

The Parish of Heston



Trustees Annual Report 2025

Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2025

Administrative and Legal Information

St Leonard's Church is situated in the suburban village of Heston in Middlesex and is part of the Diocese of London in the Kensington Episcopal Area in the Hounslow Deanery.

Ecclesiastical Parish	St Leonard's Church, Heston Heston Road, Hounslow, TW5 0RD
Vicarage Address	21 Sutton Hall Road, Heston, Hounslow, TW5 0PX
Incumbent	The Reverend Erica Wilding
Associate Priest	The Reverend Davidson Solanki
Churchwardens	Miss Caroline Darvill, Miss Dawn Rabin
Treasurer	Mr Kevin Ogilvie
PCC Secretary	Vacant

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council

Mrs Pat Jennings, Mr Geoff Robinson, Miss Caroline Chamberlain, Mrs Cathy Robertson, Mrs Martine Brady and Mr Gilmour Smith, Mrs Joanne Merry, Miss Martha Asingura, Mrs Wendy Rochester

Ex Officio Members of the Parochial Church Council

Clergy	The Reverend Ken Tombs The Reverend Davidson Solanki
Safeguarding Officer	Miss Martha Asingura
Children's Champion	Mrs Joanne Merry
Deanery Synod Rep	Mrs Joanne Merry

Ex Officio Members of the Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner	Data Developments, Wolverhampton Science Park, Creative Industries Centre, Glasher Drive, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV10 9TG
Banks	National Westminster Bank, Hounslow Branch 275-277 High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1EG Barclays Bank, Hounslow Branch 210 High Street Hounslow, TW3 1DL

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Vicar's Report – 2025

As I reflect upon 2025, it's hard to believe that it was only my second full year with you as Vicar! And as I remember all of the things that we have done and experienced together, the word that springs to mind is Joy – so if our APCM needs a tag line, then *Share the Joy* would seem to me to be most apt.

By the beginning of 2025, we could already see a new weekly pattern emerging in the life of St Leonard's, with a good blend of worship, discipleship and outreach activities. And whilst there is still so much more for us to do, I can already see the green shoots becoming visible, in terms of the growth of our church family and the goodwill that is building between us and the wider local community.



Worship

Our regular pattern of worship (Compline on Tuesday evenings; Midweek Eucharist on a Wednesday lunchtime and the Sunday services) has seen significant and sustainable growth. This was supplemented by two Songs of Praise events (May and September); an online prayer service for those concerned about loved ones in Iran (June); the Pet Blessing service (October) and two special Services of Lament, covering Baby Bereavement and Social Justice. These services looked to provide a sacred and safe space for people touched by these experiences, allowing them to sit with God in their pain and to receive His strength. Although the numbers were small, feedback from those who came, has given the PCC and me the encouragement to include both in next year's worship schedule.

Some particular highlights of mine include the VE Day Civic Service, where we were joined by representatives from five local Primaries and Heston Community School, two MPs and the Lord Lieutenant of the County. Our trip to St Paul's Cathedral in June, when we were being prayed for in the Cathedral's cycle of prayer, was a really wonderful occasion. A small (but select!) group, travelled up to St Paul's and had reserved seats in the Quire Stalls. I still have one of the Reserved signs in the parish vestry, to remind me of such a joyous occasion. Easter was also truly wonderful – particularly the very good turnout for our Walk of Witness with the other Christian churches in Heston – as was the feast of Pentecost, when I decided to get creative with orange, yellow and red material to add to the celebration of this important feast with a fiery visual display of the Easter Cross!



During 2025, it was my privilege to conduct – 6 Baptisms; 1 Marriage Blessing; 2 Memorials; 6 interments of ashes and 3 funerals. Sadly, we said goodbye to the dearly departed Cleveland Phillips, Pat Chamberlain, Parveen Thacker and Vera Newstead. May they rest in peace.... And rise in glory.

It would be remiss of me not to mention at this point the support that I received in the first 6 months of the year from Rev Rajesh Mhaske, who joined us to complete his curacy training. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn a new tradition was a joyful breath of fresh air and I know that the learning was mutual in that we learnt a great deal from him, too.

Discipleship

Mindful that we, like all Christians, are striving to become more Christlike and keen to enhance the biblical literacy of our community, we continued with our monthly Bible studies.

In January, Fr Ken led a fascinating course on the Book of Revelation and this was followed later in the year with a 5- week course based on the Church of England Pilgrim Course, during which we took a detailed look at the Creeds and the Eucharist.



In September, we joined Arocha UK, committing to put Creation Care at the heart of our understanding of what it means to be followers of Christ. Whilst we are yet to form a committee to help steer us towards Award status, we are most definitely on the way there in terms of our worship, lifestyle and community engagement (thanks to our support for The Repair Café, HAG litter picks and the Advent Carbon challenge, which proved so popular).

Outreach

Where do I start?! For me, this has been the most successful aspect of our life together since I came in 2023. Building upon the successful reputation of our Table Top Sales, we have now added The Warm Space (with grateful thanks to our volunteers – Pat, William, Betty, Sue Hussain and Shirley for running this without clergy support, since Rev Rajesh's departure); Memory Lane Café and Stay Active to our regular offering. All have continued to grow steadily in terms of regular attendance.

We have been able to be creative and proactive in terms of delivering flowers donated by the Gurseva Foodbank, to local Care Homes and the local primaries to let people know that they are in our thoughts and prayers, enabling us to be known as a blessing to our local community.

