

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALVECHURCH
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2025

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Laurence Church and regularly reviews how our services and activities can engage with the diverse communities that live within our parish.

During 2025 the church launched a renewed vision statement which expresses the heart of our ministry and mission:

“Here, everyone is welcome, valued and loved.”

This vision shapes the life of the church and guides our approach to worship, pastoral care, community engagement and mission. We seek to be a church that offers hospitality, encourages spiritual growth and serves the wider community with generosity and compassion.

We strive to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament, creating opportunities for people to explore and deepen their relationship with God.

In particular, we aim to support people in living out their faith within our parish community through:

- worship and prayer, learning from the Gospel, and growing in knowledge and trust as disciples of Jesus Christ
- the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, alongside missionary and outreach work
- the use of our church hall, The Ark, which continues to be an important asset in enabling many of these activities to take place.

In planning activities for the year, the PCC has had due regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit, including specific guidance relating to charities for the advancement of religion.

Achievements and Performance

Worship, Prayer and Community Life

The PCC seeks to offer a varied pattern of worship throughout the week and across the church year, recognising that people engage with faith in different ways. Our services range from quieter, reflective forms of worship to more interactive and outward-looking gatherings.

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

During the year our relationship with St Leonard's, Beoley continued to grow. Four joint "All Together" services were held across the two churches, alongside a shared Harvest social event which included a talent show. Discipleship groups during Lent and Advent were also shared across both congregations.

This relationship has now entered a new stage as we begin conversations, at the request of the Diocese, about the possibility of becoming one parish with two churches. The intention of this would be to simplify governance and create greater opportunities to share gifts, skills and resources across both congregations. These discussions remain at an early stage and are being approached through careful consultation.

During the year we also continued to explore how our new vision of welcome, value and belonging can be expressed practically within worship. One example of this has been the introduction of Be Space, a flexible area within the church designed for those who prefer a more interactive or reflective way of engaging during services. Alongside this we introduced a basket of items intended to support those with neurodiversity or sensory needs, helping ensure that worship is accessible for as many people as possible.

Café Church has now become firmly embedded within our pattern of worship. With its intergenerational focus, the service continues to experiment with creative elements, including the introduction of iSingPop songs alongside familiar favourites, which has brought a renewed sense of energy and participation.

Our monthly toddler service has continued to provide a gentle and welcoming environment for children aged 0–4 and their parents or carers, helping young families begin to explore faith together.

Beyond Sunday worship, Places of Welcome continues to provide hospitality and companionship within the community. Activities such as jigsaws and table-based conversations have proved particularly popular and have helped create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

At the end of 2025 there were 96 people on the Electoral Roll, with the wider worshipping community estimated to be around 148 people, including approximately 32 children and young people.

During the year the church celebrated:

- 3 baptisms
- 2 funerals at church
- 3 funerals at the crematorium
- 3 burials in the churchyard
- 17 interments of ashes

Attendance at Advent and Christmas services increased by approximately 21% compared with 2024, reflecting encouraging growth in participation.

Prayer continues to remain central to the life of the church. Alongside public worship, a confidential prayer chain supports those requesting prayer, and prayers are regularly offered for individuals named in the Prayer Tree and Prayer Folder.

Stewardship of Buildings and Resources

The PCC continues to take responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

During 2025 major restoration work was completed on the church tower, funded through a £189,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project also included the electrification of the tower clock, meaning it no longer needs to be manually wound twice each week.

The churchyard continues to be maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, whose work ensures that it remains a peaceful and well cared for space for the community. We were pleased that the volunteer team grew during the year. The loss of support from the Probation Service part way through the year required adjustments to how some areas are maintained, particularly within the older section of the churchyard. However, our new contractor has settled well and we have been pleased with the standard of their work.

Fundraising for the Organ Fund, which will support essential future work on the church organ, continues. The “Sponsor a Pipe” appeal has received steady support.

Pastoral Care

St Laurence continues to seek to be a caring and attentive community, offering support to those in times of need.

The Mother and Toddler Group remains an active and well-attended gathering for local families.

The Children’s Sunday Club, which had run alongside the Sunday morning family service for several years, was paused during the autumn due to volunteer availability and changing numbers as children grew older. However, volunteers have adapted this ministry by offering activities within Be Space each week, ensuring that children remain included within worship.

