

2025 Trustees Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church Oswestry

1. Reference and Administration

Charity name: Holy Trinity Church Oswestry

Church address: Rofit Street, Oswestry, Shropshire

Correspondence address: Holy Trinity Church, Rofit Street, Oswestry

PCC Membership

Ex Officio members

Vicar

Rev Paul Darlington

Warden

Mr Alistair Nurden (also Treasurer)

Warden

Mr Mark Elliot

Elected members

Mrs Alison Elliot, representative on Deanery Synod

Mr Malcolm Hubbell, representative on Deanery Synod

Mrs Soo Short, representative on Deanery Synod (from April 2025)

Mr Mark Addison (from April 2025)

Mrs Sally Ashwood

Mrs Judy Breese

Mrs Lydia Cranston

Mr Adrian Dyer

Mr Mike Horner

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Evison, Garner Pugh & Sinclair, 19 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NR

Vicar: Rev Paul Darlington, 29 Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry, SY11 2XQ

Registered charity number 1173814.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended, and Church Representation Rules that came into effect on 1st January 2020, as amended. Holy Trinity registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission in July 2017, as its annual income was in excess of £100,000.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 1st January 2020. At Holy Trinity the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Curate, Church Wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged and given opportunity to register on the electoral roll.

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The PCC met six times during the year and average attendance was good. During the year the PCC have continued to keep regular oversight of all matters relating to finance, employment, health and safety, safeguarding, Holy Trinity Primary Academy and issues relating to the church building and its contents.

The PCC appointed a Standing Committee comprising Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and a PCC member, which during 2025 was Judy Breese. A Strategy Group, consisting of the staff team and various PCC members and other church members, met during the year to consider different areas of church life, and how they could be improved, each time giving a full report back to the PCC.

A Human Resources sub-committee, chaired by a PCC member, has been established to oversee all aspects of the PCC's employment of staff. This sub-committee have reviewed the staff salaries, making recommendations to the PCC. The PCC are grateful to this sub-committee for all the work they have done.

The Standing Committee, on behalf of the PCC, have considered the area of Risk Management, and are satisfied that the Trustees are not being exposed un-necessarily, and will keep this under review in the future.

The PCC re-appointed Jenna Middleton in May 2025 as safeguarding officer. The PCC are very grateful to her for all the work that has been done in this area. DBS checks continue to be made for those that need them. The PCC accepted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. Issues that have arisen during the year have been dealt with.

3. Objectives and Activities

The primary aim of the PCC is to promote the gospel and to uphold the doctrines of the Church of England.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church. The furnishings, furniture and silverware are all in good order.

The PCC strives to ensure that activities are available for all ages, and achieves this through Sunday services and children's groups; young people's groups; midweek ladies and home group Bible studies; midweek Bible study at church; preacher's workshops; mission prayer meetings; Sunday evening prayer meeting; courses for those exploring the Christian faith; informal coffee & chat each month.

The PCC are grateful to the large number of church members who give their time on a voluntary basis to help run and lead the various church groups and activities; who undertake practical tasks to keep the church building and outside areas clean, free of rubbish and functioning; and who help in a variety of ways to help Sunday morning services run smoothly. In particular, the PCC are grateful to all those who clean the church on a regular basis.

4. Achievements and Performance

The main focus each week is the Sunday morning service at 10am – a Service of the Word and Holy Communion. During this service there is a group for children (aged 3-11), called Lighthouse and Mini Lighthouse for under 3s. Attendance varied but there are usually around 155 people in total in attendance (115 adults and 40 children).

As well as our regular service, we enable our church and wider community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. There were 4 weddings during 2025; 1 adult baptism, 8 young people were baptised and 3 children. During the year, there were 11 funeral services in church; and 8 funeral services at a crematorium or cemetery.

Members of the wider community have joined with church members at the children's Holiday Club in February, when over 100 children spent five days enjoying King of The Castle, a castle themed holiday club, overseen by over 80 members of the congregation, adults and teenagers. At Christmas around 200 people joined together for Christmas Cracker Christingle, where the Christmas story was explained and everyone enjoyed crafts, games and Christmas food.

During the year church members have had opportunities to study God's Word together in small groups or in one-to-one meetings. There have been increasing opportunities on a Sunday for lay preachers and those who may see church leadership as a future option, to gain some valuable experience and training.

The PCC are enormously grateful to Mark Addison, Associate Minister (Youth and Families), for all the great work that is done amongst the children and young people, and training those who help him, especially Sam Hodgins until August 2025, and since then Jed Walkingshaw. The PCC would also like to thank Rev Andy Cranston for all that he has done during 2025 to support, equip and encourage church members.

