



# **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY**

Charity Registration Number: 1134253

Diocese of Southwark  
Merton Deanery

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
31 December 2025

Tandem Accounting  
Chartered Accountants  
17 Heathville Road  
London N19 3AL

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report and Financial Statements 2025

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## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

### Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

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<b>Charity Name</b>	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory.	
<b>Charity Number</b>	1134253. The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and was registered as a charity with Charity Commission on 11 February 2010.	
<b>Principal Address</b>	Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB.	
<b>Governing Document</b>	Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.	
<b>Objective</b>	To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.	
<b>Members of the PCC</b>	The Members of the PCC who served during the year or who were serving at the date of this report were:	
	Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar ( <i>to 31/10/25</i> ) Revd Simon Asquith, Curate ( <i>to 19/01/25</i> ) Revd Mary Kilikidi, Curate ( <i>from 28/06/25</i> ) Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest
	Churchwardens	Zoe Miller ( <i>to 11/05/25</i> ) Christ Church Karen Warman Christ Church <i>Vacancy (from 11/05/25)</i> Christ Church John Eades Holy Trinity & St Peter Delene Edwards ( <i>to 11/05/25</i> ) Holy Trinity & St Peter Simon Hay ( <i>from 11/05/25</i> ) Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Roberts St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	PCC members	Joanne Powell Christ Church <i>Vacancy (to 18/05/25)</i> Christ Church Joy Lyons ( <i>from 18/05/25</i> ) Christ Church Ben Ooi Holy Trinity & St Peter Rachel Cherry Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Newson St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	Representatives on Deanery Synod	Abi Erinle ( <i>to 18/05/25</i> ) Christ Church <i>Vacancy (from 18/05/25)</i> Christ Church <i>Vacancy</i> Christ Church Richard Blades Holy Trinity & St Peter Boris Yurkevich ( <i>to 18/05/25</i> ) Holy Trinity & St Peter Ellie Lyons ( <i>from 18/05/25</i> ) Holy Trinity & St Peter Eva Parker ( <i>to 21/05/25, RIP</i> ) St John the Divine <i>Vacancy (from 21/05/25)</i> St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	Representatives on Diocesan Synod	Desmond Davies Christ Church
	Treasurer	Kerry Porritt, PCC Co-Treasurer (Co-opted) Ann Roberts, PCC Co-Treasurer
	Secretary	Margaret Duncan ( <i>Co-opted to 8/07/25</i> ) Tracey McDermott ( <i>Co-opted from 8/07/25</i> )

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<b>Key Management Personnel</b>	Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).
<b>Bankers</b>	<i>Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church, Holy Trinity &amp; St Peter and St John the Divine:</i> CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	John Helm ACA Tandem Accounting 17 Heathville Road London N19 3AL
<b>Quinquennial Inspectors</b>	Christ Church – Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) Holy Trinity - Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) St John the Divine – Karen Butti (Thomas Ford and Partners)

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory (“the PCC”) submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP2019 (FRS102)). The legal and administrative information set out earlier in this document forms part of this report.

### 1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar (the Revd Alison Judge until October 2025 and now in vacancy) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

### 2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 3 Achievements and performance

#### 3.1 Merton Priory Team

##### Mission Action Plan



##### 3 – 5 Year Vision

*What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years*

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

##### Core Statement

*Our purpose/reason to be here*

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

##### Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

##### Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

##### Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

##### Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

##### Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

##### Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Our *Team Mission Action Plan* (see above) has been in operation for four years now with the overall aim for all three churches to work together for community engagement around the High Path estate, trusting that thereby growth at St John's might emerge. A year ago, we noted the need for fresh perspective, personnel and focus. This was in part aided by an excellent PCC and DCCs Away Day in May, although we have since bidden farewell to Revd Alison Judge and are therefore in an in-between time.

##### **Mission Priority One**

St John's congregation remains steady at about 15-18 at the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist but it is good to welcome new faces. Our worship is quiet and rich and we enjoy worshipping together. There are plans afoot for more involvement with Holy Trinity.

##### **Mission Priority Two**

Contact with the High Path Community is on an ad hoc individual basis. So far, no overarching project or needs have emerged. In the sense of the wider community the church is used increasingly and so footfall into the church building at times is considerable, for example the yearly Pantomime and Parish Ale Festival.

##### **Mission Priority Three**

Fun and Games, run jointly by St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church, a toddler group in the Hall continued to be well received until Alison's retirement. We are pleased to report that the Methodists have been able to restart it in their building.

Contact with Merton Abbey School continued to thrive with Alison regularly joining the school community for assemblies and then Mark hosting the school Christingle in St John's church. For one week during the summer holiday, we ran a holiday club specifically for children in Key Stage 2 at Merton Abbey, with sports coaches from KICK (a Christian organisation that runs sports in schools) keeping the children active throughout the days.

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On 5 October, the great change was our farewell to Revd Alison Judge (and husband Peter) with services at St John's and Christ Church and a lunch at Christ Church. We rejoiced with them for the blessings of nine years of faithful, fun, gently challenging and loving ministry, although we were most sorry to see them go. We wish them well for their retirement in Weymouth.

Earlier in the year, on 28 June, we welcomed our new curate Revd Mary Kilikidi as she was ordained deacon. She has settled in very well across our three churches, especially in the areas of worship, pastoral care, teaching and community engagement.

In July, Archdeacon Simon Gates visited our churches and school leaders as part of Southwark's *Parish Conversations* initiative. He was pleased to see our extensive links with local schools and to hear about the wide life of the Team and hopes for the future looking beyond Alison's retirement.