All volunteers working with children are appropriately DBS checked.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team, together with other volunteers, continue to visit or remain in contact with those who are unable to attend church because of illness or infirmity.

Regular services are also held in local residential homes including The Lawns, The Leys, Grosvenor House and Hopwood House, maintaining pastoral connection with residents and staff.

Mission and Community Engagement

The Growing Mission and Ministry Group completed the Myriad New Worshipping Communities Pathway during the year and continues to engage with the Diocesan Mission Accompanier Scheme to support new forms of church life and outreach.

St Laurence also continues to support the wider mission of the church through partnerships and charitable giving. This includes ongoing support for churches in Peru, the Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe, and Faith at Work in Worcestershire, where members of the congregation serve as workplace chaplains in Alvechurch and Redditch.

A Zimbabwean Day was organised during the year, incorporating elements into worship and followed by a shared meal and stalls raising funds to support ministry overseas.

The church also continues to support the NewStarts Food Bank in Bromsgrove, with regular donations from members of the congregation.

Community hospitality remains an important part of the church's mission. Ark Community Lunches, including a free Christmas Day lunch, continue to bring people together and offer companionship, particularly to those who might otherwise be alone.

Communication with the wider village is supported through the parish magazine The Grapevine, which continues to be distributed free of charge and has seen increasing readership.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Laurence remains an active member of Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG).

During the year this included shared Advent and Lent courses, participation in the Good Friday service, Picnic in the Park, and an ecologically themed service in Rowney Green. A Service for Peace was also held, followed by a shared meal at a local café.

Members of St Laurence also continue to support the Alvechurch Larder, an ecumenical food support initiative serving the local community.

Safeguarding

The PCC has due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding.

DBS checks and safeguarding training are up to date for those working with vulnerable groups.

Safeguarding compliance is monitored through the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, which provides a colour-coded overview of compliance and any required actions. These are reviewed regularly by the PCC.

There are no outstanding safeguarding issues.

Risk Review

The PCC has reviewed the major risks to which the church may be exposed. These include:

- financial sustainability of ministry and mission
- maintaining sufficient volunteer capacity
- the ongoing maintenance of the church building and facilities.

Income and expenditure are monitored regularly and the PCC continues to explore future funding opportunities to support the church's mission.

Deanery Synod

The parish is represented on the Deanery Synod, which forms an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church of England.

Through the Synod, matters of mission, ministry and church life across the deanery are shared and discussed, and information is communicated back to the PCC. This helps ensure that the parish remains connected to the wider work of the church locally and across the diocese.

Revd Gail Rogers, Revd Martin Allen and one PCC member currently represent St Laurence on the Deanery Synod.

Financial Review

Income for Unrestricted Funds in 2025 was £110,191 (2024: £108,951).

Income for Restricted Funds was £87,825 (2024: £115,259).

Expenditure from Unrestricted Funds in 2025 was £119,961 (2024: £118,566).

Ministry Share paid in 2025 was £35,598 and £35,213 in 2024.

Expenditure from Restricted Funds in 2025 was £266,049 (Includes Tower, Porch and Clock works of £238,873 Adjusted to £27,176) (2024: £19,058).

Cash reserves of General Unrestricted Funds stood at £17,825 at the end of 2025, and £50,130 at the end of 2024.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in the General Unrestricted Fund equivalent to approximately six months' expenditure, excluding Ministry Share payments.

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Administrative Information

The PCC continue to employ:

- Mrs Charlotte Palethorpe: Ark and Building Administrator
- Mrs Michelle Read: Finance Officer
- Mrs Penny Walker continues in her shared role as Ministry Support Administrator for St Laurence and St Leonard's
- Ms Helen Cran: Cleaner

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

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest in Charge	Revd Gail Rogers
Churchwarden	Mr Michael Davenport
	Mr Mick Fletcher
Assistant Curate	Revd Martin Allen
Lay Readers	Mrs Sue Philips-Wardle
	Mrs Helen Ayling
Treasurer	Mrs Michelle Read (from May)
Secretary	Mrs Sarah Grainger
Members	Mr Andrew Notley
	Mr Roger Wardle
	Mr Peter Freeman
	Mrs Lysandre Notley
	Mrs Sue Lambert
	Mrs Sarah Linton
	Mr Mark Linton
	Mrs Linda Helmore
	Mr Stephen Pritchett
	Mr Colin Bennett
	Ms Sue Sperring
	Ms Gloria Wilson
	Mrs Helena Allen

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Laurence Church has responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the Church—pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical—within the ecclesiastical parish of Alvechurch.

