



St Peter's Church Harrogate



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2026

7.00pm

at St Peter's Church, Harrogate

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The Annual General Meeting of Parishioners

Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Minutes of last year's meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Churchwardens' Report
5. Inventory
6. Election of Churchwardens for 2026 – 2027

Minutes of last year's meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Parishioners held in St Peter's Church, Harrogate, on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Alan Garrow as Chair and 43 others.

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting, and opened with a prayer.

1. **Minutes** - The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.
2. **Matters arising** - There were no matters arising.
3. **Churchwardens' Report** – This had been published in the booklet and was accepted.
4. **Inventory** – This was available for inspection.
5. **Election of Churchwardens for the year 2025/2026** –

Both Sian Lockwood and Mike Davies have been re-elected as church wardens. Alan thanked them for all the hard work they have put in during the previous year.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Churchwardens' Report APCM May 2026

2025 was another full and fruitful year in the life of St Peter's Church, Harrogate. As in previous years, there has been much to celebrate, alongside change, reflection and the continuing challenges facing both our local community and the wider world. Throughout it all, we have seen again the faithfulness, generosity and commitment of so many people who make up the life of this church.

Our pattern of worship has continued to sustain and shape us, week by week. Alongside our regular services, we have marked key moments in the Church year with beauty and depth, including our Holy Week and Easter celebrations, with a glorious performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. Our Advent and Christmas services, including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingle services, shoppers' carols and a performance of Handel's *Messiah* once again drew large numbers of people into church, reminding us of the important place St Peter's holds in the life of the town. Our Christmas season was launched by St Peter's Players with their production of *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by John Haines, bringing together members of all ages in joyful and much-appreciated performances.

Food continues to lie at the heart of our vision to "feed hungry people", and 2025 has been a significant year in this area. In January, we saw an important moment of transition as the leadership of Breakfast Club and the mini-supermarket passed from Hannah Beck, after nearly 27 years of extraordinary service, to a new team. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Hannah for her remarkable dedication over so many years, and to those who have taken on the responsibility of leading this vital ministry into its next chapter.

This transition prompted a wider period of reflection through the "Big Conversation about Food", which engaged over 100 members of our church community. This thoughtful and honest process helped us to celebrate all that has been achieved, while also identifying opportunities for growth and development. It has already led to new ideas, new volunteers and a renewed commitment to strengthening our food ministry as a core expression of who we are.

Alongside Breakfast Club, many other food-based activities have continued to flourish, including the Market Day Café and regular Refreshment Days and Book Sales. We are extremely grateful to Catherine Medforth and her team for their tireless work in hospitality, and to Dan Brewer and his team for the hugely successful book sales which contribute so significantly to church funds. Our Harvest and Christmas gift appeals once again demonstrated the generosity of the congregation in supporting those in need within our community.

Our commitment to pastoral care remains central to our life together. The Lay Pastoral Care Team, led by Jan Edwards, was recommissioned during the year, continuing to offer invaluable spiritual, emotional and practical support to many within the congregation and beyond. We are deeply grateful for their quiet and faithful ministry. The life of the church was also marked by moments of sadness, including the funerals of many St Peter's people. The funeral of Nick Starmer in January, was a particularly powerful reminder of the compassion and community offered by St Peter's. It felt especially fitting that his service was taken by Hannah Beck who had provided such practical care and help to Nick over the years he had been with us.

The community life of the church continues to thrive. Fellowship groups such as Men's Breakfast, led by Bryn Heapy, Afternoon Fellowship led by Leigh Thompson, Evening Fellowship led by Paul Medforth and the Strollers walking group organised by Mo Atkinson, all provide opportunities for friendship, reflection and shared faith. We are also pleased to see the return of "Ladies who Lunch", thanks to Sue Heapy. Our discussion groups have continued to provide space for thoughtful engagement with faith, including the "Thinking about God" group led by Paul Gill.

Our ministry to children and young people remains a vital and growing area of church life. Sunday Club, led by Nick Bursell and his team, continues to offer a welcoming and engaging environment for children, while Sanctuary provides a valued space for our young people. The work of our toddler group and Stepping Stones, along with our involvement in Prayer Spaces in Schools, has strengthened our links with local schools and families. We are particularly grateful to those who have led and developed this work, including Fiona Weare and Sue Kirby.

