



St Bartholomew's Church

End of Year Report and Accounts

Year Ending 31st December 2025

Introduction

St Bartholomew's Church is situated next to Corsham Court in Corsham, and the correspondence address is Church House, 3 Church Street, Corsham SN13 0BY. St Bartholomew's is part of the Greater Corsham Team of churches with St John the Baptist Gastard and St Philip and St James Neston.

We have a full-time Team Rector based in Corsham. The Rector is supported by a retired Associate Minister, a Licensed Lay Minister, four Benefice Worship Leaders, the members of our team and church PCCs, a wide variety of church and out-of-church activity groups and the congregations themselves.

St Bartholomew's Church is the largest church in the team. It provides a full array of well-attended services and activities that engage the community. It is a popular church for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is the garrison church for MOD Corsham and is used by several of the schools in Corsham.

Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Bartholomew's Church is a charity that is registered with the Charities Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Corsham; registration number 1132969.

PCC

PCC members who have served during 2025 are as follows:

Chairman: Revd Dr Andrew Johnson

Churchwardens: Fiona Draper, John Stott.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Reginald Lambert and John Stott.

Council Members: Christine Reid, Anthony Hall, Reginald Lambert, Joe McGeehan, Hermione Skrine, Susan Lambert, L'nora Olney, Nigel Milward, Christine Carter, Michael Brennan, Neil Pidduck.

Treasurer: Deborah Stott

Secretary: Nigel Jackson (until 2025 APCM) and Susan Page (after 2025 APCM)

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. Issues raised at Deanery Synod are brought to the next PCC meeting.

Structure, Governance and Management

St Bartholomew's is part of a team of churches. The Churchwardens of St Bartholomew's and one lay person are eligible to attend meetings of the Team Council, which meets as required to discuss matters relating to the team of churches.

The PCC at St Bartholomew is scheduled to meet six times a year and is chaired by the Team Rector. The PCC Agenda is focused on standing items such as Mission and Outreach, Buildings, Caring for Creation, Safeguarding, Events and Sponsors, Health and Safety and Finance – and other important items that are programmed annually or raised to the PCC. When necessary, individuals are co-opted onto the PCC to advise on a particular issue. This ensures strong and diligent governance.

The Team Rector meets monthly with the churchwardens to review progress and ensure the smooth running of the church, and the Standing Committee of the PCC also meets between PCC meetings as required.

Aim and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, Revd Dr Andrew Johnson, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of 'Church House', 3 Church Street, Corsham, the Ladbroke Cemetery Chapel, and the residential properties at 2 The Tynings, Corsham, and 7b Lypiatt Road, Corsham.

Goals and Objectives

The PCC works to the vision of 'Growing followers of Jesus' through growing in God, growing in love, and growing community. The church has a very active life, providing opportunities for a wide range of age groups, acting as a focal point for community events, and engaging with large numbers of people through formal, informal and out-of-church activities. There is a desire to share Christ's welcome with all by reaching out further into the community and engaging more effectively with it.

Review of the year

St Bartholomew's Church offers a wide range of services during the year. These include regular weekly services and one-offs to mark special events in the church calendar, like Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. A monthly evening service on Zoom remains popular and we started a monthly informal prayer meeting in church offering up prayers contributed by visitors to our prayer tree.

The Team Rector continued to lead a weekly Bible study on Zoom throughout the year, and a new evening home group began meeting fortnightly towards the end of the year. This emerged from a confirmation course provided earlier in the year by the Team Rector, and St Bart's hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service at which five adults and two young people from across the Team were confirmed. We also commissioned four new Benefice Worship Leaders at a service led by our Associate Archdeacon in December.

It was pleasing to see the continued popularity of our services and activities targeted at all ages. Early Birds continued their monthly services in church at 4pm on Sunday and the Young Church Group continued to lead a Family Service in church on the fourth Sunday of the month which was supported by our brand-new AV system with a fixed projector and screen. Our 'Sunday School' offering entitled FIG (Faith in God) continued to meet regularly on the first Sunday of the month and the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade met in Church House on Wednesday evenings throughout the year. The Mothers' Union also thrived throughout the year, contributing a well-received and moving play for Good Friday and organising a harvest lunch and entertainment following the Harvest Family Service.

