

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
WATFORD**

Mildred Avenue, Watford WD18 7DY

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council for the year
ended 31st December 2025

Incumbent
Vacant since 1st October 2024

Bank:
Barclays Bank
High Street
Watford
WD17 2BE

Independent Examiner:
Karen Pryse
18 Frankland Road
Croxley Green
WD3 3AU

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010

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St Michael and All Angels Church, Annual Report for the Year January to December 2025

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Welcome to this edition of our Annual Report, which I trust you will find interesting, informative and a good reminder of many of the things that we achieved in 2025.

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support throughout the year and to those of you who have contributed to this document.

We give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received throughout 2025. It has been another busy and fruitful year for our church community.

Appointment of a New Vicar

The most significant focus of the year was the preparation of the Parish Profile and the work required to begin the search for a new vicar. A dedicated small team collaborated to produce the profile, and thanks to Elizabeth Talbot's creativity and commitment, it was beautifully and uniquely designed. It was subsequently published in the Church Times, enabling prospective candidates to apply.

Throughout this process, we received invaluable support from Bishop Jane, Archdeacon Charles, Rural Dean Peter, and members of the Diocesan staff.

After three rounds of interviews, we joyfully appointed Fr Kudzayi Bverkerwa on 17 October. We later learned that his installation would take place in February 2026; we very much look forward to welcoming him.

Meanwhile, we were in the extraordinary position of having two priests, Fr Stephen Mephram and Fr Robert Fletcher, taking most of our Sunday Services. Many thanks to both of them for their kindness and consideration. There were other visitors – the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean all took a turn plus Carol Walker (USPG) and Stephen Davidson, a Lay Reader who came to our rescue. Our Jacobite friends continue to worship on two Sundays each month and are generous with help cleaning the church.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the many times you have guided us and kept us safe.

Elizabeth Watkin and Valerie Blacklock

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICARAGE

I thank God for enabling my family and me to join St Michael and All Angels. We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received and for the strong sense of community we have already experienced. My journey here began with the interview on 11 October 2025, which was a significant and affirming step in discerning God's call to this parish. That journey was beautifully marked by my licensing, installation, and induction on 11 February 2026 truly a special and memorable occasion in the life of both my family and the church.

Although APCM reports are usually annual, I wanted to share some reflections from these first few months since arriving in February. It has been a joy to become part of such a diverse and committed church family. I am especially thankful to Rev Stephen and Rev Robert for helping me understand the rhythms and traditions of the church during this early period.

I have been greatly encouraged by the sense of belonging among members and the willingness of so many to serve. From PCC members, to children's ministry coordinators, food bank volunteers, coffee morning teams, and those involved in home communion, there is a clear and active commitment to the life and mission of the church.

It has also been inspiring to learn about those who have served as churchwardens over the years, faithfully taking on this important and sometimes demanding role. I would like to thank Elizabeth as she steps down for her dedicated leadership, and Mark for his support and sacrifice. We are truly grateful for all you have both given to the life of this church. Mark, thank you again for faithfully supporting Elizabeth behind the scenes we recognise that, as a church, we may have borrowed more of your shared time than expected. So today we gladly release her back to you, though perhaps only temporarily.

Our engagement with the wider community is another great encouragement. The Monday Toddlers group continues to flourish, drawing positive feedback and even families traveling significant distances to attend.

Our connection with St Anthony's Care Home remains a meaningful and valued ministry. The monthly communion service is warmly received by residents and staff, and it is a privilege to share in that fellowship.

As we continue together, I pray that we may be strengthened and equipped for all that God is calling us to do:

"Now may the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will... through Jesus Christ." (Hebrews 13:20–21)

Kudzayi Bvekerwa

Vicar: St Michael and All Angels, Watford

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Children & Young Families Network

Little Micks meets on Monday mornings during term times with between 25 and 35 toddlers plus parents, grandparents and carers.

This is a multi-ethnic activity with other faiths represented. We aim to offer hospitality and support to young families through play and craft activities. This includes some time in the Lady Chapel for a prayer followed by singing - always well supported. We are very dependent on the faithful support of St Michael's members who contribute to a fun time and happy atmosphere. Their Party Day was a riot of colour and smiles and foods.

