

**GORING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH  
GORING ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE**



**Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**



Registered Charity Number: 1152514

This parish is a part of the Benefice of Goring and Streatley with South Stoke

## Overview of Parish activity

St Thomas of Canterbury Church is situated in Goring village near the banks of the river Thames. It has been a place of worship since before the 11th Century. It is one of three parishes forming the Benefice of Goring and Streatley with South Stoke, the other parishes being St Mary's, Streatley and St Andrew's, South Stoke, and part of the Henley Deanery within the Diocese of Oxford. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission since 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Charity number 1152514.

Church members who have served on the PCC in 2025:

Clergy:		
Vicar	Revd Ben Phillips	
Associate Priest	Revd Wendy Middleton	
Permission to Officiate	Revd Liz Dowding	
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mrs Judith Aguda Mrs Judith Hogg	Electoral Roll Officer Deanery Synod rep
Wardens	Brenda Kerr Muir Rob Howard	Lay Vice-Chairman, Deanery Synod rep
Elected members	Bridget Braham Alison Gray Simon Merritt Elizabeth Parkinson Don Shrimpton Christopher Tassell Melissa Walker Matthew Walker	Safeguarding Officer (until 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025)  Honorary Treasurer

Mr Henry Parkinson continued as non-voting Honorary Secretary

The structure, governance and activity of the PCC is regulated under the Church Representation Rules 2022. Members of the Church community are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Responsibility for the compilation of the Electoral Roll was held by Judith Aguda. The number on the Electoral Roll reported by Judith at the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting was 95.

The Parish Mission Statement is:

*To understand more fully the Good News of our faith and to be more active disciples of Christ in our own community. To make our church a welcoming and relevant place in the life of the village and to take seriously our responsibilities to the wider world.*

The normal pattern of services was: first Sunday - Family service and Choral BCP evensong; second and fourth Sundays - Sung Holy Communion Common Worship; and third Sunday - Good News, Service of the Word format. The 8am BCP Holy Communion on Sundays continued weekly, alternating with St Mary's. Holy Communion was delivered to Communicants in the Summer by the Common Cup but sadly it was resumed by intincting the wafer at all services by the end of the year. The monthly Prayer Breakfast continued throughout the year.

The PCC met on 4 occasions during 2025 under the chairmanship of Revd Ben Phillips. There were PCC meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> March, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Vicar and Wardens of the Benefice met between PCC meetings approximately every 8 weeks in between. The APCM was conducted at 11am on May 18<sup>th</sup> with members of the congregation present.

During Christian Aid Week, we delivered envelopes to people's homes with a note asking them to take their donations to Jack's or Inspiration for Goring and Streatley, or the Village Shop in South Stoke. It seemed to work well raising a total of £2,064.

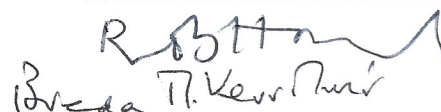
The life of the parish and group activities run to enhance and further the aims of the Mission Statement including *Digging Deeper*. The weekly newsletter continued to be a vital support and communication channel to church members throughout the year. We are most grateful to Jill Kirby for putting it together and to all those who prepared the intercessions - we now used Roots prayers when not specially written. People continued to be added to the circulation list and a paper copy was delivered to homes for those without internet.

The PCC discussed at length the proposal for Goring Primary school to federate with Stoke Row Primary school and our concern for fewer local people being involved in the depths of governance and so broadening understanding and support of the school.

The PCC is indebted to the small band of people who faithfully unlock and lock the church door each day so that the building may be a place of welcome, solace and refuge for those who are passing and choose to enter.

Statistics in the Service Register during 2025 sadly continued to show reduced attendance throughout the year - pre-pandemic 85-90, post-pandemic 45-50. The services at Easter and Christmas were well supported with a lot of people attending. There were 2 Weddings and 14 Funerals or Thanksgiving services and 4 funerals held at the Crematorium as well as 4 burials of ashes.

Brenda Kerr Muir & Rob Howard



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## **FINANCIAL REVIEW for 2025**

Total Funds of the PCC decreased slightly during 2025 from £465,257 at the start of the year to £462,952 on 31st December 2025:

	2025	2024
Unrestricted Funds	209,290	209,317
Restricted Funds	71,436	66,126
Endowments	182,226	189,814
Total Funds	<u>462,952</u>	<u>465,257</u>

These figures do not include Mission and Charity Giving. During the year £2,107 was raised (£2,219 in 2024) for CMS to support the work done by Steve & Lyndsey Poulson and other charities including DEC, Royal British Legion and Embrace the Middle East.