Across the churches, *Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer* and *Eucharists* offered the round of prayer and intercession for the parish. On Monday evenings at Holy Trinity, we often had five or six people. Attendance at the Holy Trinity Thursday eucharist was usually around ten, while at Christ Church on Saturday mornings it tended to be eight or nine. The weekly Monday evening online service, *Finding Sanctuary* continued for most of the year with perhaps eight in attendance, but then with a final session on 24 November. Members felt and agreed that although it had proved beneficial over time it had run its course. It had been running for exactly 18 years, and most sessions were lay-led; furthermore, it was worthy of note that four of the original attendees had grown so much in the faith to become ordained priests in the Church of England. There was a view of some to see whether continuing to use the online medium might be developed further in conjunction with our Team Clergy. *Weekly meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation averaged six attendees.

*First Communion* was celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King, and we were blessed with 11 children being admitted in a lovely service at Christ Church, including one baptism. Earlier in the year in June the Bishop of Kingston, Dr Martin Gainsborough, led a service of *Confirmation* at St Barnabas' Mitcham, at which we presented four adult candidates. In February and June, several young people attended the termly Southwark *Youth Ministry In Communion* (YMIC) events. There are plans for us to have a share in a YMIC Youth Worker.

The Team combined forces for the *Merton Nightshelter Project* again this year, using Holy Trinity as a venue, but allowing a broader pool of volunteers from across the Team. We hosted about 12 guests on a Friday night over a seven-week period, including Christmas. Huge thanks are due to Alison Fletcher Rogers, Richard Blades, Elizabeth Robinson and Nanma Sajan who coordinated the various aspects of the project for us.

As ever, it has been an active and positive year for the work of *Merton Citizens*. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood and our Team is one of the founder members. In February Holy Trinity hosted a Citizens Celebration, including an inspiring performance from Holy Trinity School choir, to look back on achievements and begin to look forward to new priorities. As part of that process, there was a new Listening campaign later in the year and one of the leaders, Tom Underwood, attended Holy Trinity in October. We continue to campaign on Housing, Mental Health, Living Wage and Refugee welcome.

We celebrated Creationtide and each church has continued to strive to "recycle, reduce and reuse". All building work is undertaken with a view to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact. Christ Church and St John's are working towards Silver *Eco Church* awards, while Holy Trinity needs to play catch-up and aim for Bronze! For the first time in many years, several of us walked and prayed for the parish (people, creatures, work and fabric) for *Beating the Bounds*!

Another area of our common work consists in *Racial Justice* as we seek to implement the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter (ARC). Mark is Chair of the Kingston Racial Justice Group. Team members were prominent in attendance at a shared networking event with the Farsi community at Christ Church Gipsy Hill and again at our Area Black History Month event at St Peter's Norbiton. It was pleasing that we had some five to ten members undertake

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the Southwark ARC Bible study resource, which gave us fresh insights and perspectives about our worship and common life. We discussed this issue at PCC, preached about it on several occasions, from Racial Justice Sunday to Black History Month (BHM), and sent church members to the BHM Thanksgiving service at Southwark Cathedral, as well as a special service celebrating our Kingston Area link with the Diocese of Matabeleland in Zimbabwe.

Our three churches kept a dedicated *Inclusive Church* Sunday in June. We were disappointed with the House of Bishops' pausing of the LLF process in October and offered a study session and pastoral support to those who desired it. In November Mary led a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. This was the first time we had done this and so an attendance of about 25 people was very impressive, including members of Merton Plus.

*God in the Pub*, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has continued with lively conversation and conviviality, having an average attendance of around ten people.

Mary has continued *Bible study* sessions, moving now to a Thursday evening with between five and ten in attendance. Topics have included Vocation, Justice and Love.

The 2025 *Lent Groups* studied Paula Gooder's "Women of Holy Week", which was a fresh and stimulating resource. Alison also led thought-provoking discussions on issues such as the climate crisis and the Assisted Dying Bill. During Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter, we welcomed a curate Steve Jullien to enable him to have a full experience of the heart of the Church year before he finished his curacy.

The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* enjoyed its twelfth outing with an entertaining take on "Aladdin". All the money raised this year went to *Learn English at Home*, a local charity supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to learn English.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places; as well as via Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, the website and e-notices.

2025 was the tenth year of contributing to the Diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Once again, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. For 2026 we have pledged £181,412, a slight increase, but since the Diocese asked for a 5.7% increase (to cover an increase in clergy stipends) we are not meeting our full ministry costs (£188,800). Therefore, other parishes are subsidising us to the tune of £7,388. This is a worrying (if presently unavoidable) development.

During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 4b on page 24).

The PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our five-strong team of PSOs has kept us largely up to date with compliance, beginning an internal audit of members' DBS and training needs. In January we hosted an in-person training event for Domestic Abuse Awareness at Christ Church, which was appreciated by many in the Deanery. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2025 was 244 (Christ Church 52, Holy Trinity 172, St John the Divine 20); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. The great drop was in part because it was the six-yearly compilation of a new roll. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.



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#### 3.2 Christ Church

Our buildings consist of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. The hall is the home Monday-Friday of Flourish Day Nursery, and this is still proving a very successful arrangement.

2025 turned out to be Alison's final year, although she was keen throughout that the focus should remain on the round of worship, witness and care.

On Ascension Day, 29 May, our Foundation Day, we were delighted to welcome regular friend Revd Hannah Neale as guest preacher.

We have continued to progress our work to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome for our community. Working with our architect, Tim Gough of Austin Winkley and Associates, the project will provide a kitchenette/tea point, storage and two toilets at the west end of the church. Fundraising has been ongoing including book sales and this year the experiment of a Sunday afternoon Christmas Market, which was much enjoyed by the local community and stall holders and visitors, although perhaps had insufficient footfall.