Third Sunday Church is for a small group of children who meet in the choir vestry during the Sung Eucharist for age-appropriate discussion and activity. This requires two adults who have completed the required levels of safeguarding - not always easy to arrange.

On other Sundays there is an activity table at the back of the church, supervised by a parent or other church member.

Pizza & Chips takes place in the choir vestry on the last Saturday of the month when the children help prepare and rehearse the prayers and readings for All Age Worship the next day. This includes Bible-based games and opportunities for friendship.

The Brownies did their bit very well at both the Lent Lunch, waiting on the tables and at the Christmas Fair, selling their jars of sweeties and spending their own money at many of the stalls.

We welcomed visits from Chater Infants, Laurence Haines and Ascot Road schools at Harvest, Christmas and Lent and we appreciate their interest, involvement and good behaviour.

Gillian Heath

Safeguarding

Safeguarding has evolved significantly in recent years and will continue to do so. This is driven mainly by new risks arising from the widespread use of the internet and social media—threats that did not exist two decades ago—and by the potential impact of artificial intelligence. At the same time, cultural shifts have led the Church of England to acknowledge past failures and show a growing commitment to learning from them.

safeguardingdashboards.org.uk

Safeguarding Sunday, held on November 16th 2025, focused on taking practical steps to create safer church communities, using resources from the Christian charity Thirtyone:eight. We prayed for those affected by abuse and emphasised that safeguarding is a shared responsibility. Father Stephen delivered a powerful address drawn from personal experience, which was deeply appreciated by all in attendance.

We have currently achieved 94% compliance with mandatory requirements, as shown on the Watford, St Michael and All Angels (LEP) Safeguarding Dashboard – Level 3. This is a positive position, recognising that the dashboard is dynamic and designed to support continuous improvement. We are currently awaiting updated safeguarding documentation following changes in the tenancy arrangements for St Michael's hall.

The PCC has fulfilled its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 by complying with the House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance for children and vulnerable adults. Key documents—including "Protecting All God's Children", and "Policy for Safeguarding Adults in the Church of England", are available to anyone on request.

DBS checks have been completed for those required, and the ongoing Church of England online safeguarding training continues. Please see our Church Safeguarding display board for contact numbers, policies and risk assessments.

Our aim for 2026/2027 is to strengthen our focus on safeguarding, with ongoing support and guidance from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and to keep it a consistent priority. We will continue to meet all mandatory safeguarding requirements and uphold our strong safer recruitment practices for volunteers.

Jane Talbot

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Music

Our two Organists, Tim Hooper and Dave Deegan, display their different styles of playing as they join us on alternate weeks. The choir manages to find a suitable (and easy) anthem most weeks and welcomed Rebecca who joined the sopranos.

It would be a great pleasure to have more pianists to come in and play, just for pleasure, as it is such a joy to hear.

The organ is hanging on by a couple of threads but one day we shall have to think about overhaul, repair, and restoration. The last quotation for work to be done, was £40K. No doubt, the next one will be much higher.

Events and Community Life and Special Occasions

The Audentior Orchestra performed two concerts for us this year and were well attended.

We were delighted to once again welcome the Australian groups of actors and singers. Their energy, enthusiasm, and joyful performances were greatly appreciated by all the adults, young people and children who attended.

Gifts and Improvements

We were blessed to receive two very special gifts this year.

First, a new altar, which was installed in the Lady Chapel and subsequently blessed.

Second, a generous donation toward new church lighting, which will be carried out in the New Year.

Good Fun Fund Raisers

Our summer fundraiser - the annual quiz - was thoroughly enjoyed and highly successful.

Likewise, the Christmas Fair, our winter fundraiser, was wonderfully attended by many neighbours, including numerous families whose children participate in Little Micks on Mondays. It was heartening to see the church so full and vibrant.

In the Autumn we supported the Herts and Beds Historic Churches charity by walking to visit as many as possible churches (19) to raise £500.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair was a tremendous success. Thanks to the hard work of all involved, it was a joyful occasion that brought together members of the congregation and the wider community. The fair was filled with festive spirit, and its proceeds go towards supporting our church. We are grateful for the support of everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered. We are especially indebted to Warner Brothers Studio Tours, The Grove, Metropolitan Bushey, Morrisons, Hollywood Bowl and individuals who every year support us by giving raffle prizes.

