



St MICHAEL & ALL
ANGELS CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 2025

PERSONNEL 1 JANUARY- 31 DECEMBER 2025

Clergy

The Revd Dr Jen Brown (Rector) (Appointed October 2025)
The Revd Paul Smith (Vicar) (Retired October 2025)
The Revd Dr Andrew K M Adam (House for Duty Associate Priest)
The Revd Dr Jen Brown (Associate Priest) (until October 2025)

Authorized Preacher

Beryl Clements

Churchwardens

Joyce Kelly (elected 2019)
Louise Heffernan (elected 2021)

Deanery Synod Representatives

Sue Scott (from 2017, re-elected 2024) (from 2021, also on **Diocesan Synod and Bishops' Council**)
Alex Scott (re-elected from 2024), also on **Diocesan Synod**)

PCC Members

John Clare
Hilary Clare
Vacancy x1

DCC Officers

Vice Chair	John Clare
Treasurer	Jenny Metcalfe
Secretary	Glynne Butt

DCC Members

Beryl Clements (until 2027)
Maggie Davis (resigned 2025)
Laurence King (until 2028)
Nicola Ng (resigned February 2025)
Sau Ming Ng (until 2026)
Peter Sumner (until 2026)
Douglas Aitken (until 2028)

The **Standing Committee** is composed of the Vicar (until October 2025) and Churchwardens.

The **Fabric and Energy Committee** is composed of the Churchwardens, Beryl Clements, Frank Debney, Nicola Ng, and Sau Ming Ng.

Other Officers

Stewardship Officer	Nick Hallas
Electoral Roll Officer	Keith Bowman
Pew Leaflet	David Duce
Registers	Hilary Clare
Church Safeguarding Officer	Revd PaulSmith (until June 2025) Douglas Aitken (from July 2025)
Church in Abingdon Representative	John Clare

Rector's Report

It was with great joy that I took up the post of Rector in October 2025. My induction/installation service (held at St Helen's) was a joyful event, and it was lovely to be so warmly welcomed to my new role. The autumn proved to be quite a time of transition within the ministry team, as we bid farewell to Fr Paul Smith on 9th October at his final service before retirement. This was a bittersweet event, as we were sad to say goodbye to Fr Paul, but at the same time joyfully celebrating his years in ministry and giving thanks for all he has given to the parish. At the start of November, it was my privilege to accompany Linda Hobbs to her licensing as a Lay Minister in the parish. It was wonderful to see many from the parish, including members of St Michael's, at that service to support Linda, and it has been wonderful to welcome her to the ministry team.

Services

In the period of vacancy leading up to my installation as Rector and in the vacancy following Fr Paul's retirement, the regular provision of Sunday services continued. It has been a joy to me to be able to preside and preach at St Michael's fairly regularly since taking up the post of Rector. I am grateful to Fr AKMA and our honorary assistant clergy for the time and care they have given to presiding and preaching at St Michael's on Sundays. The Thursday Mass has also continued, and I would like to express my thanks to Pauline Seaman and Rosalind Rutherford for their faithful leading of that service.

November saw the introduction of a new parish-wide service for All Souls' Day, held at St Helen's on Sunday 2nd November, and it was good to be able to welcome individuals from all our churches to that service. That was a non-eucharistic service, and an All Soul's Mass was held at St Michael's on Monday 3rd November.

The Family Mass continued to develop in 2025, and other children's services, such as Good Friday and the Christmas Crib service were well attended. Thanks are due to Carol Bowman and her team for all the work put into these services.

The carol service was a joyful event with beautiful music. The DCC has noted that there may have opportunities missed to promote this service within the community, and these will be pursued in 2026.

Outreach

The summer cream teas continue to draw people in and provide an opportunity to welcome people into the church and provide a warm and friendly welcome.

