



# **Parochial Church Council**

## **Annual Report of PCC Business 2025 - 2026**

Adopted by the Parochial Church Council and signed on behalf of the PCC.

Date: .....

Signed .....

Revd Natasha Thomas (Interim Priest-in-Charge and Chair of the PCC)

## **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to see the town of Shipley changed by the power of God. We want to see this happen through a Church which is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and committed to the Word of God, which serves others in order to bring God's Kingdom. We want St Peter's to become a key 'transforming community' bringing about this change, as a church alive with the joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus Christ.

## **OUR VALUES**

### **WORSHIP**

We believe that we are to cultivate a life of prayer and worship 'in spirit and in truth' and to experience intimacy with God. Our corporate worship is to be anchored in God's Word and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

### **NURTURE**

All our teaching will be based in the Bible because we believe it is the inspired Word of God. We seek to train and equip church members to discover and use their gifts in Christian service and in building up the church.

Children and young people will be nurtured amongst us as the church of today.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

We encourage loving, caring mutual respect for all through small groups and various forms of worship.

We will do everything we can to make sure everyone can take a full and equal part in our church life, regardless of any particular needs.

We believe God is willing to use any group of people who will together seek and call upon him in prayer.

### **MISSION**

We believe that God commands and equips us to share the Gospel in word and action.

We want to be the local church for local people. We will take the Gospel out to people around us in whatever ways they will best see, hear and understand. We believe that we are to get involved and take initiatives in worldwide mission which transforms lives, through our money, prayers and effort.

### **SERVICE**

We as the body of Christ will serve one another and the local community, both as individuals, and through making our premises available whenever possible to local people and organisations.

### **GENEROSITY**

We promote generosity which arises out of a desire to be like Jesus in the ways we use our time and possessions, and in which we offer hospitality and interest in others.

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# Section 1: Governance and Management

Parochial Church Council  
 Parish Church of St Peter's Shipley  
 Moorhead Lane,  
 Shipley, BD18 4JH

## 1.1 Parochial Church Council Members 2025-2026

<b>Ex officio Members:</b>		
<b><i>The Parish Priest and any ordained minister or deacon or lay worker licensed to the Parish</i></b>		
Revd Natasha Thomas	Interim Priest	From July 2024
Revd Brian Greenfield	Associate Priest	
Revd Emma Wilkinson	Associate Priest	
Joseph Buthee	Family and Children's worker	From March 2025
<b><i>The Churchwardens</i></b>		
Mr Alan Armitage	Deputy Chair	
Miss Gemma Richards	Deputy Chair	
<b><i>Members of the Electoral Roll who are members of higher synods:</i></b>		
Mrs Zahida Mallard	Diocesan Synod & Aire & Worth Deanery Synod	Term expires 2026
Mr Michael Moss	Diocesan Synod & Aire & Worth Deanery Synod PCC Treasurer	Term expires 2026
Mrs Viv Brealey	Licensed Lay Minister & Aire & Worth Deanery Synod	Term expires 2026
Vacancy		
<b><i>Elected Lay Representatives:</i></b>		
Mrs Susan Pedley		Term expires 2026
Mrs Frances Vose	Safeguarding Officer	Term expires 2026
Mr Mervyn Silva		Term Expires 2027
Mr Mark Davies	Gift Aid Secretary	Term Expires 2027
Mrs Karen Parkinson		Term expires 2027
Mr Chris Beard	PCC Secretary & Disability Officer	Term Expires 2027
Mrs Karen Baguley		Term expires 2028
Mrs Jackie Loach		Term expires 2028
Mr David Slaney		Term expires 2028
Elisabeth Sture	Disability Officer	Term expires 2028
Nina Weicht		Term expires 2028

## 1.2 External support

### **Church Bankers:**

Co Operative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

### **Independent Examiner:**

Hart Wright Accounting, Chartered Certified Accountants, 24 Hall Drive, Sutton BD20 7NH

## 1.3 PCC

The Parochial Church Council (hereafter referred to as the 'PCC') is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is registered with the Charities Commission no. 1134797. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Lay representatives are appointed, by election, to vacancies, if necessary, from members of the Electoral Roll who are nominated to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Initial induction for all new members of the PCC is conducted by the Incumbent.

### **St Peter's PCC had eight meetings since the last APCM in 2025 - 26 year.**

- 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Away day (St James Church Baildon)
- 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Joint PCC away day (St Pauls, Christchurch, St Peter's) Eldwick
- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - Cancelled
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 – Extraordinary meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Extraordinary meeting
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Day-to-day management and responsibility for the church and its activities was delegated to:

- The Leadership Team (which functions as the Standing Committee of the PCC), currently consisting of the Church Wardens, Mr Alan Armitage and Miss Gemma Richards (also coordinator for discipleship); the Licensed Lay Minister, Mrs Viv Brealey; coordinator for pastoral care Mrs Karen Parkinson; coordinator for youth and family work, Mrs Karen Baguley; Coordinator for mission and outreach Mr Mervyn Silva; and the Treasurer, Mr Mike Moss. The meeting is chaired by the Interim Minister, Revd Natasha Thomas.

## 1.4 St Peter's Strategic Groups

The PCC representative and Coordinators for each of the groups are as follows:

- Families and Youth – Karen Baguley and Joseph Buthee
- Discipleship – Gemma Richards and Viv Brearley
- Pastoral and Prayer Ministry – Karen Parkinson, Zahida Mallard and Keith Brown
- Mission and Outreach – Mervyn Silva and Joseph Buthee
- Finance/ Buildings – Mike Moss and Alan Armitage



## 1.5 Focus of Interim priest's ministry

Each of the strategy groups feed into the 3year interim objectives outlined as part of Revd Natasha Thomas' appointment. They are:

1. To develop outreach and worship which will attract a younger demographic into St Peter's (in particular more families and young people);
2. To devise and implement a strategy for disciple-making which provides ways for fringe people to consider Jesus, opens new approaches to discipling beyond existing home groups, and fosters a culture of disciples who make disciples and leaders who grow leaders;
3. To bring St Peter's to work closely with the parishes of St Paul's Shipley and Christ Church, Windhill to reimagine mission and ministry for the whole town of Shipley, and

to explore possible structural changes, including pastoral re-organisation, which might support this better

4. Working with St Paul's and Christchurch, to develop outreach and new worshipping communities for less-reached parts of Shipley (for example, Hirst Wood and Windhill)
5. To play a visible role in the life of the town of Shipley, alongside other churches as part of Shipley Christians Together, engaging strategically with civic, business and other church leaders, and helping to develop a vision both for the town and for the place of the churches in the town.