Our Sunday worship often has the same number of attendees but each week this may be different people. We have made a concerted effort this year to invite families to our All Age Eucharist on the first Sunday each month and this is beginning to encourage families back. Easter attendance this year was 77 (adults and children combined). At Christmas 324 people came to the church for services that included a crib service, Midnight Eucharist and a very happy Community Carol Service with included old friends Colliers Wood Chorus and Musicians and Singlegate School. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was 2 children and 45 adults. This year it has been lovely to welcome into the family of the church in Baptism 4 children. The First Communion service hosted at Christ Church was a beautiful occasion. A joyful wedding also took place at the start of October and a service of prayer and dedication after civil marriage earlier in the year. Our Organist and Church musician, Irene Clugston, has led us well in a range of traditional and more contemporary music.

During the year one funeral was conducted at Christ Church.

Christ Church bell tower continues to be very popular with visiting bands. Our own band of Bell ringers are also flourishing.

On 5 October, it was time to bid Alison farewell. A sumptuous bring-and-share lunch was enjoyed by many across the Team and beyond, followed by a service of "Praying our Farewells". Not only did Irene and Liz Holder offer musical accompaniment, but also folk musicians and bands of Morris, culminating in a send-off from the bell ringers, who rang a sequence of methods as a goodbye tribute - Merton Bob Doubles, Threadman and Dorset Place.

The vacancy began well under the faithful and caring leadership of churchwarden Karen, aided by a good team of other members. Mark committed to one Sunday a month with Hannah Neale filling in many of the other Sundays plus a cameo from Dean of Revitalisation Charlie Lamont. Mary was also down at least monthly and prospective Reader Sue McKinney beginning to get involved; Sister Chris and Joy Lyons were a continuous presence in prayer, teaching and welcome.

We give thanks to God for the witness of this congregation, and our friendships with so many organisations and people in this vibrant and diverse community.

#### 3.3 Holy Trinity & St Peter

Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the church on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection (QI) in October 2021 revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work; much is yet to be done and can now clearly wait until the next QI in 2026!

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In the last part of 2025 Mark was made one of two Acting Archdeacons, while Archdeacon Simon was on sabbatical. This was an eye-opening experience, seeing the inner workings of the PSF, Bishop's Staff, DAC and more, though it was good to get to a comparatively quiet Christmas!

We enjoy fellowship and hospitality, often with the expert culinary oversight of Richard Blades, so once again were blessed with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (this one assisted by Bruce Warman) and a Dawn Eucharist feast for record numbers. We also welcomed Mary and partner Kai for the "Trinity Sunday" tea in the garden (this year it coincided with her ordination and Inclusive Church Sunday).

The Christmas Fair was again a most enjoyable and well-supported community and fundraising occasion. We had incredible takings of £7,375, the highest for many years and we think therefore a record profit of an incredible £6,017; very well-done coordinating partnership of Libby Charlton and Andrew Taylor and all the many helpers! Through December we enjoyed our usual school carols and Christmas Carols with full and gifted choir.

Congregational numbers were similar for Easter with 133 adults and 45 children but rose nicely for Christmas with 353 adults and 148 children. Usual Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was similar to last year at 134 adults and 79 children.

Junior Church continues to thrive thanks to Emma Austin and her small group of helpers. We regularly have around 25 children attending and this includes a strong core of regular attendees. The children share what they have learned with the main congregation at the end of the morning service and the termly services through the year (including Mothering Sunday and Harvest) where the Junior Church children lead the service with readings and prayers are enjoyed by both the children and the congregation alike. We could do with some more leaders! We enjoyed our fifth acted-out Nativity, thanks to Ellie Lyons and Andrew Taylor, which involved a good number of children.

In a different liturgical direction, many have also valued now termly healing services.

We continue to provide music at Holy Trinity for all our main services under our Director of Music, Michael Lees. We have a great team of volunteer keyboard players: Jeremy Roberts, Liz Holder, Vivien Halstead and more recently Ivy Ong who is playing the organ, but it would be lovely to have some instrumentalists to perform during communion which adds something special to the service. Our choir, led by Tracy Lees, comes together for Easter and Christmas with the Christmas Carol service being a particular highlight of the year. The grand piano has now settled down after recent maintenance and is making a lovely sound. We are also pleased that we have been able to offer piano and organ practice facilities to two local students on a charitable basis.

Baptisms were steady numbering 16. Christine Hawes has done an excellent job coordinating the baptism diary and visits, aided by Susan Shriver on the visiting front.

For young children and carers, T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys) has had a very well-attended year and we are grateful to Dovi Lawson for coordinating this small team. The large volume of our work in schools has continued. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of Holy Trinity and The Priory schools. Mark and now Mary take it in turns to conduct weekly assemblies (with an occasional eucharist) in them both and each school attends church four times a year. The Schools' Sunday service this year was another triumph with an enormous attendance, helped by the involvement of a joint schools' choir. We also visit Pelham School (a community school) usually termly.

Ministry to Care Homes is also important for us, so a team has visited Queens Court for a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month and South Park Residential Home once a month, as well as visiting the sick in their homes for holy communion. Thanks to Fiona Totty for overseeing the rota.

Across the year, we conducted four funerals for parishioners, dear late-member Rosemary Jennings in church at the start of the year, then three non-churchgoers across different crematoria.

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Mark and Mary continued to foster relationships across the local community, deanery and borough. As Area Dean, Mark co-chaired with Rabbi Adrian Schell the Merton Council Holocaust Memorial Day event in January. He participated in the Merton Inter-Faith Walk in May, which included visits to the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden, St John Fisher RC Church Merton, St Mary's Merton, Wimbledon Salvation Army and Wimbledon International Seventh Day Adventist Church.