We have also continued to strengthen our engagement with the wider community. Our building is increasingly used as a welcoming and flexible space for a wide range of activities, from exhibitions and community meetings to external events and even television filming. Our involvement in wider conversations about food provision across Harrogate, working alongside local organisations and North Yorkshire Council, reflects our commitment to partnership and to addressing the deeper causes of need within our community.

St Peter's also continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting other charities, both financially and through the active involvement of members of our congregation. Each year, the church gives significant support to a range of charities working locally, nationally and internationally. In addition, many individuals within the congregation are directly involved in charitable work, extending the reach of St Peter's far beyond the parish. We give particular thanks to Judith Simpson for her tireless commitment to promoting and supporting the work of Christian Aid and

Amnesty International, and to all those who champion and support charitable causes as an expression of their faith.

Care for our buildings and environment has remained an important focus. The completion of the West Wall repairs represents a significant achievement, while the ongoing refurbishment of St Mary's Chapel is helping to create a more welcoming and prayerful space. We are grateful to Richard Jackson and the Grants Group for their work in seeking funding for future projects. We also celebrate the awarding of the Eco Church Silver Award, reflecting the commitment of the Eco Group, led by Heather Swarbrick, to caring for creation and working towards greater sustainability.

Music continues to play a central role in the life of St Peter's, enriching both worship and outreach. We are deeply thankful to our Director of Music John Longstaff, the choir, Jude Williamson who leads our music group, and all our musicians for the high standard of music they provide throughout the year. We also give thanks for our bellringers, whose ministry has been such a longstanding and joyful part of our church life. In particular, we mark with gratitude the extraordinary contribution of Hannah Beck, who stepped down as Tower Master after more than 40 years in this role. Her dedication and leadership have sustained and enriched this aspect of our worship over many decades. We are pleased to welcome Michelle Anderson as she takes on this responsibility.

We give thanks for all who serve in ordained and licensed ministry at St Peter's, and for the retired clergy who continue to support our pattern of worship. We are also grateful for those in training who have joined us during the year. We want to express our particular appreciation for Chris Clayton, who has contributed so much to the life of St Peter's over recent years. His ministry, leadership and pastoral care have been deeply valued, and he is very much missed as he moves on to his new role.

We also offer our sincere thanks to all members of staff, and especially to Carole Raw in the parish office and her team, whose diligence and dedication underpin so much of the life and work of the church.

There are many, many people who contribute to the life of St Peter's, far too many to name individually. We offer our grateful thanks to all who give their time and energy in both visible and unseen ways. In particular, we thank:

- Our clergy team and lay readers
- Our Treasurer David Hipkin
- Our safeguarding officer Wendy Lewis
- Members of the PCC and Standing Committee

- Our welcome team, and especially Alyson Davies who led this important ministry with such dedication before stepping down in October
- Our pastoral care team, led by Jan Edwards
- All those involved in children's and youth work
- Those who lead and support our fellowship groups
- Our sacristans, sidespeople, readers, intercessors and duty wardens
- Our technical team
- Our bellringers and musicians
- Those who arrange flowers and care for our church building
- And all who contribute to our mission to serve the parish and wider community

We are conscious that in offering these thanks we will inevitably have omitted some names, for which we sincerely apologise.

One of the main duties of the Churchwardens is to support the incumbent. We hope that we have been able to do so during this year of both continuity and change. It remains a privilege to serve this parish and to be part of the loving and faithful community of St Peter's.

Sian Lockwood and Mike Davies

Inventory

The Inventory has been brought up to date and is available for inspection.

Sian Lockwood and Mike Davies

The Annual Parochial Council Meeting

Agenda

1. Minutes of last year's meeting
2. Matters arising
3. PCC Annual Report
4. Fabric Report
5. Safeguarding Report
6. Electoral Roll as at May 2026
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Acceptance of accounts for 2025
9. Approval of budget forecast for 2026
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner
11. Elections:
5 members of the PCC for three years, 3 members for two years
and 2 members for 1 year
3 Deanery Synod representatives for three years
12. Any other business

Minutes of last year's meeting

Meeting Minutes of the Annual Parochial Council held in St Peter's Church, Harrogate, on Tuesday 20th May 2025

Present: Revd Alan Garrow as Chair and 43 others.