Carol and Crib Services

What a fabulous time of year with the many candles and the children dressing up for their part in the Crib Service! (People had to wait until after all the hustle and bustle of Christmas for the Christingle service.)

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

The church continues to be used by the St. Gregorios congregation on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Sharing our church space with the JSOC has been a rewarding experience. We value the friendship between our communities and the work they undertake in church, often unseen.

Special Visitors

During the Vacancy we were really lucky to have Bishop Jane Mainwaring, Archdeacon Charles Hudson and Rural Dean Peter Wadell take three of our Sunday morning services which meant that they could see what our congregation is like and how we conduct our service. It also meant that we could see the people who were in charge of the appointment. We also welcomed Catherine Miller who gave us an amazing insight into her role within USPG and also as a priest.

We had another visit from Wesley College Drama group who presented two fantastically lively plays in church. The first was a presentation to children from St Anthony's School which was based on the story of Snow White. The second was 'The Artful' to which our friends and neighbours were invited and who were very appreciative of the standard and abilities of the players and singers of this group of students. With both plays the costumes and props were minimal but the energy was outstanding.

OUR CORE PURPOSES

Aims and Purposes

St Michael and All Angels PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the clergy in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for oversight of the leases given to the properties owned by the church, together with the Diocese of St Albans, namely 57 Whippendell Road, Littlebury Hall and St. Michael's Hall.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and become part of our parish community at St Michael's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Activities for the year have been undertaken in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We seek to enable members of the community to engage with the Christian faith through:

- Worship, prayer and study,
- Provision of pastoral care,
- Missionary and outreach work,
- Support of local organisations.

The Church building at St Michael's and the ancillary buildings are the essential resources for this work to take place, although the ability to livestream services and use the internet in various ways has been very important in 2025.

Annual Parish Meeting and Wardenship

For the first time, our Parish Meeting and APCM were held after the Sunday service. Valerie Blacklock announced that she would not stand again for Churchwarden and was warmly thanked for her unwavering commitment and dedicated service to St Michael's. Elizabeth Watkin also shared that this would be her final year. After the formal proceedings, it was a pleasure to enjoy a meal together.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains of utmost importance in all that we do. We are especially fortunate to have Jane Talbot as our Safeguarding Officer. She ensures we all remain up-to-date, informed and compliant with our responsibilities.

Streaming Services

In response to the ongoing needs of our congregation and community, we have continued to stream our church services. This digital platform has allowed us to stay connected with those unable to attend in person, especially during times when mobility or health concerns prevent physical attendance. We are pleased that technology has allowed us to maintain a spiritual presence in the lives of many.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio members

Incumbent	Vacancy
Assistant Priest	The Revd Stephen Mephram (Associate Priest)
Churchwardens	Mrs Elizabeth Watkin
	Mrs Valerie Blacklock (until May 2025)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mrs Valerie Blacklock
	Mr Mark Simon (until May 2025)
	Mr Philip Gough (from May 2025)

Elected Members

To serve to 2026	Mrs Sylvia Moring (retired), Mr Andrew Kiddle(Co-opted), Mrs Jane Talbot, Mrs Gillian Heath, Mrs Julie Bye
To serve to 2027	Mr Paul Chandler, Mr Duncan Turton, Mr Steve Birch
To serve to 2028	Mr Simon Fowle, Cllr Mark Watkin

Non-trustee officers appointed by PCC

Honorary Treasurer	Mr Duncan Turton
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Simon Fowle
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Jane Talbot
Data Controller	Vacant
PCC Secretary	Mr Simon Fowle
Annual Report Compilation	Mrs Julie Bye and Mr Stephen Bye

Non-trustee advisors appointed by PCC

Insurance Advisor	Mr Duncan Turton
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PCC COMMITTEES

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The committees have continued to function during 2025

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Wardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer constitute the Standing Committee.

Finance Committee (up to June 4th 2025):

Oversees the financial dimension of the work of St. Michael and All Angels by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting, and initiating and authorising fundraising activities.