Finally

As we go forward into 2026, I am grateful to the wardens and DCC for their support and hard work, to our parish staff, to Graham Howell, Glynne Butt, and the choir for the music that contributes so much to our services. I am also grateful to David Duce for his work week-by-week producing the altar book, and to our sacristy and serving team for all that they do, and for all who contribute to the services and hospitality at St Michael's.

The Revd Dr Jen Brown, Team Rector

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2025

Introduction:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this annual report for 2025.

In 2025 we said goodbye to our Vicar, the Revd Paul Smith, who retired in October after 15 years of faithful ministry in the parish and 25 years ministry as a priest.

To bid him farewell we had a wonderful afternoon tea with accompanying musical entertainment.

His last Eucharist at St Michael's was in October with family, friends, and the congregations of all 3 churches. It was an uplifting service with hymns and anthems chosen by Fr Paul.

As we look back on another year, we must be thankful for the faithfulness of God amidst both our times of celebration as well as challenge.

Worship and Services:

During 2025 we held our regular pattern of services with a Sung Mass on Sunday at 09.30 and a Said Mass on Thursday (although during the winter months we moved into the church room for reasons of energy economy). In addition, we celebrated certain Holy Days, such as Ash Wednesday, Dedication Festival, All Souls Day. The average attendance on Sundays is 39 and the average attendance for the midweek Mass is 10.

Lent and Easter: During Lent, each Tuesday evening there was an opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross. In Holy Week, Mass was celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday led by our Vicar. On Maundy Thursday we celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of the Feet as a Parish. On Good Friday morning Carol Bowman led a short interactive children's service which 38 adults and 18 children attended. The

children then did a variety of craft activities whilst refreshments were served. The Easter Sunday service had 45 attendees.

Christmas: Our Christmas celebrations began with our popular Crib Service led by Carol Bowman 51 adults and 21 children attended. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on Christmas Eve with an attendance of 122 plus 1 child. Many thanks to Glynne Butt and the choir for their superb contribution to this beautiful service. Christmas Morning Mass had 34 adults and 5 children in attendance.

We had 4 baptisms and 2 services of Thanksgiving in 2025. Two couples celebrated their weddings at St Michael's. Additionally, there were 3 funerals. We had 1 interment of ashes.

We are gifted with the preaching of both Beryl Clements from our own congregation, and Gwen Bevington, Licensed Lay Minister (PTO). Preaching is of a high standard, a blessing to be cherished. We are very aware of how fortunate we are in this respect.

We are incredibly grateful to our honorary clergy and to our clergy for their continued dedication and commitment to service which enables us to worship at St Michael's. Special thanks go to Revd Pauline Seaman and Revd Rosalind Rutherford for their faithful ministry in the leading of the Thursday lunchtime Said Mass.

Glynne Butt has provided a report on musical activities and the choir, but we thank her, Graham Howell (our organist), and the choir for adding their significant gifts to our worship.

Carol Bowman has provided a report on the starting of the Children's Church. We want to thank her and team of helpers in getting this initiative off the ground and hope to build on the foundations in the future.

Community:

Abingdon School held 3 services during 2025. A Leavers' service, in June, with 272 in attendance; and Lower School and Parents and Boarders' Carol Services in December with a total of 560 in attendance.

The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride was held as usual. We opened the church to meet and greet the cyclists and offered refreshments as part of our cream teas series. Two keen cyclists rode to and from Oxford to support the causes of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and St Michael's.

The Albert Parks Singers continue to use the church for their rehearsals and held two concerts during the year; both were splendid, joyful occasions.

During the year, the church was hired out to various organizations to hold concerts: The Abingdon Chorale Choir, Bella's Family Choir, and a group of musicians also recorded a CD in aid of churches in Abingdon.

The church room is used by one group on a regular basis. It has also been hired on an ad hoc basis during the year.

We have continued to support various charities throughout the year: TAB, Tariro, Abingdon Foodbank, The Porch, Homeless Oxfordshire.

