a Sunday School or otherwise'.



The community has continued to make generous donations to Ely Food Bank via the collection point in the porch. A member of the community, a non-churchgoer, has volunteered to oversee the donations and transport them to the main depot. Collections made during Advent, and the sale of wooden ornaments made and donated by another parishioner raised £139 for local charity 'Ely Community Lunches'

Our current interim Priest-In-Charge left his post on 31st August 2024. On 1st December a new Pastoral Scheme came into effect, terminating existing pluralities and creating two new benefices of which the parish of St Peter ad Vincula, Coveney, became part of one called 'The Isle of Ely Villages Team'. The first of two stipendiary posts (Team Rector and Team Vicar) for this benefice have been advertised several times but with no suitable applications received. Following advice from the Archdeacon both posts have now been advertised simultaneously and the advertisement revised accordingly. It is hoped that this will make the opportunity more attractive to prospective incumbents.

The Electoral Roll

At present there are 23 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, one of whom is not resident within the parish. One name was removed during the year through death, and no names were added. The average weekly attendance during October was 12, although this number increased at festivals, most notably Christmas.

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. The work of Deanery Synod has been focussed on the Deanery Development Plan, with the primary concern for the PCC being discussions around the formation of a new benefice of which St Peter's has become a part as of 1st December (see above)

Fabric Report

- The Quinquennial report was undertaken during this year and the report submitted to the PCC for its consideration.
- A faculty for the felling of a lime tree from the Churchyard was granted and the work completed in November. The faculty fee and the work itself was funded by the owners of the neighbouring property who requested the work as part of their plans to improve the drainage on their property.
- An asbestos report was commissioned and completed during the year, and no areas of concern were identified.
- Some of the 'Stations of the Cross' remain unfixed since the pew repairs in 2023. A new method for fixing them has been devised and it is hoped they will all be re-fixed and hung permanently.
- Work to improve the biodiversity in the churchyard continues, with a grass management plan that has been approved by the PCC and which resulted in an award from the Wildlife Trust (see above). A replacement gate has been installed at the rear of the churchyard, giving easier pedestrian access and limiting access to vehicles.
- All routine maintenance has continued, with many tasks achieved on the annual DIY day in the Autumn, and at other times as were needed throughout the year.

Structure, Governance and Management

- The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The Parochial Church Council of Coveney is a charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011.
- PCC members are appointed at the APCM. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (latest revision 2020). Deanery Synod Members are also appointed in accordance with the said rules at the APCM.
- At St Peter ad Vincula, Coveney, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbents (Team Rector and Team Vicar of the benefice), two churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services or consider themselves to be members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- The PCC met 5 times during the period of this report with full attendance at all but one meeting.
- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. Specific training provided by the Diocese is given in Safeguarding, and eligibility and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are carried out.
- The PCC has no employees.

Administrative Information

St Peter ad Vincula Church is situated on Main Street in Coveney. It belongs to the Isle Of Ely Villages Team Benefice which is part of the Diocese of Ely in the Church of England within the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon and Wisbech.

PCC members ***who have served at any time*** from 1 January 2024 until the date which this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Mark Haworth

Wardens: Mr Christopher Warner (Deanery Synod Rep.), Mr David Guyer

Elected members

Mrs Julie Nix (Treasurer)

Mr David Stazicker (Secretary)

Mrs Rebecca Applin Warner

Co-Opted Members

Mrs Madeleine Becker

Mr Keith Tither

Approved by the PCC on

28th April 2025

and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Warner', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Christopher Warner, Churchwarden, Vice-Chair

To:

The Treasurer and PCC of St Peter -ad- Vincula Coveney.

Independent Examiners Report on the accounts of St Peter ad Vincula Coveney for the year ended 31st December 2024

I have independently examined the accounts of the PCC as required by the Church Accounting Regulations of the Charities Act 2011

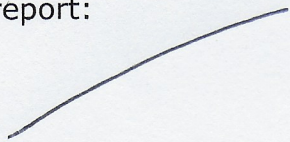
The PCC has elected both to prepare the accounts on the receipts and payments basis, and the requirement for the independent examination allows me to report under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011

My responsibilities are to:

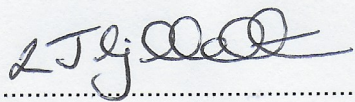
- 1) identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept;
- 2) check that the PCC accounts agree with the accounting records;
- 3) look for possible significant errors in the accounts;
- 4) check that the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations in so far as these apply to the receipts and payments basis

Where matters arising from this examination that give cause for concern it is my duty to report it.