The PCC seeks to support the spiritual life of the congregation, encourage the growth of faith and discipleship, and develop opportunities for mission and service within the wider community.

Structure, Governance and Management

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

All members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC as part of the shared leadership of the church.

The PCC carries out much of its work through a number of committees which meet between full PCC meetings.

Finance and Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the authority to transact PCC business between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The committee oversees the financial life of the parish, including monitoring income and expenditure, preparing budgets and reviewing planned giving.

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

This committee is responsible for the care, maintenance and development of church property, including the church building, The Ark, and the churchyard.

It oversees both maintenance and capital projects, including work arising from the Quinquennial Inspection and the Asset Management Plan, ensuring that the church buildings remain safe, well maintained and suitable for the mission and ministry of the parish.

Children and Youth Work Committee

This committee oversees activities which support the development of faith among children and young people within the church and community. It also considers the wider work of the church with families and younger members of the parish.

Mission Committee

This committee supports the church's engagement in mission locally and internationally. It fosters links with partner organisations including churches in Peru, the Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre

in Zimbabwe, and Faith at Work in Worcestershire, while also encouraging wider mission awareness within the congregation.

Statement of Responsibilities of Members of the PCC

The PCC is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable compliance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations.

The PCC is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Conclusion

The PCC remains deeply grateful for the dedication and generosity of the many volunteers who give their time, gifts and energy to the life of St Laurence Church. Their commitment sustains our worship, pastoral care, community activities and mission throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope and gratitude, continuing to shape the life of the church around our shared vision that “Here, everyone is welcome, valued and loved.” Through prayer, service and partnership with our community, we seek to grow in faith and to share God’s love in Alvechurch and beyond.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALVECHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch		
Accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	Charity no	1183360
Set out on pages	12-18		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Church") for the year ended 31 December 2025.</p> <p>As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. <p>I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
Signed:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		Date: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
Name:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Matthew John Elmes</div>		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Chartered Accountant ICAEW / ACCA</div>		
Address:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11 Swan Street</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Alcester</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Warwickshire B49 5DP</div>		

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALVECHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Total Funds £
<u>Income from:</u>						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving		47,022	-	7,804	54,826	48,070
Collections at services		5,987	180	657	6,644	6,660
Other voluntary receipts	2	367	-	58,348	58,895	100,116
Gift aid recovered		13,563	12	386	13,949	11,752
Activities for generating funds	3	4,081	-	717	4,810	5,316
Investment income	4	476	23,723	12,727	13,203	11,767
Church activities	5	14,780	-	7,186	45,689	40,529
Total income		£ 86,276	23,915	87,825	198,016	224,210
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Church activities						
Diocesan ministry share		35,598	-	-	35,598	35,213
Clergy and staffing costs	6	18,533	15,615	-	34,148	32,473
Church running expenses	7	20,362	1,243	11,669	33,274	32,576
Tower, porch and clock works		-	-	238,873	238,873	-
Utilities	8	6,210	7,374	--	13,584	14,624
The Ark running costs			6,342	367	6,709	9,270
Mission giving and donations		3,273	-	1,130	4,403	4,082
Cost of generating funds		1,576	13	3,480	5,069	1,722
Other expenses	9	1,163	-	10,530	11,693	7,664
Depreciation	10	2,659	-	-	2,659	-
Total Expenditure		£ 89,374	30,587	266,049	386,010	137,624
Net income/(expenditure)		£ (3,098)	(6,672)	(178,224)	(187,994)	86,854
<u>Transfers</u>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	11	-	6822	22,385	29,207	1,660
Gross transfers between funds - out	11	(29,207)	-	-	(29,207)	(1,660)
Net movement in funds		£ (32,305)	150	(155,839)	(187,994)	86,586
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>						
Total funds brought forward	12	50,130	-	564,884	615,014	528,428
Total funds carried forward	12	£ 17,825	150	409,045	427,020	615,014

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALVECHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	7,976	-
Investments		199,764	199,764
Total fixed assets		£ 207,740	£ 199,764
<u>Current assets</u>			
Investments		193,932	266,848
Cash at bank and in hand		28,678	149,579
Total current assets		£ 222,610	£ 416,427
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
Agency Collections		3,330	1,177
Net current assets/(liabilities)		£ 219,280	£ 415,250
Total assets less current liabilities		£ 427,020	£ 615,014
<u>Funds of the Church</u>			
General Fund - Unrestricted	12	17,825	43,127
Flower Fund - Designated	12	150	-
Restricted Funds	12	409,045	571,887
Total Church Funds		£ 427,020	£ 615,014

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31st March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Gail Rogers
Chair of the Parochial Church Council

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Church, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.2 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.4 Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings – 25% straight line.