Volunteers:

Jenny, our treasurer, has worked extremely hard on our accounts, and presenting a financial report in such a prompt way that DCC members are able to understand the position in advance of each DCC meeting. Her presentations have been clear, accessible, and helpful and we should like to offer her our grateful thanks for her conscientiousness and time.

One of the strong characteristics of St Michael's is the way that members of the congregation come together to help in so many ways. We should like to thank all our volunteers who contribute to keep things running smoothly. We could not manage without those who clean the church and church room; those who arrange the flowers; those who do vital odd jobs – small repairs, cleaning and repairing the linen or sorting out the heating or sound; those who make the coffee; the vergers at weddings and funerals; our side-persons; those who manage publicity on the website. Nor should we forget to express our gratitude to our fund-raising team whose efforts have improved our financial situation and brought more music and people into the church. And we should not forget our DCC whose members meet regularly for the benefit of St Michael's. We thank them for their commitment. We thank you all.

We would like to thank those who help in our worship: those who serve at the altar, our sacristans, our organists, readers and intercessors, our dedicated choir members, our bell ringers. Much work goes on behind the scenes; we must thank David Duce who prepares our service booklets for all our worship, and faithfully creates the pew leaflet each week so keeping us all informed. We are also blessed to have members of the congregation who are happy to lead worship, for instance in Silent Reflections, walking the Stations of the Cross, Advent walks.

We would like to thank the Revd Dr Jen Brown for her support during the vacancy and wish her well in the coming years in her ministry to the parish.

Finally, a big thank you to Fr Paul for his leadership, support, kindness, and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him in his retirement.

Louise Heffernan and Joyce Kelly, March 2026

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

As an extension to our ministry to children, the first session of a new Children's Church was held at Candlemas after a lengthy period of planning under the leadership of Fr Paul. It was agreed that the sessions should be limited to the Family Mass on the first Sunday of each month as a start, with the choice of increasing the frequency later.

It was always going to be a challenge to establish a viable Children's Church given the lack of young families currently attending St Michael's on a regular basis, but with the children of two families keen to be involved we hope and pray that we can build on this. There have been some Sundays when no children have turned up, due to other family commitments, but we have also had occasions when other children have joined us. Encouragingly, the children have been very enthusiastic and have clearly enjoyed participating.

We were sorry to lose Maggie Davis from the team of leaders during the year, but we still have an enthusiastic group of five sharing the preparation and teaching. Since Fr Paul's retirement we have also appreciated the involvement and support of our two church wardens at our group meetings.

Carol Bowman March 2026

ELECTORAL ROLL

2025 was one of the years in which the Church Representation Rules required the compilation of a new electoral roll from scratch, rather than just a simple updating. An up-to-date roll is necessary to enable the elections to Synods in 2027 to be as fair a representation of church membership as possible and that is why the new roll was compiled then.

The new roll for St Michael's contained 53 names on completion, which was a decrease of 14 from the figure after revision in 2024.

Keith Bowman March 2026

FABRIC AND ENERGY REPORT

Routine Maintenance was conducted as usual in 2025. The boilers were serviced, PAT testing carried out, the organ tuned, meters read, fire extinguishers and alarms maintained.

In May, the Park Keeper of Albert Park kindly came to remove the invasive, self-seeded Tree of Heaven at the West Door. Our thanks to Laurie for organising this. Also, in November our immediate neighbours in St Michael's Avenue arranged for the felling of a Leyland Cypress and another tree, both of which were shedding leaves and debris onto the roof of the church room. We are incredibly grateful to Mr and Mrs Sloane for their help in this matter.

PJD Construction improved the guttering between the south aisle and transept in September. since when we have had no further ingress of water. (£1,424.40)

In August Cord Electricals came to fit new LED lights above the South Transept and the Chancel. (£2,016.00)

On 24th December Cords replaced the two faulty lights by the South Door and porch (£192.00).

During the entirety of 2025 communications between the DAC, the fabric committee and our contractors were exchanged about the fitting of a safety light above the North Door. Eventually the plans were amended to fit DAC criteria and permission was granted in early January 2026.

