

**The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of
St James, Milton, Portsmouth
Charity No: 1129165**

Annual Report

And

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2025

St James' Church Milton (Charity Commission Reg. No. 1129165)
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St James' Church is sited at 285/287 Milton Road, Southsea. The ecclesiastical parish is situated in the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St James Vicarage, 287 Milton Road, Southsea, PO4 8PG.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity with the Charity Commission, number 1129165. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected at the Annual General Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The membership of the PCC during the year were:

Vicar	Revd Darren A'Court
Asst Curate	Vacant
Churchwardens	Miss Stella Wansborough Mrs Ann Murray
Deanery Synod Representatives	Miss Jill Chalmers Mrs Alison Threlkeld also PCC elected
Elected members	Mrs Jeannette A Beech Miss Valerie England Mrs Sandra A Lamburth Mrs Catriona Maton Mr Mark Pearce Mr Paul H Tallack Mrs Caroline Tyler (to 11 Jan 25) Mr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (to 18 May 25) Mrs Bridget H A Wade
Co-opted member	Gillian Hawkins (from 21 Sep 25)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC. These are:-

Standing committee

It is the only statutory committee. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St James' PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining the Church/Hall complex of St James, Milton, in the Diocese of Portsmouth together with the one property owned by the parish at 51 Goldsmith Avenue.

St James' Church Milton (Charity Commission Reg. No. 1129165)
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Every year at St James is framed by our usual cycle of worship with our Parish Mass on Sundays at 10am, and our midweek said Mass on Wednesdays usually well-attended. We are always encouraged and delighted by the new faces who join us, many of whom go on to become established members of the St James community and some of whom go on to take up various roles in our worship and other activities. I sincerely thank everyone, however longstanding or new they may be, for their commitment and hard work during the year. As always, the year at St James is peppered with our regular social events, including tabletop sales and fayres, as well as quizzès, family bingo nights, and others. These are greatly enjoyed by all who share in them and also help to raise money for church funds. Various other events and developments have taken place during the year. At the Deanery Synod meeting in February, I was commissioned by the Archdeacon as the Assistant Area Dean (South), which means being involved in activities across the deanery in addition to my responsibilities here at St James. Between February and May, the Revd Sr Teresa-Lucia Sutton-Becker, from the North End Team, was on placement here at St James, as part of her diaconal year. I know that she greatly enjoyed her time here, as we enjoyed her ministry among us. In April, Fr John led his final Shell Club session during the Parish Mass as he moved to take up his new role supporting the parish of St Francis in the North End Team. We miss his presence and wisdom hugely, but he will be with us occasionally when he is able to do so. During May St James hosted the deanery chapter meeting and a small group of volunteers kindly provided a lovely lunch. St James held a church stall as part of the annual Picnic on the Green event in June.

July was a busy month. After much planning and commitment from everyone involved, we held our Church Open Day, officially opened by the Lord Mayor. We welcomed Bishop Matthias, of our link diocese of Ho in Ghana, to celebrate a special said evening Mass, followed by refreshments in the Vicarage garden. The Vicarage Garden also accommodated the annual parish barbeque following our Patronal Festival. Our choir joined those from St James, Emsworth and St James, Clanfield to sing Evensong on St James' Day at the cathedral. During August the Lord Mayor was our guest speaker at the Parish Mass. In November we were joined by Gabby North from the Leprosy Mission to speak during our Parish Mass and on Advent Sunday Bishop Jonathan was our president and preacher at the Parish Mass, which was followed by a delicious soup and cheese lunch. December saw the usual numerous visits by local schools and nurseries to celebrate their Christmas services here at St James, as well as the annual Carol Services for the RNLI and the Minstead Trust. At the Parish Mass for the Feast of St Luke the physician, in October, the collection was given to fund the upkeep of the defibrillator in the church hall. In November St James had its Archdeacon's Visitation, during which several aspects of the church's operation are reviewed. Inevitably, as this process takes place once every five years, a number of items requiring our further attention were identified, which the Churchwardens and I are working to address. As in previous years, one of our Churchwardens, Stella oversaw the collection of a large number of decorated shoe boxes containing Christmas gifts of essential items for children in Moldova and Ukraine. A change in our usual cycle this year was holding our Christingle services on the day before Christmas Eve, in an effort to ease the demands on the small group of volunteers who help at this busy time. Although this was not ideal for everyone seeking to attend, the new arrangement seemed to work well overall.

