

Signature

Registered Charity No: 1134035

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD PCC

**(THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS WITH ST JOHN, HERTFORD)**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Trustees:

Reverend Simon Cutmore (Chair)
Andrew Belfield
Colin Bird
Janet Bird
Samantha Bowden
Helen Briggs
Nerine Chalmers
Linda Dye
Martin Penny
Mary Penny
Verity Tranter
Shirley Glover
Dorothy Toyn

Secretary:

Mary Penny

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank plc
13 Stonehills,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire
AL8 6ND

Independent Examiner:

Alix Bainbridge-Spring

The Trustees are pleased to submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms a part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and are prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis.

Objects and policy

The objective and responsibility of All Saints Hertford PCC is to promote the whole mission of the Church of England in Hertford, including in particular:

- Seeking to make new disciples of Jesus Christ
- Reaching more widely into the local community; and
- Deepening our faith.

Organisation

The members of the PCC are elected for three-year terms by those persons whose names appear on the electoral roll, which is revised annually, and is open to everyone who is a member of the Church of England and lives in the parish or who regularly worships at All Saints. The PCC is chaired by the Incumbent or Lay Chair and is led by two of its members, Janet Bird and Verity Tranter who were re-elected as churchwardens. The parish also sends elected representatives to the Deanery Synod, which is the next level of church government.

The PCC is responsible for:

- Setting the vision and strategy for the Charity.
- Maintaining the fabric of the All Saints church building and of the neighbouring St. John's Hall.
- The finances of the church, including the raising of funds to support the activities of All Saints and to provide the charitable contribution to the Diocese of St. Albans which is essential to finance the training, stipends, housing and pensions of the ordained ministry across the diocese.
- Maintaining the regular worship of All Saints, including church services and music, subject to the guidance of the ministry team; and
- Social and charitable activities, which are designed both to strengthen the community spirit of All Saints and to reach out to our neighbours in the wider community of Hertford and in the world in general.
- Implementing the policies of the House of Bishops relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

How our activities deliver public benefit

In common with the Church of England in general, we believe that our church exists for the benefit of all who wish to take advantage of what it can offer, both in spiritual terms and in all other respects. Those benefits are offered without restrictions or conditions and, although we always welcome contributions to our finances, such benefits are with few exceptions offered free of charge. We therefore seek to be outward-looking and inclusive in all that we do.

At the heart of our activities are the benefits offered by the pastoral mission of the Church, in which we are involved in our own local area. These benefits of course include spiritual support in the great landmark events of life, such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. However, they extend much more widely than this and include support for the sick and elderly and others in special need, and the spiritual and social benefits of regular or occasional attendance at church services.

Grouped around this core activity of mission are other activities which deliver public benefit in a variety of different ways. More details can be found in the next following section of this Report, but the range of such activities can be summarised as including in particular musical activities, social activities and activities directed at particular groups, such as children and young families, all of which are open to all.

Our regular activities

Led by Rev Canon Simon Cutmore, we undertook a major reflection on how we best operated in accordance with the Parish Profile we had developed in 2024. From this came a plan of six strands of activity (now seven), formally launched as a three year Vision in September 2025 (<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/vision.php>). More work on the practical implementation of this involving the entire congregation and community is planned for Lent 2026.

In a related activity, the PCC and Standing Committee have reviewed and revised their operations to streamline and focus their activities in-line with the agreed strands.

On Sundays at 10.00am, we held an All-Age Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month, and Parish Communion on the remaining Sundays. We celebrated Holy Communion at 11.00 am on Thursday and on major Saints days as they occurred. Morning and Evening prayer was held Mon -Thurs and Morning Prayer on Saturdays.

Our Sunday evening service at 6.30 was an informal 'Breathing Space' first Sunday with Choral Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays. We have continued on the third Sunday evening, a service of Choral Compline. Fifth Sundays have again been a variety of informal styles or a Choral Communion as appropriate.

We continue our weekly services at Bentley House, a local care home, which now ministers to elderly residents who could not otherwise attend church. Regular Assemblies in several local schools are led by the Vicar.

A monthly round of Home Communion for those in need has been established.

New patterns of worship were trialled and assessed by the PCC. Changes made to liturgy were in accordance with Common Worship and designed to be as accessible and inclusive as possible. The liturgical seasonal colours were introduced as banners on pillars to beautify the church building along with some new matching altar frontals to underline the seasonality of our worship.