Many thanks are due to Ming who single-handedly repaired the green railings outside the church room, having sourced the parts needed. Also, Ming has marked the settings on the sound system controls so that some of the gremlins we were experiencing are improved.

Energy

In October we changed our suppliers for electricity and gas to Ecotricity and Corona Gas. Parish Energy recommended this.

The committee continued to research greener options to replace our current boilers and gained information about infrared heating and moving to phase 3 electricity supply to feed those panels. There is still more research to be done and other options to explore. Many thanks to Nicola Ng for arranging visits from relevant companies.

Also, thanks are due to David Duce who continues to monitor our energy use.

Tasks yet to be completed:

- The sound system
- South Porch glass replacement
- Quinquennial Inspection due August 2026
- Noticeboards

Louise Heffernan March 2026

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The total fundraising income raised in 2025 was £13,245.68 of which £2,287.96 was given to other charities. This was almost £2,000 more than the income raised in 2024. This magnificent achievement would not have been made possible without the commitment and dedication of a wonderful team of helpers/volunteers.

In February, Wantage-based Crown Singers returned for their second concert at St Michael's, 'Jesu Meine Freude'. The choir sung sacred choral works by Bach, Brahms, and Bruckner. Despite the cold weather, there was a sizeable audience, and the concert was a great success and after expenses were paid, the proceeds were split 50:50 and St Michael's Church received £409.65.

The total raised from our summer series of Cream Teas was £3,413.46, this was up by £692.99 from last year's total of £2,720.47. This sum would not have been made possible without our team of volunteers and our 'home-grown' pianists Glynne, Catherine, and Guy-Bernard Davis who delighted everyone with their wonderful playing. Abingdon School covered the cost of printed publicity and Helen sourced excellent prizes for each of our raffles. Our bakers tirelessly slaved at the stove to provide us with a fabulous, mouth-watering array of delights. All-in-all the success of this series was measured by the efforts of a fantastic team and the loyal support of our neighbours, friends, and parishioners.

The Wantage Academy Brass with CARITAS Children's Choir Concert in July was a tremendous success with proceeds of £862 split equally between St Michael's Church, TAB, and Tariro.

In July, Harmony InSpires ladies *a Capella choir* came to St Michael's for their fourth concert, 'Summertime Harmony', a medley of 4-part harmony in a wide variety of styles from musicals, pop classics, and beautiful ballads. We were delighted by their beautiful singing and the guest appearance of 'In the Wings' men's *a Capella choir*. £951.95 was raised for church funds.

In August, the Tessera Viol Consort concert was a tremendous success. 98 people attended the concert including 3 children, and a total of £1,232.74 was raised which was split 50:50 with the church and the Consort.

In September Louise and I were cyclists again for the annual Ride 'n' Stride in support of the Oxford Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) and raised £326 which was shared equally between St Michael's and the OHCT. Thank you to everyone who generously sponsored us.

On the following day, Huw Rhys-James returned to delight us with a piano recital in the first of our Autumn Series of concerts, with repertoire by Haydn, Mozart, Liszt, and Debussy. A total of £925.90 was raised which was split equally between the church and Huw. The audience was captivated by Huw's brilliant playing.

In October 'Mighty in Power', a concert organised by Sally Mears and David Preston, raised £163.65 for church funds and £163.65 for Abingdon Passion play.

Also in October, 'Just Jane', an afternoon of readings from Jane Austen with contemporary music and refreshments, organised by Hilary and Glynne, raised a total of £709.66 for church funds. Many people expressed gratitude for the beautiful music and thoughtful readings. Well, done to everyone who took part!

In November Glynne and members of the Pavlova Wind Quintet, played the beautiful Mozart Quintet for Piano and Winds at our penultimate fundraising concert of the year. £887.52 was raised for church funds and members of the audience commented on how much they enjoyed the excellent programme and there were enquiries about dates for further Music at St Michael's concerts!

