

**The Parish of Salisbury Plain  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Administrative information**

The Parish of Salisbury Plain was created on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and is a one-parish benefice comprising the historic parishes of All Saints' & St Mary, Chitterne; St Mary's Orcheston; St Mary's Shrewton; and St Thomas à Becket, Tilshead. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1173846) Registration was effective 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017. PCC members who have served from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

*Incumbent until 3rd Nov 25:*      The Revd Canon Eleanor Rance      Chairman  
We have been in vacancy since.

*Wardens:*                      Richard Essberger  
                                      Ewart Grant  
                                      Hilda Renshaw  
                                      Ian Smith  
                                      Marcelle Stobie

*Representatives on the Deanery Synod:*

Sarah Gooch

*Elected members:*      Mike Badham-Thornhill      Vice Chairman & Secretary  
                                      John Badgery  
                                      Gay Jennings-Bramly  
                                      Andrew Macdonald  
                                      Debby Potter

*Co-opted Members:*      Sam Shepherd      Treasurer

## **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, who was until the 3rd November 2025 the Revd Canon Eleanor Rance, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has oversight of the Maddington Church Room in the historic parish of Maddington/Shrewton.

## **Review of the year**

The PCC met on 26<sup>th</sup> February for the APCM on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> June, and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The PCC complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 by having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within the parish. Those due for safeguarding refresher training attended a course online as provided by the diocese.

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE & WORSHIP**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 there were 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

The schedule for Sunday worship until November 2025 continued to include a range of service forms including weekly mid-morning Communion Services, BCP Holy Communion, BCP Evensong, Family Service, and Zoom Evening Prayer. After November when the vacancy began, the Steering Committee worked hard to ensure that Holy Communion in each church was maintained. Where a priest has not been available the LWL or Church Wardens have stepped in. The average attendance across the parish settled at around 23 (23 in 2024) for the main morning service, and 13 (13 in 2024) children at the monthly Family Service/Tea that has been temporarily suspended since October. The attendance at most regular services showed a gentle upward trend. While service attendance at Easter were lower than in 2024, services during Advent were returning to much healthier levels however figures for Christmas Day varied across the Parish. Weekday worship figures have also fluctuated.

It has to be said that the Rev Jonathan Plows has been assiduous in his duties as Rural Dean, and has regularly stepped in to assist us. He is to be commended.

The benefice choir has continued to offer support in worship across the parish, and, along with our two regular organists we have benefited from the support of visitors for a number of weddings and funerals during the course of 2025. We also shared services in our 3 'closed' churches.



### **Occasional Offices in the Benefice or at the crematorium (figures in brackets= 2024):**

Baptisms	7	(9)	(Chitterne 0, Orcheston 1, Shrewton 6, Tilshead 0)
Marriages / blessings	1	(6)	(Chitterne 0, Orcheston 0, Shrewton 0, Tilshead 1)
Funerals	11	(14)	(Chitterne 3, Orcheston 0, Shrewton 5, Tilshead 3)

In addition to this there were 7 (9) services to bury ashes (Chitterne 0, Orcheston 0, Shrewton/Rollestone/Maddington 3, Tilshead 4). Assistance and support to bereaved families was also offered to several families. The All Souls' service was well received, with many who attended taking gravelights or memorial candles away with them following the service.

### **MINISTRY, INCLUDING WORSHIP, WITH SCHOOLS & FAMILIES IN 2025**

In both schools governance continued to be an important strand of our church ministry. Tilshead's school went successfully through its SIAMS and OFSTED inspections during 2024, with a significant presence of Foundation Governors at both. The events of Holy Week and Easter were marked with pupils from both schools. Leavers Services and activities were supported by the church in both primary schools. Throughout the year provision of financial and food support was coordinated between the clergy, Candlemas and the local schools. In December local community members once again donated small gifts, gift wrap and tags to the church, and we ran a very successful gifting scheme across 2 sites in the parish (see below). This allowed every child to select a gift for a family member at no charge. Remaining gifts, wrap and tags were placed into the new pantry so that the wider community could benefit from a temporary 'present drawer'. Family Service & Tea continued up to October and was a popular and appreciated event during 2025, while Activity packs were distributed to families across the parish during every school holiday. At the end of the summer holidays our, now annual, Teddy Bears' Picnic drop in drew significant numbers from across the community.

The following resources were provided:

Weekly Collective worship	provided almost exclusively 'in person' for the year- for the first time across a whole academic year. Rev Jonathan Plows has continued worship with the schools.
Yr 6 Leavers	sessions with Tilshead Yr 6 thinking about moving on/ moving up
Harvest Services	In Shrewton & Tilshead Churches
'Christmas gifting'	Both Shrewton and Tilshead School held a gift wrapping session for loved ones in the respective schools this year assisted by Benefice volunteers.

## **MINISTRY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY IN 2025**

Across the year each church collected items of food or gifts of money in support of local organisations, such as the Community pantry based in Shrewton, the Warminster Foodbank and Alabarè.

Support to individuals and families struggling with the cost of living crisis was also made possible, in part, by the provision of a grant by the Church of England. Throughout the year the church community were instrumental in developing the reach and resources of the Community Pantry. 'Pop up' shelves in the Pantry are still welcomed, among these were those for Easter decorations, 'Back to School', games for the school holidays, cookery and kitchen, and the Christmas Gift & Wrap shelf.