He supported the Living Water Parish's silver jubilee in Haydons Road Rec in June and was also one of the speakers at a Scriptural Reasoning event hosted at Holy Trinity in November for Inter-Faith Week. He attends the Merton Faith and Belief Forum when he can.

Mark and Mary also took part in a very new activity, knocking on doors in one of our local roads to introduce ourselves and the church and to offer anyone a free copy of Mark's Gospel. We were one of several local churches in this Merton Gospel Giveaway. It was a stepping beyond our comfort zone; we gave away one gospel (!) but had a range of good conversations and one or two very striking spiritual encounters.

This past winter, Dons Local Action Group approached us to see if we would host a year-round soup kitchen on Saturday and Sunday evenings. We were pleased to be asked, and thanks are due to churchwarden John Eades for his assistance in this. The Dons will return in March 2026 for their thank-you to volunteers. We are most grateful for people's generosity in so many ways, not least in the precious gift of time across our small but dedicated teams who do the flowers, serve at the altar, serve refreshments after services, read, intercede and welcome, update the website, field enquiries from the public, oversee finance and hall bookings, administer the Electoral Roll, help with printing and so much more; especial thanks to Andrew Taylor for offering free administrative help in the absence of a paid Parish Administrator. We are always looking to recruit more volunteers to spread the load. After all, we are a family where everyone has gifts of time and talents to offer for the health and flourishing of all.

#### **3.4 St John the Divine**

The church comprises a church building, lovingly restored some years ago, and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. As well as services the church provides a venue for Morden Park Choral Society practices and concerts and for Merton Music Foundation who use it weekly for children's choir practice and for other musical events. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the Church Hall, with the development of a new Church Hall, has now been further postponed and estimated dates for this range between 5-7 years' time. Nevertheless, our current hall continues to be used by a range of community groups from dance to martial arts and Woodcraft Folk. We welcomed Wimbledon Foodbank back as a distribution point in November while work is done at their hub at Elim church, and we hope to continue to work with them. We remain keen to make our buildings a community resource.

The Fun and Games Toddler Group met on Thursday mornings in term time, as a joint venture for St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church (an annexe of Lantern Methodist Church in Raynes Park). The sessions were led by Angela Linton Smith and Alison, with excellent support from Bianca Sanasi, a local parent. Unfortunately, the group had to end on Alison's retirement and a change of staffing at the Methodist Church.

The struggles with our beautiful church building continue. We have enjoyed the new lighting system but still struggle to heat our spaces effectively. We truly want to move away from fossil fuels, but this is proving quite challenging for a building of our size and character and so currently we are reliant on our inadequate gas fired heaters. Squirrels also enjoy using the roof void as a playground, and we continue to address their presence in order to prevent further damage.

It has been a good year for social events. MP3 Players used St John's to good effect in January for a wonderful take on the classic pantomime story of 'Aladdin'.

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In February we again held our very popular Parish Ale (aka Beer Festival). Numerous Morris Dancers of all traditions entertained a full church, and wonderful food from Richard Blades and Bruce Warman made for a very successful fundraising event. We are grateful for the support of Oli Carter-Esdale and the whole team from The Trafalgar. The “Traf” also hosted a barbecue in their new courtyard as a fundraiser for St Johns, and the DCC continue to support appeals against plans for redevelopment, recognising the key place in the community that both the church and the pub occupy.

St John’s Bell Tower is a very popular tower for visiting ringers keen to experience our excellent 10 bell tower. Visitors frequently compliment the excellent sound of the 10. Our own band flourishes and we were delighted to host The Ten Bell Practice on behalf of the Surrey Association of Bell Ringers, thanks to Ed Gosden who leads this.

Overall, our congregational numbers have remained much the same, that is to say small but highly committed. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was 15 adults. Easter attendance was 30 adults and 3 children and at Christmas 61 adults and two children.

There were two baptisms in the year – it was a joy to welcome twins Jude and Rory and their family.

Our music is led by Liz Holder on the first Sunday of each month, and Jeremy Roberts on the other Sundays. Irene Clugston still joins us for joint and team services. We are grateful to Liz and Jeremy for their valued contribution to our worshipping life. In April we were sad to bid farewell to Peter Crowther, who had offered his talents alongside Liz, when he moved away to be closer to family.

During the year we have had two funerals at St John’s. We were saddened by the death of Agnes Parker in January, and again by the death of Eva Parker, a stalwart of St John’s and cornerstone of the team, in May. We were also saddened by the death of Joan Brunt, a member of St John’s for over 75 years, in December with her funeral held in church in January.

As noted in the MAP we continue to enjoy a good relationship with Merton Abbey School being involved in assemblies throughout the year. Alison visited Nursery and Reception classes, and Year 1 children visit the church. It is always a highlight when Key Stage 2 have their Christingle service in church, and this year they were delighted to have Mark lead the service. The church drive continues to be used for ‘kiss and drop’ allowing pupils who are driven to school by car to alight safely as parking restrictions on High Path make dropping children off problematic.

With the reorientation of activity within the team to allow a Team Vicar to focus their efforts on Christ Church, Colliers Wood, St John’s are looking forward to working more closely with Holy Trinity on joint endeavours. We have enjoyed welcoming a range of visiting clergy during the vacancy and are grateful for the care they have shown to our congregation in their visits.

We look forward to further work with Merton Priory Team to reach out to our neighbours on High Path over the coming year as we continue to build those relationships.

### 4 Quinquennial Inspections

**Christ Church.** A quinquennial inspection was completed in January 2024. Urgent works related to maintenance and access were identified for action, with this and other work intended to be addressed by the major works planned for the building in the coming years. Significant redecoration of the chancel took place during the year which, alongside improved lighting, has served to make this focal area of the church stand out.