The Christmas Fair was by far the most successful one ever held at St Michaels, due in part to extensive publicity, the rigorous planning and hard work of the organisers together with the support of a strong and dedicated team of helpers. Proceeds were £3,311.13. The Abingdon handbell ringers were present again and added a festive touch to the vibrant atmosphere. The event was generously sponsored by All Seasons Landscaping and Lodge Hill Garage, and, as has been the tradition for previous Autumn/Christmas Fairs 10% of the proceeds were donated to a local charity, the chosen charity for 2025 being Emmaus Oxford.

St Michael's Church is incredibly grateful to Albert Park Singers who donated to us a portion of the proceeds of their Summer and Christmas Concerts, £483.20 and £572, respectively.

The church calendar is busy with fundraising events for 2026, so this year should prove to be another exciting year! Watch this space!

Nicola Ng March 2026

LABYRINTH INSPIRED ACTIVITIES IN 2025:

Labyrinth Retreat Day

On Saturday 10 May, 29 of us from near and far gathered for this extraordinary day led for us by Jim Bailey, who works under the auspices of the Northumbria Community. As well being a spiritual director, therapeutic art facilitator, and retired church minister, it turned out that he is also a friend of the Labyrinth Builders who designed and made our labyrinth.

Jim began by introducing the history of labyrinths and its benefits. We had the opportunity to walk the labyrinth together, as well as individually throughout the day, and at midday Jim led us in Celtic Daily Prayers. Participants brought their own lunch, but we provided drinks throughout the day. In the afternoon, there was a range of activities available from making finger gem labyrinths (of which there is one example still in the south narthex), to exploring material to help with listening, journaling, stillness, contemplation, reflection, and prayer walking on a separate cloth labyrinth. There were also stalls selling labyrinth inspired items, as we provide in church.

All in all, it was an incredibly special day that will live long in the memory of those who attended. Special thanks to Carol and Keith Bowman, Lottie and Peter Sumner and Sue Scott who helped in setting up the day before and in clearing away at the end, and to Eileen Duckett and Keith Bowman who kept the refreshments coming throughout the day.

Silent Reflections

Our monthly Silent Reflections continued to be held on the last Tuesday evening of the month from 7.30 – 8.40 pm. The sessions began in the church room where the theme was introduced. After this people were free to remain where they were or move into the church for shared silence and personal reflection, with the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. Materials were produced on a wide variety of themes this year by Rosalind Rutherford, Sue Scott, Sue Sheppy, Lottie Sumner, and Peter Sumner. These materials, as well as being available in church, were circulated by email to those on our Silent Reflections list, some 50+ people. They were also put on St Michael's website by David Duce for wider distribution. At 8.30 pm, we gathered for final prayers in the church room, after which refreshments were offered. From the eleven sessions, 95 visits were made overall by 18 individuals from various churches in and around Abingdon, and others who saw the invitation on our church noticeboard, our website, or the national labyrinth website and came in to join us. Seven of those attending this year came for the first time; one or two having found out about us through the Labyrinth Retreat Day in May.

Circle Dancing/Moving into Stillness

Elizabeth Mitchell has continued to minister to us in our monthly Moving into Stillness sessions (a beautiful combination of dancing to Taizé chants interspersed with two periods of

silence) and in addition, to take the regular sessions on the first and third Thursdays of the month. In the winter months, we have continued to use the church room, as it is less expensive to heat and we did not want to change our day of the week. There were eleven Moving into Stillness sessions in all with 92 visits made by 16 individuals, 2 of whom came for the first time this year. A central display for both sessions always includes lit candles and, at the end, the light is sent out to those in most need of it. Each year, Elizabeth runs a weekend at Launde Abbey, following this pattern of dancing and stillness. This year, six of us attended from our Abingdon group.

Advent Labyrinth Walks

The church was open on Tuesday the 2, 9 and 16 December between 11 am and 12 noon. Materials for reflection and simple activities were available for the various stages of the walk. The Advent themes this year were Watch, Walk, Wonder. Advent candles were lit in the centre of the labyrinth. Prayers were read at the different sessions by Eileen Duckett, Carol Bowman, and Sue Scott. 32 visits were made overall by 15 individuals from various church communities in Abingdon and beyond, 3 people joined us for the first time.