Normal church attendance rose slightly throughout the year. As well as our regular services we enabled our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. We connected with many families through fifteen baptisms (including two adults), and three weddings and fourteen funerals were held in our church this year.

A major highlight during the year was the erection of a poppy cascade on the tower in collaboration with the Peacock WI which culminated in the first Royal visit ever to the church by Queen Camilla in October. This major community event resulted in significant footfall to the church while the cascade was in place and contributed to much-enhanced use of the church by community groups for concerts and other events throughout the year.

The Thursday Café in church continued to grow in popularity and raised significant funds. During the year we obtained a Temporary Reordering Licence to remove some of the pews at the back of church to create more space for the café and other social events. We intend to apply for a faculty during 2026 to make this change permanent and investigate the provision of extra toilets and other facilities within the church.

The church is a member of the ecumenical group in Corsham, along with the other churches. St Bartholomew's plays an active role in this group, and we were pleased to be involved in the Good Friday march of witness, and to support the open-air carol service in Church Square.

A new Caring for Creation working group was established during the year to drive forward our mission to be good stewards of the wonderful world God has given us. We are also aware of the need to be good custodians of our historic buildings, and we are facing substantial repair costs in 2026/27 to carry out major work on the Lady Chapel roof as identified in the last Quinquennial Report. We are therefore seeking to strengthen our financial position so we can balance new initiatives with the responsibility of preserving our Grade 1 listed historic building.

Balance sheet

	2025	2024
Fixed assets		
2 The Tynings	250,000	250,000
7b Lypiatt Road	330,000	330,000
Church House	400,000	400,000
Total Fixed assets	980,000	980,000
Current assets		
Bank current account	17,693	8,558
Messy Church balance	259	259
Bank deposit account	191,022	232,532
CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted	---	---
Cash in Hand	---	---
Accounts Receivable	---	---
Total Current assets	208,973	241,378
Liabilities		
Agency Collections	500	500
Accounts Payable	—	---
Total Liabilities	500	500
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	208,473	240,878
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) for year	(32,375)	24,031
Starting balances	240,848	216,817
Total Reserves	208,473	240,848

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	13,742	31,395
Designated	113,991	119,470
Restricted	80,740	89,983
Total	208,473	240,848

The fixed assets represent the properties owned by St Bartholomew's Church, comprising Church House at 3 Church Street and two residential properties at 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road, Corsham.

Current assets have decreased by £32,375. The total of all funds now stands at £208,473.

Reserves are the net of income over expenditure for the year. The decrease in reserves totaled £32,375; the result of planned expenditure to replace our obsolete audio system with a modern audio-visual projection system: the overall cost of this was £39,924. Cash reserves total £208,473 of which £194,731 is tied up in Restricted or Designated funds; the Unrestricted fund balance is £13,742.

The Agency Collection relates to a grant of £500 from Wiltshire Council for the Corsham Military Graves Community Project that seeks to promote the military graves within the Ladbrook Lane Chapel by providing enhanced visitor information: this project remains ongoing.

The balance sheet value is spread across 18 funds, e.g. Bells, Organ, Fabric and the General Fund. Each fund is categorised either: Unrestricted (no restriction on spending), Designated (funds are primarily to be used for a specific purpose, but the PCC can authorise expenditure elsewhere), or Restricted (spending is limited to the subject of the fund). Details of each fund's balance and in-year movements are shown in Note 2 to the accounts.

Statement of Financial Activities (£)

