

The Parish of Yeovilton with Podimore

At the Heart of the Village



**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended
31st December 2025

Rector:

Revd. Bruce Faulkner

Bankers: Nat West, Yeovil

Independent Examiner:

Helen Petherbridge

HAP Accountancy, 15 Church Street, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8LN

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parochial Church Council of Yeovilton with Podimore

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

The aims of St Peter's church council

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Bruce Faulkner, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building of St Peter's, Podimore.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular:

- Worship and prayer.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Ensuring that the church building is both an accessible and welcoming environment.

2025 – The Rector's reflections!

St Peter's remains at the '*heart*' of the parish of Yeovilton with Podimore, even if it sits on one side of the area.

In many, many ways it is because of the hearts of Podimore villagers that St Peter's PCC is able to offer space for quiet prayer and reflection, opportunities to gather in worship at festival time, and have concern to see how they might help the community gather together socially through the year.

The volunteers who keep the churchyard in an amazing state through the year – 'no mow May' has seen a vista of wild flower colours and cut pathways enabling both the bees and flowers to flourish. The coffee mornings as a village social are well received; thank you to those who open their homes for these gatherings. The harvest supper was a good occasion again this past year.

The good neighbourliness of the community is to be celebrated also. Whether there is need through ill health, or something broken, or cursed flooding, someone always has the skill, the smile, the helping hand and this is worth celebration.

The PCC especially celebrate all who help with church fundraising (we have bills to pay like each and all), cleaning, flower arranging, our Harvest collection for the Lord's Larder foodbank, the shoe box appeal which again this year joined with folks from Ilchester, Limington, and welcomed the church and school at Chilthorne Domer, to help us send a Christmas gift box to adults and children displaced by war in Ukraine (168!). Our regular givers (you can set up a direct debit – just ask the Treasurer Sue Bennett) keep us financially afloat – thank you!

As well as our regular services, we look to serve and care for our community as they 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 and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Whilst we celebrate many people and things we do face challenges; some welcome, others not. A welcome challenge for the PCC continues to be the greater use of the church nave for community

meetings. Through 2025 the PCC have taken the first steps with looking to replace the failing 30+ year old night storage heaters. We have had visits and advice from the listed buildings and energy advisor and researched the forms of heating that would give flexibility of use, be applicable to the 'health' of the building, and not cost a fortune to buy and have installed (architect's fees and VAT and all that). 2026 will see this 'heating project' move forward – watch out for the communication on it all on the Podimore and Yeovilton village Facebook group pages.

Another challenge of 2025 has been the wait for the legal people in London to progress the scheme through which we will formally join with the parishes of Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh and, along with our present sister parishes of Limington, Ilchester and Northover become the 'Ivelmeads Benefice' (Ivel for the river which flows through the parishes, and Meads reminds us of all the meadows). There have been opportunities to get to know each other and the challenge to share a Rector across more parishes than now is bringing changes for everyone!

Safeguarding

“Safeguarding is a Christian imperative and a responsibility that we all must undertake with thoughtfulness, commitment and care. The gospel affirms that every person is made in the image of God and that everybody is therefore valued and loved by God”

No concerns of safeguarding were reported in 2025

The Parish is registered on the Diocesan Dashboard (for easy record keeping). The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy, appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and implemented the national Safer Recruitment Policy. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each PCC meeting.

'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' level safeguarding training remain in place to ensure we are a safe environment for folks to come and worship in. The Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Rector also need the 'Leadership' level training, and it remains advisory for all Church Wardens to conduct this level of training too. New training for raising awareness of Domestic Abuse is available for PCC members. All Wardens, the PSO, Pastoral Visitors and the Rector also have to be DBS cleared. All Safeguarding training and DBS are valid for 3 years. All information is displayed in the church about how to contact the PSO.

Thank you once again to Sarah Coleman who offers her time as Safeguarding Officer for the parish.

Ivelchester Deanery Synod Report

Ever wondered what a Deanery is all about and why the details of its meetings feature here in the Parish annual report.

Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese, within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean; Ivelchester Deanery is known to have been in existence since 1242!

Each deanery is governed by a Deanery Synod. The deanery synod is a statutory body, yes as it sounds they are set up and enabled by Parliament (The CofE is Parliament's church for the nation) and operate through the Synodical Government Measure 1969. Deanery Synods have a significant role in the synodical system. They are located between PCCs at parish level, and the higher the synodical levels of Diocesan Synod and The General Synod. The task of the deanery synod, as set out in the Measure is as follows:

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England, to make provision for such matters locally, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;

- to bring together the views of parishes on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church;
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod;
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.

