

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH



ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2025

St Peter's Church is a Registered Charity No: 1135462

The Annual Report contains informal reports from the various church groups, regarding events and activities that took place in 2025. It is to be read in conjunction with St Peter's Financial Statement and examined accounts for the year 2025.

The document is available in printed form and on St Peter's website: www.stpetersw6.org

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Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

Vicar: The Rev'd Dr Charles Clapham
Churchwardens: Simon Brooke & Fiona Hay

VICAR'S REPORT



The annual attendance figures from the national Church of England always make for interesting reading. The latest data, released in autumn 2025, showed a fourth successive year of slow growth in average all age weekly attendance of about 1.6% across the Church of England between 2023 and 2024. In London diocese, the figure for the same period was an even more impressive 7% growth.

2025 also saw the release of an even more optimistic report from the Bible Society, called *The Quiet Revival*, which argued for a significant rise in church going particularly among young adults ('Generation Z'), with the suggestion that as many as 16% of young people in the UK report attending church on a regular basis.

As always, the data needs careful interrogation. Whilst the national Church of England data does indeed show a fourth year of increase, this needs to be seen against the background of the very considerable drop in 2020 under covid. The increases of the last four years are very much about the recovery from covid, but the underlying trends are still indicative of slow decline. And the Bible Society report, after receiving much newspaper coverage and considerable interest among church leaders, was recently withdrawn by YouGov, who conducted the research, after doubt was cast on the reliability of their results.

But whilst figures for church attendance can be disappointing, interest in spirituality more generally continues to flourish. A 2025 survey on *The Changing Landscape of Faith in Britain* (from the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life) argued that the data shows not the disappearance of religion in the UK, but the diversification and personalisation of belief. More and more, people today identify as 'spiritual but not religious', with a shift away from inherited institutional structures towards what the report calls 'personalised, practice-based, and wellbeing-oriented' forms of faith.



In terms of Christianity, the report found that disagreement with church doctrine or values were often factors that caused people to leave churches; whilst what attracted them was experiential and personalised belief, often prompted by bereavement, emotional crisis, or a personal encounter with God. How the church responds to this cultural shift from religion to spirituality - moving away from a concern with doctrine and the institution, to an approach which focuses on personal experience and spirituality - will be increasingly important to our future.

At a local level, St Peter's own attendance figures for 2025 showed slight increases in the numbers attending church at Easter and Christmas compared with 2024, with average Sunday attendance remaining relatively stable. The 9 am Family Worship in particular continues to attract significant numbers of children and younger families, with a fairly steady stream of newcomers. Given the importance of attracting and retaining this demographic, we were sorry to lose our Children's Worker, Lizzie Tree, during the course of 2025 after two years at St Peter's, as she and her family relocated to Cornwall. Lizzie was a fantastic and creative force among us and we have missed her.

But we were delighted at Easter 2026 to be able to appoint Ria Moise as our new Children's Worker. Ria was educated at Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith, trained as a teacher at St Mary's University in Twickenham, and currently works part-time with BEST, who run pre- and after-school clubs in the west London area. Ria will be based at St Peter's for seven hours a week, and part of her role will be to run a Sunday School on a weekly basis during the 10.30 am Communion service, to help attract more families back to this service. We hope that Ria's appointment will shore up and develop the work we are able to do with children and families, and help us continue to build for the future.

As always, I am hugely grateful to the numerous individuals who work so hard to keep St Peter's a vibrant and lively community. Simon Brooke and Fiona Hay continue to be sources of great support and wisdom as church wardens; Magnus Grimond has been extremely helpful in his role as treasurer, aided and abetted by a wider financial team which includes Philip Back, Ruth Hawkins, Bridget Stevenson, Quentin Robey, and others; Travis Baker has continued to dazzle us with his musical talent and enthusiasm; Lucy Miller keeps us (and especially me!) in good working order with her efficient and cheerful organisational skills; and Caroline Langton has been indefatigable in driving forward building and fabric maintenance and renewal.

This is in addition to the numerous others who serve as members of the choir, stewards, readers, intercessors, members of the PCC, the Events team, flower arrangers, coffee makers, gardeners, organisers of Men's and Women's lunches, assistants in children's clubs and activities, and others too numerous to mention: you have all been amazing! I am particularly grateful to all those who stepped in to cover the sabbatical I took in early 2025 (mentioned in last year's annual report), and for the financial support offered by members of the PCC towards it. St Peter's is a wonderful church, with a kind and generous community, and I continue to be deeply grateful for the privilege of being able to serve here as Vicar.