	Financial Year 2025				Financial Year 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Receipts					
Planned Giving	48,344	---	360	48,704	50,214
Collections and other giving	5,207	—	—	5,207	5,307
Other voluntary receipts	12,620	17,558	---	30,178	11,558
Gift Aid recovered	15,144	—	—	15,144	7,666
Other receipts	4,771	---	3,908	8,680	9,407
Activities for generating funds	429	---	---	429	239
Investment Income	---	19,698	10,457	30,156	28,225
Receipts from church activities	4,354	6,935	195	11,484	10,144
Total receipts	90,873	44,192	14,921	149,986	122,762
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	289	—	---	289	---
Missionary and Charitable Giving	544	---	---	544	3,651
Parish Share	50,004	—	—	50,004	50,003
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,060	—	—	4,060	2,950
Church Running Expenses	33,044	357	24,779	58,182	30,924
Hall/Property Running Costs	---	28,774	—	28,774	10,872
Church Repairs & Maintenance	---	27,756	12,167	39,924	---
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	---	---	---	---	90
Governance Costs	582	—	—	582	240
Total payments	88,524	56,889	36,947	182,361	98,731
Net Income / (expenditure resources before transfer)	2,384	(12,697)	(22,028)	(32,375)	24,031
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds – in	32,167	26,047	27,828	86,042	---
Gross transfers between funds – out	(52,169)	(18,828)	(15,045)	(86,042)	---
Net movement in funds	(17,652)	(5,478)	(9,243)	(32,375)	24,031
Total funds brought forward	31,395	113,992	89,983	240,848	216,817
Total funds carried forward	13,742	108,514	80,739	208,473	240,878

It is worth noting that all the figures mentioned below include combined figures, i.e. restricted, designated and unrestricted receipts and payments. There may be minor discrepancies due to rounding.

The following notes are provided on the Financial Activities reported above.

Receipts.

Total receipts during 2025 of £149,986 are up by £27,224 (18%); notably through the receipt of grant funding, and the Gift Aid refund from HMRC. Other income levels are broadly comparable to 2024.

Planned Giving comprises income through standing orders at the bank or via the Envelope system. Year on year receipts of £48,704 represent a small decrease of £1,510 and are attributed to the loss of several contributors throughout the year. Loose collections are the donations (cash and cheques) given at church services, including weddings and funerals; this income component raised £5,200: a similar level of income to that collected the previous year.

Other voluntary receipts totaled £30,178, a significant increase over 2024: giving and donations from the congregation and visitors brought in £12,620. Other income includes a grant of £10,000 from the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust (WHCT) for roofing work; a VAT refund on this maintenance work, recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, achieved £1,900. Donations from refreshments at services brought in £4,100 with a further £4,200 achieved through the card payment station. A further £635 was received from the WHCT - Ride & Stride event; a grant of £261 was received from the Pickwick Education Trust and allocated to the Junior Church fund.

Gift Aid is claimed on planned giving donations, and on other donations under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GADS) in accordance with HMRC rules. Gift Aid rebate receipts of £15,144 do include the late receipt of £3,900 accrued in 2024 but received in this financial year.

Other receipts of £8,680 comprise bank interest of £3,600 from the Appeal (Deposit) Account and £4,641 from fundraising activities including: a popular Thursday Café, providing refreshments and fellowship; other sources include: bookshop sales of £430, the Plant sale of £730, and the Christmas Tree Festival of £340.

Investment income, comprising the rent from the residential properties at 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road, amounted to £19,700: this is held in the 'Designated' Property Fund. Dividend income from the Ms Evans legacy amounted to £10,457, providing a total of £30,155: this is held in the Ms Evans 'Restricted' fund.

Other Church Activities include the income achieved through letting out the Church House (church hall). Lettings provided an income of £6,935 with many regular users providing a steady income stream. The premises are also in demand for family parties and artistic exhibitions. Fees from weddings and funerals amounted to £4,200.

Payments

Total payments for 2025 were £182,361; this is a significant increase (85%) over that of 2024 and is the result of capital expenditure on a modern audio-visual system for the church (£40,000), a substantial refurbishment of the property at 7b Lypiatt Road (£15,000), and £20,000 on Church roof maintenance & inspections.

Missionary and Charitable giving totaled £1,744: £544 was donated from funds, including £200 raised by bookshop sales, and a collection from the Heywood School carol service. We supported the Corsham Churches Food Bank, Dorothy House, Tear Fund and the Bath & Wiltshire Air Ambulance. A separate donation of £1,200 from the Feoffee fund was

redirected by the PCC directly to the Corsham Churches Foodbank and is not reflected in the accounts.

The Parish Share pledge was held at £50,000 for a 3rd year as the PCC sought to build resources for the substantial building repair programme commencing in 2026/27.

