

REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

PCC SECRETARY REPORT

Background

The Benefice is held in plurality with Pen Selwood. The Benefice is currently in vacancy following the departure of Rev Alison Way in Spring 2024. The Lay Reader is Mrs Penny Ashton. It was disappointing that there were no applications for the position of Rector which was advertised again at the beginning of the year. Arrangements continued to be put in place to form the new Benefice of Wincanton, Pen Selwood, Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington and Stoke Trister with Bayford. At the end of the year Rev Lydia Avery was appointed as Benefice Development Priest by the Diocese, as it was felt that with the new Benefice in operation this might be more attractive to a potential applicant for the position of Rector.

Membership

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Number 1154897. Members of the PCC are elected in accordance with the Church Representation rules at the Annual Parochial Meeting.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Chair	Mrs Penny Ashton	Elected 2023
Wardens (Vice Chair)	Mrs Judy Chipen	2023
	Mrs Gill Oaten	2023
Deputies	Mrs Sylvie Pattison (until May)	2023
	Mrs Mary Wallis (until May)	2023
Treasurer	Mr Phil Thomas (co-opted)	2023
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Penny Ashton	2023
	Mrs Joanna Durham Matthews	2023
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Rosemary Keep	2023
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Nicky King	2024
Safeguarding – Admin	Mrs Janet Lowe	2023
Elected Members	Mr Chris Avery	2024
	Mrs Elizabeth Baxter (until May)	2022
	Mrs Joanna Ebner	2023
	Mr Jim Ebner	2024
	Mrs Sue Hall (until May)	2022
	Mrs Carolyn Leach (from May)	2025
	Mrs Elizabeth Vivyan (until August)	2022
	Mrs Mary Wallis	2025
	Mr Robin Wickenden (from May)	2025
	Mrs Rosemary Keep	2023
PCC Secretary		

Through the year there were 7 PCC meetings all held in the Church. PCC agendas and immediate issues were agreed between the Lay Reader, wardens and administrator. Some decisions had to be made between meetings in consultation with members which were subsequently ratified at following meetings. The PCC is a statutory body and is required to co-operate in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In addition, the PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and the care of the churchyard in order to ensure that present and future community needs are met. The PCC advises and provides guidance on all matters undertaken in the name of St Peter and St Paul, Wincanton. The PCC is responsible for monitoring church finances and expenditure.

Fundraising Committee

A full programme of fundraising was undertaken throughout the year. Monthly coffee mornings were well attended by both regular and non-regular church goers alike in a friendly atmosphere. The annual Plant Sale, Summer Church Path Fete and Christmas Fayre were all held in the Church. The Bingo Evening held in the Memorial Hall proved very popular and profitable. Despite not holding the Knit-In event proceeds from fundraising was up on the previous year.

Social Committee

The Social Committee ably supported the fundraising events, providing refreshments after Sunday services, and catering for the Lent and Harvest lunches and Carol Service.

Brief Review of 2025

During the continued vacancy Penny Ashton, Lay Reader, and Judy Chippen and Gill Oaten, Churchwardens together with members of the PCC in a variety of capacities, worked hard to keep church activities going. The PCC is grateful to visiting clergy for their support and in particular Rev Avery.

The lead stolen from the vestry roof at the end of 2024 was replaced and at the same time an alarm system fitted. In addition, new LED lights were installed giving better lighting and a reduction in charges.

There was a full church for the Remembrance Day service arranged by the Wincanton Royal British Legion with the Army Air Corps, Wincanton Silver Band and other local organisations on parade.

There was a full five-yearly review of the Church Electoral Roll which showed a reduction of members from 71 to 55.

The local schools again made good use of the Church in the run-up to Christmas with all their Christmas activities.

A generous benefactor donated funds to buy new hymn books for both the choir and congregation. A most welcome gift as the old ones were in a parlous state.

Safeguarding commitment

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Nicky King continued as Safeguarding Officer with Janet Lowe helping on the admin side. They are to be thanked for their work.

Parish Office

The Parish Administrator, Rachel Feltham, continued to provide an excellent service in running the Parish Office. Her work load has increased with the parish in vacancy and the formation of the new benefice coming to fruition. The PCC is grateful to her for the competent and expert way she continues to carry out her duties.