(A fuller set of terms of reference for the Finance Committee is available on request.)

Estates Committee (up to June 4th 2025):

Attends to matters relating to the fabric of the church, halls, grounds and 57 Whippendell Road and oversees the management of Littlebury Hall, 57 Whippendell Road and St Michael's Hall.

Finance and Estates Committee (from June 4th 2025):

At the PCC meeting on 4th June 2025 it was noted that the membership and agendas of the Finance and Estates Committees overlapped to such an extent that it would seem more practical to merge the two committees together.

Mission Committee:

Supports the life and mission of the worldwide Church through prayer, publicity, events and visiting speakers. It also makes recommendations to the PCC for the annual allocation of mission & charitable giving.

Social Committee:

The committee organises events to engage with our local community and organisations associated with St. Michael and All Angels. It manages the catering for parish functions and supports other activities where appropriate.

Children and Young Families Network:

Promotes the understanding of our Christian faith among young people in the age group 0 – 18 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Estates Committee

When we have rain 'from the wrong direction' it is not unusual to have water dripping inside the church; the difficulty is finding where the water got in. A new downpipe at the south-eastern corner was put in place and this stopped the water ingress which was seeping into the Vicar's vestry. We have used two Roofers who have helped by finding loose slates but, unfortunately both of them have retired.

We engaged a company to check the three lightning conductors. The two on the church were passed but the one on St Michaels Hall was not. A quotation for repair, plus scaffolding, was in excess of £40K. A new quotation is being sought.

The Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2026 but we have not made a decision about who should be the surveyor.

The reduction of the crown of the oak tree on Mildred Avenue has been scheduled for Spring 2026.

The heating system was reviewed at the end of the year and it was agreed that we should not invest in any additional, and expensive, heating at this time.

At the end of the year there was the first instalment of new lighting thanks to a donation for this work.

During the Vacancy we looked after the Vicarage and took the opportunity to have the gardens trimmed and the hedge cut back. We were instructed by the Diocesan Office that they would allow a company to operate short-term tenants to occupy the Vicarage over winter. They would act as caretakers thus keeping the building warm and trespassers out. This worked well.

Property Matters

We were saddened by the departure of our excellent tenants at No. 57, but were grateful that the property manager agreed to take over the lettings directly. This transition was handled smoothly and has provided us with a positive commercial rate of income. Toward the end of the year, we were informed of further potential changes to the premises, which we will address in the coming year.

As the lease for the MCCC over St Michael's Hall had expired we sought guidance from our solicitors with the intention of improving the terms of the lease for the benefit of the church or to seek alternative lessees. There have been issues and holdups and expenses that have required a very considerable amount of time and attention. Our hope is that we will receive a higher income and have more groups from the wider community using this building. We are deeply grateful to Valerie Blacklock for her patience and perseverance in taking this forward; thank you so much.

Finance and Estates Committee

At the PCC meeting on 4th June 2025 it was noted that the membership and agendas of the Finance and Estates Committees overlapped to such an extent that it would seem more practical to merge the two committees together.

The first joint meeting was held on 18th June 2025 and subsequent meetings were two-monthly, usually a week before the corresponding PCC meeting.

The activity and discussions of the finance element of the committee are reflected in the Treasurer's report.

Mission Committee

Our focus at St Michael's this year has been largely on nurturing our outreach ministries of service and hospitality, notably through the Wednesday Food Bank and Little Micks Toddlers' Church on Monday mornings.

We have maintained our support under Mission & Charitable Giving of the following agencies

The Trussell Trust

Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Society

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Alzheimer's Society

United Society Partners in the Gospel

(details of our financial support appear elsewhere in the Annual Report)

Apart from supporting these agencies financially we have tried to maintain up to date publicity, often with prayer material, and each has been regularly prayed for in the Sunday intercessions.

In September we were pleased to welcome a speaker from USPG and we hope to invite speakers on a regular basis.

The PCC has agreed that the Committee's terms of reference should be revised and this is on the Committee's agenda.

Gillian Heath

Social Committee

The social committee is charged with providing entertainment and fundraising for the church family. We are a small group who welcome suggestions from members of the congregation for events.