Staffing Costs reflect the salary for the organist/choir master of £4,100.

Church Running Expenses totalled £58,000, a significant increase over 2024; this is the result of a significant package of work on the Methuen Chapel roof, as mentioned above. The PCC approved the purchase of pew bibles; the cost of this was covered by a generous donation of £640 from the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church. Additionally, the PCC gave permission for new hymn books; the £1,600 cost has been recovered from donations from the congregation together with a further generous donation of £1,000 from the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church.

NB. The above £1,000 donation from the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church was not collected during this accounting period.

Utility charges, particularly the gas usage, have been a significant proportion of our £8,000 running expenses. We continue to utilize a energy broker to provide the best available fixed price contracts for both our gas and electricity supplies.

Hall Running Costs of £28,774 include the significant refurbishment of 7b Lypiatt Road (£15,000), the internal/external maintenance at 2 The Tynings (£900) and Church House expenses of £4,700. A £500 donation from the Friends of St Bartholomew's allowed the replacement of some damaged chairs.

Church Repairs and Maintenance records the payment of £40,000 for the installation of a modern audio-visual system comprising a modern amplified sound system with distributed speakers, and a loop system to assist those with hearing impairment. The visual system comprises a fixed projector and deployable screen. The system is routinely used to support a monthly multimedia Family Service and has been well received.

Governance costs of £582 are in respect of the Independent Examination of the church accounts and the provision of a faculty application to support the above-mentioned A-V system installation.

Receipts of £149,986 are off-set by Payments of £182,361 providing a Net loss of £32,375.

Notes to the Accounts

These accounts have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015. The form and content of these accounts is compliant with FRS102.

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policy during 2025, so no restating of prior year figures has been necessary.

The majority of income (planned giving, donations, fundraising, and dividends received) is accounted for in month of receipt. Income due to Gift Aid Rebates and wedding and funeral fees is accounted for in the month of receipt in-year.

Trustees have not been paid any remuneration or received other benefits from employment with the charity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

Other than for the independent examination, no related party transactions were made.

Paid staff employed (Church House cleaner) state they are self-employed, so no tax or National Insurance contributions were payable. Likewise, no pension liabilities have been accrued.

Fixed Assets are subject to re-valuation every 10 years. They were last professionally revalued in 2015; provisional indications are that these assets may have increased by £15,000 – a professional valuation will be sought during 2026.

Debtors and creditors are all short-term (less than 1 year) and are accounted for at full value. No provisions are applied.

Note 2 – Movement by fund (£)

	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers In / (Out)	Gains / Losses	Closing Balance
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	31,395	90,873	88,524	(20,001)	—	13,742
Designated Funds						
Property Fund	59,431	21,990	22,864	---	—	58,557
Fabric	30,912	14,766	27,756	7,879	---	25,802
Discretionary Fund	3,055	---	357	—	—	2,697
Church House	1,559	7,435	5,910	---	---	3,084
Reserve Fund	23,850	—	—	---	—	23,850
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	119,470	44,192	56,889	7,218	—	113,991
TOTAL NON-RESTRICTED FUNDS	150,865	135,065	145,413	---	---	127,733
Restricted Funds						
Buildings & Restoration Fund	23,072	4,007	12,167	12,167	—	27,078
Bells Fund	2,471	195	—	—	—	2,666
Church Warden & Junior Church	1,564	261	521	661	—	1,965
Churchyard Fund	597	77	—	—	—	674
Fabric	2,000	---	—	---	---	2,000
Flowers Fund	357	—	50	—	—	307
Kneeler Fund	256	—	---	—	—	256
Mission & Evangelism Fund	2,509	---	142	—	—	2,366
Ms. Evans Legacy Fund	39,976	10,380	22,787	---	—	27,569
Organ Fund	17,358	---	1,278	—	—	16,080
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	90,208	14,921	36,947	12,783	—	80,069
TOTAL RESERVES	241,073	149,986	182,360	20,001	—	208,694

The purpose underlying each of these funds is shown below:

Designated Funds.

Property Fund – This receives the rental income from 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road; and funds the maintenance and repairs of these properties.

Discretionary Fund – This provides resources for the Rector to use for charitable purposes at his discretion.