The meeting opened at 7.10pm.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 were approved.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. PCC Annual Report

The PCC Report was unanimously accepted.

4. Fabric report

The Fabric Report had been published in the booklet and was unanimously accepted. The most noticeable thing that has happened has been the west end repairs. They looked more substantial than they were.

Looking ahead we've had an inspection which alerts us to significant work that needs doing over the next few years The roof is a big item. The parts of the church that look dodgy are less dodgy than they appear and the cause of some damage has been dealt with outside.

5. Electoral Roll

There are 251 parishioners on the Electoral Roll.

A copy was available for viewing.

6. Treasurer's Report

David Hipkin referred the meeting to the income and expenditure accounts for 2024 and the forecast for 2025 which are in the booklet and reported that the independent examiner had reviewed the 2024 accounts, and these were available for anyone who wanted a copy. David reported that the accounts show a deficit of £49,987 which is a swing of £107,290 from the surplus of £57,303 in 2023. This has depleted our year end reserves to £242,979. Expenses in 2024 were £14,243 less than budget, Income was 104,649 higher than predicted.

However, the budget for 2025 indicates there will be a deficit of around £120,479, as no large donations or legacies are anticipated.

Our parish share forecast is a little lower for 2025 as we're losing Chris.

There will be a focus in 2025 on increasing planned giving (in particular, encouraging more giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and on securing grant funding to finance repair and fabric projects).

In relation to expenditure/costs, many of these items are not within our direct control. One of our biggest expenditures is Gas and Electricity. Although we are still benefitting from our fixed contract for our energy, we have heard that we may be about to extend the fixed contract for Gas. Every effort is being made to reduce costs and expenditure where possible.

We have seen an increase in planned giving in the last year, so we were able to give £9,000 to the six charities we support.

Alan thanked David for all his hard work as Treasurer.

7. Acceptance of accounts for 2024

The accounts for 2024 were accepted.

8. Approval of the budget for 2025

The budget for 2025 was approved.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Holeys were unanimously re-appointed as our Independent Examiner.

10. Election of PCC members

Judith Simpson and Hilary Paxton were unanimously elected as members of the PCC for a three-year term.

11. Any Other Business

Mike Davies thanked Alan for all he does for St Peters
Alan reviewed the year with a PowerPoint presentation.

The meeting closed with prayers at 8.18pm.

PCC Annual Report

St Peter's Church Harrogate Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Aims and purposes

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also responsible for:

- ensuring legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law, in particular in the areas of safeguarding, finance, HR and data protection; and
- care for the church building so that it is best suited to the church's ministry and mission, including its meeting spaces and its use for the benefit of the community.

The PCC has also adopted its own purpose statement summarising the above, as follows:

"We are here to prayerfully discern God's calling on the body of St Peter's and to enable and support its vision. We also have responsibility for the church's finances, fabric and other legal matters."

Objectives and activities

Our Vision:

Over the course of 2025 we worked to refresh our vision and the way in which it is expressed. This process has led, ultimately, to the following statement:

Feeding hungry people at God's open, generous table.

Jesus broke down barriers and created connections between people and with God.

Our vision is to continue that work, making space at the table for all.

Alongside this statement we continue a focus on Children and Young People, Isolation and Loneliness, and the Environment.

Children and Young People

We believe that children and young people deserve our particular care and respect. We are committed to enabling them as individuals who are accepted, known and valued, are encouraged to discern and live out their vocation, and who are enabled to participate fully in worship.

Isolation and Loneliness

We recognise isolation and loneliness as one of the greatest challenges faced by many people living in Britain today. We are committed to valuing everyone, including those who commonly find themselves excluded or ignored in other contexts.

The Environment

The environment belongs to God and its care belongs to us as God's people. As Christians, we each are called to participate in environmental care, most urgently to achieve net zero carbon. Loving the earth is to worship God and serve our neighbors.