Retiring PCC members

Regretfully Sylvie Pattison and Elizabeth Vivyan both died during the year. Elizabeth Baxter and Sue Hall retired from the PCC. All are to be commended for their service to the PCC and their contribution to the life of the Church.

Rosemary Keep PCC Secretary

2025 CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

On the first Sunday of January Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Bath and Wells came to Wincanton to take our Epiphany service. All the churches from our proposed new benefice were invited and it was a lovely occasion. Also, in January work started on replacing the lead that was taken from the organ loft and choir vestry roofs. Roof alarms were also put in place. Thanks go to Jim Ebner for overseeing this.

We had a wonderful Easter Sunday service led by Rev Lydia Avery, with an Easter egg hunt after. It was great fun and lovely to see lots of children.

In December the Primary School children filled the church with their Nativity performances and carol services. Our carol service was again well attended. Thanks go to John Beaven for his music through the year and for his work with the choir.

Sadly 2025 saw us still in vacancy. After several attempts at advertising for a new Rector with no applicants applying for the post, it was decided by the Diocese to appoint a Benefice Development Priest. This post was taken up by Rev Lydia Avery. An excellent choice.

This year we sadly have to report the deaths of Gill Abbotts, Eileen Adams, Ruby Gorry, Ann Madeley, Elizabeth Vivyan, John Wray and Sylvie Pattison. We miss them all.

In 2025 we had a generous donation from someone who wanted to replace our well-worn hymn books. We were able to buy smart new hymn books. We are very grateful to this person who wishes to remain anonymous

We are required to keep the logbook up to date and check the inventory. This we have done. We have also completed our part of the Statistics for Mission form.

We would like to thank our retired priests for taking our services and giving us so much support. We must thank our Reader, Penny Ashton, for all the work she does. Our Parish Administrator, Rachel Feltham, is a great help to our church and to us personally. Thank you, Rachel, for all your hard work. We would like to thank Mary Wallis, our deputy warden, for all her help and support. Thanks also to Colin Wallis who sets up the church every Sunday for our services and is so helpful to us. We would like to record our thanks to Gill and Richard D'Arcy for collecting wafers/wine etc. They have now retired from this role and Jo Ebner has taken it on. Thank you, Jo. Thank you to Gill D'Arcy for also organising the rota for unlocking and locking the church.

We will be standing down from our Churchwardens role at the APCM, we will of course give the new wardens our help and support.

**Gill Oaten and Judy Chiplen
Churchwardens**

2025 FABRIC REPORT

Work started on the organ loft and choir vestry roofs to replace the lead that had been removed. The work was carried out efficiently and quickly. An alarm system was installed for the roofs and the church. Thanks to Jim Ebner who oversaw all this work.

We replaced all the lights in the church with LED lights, giving us ecofriendly lighting at a much-reduced running cost. For this work we received a 100% grant thanks to Jim Ebner. Thanks to Jim, Richard D'Arcy and Gordon Hannam who laboured for the electrician.

The boiler, fire extinguishers, organ and lightning conductor have been serviced.

We must record our thanks to the Town Council team who look after our churchyard and to Colin Wallis who has been an enormous help to me.

This will be my last fabric report; my health does not allow me to continue and someone else needs to be appointed to take over. I will of course help in any way I can.

Adrian Chiplen

2025 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod met three times in 2025. On March 26th the speaker was Claire Horton, a Deanery and Parish Development Adviser for the Diocese, who led an interactive session on Growing Good. Growing Good provides practical tips and suggestions for parishes that want to grow new connections and make a difference in their communities.

The Ascension Day service was held on May 29th at All Saints Church, Castle Cary.

On 17th June there were two presentations at the Synod: one on the resources available from Good News for Everyone (formerly the Gideons); and the other from members of Templecombe Church on their experience of Bubble Church - which included a puppet show.

On October 22nd Caroline Bruce and Revd Jane Durham introduced the Thrive programme, designed to help multi-parish benefices grow and flourish.

Deanery Synod normally meets 3 times annually, and all are welcome to attend. Meetings are normally held in either the Davis Hall, West Camel or North Barrow Village Hall, and we generally share transport as parking can be limited.