## **1.6 A Brief Summary of 2025**

This year has been a year of delight. We have witnessed God's blessing in so many ways, as you will be able to read in the rest of the report – we have seen our congregations grow, we have seen our youth and family ministry increase through Rooted, through Forest church and at Re-wired. We have been able to pay our share to the diocese, and our discipleship is increasing through fellowship groups and through social activities. We have held family fun days, a breakfast for bikers, we have hosted an interfaith conversation event, we had an afternoon tea which included Musical Memories bringing over 75 people together for fun and laughter. We have run 3 Alpha's over this last year and 2 Bereavement support groups.

God is GOOD!

As a church we are working with St Paul's and Christchurch to look at ways in which we can work closer together. In September the leadership teams from each of the churches attended an overnight retreat to explore how we take the next steps and planned for a time when the three churches might gather together to pray and worship together which will take place in July 2026.

In October the three PCC's met to discuss key areas of overlap and the potential for sharing.

In January we were informed of Revd Brian leaving his post, so it has become even more important for the three churches to consider their position and potential to explore the parish boundaries and whether there could be pastoral reorganisation towards becoming one parish. The three churches agreed in February that we would look to appoint an interim associate part-time priest as part of this process.

Exciting times of change ahead!

**Rev Natasha Thomas, April 2026**

## Section 2: Main activities

### 2.0 Safeguarding – Safeguarding officer Frances Vose

Safeguarding report to APCM 2026 The Parish of St Peter's Shipley takes our collective responsibility for safeguarding those most vulnerable in our church and community seriously. Safeguarding policy is the responsibility of the PCC and appears as an item on every PCC agenda.

All policies in relation to Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults used in the Parish are those of the Diocese of Leeds and Church of England.

This past year Rev Natasha Thomas and I have worked alongside the Diocese of Leeds safeguarding team, and statutory and voluntary agencies as required, to manage safeguarding concerns and ensure appropriate support for all individuals involved. Alongside ourselves we have recruited other members of the church who have supported us in this role, and we appreciate the time and effort they have given us.

We continue to use The Church of England Parish Dashboard and Hub, which is a tool to help us manage all who work in our church with children and vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary. It helps us identify who needs what training and when it is due, alongside providing some other useful resources. We are a busy church with many groups which all require volunteers. This leads to a lot of administration on the part of the Safeguarding officer and Rev Natasha. The administration team in the office now have access to the hub and are providing admin support for training and DBS updates.

Most volunteers in our church must do some degree of safeguarding training, depending on their level of role, and many need a DBS check. Thanks are due to Mike Moss for his administration of the DBS system.

Myself and the team are working to ensuring that training is completed and reviewed, and volunteers are encouraged to ask myself if they need to know what they have to complete. If a leader of a group recruits a new person then they must inform the PSO and Rev Natasha. We take the training of all our volunteers at St Peter's very seriously, as it is essential to safeguarding our young people and vulnerable adults in our church and the community we serve. Safeguarding training courses often reveal issues to us that we would not have thought about ourselves, and increase our awareness of being alert to abuse in whatever form, and I reiterate their importance.

Safeguarding training at most levels is now available online via the Diocesan website. The PCC appreciate the diligence of those who have undertaken this in a timely manner demonstrating their understanding of the importance of safeguarding as a collective responsibility.

Rev Natasha and I have run safeguarding courses at church for those who find it difficult to access online, or would prefer to do the course in a group setting. We hope to continue these in the coming year.

We have placed leaflets and signposting information in toilets relating to elderly abuse, rape crisis numbers and domestic abuse.

Please remember - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – please be aware of anyone you might consider to be a vulnerable individual, adult or child, and do not hesitate to contact myself, Rev Natasha or any of the staff team, if you have any concerns whatsoever. It is more important to voice a concern, however trivial you may feel it is, than to ignore it.

**Frances Vose (Parish Safeguarding Officer), April 2026**

## **2.1 Mission and outreach – Coordinator Mervyn Sylva**

### **2.1.1 Welcome Space**

Welcome space continues to thrive with a wide variety of folk coming through the door each Friday to enjoy fellowship, delicious home-made soup and bread, home-made cakes, fruit and hot drinks. Over the past year our numbers have increased from an average of about seventy to over a hundred guests ranging from newborns to people in their nineties. Some of our guests are regulars who have been with us since we opened as a Warm Space in October 2022 in response to the cost-of-living crises, some are more recent and we see new faces on a regular basis. A few single men, some of whom have been recently bereaved, have joined us and we are seeing friendship groups forming among these and other guests which is great.

In October 2025 the Welcome Space team, along with other volunteers from St Peter's and from Shipley College, celebrated The International Day of Older people by providing an afternoon tea dance with an entertainer and an opportunity for people to share their favourite songs and the stories behind them. Seventy-five older people attended the event which was a huge success.

We have had two visits from our MP Anna Dixon over the last year who spent time talking with people and listening to their concerns. Another visit is planned in the near future.

We continue to have a good relationship with Shipley College with around six students, supported by one of their tutors, volunteering at both Welcome Space and See and Know. We have seen these students mature and grow in confidence during their time with us and they are a valued part of the team. In addition to the College students, we have a dedicated team of volunteers, mostly from St Peter's, plus others from outside the church including a member of Shipley Town Council. Some of our volunteers attend most weeks, others once or twice per month, some stay for the whole session, some for part of the session and this works well.