A significant decision was taken during 2025 to support a number of church members who have been involved in developing an exciting project called Just Grow to be an example of what's possible and replicable hand in hand with many other initiatives enabling a fairer more sustainable food system, when the community takes responsibility for stewarding land as part of a just food system. The PCC has offered to support the Just Grow project with a donation of up to £50,000 from a recent legacy from Daphne Prue, herself a botanist, which was gifted to the PCC, subject to Diocesan approval. Payment has not yet been made and therefore the donation is not included in the accounts to 31 December 2025.

### **Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted Funds consist of the General Fund and the legacy from Daphne Prue (see above) known as the Vicar and Wardens Fund

Income for the two funds in 2025 was £118,401 (£131,240 in 2024). The decrease is due to lower level of recurring income and a lower level of interest during the year. The PCC is extremely grateful for the on-going support from all its regular and occasional donors.

However, running costs were also lower in 2025 - £118,428 (compared to £134,257 in 2024). This was principally due to a decrease in the cost of major repairs following completion of the work required by the last quinquennial report (some £8,000 in 2025 compared to nearly £26,000 in 2024).

As a result, unrestricted Funds fell by £27 only in 2025. In 2024 unrestricted funds fell by £3,017. These results for 2025 are summarised below.

	General Fund	Vicar & Wardens	Total
Unrestricted Funds at 1 January 2025	122,988	86,329	209,317
Incoming resources	115,294	3,107	118,401
Resources expended	(110,268)	(8,160)	(118,428)
Exceptional Item	0	0	0
Unrestricted Funds at 31 December 2025	<u>128,014</u>	<u>81,276</u>	<u>209,290</u>



## Restricted and Endowment Funds

**Restricted Funds** are held for specific purposes and cannot be used for general running expenses. They increased slightly during the year from £66,126 at the end of 2024 to £71,436 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. We continued to support our first organ scholar during the year. The Music Outreach Fund is funded by donation and fund-raising events to promote music outside the church community using the newly furnished organ and the community piano. The General Repair Fund and Church Room Trust can only be used for major repairs and renovations, and the Choir Fund is for choir expenses only

	Opening £	In £	Out £	Transfers £	Closing £
Repair Fund	6,246	443	0	0	6,689
Church Room Trust	25,099	4,633	0	0	29,732
Bell Ringers Fund	6,387	530	(400)	0	6,517
Choir Fund	2,954	278	(523)	0	2,709
Organ Scholarship Fund	21,328	305	(796)	0	20,837
Piano Fund	1,678	0	0	0	1,678
Music Outreach Fund	2,434	1,248	(408)	0	3,274
	66,126	7,437	(2,127)	0	71,436

**Endowment Funds** During 2025 endowment decreased in value from £189,814 to £182,226 ( reduction of £7,588 ) reflecting changes in the stock market generally.

There are three endowments funds:

The Smallbone Bequest and Church Room Trust are endowments which are held in perpetuity.  
Goring PCC Income Fund was established from the PCC's share of the proceeds of sale of the curate's house in Westway, Goring and the income is paid into the General Fund.

**The Audited Accounts are attached on pages 5 to 9**



Don Shrimpton Treasurer

Date 2 March 2026

**Parochial Church Council of St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring on Thames**  
**Statement of Financial Activities** For the year ending 31 December 2025

Income & Expenses for the Year		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Notes		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	98,430	467		98,897	113,268
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	14,512	1,526		16,038	17,112
Income from investments	2(c)	5,459	5,444		10,903	12,007
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>118,401</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,838</b>	<b>142,387</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Parish share & Deanery exs	3(a)	59,570			59,570	59,786
Charitable giving	3(b)	0	0		0	2,219
Church activities	3(c)	58,318	2,127		60,445	76,148
Church project costs	3(d)				0	0
Governance costs	3(e)	540	0		540	560
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>118,428</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120,555</b>	<b>138,713</b>
<b>Net incoming resources before exceptional items, gains and losses on investments and transfers</b>						
		(27)	5,310		5,283	3,674
Exceptional Items	3(g)				0	0
(Loss) / Gains on investments during the year				(7,588)	(7,588)	4,247
Transfers between funds					0	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(27)</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>(7,588)</b>	<b>(2,305)</b>	<b>7,921</b>
<b>Balances brought forward 1 January</b>		<b>209,317</b>	<b>66,126</b>	<b>189,814</b>	<b>465,257</b>	<b>457,336</b>
<b>Balances carried forward 31 December</b>		<b>209,290</b>	<b>71,436</b>	<b>182,226</b>	<b>462,952</b>	<b>465,257</b>