We have continued to support the monthly HAG Litter pics; and when Council funding ceased, the PCC kindly agreed to step in to host the Repair Café events in our Hall. This clearly underlines our support for such a wonderful community initiative, as well as our commitment to Creation Care.

We also hosted a CPD Online Workshop, aimed at providing greater confidence and security online and a number of drop- in events with the local NHS team.

Our outreach to local schools has continued steadily and I am delighted to say that a number of local primary schools have engaged regularly with us. I am a School Governor for Springwell and continue to take fortnightly Collective Worship assemblies at St Mary's, Norwood Green and host their end of term services. Westbrook and Edison engage with us for most of the significant Christian festivals.



Our outreach to young children and families has been greatly enhanced by the introduction of Messy Church events. Our first event was in March 2025, for Mothering Sunday, which attracted approximately 14 young people and their families into the Hall for crafts and then into the church for a short time of worship. This was followed in September by Messy Harvest. The activity packs for our young people on a Sunday have also greatly enhanced the child friendliness of St Leonard's and my sincere thanks and gratitude to those who have stepped in to help me prepare them each week. Let us pray that all of these small but not insignificant steps will bear fruit in terms of us striving to respond to the Diocese's aim for us to *Grow Younger*.

In August we stepped out in faith and took the decision to host Zumba classes in order to attract younger, working age people. Although the numbers remain modest, I am thrilled to report that it has already proved a successful outreach tool, in terms of Messy Church and Christmas services. My prayer is that this initiative, as risky as it is, will continue to grow through word of mouth and via social media.

Finally, although many of you will be like my mother and consider all forms of social media tools of the dark arts I have to tell you that it is now a significant way in which churches communicate. Our social media presence has grown significantly and a significant amount of our growth is definitely down to the professionalism and consistency of our message – which is joyful,

inclusive and welcoming. A massive thank you to all who work so hard to raise our profile and support me in this area.

Final Thoughts

After lengthy discussions around approvals, permissions and deciding upon the right contractor, the work on our roof commenced at the very end of September. This is a sizeable and complex project, which will not be completed until May 2026. The responsibility for spending £0.5m of church funds, wisely and well, is an onerous one and the stress of all the related inconveniences associated with having workmen on site every day is significant. However, as with many uncomfortable things in life, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, which just had to be taken to future- proof our beautiful, precious and historic church building for future generations – so if it costs me a few sleepless nights and grey hairs – it will have been worth it!

2025 was a truly joyful year in the life of St Leonard's, Heston. We have continued to grow in terms of every metric that I can possibly think of But this is not the time to become complacent. We are only at the very start of our journey together, as we seek to build the kingdom of God here on earth and share his joy with the people of Heston.

Enthused by what I have seen, I remain convinced that the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us and so I will continue to dream big dreams – and to push our PCC to be bold and brave as we work together to share the Good News with others. Please continue to keep me and my family in your prayers, as I seek to keep discerning God's will for us all.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. **(Psalm 126:3)**

Erica

Vicar

March 2026



Associate Priest's Annual Ministry Report

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18–20

The past year at St Leonard's Heston has been a season of consolidation, growth, and renewed mission. Through God's grace and faithfulness, the church community has continued to flourish.

We have witnessed a steady increase in the number of people attending our Sunday services as well as participating in various missional activities during the week.

It has been a privilege to contribute to the life of the church by presiding and preaching once a month, as well as offering prayer ministry every Sunday during the Eucharist. These opportunities have allowed me to serve the congregation pastorally while encouraging spiritual growth within the community.

Intercultural Service (formerly Multicultural Service)

The Intercultural (IC) Service, formerly known as the Multicultural Service, has continued to be held on the first Sunday of each month. The name change reflects our desire to make this missional initiative even more welcoming, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse community around us.

Members from Ugandan background actively participated in the IC services during the past year, enriching our worship with their music, culture and faith expressions. The format of the service remains informal and participatory, featuring contemporary worship and songs in different languages that celebrate the global nature of the Church.

On average, around 15 people attended each service.

A particularly memorable highlight was the IC Christmas Celebration held on Sunday 7th December 2025. This joyful event welcomed approximately 70 participants, including several friends and neighbours from other faith backgrounds. The celebration featured poems, quizzes, songs, and dances representing different cultures. The programme concluded with a "bring and share" lunch, creating a warm space for fellowship, conversation, and community building.



Chaplaincy

It has also been a privilege to serve as Padre (Chaplain) to the Air Force Training Cadets – Heston and Isleworth Unit, which is based at St Leonard's Heston. Supporting these young cadets is both humbling and rewarding.

Monthly sessions were held on the first Thursday evening, focusing on reflections about moral values, and religion, alongside offering pastoral support and encouragement. While my involvement was at times limited due to work commitments, I remain grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development and wellbeing of these young people.

Gratitude and Reflection

I thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve in ministry at St Leonard's Heston. I am deeply grateful to my wife Deepika and my son Dishan for their unwavering support in helping organise and sustain the Intercultural Services throughout the year.

I also extend sincere thanks to Rev Erica and the PCC members for their encouragement, and support in ministry over the past year.

As we look ahead, we continue to trust in God's leading, seeking to grow as a welcoming, missional, and Christ-centred community.

To God be all glory, honour, and praise. Amen.

Rev Davidson Solanki

Associate Priest,

15th March 2026

Structure, Governances and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the 'PCC' Powers Measures of 1956.

The PCC was registered as a charity on 13th January 2015, Charity reg no 1159915.

Heston PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church complex.

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility that proper financial books and records are kept, adequate control systems in place to safeguard the assets and the format and content of the financial statement.