We remain open to receive requests that come to Carol Bowman via the national labyrinth website and through our own website, for individual and group labyrinth visits.

Sue Sheppy March 2026

MUSIC REPORT 2025

Music plays an important part in our worship. Although small in numbers, at full strength, some exceptional voices mean that our choir can offer singing of a high order, and they were proud to be invited to sing a Gibbons evensong at St. Nicholas' church to mark the restoration of the Blacknell monument.

On some other Sundays, the use of soloists has been much appreciated as in the Geoffrey Burgon *Nunc Dimittis* (with trumpet) at Candlemas and Bach's *Wachet Auf* (with viola) during Advent. We are fortunate, in addition, to have an organist of the calibre of Graham Howell, whose inventive arrangements and improvisations enliven our services. Graham shares the direction of the choir with Glynne Butt.

Our musical highlight was, once again, the Christmas Eve Carol Service. This is an occasion when we invite other musicians to swell our ranks and an invitation to sing is much sought-after! Congregation numbers were lower than some years and it is hoped that this might be addressed in future with better publicity.

The church has a fine acoustic and so is booked regularly for concerts by local choirs and by Abingdon School for carol and other services. Albert Park Singers rehearse weekly in the church, and it is the venue for their twice-yearly sell-out performances. Their generous donation of 50% of concert proceeds is always a welcome boost to our finances.

A big attraction for all such groups is our fine piano and our own concert series this year has featured a recital by Huw Rees-James and a performance of the Mozart quintet for piano and

winds with Glynne Butt as soloist. In addition, piano music has enhanced both the Cream Teas and the Christmas Fair.

Glynne Butt March 2026

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The DCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding Clergy Discipline Measure 2016(duty to have regard to the House of Bishops guidance of children and vulnerable adults) and has worked in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Safeguarding is of fundamental importance in the church. There is certainly no room for complacency – “that would never happen here” cannot be our first reaction to a situation. For our own safety, the paperwork must be in order, and the rules must be followed. This includes documentation being up to date – and the 4 years of the lifetime for a DBS clearance go very quickly. Be that as it may, we have our house in order at St Michael’s, with nothing outstanding at the time of writing.

Douglas Aitken March 2026

St Michael and All Angels' Church, Abingdon

Financial Report to the Annual Church Meeting 2026

The total assets of St Michael's Church were £2,135 lower at the end of 2025 compared to the end of 2024.

General Unrestricted Funds

There was a deficit of £2,093 on the general unrestricted funds. The General Fund relies heavily on the excellent fundraising team who arrange much enjoyed events in the church. In 2025 they brought in almost £16,000 but the costs of fundraising, predominantly the concerts, have increased. This year the Diocesan Parish Share rebate was again at 4%, the Parish Share was reduced by £613 for the last 2 months of the year due to Father Paul's retirement and the income from letting the church room has doubled. Unfortunately, despite a good stewardship appeal in 2024 pledged giving only increased by £300 in 2025. With regards to expenses the cost of gas is down. This should drop further in 2026 as a new, improved tariff began on the 1st October 2025. The largest increase in expenditure was for maintenance of the church building. There was work on the roof and some lights were replaced at a cost of over £3,000 from the general fund and £300 from the restricted funds.

Restricted Funds

There are five restricted funds. The Fabric Fund and the Roof Fund receive money from endowments but between them they only receive about £300 per year, therefore most of the expenditure on the fabric of the church must come from the General Unrestricted Funds. At the time of the work on the church fabric these funds were emptied but they had £33 in them by the end of the year.

The heating Fund has not been used all year and has no funds The Vernon Butt Fund opened in 2024 for special projects agreed to by the DCC and remains untouched.