We have started a regular pattern of systematic study via a weekly Bible Study 'Lectio Divina' on-line on Monday evenings, and a mix of live and on-line weekly courses/opportunities to study under the brand 'Thinking Thursdays'.

We also launched a regular weekly service called 'SmAll Saints' on Tuesday mornings for babies, preschoolers and their parents/carers.

All Saints has a very strong musical tradition, and we have a choir of young people and adults which is open to anyone wishing to make a regular commitment to leading the congregation in singing at services, and to learn about the rich variety of sacred music. We believe that the musical training involved has strong educational benefits, and many of our former choir members have gone on to achieve success both in music and other walks of life. Several have gained choral or organ scholarships at university.

Our Director of Music and Assistant Organist play the church's fine "Father Willis" organ and also have a leading role in encouraging the young and enthusiastic atmosphere of our Choir. We were able, after a significant gap to appoint a new 'Soundbites' organ scholar in Autumn 2025.

Our community links are enhanced by another musical activity for which All Saints is well known in the town, which is our regular series of "Soundbites" concerts on Wednesday lunchtimes. These cater for all ages, but mainly retired people, and are free of charge with donations welcomed. These concerts are of a high standard and often feature promising young professional musicians who are just starting their careers. They are also highly popular, and regular attenders often remark on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and how the concerts are a great social service to the town, as well as a musical one.

In addition, the church is a well-used venue for a number of outside music organisations, including regular concerts by Hertford Choral Society, Hertford Symphony Orchestra and Lumos. Once again

we were the main hosts for the Hertfordshire Festival of Music.

We have very good relationships with our local schools who regularly visit. They bring students and families for school celebrations and for services such as Harvest Festivals and Carol Services. In 2025 the winner of the Christmas Tree Festival was Wheatcroft Primary School, and many local organisations took part – we plan to repeat this in 2026.

We also value highly the social and other activities and services connected with the church, e.g., in 2025 we hosted the Hertfordshire Justice Service and a major Charity event raising over £68,000 for schoolreaders.org.

With the wider community in mind, we also host a monthly food festival, Street Food Heroes in our churchyard and this is sometimes combined with other activities to build relationships with the community.

A Creationtide Craft afternoon in the Summer Holidays hosted children and families making animal themed craft and a Scavenger Hunt, followed by a Games afternoon during the Autumn Half-term attracting a surprisingly large number of families. We plan to repeat/expand in 2026.

We continue to develop our Eco credentials as the Greenwatch Talks bringing excellent speakers and an increasing audience into All Saints. Lunches are sold and early arrivals enjoy discussions on environmental concerns. We have embedded this work in our Vision.

Many special groups exist in the church, for a variety of purposes, and although they are largely attended by the church community, they are open to all without distinction.

Apart from the activities already mentioned above, we have a Flower Club which both arranges flowers in the church building, including for weddings, and organises occasional special events, an Art Group which has held exhibitions, a Work Party undertaking essential maintenance of both church and hall, and an active group of bellringers, which we share with St Andrew's Church

Review of 2025

The financial position is set out in more detail in the following sections of this report.

During the year our operating deficit was £5,409 reduced from over £18,000 in 2024 largely due to an increase in income, with costs being tightly controlled. All income lines exceeded budget, in particular hall lettings, Soundbites concerts, Church hires and events, in particular our very successful Christmas Tree festival. Most importantly, increased contributions from our committed members and fees from occasional services were significant sources of revenue and increased year on year.

We were able to make in full our requested charitable contribution of £80,039 to the Diocese of St. Albans which effectively pays for the costs of the Ministry, as well as supporting the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Other charities have benefited from us being open for occasional services, in particular funerals and weddings.

As mentioned last year, we have been suffering from intermittent boiler failure, with one of the two boilers permanently out of action. At the end of the year, we revived a faculty (permission) and replaced the old boilers with 2 new condensing boilers, having first removed asbestos from the boiler room and adjacent storeroom. The combined cost was £52,000 and additionally a further £8,000 was spent on repairs and maintenance. Great work is done by our Work Party which saves us employing contractors at significant cost. To defray the cost of the works we were supported by a capital contribution of £58,000 from our associated Memorial Fund.