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Notes		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Office Equipment	7	0			0	0
Investments	7			182,226	182,226	189,814
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182,226</b>	<b>182,226</b>	<b>189,814</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Debtors	8	4,195	0		4,195	3,928
CAF & CCLA Deposit Funds		113,877	37,881		151,758	151,666
Cash at bank		95,965	33,555		129,520	122,729
		<b>214,037</b>	<b>71,436</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>285,473</b>	<b>278,323</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors	9(a)	(4,747)			(4,747)	(2,880)
Loans	9(b)		0		0	0
		<b>(4,747)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,747)</b>	<b>(2,880)</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>209,290</b>	<b>71,436</b>	<b>182,226</b>	<b>462,952</b>	<b>465,257</b>
<b>Funds of the Church</b>						
<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>						
General Fund	10(b)	128,014			128,014	122,988
Vicar & Wardens Fund		81,276			81,276	86,329
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Repair Fund	10(a)		6,689		6,689	6,246
Church Room Trust			29,732		29,732	25,099
Bell Ringers			6,517		6,517	6,387
Choir Fund			2,709		2,709	2,954
Organ Scholarship (formerly Organ Repair) Fund			20,837		20,837	21,328
Piano Fund			3,274		3,274	2,434
Music Outreach Fund			1,678		1,678	1,678
Mission Giving			0			
<b>Investment Funds</b>				182,226	182,226	189,814
<b>TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHURCH</b>		<b>209,290</b>	<b>71,436</b>	<b>182,226</b>	<b>462,952</b>	<b>465,257</b>

The notes on pages 6 to 8 form part of these accounts.

Approved in draft by the Parochial Church Council on 7th January 2026 and in final form by the Standing Committee of the PCC on 2nd March. The accounts are signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Ben Phillips

*Ben Phillips*

Brenda Kerr Muir

*Brenda Kerr Muir*



# **Parochial Church Council of St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring on Thames**

## **Notes on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025**

### **1.1) Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 1993, applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (revised 2005)

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. 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 their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

### **1.2) Funds**

Perpetual Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained in perpetuity; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts of endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for the 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 normally be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, the interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes

#### **Incoming Resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

#### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services. Grants and charitable giving are accountable for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA. Equipment used within church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years. Individual items with a purchase of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.



**Parochial Church Council of St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring on Thames**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Notes to the Accounts continued**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	<b>Total 2025</b> £	<b>Total 2024</b> £
<b>2. INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>					
<b>Recurring Income</b>					
Gift Aid Giving	23,551			23,551	25,871
Tax recovered / recoverable	17,272			17,272	18,463
Collections (open plate)	3,048			3,048	5,997
Parish Giving	44,479			44,479	46,950
	<u>88,350</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88,350</u>	<u>97,281</u>
<b>Non-recurring Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	1,292			1,292	7,178
SUMUP donations	3,434			3,434	281
Tax recovered	127			127	241
Bell ringers peal fees		467		467	260
Grants	1,045			1,045	80
Church Flowers	455			455	317
Pick a Flick	415			415	400
Non recurring collections	372			372	291
Other income	1,146			1,146	2,429
VAT recovered	1,360			1,360	4,317
Ride & Stride	184			184	193
Seat Sales	250			250	0
	<u>10,080</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,547</u>	<u>15,987</u>
<b>2(a) Total voluntary income</b>	<u>98,430</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>98,897</u>	<u>113,268</u>
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fees - weddings, funerals etc	5,174	278		5,452	6,912
Canterbury room fees	7,750			7,750	8,556
Social events, Concerts & Singing Workshops	1,588	1,248		2,836	1,636
Sunday coffee contributions	0			0	8
	<u>14,512</u>	<u>1,526</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,038</u>	<u>17,112</u>
<b>2(c) Investment Income</b>					
Dividends	1,649	3,625		5,274	5,558
Deposit fund interest	3,810	1,819		5,629	6,449
	<u>5,459</u>	<u>5,444</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,903</u>	<u>12,007</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>118,401</u>	<u>7,437</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>125,838</u>	<u>142,387</u>
<b>3. RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>3(a) Parish Share</b>	59,081			59,081	59,277
Deanery expenses	489			489	509
<b>3(b) Missionary &amp; Charitable Giving</b>				0	2,219
<b>3(c) Church Activities</b>					
Church running costs	17,847			17,847	13,770
Maintenance of Church and Churchyard	23,181	668		23,849	43,292
Service costs incl organist and choir	7,334	523		7,857	7,446
Support, Administration & Misc. Costs	3,879	140		4,019	4,134
Curate's house - council tax and water	0			0	0
Parish Administrator's salary	5,652			5,652	5,526
Clergy expenses	313			313	289
Bank and Card Processing fees	112			112	375
Music Scholarship		796		796	260
Social events, Concerts & Singing Workshops	0	0		0	1,056
	<u>58,318</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,445</u>	<u>76,148</u>
<b>3(d) Church Project Costs</b>					
Architect and professional fees		0		0	0
Organ restoration costs		0		0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>3(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Audit & bank fees	540	0		540	560
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<u>118,428</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>120,555</u>	<u>138,713</u>
<b>3(g) Exceptional Item</b>					
Rent Creditor no longer required	0	0	0	0	0