Safeguarding Policies

St Leonard's PCC has used every endeavour to comply with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

A copy of the House of Bishop's Guidance and our safeguarding policy are available on our website <https://www.parishofheston.org/safeguarding>

Achievements and Performances

Church attendance

There were 100 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 57 resided in the Parish.

Financial Report

Please refer to the Independently Examined Financial Report with financial details for 2025. We employ the services of a bookkeeper, Mr Kevin Ogilvie of Charity Bookkeeping to provide financial information and keep the books in order on behalf of the Trustees.

Treasurer's Report

Report on the Finances of St Leonard's Church Heston.

The parish remains in a healthy financial position with an end of year balance of funds totalling £1,795,663. During the year work starting in replacing the roof. The cost during 2025 was £283,967 with a further £400,000 to be spent in 2026.

Sadly, due to the condition of the financial markets in 2025 our shares showed a loss of £101,000. During 2025 we saw an increase in donations and giving by just over £11,000. This was due to a legacy and more people giving to God's work through the Parish Giving Scheme. We also saw an increase in fundraising and hall lettings, a big thank you to you all.

Although we have seen a reduction in share values the dividends they have created show a significant increase.

The Clergy and Church Wardens have kept a close eye on expenditure which is roughly in line with 2024.

With everyone's continued support, we can look forward to improving our financial stability.

Churchwardens' Report

It's been an honour, as Churchwardens, to watch the congregation grow and thrive under the care and hard work of an inspiring Vicar. Although we sadly lost some much-loved parishioners, we welcomed new faces, which included families, and were pleased to see some of the new members join our rotas as acolytes, readers, intercessors, welcoming and making refreshments after each service. Each role important, not only to our Sunday worship, but midweek services and the fellowship at St Leonard's Church.

The PCC saw the following changes:-

- Three new members joined: Cathy Robertson, Martine Brady and Gilmour Smith
- William Bessell stood down as Treasurer
- A 3-year rolling programme was introduced. Members randomly picked a card which stated a term in office of either 1, 2 or 3-years

With William stepping down, and the help/guidance of our bookkeeper Kevin Ogilvie, we took on extra roles usually undertaken by a treasurer – taking monies to the bank, writing cheques, arranging online banking and authorising payments.

Via various activities, the necessary funds were raised to refurbish the hall kitchen and toilets; the work was undertaken by volunteers from Repair Café and HAG. Thanks to this necessary 'facelift' we saw an increase in people hiring our church hall for community activities (singular and weekly).

Finally, and importantly, our long-awaited roof repair program began. Having a water-tight, insulated roof, will ensure our lovely Church building will be welcoming Parishioners for years to come.

Dawn Rabin and Caroline Darvill

Electoral Roll Report

There were 90 people on the Electoral Roll in May 2025 (52 of whom resided in the Parish). I regret five of our parishioners died: Mr Cleveland Philips, Mrs Vera Newstead, Mrs Patricia Chamberlain, Mrs Parveen Thakur and Mrs Jean Davies. Only two of whom were on the new Electoral Roll.

There were two additions to the Electoral Roll: Mr Abraham Bhatti and Mrs Dianne Roberts.

There are, therefore, now 90 people on the Electoral Roll (51 of whom reside in the Parish).

Vera Sewell 20.01.26

Parochial Church Council Report

Over the past year, PCC members have met regularly to support the worship, mission, and administration of the parish, while overseeing significant building works and parish development.

Worship and Parish Life

A wide range of services and initiatives has been supported to encourage participation and inclusivity. Christmas services were well attended, and planned new initiatives for 2026 - including community breakfasts - have helped broaden engagement across the parish.

Music

Ongoing efforts have focused on recruiting a choir leader/organist. This is an area for continued attention.

Safeguarding

Strong safeguarding practice has been maintained, with ongoing work to ensure policies and diocesan requirements are kept up to date.

Buildings and Fabric

Progress has been made in strengthening oversight of the church buildings. A Fabric and Maintenance Committee has been established, regular inspections introduced, and key repair needs identified, including lighting, windows, and general upkeep . Planning has also continued for major works, including roof repairs.

Finance and Administration

Careful financial management has continued throughout the year. This has included agreeing a Common Fund contribution of £102,000, improving banking arrangements, and monitoring parish income and expenditure.

Mission and Outreach

Community engagement has continued to grow through a range of events and initiatives, alongside ongoing Eco Church activity and environmental awareness work within the parish.

Governance

Effective governance has been maintained through regular meetings, approval of minutes, and forward planning for parish life and ministry.

Conclusion

Steady progress has been made across all areas of parish life, with a focus on strengthening structures, planning for future development, and supporting the church's mission in the community.

Diocesan Report

The Diocese of London is the largest in the Church of England, with over 400 churches serving a diverse population of 4.2m north of the Thames and west of the Lea, with a vision for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ.

In 2025, the Church continued to grow according to indicative statistics, contributing to attendance increases of around 20% since 2022.

The London Diocesan Fund (LDF) serves, supports and resources all parts of the Diocese by funding around 540 paid clergy and providing essential services so every parish benefits from strong pastoral and missional leadership.

The Ministry Team supported the formation and development of 540 paid clergy, 204 self-supporting clergy, 114 Licensed Lay Ministers, as well as over 100 exploring ordained or lay ministry.

Most stipendiary clergy are housed by the LDF. The Housing team completed over 3,000 repairs and planned maintenance tasks, alongside major retrofitting to improve housing quality and energy efficiency, contributing to net zero goals.