We are eternally grateful that the vegetables for the soup and the bread are provided by John at The Orange Grove and Melvin Davis respectively and have been since we opened. This enables us to keep our costs down and provide refreshments free of charge or for a pay as you feel donation. We have also been successful in gaining a small grant from Bradford Council each year which goes towards the heating and pays for other comestibles.

Welcome Space is for everyone whatever their circumstances or background and for people of all faiths or non. It gives a wonderful opportunity for us to share our faith and God's love by

providing a safe, warm environment for people to enjoy some delicious food in the company of others.

### 2.2.2 Wrestling Church

We continue to support Kingdom Wrestling on a monthly basis, by providing volunteers who pray with those attending and by presenting a short talk based on biblical text. Over 60 people regularly attend, with a large number of families attending. It is a very good way for us to reach out to people who would not go into church.

### 2.2.3 Mission Groups

The PCC continues to maintain several links with both local missions and overseas Mission Partners. They are as follows:

- **Sudan**

We support Leeds Diocese Sudan Link as we have particularly strong links with Archbishop Ezekiel. We were delighted to host a celebration event on behalf of the diocese for Archbishop Ezekiel when he was able to come to the UK. We heard of the harrowing stories of how the church is determined to shine God's love and light in a country that is overwhelmed with war, conflict and poverty.

- **Sri Lanka**

Due to very strong links to Sri Lanka we have established this as a new mission stream, and were delighted that pilgrimage took place this year with a number of St Peter's congregation visiting the country. This has become possible because the new government that came to power in September 2024 has begun to eradicate corruption and manage the country's economy better, which has resulted in improving living conditions particularly for the poorest communities. Although the Ditwa cyclonic floods last November and the recent Gulf war has added to the economic pressures. We therefore have dedicated funds to address the needs of the Yawa Jeewa (Street children) project during 2026 to help them achieve things they would not be able to do otherwise. Among them we have identified the following priorities:

- Getting their old bus repaired and back on the road
- Improve the fabric of the school building to give a better quality of life for the children
- Achieve energy independence by generating their own solar electrical energy

- **Wycliffe Bible Translators**

We continue to support Julian and Catherine Sheldon as they work at supporting people to be able to read the bible in their own language. We were delighted to host Julian this year so he could tell us specifically about the work that he is doing.

- **Zephaniah Trust**

It has been good to continue to support this local work enabling local schools to hear stories from the bible. This year we hosted the Bible story over four days in church, with three local schools visiting and seeing, touching and hearing about the bible. We were very saddened by the death of John Froud who was the founder of this organisation, but

are pleased to hear that the organisation aims to continue with this evangelistic work to schools.

- **CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre**

As part of Shipley Christians Together we contribute to supporting this vital work that enables people to be supported out of debt, so that they do not spiral into even greater poverty. Mayme, the coordinator will be

Additionally, we supported Christian Aid and the Children's Society through specific services and activities so that we could raise awareness and funds for these two charities.

Special thanks to Frances and Jason Vose for organising the BBQ Mission fundraiser that contributes to raising awareness and funds for these projects.

**Mervyn Sylva, April 2026**

## 2.2.4 Baby Bank

### Highlights & Achievements

- **Community Presence:** We established a physical presence in Shipley town centre, utilizing the SCT Bible stall on the first and third Monday afternoons of each month.
- **Donations:** The community response has been heartening. Donations have been consistent, and our dedicated volunteer team has worked tirelessly in the upper church rooms to sort, quality-check, and store these items.
- **Administrative Support:** We are grateful to the Church Administration team, whose support has been vital in managing the behind-the-scenes logistics of the project.
- **Strategic Networking:** We have successfully engaged with the Kirkgate Centre and local Council Ward Officers, both of whom have expressed strong support for our mission.

### Challenges & Learning Curves

While the infrastructure is in place, the direct uptake from families has been lower than initially anticipated. We have identified three potential contributing factors:

1. **Visibility:** The need for broader community awareness.
2. **Accessibility:** Current timing and location may not align with the schedules of busy parents.
3. **Need Assessment:** Further research is required to ensure our services perfectly match local demand.

### Aspirations & Plans for 2026/27

To address these challenges and scale our impact, our goals for the coming year include:

- **Increasing Accessibility:** We have launched a dedicated email account to allow families and healthcare professionals to request supplies directly.

- **Partnering with the Kirkgate Centre:** We are transitioning to a model where supplies can be collected directly from the Kirkgate Centre, providing a more central and flexible hub for families.
- **Securing Funding:** We are in active discussions with council officers regarding funding for a **Project Worker**. This role will be pivotal in networking with stakeholders, health visitors, and families to bridge the gap between our supplies and those who need them.
- **Strengthening the Team:** We continue to be supported by the invaluable efforts of Andrea Peace, Louise Forbes, Carol McNab, and Ally Thomas.

**Andrea Peace, April 2026**

## 2.3 Families and Youth Work – Coordinator Karen Baguley

The strategy group has met several times over the last year to create the strategy & action plan, and to monitor and update these actions.

The group comprises Joseph Buthee and Karen Baguley as joint leads, Jessica Criddle, Liz Porritt, Mark Davies, Cathy Starley and Jackie Loach. Our Objective:

To develop outreach and worship which will attract a younger demographic into St Peter's (in particular more families and young people). Our Aims: To continue to grow our successful weekly See & Know (0-5 years) Parent & Toddler group & monthly Messy church -update from Jessica Criddle follows.

To develop a monthly Forest church. This has become embedded on the first Sunday of the month, moving from Fernhill to a more public Hirstwood woods location.

To extend & embed the offer for children at the all-age service to include Craft corner (younger children) & Rooted (older children)- This has been successfully implemented. Parents of 0–3 year olds have given really positive feedback on the creative corner – we've developed more age-appropriate activities so it now works better for both the very little ones and the 4–7s. Rooted (for the over-8s) is continuing to grow and embed well, with good attendance and some lovely conversations happening.