Revd Charles Clapham, Vicar



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

It's been another busy year and, as wardens, we're very grateful to all of those who help in the services and in the running of the church. Charles and Lucy have celebrated (we hope they see it like that!) their tenth anniversaries as Vicar and Administrator respectively with us and we'd like to express again a huge thanks to them for all of their hard work and dedication.

Finance has been a major issue, as you can imagine. Although we're constantly looking for opportunities to make savings and run things more efficiently, we continue to run a significant deficit.

We've been working with Magnus, our Treasurer and Philip our bookkeeper to transfer giving to the new Parish Giving Scheme, which is intended to make it easier for churches to receive gifts by Direct Debit, credit cards, debit cards and electronic payment systems. We've also taken the opportunity of this change to encourage more people to give and to invite those who are already giving to increase their donations. There's been an encouraging response and, of course, we're very grateful to everyone who makes a financial contribution to the life of the church, whatever the amount.

We're sorry to say good-bye to Lizzie who has done a wonderful job for us as Children's Worker. Her ability to invent such a range of fun activities for the younger members of the congregation has been amazing and very much appreciated. We'll miss her greatly, but we're delighted to say that Ria Moise has been appointed to take over her important work.

As always, we owe Caroline Langton a huge debt of gratitude for all of her hard work on fabric. Worshipping in such a beautiful, unique, Grade II* listed building is a great privilege, but it brings with it great responsibility. Heating might not be the most exciting and inspiring aspect of church life – but when it doesn't work everyone notices it. The Church of England, quite understandably, is keen to ensure that all churches have the most sustainable heating systems possible. Caroline has been doing amazing work, supported by other members of the Church Development Group to refurbish the heating system in the Parish Rooms in a way that is cost effective and reliable as well as complying with the requirements of the Diocese.

It's been great to see a number of events taking place at the church, including the Quiz and Curry night, opera performances and meet-the-author evenings and we're looking forward to the Black Lion Music Festival. This is becoming something of an annual fixture in the church's calendar thanks to the brilliance of our Director of Music, Travis. He and the superb St Peter's choir greatly enhance the quality of our communal worship. Not only have these events been enjoyable in themselves but the publicity they generate creates more awareness of St Peter's and is encouraging more people to get to know our wonderful church.



Simon Brooke and Fiona Hay

FABRIC REPORT

A number of minor repairs highlighted in the 2024 Quinquennial have now been completed, mainly thanks to Follett Balch and Oliver Leigh Wood. However, some roof and lead work repairs are still outstanding as it is proving hard to get contractors to attend for these relatively minor works.

Stonework at parapet level remains a cause for concern as extreme weather conditions, both wet and dry, affect the sandstone. However, the cost of a major repair project is beyond our scope for the foreseeable future. We are committed to keeping the stonework safe with regular high-level inspections by the architect. The next one is due in early 2027.

Heating – The gas heaters in Parish Rooms continue to be a significant problem. A new, more energy efficient heating system is important for the church going forward and the Development Group have this as a priority. A detailed analysis of our gas and electricity usage was

commissioned in September from MTA Ltd. The PCC is now considering the proposal by the Development Group to install an air source heating system in the parish rooms, as part of the refurbishment.

Doors – The partition doors on the north side of Parish Room also continue to be a problem. The development of the parish rooms will solve the problem.

Virger's Plaque – Faculty was granted in April, and the plaque commemorating the life of Stephen Haude was installed and dedicated on Sunday 11th May 2025. Many thanks to members of the choir for initiating and supporting this project, and to Oliver Leigh Wood for sourcing the oak base for the plaque.

Restoration of the Organ Pipes – Over the summer Arte Conservation Ltd did a magnificent job on the front rank of pipes, restoring the original design which had been discovered under the old paint. The total cost of the job was £25,400. The core fund was £11,140, the sponsorship appeal raised £12,900 and two grants were received totalling £2,750. Restoration of the organ case is next. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored or donated.

Organ maintenance – Edward Cooke did some much needed repairs to the organ, including broken trackers and keys and music desk repair. The instrument is considered an important one (possibly one of only three of its kind in the country) and has listed status. It is therefore vital to maintain it as well as possible. We are grateful to Travis and Ed for their vigilance and advice.