**Parochial Church Council of St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring on Thames**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Notes to the Accounts continued**

**5 AUDIT FEE**

Audit fee for reporting on the accounts

2025	2024
£	£
540	560

**6. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

No members of the PC received any remuneration for their work on the PCC. The clergy who are ex officio members do receive a stipend but are not remunerated for their services on the PCC. No members claimed expenses

**7 FIXED ASSETS**

**General Fund - Office Equipment**

2025	2024
£	£
0	0

**Endowment Funds - Investments**

	Smallbone Bequest Endowment £ Perpetual Restricted	Church Room Trust Endowment £ Perpetual Restricted	Goring PCC Income £ Unrestricted	Total £
Opening capital 9 March 1967	200			
Opening capital 23 April 1985		17,885		
Unrealised gain prior years	5,534	106,862		
At 1 January 2024	5,734	124,747	59,333	189,814
Unrealised gain / (loss) current year	(229)	(4,987)	(2,372)	(7,588)
At 31 December 2024	5,505	119,760	56,961	182,226

The Smallbone Bequest and the Church Room Trust Endowment are perpetual funds, the capital of which must be maintained in perpetuity.

The Church Room Trust is a charity registered under the Charities Act and called the Goring Ecclesiastical Charity (number 250803). It was established out of the proceeds of sale in 1985 of the building formerly known as the Church Room (and now known as Goring Village Hall). The income is restricted and can only be used for the repair of the fabric of the Church and the upkeep and repair of any church hall held by the parish.

The PCC Income Fund is the PCC's share of the proceeds from the sale of the curate's house in Westway, Goring.

**8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Tax refund due	1,500		1,500	1,840
Grants			0	0
Sundry Debtor	2,695		2,695	2,088
	4,195	0	4,195	3,928

**9. CREDITORS AND LOANS**

9(a)	Professional fees creditor	0	0	0
	Energy creditors	2,880	2,880	1,800
	Expense creditors	1,317	1,317	530
	Audit fee	550	550	550
		4,747	4,747	2,880
9(b)	Loans		0	0

**10. FUND ANALYSIS**

	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Fund Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
<b>10(a) Restricted Funds</b>					
Repair Fund	6,246	443			6,689
Church Room Trust	25,099	4,633			29,732
Bell Ringers Fund	6,387	530	(400)		6,517
Choir Fund	2,954	278	(523)		2,709
Organ Scholarship Fund	21,328	305	(796)		20,837
Piano Fund	1,678	0	0		1,678
Music Outreach Fund	2,434	1,248	(408)		3,274
	66,126	7,437	(2,127)	0	71,436
<b>10(b) Unrestricted Funds</b>					
		General Fund	Vicar & Wardens Fund		Total Unrestricted Funds
Fixed Assets		0	0		0
Bank Balances		121,940	86,329		208,269
Debtors		3,928	0		3,928
Liabilities		(2,880)	0		(2,880)
<b>Unrestricted Funds at 1 January 2025</b>		122,988		86,329	209,317
Incoming resources		115,294		3,107	118,401
Resources expended		(110,268)		(8,160)	(118,428)
Exceptional Item		0		0	0
<b>Unrestricted Funds at 31 December 2025</b>		128,014		81,276	209,290

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY,**  
**GORING-ON-THAMES PCC**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are attached to this report.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required 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 s145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under S145(5)b of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

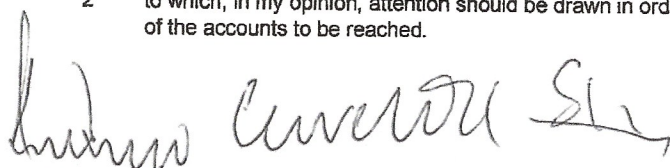
**Basis of Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 the matters 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 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 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.



A Churchill Stone  
Mercer Lewin Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
6-7 Citibase, New Barclay House  
234 Oxford Road  
OXFORD  
OX2 0HP

Date: 21 April 2026