Financial Position

The independently examined accounts of the PCC are attached to this report, and full details of the financial position are contained therein together with the examiner's report to the Trustees. During 2025 we had the benefit of a £25,000 donation from our associated Memorial Fund to finance operations. We also benefited from interest from the Memorial Fund of £14,687. This enabled us to fund 2025 with a closing General Fund which will be enough to fund the 2026 operating budget. Our associated Memorial Fund stood at £386,628 at the end of 2025, and our new Vicar, Rev'd Simon Cutmore, together with the Church Council is planning how best to enhance our mission and outreach and to undertake projects in the building and at St John's Hall, which is used extensively by community groups.

We are asset rich and income poor, but we now have access to cash and a profitable hall with developable land behind. Discussions on building a few houses have continued throughout 2025. We have a large church which is expensive to run, but our Memorial Fund gives us an opportunity to consider other major projects. Our challenge is to continue to grow our regular committed membership, create new income flows and to grow younger in line with current Diocesan initiatives.

Our general reserves at 31 December 2025 were £21,557. There is a welcome 3.6% reduction in the requested Diocese Contribution, which is £77,160 for 2026. Together with an expected increase in events, we are looking to break even in 2026, assuming that we can get a similar interest contribution from the Memorial Fund. The trustees are aware that if this were to decline the church may need additional support and stand ready to assist to ensure that the church has adequate financial resources. Accordingly, the PCC trustees are satisfied that the charity's overall funding is such that it will be able to meet its obligations as they fall due in the ordinary course and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis using the receipts and payments convention.

Reserves policy and risk management

Donations and grants that are provided for specific purposes are treated as Restricted Funds. All other reserves are held in Unrestricted funds, some of which have been designated for special purposes.

The Trustees confirm that risks are reviewed on an ongoing basis and systems and procedures are brought into place to manage those risks.

Recruitment and training policy for new Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted by the Trustees. The persons entitled to vote at the APCM in order to elect the Trustees are those on the Electoral Roll of All Saints Church, Hertford. Training of new trustees takes the form of individual briefings and copies of the guidance for trustees issued by the Charities Commission as well as training sessions with the Diocese covering trustees' duties and safeguarding.

Independent Examiner

Alix Bainbridge-Spring has been appointed as Independent Examiner to the charity.

Statement of disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner

We, the trustees who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

By order of the trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Penny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a large 'P'.

Mary Penny

Secretary

18th March 2026

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ALL SAINTS HERTFORD PCC
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

**Alixe Bainbridge-Spring****10th February 2025**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	3	51,504	57,962	109,466	23,446
Charitable activities	4	76,648	-	76,648	73,988
Investment income	5	16,165	539	16,704	15,592
Other income	6	15,103	-	15,103	25,430
Total incoming resources		159,420	58,501	217,921	138,456
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Grants and donations	7	83,143	4,206	87,349	80,970
Church services	8	51,074	67,417	118,491	72,824
Administration and bank charges		5,612	-----	5,612	5,544
Total resources expended		139,829	71,623	211,452	158,345
Net incoming resources before transfers		19,591	(13,122)	(6,469)	(19,889)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	--	-
Net movement in funds		19,591	(13,122)	6,469	(19,889)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds at 1 January 2025		1,766	40,617	42,383	62,272
Total funds at 31 December 2025		21,357	27,495	48,852	42,383

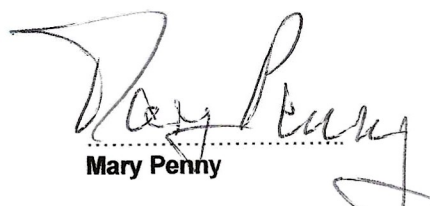
The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		-	-
Current assets			
Cash		200	200
Cash at bank		48,105	41,655
Diocesan Special Deposit Account		547	528
		<u>48,852</u>	<u>42,383</u>
Net assets		<u>48,852</u>	<u>42,383</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds	9	27,495	40,617
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		-	-
General fund	9	21,357	1,766
		<u>£48,852</u>	<u>£42,383</u>

Approved by the trustees on: 18th March 2026
and signed on their behalf by


Colin Bird


Mary Penny

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025****1 Trustees' responsibilities**

Charity law requires the trustees 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material 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 trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the regulations applicable to Smaller Charities preparing their accounts on a cash receipts and payments basis. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

2 Accounting policies**2.1 Accounting convention and standards**

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments convention.

2.2 Basis of preparation

The Charity relies on voluntary donations from regular givers, collections at church services and fund-raising activities. The General reserves were boosted in 2023 by £22,000 from an associated Memorial Fund, the first time operations have needed support from this source, which in the past has been used for capital projects. The fund presently stands at £315,000 and it's trustees have indicated that the fund can respond if further funds are requested to replenish the church's general reserves. The trustees are satisfied that the charity's overall funding is such that it will be able to meet its obligations as they fall due in the ordinary course and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis using the receipts and payments convention.