Parishes received wide-ranging practical support for ministry. The Property and Fundraising team helped secure nearly £16m of external investment towards building renovations, community engagement and mission.

Safeguarding practice was strengthened further, with 95% of parishes now using safeguarding dashboards. INEQE carried out an independent audit of diocesan safeguarding, which will provide recommendations for how to build on progress made to create a safer church.

This work was funded through parish contributions via the Common Fund (£24.3m) and LDF generated income (£12.8m) from grants and investments.

- The LDF has also generated additional funds for mission-focused projects, now totalling £40m across their collective lifespan. Great progress was made in 2025, including:
- Hackney and Islington Programme: 24 parishes supported, four new worshipping communities launched, lay leaders trained, and significant attendance growth.
- Southall and Hounslow Project: strengthening intercultural ministry across 13 parishes with new multilingual congregations adding over 100 new disciples.
- Tower Hamlets Mission Project: 89 young people came to faith and nearly 9,000 residents were engaged through new worshipping communities and outreach.

The Diocese also celebrated Bishop Sarah's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, giving thanks for her eight years as Bishop of London, marked by committed support for parish ministry, mission, safeguarding, and the diocesan priorities of becoming younger, safer and more racially just.

Deanery Synod

There have been three meetings during 2025 as detailed below.

- **Tuesday 25th February 2025 - Held at St. Marys, Spring Grove.**

The subject was 'Cross Cultural Mission'

Revd Mark Poulson shared his background and experience in cross-cultural mission. He spoke about recognising we all come from a mix of cultures: the need to welcome and build relationships with people of other faiths but not to proselytise; and to trust that the Holy Spirit would guide people to explore the Christian faith more deeply. Revd Fi Budden (St Mary's Spring Grove), Pastor Immanuel (Holy Trinity Hounslow) and Revd Rudi Tan (Christ Church Feltham) shared their experiences of working in multi-faith situations and supporting asylum seekers.

The meeting then broke into small group conversations. Then there was a plenary question and answer session.

- **Tuesday 17th June 2025 - Held at St. Dunstan's, Feltham.**

The subject was The 'Grow' course and vocations.

The Grow Course - Revd Andy Watkins, Vicar of Christ Church Feltham, introduced the subject and showed a short video in which Bishop Ric Thorpe explained and commended The Grow Course.

Revd Clare Clarke of Hope Church Hounslow spoke of her church's experience of doing The Grow Course in 2019-20 and how valuable this had been, both in growing numbers in the congregation and growing leaders.

Andy showed another film in which Bishop Ric particularly recommended the course to the Hounslow Deanery and asked people to go away and try to assemble a team of six willing to do the course. There were a few questions and answers from the floor.

Vocations - Revd Foli Olukese explained his role as Kensington Area Lead Director of Ordinands. He said that in discerning a calling we are looking for people who have a love of God; a love of people; and have leadership qualities. They should also be wise and community mission focussed. He challenged Synod representatives to think of people in their congregations whom God might be calling and to have a conversation with them, sharing our own stories as leaders in the church – whether ordained or lay

- **Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Held at St. Nicholas' Church, Chiswick.**

The subject was Safety first! Why safeguarding needs to be our priority.

Safeguarding Presentation and Discussion - Led by Revd Andy Watkins, Vicar of Christ Church, Feltham. The session was framed as a theological, cultural and practical exploration of safeguarding as an expression of Christian discipleship, rooted in the nature of God as protector, healer and advocate for the vulnerable.

Small Group Work Members divided into three facilitated groups focusing on Culture, Theology, and Practice. Each group reported back to the Synod.

Theology Group – Feedback: Safeguarding was understood as flowing from God's character and Christ's ministry. Biblical themes included the Good Shepherd, justice for the orphan and widow, inclusion, healing, accountability, forgiveness, and the image of God in every person. Safeguarding was affirmed as integral to discipleship and participation in Christ's work.

Practice Group – Feedback: Key suggestions included: Risk assessments for vulnerable adults. Clear and visible safeguarding information (posters, websites, toilets, service sheets). Translated safeguarding policies. Regular Safeguarding Sunday observance. Standing safeguarding items on PCC and staff agendas. Training, DBS compliance, and scenario-based learning. Clear communication with parents and children. Named safeguarding champions. Inclusion of safeguarding awareness in welcome, pastoral, prayer and youth ministries

Culture Group – Feedback: Emphasis was placed on shared responsibility, clear signposting, vigilance, supporting Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), challenging spiritual abuse, and maintaining safe but hospitable communities. Concerns included avoiding fear-based approaches, unnecessary grumbling, and reluctance to seek diocesan support.

Safeguarding Dashboard Masterclass - Hannah Kilpatrick provided a practical demonstration of the diocesan safeguarding dashboard, supporting attendees with access, usage and questions. This ran alongside a general safeguarding Q&A facilitated by Martine Osborne and Andy Watkins. A recurring question concerned individuals refusing to undertake safeguarding training. The clear guidance given was that those who do not complete required training cannot serve in church roles or teams.

Celebration and Commissioning of Parish Safeguarding Officers - Parish Safeguarding Officers were publicly thanked and affirmed for their work. Andy Watkins led prayers for PSOs and for their ongoing ministry.

It has been a pleasure attending these meetings for many years!

Jo Merry March 2026

Safeguarding Report

In 2025, the PCC continued to ensure that our church is a safe place for all, especially children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable. In line with this we have focussed on ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are made and Diocesan Safeguarding training is undertaken by people carrying out roles at St. Leonard's.