To grow the outreach youth offer- Rewired youth group (10-14year olds)-report from Joseph Buthee follows.

To run outreach events. Our Christmas family events (Christingle and Crib Service) were very well attended by lots of non-churched families, and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party & Good Friday hot cross buns events were other great successes. We continue to build good relationships with the local primary schools through assemblies and leaflet drops. See also update re recent Fun Day from Joseph.

To develop the links with our uniformed groups -update from Ed & Claire Wright follows.

Our Actions over the past 12 months have been:

### **2.3.1 See & Know**

See & Know has maintained its reputation for being a vibrant, welcoming community with excellent coffee and crumpets. We have had new families attend most weeks, the majority of whom heard about us from a friend or saw it recommended on an online platform. It is so encouraging to know that so many of our regular families love what they experience and regularly and wholeheartedly recommend us to their friends (and strangers!). We have a strong core of families who attend as well as families who attend on a more sporadic basis, getting between 40 and 50 children each week.

In November, we celebrated See & Know's 30th birthday. We hosted an afternoon tea for families past and present and welcomed back the team who had originally set it up. It was lovely to reconnect with people and share with them my belief that the reason they experience such welcome in the group is because they meet Jesus when they walk through the doors.

**Jessica Criddle, April 2026**

### **2.3.2 Messy Church**

Messy Church continues to meet monthly and whilst our numbers do fluctuate somewhat, we still have families who try to attend every month and enjoy doing so. It remains gospel-focussed and evangelistic; looking at challenging topics in a fun and engaging way. We receive consistently positive feedback; families are blessed by what we offer, they feel welcomed and they love how it is such a fun, family-friendly way to spend a Sunday afternoon. The Christian families who attend (both from St. Peter's and other churches in Bradford) say it is not only a great encouragement to their children's faith journey, but also to their own faith and Christian parenting journey. The big change in Messy Church is that after 6½ years, Jessica has stepped down from leading it. Please pray for the new leadership team as they take it into its next season. Both these groups can only happen because of the extraordinary volunteers who help. We are immensely grateful for them all.

**Jessica Criddle, 2026**

### **Forest Church**

This year we relocated Forest Church from Fern Hill to the much more accessible and suitable setting of Hirst Wood. Following a period of stagnant attendance at the previous site, the move has been very positive. Families are thoroughly enjoying being immersed in God's creation, with engaging activities and simple lessons that help children explore and wonder at the world around them, using the natural environment to tell Bible stories. We are already seeing a pleasing increase in regular attendees.

After a short break over Easter, we return in May and. Lisa is flourishing in her role as Forest Church leader, and the group continues to go from strength to strength in this inspiring outdoor environment. We have an average of 6 children attending, and 10 adults.

### 2.3.3 Rewired

Rewired, our Friday evening youth group for 10–15year olds, has continued to grow this year. We now regularly have 12–16 young people attending, many of whom are from unchurched backgrounds. This term we went bowling as a group and have established a strong relational bond with the young people. We have started to have meaningful conversations around faith topics, including celebrating Easter and discussing various themes around faith. It has been encouraging to watch the group become a safe and welcoming space where friendships are forming and the gospel is being shared naturally.

### 2.3.4 Fun Day

We held a successful Fun Day at Windhill in partnership with Kingdom Wrestling, members of the local youth group and Windhill Church. The event was well attended and featured a wide range of games, a BBQ and bouncy castles. It proved to be a great opportunity to bridge the gap and build relationships with the local community. Windhill is an area with high levels of poverty and some anti-social behaviour, and the youth group there is in need of support. Mark Baguley and I have been attending to help, but a more robust volunteer team would be of great benefit in creating further inroads into this community, which currently has no church.

**Joseph Buthee, April 2026**

### 2.3.5 The Uniformed Groups

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides - continue to welcome over 150 young people every week into the church halls. The programme provides the children with opportunities for adventure, building skills, exploring their values and being involved in their communities and the brand we have at St Peter's is extremely well regarded by local families. Collectively we have run at least 12 overnight residential opportunities in the last year; the opportunity to learn and grow together while away from home remains a cornerstone of the programme. We have benefitted recently from the tremendous support of a group of 16 to 18 year old 'young leaders' who volunteer for everything and provide fantastic role-models for the younger members. Two of the recent members of our group are off to collect their DofE Gold Awards from the palace this summer; several more are in the final stages of this process. One of our youngest explorer scouts is travelling to Peru with the County this summer. We are very proud of these top achievers, but equally proud of the many young people who join our groups with a wide range of needs, who routinely do their best - as our founder said - "with a whistle and a smile".

We have enjoyed working closely with the church community, supporting church projects and providing stewardship of the field on Fernhill Road, and exploring how best to connect the work of the uniformed groups with the mission of the church. We would love to welcome members of the church to the re-launched parade service on Monday 15 June. We have a strong and friendly group of volunteers but the core of the group has recently diminished and there's

scope for anyone with any interest in helping out to contact the groups through the church office.

**Ed & Claire Wright, April 2026**

## **2.4 Discipleship – Coordinator Gemma Richards**

### **2.4.1 Discipleship Strategy Group Report**

The aims of the Discipleship Strategy Group are to work with the priest to look at discipleship, fellowship groups, teaching for groups, individuals and congregation, and to encourage people to pray. At the time of writing the strategy group has met twice since the last APCM with a third meeting scheduled in late April 2026. The group currently consists of Revd Natasha, Sophie Antonova, Viv Brealey, Martin Forbes, Linda Furze, Julie Nicholson, Andrea Peace, Gemma Richards, and Mike Ruff. Please do speak with Gemma or Viv if you feel you would like to be part of shaping our discipleship strategy.