**Holy Trinity & St Peter.** A quinquennial inspection was carried out in early 2026 and revealed an immediate repair required to stonework, and additional works to be prioritised. Further work on internal areas of the church is planned, though will likely need the help of grant money.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

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**St John the Divine.** A quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2023, with the report received early in 2024. Urgent works related to squirrel access and some minor external repairs were identified, with ongoing external maintenance identified over the course of the next five years. Work to address heating and lighting continues, with the intention of moving away from fossil fuels wherever possible.

### **5 Looking to the future**

We look forward this July (God-willing) to Mary's ordination as a priest.

We are also glad to have licensed Sue McKinney as a Reader on Easter Day, based mainly at Christ Church, though deployable across the Team.

We are also excited to have part of a youth worker's time through YMIC. Nequela Whittaker will be able to offer a session a week of some kind and is getting to know us and the area to see what might work.

And then this Summer we will welcome Revd Dr Hannah Swithinbank as the new Team Vicar at Christ Church.

Following a PCC decision, Hannah will be based at Christ Church, and St John's and Holy Trinity will be working more closely together. We have had an initial fruitful meeting about this but still need to discern and pray further. Discernment and prayer also apply to a broader sense of what new work God might be doing through St John's to bring about growth, perhaps extending to a new congregation.

### **6 Personnel**

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, was responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine until October. Her successor at Christ Church will begin later this year. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. We have been pleased that the Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, has attended St John's on most Sundays. Sister Chris SCL is a committed member of Christ Church and has the Bishop of Southwark's permission to preach, which we value enormously across the Team and are sorry for ourselves (though happy for her!) that she plans to move to Hull in September.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £13.85 per hour from the beginning of 2025. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

### **7 Financial Review**

The PCC's main sources of funding are the free will offerings of church members and others in attendance at church meetings, and income from hiring out the church buildings.

#### **7.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position**

We remain mindful of the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on many people.

Total income for the year decreased by £35,198 to £311,641 (2024: increased by £6,539 to £346,839) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 17-35. Of this total, £2,912 (2024: £16,181) was restricted income.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £159,034 (2024: £176,826) which was a £17,791 decrease (2024: £953 decrease). Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £28,010 (2024: £41,072), which includes estimated claims by Christ Church for 2024 and 2025. Church and hall lettings weakened further, raising £121,358 in 2025 compared to £126,953 in 2024, a decrease of £5,595. Income from fundraising events at £21,105 saw a rise against the previous year (2024: £19,533).

Total expenditure decreased by £31,021 (2024: £25,096 decrease) to £315,311 (2024: £346,332) with a significant decrease in the costs associated with buildings and facilities, support costs, and a reduction in the amount spent for missionary and charitable giving (see note 4).

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £179,000 in 2025 (2024: £176,900). The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £5,078 (2024: £6,112) to mission giving and donations.

In summary, the deficit for the parish on unrestricted funds was £2,073 (2024: surplus £127). The overall deficit for the year was £2,269 (2024: surplus £5), after including unrealised gains on investments of £1,401 (2024: loss of £502). The net movement in funds for the year was therefore a deficit of £2,269 (2024: surplus of £5).

### 7.2 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and ongoing financial uncertainty due to the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2025, the PCC had net free reserves of £230,172 (2024: £226,651) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £94,417 (2024: £94,417).

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>298,292</b>	<b>300,561</b>
Less: restricted funds	(23,074)	(22,621)
Less: endowment funds	(17,602)	(18,611)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(27,444)	(32,678)
	<b>230,172</b>	<b>226,651</b>
<b>Free reserves requirement:</b>		
Reserve agreed by PCC	82,417	82,417
Balance allocated to the anticipated cost of fabric repairs	12,000	12,000
	<b>94,417</b>	<b>94,417</b>

Christ Church is planning significant expenditure in 2026 and beyond; this includes work around the altar, redecorations of the church, and putting toilets into the church. Some initial redecoration and improved lighting have been completed, and they are working with the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and have appointed an architect.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

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Holy Trinity has completed extensive kitchen refurbishment and redecoration in recent years and is planning work to redecorate the chancel and nave, upgrade more fittings to accommodate LED lighting, and necessary repairs to the boiler. There are also urgent repairs to external stonework to be made.

St John the Divine has spent money on upgrading lighting and electrics, and will continue to explore sustainable heating options, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding alongside other fundraising for the project. The timing of any work is dependent on funding being secured.

So, although the free reserves position at 31 December 2025 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

### 7.3 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

All three churches and the PCC are considered to be one legal and financial entity, so all of our account balances are combined when considering the FSCS limits for deposit protection. As the total of funds available exceeded the limit, Holy Trinity's DCC took the decision to move some funds away from CAF Bank and have opted to open an account with Triodos. The limit has since increased, but the position remains under review.

### 7.4 Going Concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 19). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply, then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

## 8 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens for their many and varied labours: Karen Warman at Christ Church, John Eades and Simon Hay (although he has since moved away) at Holy Trinity and Ann Roberts at St John's. Our co-treasurers, Ann Roberts and Kerry Porritt, have steered us wisely and efficiently through our financial affairs. Margaret Duncan stood down as PCC Secretary and has been succeeded by Tracey McDermott. It seems likely as is often the way that there will be some changes at the annual meetings and we pray for new volunteers to emerge, not least churchwardens.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

## 9 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC has authority for finance across the parish.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

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The PCC has assessed the major risks to which the PCC is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments, and its finances. The PCC believes that, by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the church, it has established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens (when in post), Secretary and co-Treasurers, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, co-Treasurers and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

The PCC appoints six foundation governors at *Holy Trinity School* and two at *The Priory School*, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. We are proud that at both schools one of the co-chairs is a church member. This year, one governor was appointed to Holy Trinity.