During the year our fundraising events were Lent Lunch, a Quiz and The Christmas Fair.

The Lent Lunch as usual was a platform for some of The Brownies to work towards their Take Action badge that demonstrates their commitment to Charity, Lending a Hand and Doing a Good Turn. They are a delight to have with us. Their leaders support them and are not averse to helping where necessary for which we are most grateful. All proceeds from this event go to charitable giving. We raised £285 when combined with Norna's sale and raffle that was donated to Watford Women's Centre.

The Quiz raised £840 for church funds. We are indebted to Chris and June Jones who ran the quiz again this year and the companies and individuals who donated raffle prizes. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Christmas Fair exceeded all expectation this year raising £2124. We received raffle prizes from Warner Bros, The Grove, Wetherspoons, Watford Football Club, Beckenscot Village and Hollywood Bowl. Many thanks to the members of the congregation who donated so generously so we could stock the various sideshows and serve delicious lunches.

We are most grateful for all the help freely given by members of the congregation to make these events successful and enjoyable.

Valerie Blacklock

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Faith Share

Faith Share is a group, currently of up to eight members, who meet fortnightly in each other's homes - to share their faith.

It began as a Lent Group in 2025 and has continued to meet regularly. Biblically-rooted and non-academic, its aim is to provide a safe space where we can share our faith openly and honestly, with its ups and downs, learning from and affirming each other.

Definitely user-friendly and new members always welcome! Meetings last for not more than an hour, followed by tea and cake.

Martin Heath

Wednesday Morning Coffee

Our Wednesday coffee mornings continue to attract a good number of people who enjoy chatting about a myriad of different topics from the sublime to the ridiculous. If you are intrigued do join us. Sometimes we have people wanting to have a look inside our beautiful church, other times we have people in need of comfort or advice. Whatever their reason for entering everyone is given a warm welcome and despite no Pastoral Team member being present since October appropriate help is offered.

Food Bank

This service is a vital lifeline for many people within our community. We operate a distribution centre for Watford Foodbank, The Trussell Trust, and it is not unusual to have 10 or so people on a busy day. We are so pleased that Ed joined the team and is the administrator ably supported by Ruth, Valerie, and Francoise. More helpers would be very welcome, especially at the opening time as a safeguarding measure for our clients and for us. As an additional service we are able to give out toiletries, e.g. detergent, toilet rolls and sanitary products that have generously been given by members of the congregation; a big thank you to everyone who has contributed, especially when a last minute plea has gone out.

Deanery Synod

Over the past year, the Deanery Synod has continued to play an important role in supporting the mission and ministry of parishes within the Church of England at a local level. We have attended meetings and contributed to discussions on a range of issues affecting both our deanery and the wider Church.

Synod meetings have included updates from the Diocese and General Synod, helping parishes stay informed about developments across the Church of England. Key areas of focus this year at the meetings we have been able to attend included:

Parish Finance and Parish Share: Addressing ongoing financial pressures and promoting stewardship and generosity. There was an update on Diocesan finances before a presentation to explain the mechanism of calculation of Parish Share followed by a lively debate. Our Parish Share remains as before albeit with a small reduction during the vacancy.

Listening and responding: This exercise was used to find out the different priorities that participants see within their local community, church and their own faith.

The Deanery Synod continues to provide a valuable forum for collaboration, enabling parishes to share experiences, resources, and encouragement. Joint services, training opportunities, and mission initiatives have helped to strengthen relationships across the deanery.

Anyone wishing to see the minutes of the meetings please contact Valerie although they do tend to be sparse!

Please continue to pray for the work of the Deanery Synod, for our clergy and lay leaders, and for the ongoing mission of the Church of England in our communities.

2026 sees the start of a new 3-year cycle for representatives so if anyone wishes to become a rep please speak to Simon for a nomination form. There are 4 meetings each year in various locations around the deanery. PCC membership is automatic for each representative. *Valerie Blacklock and Phil Gough, Deanery Synod Representatives.*

MISSION ACTION PLAN

1. Introduction

Our Diocese of St Albans encourages us in mission through Living God's Love, attending to the three areas of:

Going Deeper into God
Making New Disciples
Transforming Communities

The practical method we are encouraged to use is Mission Action Planning, in which practical and achievable goals are set out. The proposals are, in the main, moving forward with work we already do, and aiming to involve more people in it. The plan is one which can involve a wide range of members of the congregation. Members of St Michael's are encouraged to think and pray deeply about the plan, and how they can give their support.

