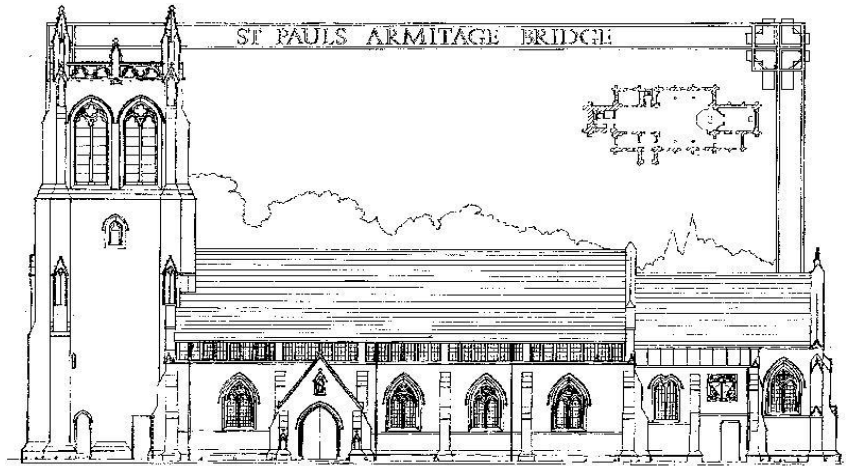
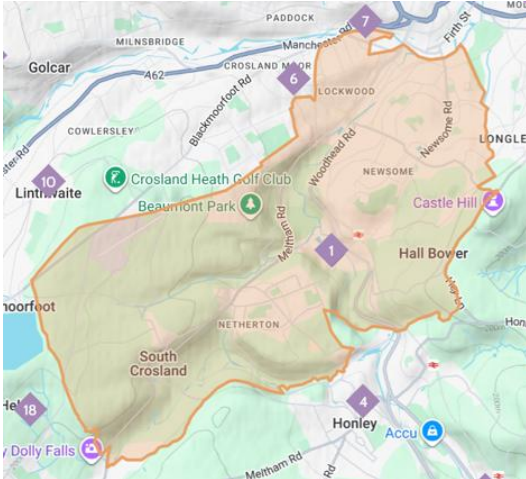


The Emmanuel Benefice of Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton St Paul's Armitage Bridge



Registered Charity Number: 1131703

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2025 And Financial Statements to the year ending December 2025

Interregnum: January – April 2025 [Area Dean Rev Julie Anderson]

Priest-in-Charge from May 2025

Rev Frances Nunn

Bank:

Virgin Money
40 New Street, Huddersfield

HSBC Bank
Kingsgate Centre, Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England
80 Cheapside, London

Independent Examiner:

Chris Jones

Notice of Meetings:

7.30pm on Wednesday 29th April 2026

At St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge, HD4 7PD

Annual Meeting for the election for Church Wardens:

1. Opening Prayer:

Lord, as we open this meeting,
we recognise we can do nothing apart from You.
Please grant us wisdom to rightly represent You
and to faithfully follow Your purposes.
Let the Spirit of Wisdom dwell within us and guide us into greater
knowledge, conviction, Christ-like love and unity.
We pray this time would be fruitful and encouraging to those in attendance,
as we seek to serve you here - through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting held 30/04/25

4. Election of Church Wardens

5. Election/appointment of deputy wardens

6. Close of meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the last APCM held on 30/04/25**
- 3. Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll**
- 4. Annual Report**
- 5. Clergy Report**
- 6. Treasurers Report on the accounts year ending 31/12/25**
- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 8. Church Warden and Fabrics Report**
- 9. Election of PCC Members**
- 10. Deanery Synod Report**
- 11. Election of Lay Members to the Deanery Synod**
- 12. Safeguarding Report**
- 13. Additional Reports**
- 14. Any matters of parochial or general church interest**
- 15. Concluding Prayers**

Appendix A: Accounts for the year ending 31/12/26 and independent examiners report.

Electoral Roll Report 2025

It is pleasing to report that since the preparation of a new Electoral Roll in 2025, twelve people have been added as a result of the revision carried out in 2026.

The number now on the Electoral Roll for the **Benefice/Parish of Newsome, Armitage and Netherton** is:

Total **92** Residents **60** (65%) Non-residents **32** (35%)

David Hirst, Electoral Roll Officer

Annual Report for 2025

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During this Period, the following served as members of the PCC

Ex-officio:

Antony Crawshaw (**Church Warden**)

Pamela Thomas (**Church Warden**)

Bruce Greenwood (**PCC Treasurer and Deanery Synod**)

John Kent (**Deanery Synod**)

Helen Pearson (**Deanery Synod**)

From May 2025:

Rev Frances Nunn (**Priest in Charge for the Emmanuel Benefice**)

Elected Members:

Paul Coldwell (elected 2025)

Helen Hales (elected 2022)

Ian Hales (**Lay Vice Chair** – elected 2025)

Katherine Huggett (elected 2024)

Pamela Kent (**Secretary** – elected 2024)

Naomi Pinkney (elected 2022)

Sarah Pope (**Minute Secretary** - elected 2022)

Chris Storey (elected 2024)

Graeme Williams (elected 2024)

Co-Opted Member: Melody Hirst (2025) **Children and Families Lead**

Electoral Roll Officer: David Hirst

Safeguarding Officer: Pamela Thomas **Lead Recruiter:** Helen Pearson

Environmental Committee Chair: Rev Debby Plummer

Fire Safety Officer: Ian Hales

Health and Safety Officer: Sarah Pope

Clergy Report:

Between January and May 2025 the benefice was held and supported by our amazing team of retired clergy, Rev Angela Dick, Rev David Kent and Rev Debby Plummer. David writes:

"It was a great privilege and pleasure to work with my colleagues Angela and Debby in order to keep everything running smoothly at St Paul's during the vacancy. I was pleased that we didn't need to call on any outside support during the whole 18 months or so.