Church House Fund – This receives income from the various groups and businesses that hire the Church Hall and the Upper Room; and funds the running costs of the property in terms of utility charges, the wages for the cleaner, and miscellaneous supplies.

Reserve Fund – Set aside to protect the charity against a drop in income and to cover emergencies: it is provisionally set at three months' church running costs.

Restricted Funds

Buildings & Restoration Fund – A fund built up to fund necessary restoration work on the church building.

Bells Fund – Receives income from wedding fees; and funds the maintenance and repairs to the bells.

Church Warden & Junior Church – Funding received specifically for spending on educational mission, including the Faith in God (FIGs) element of our junior church offering, and other children's work.

Churchyard Fund – Funding set aside for maintenance of churchyard. This currently holds restricted funds from the Ames legacy. The capital is held by the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance in the CBF Investment Fund with the parish receiving the dividends.

Fabric Fund – Funding received specifically for the maintenance of the fabric. There are both Restricted and Designated elements of the fund.

Flowers Fund – Funding received specifically for the provision of flowers in the church.

Kneeler Fund – Funding received for the repair and replacement of kneelers.

Mission & Evangelism Fund – Funding received specifically for use on mission and evangelism activities.

Ms Evans Legacy Fund – Holds dividend payments received from the Ms Evans Legacy. Expenditure is limited to the churchyard and the exterior of the church. All expenditure is agreed by the trustees of the fund.

Organ Fund – Funding received specifically for the maintenance and restoration of the organ.

Note 3 - Agency Transactions

To conform to the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering regulations, charities are required to disclose all transactions where monies are accepted and passed on to other organisations. Such monies do not form part of the income or expenditure of St Bartholomew's, and the Church is acting only as an agent for those other bodies.

Organisation	Opening Balance	Collected in year	Remitted in year	Closing balance.
	£	£	£	£
Corsham Military Graves Community Project	500	---	---	500

Note 4 – Costs of External Examination and Other Financial Services

Costs of £240 were incurred in 2025 for the External Examination of the Annual Report and Accounts to 31st December 2024.

Note 5 - Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission encourages the retention of a quantified reserve that protects charities against drops in income and to cover opportunities and emergencies. It is therefore the policy of St Bartholomew's PCC to finance its parish mission for growth, to continue to honour its Parish Pledge 2024 and to keep a reserve of three months' general church running costs.

This three months' General Reserve will cover all running costs, except for the Parish Share. This General Reserve does not include any provision of funding for grants to charities, which will be confirmed through events and annual budgeting. This General Reserve does not include any provision for building works, which are covered by a restricted Restoration reserve and a designated Fabric reserve: these were reviewed in line with the implications of the Quinquennial Inspection 2021.

Note 6 – Going Concern Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the church is able to continue as a going concern. St Bartholomew's has made an encouraging recovery since the pandemic and finances are once again returning to a healthy level: the PCC continues to keep the financial situation under review. The church holds unrestricted general reserves of £127,733 and a designated reserve of £23,850 that can be drawn down if necessary. The PCC consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members
of

Parochial Church Council (PCC) of
St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham, SN13 0BY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2025

Charity no 1132969

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity
("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that
disclosed in Section B) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- 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.

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.

Signed:

Christopher D. Watchman

Date:

05/03/26

Name:

CHRISTOPHER D. WATCHMAN F.C.C.A.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

A.C.C.A

Address:

WATCHMAN ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

48 The Causeway, Chippenham

Wiltshire SN15 3DD

Company No: 13800518

Email: chris@watchmanaccountants.com

Tel: 01249 658059

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members
of

Parochial Church Council (PCC) of
St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham, SN13 0BY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2025

Charity no 1132969

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity
("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that
disclosed in Section B) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- 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.

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.

Signed:

Christopher D. Watchman

Date:

05/03/26

Name:

CHRISTOPHER D. WATCHMAN F.C.C.A.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

A.C.C.A

Address:

WATCHMAN ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

48 The Causeway, Chippenham

Wiltshire SN15 3DD

Company No: 13800518

Email: chris@watchmanaccountants.com

Tel: 01249 658059

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.