The PCC are grateful to Kathryn Chedgoy for all the various administrative tasks that she undertook to support the clergy, PCC and church members. Kathryn stepped down from this role towards the end of 2025 and the PCC were delighted to appoint Sarah Sadler in her place.

Holy Trinity was pleased to continue to welcome some Ukrainian families to the church during 2025. The weekly 'Ukraine Welcome' meeting that used to run on Thursday afternoons was replaced with a monthly Sunday lunch, and that itself has now stopped as the Ukrainian folk are settled in England and much better able to support themselves and their fellow countrymen.

A highlight of 2025 was the biennial Church Weekend Away at the Quinta Christian Centre, with friends from All Saints' Gobowen. Over 130 people joined together at Quinta and it was a delight to welcome the Weaver family back to Shropshire. James kindly led the main teaching sessions from the book of Isaiah.

Other ministry initiatives carried on during 2025, including the monthly Cuppa, Cake & Chat which attracts a number of elderly folk who live locally and for whom this is their sole contact with the church. A number of people who have been coming to Cuppa Cake & Chat have now become regular attendees on a Sunday morning. There has also been a regular pattern of evangelistic courses, which have been well attended and well supported by church members.

Holy Trinity Primary Academy continued to be supported by the church with the Vicar, Curate and Mark Addison visiting the school, to take an assembly or run the Bible Club. The PCC have been pleased to support the school with donations to the school hardship fund. The PCC receive a regular update on the various school activities and any issues being faced. Plans to open the Holy Trinity Community Hub at the school have been dropped as the building that was to be used for this initiative was withdrawn from the Community Asset Transfer Programme by Shropshire Council.

The PCC have been kept updated regarding various matters relating to the church building. There are still unresolved issues regarding the roof of the new kitchen, and water ingress. These matters are being pursued with the contractors and architect. The latest Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in March 2024 and the report was issued to all PCC members. The electrical installation also has a full 5-year inspection during 2024. A number of recommendations contained in the Quinquennial report have been attended to, and quotes have been obtained to undertake repairs to the boundary wall and stone entrance pillar and this work is due to be completed in March 2026. Other longer term work will be kept under review. The fire extinguishers were serviced as usual in November. A Buildings Team has continued to oversee and undertake work to the fabric of the church and the PCC are grateful to those who give of their time and expertise in this way.

The PCC spent a lot of time during 2025 discussing and praying about what was happening with the Church of England nationally and were very concerned by the decisions that had been taken by General Synod. The situation within the

Oswestry Deanery has continued to give much cause for concern, with limited attempts at any meaningful resolution. The PCC are very grateful to the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) for the work they are doing leading the traditional and evangelical response nationally. The PCC has continued to pay its Common Fund request via the Ephesian Fund, and in 2025 this was paid in full, along with the outstanding amount from 2024.

5. Financial Review

The accounts for 2025 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Planned giving amounted to £127,103. This is an increase of £14,254 from 2024. The general expenses of running Holy Trinity remain fairly constant. There was a small surplus for 2025 of £6,768

Gift Aid received during the year amounted to £26,465 for the general fund.

The PCC are grateful to the generosity of church members in giving to support God's work at Holy Trinity. There was an encouraging response to a stewardship campaign in January 2025, from which around £15,000 was either given or pledged. The PCC are very encouraged and grateful to God for his continued provision. There is still a challenge in 2026 to raise sufficient extra funds to break even and to continue to build up reserves.

At the end of the year the PCC had a total cash balance of £13,786 held mainly in a CAF Bank account.

The PCC agreed a reserves policy in 2025. At the end of £2025 sufficient funds were held to cover 2 months' worth of unrestricted payments, which is lower than the amount stipulated in the reserves policy. However, with the amount of Gift Aid owing and yet to be claimed, the situation was deemed to be acceptable. The PCC aim to continue building up the reserves during 2026.

Mr Paul Evison of Garner Pugh and Sinclair was appointed as Independent Examiner at the APCM in 2025 and the PCC are grateful to him for the work involved in putting the accounts together.

Signed on behalf of Holy Trinity Church PCC by Rev Paul Darlington, Chairman.


.....