Each parish is able, every 3 years to elect a number of representatives to sit on Deanery Synod and can find themselves to consider and vote on matters of national importance. Yeovilton with Podimore is able to return 1 representative.

Ivelchester Deanery Synod met 3 times in the 2025; February, July and October.

Tuesday 18th February, 2025,

We began the year looking at Shared Local Ministry through a presentation by the Area Dean looking at, and learning from creative approaches being applied across the Church of England, and the wider Anglican church and other denominations across the world on this form of 'being church' in our local community.

Members worked in groups to looking at the statistical reality of the parishes we live in and how it might be we look at being church differently in different locations; whilst we are all the Anglican church how we engage in our worship and service of the community will differ by dint of the people we live amongst.

Discussion followed around this on creative ways we might engage with families, singles, working and retired peoples. The challenge is always to 'know the land', but seek to view it with God's eyes, being intentional in our love of neighbour but without assuming anything.

A practical guide, "*Learning from other's creative thinking and planning for rural multi-parish ministry and mission*" was left with synod members to take on for use in their benefices/parishes as they might wish.

Wednesday 16th July, 2025, 7.30pm

Yesterday, today and tomorrow – Lament, Anxiety and Hope in our worshipping communities. This was led by Susan Laycock (Lay Dean). This was a very good time of discussion about, post Covid, thinking on the things we *lament* in our changed churches and communities, on what is making our churches *anxious*, and what we are also *hope filled* about the future.

There were several sheets of flip chart paper filled with reflection from folks on:

- What has caused lament or anxiety in the past in your church?
- What is causing your church to rejoice?
- What gives you hope for the future?

All of the reflections were gathered up and compiled, fed back and assisted Synod at the first meeting of 2026 in looking further to matters of prayer for one another and our communities through 2026. It also enabled the revision work of the Deanery Plan by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, with the aim of having a plan developed locally that together we can engage with and support one another in our local service of the gospel.

Thursday 16th October, 2025, 7.30pm

'Listening to the silent member of your worshipping community' – and evening with Mark Lidster, the Diocesan Church Buildings Advisor.

Mark gave a very interesting and informative talk which raised a number of questions. Here are some of the salient points ...

- Our church building is the silent member of our community. It is there for people when they need it but it needs to serve its purpose. How many people in the broader community actually use it?
- The mathematical proportions make each church unique. The design of each church is based around the 'golden proportions'. Everything is based around circles, possibly 3,5 or 7. There is a big spiritual impact of decorations in our churches. Everything has a meaning, created by medieval workmen. Research around the history of our church buildings can encourage members of the community back into our churches. Mark can help you find out more about your own church.
- It is widely thought that we would spend more time in church if it was warmer. Where did this thinking come from? Early civilisations used open hearths but it was the Romans who expedited heating in public places by blowing warm air through. Most 'modern' heating systems are from the twentieth century although often referred to as Victorian and it was during this period that many of our churches were initially heated. However, heating systems have caused much destruction to the fabric of our churches. We have gone away from dressing warmly to go to church (domestic expectation). When central heating appeared, clothing changed and moved away from the warmth that wool offered. *Perhaps we should be asking 'are we expecting too much of this building to heat it?'*
- The cost of heating our, often large, churches infrequently causes problems. Warm air will process more moisture than cold air. Dry air will give the impression of warmth but the building needs to be well ventilated to avoid water remaining in the air and condensation forming. *The building should be ventilated (ie doors left open) for 3 or 4 times the length of time the heating was on.* Trying to retain heat is virtually impossible. *It is ok to have conversations about why we need to be warm.*
- Church repairs should be done with lime mortar. We need to allow a 'managed decline' of stonework where possible. Even if previous repairs were wrong (eg the use of concrete) they should be left alone if they aren't causing a problem.
- There is a challenge to dwelling in our church buildings.
We should ask 'how can we be enabled to be what our purpose is?'
How did the building used to be used?
Is it about making a community space to help community thrive?
What has been the impact of church and faith in our communities?

Pastoral care in the Parish

As a church community we seek to minister God's love to those across the parish when we are aware of needs, visiting, shopping, and taking care.

Mission and Evangelism

The church is called to mission, to take the good news and the love of God in Christ to the entire world.