We were also able to maintain our good relationship with the Methodist churches during this time and continue to take services at the Methodist churches along with united services. We were obviously relieved to have recruited a new incumbent and it was with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcomed Fran in May. Since then we have worked really well together and are delighted that Fran has settled in so well and been so visible around the parish."

Rev Frances Nunn was licenced to the Benefice in May 2025:

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' *Philippians 1:3-6*

Since being licenced as Priest-in-Charge, I have been hugely encouraged by the support and commitment of this community of faith in working together to serve across the Benefice in so many different ways. There are huge opportunities for connection and partnership – not least with our brothers and sisters at Berry Brow Methodists, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and formation of the Partnership Management Committee. We continue to work with other Christian Churches in the area as part of the South Huddersfield Churches Together forum. We are developing close links with Brooks Mill (where I have been asked to act in a chaplaincy capacity for the businesses and community there), the Newsome Centre, our Local councillors and Community Plus workers, and Newsome (St Johns) Scouts. It was a privilege to have the Scouts take an active role in our Remembrance Service in November.

We have also marked other seasons including Creation Tide – linked to our commitments to Eco Church and Net Zero, Harvest, All Saints, Christ the King,

Advent and Christmas – including Christingle, Family Nativity, Blue Christmas and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. In addition to following the lectionary, we have enjoyed focused sermon series on Philippians and deepened our discipleship through the 24/7 Be Still Course.

As part of discerning together Ministry and Missional priorities moving forward, the congregation and PCC were invited to reflect on the following 5 themes drawn from Acts 2:42-47:

‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ **teaching [and learning]** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer [and worship]**. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **[Radical Generosity]** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.’

The PCC are working through these responses to inform next steps. I attended the LYCiG (Leading Your Church Into Growth) conference in October which was particularly helpful in thinking through how Preaching and Teaching; Prayer; Presence; Proclamation (outreach) and Pathways (growing Discipleship) might develop.

We have had support from the Diocesan Stewardship team, Barnabas Discipleship team and Growing Faith Teams – all of which are helping our thinking for next steps.

Our principle Sunday Worship gatherings are 10am at St Paul’s Armitage Bridge, where we are supported by our wonderful organists Ian and Tony, the music group and church choir. Prayer continues to be an integral part of our discipleship with weekly Morning Prayer on a Wednesday and Contemplative Prayer on a Thursday. We took part in the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost and will do so again next year.

We continue to work across the Benefice with joint and united services with our brothers and sister from the local Methodist Churches in Newsome and Netherton, further presence in Netherton through the monthly South Crosland [Holy Trinity] Coffee Mornings, the Pop-up-Shop in Newsome in partnership

with the Scouts as part of South Huddersfield Churches Together and extensive schools ministry (see report). We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in the year ahead.

Rev Fran Nunn.

Treasurers Report on the accounts year ending 31/12/25:

During 2025 the Church was able to meet all its obligations and achieve a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £14,000. The surplus was mainly due to a carry over to 2026 of Exceptional Expenditure which had been planned for 2025, and which we hope to complete in 2026. We have an outstanding application with the Diocese for permission to place a machinery store in the church grounds (£3200) and there is still an expected cost of at least £4,000 in making trees safe in the three churchyards for which we have responsibility. Once South Crosland's and Newsome's churchyards are in an acceptable condition then we can apply to Kirklees Council to pass on responsibility.

We have completed Budgets for the years 2026 to 2028. In 2026 we expect a shortfall of Income against Expenditure of £6,000 due to the delayed work from 2025 being completed and looking further ahead there is the possibility of increased deficits as Parish Share increases and Planned Giving stalls or decreases. Looking so far ahead allows us to take steps to mitigate this.

Income

Our congregational giving increased in 2025, collections by £3,000 and Planned Giving by £2,600, with Gift Aid tax refunds also increasing by £1,200. Donations fell by £1,000 and lettings by £800. The church hall showed a surplus of £1,200 and the Art & Craft Exhibition donated £2,400 to the Fabric Fund.

Expenditure

We paid our Parish Share in full to the Diocese including the annual 10% increase of £1,700. Due to the mild spring and autumn of 2025, our Gas costs reduced by £2,000. Maintenance costs reduced by £1,800 as we held over repairs identified in the Quinquennial Report to 2026 when we hope to complete the remainder.

Reserves Policy

The Church Council has agreed that the church should hold a Revenue Reserve of 50% of normal annual expenditure. This sits at £18,000 based on 2024 figures. This is to cover fluctuations in income and expenditure over the year and also sudden unexpected incidents such as the pandemic. The Council also

agreed to set up a Heating Reserve to provide towards the eventual demise of our elderly boiler and any changes the Council decides to make on the source of energy. £20,000 has been provided so far and this figure can be adjusted in the future as the prospect of expenditure draws closer.

Depreciation

Expenditure on individual assets of £1,500 or less are written off on purchase. Items costing more than this, such as the Sound System have their value written down over their expected useful life. The Sound System value is reducing by 10% fixed per annum and will therefore have no value ten years after purchase.

The Church Council is grateful for the continuing generous giving of the congregation which is enabling us to meet our obligations to the Diocese which will continue to increase by 10% per annum until we reach our assessed figure. The figure for 2026 is £20,249, but by 2028 will be £24,501 against a 2028 assessment of £49,507, £25,000 more than we will actually pay.

We begin 2026 with a good balance in the bank but with substantial exceptional expenditure planned. We remain in a satisfactory position and able to back our Mission ambitions financially.

Bruce Greenwood, Treasurer

Chris Storey, Assistant Treasurer

Appointment of Independent Examiner: to be agreed at this APCM.