Time has been spent focusing on the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard, ensuring we are providing the best Safeguarding support for the Parish. Through hard work and attention to detail we are now on Level 3, the highest level available for a Parish. This has involved creating, updating and reviewing policies to keep compliant with guidelines and providing updated information for the congregation which can be found on the PCC noticeboard.

We are supported in our work by the Diocese of London Safeguarding Team. The PCC adopts the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy and members of the PCC are obliged to undertake online training through the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal.

The care and protection of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable, and who are involved in church and other activities within the diocese is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the church and diocese has a role to play.

Our Safeguarding Policy statement is available on the church website and is displayed in church.

DBS checks are carried out for all members of the PCC and members of the congregation working with children, young people, and adults with care and support needs (this includes Messy Church volunteers). Jo Merry and Dawn Rabin are the Parish DBS-Evidence Checkers.

Regrettably, our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Martha Asingura, has decided to step down from this role, so we will be seeking to appoint a new PSO in due course. We thank her for her time, attention and hard work in ensuring St Leonard's remains a safe environment for all.

In the meantime, please refer all safeguarding issues to Rev Erica or Fr Davidson.

If you have immediate concerns about someone's safety, please contact the police and Hounslow Children's or Adult Social Care Services:

- Children's Social Care Services: 020 8583 6600 (option 2); after 5:00pm weekdays or weekends: 020 8583 2222, ask to speak to the duty social worker.
- Adult Social Care Services: 020 8583 3100; after 5:00pm weekdays or weekends: 020 8583 2222, ask to speak to the duty social worker.

Rev Erica Wilding on behalf of Martha Asingura.

Shop Report

The shop has had a busy and fruitful year. We were given two generous donations of Christmas cards which we were able to sell at reasonable prices and 100% profit.

I had a stall at the tabletop sales as usual and it was an opportunity to extend our outreach.

As usual Christmas was a good time for selling Advent candles, etc., to my loyal customers and I thank them for still supporting the shop.

I thank Lynda, Joanne and David for their help in enabling me to continue running the shop and the support from the congregation.

Vera Sewell

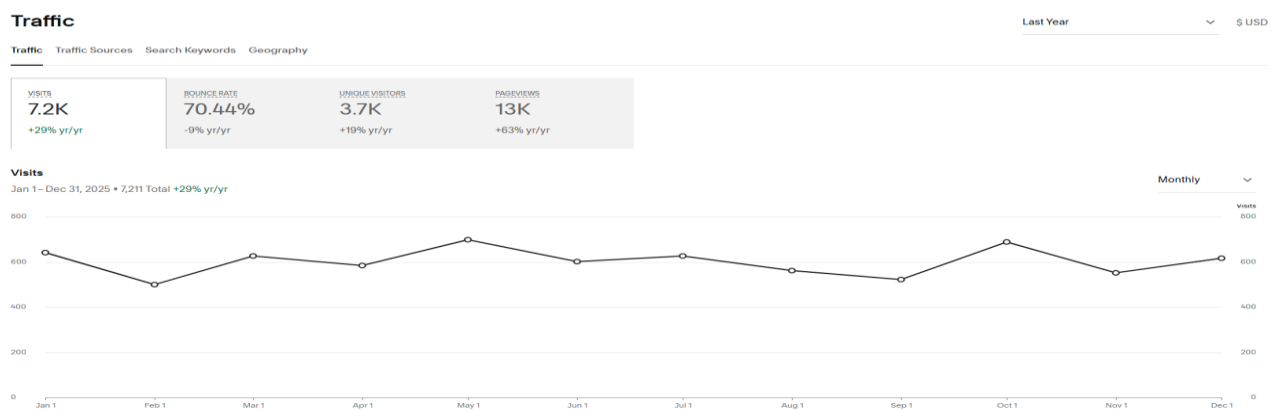


St Leonard's Digital Communications

Our Church Website

The church website continues to be an important tool for communication, outreach, and engagement with both our congregation and the wider community. We share information about our services, events, and ministries, provide a welcoming first point of contact for visitors, and support the life of the church by keeping everyone informed and connected.

During 2024 the website was given a new lease of life, as per the 2025 APCM report. The newly designed website attracted new visitors during 2025. There were 7,200K visits, a 29% increase with 3,700 visitors viewing our entire site not just a particular page, which was an increase of 19%.



Visitors to our website can support the work of the church by making either a one-off donation, or setting up a regular giving, via a link to our Parish Giving Scheme. Donations can be arranged using the following address <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/heston-st-leonard-tw5-0rd> or a QR code .



Our profile is also regularly updated on AChurchNearYou.com, the Church of England's official church finder tool. <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15522/>

Dawn Rabin

Social Media

During the past year, our church's presence on social media has continued to grow as an important means of outreach, communication, and engagement with both our congregation and the wider community.

We have maintained active accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and X, and during January 2025 began engaging with Bluesky. These platforms have enabled us to:

- Share regular updates on church services, events, and parish news
- Promote seasonal worship, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter
- Post reflections, prayers and notices
- Celebrate community moments and thank volunteers

- Highlight outreach initiatives and community partnerships
- Reach people beyond our immediate parish, including those exploring faith or unable to attend in person

Social media continues to support the mission of St Leonard's by extending our welcome beyond the church building and helping people stay connected throughout the week.

We have seen encouraging levels of engagement and significant growth in followers across all platforms:

	Facebook	Instagram	X	Bluesky
December 2024	147	45	38	From 18.01.25
December 2025	252	192	57	45
% increase	71%	327%	50%	-

Our Facebook content was viewed 52,853 times in 2024 and 445,341 times in 2025, representing a substantial rise in reach and visibility (an increase of over 700%). The most significant growth this year has been on Instagram, where increased use of images, short videos, and event promotion has broadened our audience.