Our activities during the year were guided by our developing vision and values and we also considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Open and Generous

The church building continued to be open daily, with volunteer Welcomers available to provide a personal welcome. Breakfast Club underwent some significant changes this year. Hannah Beck, who had led and developed this ministry for more than twenty-five years, stood down at the close of 2024, along with her exceptionally committed assistant Steve Gibb. A period of change ensued, led by Chris Clayton. We continue to serve a hot breakfast every morning (except Sundays) but now no longer provide evening meals and Sunday lunches. The "mini-supermarket" continues to provide food supplies and toiletries on Thursdays.

As in 2024, the PCC agreed to donate a sum broadly equal to 5% of annual planned giving (a total of £9,000), divided between Artizan International, St Augustine's Bradford Youthworker, Netmakers, Wellspring Therapy and Training, Shine West Bowling and St Andrew's Chosica in Peru (£1,500 each).

The church continued to welcome and support people who have arrived in the UK from Ukraine and Hong Kong. Our Hong Kong members engaged in a special fundraising effort to provide new furnishings for the St Mary's Chapel. An open and generous welcome was regularly extended during Saturday Refreshment days, secondhand book stall and the Christmas Tree Festival. The church also continues to host community groups, charities and support groups in its meeting spaces.

We are a member of the Inclusive Churches Network and host a monthly Amnesty Group.

Creating Connections

Many of the activities and groups valued by the St Peter's community also continued this year, for example, Market Day Café, Afternoon Fellowship, Toddler Group, Sit and Knit, Ladies who Lunch, Men's Breakfast and Evening Fellowship. Sadly, however, Evening Fellowship decided to close after a long and distinguished history of providing a place of welcome and connection.

St Peter's ran confirmation preparation classes, Bible study, and "Being With" online discussion groups to explore Christianity, as well as the Thinking about God group and study groups in church and in homes.

Six young people and four adults were prepared for confirmation, culminating in a confirmation service led by the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham in June.

An event that created connections with members of other churches and the wider community was a well-attended series of lectures, in January 2025, delivered by ethicist and philosopher, Dr Peter Vardy. These addressed ethical topics such as a good death, just war, and artificial intelligence.

St Peter's continues to work with *Netmakers*, the Harrogate area ecumenical partnership of churches working together mission. We work together, hosting the Good Friday outreach, creating prayer spaces and supporting Youth Work in the town centre.

Members of St Peter's have engaged in local networks around the provision of food for those in need. St Peter's is a member of the Harrogate and District Chamber of Commerce. We have also developing connections with our local Synagogue and Mosque.

Worship

We aim to offer worship that is formal and informal, traditional and contemporary - giving everyone an opportunity to meet with God. In 2025, we provided three midweek and five Sunday services each week and offered online morning prayer for six days a week. The average weekly attendance (counted during October 2025) was approximately 383 people, including children (2024 - 391). This year we have also provided learning opportunities for a Ministry Intern on the Diocesan Internship Scheme.

Children and Young People

A range of groups and activities for our children and young people were available during 2025:

- Sunday Club – aimed at primary school age children, it seeks to explore the Bible in a fun and exciting way – involving both craft activities and more reflective sessions.
- Stepping Stones – an accessible and informal service for families which welcomed several new families to its community this year.
- Sanctuary – our Sunday youth group, which saw its members undertake a range of trips and activities.
- Toddler Group, which continues to serve our local community, offering a friendly welcome leading some of its members to attend Sunday worship and even get baptized.
- St Peter's Church continued its engagement with St Peter's School. The Vicar is Chair of Governors, the Clergy regularly lead Collective Worship and where, in collaboration with St Paul's URC church, we have ran two, much appreciated, "Prayer Space in Schools" events.
- In addition, the St Peter's Players staged "Beauty and the Beast" in November, involving performers of all ages and in front of live audiences.

We are grateful for the time, talents and commitment of all involved in these groups and services.

Isolation and Loneliness

The Pastoral Care team continues to focus on tackling isolation and loneliness in our community and to regularly contact and respond to those in need. The team visit people at home and in care homes, do food shopping, keep in touch by telephone, establish links with relatives, offer essential transport and administer Home Communion.