Garden and gullies – The team attend every month to tidy up the garden. They also check the gullies and rainwater goods up on the roof.

Simon Brooke and Fiona Hay

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT

As reported in last year's Annual Review, a generous legacy from our late virger Steve Haude, has been designated by the PCC for building development at St Peter's - named Project 2028, to coincide with our 200 year anniversary - overseen by the church development group, as a subcommittee of the PCC. During the course of year, the group has narrowed down and investigated a number of priorities:

1. Efficient, sustainable and economic heating system and insulation in parish rooms
2. Improved and accessible lavatories
3. Replacement of flooring in chancel area to resolve health and safety issues.
4. Install new performance space in chancel area
5. New kitchen, flooring, partitioning, storage, doors for parish rooms and vestibule.



In May 2025, the church architect Andy Burrell prepared a Feasibility Study. We have been working to this, although the summer months meant rather slow responses to emails and appointments. In September 2025, MT Associates, Mechanical and Electrical Consultants, surveyed the whole building ahead of a report analysing the needs and constraints of any new heating systems. Andy Burrell was in attendance. It was a useful meeting, and we were encouraged to think that new air-source heat pumps will be sufficient to meet the needs of the parish rooms as Phase One of a wider heating project. The building's electricity supply may need to be upgraded at this stage. The group visited several churches in the Diocese which have switched to air-source heating which shed some interesting light on the matter.

Meanwhile, the gas heaters in the main body of the church are still functioning (as and when they are replaced it would be with air-source heating together with some additional heating devices to 'warm the people').

Andy Burrell inspected the ceiling void above the parish rooms to determine the structure behind it. There are, as predicted, large steel beams on steel uprights, which were installed in 1960 when the parish rooms were created. This means the form of the ceiling will need to remain as it is, although insulation will be considered.

Andy Burrell also investigated what lies beneath the wooden pew platform in the nave. It is, as predicted, an empty space suspended above the crypt structure. It was agreed to install a solid door at the entrance to the crypt to help prevent cold air circulating below the nave. Additionally, all exterior doors to the church will have draughtproofing installed.

The priorities for the project are set out above. The group feels that the first three are non-negotiable. The fourth, improving the chancel area, is important and will enhance performance possibilities for choirs and music groups, as well as weekly worship and school engagement. The parish room facilities will be improved as much as possible within the budget.

Grants for heating will be applied for. The scope of all parts of this development will be governed by the funds we have available and the realistic potential for fundraising.

In February 2026, MTA submitted the Heating Condition and Feasibility Report. It was a very thorough and well researched document. Strict new Church of England rules cover like-for-like replacement of gas heating (whether it be boilers or heaters) and Faculty must now be obtained. In order for Faculty to be granted each church must make a compelling case on financial or planning grounds why it cannot make the move to sustainable energy.

The MTA report showed clearly that the cost of our current annual gas usage almost exactly matches the projected cost of electricity in running air source heat pumps. Heat pumps are 3-4 times more efficient in extracting heat than gas systems, but electricity is around 3-4 times more expensive. The sums cancel out.

Caroline Langton

MUSIC



Amongst this year's musical achievements, top billing must go to the restoration of the organ pipes. It was an enormous project, lasting several months. In the absence of some twenty-four organ pipes, the piano was used to accompany Sunday services and rehearsals. Mr Organ (that's his name...) who oversaw the project, made huge efforts to ensure the stencilling was as close as possible to the original design. Now complete, the pipes look spectacular and provide an uplifting addition to the fabric of the church. My thanks to Caroline Langton for persevering with this project.

A new addition to the choir calendar was the Advent Carol service. I've always enjoyed Advent music, as it seems, somehow, to have an intimacy and quietness that one doesn't experience amongst the bustle and commercial noise of Christmas. So, in late November 2025 the choir prepared, and sang an Advent Carol service, during which we also thanked those who gave generously to the organ pipe restoration project.

Whilst we're on the season of Christmas, Charles and I ran a pilot children's choir, with the aim of singing one or two items at the Carol Service. The point was to gauge the level of interest for a children's choir. Approximately fifteen children sang at the Carol Service, accompanied by the adult choir, trumpet and piano - there's clearly some appetite, the issue is time. We've come up with *Pulse* - a choral workshop for families (children aged 7+), on the first Sunday of every month, 9:00 - 9:30. It's very new, so watch this space ...