Posts celebrating parish life, including Rev Erica's two-year anniversary and the Parish Picnic, generated particularly strong engagement. Outreach initiatives such as the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and our first Messy Church achieved the highest reach, demonstrating the impact of community-focused content.

Seasonal worship, especially during December, also saw a marked increase in impressions and interaction, highlighting the continued importance of key liturgical moments for digital engagement.

All social media activity has been undertaken with awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and in line with Church of England guidance. Images are shared with appropriate permissions, and content is moderated to ensure respectful and appropriate engagement.

In the coming year, we aim to:

- Continue using social media to share the Good News in creative and accessible ways
- Encourage more members of the congregation to engage with and share our content
- Explore ways of measuring engagement more effectively to inform future content

We are always open to new ideas: if you have a passion for photography, design, writing, or digital outreach, we would love to hear from you.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to our social media presence this year — whether by liking and sharing content, contributing content, appearing in posts, or offering feedback.

Caroline Chamberlain and Jo Merry



St Leonard's Church, Heston



@parishofheston.bsky.social



@stleonardschurchheston

www.parishofheston.org



@parishofheston

Who's Who 2025 (from May)

Vicar	The Reverend Erica Wilding
Associate Priest	The Reverend Davidson Solanki
PTO (Permission to Officiate)	The Reverend Ken Tombs
Parish Administrator	Sue Hoad
Churchwardens	Caroline Darvill, Dawn Rabin
PCC Members	Rev Davidson Solanki, Rev Ken Tombs, Wendy Rochester, Joanne Merry, Pat Jennings, Martha Asingura, Geoff Robinson, Caroline Chamberlain, Cathy Robertson, Martine Brady and Gilmour Smith
Deanery Synod Members	Joanne Merry
PCC Secretary	Vacancy
Safeguarding Officer	Martha Asingura
Children's Champion	Joanne Merry
Junior Church	Wendy Rochester
Electoral Roll Officer	Vera Sewell
Treasurer	Vacancy / Kevin Ogilvie (bookkeeper)
Organist	Lynda Hardy
Pianist	Dawn Rabin
Vergers	David Sewell, Caroline Darvill
Sub committees	
Standing Committee	Rev Erica Wilding, Rev Ken Tombs, Pat Jennings, Caroline Darvill
Fabric and Maintenance	Caroline Darvill, Dawn Rabin David Sewell, Geoff Robinson, Caroline Chamberlain (Rev Erica Wilding)
Team Co-ordinators	
Sacristan	Dawn Rabin
Church Flowers	Jean Thomas
Duty rota	Dawn Rabin
Head Server	Joanne Merry
Church Shop	Vera Sewell
Christian Aid Rep	Mary Theivendran
Children's Society Rep	Rev Erica Wilding



St Leonard's Church

Heston Road, Hounslow. TW5 0RD

Email: office@parishofheston.org

Website: www.parishofheston.org

Charity registration number: 115991

Statement of Financial Activity

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	41,046.49	25.50	840.00	-	41,911.99	30,621.42
Income from charitable activities	1,513.00	-	-	-	1,513.00	5,203.00
Other trading activities	11,302.61	-	402.00	-	11,704.61	7,569.79
Investments	90,423.44	-	-	-	90,423.44	60,150.22
Other income	820.00	-	-	-	820.00	1,498.10
Total income	145,105.54	25.50	1,242.00	-	146,373.04	105,042.53
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	204.84	-	-	-	204.84	81.56
Expenditure on charitable activities	451,850.97	270.00	12,748.00	-	464,868.97	164,452.96
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	452,055.81	270.00	12,748.00	-	465,073.81	164,534.52
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(306,950.27)	(244.50)	(11,506.00)	-	(318,700.77)	(59,491.99)
Transfers						
Transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-	30,021.00
Transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-	(30,021.00)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	(91,159.87)	-	(9,944.50)	-	(101,104.37)	50,530.09
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	(52,443.00)
Net movement in funds	(398,110.14)	(244.50)	(21,450.50)	-	(419,805.14)	(61,404.90)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	1,949,248.57	7,522.50	258,696.16	-	2,215,467.23	2,276,872.13
Total funds carried forward Represented by	1,551,138.43	7,278.00	237,245.66	-	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23
Unrestricted						
General fund	1,551,138.43	-	-	-	1,551,138.43	1,949,248.57
Designated						
All Saints Sale Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Tower/Bellringers	-	2,618.00	-	-	2,618.00	2,592.50
Fabric Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friends of Heston	-	-	-	-	-	-
VDF	-	4,660.00	-	-	4,660.00	4,930.00
Restricted						
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Saints Sale Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric Fund	-	-	1,593.00	-	1,593.00	1,593.00
Kath Middleton	-	-	20,339.58	-	20,339.58	21,141.15
Kitchen Refurb	-	-	1,242.00	-	1,242.00	-
Sonia Vanstone Fund	-	-	214,071.08	-	214,071.08	235,962.01