Church Warden and Fabrics Report:

We were very pleased to welcome Frances Nunn as Priest in Charge of the Benefice.

As well as the routine maintenance i.e., Servicing Fire Alarms, PA testing, boiler maintenance and lot of cleaning was completed to ensure the church is kept in good repair. The inventory and logbook are both up to date. We are working through the Quinquennial inspection work.

The churchyard grass areas and cremated remains areas, have all been well maintained by our team of dedicated gardeners.

As church wardens we would like to thank everyone for the help and support over the last year which has enabled our services and maintenance of the building to continue seamlessly.

Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas, Church Wardens

Election of PCC Members: *3 members to be elected at this APCM.*

Deanery Synod Report:

Bruce Greenwood, John Kent and Helen Pearson have served a third year as Deanery Representatives for the Parish on the Almondbury and Kirkburton Deanery. Bruce has continued to serve as Deanery Treasurer and Helen as Deanery Secretary.

Five synods have been held, all of which have been joint with Huddersfield Deanery. Four have been meetings, three in person and one on Zoom. In December the synod was in the form of a prayer meeting on Zoom.

There have been discussions on the main issues concerning Parishes, on Parish Share, and on the Church of England Covenant for the Care and Wellbeing of Clergy document. PCC's have been asked to reflect on this document.

Deanery have been kept up-to-date on the process of electing a new Bishop of Leeds. A shortlist of candidates is to be interviewed in the first half of 2026. The Bishop elect is not expected to be licenced until early 2027.

We have had presentations from the Single friendly Church Network- a charity who supports people who come to church alone, and from the Maintenance Collective initiative – currently operating in Huddersfield Deanery and not yet Almondbury and Kirkburton. This project encourages parishes to look after church buildings. A coordinator, paid for by the national church, will give guidance on grants available and have parishes form a collective. Joining together to appoint contractors and take advantage of bulk procurement scaling.

Helen Pearson

Election of Lay Members to the Deanery Synod: The triennium for Deanery is coming to an end and Deanery Synod Representatives have to be re-elected, and/or new Reps be elected at this APCM.

Safeguarding Report:

Pamela Thomas was appointed as Safeguarding Officer for 2025.

The Diocese continue to give guidance on Safeguarding, and warning of people of concern to be aware of potentially visiting our church, via regular newsletters and bulletins. There have been no issues of concern at St Pauls to report during the last 12 months.

Pamela reports to every PCC meeting on Safeguarding issues. Helen Pearson continues to work as “Lead Recruiter” for the Benefice with Pamela Thomas as the Additional Recruiter. Our task in addition to overseeing all Safeguarding aspects of our benefice is to ensure timely DBS checks are carried out on people volunteering to work with children or vulnerable adults. Currently the Diocese advises that DBS checks should be carried out every 3 years. The relevant people are up-to-date with their checks.

PCC members and officers are up-to-date with their safeguarding training. The Parish Safeguarding Policy was renewed and approved by PCC in March 2026.

Pamela Thomas and Helen Pearson

Additional Reports:

Lay Worship Team Report:

The lay worship team organise worship every other month. This is usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month to coincide with Rev Fran preaching at Berry Brow and so provides cover, though sometimes the lay worship team choose to cover a different service or event. The music group usually play at the lay-led services. The lay worship team cover leading the service, providing children’s activities, leading prayers, reading the Bible and giving a talk or address based on the theme of the service and those readings.

In 2025, we have led 7 services, being every other month plus an extra one in December for the Christingle service. Themes covered include the baptism of Christ, temptation, Christian Aid, joy, Harvest, light and the Christingle service. Themes to be covered in 2026 include Christian Unity, Mother’s Day and Christian Aid.

We have had a couple of overarching planning meetings to fix the upcoming dates, and each next service planned in detail straight after the last one over a cuppa and a biscuit or two. The group is quite fluid (it must be the tea!) as not everyone is available for every service, but this keeps it interesting and ensures that many people can get involved, if they wish. Would you like to be involved? You would be most welcome!

Caroline Jones

Music Group Report:

The Music Group have continued to lead some songs/hymns in our Morning Worship services, usually on alternate third Sundays of the month. We endeavour to play hymns/songs which suit piano and instruments. We also lead new or songs less familiar to the congregation. Our children enhance the

group when joining us with percussion instruments for our going out song. This is always a most enjoyable feature of the Morning Worship service.

In addition this year we have “gone on the road” and played at joint services on two of our fifth Sundays. We led all the music at Berry Brow Methodists at the end of August. This was very much appreciated by the combined congregation and especially the Berry Brow regulars. Many thanks to Carol Waters for opening up on the Friday for us to set up and rehearse. On the last Sunday in November, Advent Sunday, we led the music at Netherton Methodist church. Again our contribution was appreciated and we thoroughly enjoyed playing/singing Advent Hymns/songs, which we have not done for a few years now.

Many thanks to all contributors to the music in our church, and those who open up for us to rehearse on Fridays or early on the Sunday mornings for us to set up. It truly is a team effort. The Music Group is a small but dedicated, enthusiastic group, and new instrumentalists are always welcome to join us. I enjoy arranging the music parts for the instruments and all abilities are catered for!

Helen Pearson Music Group co-ordinator

Bell Ringers Report:

The past 12 months have been steady rather than spectacular. Numbers remain steady and most Sunday services have been rung for along with any special services the church have asked us to do.

4 quarter peals were rung from the 15th March to 27th June, after which various folk have suffered with various ailments which prevented us progressing in that direction in the second half of the year. One full peal was successful in November which included Sally, Lorraine and Alan.

Weddings have been thin on the ground but we were asked to ring the bells for a couple of funerals during the year which included that of Agnes Bowles.