Date 3rd March 2026

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

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

It is our responsibility to

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

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Our 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 P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with our examination, no matters have come to our attention

- 1) which give us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Garnef Pugh & Sinclair
Chartered Accountants
19 Salop Road
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2NR

3rd March 2026

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

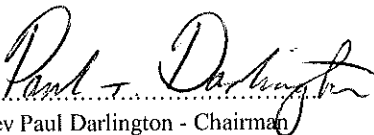
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	* See note 7 for full comparative
Incoming Resources						
Donations and Legacies	2a	184,298	600	184,898	159,199	
Charitable Activities	2b	5,589	-	5,589	1,392	
Other Trading Activities	2c	9,103	-	9,103	3,782	
Investments	2d	390	-	390	58	
Total		199,380	600	199,980	164,431	
Resources Expended						
Charitable Activities	3	189,012	310	189,322	164,950	
Total		189,012	310	189,322	164,950	
Net gain/(losses) on investment		-	-	-	-	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		10,368	290	10,658	(519)	
Transfer between Funds		-	-	-	-	
Net movement in Funds		10,368	290	10,658	(519)	
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		7,017	550	7,567	8,086	
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		17,385	840	18,225	7,567	


**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31st December 2025**

	Notes	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		7,851	7,553
Bank deposit accounts		<u>10,374</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5	<u><u>18,225</u></u>	<u><u>7,567</u></u>
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted Funds			
- General		17,385	7,017
Restricted Funds		<u>840</u>	<u>550</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	6	<u><u>18,225</u></u>	<u><u>7,567</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 3rd March 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Rev Paul Darlington - Chairman


.....
Alistair Nurden - Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. 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.

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest.
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

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 for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. 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.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
2a Donations and Legacies				
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>				
Tax efficient planned giving	127,103	600	127,703	113,124
Collections at services	-	-	-	-
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	30,730	-	30,730	25,304
Gift Aid recovered	26,465	-	26,465	20,522
Legacies	-	-	-	249
	<u>184,298</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>184,898</u>	<u>159,199</u>
A) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals				£
Donations - Sundry - Unrestricted				5,630
Donations - Sundry - Restricted				-
Grants - Unrestricted				<u>25,100</u>
				<u>30,730</u>
2b Charitable Activities				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	<u>5,589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,589</u>	<u>1,392</u>
	<u>5,589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,589</u>	<u>1,392</u>
2c Other Trading Activities				
<i>Activities for Generating Funds</i>				
Church Hire	400	-	400	890
Sundry Receipts	<u>8,703</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,703</u>	<u>2,892</u>
	<u>9,103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,103</u>	<u>3,782</u>
2d Investments				
Bank Interest	<u>390</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>58</u>
TOTAL	<u>199,380</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>199,980</u>	<u>164,431</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
3 Charitable Activities					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Mission giving and donations		8,200	-	8,200	8,500
Diocesan parish share		51,155	-	51,155	38,557
Salaries/Wages	4	88,864	-	88,864	82,266
Clergy and staff expenses		3,227	-	3,227	3,419
<i>Church Expenses</i>					
Church running expenses		3,956	-	3,956	5,976
Church utility bills		11,448	-	11,448	12,964
Cost of trading		21,754	310	22,064	12,860
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>					
Major Repairs to the Church		-	-	-	-
<i>Governance Costs</i>		408	-	408	408
		<u>189,012</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>189,322</u>	<u>164,950</u>
TOTAL		<u>189,012</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>189,322</u>	<u>164,950</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries	<u>88,864</u>	<u>82,266</u>

During the year the PCC employed an Associate Minister, a Ministry Trainee, an Administrator and an Associate Vicar.

There were no transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	17,385	840	18,225
Current Liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>17,385</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>18,225</u>

6 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

	Reserves at 1.1.25 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer Between Funds £	Reserves at 31.12.25 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	7,017	199,380	(189,012)	-	17,385
Restricted Funds					
Donations	550	600	(310)	-	840
	<u>550</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>7,567</u>	<u>199,980</u>	<u>(189,322)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,225</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	199,380	(189,012)	-	10,368
Restricted Funds				
	600	(310)	-	290
	<u>600</u>	<u>(310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>290</u>
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>199,980</u>	<u>(189,322)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,658</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

7 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	158,874	325	159,199
Charitable Activities	1,392	-	1,392
Other Trading Activities	3,782	-	3,782
Investments	58	-	58
Total	164,106	325	164,431
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	163,404	1,546	164,950
Other	-	-	-
Total	163,404	1,546	164,950
Net gain/(losses) on investment	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)	702	(1,221)	(519)
Transfer between Funds	90	(90)	-
Net movement in Funds	792	(1,311)	(519)
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)	6,225	1,861	8,086
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)	7,017	550	7,567

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

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BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

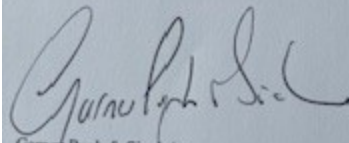
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Garner Pugh & Sinclair
Chartered Accountants
19 Salop Road
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SY11 2NR