The Market Day Café takes place on the second Thursday of the month (after the Thursday Holy Communion service) serving hot drinks, light lunches and cake. We also continued to hold Café Reflexions on Wednesdays, offering readings and refreshments in an informal and relaxed setting.

During the year, the Harvest bags and Christmas Gifts appeals to help local families and older people living alone or in residential care, had an overwhelmingly generous response from our congregations.

Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy statement and procedures around the reporting of serious incidents – these, together with safeguarding contact details, are on display in church and on the website.

During the year, the PCC reaffirmed its commitment to this statement and the church's own safeguarding policy. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC and standing committee meeting and the PCC has also reviewed and approved its safeguarding action plan covering training and DBS checks for PCC members and safeguarding leads, policies, procedures and reporting.

Wendy Lewis, our new Parish Safeguarding Officer, was appointed in February 2025. She has been ably assisted by a dedicated support team.

Environment

This year saw strong progress in response to our environment policy. Heather Swarbrick was appointed as our Environment Officer, along with a strong team of volunteers. This group instigated activities such as participation in the Big Butterfly Count, a cycle refurbishment workshop, and a Creationtide walk. They refreshed the environment noticeboard and enabled significant efficiency improvements in our energy use. An indicator of the overall progress made was the award of the Arocha Silver Eco-Church Award in June 2025.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £294,563 of which £198,674 was unrestricted planned giving and voluntary donations. A further £34,288 was from Gift Aid.

Other sources of unrestricted funds include legacies of £109, Church letting, parish fees and fundraising totaling £58,027 and interest and other income of £3,463. Full details are shown in the Financial Statements.

Restricted donations, income and associated gift aid of £82,221 were also received. These transactions relate to our food ministry and the building and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

Reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at the year end stood at £165,131 (2024: £159,659). The PCC's policy is to keep £115,000 in reserves, broken down as follows:

Operating costs to cover unforeseen eventualities	£65,000
To maintain the building and its contents	£50,000

It is the policy of the PCC that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months' expenditure. The PCC consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, it will be able to continue the PCC's

current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Administrative information

St Peter's is situated at the heart of Harrogate adjacent to the War Memorial, and in the midst of the commercial centre of the town. It is part of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is:

St Peter's Church
Cambridge Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 1PB

PCC members

PCC members who have served during 2025 are:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent	Alan Garrow
Associate Vicar	Chris Clayton
Curates	Steve Gibbin Karin Shaw
Churchwardens	Sian Lockwood Mike Davies

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Helen Camm

Elected Members:

Ian Birt (retired May 2025)
Bella Blake (retired May 2025)
John Longstaff (retired May 2025)
Felicity Moss (retired May 2025)
Ruth Thompson-Vear (retired May 2025)
Leigh Thompson (resigned August 2025)
Jan Edwards (resigned October 2025)
Kate Crawford Blake (elected 2023)
Catherine Medforth (elected 2023)
Tim Robinson (elected 2024)
Beverley Cooper (elected 2024)
Paul Harris (elected 2024)
Judith Simpson (elected May 2025)
Hilary Paxton (elected May 2025)

Co-opted Members:

David Hipkin (Treasurer)
Heather Swarbrick (Environment Officer)
Richard Jackson (Grants Group Chair)

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 24th March 2026 and signed on its behalf by the Chair of the meeting.



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Revd. Alan Garrow

Fabric Report 2025

Throughout the year, the routine annual servicing of plant and equipment has been carried out, alongside the bi-annual PAT testing of portable appliances, a Fire Risk Assessment, and the five-yearly Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR).

Following the national switchover from analogue to digital telephone lines, our landline was converted to fibre by Virgin Media. At the same time, the emergency lift phone was upgraded to an auto-dialler system by White Lifts Leeds, who are now contracted to service the lift. Particular thanks go to Angus Turner for the many hours spent ensuring that our broadband connection was fully compatible with the new installation.

A dispute between the church and a contractor who incorrectly installed new ventilation fans in mid-2024 has now been resolved, with a settlement reached through acceptance of our offer of payment. We are so grateful to Tim Robinson for his guidance in achieving this satisfactory outcome.

The Bell Tower is now fully compliant with fire safety requirements, with a dedicated fire alarm and sounder system installed for the first time.