Some highlights from the year include a sermon series on teaching focus on following Jesus, using materials from John Mark Comer's Practicing the Way. Between Easter and Pentecost, 2025 books on Matthew in 40 days were offered to the congregation, and this year, the church have ordered some copies of Tom Wright's Acts for Everyone, ahead of us exploring the Book of Acts in upcoming services. Natasha hosted a new comers' afternoon tea in February 2026, which the Discipleship Group, along with others, supported. The group has looked at encouraging church members to belong to prayer bands – if you want to meet with others to pray regularly, please do get in touch with Sophie Antonova.

Over the last twelve months the church has run several short duration fellowship groups including Alpha, and a Lent Group led by Natasha, using 'Acts of Hope inspired by Christians in the Middle East' chosen by the Discipleship Group as our main Lent group. The church also has several long term fellowship groups, which you may know as Home Groups, though these don't all necessarily run in people's homes! A new group started recently with some of the members having recently done an Alpha course. We are especially grateful to Linda Furze, who is part of the Discipleship Strategy Group and currently the Fellowship Group Coordinator, and who has provided the update below. Please do get in touch with Linda if you would like further information about joining a Fellowship Group.

**Gemma Richards, April 2026**

We currently have six Fellowship Groups meeting regularly.

When I took on the role of Coordinator in September, my aim was to set up communication pathways for those who wanted to join a group. These pathways are now in place so that people making inquiries can be provided with my contact details. Promotion of Fellowship Groups from the front has also raised awareness and consequently a number of new people have joined groups since the Autumn. Natasha has been providing us with a good range of optional study books. Our task now is to consider how to provide further groups and group

leaders for the future, adding more flexibility regarding meeting times, age groups and other preferences. My contact email is [fellowship@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:fellowship@stpetes.org.uk)

**Linda Furze, April 2026**

### **2.4.2 Bereavement Course**

After an initial course in October 2024, St Peter's renewed its registration so that we could continue to offer the 'Bereavement Journey' course, and have run two further sessions of this bereavement course in Autumn 2025 and Lent/Easter 2026. The first group was fully booked with 11 people attending, and the second smaller with 5 people attending, but both worked well with group members supporting each other. We plan to offer another course in September 2026, and invite participants from the groups to our All Souls service in November. This course is designed by Christian ministers and bereavement counsellors to help people explore how bereavements whether recent or long ago have impacted them. To be as accessible as possible the first 6 sessions are not faith focused, but recognising that grief can provoke spiritual questions for many people, regardless of any previous religious belief, an optional 7<sup>th</sup> session offers a chance to explore where God may be in our grief. The church has already had enquiries about future courses, suggesting that supporting individuals process bereavement is part of our church's call currently. If you or someone you know would like to take part in a future course, or you would like to help facilitate a future course, please contact the church office, or speak to Natasha Thomas, Gemma Richards, Andrea Peace or Gill Mack.

**Gemma Richards, April 2026**

### **2.4.4 Alpha Course**

In collaboration with hosts Andrea Peace, Martin Forbes, Martin Dunn, Sophie Antonova and Stuart Hargreaves we successfully ran two Alpha courses this year.

The first course began in September with 9 attendees, all of whom completed the full 10 weeks and are now committed to the faith and regularly attending church.

The second course started on 29th January and also ran for 10 weeks, with 6 participants completing it and sharing powerful testimonies of coming to faith or seriously considering Christianity.

Through shared meals, open discussions and personal stories, both courses created a warm and welcoming space for many from unchurched backgrounds to explore the Christian faith. We are thankful to see real fruit emerging as new people are being drawn into relationship with Christ and the church community.

**Joseph Buthee, April 2026**

### **2.4.5 Social Activities**

Special thanks go to Martin and Louise Forbes who continue to organise different social events and activities for members of church to attend to get to know one another. Some of these were also attended by members of the other Anglican churches in Shipley. A Christmas and summer vicarage tea-party was held with over 40 people attending each event.

## 2.5 Pastoral and prayer ministry – Coordinators Karen Parkinson and Zahida Mallard

### 2.5.1 Pastoral

The pastoral ministry team was expanded during the summer of 2025 in order to provide greater support to Keith and Carol Brown in their ministry as pastoral coordinators. The purpose being to widen the support that can be offered to people or groups, especially those on the margins of our church family.

Whilst pastoral support is everyone's responsibility, we wanted to establish a team of people willing to be contacted if we become aware of a pastoral need. Those needs may include the following on an ad hoc basis – prayer, a listening ear or a welfare check via a phone call or visit, some emergency shopping, a lift to a medical appointment, some basic technical support or home communion.

The team meet on a quarterly basis to pray and to discuss any requests/referrals we have had and to discuss anyone for whom we have concerns and who can best offer the initial approach and how we can support that person if they wish to take up the offer, younger and older alike. The team can be contacted via email on [pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk). Email requests are seen/forwarded to Keith Brown who then contacts the team to ask if anyone is available to assist with the request. Alternatively, anyone can ask for pastoral support by speaking to any member of the team or Keith and Carol Brown, Karen Parkinson, Zahida Mallard (Karen and Zahida are the PCC links for pastoral support) and Joe Batt. The name/request of the person requiring support is kept confidential between Keith and the team member offering support. Anyone contacting Keith or any member of the team with a request is asked for permission before sharing their details with the rest of the team.

We are here to help if we can, so if you or anyone you know is in need please get in touch.

**Karen Parkinson and Zahida Mallard, April 2026**

### 2.5.2 Prayer Ministry

Over the last 12 months there has been some significant and positive changes within prayer ministry at St. Peter's. First of all the team membership has increased from 7 members to 15 doubling in size, this number includes our prayer Angel, Mona Bray who prays for us as we are praying and giving out to others. This has enabled us to offer more frequent prayer ministry than before. Members now wear lanyards designating them as members of the ministry team and are encouraged to wear them at all services which they are approachable for prayer at any time and in any service. Details about prayer ministry at St. Peter's are also shown on the screens before services just as other Church activities are promoted. Due to the increase in membership prayer is now being offered at all communion services not just at the 11:15 service. As leader of the team I am always looking to involve others in this very important service to the Church community and expect to add at least one new member after the APCM .