The 2025 Black Lion Festival was, mostly, a success with three concerts over three days ushering healthy audiences through the doors of St Peter's. The combined forces of St Peter's Choir and The West London Chamber Choir performed Faure's *Requiem*, led by guest conductor Hilary Campbell, accompanied by the organ, and the Cirrus String Quintet. We've changed the shape of this year's Black Lion Festival to meet, further, its original aim: reaching out to the community with something for everyone.

We continued the choral scholar programme in collaboration with the West London Free School. Scholars Aimee and Noah sang every other week, from September to early April, with one slight alteration - they attended choir rehearsal on the first Thursday of every month. This arrangement proved beneficial to both the choir, and the scholars.

My thanks to our committed choir who, week on week, voluntarily give their time and voices to our worship. To Eleri & Tom, for all they do both behind, and away from the choir stalls. To Lucy, for all her administrative support and guidance. My enormous thanks to Charles, who continues to support and encourage my work at St Peter's.

Travis Baker, Director of Music

EVENTS COMMITTEE



We always try to hold events to cater for all age groups during the course of the year so in February we trialled a Family Film Session where a film suitable for all ages was shown in the church on a Sunday afternoon. Popcorn, cake and squash were available, and a good time was had by all! We intend to hold more of these events during the winter months.

In May, some members of the Events Committee once again served tea and cakes during the Leigh Woods' Open Garden afternoon. The weather is always kind to us, the garden is glorious and the Leigh Woods generously give the proceeds from the teas to the church.

On a fine evening, a week later, we held a Cocktail Party in the Vicarage garden. This was attended by about forty people who enjoyed a variety of cocktails and delicious canapes throughout the evening. Our thanks to Charles and Jane for allowing us the use of their garden again – a perfect party venue!

The St Peter's Day Lunch and Teddy Bears' Picnic at the end of June, this year actually on the feast of St Peter, is always a very popular event. The weather has yet to be unkind to us and families, friends and people of all ages congregate and enjoy a feast of wonderful food from the buffet and barbecue while the younger children enjoy crafts, facepainting, games and a picnic lunch, rounding off with the Teddy Bears' Parade.

This year we also trialled a 'Last Night of the Proms' where people were invited to the church to join in with the broadcasted Last Night of the Proms. There was a cash bar, and we served a supper of finger food as people waved flags, blew hooters and sang their hearts out along with the audience in the Albert Hall. It was great fun and we will do it again this year if there is enough interest.

Harvest Supper is many people's favourite event in the church year and at the end of September around fifty people gathered in the body of the church to share good food and conversation, make new friends and renew old friendships. It is a very special evening and a time to give thanks for what we are lucky enough to have.

We on the Events Committee look forward to giving you all another year of interesting events and we would greatly welcome any offers of help from anyone who feels they have time and energy to give us! Please make yourselves



known to either Charles or me if you would like to join us! My unending thanks as ever to the wonderful Events team – Simon Crutchley, Caroline Downer, Marie Pierre Moine, Jane Pilling, Lucinda Pride, Clemmie Reed, Bridget Stevenson, Jennifer Usher, Emily Weston-Price, and Joanna Woods who give so generously of their time and commitment.

Caroline Illingworth



TALKBACK


Talkback usually meets on the first Monday of every month at 55 Ashfield Road. We have a cup of tea and a chat for around 30 minutes and then start around 8.30. Someone leads the session and this past year we have discussed topics such as anger, terrorism, different passages in the bibles, to name a few of the sessions. We talk about the topic, how relevant our faith is to the topic and look at relevant bible verses to the topic. This lasts for around an hour. It is a time of thought, discussion and reflection on our world and our lives today. We end the session with prayer.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this, please contact Vicky Lambert on 07718 588454 or email lambertvicky55@gmail.com. To be able to spend an hour out of our hectic and busy lives thinking about different aspects of life and our faith is very special. Please do come and join us.

