2024 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Babraham, Cambridge

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Peter's has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Kathryn Waite to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Babraham. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Peter, a Grade 1 listed building and of the churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Peter's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

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

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Peter's Church.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services continued on the same basis as 2023 with a Service of Morning Worship on the first Sunday of the month and a service of Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month. Children's activities are provided during these services. Morning prayer is also said in the church on most Wednesday mornings. We are fortunate to have the help of The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, who is licensed to the parish as an Associate Priest, and of Canon John Pinder and The Reverend Gordon Harper. The Reverend Will Lyon

Tupman returned to serve as an assistant curate and was joined in July by The Reverend Ian Henderson who will be with us for three years.

At the close of 2024 there were 11 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 3 are not resident in the parish. The average attendance at church services, counted in October, was 36 adults and 6 children (although this was far higher than the usual monthly average as it included the Harvest Festival service and St Mary's Sawston was closed for the last two weeks of October). There were 9 communicants at Christmas and 10 communicants at Easter.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. There were 2 baptisms, 2 funerals but sadly no weddings last year at St Peter's.

From the autumn, a short reflective service (Wednesday@) was started on Wednesday lunchtimes, primarily aimed at the Babraham Research Campus staff. A small number of people attend, with others coming into the church on a Wednesday lunchtime to chat to the member of clergy present or simply just to sit. A Campus Carol service was also held. Work is currently being undertaken with other churches across the deanery looking to start a formal chaplaincy service across the science parks. This would build on what is already happening in Babraham. Funding is currently being sought from various sources.

Deanery Synod

No one was elected as a Deanery Synod representative at the 2024 APCM. However, the Vicar and other clergy attend Deanery synod, and in October the Vicar was elected as a member of Diocesan Synod which provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church. The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day was held at Balsham.

The Church Building and Grounds

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The St Peter's Babraham Management team met for the first time in August 2024. The aim is that members would help with different tasks to help maintain the church building and churchyard. All members of the team signed a role description and were shown the church risk assessment. The team has already made huge progress in tidying the churchyard. A very successful churchyard working party took place in October. We are grateful to the Parish Council and the Babraham Institute who also continued to help maintain the churchyard during the year.

Pastoral Care

Regular contact with all members of the Church family has been maintained by the vicar and a small team. The vicar (or one of the curates) has continued with their weekly visits to Babraham Primary School which includes taking collective worship. The Vicar is also on the Local Governing Body of the school. The school attends the church for special services including the school Carol Service and a pre-Easter 'Way of the Cross' service, both of which were also well attended by parents. Babraham Nursery visited the church once again for their Nativity and a member of the ministry team has visited the nursey during the year on several occasions to talk to the children about Christmas/Easter etc.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support a number of charities including The Children's Society.

A number of activities were held in the church including monthly Saturday afternoon teas during the summer, Easter and Harvest treasure hunts and an Art Exhibition. The Summer Concert and Strawberry teas were popular with several children from the local primary school/village playing as well as other musicians. A Punk and Indie concert took place once again in the church in September.

Financial Review - Financial Year Ended 31 December 2024

Total receipts were £11,694.55 of which £7,451.56 was from voluntary donations and a further £1,426.19 was from Gift Aid. Fundraising which included a concert, art and craft exhibition, tea and treasure trail, totalled £919.10.

Total expenditure for the year was £8,674.11 and included £80.80 on repairs.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £3,020.44. Adding the bank balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward at 31 December 2024 totalled £6,145.65.

The balance in the Barclays number two account at 31 December 2024 was £5,071.20.
Total church funds as at the 31 December 2024 was £11,216.85.

Rosemary Walker

Volunteers

We should like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and supportive community. This includes virtually all Church members, so

we cannot mention individuals, but the contribution made by everyone is much appreciated.

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the associate priest, the curates, (church wardens although none were elected) and the elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. Not all the clergy attend to ensure the number of lay members is not exceeded by members of clergy as per the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.
The PCC met seven times in 2024 with an average attendance of 78%. Due to the very small size of the church there are no subcommittees.

Administrative information

The Church of St Peter's is situated in Babraham. It is in the Deanery of Granta and the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England

All correspondence should be sent to: The New Vicarage
Church Lane
Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3JR

The PCC of St. Peter's, Babraham is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Bankers	Barclays, Leicester
Independent Examiner	Paul Whitmell
Architect	Hugh Cullum, 61b Judd St, London WC1H 9QT

PCC members who served during 2024 are:

Vicar	The Reverend Kathryn Waite (chairman)
Associate Priest	The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft
Curate	The Reverend Ian Henderson
Elected members were:	Denise Dear, Alison Morris, Mary Hunt

The PCC appointed Rosemary Walker (from APCM) as treasurer, Denise Dear as secretary, Mary Hunt as Electoral Roll Officer and Gift Aid Officer. Rosemary Walker is not a member of the PCC.