During the year there have been several baptisms and funerals, the latter of which have

taken place at St James and elsewhere, including local cemeteries and crematoria both here in Portsmouth and further afield, as well as some interments of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance here at St James. One wedding was held during the year, together with a number of related services, both services of Prayer and Dedication after Civil Marriage, and of Thanksgiving for Marriage, the latter marking couples' 30 and 60-year wedding anniversaries. There have also been occasional requests for house blessings in the parish. Some of our housebound parishioners have continued to receive Holy Communion at home regularly and Fr John has kindly maintained his visits to some of our local residential and nursing homes, for which I am most grateful. In February, Barry Glover was finally confirmed at the cathedral, having prepared for this during the previous year, and received his first Holy Communion during the Parish Mass at Candlemas. A new group of candidates undertook their preparation classes during the year and were confirmed at the cathedral in January 2026.

Our links with local schools extend throughout the year as on various occasions school groups either visit St James, or are visited by the Vicar, mainly as part of their learning about various aspects of the Christian faith and their programme of celebrations. These have included a range of occasions and themes: the Eucharist and the Last Supper, Holy Baptism, weddings, creation, Easter, Harvest, Advent and the birth narratives of Jesus. In November, some of the pupils at Milton Park Primary School participated in the Cross of Sacrifice event at Milton Cemetery with the Lord Mayor and representatives of the Royal British Legion. In February I became a community governor at Miltoncross Academy, thereby establishing a closer link with our local secondary school.

The Roof Rescue Project has been an ongoing focus with a great deal of preparatory work taking place. Following on from meetings of the PCC, there have been several meetings involving both the PCC's roof rescue working group and the fundraising group, as well as meetings between myself, the Churchwardens and Emma Mullen our architect, the quantity surveyor, the structural engineer, and members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. In October, Stella Wansborough and I were interviewed for a news item about the roof rescue project by a journalist from That's Solent TV. The PCC's fundraising group organised a number of varied events during the year which have been both happy social occasions and, importantly, achieved their aim of raising funds towards the roof rescue project. This included a formal meal in the hall to launch the group. Among many other fundraising events held at St James was Choral Evensong in October, bringing together the choirs of St James and the cathedral. I have taken on the role of applying for grants towards the enormous cost of the project (estimated at £2million), but this is a slow and not always straightforward process. The aim is that, if all goes according to plan, we will be able to make a start on the works during the spring of 2026.

Other important developments during the year include the commissioning of a new, refreshed and upgraded parish website. This work is ongoing with the developer, who has kindly offered to generously subsidise the cost of this project for us. I must also mention the many community groups who make use of our church halls and thereby contribute much-needed revenue to support the work of St James. Their various activities always contribute to the thriving community that is St James, Milton. The essential work of maintaining the halls and managing bookings is a shared effort by a small number of our church community. Although I hope to have covered the majority of this year's events and developments, I apologise for any omissions. Please be assured that your efforts are hugely appreciated. I end this report by reiterating something I mentioned last year, namely that Jeanette and I are most grateful for the warmth and support of the St James community. It is always a

pleasure to be here with you all.