2. The Mission Action Plan

2.1 To encourage younger members and families in their faith journeys through First Sunday Worship, Children's Church, Little Mick's, and liaison with local schools.

2.2 To work towards becoming a "Dementia Friendly Church".

2.3 To work towards Eco Church status and become more environmentally conscious in our decision making.

2.4 to encourage Church members to realise their own ministries.

2.5 To work towards a wider and more inclusive involvement by church members in the life of St Michaels – in worship, ministry, the PCC and its committees.

2.6 To provide new opportunities for growth in Christian understanding and spirituality by finding and developing opportunities for study and nurture groups.

2.7 To extend our commitment to community and neighbourhood relations.

2.8 To engage with the wider Christian community in Watford.

2.9 To encourage greater support for local mission.

2.10 To encourage deeper knowledge and engagement with the world beyond itself.

2.11 To develop our use of livestreaming to enable worship for people unable to come to Church.

2.12 To develop our website and social media presence as means of reaching out to people living in our Parish but in areas far away from the Church.

This plan continued through 2025 and is referred to as a guide for work-in-progress.

ELECTORAL ROLL

After the complete revision of the Electoral Roll in May 2025 there were 68 on the Roll, as certified to the Diocese. The 68 comprised 45 Residents and 23 non-Residents.

During the year we gained one new member but we also lost six so, as at 31st December 2025, the Roll had reduced to 63, of which 46 were Resident and 17 non-Resident.

The Roll will be open for new applications and revision from 12th April 2026, closing on 3rd May 2026. It will then re-open after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 17th May 2026.

Simon Fowle
Parish Electoral Roll Officer

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Watford (Charity Commission Registration Number 1132010).

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council presents the Report and accounts of St Michael and All angels, Watford for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and in Accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Accounting by charities.

(b) Planned Giving and Tax Recoverable

These have been treated as Income when actually received.

(c) Depreciation

Equipment, fixture and fittings are depreciated at between 15% and 25% per annum on a straight line basis. From 1 January 2013, assets have been capitalised only when the initial cost exceeds £3,000.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our overall funds have increased during 2025 to £88,890 from £86,172 in 2024. Total incoming funds were £93,003. That is a slight decrease on the 2024 figure of £94,882.

Our main sources of regular income were:

1. Rental income (St Michael's Hall, Littlebury Hall, and the Curate's House) - £51,755 (2024: £50,734). This is now more than half our total income.
2. Giving by Church Members and supporters (including Tax Repaid under Gift Aid) £32,278 – (2024: £34,526). This accounts for just over a third of income.

Our total expenditure ("Resources used"), was £89,752 (2024: £98,176). The main reason for this fall was that our Parish Share was reduced whilst the church was in vacancy. The 2026 Parish Share payment will revert to normal levels. Our biggest item of expenditure remains the Parish Share which was slightly over 50% of outgoings.

We had bank and deposit balances of £55,798 at 31st December 2025

The Future

For some years I have said that 2026 will be the time I step down as Treasurer. Well, I'm afraid you are stuck with me for a bit longer!

It is well-known that we have made strenuous and indeed expensive efforts to maximise our resources. After many years of hard work on the part of many, that work should now come to completion. We are in a position to say that we really do anticipate market rates on our buildings. Perhaps it has not always been clear why we have done so. The fact is that were PCC ever to ask the Diocese for money the first thing they would have said in reply would be that we need to maximise our own resources. We are now doing so - not in the interest simply of PCC but in the interests of the strength of the church as a whole.

So what now? I am reminded of my own favourite passage in the Bible – 2Kings5. It's not one of the better-known passages of the Bible. It should be. In about a page and a half it has everything – captured slave girls, acts of tremendous faith, miracles and a shock twist ending.