If you are interested please speak to me and Natasha. All members are DBS checked and have completed safeguarding training in line with Church of England policy.

**Keith Brown, April 2026**

## **2.6 Buildings and Fabric Maintenance – Coordinator Mike Moss**

The buildings and land group met regularly through 2025, roughly bi-monthly. Many items were discussed and ideas for improvement discussed.

Subjects considered during the year included:

- Clearance of Gutters – Arranged with Pete West for gutters to be cleared.
- Various roof works – Have requested the roofer used by ST Paul's to check the roofs and complete minor repairs
- Update main kitchen – Alan working on this
- Caretaking – Appointed Paul Hughes to work as casual caretaker but the arrangement did not last.
- Halls Bookings – We have been reasonably successful in renting out both the church and the halls. Many thanks to Helen who has got on top of the booking system and is ensuring invoices are raised and followed up. All hirers have booking forms now that specifies what is expected from both parties.
- Cleared out a lot of unused items and created additional storage space.
- Installed new external signage.
- Agreed that windows in the Meeting Place, corridor toilets and office should be replaced with double glazed units. Arranged faculty and gained a grant to cover the gap in funds available.
- Church and halls heating has been a major topic throughout the year. We attempted to patch up the old boilers but one eventually became unrepairable. We eventually managed to get permission to replace the existing boiler with another gas boiler but this may only be a temporary solution.  
Discussions on how we reduce our carbon footprint and reduce dependency on gas.
- We discussed how we make the building more hospitable.
- We had issues with the drains running out to Moorhead Lane which were eventually fully unblocked. Issue with roots from the tree at the car park corner.
- The wall to the south side of the church halls was bulging and collapsed and that was rebuilt at our expense.
- A second open day was held on the Fernhill land in June.
- The church carpet was cleaned with thanks to Alan and the scout group who assisted greatly in the work.
- The stairs in the tower need painting.
- Handrails (removable) to help people step up onto the stage in church.
- Changes to the snooker room for a drop in.

During the year we have had many servicing tasks that we paid for

- Hot Water heaters in main kitchen
- All gas boilers
- Airconditioning units

- Wheelchair Lift
- CCTV
- Fire Alarm system
- Fire Extinguishers
- Automatic doors
- Pest Control

There were a number of one-off repairs that were paid for

- Replacement handset for door entry system
- Hope Chapel door issue
- Fire alarm call button replacement
- Dishwasher repairs
- Toilet issues
- Additional plugs in office
- Replacing damaged sockets
- Light fitting replacements
- repairs
- Gutter clearance

There has been a lot of work done but lots more could be done if we had more volunteers willing to help, either mid-week or at a weekend. The gardens need regular attention to keep them tidy.

There are a number of other tasks that could be managed by volunteers such as decorating and small maintenance tasks. If you are able to assist, please contact Mike Moss.

A lot of thanks need to go to our wardens Alan and Gemma, Jackie Loach, David Slaney, Mervyn Silva, Revd Natasha Thomas who have all contributed to making things happen as part of the group.

**Mike Moss, April 2026**

## 2.7 Deanery issues

The deanery met twice in 2025 as the September meeting was cancelled. The February meeting was held over Zoom and was given a demonstration of the diocesan digital learning platform with some discussion.

The second meeting was held in June at Keighley Shared Church and after the standard housekeeping update of priestly moves in the deanery a presentation was given by Rev Duncan Milwain about life at the Cathedral and giving an overview of how the cathedral operates.

In 2026 at the church APCM the deanery synod representatives are elected for the next three years. It may seem from the above that the deanery is just a means of disseminating information, but it is an important part of the Church of England governance system. Motions that get debated at General Synod often start at the deanery level. If they are passed, they can be passed to diocesan synod for debate there and can be forwarded to general synod for debate and can then become part of the church governance. It is important that our church is well represented at these meetings.

Our current synod members are Zahida Mallard, Mike Moss, and Viv Brealey please speak to one of them if you want to know more.

**Mike Moss, April 2026**

## **2.8 Policy issues – Rev Natasha Thomas**

We continue to update and review our policies to ensure all areas of church life are covered.

### **2.8.1 Health and Safety**

Health & Safety continues to be a regular item for review at PCC meetings. The Wardens, together with Martin Fawley (Caretaker) and Katharine Leech (Cleaner) are responsible for monitoring safety issues around the site on a day-by-day basis.

### **2.8.2 Environmental Policy and Eco Church**

St Peter's environmental policy was implemented in 2020 and updated in January 2023 and April 2026. This helps keep caring for God's creation at the heart of church life. In May 2024 St Peter's church achieved the Silver A Rocha eco award. This was done not simply to gain an award. Rather the structure of the A Rocha framework is helpful in ensuring we pay attention to what is important in caring for God's creation. Our priorities currently are trying to ensure we maintain Silver standards, and continue to make progress towards the C of E target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

**Worship and Teaching** – 2025 saw the initiation by Lisa Chadwick of some Forest Church sessions giving the opportunity for families to explore nature and worship God. This was initially at Fern Hill, then once established, in the woods at Hirst Wood. Intercessors are encouraged to consider praying for creation in intercessions in church; teaching also covers the environment, and our role as stewards in God's creation at appropriate times. On 21 September 2025 during a teaching series on Generosity, the theme of 'Sowing Generously' with a focus on the environment was considered using readings from 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 15 and Genesis 1: 26 – 30. Gemma encouraged church members to borrow the church's 6 litter pickers which are now available in the porch to borrow. Positively, since then these do come and go!