The PCC appointed Rev Kathryn Waite as Safeguarding Officer and she put in train measures to ensure compliance with the latest guidance. It is hoped that a new PSO will be appointed at the next PCC meeting. The PCC adopted a Safer Recruitment Policy and is gradually implementing this. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops 'guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Approved by the PCC on

Signed on their behalf by Kathryn Waite, chairman.

Granta Deanery Synod – Annual Report 2024–2025

Introduction
Over the past year, the Granta Deanery Synod has continued to serve as a collaborative platform for parishes within the deanery, working together in fellowship, mission, and shared resourcing. This report summarises the key discussions, developments, and decisions made at Synod meetings held on 16 July 2024, 29 October 2024, and 1 April 2025.

Meeting 1: Tuesday 16 July 2024 – St Mary's Church, Linton

Finance
A discussion was held about how to distribute the 2024 Diocesan rebate and how to use Deanery funds. Three distribution models were considered: equal share, pro rata, or needs-based. Total fund balance stood at £33,304, plus an additional £11,033 rebate. Proposals included long-term support for Youthinc and initiating science chaplaincy.
Deanery Reserves
David Brock proposed that Deanery funds (after covering the Rural Dean's expenses) be returned to parishes pro rata. A wide-ranging discussion encouraged creative use of funds to further mission and outreach. PCCs were asked to discuss and report back by 1 October.
Synod Reports
Lizzie Taylor reported on the Diocesan Synod, raising concerns about attendance and follow-up on family/youth funding. Felicity Cooke was unable to report from General Synod due to illness; future updates were expected.
Deanery Matters
A proposed "Come and Sing" event was discussed for spring 2025. Hannah Elphick was announced as the new Deanery Youth Worker, to start in September 2024.

Meeting 2: Tuesday 29 October 2024 – St Mary and St Andrew, Whittlesford

Scripture and Reflection
Members reflected in groups on Luke 10:1–17, discussing themes of mission and outreach.
Synod Reports
Written reports from Diocesan and General Synod were received and noted without further comment.
Deanery Updates
The Synod reflected on the Deanery's purpose as a unifying and mission-focused body. A Deanery celebration event was suggested but received limited support.
YouthInc
Hannah Elphick was introduced through a Q&A session. Members were encouraged to read more in the forthcoming Youthinc Newsletter.
Science Chaplaincy
Kathryn Waite presented a proposal to develop chaplaincy at Babraham and other local campuses. The approach will include a listening/support service with multi-faith sensitivity. Initial steps will focus on Babraham due to existing relationships and proximity to the church.
Finance & Reserves
2023 rebate cheques were being distributed. After considering PCC feedback, the Synod adopted Option 3: Retain £8,500 for administration and loans; use the remaining

£25,000 to support mission projects in the Deanery via grant applications. The Synod affirmed pro rata distribution as the default policy for future rebates.

Meeting 3: Tuesday 1 April 2025 – St Mary's Church, Linton

Opening and Reflection
The Archdeacon, Ven. Alex Hughes, chose Isaiah 43:1–7 for Dwelling in the Word, and members shared reflections in small groups.
Archdeacon's Introduction
Ven. Alex Hughes introduced himself and affirmed that the Church is growing overall. He responded to pre-submitted and live questions from Synod members.
Synod Reports
Reports from Diocesan Synod (8 March 2025) and General Synod (10–14 February 2025) were circulated. Safeguarding was a key topic at General Synod.
Deanery Matters
Julie Norris reported renewed interest in lay vocations post-pandemic. Synod was encouraged to promote upcoming vocation events, including the Ely vocations fair on 7 June. Plans were made for the Ascension Day service on 29 May at Balsham Church, with Revd Lydia Smith preaching.
Finance
Suzanne Darkins' report acknowledged that all Granta parishes had fully paid their ministry share for 2024. Suzanne remains available to support parishes with advice.
Vacancies
Jon Smith proposed a motion to Diocesan Synod to allow vacancy advertising upon notice of departure from incumbents. The motion passed with 21 in favour and one abstention.
Additional Updates
Synod was reminded to submit APCM results promptly. A Youthinc newsletter and fundraising request were distributed. The National Churches Trust's "House of Good Report" was shared.

Looking Ahead
Upcoming Meetings:
• Deanery Synod: 1 July and 6 November 2025
• Diocesan Synod: 18 June, 11 October 2025
• General Synod: 11–15 July (York) and 17–19 November 2025 (London)

Conclusion
The past year has seen robust engagement in discussions around finance, mission, and new initiatives such as youth work and chaplaincy. The Deanery continues to balance faithful stewardship with a desire to invest in collaborative ministry, spiritual growth, and community outreach.

Paru Oatey, Deanery Secretary