It tells the story of Naaman's healing by Elisha and the bad faith of Geheze. After healing Naaman's leprosy Elisha refuses the offer of money and gifts instead asking Naaman to return to Syria, keep worshipping God and find more members for the church. Well, I assume that Elisha would have had to pay his bills somehow. But I think that a really understated part of 2Kings5 is that Elisha sees value in the bigger church beyond his own wealth. Likewise PCC is not about money for the sake of it, it is about a stronger church in Watford and also the wider area now and for those who follow us.

Any church evolves – for example for some time now our work with children has meant that more people are now in our Church on a Monday than a Sunday. The best thing now for our money is to grow our church.

Duncan Turton
Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford			
		2025	2024
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025	Note	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
<u>Tangible Fixed Assets</u>			
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	3d and 8	0	0
Functional freehold property - Curate's House			
57 Whippendell Road Watford (at cost)	4a	12,575	12,575
Littlebury Hall, Mildred Avenue, Watford (at cost)	4a	5,065	5,065
St Michael's Hall, Durban Road, Watford (cost not known)			
<u>Investment Assets</u>	4c	14,818	15,351
		32,458	32,991
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and Prepayments		634	927
Short Term Deposits		42,158	40,333
Cash at Bank and at Hand		13,640	11,921
		56,432	53,181
Sundry Creditors and Accruals		0	0
Liabilities Sundry Creditors and Accruals		0	0
Net Current Assets		56,432	53,181
<u>Net Assets</u>	11	88,890	86,172
<u>Funds</u>			
<u>Unrestricted</u>			
General Funds		83,060	79,794
Major Works Fund		1,087	1,651
Flower Fund		361	361
Vicar/Churchwarden's Emergency Fund		916	916
Organ Fund		245	245
		85,669	82,968
<u>Restricted</u>			
Major Works Fund		642	642
General Fund		2,579	2,562
		3,221	3,204
		88,890	86,172
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on ____ 2026			
Signed			
Mrs E Watkin, Churchwarden			

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford						
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025						
	Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Incoming Resources						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	32,278	0	0	32,278	34,526
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	2b	4,866	0	0	4,866	4,371
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	53,435	0	0	53,435	53,253
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	0	0	0	0
Income from investments	2e	2,424	0	0	2,424	2,732
Vicar and Churchwardens fund	2e	0	0	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources		93,003	0	0	93,003	94,882
Resources Used						
Grants	3a	2,660	0	0	2,660	0
Activities Directly relating to the work of the church	3b	74,078	0	0	74,078	85,208
Generating Funds and Publicity	3c	1,099	0	0	1,099	0
Church Management and administration	3d	11,915	0	0	11,915	12,968
Total Resources Used		89,752	0	0	89,752	98,176
Net Incoming Resources		3,251	0	0	3,251	(3,294)
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments		14	(564)	17	(533)	352
Net Movements in Investments		14	(564)	17	(533)	352
Net Movements in Funds		3,265	(564)	17	2,718	(2,942)
Balances Carried Forward at 31/12/24		79,794	3,174	3,204	86,173	89,115
Balances Carried Forward at 31/12/25		83,060	2,610	3,221	88,891	86,173

FINANCIAL NOTES

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford							
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025							
		Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	<u>Incoming Resources</u>						
2a	Incoming Resources from donors						
	Planned Giving and collections at services		19,923			19,923	25,694
	Tax Recovered (Gift Aid)		5,253			5,253	6,756
	Missions/charitable giving		0			0	0
	Grants towards Quinquennial repair costs		0			0	0
	Grant towards War Memorial refurbishment		0			0	0
	Donations - General		7,102		0	7,102	2,076
	Donations – Flower Fund		0	0		0	0
			32,278	0	0	32,278	34,526
2b	Other Voluntary incoming Resources						
	Legacies	6	1,000			1,000	502
	Fair, Market and other fund raising		3,866			3,866	3,869
			4,866	0	0	4,866	4,371
2c	Income from Charitable and ancillary trading						
	Sword Magazine		0			0	0
	Rental Income from Curate's House	7	23,546			23,546	24,023
	Funeral and Wedding Fees		523			523	2,439
	Church Hire Fees		4,804			4,804	4,141
	Littlebury Hall – Lettings		12,872			12,872	12,070
	St Michael's Rent		10,500			10,500	10,500
	Other income – sale of assets		1,190			1,190	80
			53,435	0	0	53,435	53,253
2d	Other Ordinary Incoming Resources						
	Insurance Claims		0			0	0
	Recoverable VAT		0			0	0
			0	0	0	0	0
2e	Income from investments						
	Church		2,424		0	2,424	2,732
	Vicar/Churchwardens Fund		0			0	0
			2,424	0	0	2,424	2,732
	Total Incoming Resources		93,003	0	0	93,003	94,882