### 10 Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements

The PCC is responsible for preparing the report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Charity law in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the income and application of income of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

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

The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. The PCC is 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. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website.

### 11 Approval

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment, and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2026.

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



**The Revd Mark Eminson**  
PCC Chair



# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory

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I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 17 to 34.

### Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the seeking of 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



**John Helm**  
**Chartered Accountant**  
18 May 2026

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>	2								
Donations and legacies		159,034	1,611	-	160,645	176,826	13,852	-	190,678
Charitable activities		2,201	-	-	2,201	3,019	-	-	3,019
Other trading activities		142,220	243	-	142,463	145,260	1,226	-	146,486
Investments		5,274	1,058	-	6,332	5,553	1,103	-	6,656
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>308,729</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>311,641</b>	<b>330,658</b>	<b>16,181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>346,839</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>									
Raising funds	3	7,368	-	-	7,368	2,132	-	-	2,132
Charitable activities	4	305,482	2,461	-	307,943	327,535	16,665	-	344,200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>312,850</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>315,311</b>	<b>329,667</b>	<b>16,665</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>346,332</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		2,048	-	(647)	1,401	(864)	-	362	(502)
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	5	<b>(2,073)</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>( 647)</b>	<b>(2,269)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>( 484)</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>5</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	2,136	(2,136)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,073)</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>( 647)</b>	<b>(2,269)</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>(2,620)</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>5</b>
Total funds brought forward		259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561	257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>257,256</b>	<b>23,072</b>	<b>17,964</b>	<b>298,292</b>	<b>259,329</b>	<b>22,621</b>	<b>18,611</b>	<b>300,561</b>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Tangible Assets	6	27,444	-	-	27,444	32,678
Investments	7	41,221	-	15,539	56,760	55,264
		<b>68,665</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,539</b>	<b>84,204</b>	<b>87,942</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Debtors	8	46,259	-	-	46,259	47,552
Cash At Bank and In Hand		161,927	23,072	2,425	187,424	190,251
		<b>208,186</b>	<b>23,072</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>233,683</b>	<b>237,803</b>
<b>Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>	9	19,595	-	-	19,595	25,184
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>188,591</b>	<b>23,072</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>214,088</b>	<b>212,619</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>257,256</b>	<b>23,072</b>	<b>17,964</b>	<b>298,292</b>	<b>300,561</b>
Represented by:						
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	10	-	-	17,964	17,964	18,611
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	11	-	23,072	-	23,072	22,621
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	12	257,256	-	-	257,256	259,329
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>257,256</b>	<b>23,072</b>	<b>17,964</b>	<b>298,292</b>	<b>300,561</b>

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson  
PCC Chair



Dr Kerry Porritt  
PCC Co-Treasurer



Ann Roberts  
PCC Co-Treasurer

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

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**1 Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for the revaluation of leasehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Going Concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis.

**Income recognition**

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The income from trading activities includes rental income from the letting of church premises which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations and property maintenance costs.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4a).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

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**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

*Moveable church furnishings* are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

*Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings* and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

**Fixed Asset Investments**

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

**Debtors**

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months.

**Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

The Southwark Diocese has received a business-rates demand from the local authority in respect of part of the church hall at Christ Church, which is leased to and occupied by a third-party nursery. Under the terms of the lease, any business rates arising from the tenant's use or occupation of the premises are the responsibility of the tenant. At the balance-sheet date, discussions between the Diocese and the tenant were ongoing and the outcome of the matter remained uncertain. The PCC considers that an outflow of economic benefits is possible but not probable and, accordingly, no provision has been made in these financial statements. If the matter is not resolved in the PCC's favour, the potential financial effect is estimated to be in the region of £42,000.

**Fund accounting**

The funds held by the charity are either:

*Unrestricted general funds* that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

*Restricted funds* represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations & legacies				
Offerings and donations	125,094	1,112	126,206	149,606
Income tax reclaimed	27,810	200	28,010	41,072
Legacies	6,000	-	6,000	-
Grants	130	299	429	-
	<b>159,034</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>160,645</b>	<b>190,678</b>
Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,201	-	2,201	3,019
	<b>2,201</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>3,019</b>
Other trading activities				
Fund raising events	21,105	-	21,105	19,533
Lettings income	121,115	243	121,358	126,953
	<b>142,220</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>142,463</b>	<b>146,486</b>
Investments				
Dividends	1,374	-	1,374	1,257
Bank Interest	2,070	608	2,678	3,130
Rent from land	1,830	450	2,280	2,269
	<b>5,274</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>6,332</b>	<b>6,656</b>
	<b>308,729</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>311,641</b>	<b>346,839</b>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Costs of fundraising events	7,368	-	7,368	2,066
Costs of supporting regular giving	-	-	-	66
	<b>7,368</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>2,132</b>

The figure for 2025 includes surveyor fees related to the renewal of the lease for the hall that is leased to the nursery as the costs are connected with maintaining rental income rather than charitable activities.

### 4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Parish Support Fund	179,000	-	179,000	176,900
Staff costs (note 4a)	17,077	-	17,077	19,793
Church Life & Outreach	4,507	1,045	5,552	10,381
Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts (note 4b)	4,362	716	5,078	6,112
Provision of Office & Support	15,963	700	16,663	26,990
Provision of Buildings and Facilities	80,853	-	80,853	100,304
Governance costs	3,720	-	3,720	3,720
	<b>305,482</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>307,943</b>	<b>344,200</b>

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 4 above) are the following staff costs:

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Gross salaries	17,077	-	17,077	19,732
Pension contributions	-	-	-	61
	<b>17,077</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,077</b>	<b>19,793</b>

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is currently covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given below.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

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**4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities (continued)**

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Christ Church employs an Organist/Music Leader (who was shared with St John's until April 2025) (2024: one) and employed a Cleaner (2024: one).
- Holy Trinity: the post of Parish Administrator was vacant throughout 2025 (2024: vacant) and a Director of Music was in post for the full year (2024: full year);
- St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader until April 2025 (2024: one) and the post is now vacant and employed a Cleaner with a change in personnel in October 2025 (2024: one).