Talkback Team

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synods, hosted by different parishes across the Deanery, aim to provide an opportunity that encourages the widest possible representation from the twenty parishes that comprise Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery. The focus of each Synod is a carefully selected topic presented by an often high profile speaker who is always very happy to take questions after the presentation. For example, the speakers and topics since the last APCM have been:

- **The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Emma Ineson** on the importance of the deaneries and parishes of the Kensington Area to the mission of the Church of England in this part of London.
 - It is easy for parishes in a city to focus on their own style and their own concerns rather than to actively reach out across the Deanery in the spirit of generosity to explore and share what others are doing.
 - Communication is essential – the Deanery Synod is a forum for community and diversity was a strength to be celebrated.
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- **The Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven. Richard Frank** on ‘What has the Diocese ever done for us?’
 - Summarised as: 1. Encouragement, 2. Learning, 3. Advice, 4. Support.
 - No one is ever on their own within the Diocese.
 - However lonely we feel we are entitled to ask questions and for help.
 - **Revd Dr Richard Moy, National Director of SOMA UK** on ‘The local Church in wider mission’.
 - SOMA is an Anglican mission agency committed to renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit - ‘SOMA’ means body in Greek
 - He is trained and works in deliverance ministry and focused his discourse on combatting ‘the enemy’.
 - He asked everyone where there might be evidence in their own parishes and church communities and how they were recognising and dealing with it.
 - **Revd Dr Sam Rylands** Youth Ministry in Communion (YMIC)
 - A pioneering and collaborative youth project within the Church of England.
 - To test ideas and evaluate an effective working model for youth ministry where there is a severe lack of existing youth provision.
 - The aim is to help young people (aged 11-18) encounter the Christian faith

Before the meeting starts there is an opportunity, over refreshments, for attendees to get to know each other and discover just how similar are the many facets of the sometimes apparently daunting challenges and opportunities that they all face. A problem shared?

Picking up on Bishop Emma's theme, the Area Dean, Denis Adide has created a Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery WhatsApp Group. There are multiple subgroups for the varied interests and opportunities to propose additional sub-groups to improve communication, engagement and support between Deanery Parishes which will enable much greater engagement with and knowledge of what is going on.

A date for your diary. The next Deanery Synod is on Tuesday 16th June at St Katherine's Church, Westway. W12 0SD More details to follow nearer the time. I look forward to seeing you there. Any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Michael Illingworth, Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery Finance Officer

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Sunday Suppers serves people who are homeless or experiencing food poverty with a nutritious free hot meal every Sunday evening from mid-October to the end of May at Rivercourt Methodist Church in King Street, W6. Founded as a project in 2023, Sunday Suppers became a registered charity in November 2024 (no 1210994). We have seven trustees.



We are enormously grateful for the financial and other support we receive from St Peter's, and are indebted to our enthusiastic volunteers, including the student volunteers from Latymer Upper School.

We work in partnership with City Harvest London, from whom we obtain much of the food we need free of charge. We are also grateful to LBH&F, who gave us a grant as part of their 'Warm Welcomes' initiative, and the generous private individuals who have given us financial donations and gifts of good quality clothing for our guests. This year we have also enjoyed the support of St Peter's C.E. primary school, whose pupils organized a harvest food collection for us.

We regularly feed between 75 and 80 guests every Sunday evening. Guests often travel several miles to come to us as there is no free food provision open in their area on Sundays, and they will otherwise have nothing to eat. If you are interested in volunteering or otherwise supporting Sunday Suppers, please contact Vicky on sunday-suppers@outlook.com.

Victoria (Russell) Lawrence, co-founder and manager of Sunday Suppers

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Peter's Church of England School is a highly over-subscribed single-form entry state primary school, rated in 2023 as outstanding by Ofsted.

Links between the church and the school are strong. As Vicar, I lead collective worship on a weekly basis in school, and the whole school comes across to the church for worship twice a term; I also contribute to occasional RE lessons, and currently serve as Chair of Governors.

Much of our focus in 2025 was in preparing for SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This is a church inspection process, akin to Ofsted, but with a focus on the Christian vision and character of the school, looking at the quality of RE provision, collective worship, and spiritual development.

The actual inspection occurred in early 2026, and recognised St Peter's as a school that is "living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish."

The report affirmed that the school's Christian vision – rooted in the words from Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others" – is not simply a statement, but a lived reality across the school. The report stated that St Peter's is 'a highly inclusive and caring school... with a rich, broad and aspirational curriculum... highly effective teaching and learning... and a relentless commitment to giving pupils opportunities to let their light shine'

The inspection identified a number of strengths, noting that:

- "Through their relentless commitment to giving pupils opportunities to let their light shine, leaders have ensured that the Christian vision is fully embedded across the school... This enables pupils and staff to flourish."
- "The rich and broad curriculum, rooted in the vision, is aspirational" and offers "a wealth of exciting opportunities to develop pupil confidence."
- "A highly inclusive and caring school culture supports and nurtures the development of pupils and adults so that they can shine."
- Partnerships with families, the local church and the diocese are "highly valued and are an expression of the school's vision."
- "Religious education (RE) has a very high profile within the school... pupils make very good progress."