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (Continued)

	Resources Used	Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
3a	Grants						
	Missions at home and abroad and charitable giving		2,660			2,660	0
			2,660	0	0	2,660	0
3b	Activities directly relating to the work of the church:						
	Ministry Diocesan Quota		45,572			45,572	51,022
	Ministry Clergy Expenses		1,018			1,018	1,027
	Curate house expenses		1,116			1,116	852
	Church Running Expenses inc Cleaning		12,785			12,785	14,447
	Insurance – Church		6,120			6,120	5,545
	Repairs and Maintenance		1,509			1,509	1,655
	Music		3,001			3,001	2,744
	Sanctuary Expenses		412			412	1,275
	Children's Church and Youth work		269			269	299
	Purchase of flowers		0	0		0	0
	Littlebury Hall expenses		583			583	2,832
	Sword Magazine, Messenger and See Round		0			0	0
	Organ repairs		503			503	487
	Major Church Repairs: Quinquennial		0			0	420
	Costs of War Memorial		0			0	0
	Church Gardening Expenses		1,190			1,190	1,410
	Parochial Fees Payable to DBF		0			0	1,193
			74,078	0	0		85,208
3c	Generating Funds and Publicity		1,099			1,099	0
			1,099	0	0	1,099	0
3d	Church management and admin						
	Printing, copying and stationery inc. maintenance of copier		179			179	2,198
	General expenses		11,736			11,736	10,770
	Depreciation		0		0	0	0
			11,915	0	0	11,915	12,968
	Total Resources Used		89,752	0	0	89,752	98,176

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (Continued)

		Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
4	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC					
4a	Tangible Assets					
	Tangible Fixed Assets at Cost	17,640			17,640	17,640
	Functional freehold properties					
	It is not considered appropriate to make a provision for these assets					
4b	Equipment, Fixtures and fittings	0			0	0
	See note 8	17,640	0	0	17,640	17,640
4c	The investments comprise the following:	375 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund – Income shares	610 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	461 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund – Income Shares		
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Investments (value at 31/12/25)	573	13,541	704	14,818	15,351

5	<u>Remuneration and Expenses</u>		
	<u>Members of the Church Council/Connected Persons:</u>		
	Zero payment in 2025.		
6	<u>Legacies pending</u>		
	No legacies pending.		
7	<u>57 Whippendell Road</u>		
	The property has been, since February 2022, let out at a commercial rate. There are no arrears as at year end 2025.		
8	<u>Equipment Fixtures and Fittings</u>		
	Net Balance 1/1/2025	0	
	Additions	0	
	Depreciation	-	
	Net Balance 31/12/2025	0	
9	<u>Contingent Liability</u>		
	There are no contingent liabilities		
10	<u>Insurance</u>		
	Properties are insured on a replacement basis for the sums indicated – the sums relate to the 2025 insurance policies:		
	St Michael's Church, Mildred Avenue/Durban Road, Watford		£21,210,000.00
	Littlebury Hall, Mildred Avenue, Watford		£479,099.00
	57 Whippendell Road, Watford		£454,099.00
	St Michael's Hall, Durban Road		£635,993.00
11	<u>Analysis of Net Assets</u>		
	Fixed Assets		
	Properties	17,640	
	Investments	14,818	
	Equipment, fixtures and fittings	0	
	Current Assets	56,432	
		88,890	
	Less		
	Current Liabilities	-	
	Net Assets	88.890	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

The report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Watford (Charity Number 1132010).

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b)) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.

Ms Karen Pryse
Croxley, Herts.
March 2026