Every blessing
Fr Darren

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969

CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE (a)

(Where required by regulation 5 of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (the Regulations), one or more copies of this certificate must be displayed at each place of business at which the policyholder employs persons covered by the policy)

Policy Number:	P-0000267039/03
Name of policyholder:	The Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being and the Parochial Church Council of Milton St James in the Diocese of Portsmouth
Date of commencement of insurance policy:	1 January 2025
Date of expiry of insurance policy:	31 December 2025

We hereby certify that subject to paragraph 2:-

1. The policy to which this certificate relates satisfies the requirements of the relevant law applicable in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Island of Jersey, the Island of Guernsey and the Island of Alderney (b); and
2. (a) the minimum amount of cover provided by this policy is no less than £5 million

Signed on behalf of Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (Authorised Insurer)

Mark Hews

Notes

- (a) Where the employer is a company to which regulation 3(2) of the Regulations applies, the certificate shall state in a prominent place, either that the policy covers the holding company and all its subsidiaries, or that the policy covers the holding company and all its subsidiaries except any specifically excluded by name, or that the policy covers the holding company and only the named subsidiaries.
- (b) Specify applicable law as provided for in regulation 4(6) of the Regulations.
- (c) See regulation 3(1) of the Regulations and delete whichever of paragraphs 2(a) or 2(b) does not apply. Where 2(b) is applicable, specify the amount of cover provided by the relevant policy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POLICYHOLDERS

Under the terms of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 the requirement to display a certificate will be satisfied if it is made available in electronic form and each relevant employee to whom it relates has reasonable access to it in that form.



Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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**Financial Statements prepared by Paul Tallack, Parish
Treasurer**

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2-10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of The Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of The Regulations and s.43 (2) of The Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43 (7) (b) of The Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by these accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:


5th April 2026

Kevin Richardson
Flat 29, Marina View
Harbour Road
Gosport
PO12 1BQ

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	NOTE					
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from donors.	2(a)	46172	754		46926	44064
Other voluntary incoming resources.	2(b)	29656	55		29711	18292
Income from charitable & ancillary trading.	2(c)	30831			30831	27864
Other ordinary incoming resources.	2(d)	11400			11400	11025
Income from investments.	2(e)	26657			26657	28695
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		144716	809		145525	129940
RESOURCES USED						
Grants.	3(a)	4768	754		5522	5485
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church.	3(b)	145483	55		145538	114001
Church management & administration.	3(c)	1955			1955	2029
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		152206	809		153015	121515
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		7490			7490	8425
BALANCES BROUGHT F/W AT 1 JANUARY 2025		434405	23179	317717	775301	758349
Movement of:						
Investment Roof Rescue Fund			271		271	1126
Loss on Revaluation of Investment Assets				9982	9982	7401
BALANCES CARRIED F/W AT 31 DECEMBER 2025		426915	22908	307735	757558	775301

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Balance Sheet as 31 December 2025

	NOTE	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investment Assets	4(a)	307735	317717
Tangible Fixed Assets	4(b)	2	2
CURRENT ASSETS		307737	317719
Debtors	6	200	282
National Savings Income Bonds		35000	35000
National Savings Investment		9788	9788
CBF Investment Fund		360000	360000
Lloyds Current Account		8082	15350
Lloyds Deposit Account		50000	45085
CBF Investment (discretionary)		22908	23179
		485978	488684
LIABILITIES	7	36157	31102
NET CURRENT ASSETS		449821	457582
NET ASSETS		757558	775301
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted		426915	434405
Restricted		22908	23179
Endowments		307735	317717
		757558	775301

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1 February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Darren A'Court (Chairman)



The notes on pages 4-10 form part of these accounts.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the account of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable of Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is registered.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events, are account for gross.

Sunday morning coffee proceeds are accounted for net.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due, as is the case with 51 Goldsmith Avenue.

Income from Investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies cont.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church

The Diocesan Quota or Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quote unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings, and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether for maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used with the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2(a) Incoming Resources from Donors					
Planned giving:					
Stewardship	31996			31996	30235
Income Tax Recoverable from Gift Aid	9420			9420	7798
Collections:					
Ordinary	3872			3872	4297
Weddings/Funerals	884			884	836
Special		754		754	898
	46172	754		46926	44064
2(b) Other Voluntary Incoming Resources					
Roof Rescue Donations	18115			18115	0
Legacies and Donations	645			645	6854
Summer Fayre	2259			2259	2477
Christmas Bazaar	2505			2505	2875
Coffee Mornings	22			22	284
Votive Candles	252			252	261
Flower Donations		55		55	233
Parish Social Events	1510			1510	1442
Sunday Morning Coffee	2949			2949	2751
Table Top Sales	1399			1399	1115
	29656	55		29711	18292