We are especially proud that the process of inspection recognised not only outcomes, but the thoughtful, strategic decisions behind them; the care for staff wellbeing; the strong relationships within our community; and the way pupils are nurtured, encouraged and inspired to flourish academically, spiritually and personally.

As always, we are hugely grateful to the headteacher Karen Frazer, the hardworking and dedicated staff team, our supportive parents, and to the school governors, including those from St Peter's Church, who have given so much of their time and energy to oversee the work of the school.

I also want to express my particular thanks to Vicky Lawrence, who stepped down from the Governing Body at the end of the summer term in 2025, after many years of dedicated service, including serving as a highly able Chair of Governors. We are deeply indebted to her; she is a hard act to follow.

Revd Charles Clapham, Chair of Governors

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE CHARITY COMMISSION AND THE DIOCESE OF LONDON:

INTRODUCTION

St Peter's is part of the Church of England, following a central, inclusive, Anglican tradition. It is a parish church in the Diocese of London. The church was built in 1827-1829, the architect being Edward Lapidge, and it complements the Regency houses in St Peter's Square and Black Lion Lane. The parish is bordered by the River Thames on the south side, Goldhawk Road on the western and northern sides and parts of Ravenscourt Road and Furnival Gardens on the eastern side. The parish is bisected by the A4 Great West Road which runs beside the church garden.

The Annual Review sets out the mission and objectives of St Peter's and describes our activities during 2025.

MISSION

St Peter's Church in Hammersmith strives to be a generous, inclusive, all-age Christian community, serving all in the local area.

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank PLC
22 King's Mall, London W6 0QD

TREASURER

Magnus Grimond

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Quentin Robey

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ('PCC')

The PCC works with the Vicar in promoting our mission. It shares the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical work of the church. The PCC is responsible for the administration of the church property, the setting of an annual budget and the raising of funds to carry out the mission and to maintain and preserve the fabric. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, number 1135462.

The PCC comprises the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Deanery Synod Representatives, and members who are elected at an Annual Parochial Church Meeting to serve for a period of three years. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The following served during 2025:

The Vicar: The Revd Dr Charles Clapham

Churchwardens: Simon Brooke (first elected Warden at the APCM 2022)
Fiona Hay (first elected Warden at the APCM 2024)

Treasurer:
Magnus Grimond (elected to PCC APCM 2024)

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Marie-Pierre Moine (re-elected APCM 2023)
Mike Illingworth (elected APCM 2025)

Elected members of PCC:

Zoe Fletcher (re-elected APCM 2023)
Clare Berry (re-elected APCM 2023)
Henry Barda (re-elected APCM 2023)
Miles McInnes (re-elected APCM 2023)
Jonty Graham (re-elected APCM 2023)
Jemma Daffarn (re-elected APCM 2025)
Eloise Illingworth (elected APCM 2023)
Alison Du Cane (elected APCM 2024)
Caroline Langton (Co-opted in as Fabric Director May 2024)
Francesco Iberg (elected APCM 2025)
Paul Brett (elected APCM 2025)
Rory Breen (elected APCM 2025)

Marion Ashworth and Tony Matthews stepped down in 2025 after 2 terms on the PCC; we thank them enormously for their contributions!

The Events committee is responsible to the PCC. The PCC also receives reports from those who are responsible for fabric, children's work, safeguarding, and from the church development group.

The PCC met on five (as Charles was on sabbatical) occasions in 2025. Meetings were usually held via Zoom. The APCM was held in May. In addition to discussing administrative and financial matters, the PCC discussed many issues over the year, including:

- Finances/Stewardship Campaign and Parish Giving Scheme
- Organ restoration
- Steve Haude Memorial Plaque
- Common fund
- Church Development Project – notably heating
- Reappointment to the role of Children's Worker
- Safeguarding also remained a standing item on the PCC agenda

Minutes from the PCC Meetings are available from the Parish Office.