VE day was rung for on the 8th of May along with Remembrance Sunday in November. We were also asked to ring in the new year, starting at 11:45pm Wednesday 31st December until 0:10am Thursday 1st January. Its the first time in 20 years we have met to perform this traditional act.

Halifax Archdeaconry have continued to hold their monthly Monday evening learners practice at Armitage Bridge. It would seem that having settled here the attendance has gradually increased as has the standard of ringing.

Our own Wednesday practice is usually well attended and everyone would seem to be making steady progress. Although this does not particularly helps us it does perform a service for other towers by helping their ringers. Maintenance has not been as regular as it should have been albeit the bells remain in good order. We have scrapped a rope or two and have sent a couple off for repair along with an order for a new replacement rope.

Alan Trebble

South Crosland CofE (VA) Junior School:

The work in school continues with everyone focused on the education and wellbeing of the children as their priority. The school is very well led by Head Clare Brewster and her dedicated staff

Staffing: Year 4 teacher , Mrs Kenyon –Green took maternity leave in March 2025. An experienced and capable year 4 teacher, Mrs Hitchen was recruited to cover the leave until February this year, when Mrs Kenton- Green was welcomed back into school. In September another Teaching Assistant was appointed to the team and the school is now fully staffed.

Governors: Rev Fran was welcomed to the Governing Body on her appointment. School had been looking to appoint another four Foundation Governors to ensure Foundation Governors formed the majority on the Governing Board. An appeal was made to the parish for Governors. Two appointments were made. Dawne Day who worships at Netherton Methodist church and Valerie Hieatt, who worships at Cathedral House. Kirklees then informed school that the Governing Body was too large. Two staffing governors stepped down from the Governing Body and hence the correct balance of Foundation Governors to other Governors, without making any further Foundation Governor appointments, has been maintained. The Governors are very dedicated to the school. They make visits to school and assist with taking the children out on visits. Some have the opportunity to read with children regularly.

School Development Plan: Focus on the School Development Plan has continued. The plan includes the Maths Mastery Programme across school, the curriculum, reading, phonics and behaviour.

Church School Status Quality daily collective worship takes place in school. Fran leads this worship once a week.

Children have enjoyed being at St Paul's, the link church to the school, as part of their Christmas celebrations. A number of school children contributed to Fran's licencing service.

Teaching and learning has continued to be underpinned by a Christian ethos and the four core values; friendship, forgiveness, honest and respect. Our school vision Together, as one, we support each other to flourish and succeed, has never been more important.

Our children continue to show real resilience and continue to work hard and act as kind, caring individuals. They have raised money for charities and collected gifts to be distributed to those living alone at Christmas. All in all South Crosland is a really good school.

Helen Pearson - Foundation Governor at South Crosland CofE (VA) Junior School

Schools Ministry Across the Benefice:

My principal commitment is to South Crosland C E V A Junior School. I deliver a weekly Collective Worship and work alongside the SLT, RE Lead and pupil Worship Team to plan additional worship throughout the year. In addition, I have established a pattern of worship with the following schools: Berry Brow (weekly worship working in partnership with the Community Worker and Minister from Berry Brow Methodist Church), Newsome Primary and Hillside Primary (half termly), Castle Hill Special School (termly plus festivals) and Mount Pleasant (invitation basis). The aim is to connect staff, children, and their families to the other events and opportunities in the Benefice including Workshops, Services and Junior Church.

Rev Fran Nunn

Children and Families – Junior Church:

As a result of some Joint services and school holiday periods we only held six sessions of Junior Church in 2025. We have taken the decision to hold Junior Church on the first Sunday of the month at 10 am from January 2026 to avoid school holidays. Also leaving the service, to go upstairs straight after the Notices gives the children more time for their activities before returning to join the congregation for Communion, a blessing and to share and discuss their work with the congregation at the end of the service.

Where possible we follow the Lectionary readings for that week.

Some of the themes covered with the children: **February: Jesus calming the storm, March: Lent, April: The Easter Story, June: Pentecost, September: Creation, November: Advent**

A Risk Assessment for Junior Church which is completed and reviewed every year was presented to the PCC in March for their for approval

There must always be two adults with the children, and we have two main leaders, Sam McGregor and myself (both with DBS). If one of us is unable to attend, then we have several people with a Self-declaration who can assist, (these forms are updated annually).

A rota for members of the congregation to attend and assist at our Junior Church sessions will begin in January 2026. It is hoped that from this some will want to help/lead regularly and then we may be able to offer the children two sessions a month.

There is now no longer a need to have a PCC Authorisation form, but attendances must be reported to the PCC.

The number of children attending in 2025 increased

January	No Junior Church
February	7 children
March	14 children
April	6 children
May	No Junior Church
June	4 children
July	No Junior Church
August	No Junior Church
September	7 children
November	6 children
December	No Junior Church
Average:	7 children

Children's Corner: An area close to the choir at the side of the church has been designated as a space for children to use during the service on weeks when there is no Junior Church or supervised activity during a Lay led worship.

Removable soft flooring, a small table, and chairs are provided along with books, jigsaws, quiet toys and drawing materials. It has been well used by the children. Some adjustments have been made already but it is felt that some drawers for crayons, pencils and paper may be required.

Christmas and Easter Craft workshops: Both workshops have been very well attended and have been enjoyed by children and adults alike. They are busy events incurring a lot of preparation, but we would not be able to go ahead

without the help and support of the many helpers who give up their time to make it a very enjoyable experience for the children.

Annual Family picnic at Beaumont Park: Our Annual Family picnic in July 2025 took place in Church because of the rain. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable event.

Risk Assessments for the Craft workshops and for the annual Family Picnic were approved by the PCC.

Our thanks to all those involved in the children's activities for their work and support.

Sam McGregor and Melody Hirst

Compassion:

We have had regular contact with Dafne our Compassion child. She still appears to be enjoying her time on the project that we sponsor.