**Buildings** – The PCC Buildings group regularly consider sustainability, Eco Reps are members of this group. Mike Moss has done a lot of work ensuring our carbon footprint data is accurate, and ensuring we get accurate readings from the solar panels. In 2025 we have had an energy audit completed, which gives us a plan of things that we could consider to reduce our carbon footprint. In early 2026 we replaced one of the church boilers with another gas one. We have drawn up a five year plan by which time this boiler should be replaced, and passed on to another church, with our church and church hall heating system hopefully evolving to become more environmentally friendly. The time scale gives us time to raise funds, source grants, as well as research the most effective and efficient eco solutions for us. In 2025, we were successful in a grant application for £3000 towards double glazing more windows in the halls buildings, to help keep users warm, as well as reducing our heating costs and carbon footprint.

**Land** – The Fern Hill Management group groups at Fernhill continues to meet. Their work together includes eco-focused tasks e.g. improving composting, installing a house sparrow nesting box, wild flower areas, bird feeders. A successful Open Morning was held in June 2025

linking with Big Green Week and Shipley Open Gardens with St Peter's Photography Group beautiful nature photos on display, Forest church activities, and the local RSPB in attendance along with information from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on making your garden more wildlife friendly. Thanks to Natasha, Mike and Martin and others who have supported gardening in church grounds and we plan to ensure that we support biodiversity and the eco church land objectives there too as best we can. We still hope to install a bench in a suitable location in the church grounds to help people enjoy peace and beauty

**Community and Global Engagement** - Our regular support continues for charities that campaign and support communities affected by climate change such as Tear Fund and Christian Aid. Further St Peter's is committed to being a Fair-Trade church, and a Community Ally for Plastic Free Shipley. We encourage hall users to encourage them to think about sustainable practices in their activities on church premises. In May 2025 church members took part in a '70k in May' challenge to raise money for Christian Aid, by using active transport (walking, running, cycling, etc) to travel, individually or in group, 70 kilometres over the month of May.

**Lifestyle** –Recycling bins are placed in key locations around church. Thanks to all who use them, and to Martin and Katharine for all they do in using and ordering eco-friendly products and sorting recycling. We have installed a community book swap shelf in the halls foyer too and helpful signs in the loos to reduce excess hand towel use. Eco tips shared by the congregation and printed regularly in the newsletter encourage us all to think about small positive changes we can make.

**Looking ahead: A date for your diary** - At 7 pm on Saturday 27 June, St Peter's is hosting a viewing of a 'People's Emergency Briefing' The aim of this film is to encourage communities to come together to hear evidence about the climate emergency to consider how to respond. For more information and to view the trailer please go to <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

There are many people and groups, particularly the uniform groups, who deserve thanks for their work in helping keep the focus on God's creation in our land, buildings and aspects of our church life and worship. It may be that you are being called to become an eco rep and help guide our church's vision for how to take this important part of our church's work and witness. If so please do speak to Jackie, or Gemma, or any of the church leadership team.

**Gemma Richards and Jackie Loach, April 2026**

### **2.8.3 Fern Hill Sports and Recreation ground**

The Fern Hill Group – consisting of leads from St Peters Crown Green Bowls Club, St Peters Tennis Club, 3rd Shipley Scout Group, and the church – continues to meet 3-4 times a year to facilitate joint working over the care and development of this beautiful recreation facility for our local community. We prioritise environmental stewardship of the land and the Eco church report elsewhere highlights some of this.

The organisations reported a good 2025 season with their activities provided through the week including many for children and older age groups and significant voluntary effort all year round to look after the site. We held a successful open day in June with additional support from church members and office which was appreciated.

We had a good response to a recent club members survey highlighting the many positive benefits people feel from coming to Fern Hill –including social connection and friendships, a safe and local space, opportunity to participate in sports/outdoor activities, improvements to health and wellbeing and the opportunity to spend time outdoors /in nature. Some people valued the connection with the church, and this is something we could look to build on!

A major Tennis Club House refurbishment was led by Jason Agar with fundraising from several grants as well as member donations & labour. This entailed a new roof, windows, floor, kitchen area and redecoration- the club now have space for a table tennis table to enhance their wet weather facilities. Jason worked with several neighbours to manage large trees around the site that were presenting problems /risks– with Scouts and Bowls helping to manage the removal/reuse of wood in a great show of teamwork. Ed and Claire Wright, their family and scout D of E volunteers continued to keep the middle field under control with wildlife in mind to enable outdoor activities for uniformed groups through the summer and the hosting of the initial sessions of Forest Church was appreciated whilst it got established and identified a more ‘foresty’ home. A new fire stand has been recently installed. The Bowls Club have continued to improve their garden areas and little loo and led by Carolyn Neale have worked with Shipley Town Council and the Baildon and Northcliff Men’s Shed to raise funds, design, build and install some sheltered seating in 2026.

Our friendly Tennis and Bowls club seasons have started and welcome new members of all abilities with a variety of activities including social play, coaching, try out/ beginner's sessions, and school holiday tennis camps. 3rd Shipley scout groups will be providing many sessions of outdoor activity over the summer -and are always looking for new adult volunteers to support them. Our next Open day is on June 6th with fun activities for all ages – church support for this is valued.

Thanks are due to the Fern Hill Group and all who work so tirelessly to look after the site and provide some amazing facilities for our local community.

**Jackie Loach, April 2026**

## **2.9 Disability issues**

At the PCC away day on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Elisabeth Sture and Chris Beard were elected as disability officers. No issues were raised during the reporting period. St Peter’s has a few differently abled individuals, and it remains a priority for St Peter’s to ensure their needs are met.

## **2.10 Employment issues**

We appointed Ms Jen Titchmarsh (10hrs) and Ms Helen Clapham (20hrs) as our office administrators in March of 2025. Mr Joseph Buthee continues to be employed as the Family and Youth coordinator for 30hrs per week.

We continue to employ Mr Martin Fawley as the caretaker and Mrs Katherine Leech as cleaner. Mr Alan Armitage is employed on a sessional basis as Welcome Space Coordinator. Thanks, are due to the PCC Treasurer, Mike Moss and to the church accountants, HW Accounting, for management of salaries.