Electoral Roll

Helen Kelly reported at the 2025 APCM that the electoral roll stood at 153. This was down from the previous year's total of 214 as the electoral role was cleared and renewed in 2025 in accordance with Church of England's Church Representation Rules (a process that occurs every six years). Many thanks to Helen for continuing in this role.

Church Attendance

As reported to the Diocesan Statistics for Mission, St Peter's Usual Sunday Attendance (counting those who attended any of our Sunday services but excluding those attending solely for separate baptism services) for 2025 was 150 adults and 65 children. Attendance at Easter 2025 was 328 (including children). Numbers attending over the Christmas period were 320 at the Carol Service, 210 at Christingle, 700 over two school Christmas services, 340 at Crib Service, 120 at Midnight Mass, and 250 on Christmas morning. On-line viewing average number of views for a 10.30 Communion Service was between 20-30 in 2024. There were 12 baptisms, 11 confirmations at St Peter's during 2025. The church was used for 1 wedding, 1 blessing and 3 funerals / memorial services during the year.

Safeguarding

In accordance with the House of Bishops' Policy Statements Promoting a Safer Church (2017) and Protecting All God's Children (2010), and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Diocese (2018), St Peter's Parochial Church Council has committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We are grateful to Holly Albutt who served as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, working with the vicar to review safeguarding compliance, with the assistance of the Safeguarding Dashboard provided by the Diocese of London. Holly stepped down half-way through 2025, and was replaced by Marie-Pierre Moine. DBS checks are overseen by Lucy Miller. Safeguarding has been a regular item on the PCC agenda through the year. The church operates in accordance with the Diocesan policy and good practice guidelines in terms of safeguarding.

FINANCE

The main theme of our finances last year was sadly familiar: income down and costs stubbornly high. With our deficit climbing to unsustainable levels, the PCC reluctantly took the decision to cut our contribution to the Common Fund. This is a fund administered by the Church of England to pay for its activities, including vicars' salaries and the upkeep of their housing. It is our biggest single expense as a parish.

The recommended contribution for 2026 was just shy of £100,000 but, with our financial forecast pointing towards a deficit of more than £30,000 for the year, we felt that we could not afford to pay the full amount. The PCC decided that it would make sense to cut our contribution by 30%, which should bring our income and expenditure back into balance in the current year.

As will be seen from the accounts, we ended last year with a loss just short of £40,000, which is substantially up on our deficit of nearly £18,500 in 2024. The main cause was a fall in our income. Stripping out donations to the organ restoration project, our normal day-to-day income was down by about 5% during the year.

This continued trend has focused our minds. The mainstay of our income continues to be regular giving by the congregation. This fell by around 4% to below £70,000 last year. For context, in 2019, just before Covid struck, we enjoyed an annual income of comfortably more than £100,000 from planned giving activities. To reverse this trend, Charles has been spearheading a drive to improve our regular giving. We have also joined the Church's central Parish Giving Scheme, which should help streamline both our regular fundraising and our collection of tax refunds through the Government's Gift Aid scheme.

Other areas where the wind was against us in 2025 included the interest earned on our cash balances at Nat West. This was about £4,500 less than in 2024 as general interest rates continued to fall. In addition, income from our fundraising events fell by about £4,000 compared to the previous year.

On the expenditure side, costs were lower but, unfortunately, not as much as our income. Staff salaries rose slightly, as our musical director was on the payroll for his first full year, although this was partially offset by the departure of our children's worker in the summer.

Our balance sheet assets consist mainly of the cash received from some very generous legacies in recent years. However, our deficit in 2025 has taken its toll, with the bank balance falling from £407,000 to £378,000 over the course of the year. Most of this money is earmarked for the refurbishment of the nave and parish rooms. When these plans come to fruition we will need to be prepared to live with a much lower financial cushion. It is therefore essential that we raise our annual income to a level that matches our ambitions.

Magnus Grimond

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain general (unrestricted) reserves of about £50,000, which equates to approximately three months unrestricted expenditure. We will endeavour to rebuild our financial resources to a level where we can maintain unrestricted reserves of £100,000.

The PCC annually assesses the major financial risks affecting St Peter's Church and makes plans accordingly.

Simon Brooke and Fiona Hay, Churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC, May 2026

The financial report was approved by the PCC on 27th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



(Revd Dr) Charles Clapham
Vicar, St Peter's Hammersmith