Collections have been steady from St. Paul's, Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre and Hall Bower. Thank you to all our congregations for their support in their giving to help Dafne.

Melody Hirst

Benefice link to the Diocese of Royra, Tanzania:

St Paul's continues its link with a church in the diocese of Royra in Tanzania.

The church we link with in Royra is a small village called Sokorabolo.

News and updates for the last 12 months from Sokorabolo and the surrounding parishes of Royra include the following:

Some ongoing challenges

- Work has finished on the roof of the vicarage house. The rest of the house still needs to be finished in terms of plastering, floor and electricity.
- The church buildings need repairs to the roof, wall and floor. The roof of the church also needs to be painted.

Some success stories

- The kindergarten is going well with 30 regular students attending and they aim to increase this to 50 students over the next 12 – 24 months.

- The number of parishes remain the same at 45 although the number of Christians in the region has grown with the average now between 8,000 and 9,000 which is fantastic.
- Construction is going well for St Peter's Pre School and Primary School in Kowak.
- The Dorcas Sewing & Tailoring Project for which St Pauls donated funds to buy sewing machines is up to 20 girls in the college and is proving to be a huge success, as is the Ryagoro Agricultural Project.

Bishop Moses would like to ask for our prayers for the following:

- They are looking for funding to finish Nyang'ombe girls Secondary School and the Bishop Adiema Institute of Science and Technology.
- The St Peters pre-school and primary school continue to need funding if they are to develop though 2026.
- Funds of approx. TZS 10,000,000 (approx. £2800) are required to complete the remaining work on both church buildings and the vicarage house.

The village send their prayers and best wishes to the people of St Pauls. The work remains challenging but Bishop Moses Yamo believes in what he is doing and has plenty more ideas to develop the village and surrounding area further.

The Bishop has also sent through a proposal for the works they have left to do and as well as a breakdown of costs to support their appeal for the TZS 10,000,000. This has been submitted alongside this report as well as some photos.

Sarah Pope

Community Worker's Report:

My First report was in May 2015. At that time I was full of trepidation. I had massive shoes to fill in the person of Pam Kent who added so much to the lives of local people and I felt I knew nothing apart from the fact that I wanted to be of service to the community. Whether I have achieved that is for others to judge, but thanks to Pam's indefatigable support and guidance, I feel I have grown. I have seen the best in people and constantly been amazed by the continuing kindness of people. The community (from within and without the Churches) has come together time and time again, giving time, energy, food, donations and encouragement, and using a massive amount of skills through a variety of events.

Focussing on this year, much of the outreach work in the community has continued:

The Bread and Butter Thing

This has increased in clientele, with new members joining. We still regularly prepare 240 bags which are picked up with great enthusiasm by 80 members. This initiative continues 52 weeks a year and so far we have not run out of volunteers who are very loyal and committed, but we have come close. If anyone fancies helping unload the van or packing the bags they would be most welcome to join.

Warm welcome

Regular donations of delicious soup and other dishes and amazing cakes has made this venture more popular. The regulars enjoy it so much. For some it is a wonderful change from their 4 walls. The people who help are so caring, as well. I can't thank enough those who regularly take the time and effort to turn up to serve, make food and enable this to carry on. There will be a break in April, but we hope to continue monthly on the second Tuesday each month from May.

Simeon Wood concert

The Simeon Wood concert was a great success, enjoyed by many raising necessary funds. We were able to take the pressure off our wonderful bakers by 'hiring' outside caterers from another church who were glad for their own church's funds. Many thanks to St Paul's for hosting when Berry Brow Church had potential heating problems.

Pop up sale for the Together Shop

The 'Pop up shops' continue to be successful and to bring in finance to support the outgoings of the Together shop, thanks largely to the skills and the enthusiasm of our band of volunteers. It has also been good to support the scouts who add to their funds with the catering. Their contribution is a definite draw.

Film Café

These occasions always bring a smile to the attendees. We show a range of films, some thought provoking some just entertaining from a range of eras. The interval refreshments have been wonderfully enhanced by home baking from Cath.

Shrove Tuesday This was a most successful event. The kitchen 'staff' were amazing as were the many volunteers who were serving. We raised over £300 on the day, and had many people through the doors who had not been before.

Regular events for everyone I support:

Crafty Chatterers continues every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow

Coffee and homemade cake at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz). From 10 am.

Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month from 12 noon.

Hall Bower Ramblers who meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30)

Itinerary posted on the notice board.

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow. Second Tuesday from May to October.

Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut from 10 am

Hearts and Hands Community Gospel Choir 1st and 3rd Sunday each month 5.30. Berry Brow Church.

Coffee morning at South Crosland School on the Second Saturday morning, each month.

Film Café Third Saturday each month

Newsome Forum every other month to share our work and glean what is happening in the area.

Assemblies at Berry Brow Infant and Nursery School

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a community worker for churches together. I have had the most wonderful and gratifying experiences. I have seen God's love working in the community and it has been an honour to do so. Huge thanks to everyone who has supported me. I could not have achieved anything without your support and help. I wish the Churches and our community the very best. I will obviously continue to support all as a volunteer as I step back from this wonderful post.

Carol Waters

Comms and Focus in 2025

During 2025 the parish magazine continued to serve both Anglican and Methodist congregations. Contributions from parishioners flowed to such a degree that each monthly edition usually consisted of 20 pages, with hopefully something for everybody.

Regular features included:

- Service information at St. Paul's, Berry Brow Methodist Church and Netherton Methodist Church plus special services as appropriate
- A View from the Clergy
- Dates for diaries
- Event reports
- Bellringing reports

Occasional contributions included environmental articles, quizzes and jokes. The magazine normally has 4 pages of full colour, front and back with the on-line version being in full colour. Special editions are in full colour, but cost constraints limit the frequency of these.