My report:



No matters have arisen during the course of my examination where I have to give an adverse report.




Signed  Dated 24/3/2025

Name

Ms L J Gillett

(LINDSEY JANE GILLET)

Address

St Peter-ad-Vincula Coveney
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

<u>Lloyds Bank General Fund</u>	Unrestricted 2024	Unrestricted 2023
Receipts		
Voluntary Income		
Regular giving PGS gift aid standing orders	2441.65	2407.25
Collections at services	1712.62	1816.09
Legacies	500.82	
All other giving	444.60	581.51
Fees received	3721.00	919.00
Gift Aid Recovered	459.59	417.90
Fund Raising	985.27	1188.52
Mulled Wine	751.00	
Plant Sale Climate weekend	234.27	
Grants/Donations	1181.50	38.20
Refund from Electricity company	0.00	100.56
Transfer from Lloyds Building fund	0.00	4159.19
Total receipts	11447.05	11628.22
Payments		
The Ministry		
Fees & Expenses	254.27	590.05
The Church running costs		
Electricity	269.46	393.65
Ecclesiastical Insurance	1420.14	1354.51
Upkeep of services	719.67	574.38
Service to fire extinguishers	108.00	
Organ tuning	118.00	118.00
Contactless fees	63.38	117.12
Keys and fobs	77.40	
Bulbs, seed, swift boxes and new ladder		504.54
Parish Share	3377.84	3247.98
Subscriptions	50.00	
Donations	0.00	697.23
Fund raising costs	198.85	203.26
Fees Paid to EDBF	292.00	816.00
Renew Church Gates	1106.70	
Major repairs wood and Lime plaster		5066.19
Total payments	8055.71	13682.91
Excess(Deficit) Receipts over payments	3391.34	-2054.69
Lloyds Ely account as at 1st Jan 2024	4724.56	6779.25
Lloyds Ely account as at 31st Dec 2024	8115.90	4724.56

Notes on Restricted Funds

Building Funds Holds deposits raised/donated for the fabric of the church.

School Fund receives income from a permanent endowment following sale of CofE School House in 1990 (3/14th). Custodian Trustee EDBOF

Lighting Fund is a legacy given to install and run the lights that illuminate the outside of the Church at night

Restricted Funds
Lloyds Bank Building Fund Fund

Receipts
Payments

Asbestos Survey

Restricted
0.00
390.00

Restricted
0.00

Transfer Lloyds General Fund
Total payments

0.00
390.00

4159.19
4159.19

Excess(Deficit) Receipts over payments

-390.00

-4159.19

Restoration Fund balance as at 1st Jan 2024
Building Fund as at 31st Dec 2024

605.50
215.50

4764.69
605.50

CCLA - Coveney School Fund
Receipts

CCLA Deposit account interest
CCLA Investment fund dividends
Total Receipts

440.23
1249.98
1690.21

237.22
1230.86
1468.08

Payments

Advent Props
Easter Props
4Front Theatre
Unofficial Bible for Minecrafters
Educational Services Props
Hall Hire - Christmas discussion
Christingles
Total Payments

207.27
100.00
595.00
247.69
164.02
196.00
1509.98

216.10
274.33
52.00
31.52
573.95

Excess(Deficit) Receipts over payments

180.23

894.13

CCLA School fund as at 1st Jan 2024
CCLA School fund as at 31st Dec 2024

7850.18
8030.41

6956.05
7850.18

CCLA -Coveney Church Lighting Fund
Receipts

CCLA Deposit account interest

Payments

62.19
0.00

36.39
0.00

Excess(Deficit) Receipts over payments

62.19

36.39

CCLA Lighting fund as at 1st Jan 2024
CCLA Lighting fund as at 31st Dec 2024

1171.85
1234.04

1135.46
1171.85

CCLA - Coveney Church Building Fund
Receipts

CCLA deposit account interest

Payments

923.65
0.00

540.39
0.00

Excess(Deficit) Receipts over payments

923.65

540.39

CCLA Building fund as at 1st Jan 2024
CCLA Building fund as at 31st Dec 2024

17401.63
18325.28

16861.24
17401.63

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Monetary assets

Lloyds Ely -General fund unrestricted
Lloyds Ely - Building Fund restricted
CCLA Deposit - Building Fund restricted
CCLA Deposit - School Fund restricted
CCLA Deposit - Lighting Fund restricted

2024
8115.90
215.50
18325.28
8030.41
1234.04
35921.13

2023
4724.56
605.50
17401.63
7850.18
1171.85
31753.72