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
Investments	1,578,115.76	2,186,446.09
	1,578,115.76	2,186,446.09
Current assets		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	217,546.33	29,021.14
	217,546.33	29,021.14
Liabilities		
	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	217,546.33	29,021.14
Total assets less current liabilities	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23
Liabilities		
	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General Funds	1,551,138.43	1,949,248.57
Designated		
Designated - Church Tower/Bellringers	2,618.00	2,592.50
Designated – VDF	4,660.00	4,930.00
Restricted		
Restricted - Fabric Fund	1,593.00	1,593.00
Restricted - Kath Middleton	20,339.58	21,141.15
Restricted - Kitchen Refurb	1,242.00	-
Restricted - Sonia Vanstone Fund	214,071.08	235,962.01
Fund Totals	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
6430: CCLA General Shares No 1	-	-	-	-	-	35,791.82
6431: CCLA Shares No 2	525,409.62	-	252,338.66	-	777,748.28	833,697.04
6432: CCLA Shares no 3	800,367.48	-	-	-	800,367.48	1,316,957.23
Total	1,325,777.10	-	252,338.66	-	1,578,115.76	2,186,446.09
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
6501: Nat West	45,278.39	7,278.00	(14,414.00)	-	38,142.39	25,138.68
6505: Barclays	178,643.93	-	(679.00)	-	177,964.93	1,695.39
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	926.04	-	-	-	926.04	1,180.39
6520: Cash in Hand	512.97	-	-	-	512.97	1,006.68
Total	225,361.33	7,278.00	(15,093.00)	-	217,546.33	29,021.14
Net total assets	1,551,138.43	7,278.00	237,245.66	-	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23

Represented by

General (Unrestricted)	1,551,138.43	-	-	-	1,551,138.43	1,949,248.57
Designated - Bells	-	2,618.00	-	-	2,618.00	2,592.50
Designated - VDF	-	4,660.00	-	-	4,660.00	4,930.00
Restricted - Fabric	-	-	1,593.00	-	1,593.00	1,593.00
Restricted - Kath	-	-	20,339.58	-	20,339.58	21,141.15
Restricted - Kitchen	-	-	1,242.00	-	1,242.00	-
Restricted - Sonia	-	-	214,071.08	-	214,071.08	235,962.01
Total	1,551,138.43	7,278.00	237,245.66	-	1,795,662.09	2,215,467.23

Fund movement summary

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Bells							
Designated	2,592.50	25.50	-	-	-	-	2,618.00
Sub-totals	2,592.50	25.50	-	-	-	-	2,618.00
Fabric							
Restricted	1,593.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,593.00
Sub-totals	1,593.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,593.00
Kath							
Restricted	21,141.15	-	-	-	(801.57)	-	20,339.58
Sub-totals	21,141.15	-	-	-	(801.57)	-	20,339.58
Kitchen							
Restricted	-	1,242.00	-	-	-	-	1,242.00
Sub-totals	-	1,242.00	-	-	-	-	1,242.00
Sonia							
Restricted	235,962.01	-	12,748.00	-	(9,142.93)	-	214,071.08
Sub-totals	235,962.01	-	12,748.00	-	(9,142.93)	-	214,071.08
VDF							
Designated	4,930.00	-	270.00	-	-	-	4,660.00
Sub-totals	4,930.00	-	270.00	-	-	-	4,660.00
General							
Unrestricted	1,949,248.57	145,105.54	452,055.81	-	(91,159.87)	-	1,551,138.43
Sub-totals	1,949,248.57	145,105.54	452,055.81	-	(91,159.87)	-	1,551,138.43
Totals	2,215,467.23	146,373.04	465,073.81	-	(101,104.37)	-	1,795,662.09

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Standing Orders	2,580.00	-	-	-	2,580.00	3,414.78
0102 - PGS Giving	14,614.83	-	-	-	14,614.83	8,002.67
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	3,868.95
0201 - Other planned giving	-	-	-	-	-	107.00
0301 - Loose plate collections	5,001.66	-	165.00	-	5,166.66	5,666.51
0310 - Card Donations	2,766.48	-	-	-	2,766.48	2,293.14
0401 - Regular gift days	-	-	-	-	-	-
0410 - Giving - church boxes	309.09	-	-	-	309.09	383.22
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	99.00	-	-	-	99.00	2,905.00
0502 - PGS one off gifts	305.35	-	-	-	305.35	59.10
0550 - Donations appeals etc	3,255.90	25.50	675.00	-	3,956.40	954.83
0551 - Donations for Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
0601 - Tax recover on Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
0602 - Tax Recovered from PGS Giving	3,050.11	-	-	-	3,050.11	1,925.72
0603 - Tax recovered on PGS one off gifts	344.25	-	-	-	344.25	15.00
0701 - Legacies	8,712.61	-	-	-	8,712.61	1,000.00
0901 - Other funds generated	7.21	-	-	-	7.21	25.50
Donations and legacies Totals	41,046.49	25.50	840.00	-	41,911.99	30,621.42
Income from charitable activities						
0552 - Stay Active	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	68.00
0915 - 100 Club	-	-	-	-	-	-
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	1,213.00	-	-	-	1,213.00	5,105.00
1210 - Bookstall sales to promote objectives	-	-	-	-	-	30.00
1230 - Church hall lettings - objectives	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	1,513.00	-	-	-	1,513.00	5,203.00
Other trading activities						
0910 - Fundraising	3,048.52	-	402.00	-	3,450.52	2,283.81
0916 - Stock Sales	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
0920 - Sunday coffee	325.19	-	-	-	325.19	257.68
1220 - Bookstall sales - fund raising	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	-
1240 - Church hall lettings - fund raising	7,628.90	-	-	-	7,628.90	4,928.30
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-
1260 - Parish magazine sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities Totals	11,302.61	-	402.00	-	11,704.61	7,569.79
Investments						
1001 - Dividends	89,556.41	-	-	-	89,556.41	58,769.39
1020 - Bank and building society interest	867.03	-	-	-	867.03	1,380.83
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments Totals	90,423.44	-	-	-	90,423.44	60,150.22