Each month 120 copies are printed, of which 25 go to Berry Brow and 20 to Netherton. In addition, 37 on-line copies are distributed, a figure which is gradually increasing.

The editor would like to thank all those who contribute articles to the magazine – the problem of finding space is much nicer than struggling to find copy!

Graeme Williams, Editor

In addition to Focus, work on developing the Website and better use of notice boards across the Benefice has helped raise the profile of the Church's ministry and mission across Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton, including discipleship courses, seasonal services such as Remembrance, Advent and Christmas, and the monthly South Crosland Coffee Morning.

38th Art & Craft Exhibition

Our aim is to provide an attractive exhibition space for artists and crafters in the Huddersfield area to display their creations, to draw the local community to our church providing a warm and friendly atmosphere, and finally, raise capital for our Fabric Fund.

We displayed 275 pictures, a 50% increase, and a 25% increase in Craft exhibits over 2024. We had a 20% increase in attendance to 362. We were able to donate £2,400 to the Fabric Fund up from £2,000 in 2024.

We received a number of complements from exhibitors on the displays and believe that the welcome to our visitors was up to scratch.

All church members contributed to this result in some way and we are grateful for your wholehearted support.

Bruce Greenwood.

Eco Church and Parish Environment Officer Report 2025

Last spring there were few eco-events until June, so this report covers Fran's time with us so far, which is very appropriate. I led the 8th Big Blessing service at Stirley Community Farm YWT and Fran and Richard were among those who joined us. The speaker was Jo Rawson, Community Engagement Officer for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and Helen Pedley, Deanery Champion for Halifax and Calder Valley, assisted me. Also in June we held a local Churches' Count on Nature in our churchyard, aided by David Barker, and held our 3rd Well Dressing

in Armitage Bridge, thanking God for the gift of water – this was organised by Robin Bowles.

The 4 Sundays of September, Creationtide, were well marked. Fran preached on 3 aspects of God as Creator on 7, 14 and 28 September and, following a litter-pick on the 20th, Sunday 21st was a joyful celebration of the Harvest, led by the musicians and worship group. I preached on our call to work with God to serve and renovate this beautiful planet.

We started to reform the EcoChurch group in September and since January there have been 3 good constructive meetings of a team, now including some of those who were there from the beginning and some new volunteers. Work in progress is updating our EcoChurch account and who represents us on that account. We propose adopting the EcoChurch simple policy as a working template and will ask the PCC to accept this – with a simple headline or strapline that expresses our hopes and aims - and work with them as we aim for Gold award.

Graeme is using Focus as a platform for EcoTips and also has created a noticeboard for upcoming ways to become part of our sustainability journey. So far this year, church members have taken part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and we are planning a Litterpick on April 25th, just after Earth Day.

A film summarising the National Emergency Briefing, which took place last November in London and involved many leading experts in areas affected by climate change and biodiversity loss – the current “polycrisis” – will be available to screen in every constituency in April. Fran has signed up to be a Host and I have signed up to be a Connector for this event.

God bless you all as we work together to promote creation care and sustain the life of the Earth.

Rev Canon Debby Plummer

Gardening Team Report:

I think it would be fair to say that we have not felt we have totally been on top of the grounds over the last 12 months. Having just about managed to keep the grass cut retaining control of the various plots. 3 main reasons for this, the weather has not been kind to us, plus a smaller team coupled with a few health issues here and there. As we have progressed into 2026 we have not really been able to make much of a start as the weather has been poor, mainly rainy wet conditions. It has enabled us to help with a few jobs inside though along with trips to the tip, generally helping to keep things tidy.

Our "Garden of Remembrance" is looking good. Maureen, Cath and Lorraine continue to work hard on this part of our grounds. Clearing up and removing dead flowers, plants etc. Looking today we have again noticed a couple of glass jars making an appearance which for safety reasons we don't want.

Helen does her weekly round of checking on deposits a few of the dog walkers leave behind, evacuation of the 2 blocks of flats seem to have eradicated some of the problem.

A little work has been done up at South Crosland, more a case of tidying up and removing rubbish to the tip. There is also a slight Japanese Knotweed problem, River Holme Connections have been up there to spray the offending plants and were over the moon to receive our donation.

A number of trees continue to give us concern, these are kept under review with Kevin Stephenson and the arborists. We understand there is a tree on the drive to come down in the near future.

As and when the depth of the water allows we do make regular walks in the river, keeping our eye on invasive plants (Himalayan Balsam), importantly taking out any rubbish etc that gets dumped or ends up in there.

The car park has been subject to a lot of standing water over the last few months. We are trying to locate a supplier of "road panings" with no success to date. Kirklees council no longer supply this material as confirmed by local councillor Andrew Cooper.

Andrew has also promised to keep us informed to the repairs needed on the stone bridge which has taken a mighty whack from a vehicle dislodging a number of large stones into the river.

We are now starting to produce compost we started at the end of 2024. It looks ok with a bit being used in the churchyard and Tony using some for the various gardens he tends. Donations of veg peelings etc would be most welcome to mix in with grass cuttings and leaves.

One of our lawn mowers had to be scrapped after 30 years of use, replacing it with a Stihl Mower in 2024 - which needed a major repair under warranty in 2025. Along with a number of items passed onto us from South Crosland our storage capacity is full until we secure the container we are waiting for.

Alan Tebble

Health & Safety 2025:

Various church members take on safety inspections and subsequent work in their own areas of responsibility and all inspections and maintenance have been recorded centrally and updated as part of the H&S role during 2025/26.