The Eco Group, led by Heather Swarbrick, has continued to focus on improving energy efficiency across the building. We are grateful to them for their hard work and persistence in tracking down and addressing the areas where energy has been wasted. Following their advice, we have engaged a firm of engineers to assess and oversee necessary improvements to the heating and ventilation systems, ensuring they operate as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The PCC has commissioned the church architect, Tom Crooks, to prepare a costed specification for essential remedial works to the church roof, along with draught-proofing of the West and South doors. This work will underpin the fundraising efforts currently being led by Richard Jackson and Christine Holbrook.

Our sincere thanks go, as always, to our wonderful maintenance team, Nigel and Asim, led by Carole Raw. Their consistent care, diligence and practical skill ensure that the building is well maintained and able to support the wide range of activities that take place within it.

We continue to be stewards of a building that is both well-loved and well-used. Its care depends on the faithful contribution of many people, and it is encouraging to see how much is being done, often behind the scenes, to sustain it for the future.

Sian Lockwood and Mike Davies

Safeguarding Report 2025

1. Safeguarding is a standard Agenda item at PCC. The PSO has attended 3 PCC meetings in 2025/26. At each meeting The PCC has approved updates in the Safeguarding Standards and Guidance in relation to approval of Church Activities and Insurance cover. In addition, the Safeguarding Action Plan was approved in March 2026. The PSO meets regularly with the Vicar to address Safeguarding issues and plans.

The PSO has a support group of two Church Members experienced in implementing and checking Safeguarding procedures and offering support to leaders to implement necessary change. This group meets bi/monthly with the support of Rev Karin Shaw. The PSO and the PCC are working in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Guidance, and this underpins all the recruitment processes to Church Roles.

2. The PCC has formally adopted the House of Bishops Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

3. The PSO, Wendy Lewis, has been in role since Feb. 2025. Her contact details are displayed in Church, in the *Weekly News* and the Church Web site. The DBS Recruiter and Verifier is the Church Administrator, Carole Raw.

4. St Peter's is following the Safeguarding Policy of the Leeds Diocese, House of Bishops Guidance, Safer Environment and Activities, and Code of Safer Working Practice. The above documents are available from the Anglican Diocese of Leeds website. We are awaiting the new Parish Toolkit to replace the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

St Peter's follows the guidance of the Diocese in respect of recruitment of ex offenders, Advice is regularly sought from the Safeguarding team in the Diocese in any area of doubt about the process.

5. All leaders have completed some learning pathways and PCC members have completed the required training. Some leaders need to renew training and this is being monitored and recorded on the church data management system. The challenge is to get all leaders to keep their training up to date. In addition to get all groups who do not need formal safeguarding recruitment to do at least the Basic Safeguarding training to increase the awareness of everybody in the Church, to be aware of and supportive of their responsibility for Safeguarding, and how to respond to a safeguarding situation.

6. We follow the safer recruitment and people management guidance, the clergy taking responsibility for recruiting to the various Church groups We will be focusing on implementing the new Guidance which comes into force on 1. 6. 2026 for safer recruiting.

We must be diligent in using the safer recruitment policy and check on references with a phone call, by implementing the requirement for supervision and ongoing monitoring of new leaders. It is entirely possible for a person who poses risks to be safely recruited despite our efforts, by name change, deceit and grooming. By following the Code of safer working practice we should ensure the safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

7. The PSO has been involved in two zoom maintenance sessions to monitor known Offenders in our Church Setting.

One referral made to Diocese over an issue of concern arising in the recruitment process.

No other concern of a safeguarding nature has been raised with the PSO in regard to any Church Office holder or member of the congregation.

8. Next Steps

We are focusing on visits and assessments of Sunday Club, Toddlers and Sanctuary to meet the Leaders and work with them on the safeguarding plan, checking risk assessments are in place, training is up to date and that Safer working practice is being followed.

To spread out training throughout other Church Groups and volunteers.

To build in assessments of new volunteer's progress, training updates , DBS checks etc in line with the Dashboard standards and the Action Plan.

To learn how to get the best use from The Dashboard tool which is used by the PSO and Clergy to monitor progress and read guidance and to move on to use of the Hub tool, not currently used by the PSO.