**4a Staff Pensions**

**Merton Priory PCC** participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme;
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic; and,
  - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

**Pension Builder Scheme**

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (2025: £nil; 2024: £61).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025. For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% following the strong funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Merton Priory PCC could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.



# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities (continued)

#### 4b Expenditure – Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Giving to Church overseas & missionary societies:				
Kingston Matabeleland	750	-	750	-
Gaza Hospital	100	-	100	361
Gifts to Relief & development agencies:				
Christian Aid	-	100	100	527
Giving to Home mission & church organisations:				
Christian CARE Merton	-	100	100	67
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	-	-	-	1,053
Messy Church & Summer Club	-	106	106	-
Holiday Club	-	19	19	-
Youth with a Mission	135	-	135	-
Toddlers Group	-	118	118	234
Children's Society	-	273	273	713
Gifts to Secular Charities:				
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,497	-	1,497	1,420
LEAH (Learn English at Home)	1,880	-	1,880	-
Papyrus	-	-	-	100
Deen City Farm	-	-	-	1,596
White Ribbon Day	-	-	-	41
	<b>4,362</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>5,078</b>	<b>6,112</b>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 5 Net Income

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation of owned assets  
Independent examination fee (including preparation of financial statements)  
Other fees paid to independent examiner

2025	2024
£	£
5,234	8,009
3,720	3,720
-	-
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 6 Tangible Fixed Assets

#### Cost

At 1 January 2025  
Additions  
Disposals

At 31 December 2025

#### Depreciation

At 1 January 2025  
Charge for Year

At 31 December 2025

#### Net Book Value

At 31 December 2025

At 31 December 2024

Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
114,286
-
-
<u>114,286</u>
81,608
5,234
<u>86,842</u>
<u>27,444</u>
<u>32,678</u>

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see Accounting Policies).

Fixtures & Fittings:

*Christ Church:* The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated. New chancel lighting was purchased and installed in 2024 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

*Holy Trinity:* The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and is now fully depreciated. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2024, which is being depreciated over ten years.

*St John the Divine:* A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and is being depreciated over ten years. A new heater was installed in 2024 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Market Value</b>				
At 1 January 2025	39,078	16,186	55,264	55,675
Net of purchases and sales	95	-	95	91
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	2,048	(647)	1,401	(502)
	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>
<b>Market value represented by investments in:</b>				
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest				
Common investment Fund shares	12,325	15,539	27,864	25,678
CBF Investment Fund shares	18,896	-	18,896	19,586
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>

*Christ Church:* CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Dividends are reinvested.

*St John the Divine:* CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

*Holy Trinity:* Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

### 8 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Prepayments and other debtors	2,400	-	2,400	1,701
Gift Aid recoverable	25,077	-	25,077	19,069
Accrued income	18,782	-	18,782	26,782
	<u>46,259</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>46,259</u>	<u>47,552</u>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 9 Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Accruals	10,631	-	10,631	13,466
Pension creditor	26	-	26	27
Income received in advance	1,381	-	1,381	4,459
Other creditors	7,557	-	7,557	7,233
	<b>19,595</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,595</b>	<b>25,185</b>

### 10 Endowment Funds

10a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2025 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<b>18,611</b>	-	-	-	(647)	<b>17,964</b>

  

10b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<b>18,249</b>	-	-	-	362	<b>18,611</b>

This fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 11 Restricted Funds

11a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ Transfers (losses) £		At 31 December 2025 £
<b>PCC</b>						
Curate Housing	0	700	(700)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,893	-	(500)	-	-	1,393
Night Shelter	5,693	-	(545)	-	-	5,148
Other Restricted Donations	151	-	-	-	-	151
<b>Christ Church</b>						
Children's Society	0	272	(272)	-	-	0
150th Anniversary Fund	0	30	-	-	-	30
Christian Care	0	10	-	-	-	10
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
<b>Holy Trinity</b>						
Merton Night Shelters	0	299	-	-	-	299
Flower Fund	29	-	-	-	-	29
Other Restricted Donations	2,145	-	-	-	-	2,145
<b>St John the Divine</b>						
Bells Centenary Project	160	-	-	-	-	160
Mission & Charities	881	543	(444)	-	-	980
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	11,374	1,058	-	-	-	12,432
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,621</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>(2,461)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,072</b>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 11 Restricted Funds (continued)

11b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers (losses) £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
<b>PCC</b>						
Curate Housing	0	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,893	-	-	-	-	1,893
Night Shelter	1,690	4,563	(560)	-	-	5,693
Other Restricted Donations	-	800	(649)	-	-	151
<b>Christ Church</b>						
Children's Society	408	305	(713)	-	-	0
Christian Aid	427	-	(427)	-	-	0
Faith in Action	574	479	(1,053)	-	-	0
Christian Care	67	-	(67)	-	-	0
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
<b>Holy Trinity</b>						
Merton Night Shelters	4,562	-	(4,562)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	25	-	-	-	29
Other Restricted Donations	2,145	-	-	-	-	2,145
<b>St John the Divine</b>						
Bells Centenary Project	2,296	-	-	(2,136)	-	160
Mission & Charities	609	506	(234)	-	-	881
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	10,271	1,103	-	-	-	11,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,241</b>	<b>16,181</b>	<b>(16,665)</b>	<b>(2,136)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,621</b>

Holy Trinity received an amount from the PCC in 2025 towards the heating and lighting costs for the Merton Night Shelter which is shown in the restricted fund.