This year, the Harvest Festival once more saw the church donate an amount of produce to the local food bank, 'The Lord's Larder' in Yeovil. Also the Christmas shoe box appeal saw folks contribute to the amazing 168 shoe boxes collected, with contributions from Ilchester Community Primary School, and dispatched to Eastern Europe, to Ukraine, in time to bring some cheer for Christmas.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the community it is. In particular, we want to mention our churchwarden Ellen Le Brun. Thank you also to Sue Bennett the PCC's Treasurer for an admirable job of budget forecasting and watching the pennies through the year. Also, the many people who have helped keep the churchyard in fantastic order. With them thanks are due to the flower team and the cleaners – thank you to all! Thank you also for all the fundraisers and coffee morning givers!

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 PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). At St Peter's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 4 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Administrative information

St Peter's Church is situated in Church Street, Podimore. It is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. PCC members who have served from the annual meeting in 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members: The Reverend Bruce Faulkner (Chair and PCC Secretary),

Elected members: Ellen Le Brun (representative on Deanery Synod), Sue Bennett (Treasurer), Julie Evans, Hilary Waters

Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Coleman

Yeovilton with Podimore PCC

Financial review and Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

Financial review 2024

Total receipts were £13,060 an increase from 2024 of £3,577 (due to the Osborne Legacy grant for church repairs and an increase in regular givers – thank you to you!). Parish share for 2025 was £6,948 an increase on 2024 of £1,831, and all had been paid to the DBF as of 31st December 2025 (increases in national Insurance and overall costs of supporting clergy ministry saw the rise. This will continue for 3 years until the full increases are brought through the system; the transition period is being met by Bath and Wells liquidating assets to offset the £1m year over all deficit between collections and ministry costs)

Insurance costs for the church building increased by £50 but electricity costs, thanks to the mild winter were reduced!

Fundraising through village events and the coffee mornings generated an amazing £2,020 for the PCC – THANKYOU everyone!

Reserves policy

The balance of the free reserves at the yearend was £38,285 (up from £35,625 in 2024) which has been a blessing as the PCC have begun the work of replacing the 30 - year old, failing, night storage heaters. It is aimed to install a system that will enable the church building to be used any time of the day and provide the necessary cheap heating. It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Thank you Sue Bennett for your tireless work as our treasurer!

St Peter's, Yeovilton with Podimore: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

St Peter's Church Yeovilton w Podimore							
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025							
Receipts & Payments Accounts							
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Fund Type: U = Unrestricted D = Designated R = Restricted							
			U	D			
			General	Fabric			
		Note	Fund	Fund			
					2025	2024	
Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving			3890		3890	2380	
Collections at services			2055		2055	1963	
Other donations			160		160	317	
Tax recovered gift aid			1427		1427	1095	
Osborne Trust legacy		1	0	1672	1672	0	
Legacy			0	0	0	0	
Fund raising			2020		2020	2045	
Interest		2	1119		1119	1238	
Parochial fees income			717		717	0	
Other church income			0		0	30	
LPOW grant			0		0	415	
Total Receipts			11388	£1,672	£13,060	£9483	

St Peter's Church Yeovilton w Podimore						
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025						
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			U	D		
		Note	General Fund	Fabric Fund		
	Payments				2025	2024
	Fund raising costs		0	0	0	0
	Donations, mission giving	3	93	0	93	90
	Parish share		6948	0	6948	5117
	Clergy expenses		518	0	518	500
	Subscriptions		0	0	0	25
	Insurance		653	0	653	603
	Minor repairs		0	0	0	0
	Running Costs (Extinguisher service)		115	0	115	77
	Independent examiner fee		72	0	72	72
	Heating and lighting		788	0	788	1077
	Fabric works		0	0	0	0
	Other payments	4	450	0	450	0
	Total Payments		£9,637	£0	9637	7561
	excess (deficit) over income		£1,751	£1,672	£3,423	

Balances b/f at 1st January 2025		£33,874.18	£988	£34,862
Excess/(deficit)		£1,751	£1,672	£3,423
Balances c/f at 31st december 2025		£35,625.18	£2,660	£38,285

St Peter's Church Yeovilton w Podimore						
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025						
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			U	D		
			General Fund	Fabric Fund		
	Statement of Assets & Liabilities				2025	
	at 31st December 2024					
	Monetary Assets					
	Cash		0	0	0	
	Nat West Bank		£16,499	1672	£18,171	
	CBF Deposit Fund		£20,114	0	£20,114	
			£36,613.00	£1,672	£38,285	
	Notes:					
	The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis					
	1. 2024 and 2025 income received in 2025 and both amounts applied to the Fabric Fund as expected					
	2. Interest credited to both Nat West account and CBF deposit account (a drop from 2025)					
	3. RBL collection at Remembrance Service					
	4. Including Refurbished laptop and up to date software for Treasurer use.					