A revised risk assessment covering all aspects of the Church, its services, and buildings has been conducted in this period. The following categories were reviewed and a brief note of the outcome is provided below. The outcome indicates if any changes have occurred to the risk gradings since the last full review:

Personal Safety – No change to risk grades

Building (internal) – No change to risk grades

Building (Kitchen) – No change to risk grades

Building (Electrical Safety) – No change to risk grades

Building (External) – No change to risk grades

Churchyard – No change to risk grades

Plant & Machinery - No change to risk grades

Manual Handling - No change to risk grades

Fire Safety - No change to risk grades

Safeguarding - No change to risk grades

In addition to the full risk assessment the list of who is responsible for carrying out the various safety measures as well as the list detailing the schedule of inspections and testing's have been reviewed and are in the process of being updated for 2026.

The Ecclesiastical Church Health & Safety Policy has also been updated and is due to be presented for approval at the next PCC.

In addition to the full risk assessment and revision of the policy documents, 4 risk assessments have been completed this year by Melody Hirst/ Sam McGregor and reviewed and approved by Sarah Pope. Details of these are as follows:

Risk Assessments 2025-2026

April 2025 – Easter Craft Workshop – approved

Sept 2025 – Annual Family Picnic – approved

Dec 2025 – Christmas Craft Workshop - approved

Feb 2026 – Junior Church Annual Risk Assessment – approved

Feb 2026 – Big Family Party Risk Assessment - approved

All H&SE policy documents and the risk assessments are available should anyone wish to view these. *Sarah Pope*

Any matters of parochial or general church interest: To be raised at the APCM

Concluding Prayers:

Spirit of God, you call us to celebrate our past,
to live consciously in the present and to follow you into the future.
You invite us to new ventures, new challenges.
You invite us to new ways to care,
and new ways to touch the hearts of all people.
When we are fearful of the unknown, give us courage.
When we worry that we are not up to the task,
remind us that you would not call us if you did not believe in us.
When we are tired or feel disappointed with the way things are going, remind
us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult situations.
Breathe into us new life and new meaning,
especially as we leave this gathering.
Endow us with energy and give us the strength needed to do our part to
transform the world and to empower each other and those around us.
We make this commitment in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

St Paul, Armitage Bridge

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
	0001: Sound System	1,560.00	1,950.00
	002: Kitchen	-	-
	Total Fixed assets	1,560.00	1,950.00
Current assets			
	CASH: Cash	45.00	-
	CBFCAP: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Capital Account	9,678.46	10,081.50
	CBFCHURCH: Churchyard CBF Account	-	-
	CBFFAB: Fabric CBF Account	18,729.23	17,918.32
	CBFGEN: General CBF Account	3,503.26	3,351.59
	CBFINC: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account	4,460.38	3,996.92
	DEBTORS: Year End Debtors	1,156.79	2,242.90
	HSBCBANK: HSBC Bank Account	9,114.34	11,528.00
	HSBCBBM: HSBC BBM Account	39,218.10	23,378.10
	JAMSTOCK: Jam Stock in Hand	231.00	231.00
	NEWSMIRG: Newsome Virgin Money	-	-
	PREPAY: Prepayments	-	-
	TRAIDSTK: Traidcraft Stock in Hand	40.00	40.00
	VIRGIN: General Account Virgin Money	735.46	615.46
	YORKDGT: David Gilroy Trusr Yorkshire Bank	-	-
	YORKFAB: Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank	-	-
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	415.00	370.00
	Total Current assets	87,327.02	73,753.79
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	148.61	126.80
	ACCRUALS: Accruals	785.91	882.33
	Z04: Accounts payable	-	-
	Total Liabilities	934.52	1,009.13
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	87,952.50	74,694.66
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	13,257.84	4,065.90
	Z01: Starting balances	74,694.66	70,628.76
	Total Reserves	87,952.50	74,694.66

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	24,622.48	53,210.18
Designated	38,298.33	309.20
Restricted	25,031.69	21,175.28
Total	87,952.50	74,694.66

St Paul, Armitage Bridge

Analysis of Receipts and Payments Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
COLLCASH - Collections Cash	7,141.96	-	-	-	7,141.96	4,019.49
COLLCHQ - Collection Cheque	-	-	-	-	-	3.00
COLLGA - Collections Gift Aided	-	-	-	-	-	130.00
DONATEGA - Donation Gift Aided	531.00	-	-	-	531.00	100.00
DONNONREC - Donations Non-recurring	1,390.00	-	73.00	-	1,463.00	3,194.70
DONRECUR - Donations Recurring	100.00	20.00	-	-	120.00	200.00
PGCHQ - Planned Giving Cheque	4,856.04	-	-	-	4,856.04	3,974.53
PLANGIVA - Planned Giving Gift Aided	16,685.09	-	960.00	-	17,645.09	15,890.00
TAXREFUND - Gift Aid Tax Refund	6,123.48	-	240.00	-	6,363.48	5,125.59
ARTIN - Art & Craft Exhibition Income	-	-	5,785.39	-	5,785.39	4,123.52
FUNDJAM - Jam Sales	314.86	-	-	-	314.86	316.27
FUNDOTH - Fundraising Sundry	65.50	-	-	-	65.50	-
HALLIN - Church Hall Receipts	5,292.00	-	-	-	5,292.00	5,236.00
LETTINGS - Lettings	6,415.00	-	-	-	6,415.00	7,261.20
DIVD - Dividends	-	-	280.12	-	280.12	273.58
INTEREST - Interest on Deposits	629.67	-	1,194.25	-	1,823.92	1,689.90
PROFIT - Profit on valuation of Investments	-	-	-	-	-	225.59
JUNIOR - Junior Church	-	-	-	-	-	153.71
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	49,544.60	20.00	8,532.76	-	58,097.36	51,917.08
Other incoming resources						
CAPIN - Capital Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	6,138.53
FEESIN - Fees	5,663.00	-	-	-	5,663.00	5,456.45
RENT - RENT	150.00	-	-	-	150.00	210.00
Other incoming resources Totals	5,813.00	-	-	-	5,813.00	11,804.98
Receipts Grand Totals	55,357.60	20.00	8,532.76	-	63,910.36	63,722.06
Payments						
Cost of generating funds						
ARTEXP - Art & Craft Exhibition Expenditure	-	-	3,390.96	-	3,390.96	4,126.68
HALLOUT - Church Hall Expenditure	4,071.27	-	-	-	4,071.27	4,970.55
BANKCHGE - Bank Charges	159.27	-	-	-	159.27	126.82
Cost of generating funds Totals	4,230.54	-	3,390.96	-	7,621.50	9,224.05
Charitable activities						
CHARITY - Charitable Payments	1,935.00	-	-	-	1,935.00	2,035.00
FEEMUSIC - Fees for Musicians	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	580.00
MISSION - MISSION EXPENDITURE	498.28	-	-	-	498.28	-
UPKEEP - Upkeep of Services	848.20	-	-	-	848.20	1,571.00
Charitable activities Totals	4,281.48	-	-	-	4,281.48	4,186.00