St John's resolved to transfer funds from the restricted Bells fund to general funds.

Descriptions of the main restricted funds are as follows:

#### PCC

- **Curate Housing:** monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and was covered by a very generous restricted donation until January 2025.
- **Youth Work:** The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches and continues to look for opportunities to use the funds, including supporting the work of YMIC Southwark and our engagement with Nequela Whittaker.
- **Merton Night Shelter:** The team churches support the night shelter for the homeless that is run locally during the winter months, and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses.

#### Christ Church

- **Hymn Book Fund:** this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 11 Restricted Funds (continued)

#### Holy Trinity

- **Other Restricted Donations:** the balance represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and other general appeals including towards the costs of hosting a 'warm space' in the Winter months.

#### St John the Divine

- **Mission & Charities:** restricted donations for charities.
- **Mackrell Trust (T0046):** an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use, but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

### 12 Unrestricted Funds

12a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
PCC General Fund	999	2,763	(3,220)	-	-	542
<b>Designated Funds (General)</b>						
Christ Church	25,268	74,722	(73,583)	-	(138)	26,269
Holy Trinity	52,500	161,106	(169,075)	-	2,186	46,717
St John the Divine	39,859	58,285	(58,654)	-	-	39,490
<b>Designated Funds (Specific)</b>						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	(319)	-	-	239
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	405	-	-	-	-	405
Bells Fund	5,289	1,073	-	-	-	6,362
150th Anniversary Fund	26,543	10,780	(2,765)	-	-	34,558
Fixed Assets Fund	4,320	-	(480)	-	-	3,840
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	23,828	-	(3,971)	-	-	19,857
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	4,530	-	(783)	-	-	3,747
<b>Total</b>	<b>259,329</b>	<b>308,729</b>	<b>(312,850)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>257,256</b>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

12b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
PCC General Fund	(479)	2,616	(1,138)	-	-	999
<b>Designated Funds (General)</b>						
Christ Church	36,162	75,618	(81,786)	(4,800)	74	25,268
Holy Trinity	45,853	177,094	(169,509)	-	(938)	52,500
St John the Divine	41,186	58,767	(62,230)	2,136	-	39,859
<b>Designated Funds (Specific)</b>						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	405	-	-	-	-	405
Bells Fund	4,362	1,010	(83)	-	-	5,289
150th Anniversary Fund	17,902	15,553	(6,912)	-	-	26,543
Fixed Assets Fund	0	-	(480)	4,800	-	4,320
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	30,574	-	(6,746)	-	-	23,828
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	5,313	-	(783)	-	-	4,530
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,066</b>	<b>330,658</b>	<b>(329,667)</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>(864)</b>	<b>259,329</b>

**Designated (General) Funds** are funds which have been designated by the PCC to each DCC for unrestricted purposes.

**Designated (Specific) Funds** are funds which have been designated by each DCC for specific purposes.

#### PCC

- **MP3 Players Fund:** in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is retained by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions.

#### Christ Church

- **Hall & Church Repairs Fund:** was established with income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which group has not restarted since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bells Fund:** will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2025, Christ Church was 150 years old. This fund will be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.



# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

### 12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

#### Holy Trinity

- **Marian Esling Legacy (income):** the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- **Special Projects Fund:** following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

#### St John the Divine

- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

### 13 Operating Lease Commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than one year	175	706
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	175
	<b>175</b>	<b>881</b>

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

### 14 Capital Commitments

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2026:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
<b>Christ Church</b>				
Building works	34,589	34,559	30	-
<b>Holy Trinity</b>				
Nave redecoration and installation of LED lights	18,400	16,700	1,700	-
Stained glass	40,000	40,000	-	-
<b>St John the Divine</b>				
No capital works planned for 2026	0	-	-	-
	<b>92,989</b>	<b>91,259</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>0</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

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**15 Related Party Transactions and Balances**

The expenses of four (2024: three) members of the PCC amounting to £6,974 (2024: £11,237) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £12,602 (2024: £11,467).

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

16. Income & Expenditure Analysis	PCC		CC		HT		SJ			Total £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Income from:</b>										
Donations and legacies	-	700	46,421	312	93,123	299	19,490	300	-	160,645
Charitable activities	-	-	1,150	-	828	-	223	-	-	2,201
Other trading activities	2,856	-	38,816	-	63,050	-	37,498	243	-	142,463
Investments	(93)	-	188	-	4,105	-	1,074	1,058	-	6,332
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>86,575</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>161,106</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>58,285</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>311,641</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>										
Raising funds	-	-	3,721	-	1,823	-	1,824	-	-	7,368
Charitable activities	3,540	1,745	73,107	272	171,222	-	57,613	444	-	307,943
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,540</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>76,828</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>173,045</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,437</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>315,311</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	(138)	-	2,186	-	-	-	(647)	1,401
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>( 777)</b>	<b>(1,045)</b>	<b>9,609</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>(9,753)</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>(1,152)</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>( 647)</b>	<b>(2,269)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>( 777)</b>	<b>(1,045)</b>	<b>9,609</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>(9,753)</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>(1,152)</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>( 647)</b>	<b>(2,269)</b>
Total funds brought forward	1,557	7,737	61,823	297	151,558	2,174	44,391	12,413	18,611	300,561
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>6,692</b>	<b>71,432</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>141,805</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>43,239</b>	<b>13,570</b>	<b>17,964</b>	<b>298,292</b>