The PSO is booked on zoom trainings courses in April and May 2026.

Wendy Lewis, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Treasurers' Report 2025

The accounts for 2025 show an exceptionally challenging year. The overall surplus of £55,229 with year-end reserves of £299,208 suggests a financially healthy situation. These figures were achieved, however, by paying only 50% of the Parish Share request. This is the first time we have paid less than 100%. This underpayment was discussed in detail with the Diocese, who were understanding and supportive of our situation. Nevertheless, we must recognise the impact of such underpayments on the Diocese's capacity to deploy stipendiary clergy.

The Parish Share and the day to day running costs of the church are paid from our "General Fund" of unrestricted money. This fund was under severe financial pressure and without our underpayment of Share would have been in deficit by over £100,000 requiring us to use our Designated Reserve. However, because of that underpayment, the General Fund showed a small surplus of £5,473 at year end with £50,131 carried forward to 2026.

2026 presents us with the challenge of managing our day-to-day finances whilst also embarking on significant fundraising for the work associated with "The Table Project" involving a major roof repair and the work commissioned as a result of our ongoing consultation process. The finances associated with this project and other initiatives such as Breakfast Club are all robustly ring-fenced in their own restricted funds.

The summary of our finances in the table below is therefore slightly different this year and only reports on the "General Fund" to ensure we have a clear picture of our ability to fund the daily ongoing life of the church. Once again finances are very stretched even though the Parish Share is now reduced following Chris's departure. The budget shows a deficit of £43,116 which will leave just £7,015 in the General Fund for the start of 2027.

We are extremely grateful for every donation and if you are able to donate via the Parish Giving Scheme it really does help us plan more confidently. Our commitment to support other charities based on 5% of our planned giving receipts continues and we hope we can donate more than the budgeted £9,456 to our supported charities at the end of 2026. If you would like to know more about the Parish Giving Scheme or are already making donations directly to the church and want to check we are claiming the correct Gift Aid please do let me know. Equally if you have any questions relating to our finances, please get in touch.

David Hipkin
Treasurer

Supplementary information re General Expenditure

Breakdown of General	
Staff Expenses	44%
Food Costs (Not Breakfast Club)	12%
Maintenance	10%
Drama and Music	10%
Window Cleaning	5%

General Fund - Income and Expenditure Account

Account	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Church Lettings	35,121	36,924
PCC Fees Income	2,996	3,120
Cash Collections	13,632	14,316
One Off Donations	23,114	24,276
Regular Donations	120	-
Gift Aid Claimed	8,466	7,848
Gift Aid Envelopes	5,290	5,556
Legacies	109	-
PGS Donation Station	2,525	2,652
PGS Donations	113,435	127,920
PGS Gift Aid Recovered	25,823	27,120
PGS One Off Gifts	7,172	7,536
Planned Giving - Gift Aided	23,977	22,116
Planned Giving - Non-Gift Aided	9,409	5,640
Interest Received	2,802	2,940
Insurance Claims	662	-
Bookstall & Card Sales for Fundraising	3,432	3,600
Fetes, Bazaar, Other Fund-raising Events	16,479	17,832
Total Income	294,563	309,396
Bad Debts	298	-
Bank Charges	893	936
Choir and Music	8,627	11,388
Church Electricity, Oil & Gas, Water	28,157	26,904
Church Major Repairs	5,516	-
Church Routine Repairs	21,257	22,320
Church Telecoms	2,282	2,400
Accountancy	425	456
Cleaning Sundries	2,322	2,436
Computers	1,391	1,464
General	13,271	15,276
Travel	1,614	1,692
Insurance	10,064	10,884
Printing & Stationery	4,703	4,932
Cost of Services	1,287	1,356
Diocesan Quota	117,042	177,156
Employer NIC	5,697	-
Employment Allowance Recovered	(6,064)	-
Payroll Costs	58,786	60,840
Pension Costs	2,231	2,316
Grant - Other Charities	9,000	9,456
Raising Funds	289	300
Total Expenditure	289,090	352,512
Opening Reserve	44,658	50,131
Surplus / (Deficit)	5,473	(43,116)
Year End Reserve	50,131	7,015