Other income						
0610 - VAT Reclaim	820.00	-	-	-	820.00	670.00
1310 - Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
1320 - Surplus - sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
3000 - Unidentified Income	-	-	-	-	-	828.10
Other income Totals	820.00	-	-	-	820.00	1,498.10
Income and endowments Grand totals	145,105.54	25.50	1,242.00	-	146,373.04	105,042.53

EXPENDITURE ON:

Raising funds

1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	-	-	-	-	-	-
1710 - Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
1720 - Costs of stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	204.84	-	-	-	204.84	81.56
1736 - Church Shop Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
1740 - Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raising funds Totals	204.84	-	-	-	204.84	81.56

Expenditure on charitable activities

1731 - 100 Club Prize	-	-	-	-	-	-
1737 - Refreshments	277.90	-	-	-	277.90	73.30
1801 - Giving to missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	-
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	145.95
1850 - Home mission	120.00	-	-	-	120.00	85.00
1870 - Secular charities	-	-	-	-	-	404.51
1880 - Community Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	14.64
1901 - Common Fund	91,649.00	-	-	-	91,649.00	70,000.00
2001 - Assistant staff costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002 - Youth Worker Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003 - Youth Worker Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004 - Youth Work	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005 - Junior Church	-	-	-	-	-	-
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	11,707.67	-	-	-	11,707.67	11,729.02
2051 - Staff Pension	840.84	-	-	-	840.84	840.84
2052 - Payrol Administration Fee	408.10	-	-	-	408.10	371.80
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	-	-	-	-	-	111.00
2102 - Vicar's Discretionary Payments	-	270.00	-	-	270.00	70.00
2120 - Council tax	-	-	-	-	-	-
2130 - Parsonage house expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2140 - Water rates - vicarage	106.57	-	-	-	106.57	169.48
2145 - Vicarage Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
2150 - Vicar's telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-
2170 - Education	-	-	-	-	-	-
2201 - Parish training and mission	691.90	-	-	-	691.90	1,458.99
2301 - Premeses running - insurance	11,026.19	-	-	-	11,026.19	8,456.58
2310 - Church office - telephone	2,106.37	-	-	-	2,106.37	1,292.00
2311 - Church Office Equipmment	862.92	-	-	-	862.92	-
2312 - Churc office - supplies	922.06	-	-	-	922.06	178.53
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	-	-	-	-	-	94.01
2321 - Organist Fee	-	-	-	-	-	200.00
2325 - Verger Fees	60.00	-	-	-	60.00	780.00
2326 - Bell Ringers	-	-	-	-	-	-
2330 - Church maintenance	4,714.51	-	-	-	4,714.51	8,721.39
2331 - Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	756.00
2335 - Lodge Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
2336 - Lodge Rent	-	-	-	-	-	-
2337 - Lodge Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-
2338 - Lodge Electricity	-	-	-	-	-	-
2339 - Lodge Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,910.88	-	-	-	1,910.88	2,111.00
2345 - Flowers	804.83	-	-	-	804.83	20.00
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	12,748.00	-	12,748.00	7,680.00
2360 - Administration	3,418.86	-	-	-	3,418.86	3,228.92

2361 - Bookkeeping	3,100.00	-	-	-	3,100.00	2,233.35
2362 - Previous Treasurer Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2365 - Bank Charges	295.96	-	-	-	295.96	287.99
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	-	-	-	-	-	41.00
2401 - Church running - electric	3,621.45	-	-	-	3,621.45	3,894.50
2410 - Church running - gas	15,745.43	-	-	-	15,745.43	12,647.13
2420 - Church running - water	416.13	-	-	-	416.13	720.87
2430 - Church running - oil	-	-	-	-	-	-
2440 - Church running - heating and lighting	-	-	-	-	-	-
2501 - Magazine expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2510 - Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
2520 - Hall running - Cleaning	2,394.00	-	-	-	2,394.00	972.00
2521 - Hall running - Cleaning Materials	338.58	-	-	-	338.58	276.00
2530 - Hall running - electricity	266.49	-	-	-	266.49	1,331.00
2540 - Hall running - gas	1,720.63	-	-	-	1,720.63	4,519.52
2550 - Hall running - insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	7,599.57	-	-	-	7,599.57	12,545.55
2570 - Hall running - telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-
2580 - Hall running - water	126.11	-	-	-	126.11	100.29
2590 - Hall running - Caretaker	-	-	-	-	-	-
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	630.00	-	-	-	630.00	970.80
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	265,447.22	-	-	-	265,447.22	4,920.00
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-
2715 - Church major repairs - Fees	18,520.80	-	-	-	18,520.80	-
2720 - Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-
2801 - Hall + major repairs - structure	-	-	-	-	-	-
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-
2830 - Hall + interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-
2835 - Hall Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-	-
2901 - New building parsonage house	-	-	-	-	-	-
2910 - New building house for curate	-	-	-	-	-	-
2920 - New building Church	-	-	-	-	-	-
2930 - New building Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	451,850.97	270.00	12,748.00	-	464,868.97	164,452.96
Other expenditure						
1735 - Stock Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
4000 - Unidentified Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure Grand totals	452,055.81	270.00	12,748.00	-	465,073.81	164,534.52

Independent Examiner's Report

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I 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.

Date: 7th May 2026

Signed:



Stephen Hendy
Data Developments