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Governance costs						
ADMIN - Administration Expenses	576.87	-	-	-	576.87	469.45
CLERGY - Clergy Expenses	252.45	-	-	-	252.45	-
COMFUND - Diocesan Common Fund	18,408.00	-	-	-	18,408.00	16,734.00
INSURPREM - Insurance Premium	4,023.40	-	-	-	4,023.40	3,459.95
JUNCHURCH - Junior Church Expenses	94.70	-	-	-	94.70	66.15
LOSS - Loss on Valuation	-	-	403.04	-	403.04	-
MAGCOSTS - Magazine Costs	995.15	-	-	-	995.15	685.55
REPMAN - Repairs Maintenance	3,412.57	-	-	-	3,412.57	4,868.24
TELEPHONE - Telephone	669.91	-	-	-	669.91	572.30
Governance costs Totals	28,433.05	-	403.04	-	28,836.09	26,855.64
Other resources used						
CHYARD - Churchyard Expenditure	141.85	-	105.35	-	247.20	241.45
Depretn - Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	390.00
DOB - Dobrowski Memorial Garden	-	-	777.00	-	777.00	383.00
ELECT - Electricity	1,550.22	-	-	-	1,550.22	1,824.24
FABEXCEP - Fabric Exceptional Expenditure	3,211.26	-	-	-	3,211.26	10,438.55
GAS - Gas	3,455.16	-	-	-	3,455.16	5,541.60
JUNOUT - Junior Church	-	29.97	-	-	29.97	65.81
REFRESH - Refreshments	168.46	-	-	-	168.46	162.03
WATER - Water Rates Church	474.18	-	-	-	474.18	343.79
Other resources used Totals	9,001.13	29.97	882.35	-	9,913.45	19,390.47
Payments Grand Totals	45,946.20	29.97	4,676.35	-	50,652.52	59,656.16

St Paul, Armitage Bridge
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	153.71
Voluntary income	36,847.57	1,273.00	-	38,120.57	32,637.31
Activities for generating funds	12,087.36	5,785.39	-	17,872.75	16,936.99
Investment income	629.67	1,474.37	-	2,104.04	2,189.07
Other incoming resources	5,813.00	-	-	5,813.00	11,804.98
Total income	55,377.60	8,532.76	-	63,910.36	63,722.06
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	159.27	-	-	159.27	126.82
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	4,071.27	3,390.96	-	7,462.23	9,097.23
Charitable activities	4,281.48	-	-	4,281.48	4,186.00
Governance costs	28,433.05	403.04	-	28,836.09	26,855.64
Other resources used	9,031.10	882.35	-	9,913.45	19,390.47
Total expenditure	45,976.17	4,676.35	-	50,652.52	59,656.16
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	9,401.43	3,856.41	-	13,257.84	4,065.90
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	38,000.90	2,400.00	-	40,400.90	2,842.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(38,000.90)	(2,400.00)	-	(40,400.90)	(2,842.00)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	9,401.43	3,856.41	-	13,257.84	4,065.90
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	53,519.38	21,175.28	-	74,694.66	70,628.76
Total funds carried forward	62,920.81	25,031.69	-	87,952.50	74,694.66

DEPRECIATION

Cost		3884.20	
Depreciation to 31/12/2024	1934.20		
Depreciation 2025	390.00	2324.20	
Net Value 31/12/2025			1560.00

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Designated Funds

Revenue Reserve

Allocation 2025		18000.00	18000.00
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South Crosland Churchyard

Balance			220.40
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Heating System

Allocation 2025		20000.00	20000.00
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Junior Church

31/12/2024		87.90	
Donation	20.00		
Resources bought	29.97	-9.97	
Balance 31/12/25			77.93

Restricted Funds

Art & Craft Exhibition

31/12/2024		430.35	
Sales	5785.39		
Expenses	3390.96		
Donation to Fabric Fund	2400.00	-5.57	
			424.78

Dobrowski Memorial Garden

31/12/2024		802.00	
Gardening costs	777.00	-770.00	
Balance 31/12/2025			25.00

Churchyard Fund

31/12/2024		105.35	
Donations	73.00		
Expenditure	105.35	-32.35	
Balance 31/12/2025			73.00

Fabric Fund

31/12/2024		20243.10	
Donation	960.00		
Gift Aid	240.00		
Art & Craft Exhibition Donation	2400.00		
Dividends	280.12		
Interest	1194.25	5074.37	
Loss on valuation of Investment	403.04	-403.04	
Balance 31/12/2025			24914.43

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

I report on the accounts for 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

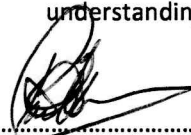
1 In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


..... 27-02-2026.

..... CHRISTOPHER JONES