Penny Ashton
Deanery Synod Representative

2025 TOWER CAPTAIN REPORT

The bells of Wincanton are generally rung every Sunday morning for Service and every Tuesday evening for Practice. Our weekly practice evenings are well attended, usually with some ringers from other local towers, and our 'newer' ringers are progressing well with their ringing skills and knowledge.

Our dear friend, Kevin Newport from Cadbury, who had supported us for many years with teaching, and stepping in as leader, when necessary, sadly passed away in September. A Quarter Peal was rung in his memory by ringers of the Cary Branch.

There were three more Quarter Peals, two of which were rung by visiting ringers, and one by local ringers. Ringers of the Cary Branch are learning to ring Devon style call changes, and a peal of "Sixty on Thirds" was rung here in April (at the second attempt!).

We welcomed ringers from other local towers to a branch practice here in June, and a Training Course was held in October, with many ringers travelling from afar.

At the Cary Branch AGM here in October Oliver Feltham was elected as a new member of the Association, and Emma Ceely was elected as Branch Secretary, as well as continuing her role of Newsletter Editor. Wincanton ringers were presented with a certificate for winning the recent "Strictly Come Striking" competition held at Pitcombe.

I am grateful to Adrian Chiplen who, with assistance from Richard D'Arcy, Chris Smith and Jim Ebner, continues to keep our bells in good working order.

Janet Lowe
Tower Captain

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

A complete renewal of the Church Electoral Roll was undertaken in the five-yearly review in 2025. This resulted in a distinct reduction in numbers on the Roll from 71 to 55, as some members failed to renew their inclusion on the Roll.

Sadly, three stalwart members of the congregation died in 2025 and one member moved away. However, three new members were added to the Electoral Roll. Additions can be made at any time after the Annual Parish Meeting. Please let me know of anyone who might like to be included in the future. Members must have been on the Electoral Roll for 6 months before serving on the PCC.

As ever, thanks are due to Rachel Feltham, Parish Administrator, for her continued support in maintaining the Electoral Roll.

Rosemary Keep
Electoral Roll Officer

ZAMBIA LINK REPORT

Better contact was made in 2025 with Father Alfred Sicchone, priest in charge of our Zambia Link church, St John, Chingola. Easter and Christmas greetings were exchanged. Fr Alfred sent photos of their building works and church activities. However, it was necessary to chase up our 2024 donation as this had not been received by Fr Alfred. After some investigations it was tracked down via the Wells Diocese and

Northern Diocese in Zambia and forwarded to St John where the funds will be used to improve the toilet block in their compound.

The proceeds of 2025 Lent activities have been allocated to our Zambia Link Church again and will be tracked to ensure they reach St John. The sum of £408.78 was raised from £159.27 Lent boxes, £137.21 Lent lunch, £34.30 Gift Aid and £78 direct to bank.

Many thanks to everyone who generously supports our Zambia Link and in particular Gill Oaten who does a magnificent job in organising the Lent lunch.

Rosemary Keep
Zambia Link Representative

2025 MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

January	No meeting
February	Wave of Prayer – A service to connect with our branches Worldwide
March	This month we joined with The Women's World Day of Prayer service
April	A talk with Nicky King about The Children's Society
May	No Meeting
June	An interesting talk about Wild Flowers
July	A Garden Party (in Church)
August	No meeting
September	Tea and Quiz
October	An Interesting Talk by Sarah Stephen about Street Pastors
November	Tea and Talk with Rev Lydia Avery
December	Advent service in Church

The Mothers' Union meeting is on the first Thursday each Month and we welcome anyone to come to our meeting. You do not have to be a member to enjoy our happy meetings.

Kath White
Branch Manager

2025 VACANCY REPORT

In 2025 after several attempts to advertise for a Rector with no luck, it became apparent that we would have to do things differently. The Diocese decided that a Benefice Development Priest should be appointed to set up this new benefice. Rev Lydia Avery was chosen for this role and was licensed in December. Representatives from each of the churches in our proposed new benefice have met with Lydia. The first decision to make was a name for the new benefice. All the PCCs were asked to come up with 2 names, these names were put to the congregation. Blackmore Vale Benefice and 7 Saints in the Vale were the most popular. Unfortunately, we were informed that these 2 names were not suitable and would not be approved. There is already a Blackmore Vale Benefice in the Salisbury Diocese and names with numbers are apparently not considered to be suitable. So, a new name – Monarch Way Benefice– was put forward, all the PCCs approved the name and the Area Dean feels sure it will be allowed. First hurdle over.