This year the church received a legacy of £5,000. The money was given for the "enhancement of the worship and the mission of the church". This has been put in a restricted fund and is earning interest on deposit until a decision is made for its use.

Investments

The four endowment funds are held in investments, and the general fund has two different investments. These six investments are ethical funds managed by CCLA, a firm that manages investment funds for churches and charities. Unfortunately, these investments have seen a drop in value this year. This drop has been greater than the financial market in general and CCLA are reviewing their investment policy. We have been informed that dividends should rise by 5% next year. Money held on deposit is also held by CCLA in deposit accounts with very favourable interest rates.

Charitable Donations 2025

In 2025 St Michael's gave £3,755 to charities. The following donations, included in this figure do not show on the accounts: -

The Lent Appeal raised £435 that was shared between TAB and Tariro and the Harvest Appeal raised £185 for the Porch. Both of these appeals do not show in the accounts as they are collections for and on behalf of another charity.

£1,182 was given by members of the congregation directly to these charities so that Gift Aid could be collected on the money.

St Michael and All Angels' Church, Abingdon

Statement of Financial Activities 2025

	Unrestricted General Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
From Donors	37,231			37,231	40,170
Legacy		5,000		5,000	
Fundraising	15,953			15,953	13,230
Income from Investments	6,239	673		6,912	6,515
Income from church activities	5,047			5,047	7,601
Other Income incl. Grants	1,214			1,214	484
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	65,684	5,673		71,357	68,000
RESOURCES USED					
Diocesan Parish Share	34,332			34,332	35,768
Church Activities	16,013			16,013	17,936
Fundraising Expenses	3,435			3,435	1,684
Expenditure on building work	4,487	304		4,791	1,096
Charitable Donations	1,809			1,809	3,355
Gas and Electricity	7,701			7,701	7,893
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	67,777	304		68,081	67,732
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	-2,093	5,369		3,276	268
GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS	-4,550		-862	-5,412	9,093
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-6,643	5,369	-861	-2,135	9,361
Balances Brought Forward 1.1.2025	210,006	12,949	21,550	244,505	235,144
Balances Carried Forward 31.12.2025	203,363	18,318	20,689	242,370	244,505

Parish Share

The Parish Share in 2025 was £37,977 but the church only had to pay £36,417 as there was a 1% discount for paying by direct debit and a refund of £1,192 for parochial fees that were paid in 2023. A further refund of 4% i.e. £1,472 has been received. In 2026 the Parish share will be £38,331 and this will not only have the 1% reduction but also a refund for parochial fees of £1,274 resulting in an annual payment of £36,686. £308-81 will be deducted from each monthly payment during the vacancy.

Balance Sheet 31st December 2025

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Fixed Assets and Investments	173,204		20,689	193,893	200,059
Current Assets:					
Debtors	3,893			3,893	7,098
Short term deposits	25,391	15,717		41,108	34,585
Cash at bank	4,968	2,601		7,569	7,096
	207,456	18,318	20,689	246,463	248,838
LIABILITIES	4,093			4,093	4,333
TOTAL ASSETS	203,363	18,318	20,689	242,370	244,505

Summary

Considering the spend on church fabric in 2025 a deficit in the general fund of just over £2,000 is better than predicted. The fundraising events are enjoyable but hard work. The church is relying on a good team of workers whom we hope can maintain this level of commitment. The drop in the value of investments is disappointing.

The Stewardship campaign in November appeared to show a substantial response to the continuing deficit in the General Funds but this response needs to materialise. Please check that the amount that you are giving equals the amount that you promised to give. If life events have been such that you have been unable to fulfil your initial promises, then that is understandable.

Over the coming year the church will benefit from the absence of clergy costs and a reduced Parish Share. But the following year, when all these costs are back to normal, there will need to be an increase in income.

Currently 2.5% of church income is passed onto other charities at the end of the year. This was £904 in 2025. If donations do not increase then this generosity from the church, giving from its reserves, is not sustainable.

Jenny Metcalfe