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

INCOMING RESOURCES cont.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
2(c) Incoming from Charitable & Ancillary Trading					
Milton Review Subscriptions	354			354	488
Milton Review Advertising	610			610	590
Milton Review Offertory Box	198			198	347
Milton Review Donations	105			105	58
Church Hall Lettings	24480			24480	22508
PCC Fees	4903			4903	2866
Studio Cards/Books	171			171	255
Centenary Book Sales	10			10	65
Auction Proceeds	-			-	571
Stations of the Cross	-			-	-
Booklets	-			-	116
	30831			30831	27864
2(d) Other Ordinary Incoming Resources					
Rents:					
51 Goldsmith Avenue	11400			11400	11025
	11400			11400	11025
2(e) Income from Investments					
Interest	26657			26657	28695
	26657			26657	28695

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
3(a) Grants					
Missionary & Charitable Giving:					
Special Collections		754		754	898
Almsgiving	4768			4768	4587
	4768	754		5522	5485
3(b) Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church					
Ministry: Diocesan Quota	58312			58312	55535
Deanery Synod	264			264	264
Vicarage Expenses	93			93	497
51 Goldsmith Avenue	3720			3720	3782
Clergy Expenses	1038			1038	1269
Other Clergy Costs	-			-	-
Church Running Expenses:					
Light and Heat	9028			9028	7186
Insurance	6490			6490	6372
Service Expenses	2079			2079	2470
Licences	617			617	615
Church Maintenance	9121			9121	5070
Organ Maintenance	1131			1131	828
Salary of Organist	6817			6817	6945
RSCM Subs	137			137	133
Upkeep of Churchyard	5794			5794	8380
Church Hall Running Costs	494			494	3371
Refuse Collection	1395			1395	1246
Bathroom Hygiene	975			975	-
Salary of Cleaner	6200			6200	5820
Flowers		55		55	233
Sundries	-			-	60
Parish Social Events	1510			1510	1442
Equipment Leasing	1209			1209	1209
Architect Fees	28889			28889	975
Junior Church/Little Shells	-			-	8
Payroll Expenses	170			170	291
	145483	55		145538	114001

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

3. RESOURCES USED cont.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
3(c) Church Management & Administration					
Printing & Stationery	1774			1774	1848
Stewardship Envelopes	81			81	81
Audit Gratuity	100			100	100
	1955			1955	2029

During the year the PCC employed an organist and a Church Hall cleaner, neither of whom earned more than £50,000 pa or more.

3(d) The organist; Mr H Darnley-Smith and various locum organists were paid £6817 during the year. The Church Hall cleaners, Mrs A Grigo and Mrs A Tallack were paid £6200 during the year.

Apart from the above, no other member received any reimbursement of expenses or remuneration.

4. FIXED ASSETS

4(a) Investment Assets

Trust Funds held by the Diocese of Portsmouth are as follows:

	Book Value £	Market Value £
Empshott Rd Parsonage Trust	14678	31160
Jeffrey Memorial Trust	317	1437
St James Trust	1133	43287
St Patrick's Mission Hall Trust	88300	170673
St Patrick's Parsonage Trust	1897	61178
	106325	307735

4(b) Tangible fixed Assets

Printer & Photocopier (NBV £1 each)

2	2
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Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fixed Assets			307735	307735
Current Assets	463072	22908		485980
Current Liabilities	36157			36157
	426915	22908	307735	757558

6. DEBTORS

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Hall Lettings	200	282
	200	282

7. LIABILITIES (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR)

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Almsgiving	4768	9305
Christingle Collection	300	431
Christmas Card Collection	83	74
Nine Lessons Collection	95	167
Legacies and Donations	9298	11628
Garden of Remembrance Fund	3340	1160
Parish Social Events	7485	5382
Church Maintenance	1483	1169
Walsingham	-	210
Roof Rescue Donations	9305	1576
	36157	31102