In December a Benefice Day of Prayer was arranged. All the churches in our proposed new Benefice held a time of prayer to pray for our Benefice.

Lydia and the church representatives met to tour the various churches, to chat and discuss our hopes and fears for the future of our churches. This was followed by a lovely lunch.

In 2026 a finance meeting between the treasurers of all the churches is to be arranged. A social event will be held in Cucklington village hall, Archdeacon Anne Gell will lead a Benefice communion service in Charlton Musgrove and a Vision Day will be held in April. Lydia is also creating a new service plan which will be trialled after Easter. Exciting times!

Gill Oaten and Judy Chiplen
Churchwardens

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wincanton

Charity Number 1154897

2025 Financial Review

Wincanton Parish Church received a total unrestricted income of £52,898 in 2025 with a total unrestricted expenditure of £49,691. The means an excess of £3,207 for general funds, which is an improvement on the 2024 deficit of £3,044. The income includes £6,074 from Gift Aid claims and £2,346 from VAT reclaims under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. This scheme is ending 31st March 2026. Expenditure included £21,600 paid to the Bath & Wells Diocese towards the Church's Parish Share, 59% of the £36,698 share suggested by the Diocese.

Restricted income for 2025 was £25,201 including £8,850 from an insurance claim after damage to the roof, £3,000 left in legacies, £6,933 in grants towards LED lighting and £5,907 from a VAT refund for roof repairs. Expenditure from restricted funds totalled £46,744 which included payments toward major roof repairs, a new alarm system and £6,287 spent on LED lighting for which a grant was received.

Reserves

The general funds have increased from £4,129 to £7,336. Designated funds for re-ordering remain at £45,001. The Roof Appeal fund has been spent on the final payments from the major work and installing the new alarm system, the remainder has been moved to the Fabric fund.

Overall funds have decreased from £86,239 to £67,993.

The accounts have been independently examined, the Balance Sheet and Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year are included.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund	£7,336	£4,129
Designated Re-ordering	£45,001	£45,001
Roof Appeal	-	£28,363
Fabric Fund	£13,191	£5,971
Legacies	£2,254	£2,654
Flower Fund	<u>£211</u>	<u>£211</u>
Total Reserves	<u>£67,993</u>	<u>£86,329</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Current Account Balance 31/12/2025	£60,954.56
Uncleared cheques 31/12/2025	(£3,352.33)
Unbanked receipts 31/12/2025	<u>£677.79</u>
Account balance as per accounts	<u>£58,280.02</u>

Agency Collections

BWDF fees owed from funerals 31/12/2025	£162.00
Children's Society donations 31/12/2025	£178.18
Clergy fees owed by BWDF 31/12/2025	<u>(£207.20)</u>
Agency collections as per accounts	<u>£132.98</u>

Phil Thomas
Treasurer

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
6501	Bank current account	£58,280.02	£76,366.78
6505	Bank deposit account	—	£1,500.35
6510	CCLA (CBF) deposit account	£9,657.90	£9,239.75
6511	CBF Appeals account	£158.96	£152.08
6512	CBF Fabric account	£28.77	£27.53
Total Current assets		£68,125.65	£87,286.49
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	£132.98	£957.64
Total Liabilities		£132.98	£957.64
Net Asset surplus (deficit)		£67,992.67	£86,328.85
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(£18,336.18)	—
Z01	Starting balances	£86,328.85	£86,328.85
Total Reserves		£67,992.67	£86,328.85

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	£7,335.84	£4,129.00
Designated	£45,000.83	£45,000.83
Restricted	£15,656.00	£37,199.02
Endowment	—	—
Total	£67,992.67	£86,328.85