Computer equipment – 25% straight line.

2 Other Voluntary Receipts

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	2,121	5,492
National Lottery grant	56,774	94,623
	£ 58,895	£ 110,116

3 Activities for Generating Funds

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fundraising	3,405	3,406
Grapevine magazine	1,405	1,910
	£ 4,810	£ 5,316

4 Investment Income

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Dividends	1,279	8,650
Interest	11,924	3,117
	£ 13,203	£ 11,767

5 Church Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Weddings and funerals	7,254	7,342
Ark lettings and events	26,478	21,333
Other receipts	11,957	11,854
	£ 45,689	£ 40,529

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6 Staffing Costs

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Clergy expenses	2,945	2,374
Administration and ministry	31,203	30,099
	£ 34,148	£ 32,473

St Leonard's Beoley District Church Council contributes towards 50% of clergy expenses and 50% of the administration and ministry costs. Amounts received are included in other income.

7 Church Running Expenses

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Insurance	7,321	6,801
Repairs and maintenance	15,389	14,201
Worship resources	1,691	805
Administration	5,297	3,495
Independent examiners fee	1,236	1,176
Other running costs	2,340	6,098
	£ 33,274	£ 32,576

8 Utilities

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Electricity	5,951	6,822
Gas	5,825	6,594
Water	328	-
IT & telephone	1,480	1,208
	£ 13,584	£ 14,624

9 Other Expenses

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Audio visual system installation	-	5,624
Professional fees	11,647	2,040
Small equipment	45	-
	£ 11,693	£ 7,664

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

Analysis	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Additions	10,020	615	10,635
Depreciation	2,505	154	2,659
Value at 31 st December 2025	£ 7,515	461	7,976

11 Church Funds Transfers

Details of funds held and movements during the previous reporting period

Year ended 31 December 2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Movement £
General fund	(1,660)			(1,660)
Ark fund		1,449		1,449
Churchyard maintenance			211	211
Total Movement	£ (1,660)	1,449	211	0

Details of funds held and movements during the current reporting period

Year ended 31 December 2025	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Movement £
General fund	(29,207)			(29,207)
Clock fund			8,636	8,636
Tower fund			26,399	26,399
Churchyard maintenance			320	320
Ark		6,822		6,822
Fabric			8,630	8,630
Arkff			(1,600)	(1,600)
Caprep			(20,000)	(20,000)
Total Movement	£ (29,207)	6,822	22,385	0

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

12 Church Funds

	1 Jan 25	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31 Dec 25
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General	£ 50,130	86,274	89,372	(29,207)	17,825
Designated funds					
The Ark	-	23,740	30,562	6,822	-
Flowers	-	175	25	-	150
£	-	23,915	30,587	6,822	150
Restricted funds					
Ark community	859	4,793	4,056	-	1,596
Ark fixtures & fittings*	1,630	-	30	(1,600)	-
Ark recoupment	58,881	-	-	-	58,881
Ark tots & toddlers	3,395	1,146	290	-	4,251
Bells	2,337	458	128	-	2,667
Capital repairs	343,469	15,785	82,000	(20,000)	257,254
Churchyard Capital	40,883	-	-	-	40,883
Churchyard Maintenance	91	3,479	2,178	320	1,712
Clock	3,111	-	11,747	8,636	-
Fabric	3,563	9,936	971	8,630	21,158
Music	166	-	-	-	166
Organ restoration	4,574	724	83	-	5,215
Others	3,941	4,818	1,130	-	7,629
Tower Project	90,292	195,547	312,238	26,399	-
Youth	7,692	-	59	-	7,633
£	564,884	236,686	414,910	22,385	409,045
£	615,014	346,875	534,869	-	427,020

*The Ark fixtures and fittings fund has been amalgamated with the general fabric fund.

The "Others" fund is various donations held on behalf of other organisations, gift aid refunds and other small donations.