## **2.11 Finance and giving**

St Peter's continues to use the Parish Giving Scheme. The numbers of bookings for the use of our buildings continues to be high and now forms a significant component of St Peter's annual income.

We remain indebted to all those who are involved in managing the church's finances on our behalf, in particular the PCC Treasurer, Mike Moss. Our Gift Aid Secretary is Mr Mark Davies who continues to advise us on maximising the benefits of Gift Aid, which has become easier via the Parish Giving Scheme. Thanks also to Mr Jeff Parkinson, for dealing with insurance matters, and to all those who have taken responsibility for counting and banking money each week, notably Miss Elisabeth Sture.

The Parish Share position was again prominent this year, and the figures are detailed in Section 4 below. St Peter's met the requested share payment in full in 2025. We are mindful of the need to be good stewards of the resources made available to the church, through hall hire, grants, other income, and the generosity of church members so that we can meet our financial commitments.

Scrutiny of the church's finances is a prominent item month by month on PCC agendas. Further details of the finances through the year to December 2025 are given at Section 4 of this report below.

**Mike Moss, April 2026**

## Section 3: Facts and Figures

Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Number on Electoral Roll as of April 2025	123 (77 resident in Parish and 46 non resident)
Number of attenders at regular Sunday services	102 (16 years and over), 16 (children)
Number attending Messy church	26 Adults, 26 children
Number of baptisms	6
Number of confirmations	0
Number of weddings	1
Number of funerals	5
Vigils	2
Additional services held at Brookfield Nursing Home	9

## Section 4: Financial Review 2025

**Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2025**

### 4.1 Introduction

This report is provided to go alongside the Statutory Accounts, which are available upon request.

During 2025 St Peter's has continued to address the issue of slowly declining voluntary income by maximising our income from hiring out the halls. We had a church income some £24,000 higher than the previous year. We managed to pay the Diocesan Share requested in full and cleared all other debts. In many ways this was success but we do need to continue being generous

### 4.2 General

The Church's general total income for 2025 was £290,721. Expenditure was £245,839 resulting in a notional "profit" of £44,883. Our Share was set at £89,992. Missionary/Charity Giving amounted to £30,568. This was £6,252 less than the previous year.

### 4.3. Income & Special Collections

Collections and planned giving (restricted and unrestricted) stood this year at £110,486 whilst tax reclaimed through Gift Aid was £26,704. This compares to 2024 figures; £108,879 given and Gift Aid of £29,380.

Sundry donations stood at £56,229 compared to last year's figure of £27,464..

The special collections made during the year totalled £31,824 compared to £14,084 in the previous year.

#### 4.4. Expenditure

We have once again tried to keep Church running costs to a minimum. Maintenance costs were reasonably to budget in 2025. We have spent £10,579 in 2025 compared to £20,843 in 2024 on direct repairs. Thanks to the wardens and the Buildings and land group for doing their best to keep on top of expenditure whilst ensuring our premises are fit for purpose.

#### 4.5. Missions and Diocesan Share

In 2025 £16,500 was allocated from the Church's general voluntary giving income for dispersal to our mission partners. We allocated £17,200 in 2024. This money was dispersed in December to our various mission partners as requested by the priest in charge in consultation with the PCC as shown below.

Sudan	£3,500
Sri Lanka	£3,500
Sheldon's	£3,500
Zephaniah Trust	£2,500
CAP Debt Centre	£3,500

Our Share for 2025 was set at £89,882 a 5% reduction since 2024. We paid this in full.

#### 4.6. Deposit Accounts

The deposit accounts that were opened in 2008 with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund have been maintained. In general, interest rates have started to decrease this year. Despite this interest increased slightly from £2,323 in 2024 to £2,350 this year. There are 3 accounts, one for the Youth Pastor Fund, one for Mission Funds and one for all other funds, principally the Building & General (Main Account) Fund.

Currently across all its accounts the Youth Work Fund has £41,796 available at the turn of the year.

**Mike Moss, April 2026**

## Section 5: Ecumenical Relationships

### 5.1 Shipley Christians Together (SCT)

The year started with Shipley Baptist Church again hosting Inn Churches, providing accommodation, food, friendship and warmth to 12 homeless people for a week in January.

The remodelling of the Market Place meant a pause in the operation of the Bible Stall as it continued to dispense free bibles and offer prayer in all weathers. This also meant that the Walk of Witness changed from its traditional route to finish in Central Park. This annual event is always well-attended and is a true witness of our faith. We then offered a series of Lenten suppers and short reflections in various churches. Live@Costa evolved into Live@AvondaleClub as we moved to a welcoming new home and we continued to offer a varied programme, including a Christmas Carols evening, which raised funds for Christian Aid.

We had one of our busiest ever weekends in October. As a fitting contribution to the City of Culture programme, Saltaire United Reform Church hosted the Big Sing – nine hours of Bradford related music and stories. The following day we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Shipley CAP Debt Centre with a look back at the transformational work bringing many out of debt and we looked ahead to a sustainable future as we approach the end of the current funding cycle in October 2026.

In November we held the AGM Service and were pleased to welcome new trustees, including Shaun Craig from Christchurch. However, we urgently need more trustees if we are to continue our work to share the love of Jesus with the people of Shipley.

We were pleased to be part of the Christmas Lights Switch-on in the new Market Place, providing a short reflection on the true meaning of Christmas and distributing fliers with details of Christmas services taking place in the Shipley churches. As usual, the year was rounded off with our Christmas dinner for homeless, vulnerable and lonely people with well over 100 meals provided. The online newsletter, which shares good news and information, was regularly produced and circulated (available from [info@shipleychristianstogether.org.uk](mailto:info@shipleychristianstogether.org.uk)). We are extremely grateful for the prayers, support and funding from the member churches, including St Peter's, and the work of the many volunteers from the churches.

**Hugh Firman (Chair, SCT), April 2026**