Analysis of income and expenditure
Period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income						
0101 - Giving - Bank	£23,137.30	—	£180.00	—	£23,317.30	£23,447.74
0110 - Giving - Green Envelopes	£791.37	—	—	—	£791.37	£1,051.80
0201 - Other planned giving	—	—	—	—	—	£40.00
0301 - Loose plate collections	£1,591.84	—	—	—	£1,591.84	£1,062.45
0410 - Giving through church boxes	£990.63	—	—	—	£990.63	£879.34
0550 - Donations appeals etc	£1,143.01	—	£250.00	—	£1,393.01	£21,001.32
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£6,073.59	—	£79.50	—	£6,153.09	£7,647.17
0701 - Legacies	—	—	£3,000.00	—	£3,000.00	£2,000.00
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	£2,345.61	—	£12,841.58	—	£15,187.19	£16,209.93
0901 - Other Income (inc Coffee)	£11,258.26	—	—	—	£11,258.26	£11,701.40
Voluntary income Sub-totals	£47,331.61	—	£16,351.08	—	£63,682.69	£85,041.15
Activities for generating funds						
0910 - Rummage sales etc	—	—	—	—	—	£133.30
1240 - Church Lettings - Fund Raising	£150.00	—	—	—	£150.00	£200.00
Activities for generating funds Sub-totals	£150.00	—	—	—	£150.00	£333.30
Investment income						
1020 - Bank Interest	£1,804.36	—	—	—	£1,804.36	£2,534.10
Investment income Sub-totals	£1,804.36	—	—	—	£1,804.36	£2,534.10
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	£49,285.97	—	£16,351.08	—	£65,637.05	£87,908.55
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	£3,612.05	—	—	—	£3,612.05	£2,499.80
Incoming resources from charitable activities Sub-totals	£3,612.05	—	—	—	£3,612.05	£2,499.80
Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals	£3,612.05	—	—	—	£3,612.05	£2,499.80
Other incoming resources						
Other incoming resources						
1310 - Insurance claims	—	—	£8,850.00	—	£8,850.00	—
Other incoming resources	—	—	£8,850.00	—	£8,850.00	—

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Sub-totals						
Other incoming resources	—	—	£8,850.00	—	£8,850.00	—
Totals						
Incoming resources	£52,898.02	—	£25,201.08	—	£78,099.10	£90,408.35
Grand totals						
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income						
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	£103.98	—	—	—	£103.98	£85.00
Cost of generating voluntary income Sub-totals	£103.98	—	—	—	£103.98	£85.00
Cost of generating funds	£103.98	—	—	—	£103.98	£85.00
Totals						
Charitable activities						
Charitable activities						
1830 - Giving - Charities	£20.00	—	—	—	£20.00	£20.00
1850 - Home mission	£177.50	—	—	—	£177.50	£149.70
1870 - Secular charities	£80.00	—	—	—	£80.00	£80.00
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	£21,600.00	—	—	—	£21,600.00	£21,522.00
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	£8,101.80	—	—	—	£8,101.80	£7,965.13
2101 - Working Expenses	£760.50	—	—	—	£760.50	£1,465.57
2301 - Church running - insurance	£3,701.60	—	—	—	£3,701.60	£4,076.87
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	£506.40	—	—	—	£506.40	£307.99
2330 - Church maintenance	£454.60	—	£312.00	—	£766.60	£1,486.82
2331 - Cleaning	£17.97	—	—	—	£17.97	—
2340 - Upkeep of services	£4,772.03	—	£400.00	—	£5,172.03	£5,219.43
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	£21.00	—	—	—	£21.00	£80.00
2360 - Administration	£5,887.95	—	—	—	£5,887.95	£6,851.30
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	—	—	—	—	—	£1.35
2401 - Church running - electric	£1,722.08	—	—	—	£1,722.08	£2,002.41
2410 - Church running - gas	£1,630.86	—	—	—	£1,630.86	£1,939.66
2420 - Church running - water	£132.91	—	—	—	£132.91	£129.09
2701 - Church Repairs - Structure	—	—	£39,745.06	—	£39,745.06	£30,237.06
2710 - Church Repairs - Installation	—	—	£1,247.04	—	£1,247.04	—
2720 - Church Decorating	—	—	£5,040.00	—	£5,040.00	—
Charitable activities Sub-totals	£49,587.20	—	£46,744.10	—	£96,331.30	£83,534.38
Charitable activities Totals	£49,587.20	—	£46,744.10	—	£96,331.30	£83,534.38
Resources used	£49,691.18	—	£46,744.10	—	£96,435.28	£83,619.38
Grand totals						



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wincanton

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1154897

Set out on pages

1 and 1 to 2

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

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

03/03/2026

Name:

Peter Gay

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

None

Address:

18 Greenway Close

Wincanton

Somerset

BA9 9RH