2.3 Fixtures, fittings, and equipment

Fixtures, fittings, and equipment are depreciated over their useful economic life of three years on a straight-line basis. There were none at 31 December 2024 (2023: none).

2.4 Resources expended

Expenses have been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

2.4 Resources expended (continued)

Charitable activities are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when received and the charity is legally entitled to the income.

2.6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its income and gains to the extent that income and gains are applicable to and are applied for charitable purposes only.

2.7 Investment income

Income from investments is included in the statement of financial activities in the year in which it is received.

2.8 Gifts in kind

Where services are provided to the Charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

2.9 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

From time to time, the trustees designate monies for a particular use and transfer funds from the General Fund to other Funds.

3 Voluntary income

Voluntary income for the year falls into the following categories:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Donations				
Concerts	10,578	-	10,578	11,046
Fundraising	15,926	40	15,966	11,309
	<u>26,504</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>26,544</u>	<u>22,355</u>
Grants				
Memorial Fund	25,000	57,922	82,922	-
Listed Places of Worship	-	-	-	1,091
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Gifts in kind	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total voluntary income	<u>51,504</u>	<u>57,962</u>	<u>109,466</u>	<u>23,446</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Planned giving	40,985	-	40,985	40,582
Donations	11,069	-	11,069	15,950
Income tax reclaimed	12,058	-	12,058	10,710
Baptisms, weddings, and funerals	10,432	-	10,432	4,905
Collections for missions and charities	3,104	-	3,104	1,841
	-	-	-	-
	<u>76,648</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,648</u>	<u>73,988</u>

5 Investment income

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest from Memorial Fund, short term deposits and dividends	16,704	15,592
	<u>16,704</u>	<u>15,592</u>

6 Other income

	2025 £	2024 £
Cull bequest	901	898
Hall net lettings	14,202	9,532
Legacy for Organ Fund	=	15,000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7 Grants and donations

	2025	2024
	£	£
St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance	80,039	74,786
Teaching awards	1,950	1,888
Music grants	2,256	2,456
Bishop's Harvest Appeal – Mission Direct	280	460
World Day of Prayer	157	-
Royal British Legion	488	518
Ordinands Fund	-	474
Mothers Union	507	-
The Childrens Society	208	238
Future Hope	1,054	-
Christian Aid	78	<u>150</u>
MSF	232	
Cancer Research	100	-
	<u>87,349</u>	<u>80,970</u>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

8	Church Services	2025		2024	
		£		£	
	Heating	17,394		16,431	
	Electricity and water	3,300		3,883	
	Insurance	8,774		7,634	
	Cleaning, copying and other costs	5,813		6,050	
	Repairs and maintenance	60,060		19,050	
	Bell Tower lighting	1,227		-	
	Music	12,863		11,948	
	Organ tuning and repairs	6,391		7,702	
	Defibrillator	-		126	
	Clergy expenses and service materials	2,669		-	
		118,491		72,824	
9	Movements in funds	At 1 January	Incoming	Outgoing	At 31 December
		2025	resources	resources	2025
		£	£	£	£
	Restricted/designated funds				
	Mothers Union Closure Fund	4	0	(4)	0
	Peregrine Falcons Webcam Fund	77	0	0	77
	Bells Fund	4,010	0	(1,227)	2,783
	Fabric Fund	2,640	57,966	(60,060)	546
	Heating Fund	0	40	0	40
	Choir Legacy Fund	16,070	178	(4,206)	12,042
	Organ Fund	17,816	317	(6,126)	12,007
	Total restricted funds	40,617	58,501	(71,623)	(0)
					27,495
	Unrestricted funds				
	General Fund	1,766	159,420	(139,829)	0
		42,383	217,921	(211,452)	(0)
					48,852

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

- 10** The Trustees received no reimbursement of expenses during the year for their services as trustees. The Vicar receives reimbursement of working expenses incurred in this role.

The average weekly number of employees during the year was made up as follows:

	2025 No:	2024 No:
There were no employees during the period and therefore there are no staff employed who earn more than £60,000 per annum	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- 11** During the year, the Trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments for their services as trustees (2024: Nil). The Parish Administrator, who is also a trustee, receives a small honorarium for services in that role and the Director of Music, who is also a trustee, receives fees for services in that role.

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