September and October saw Harvest Festivals and meals throughout the Parish, with produce donations to Alabarè and the Warminster Food Bank.

Working ecumenically is a significant part of life within the parish, and in 2025 we continued to work with our Methodist friends to prepare and distribute Activity packs, and we also continued to work with GUL, especially with regard to the Community Pantries (there is a second pantry at The Bustard), and visiting. Likewise members of the Plain Church community worshipped with us on a number of occasions.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total Receipts for the financial year including the redemption of investment funds and a generous legacy were £100,781 (2024 £127,534). Regular income fell from £96,000 to £80,000.

Giving to the church through regular planned donations, one off donations and the collection plate over the year reduced to £38,000 from £48,300. This total amount is only equal to 56% of our Parish Share that we paid over to the Diocese.

We received one generous legacy of £20,000 to be spent on the church fabric of St Mary's Church, Orcheston.

We continue to receive a number of generous grants from local organisations. For these we are most grateful to Tilshead Parish Council for a grant towards grass cutting costs at St Thomas churchyard, and also Shrewton Parish Council for a similar grant for grass cutting at St Mary Maddington churchyard.

Gift Aid receipts were reduced to £8,900 reflecting the reduced normal income. Receipts from Parochial fees fell to £7,500 reflecting a reduction in the number of funerals and only one wedding in the Benefice.



Receipts from fund raising events were similar to the previous year at £5,300 but historically this is low.

Income from Bank Deposits and Trusts reduced slightly to £12,800 as a consequence of cashing in some investment funds in 2024.

Maddington Church Hall fee income has fallen to £1,700 from £2,300.

Total expenditure was £102,991 (2024 £114,343) to enable the Benefice in Ministry throughout our four villages.

Our contribution to the Parish Share remained level at £68,000. There was no apparent increase as we now benefit from a partial refund of parochial fees from the Diocese being credited to our Share. However Share will now rise each year by at least £2,500 until 2028.

Clergy expenses were £1,500 up from £1,100. The Salisbury DBF share of parochial fees rose slightly to £3,450.

General running costs of insurance, heating, electricity fell slightly to £14,250 from £14,950.

Fortunately expenditure on building works was historically low at £4,250. Maintenance of our eight churchyards was lower at £2,700.

We have continued to make grants from funds raised earlier from fabric and craft sales. We paid out all funds raised for the community Pantry to GUL, a Shrewton based charity who have taken over responsibility for the Pantry following the departure of our incumbent. In addition we made donations to other causes including The Royal British Legion, CRESS, Alabare, the Stroke association, the Children's Society, Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust.

The overall financial result is an excess of expenditure over receipts of £2,200. However the income includes the legacy received. The underlying figures show an income deficit of £22,000 for the year after a similar underlying deficit of £11,000 in 2024.

Our financial assets held in investment funds have increased over the year by £8,500 to £526,500. This illustrates that although we are in deficit on our running costs, we possess considerable assets.

## **Reserves Policy**

At the PCC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a Financial Management Policy paper was presented to and approved by the PCC, including the following "Salisbury Plain Benefice Reserves Policy".

1. The Reserves of Salisbury Plain Benefice are those unrestricted funds required to ensure prudent financial management.
2. The Reserves do not include funds that were raised for designated purposes, or are restricted in terms of their donation, or are endowments or property assets.
3. They will ensure that the PCC will meet all the normal costs of running the Benefice, including the ability to pay our Parish Share, our fees to the Diocesan Board of Finance, building insurance, utility bills, costs of service, administration and day to day repairs.
4. The reserves should also meet minor unexpected repair costs including minor works identified in Quinquennial reports.
5. The Reserves Policy recognises that through the Benefice, the four constituent villages will be able to support each other when necessary.
6. The expected running costs for 2026 will be around £100,000. Given recent experience of the pandemic it is prudent to increase the reserves above Church of England guidance of three months reserves to six months would give an appropriate reserve of £50,000.
7. In the event that our reserves are consistently below the target sum or are consistently above the target, the PCC will take responsibility to remedy the situation. When reserves drop too low funds should be allocated from a designated fund where that fund is not immediately required for the designated purpose. Where reserves are too high funds could, with the approval of the PCC, be used either supporting a project in the community or being designated to an underfunded fabric fund or similar.
8. This Policy should be reviewed annually.

**Approved by the PCC on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 and signed on their behalf by Richard Essberger (per pro PCC Chair)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL OF THE SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 5, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.


**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 2 April 2026

Signature:



Name:

John Rhoad-Tut

Position:

EXAMINER



## Statement of Account as at 31 December 2025

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Shrewton	Orcheston	Chitterne	Tilshead	Maddington	Benefice	Total	2024 Total
<b>RECEIPTS</b>								
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>								
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	9,439.00	7,117.00	8,410.00	1,980.00	80.00		27,026.00	29,649
Other Planned Giving	220.00						220.00	220
Church Collections	1,216.00	1,988.36	1,242.31	1,670.63	310.00		6,427.30	6,622
Sundry Donations	384.00	20,190.65	230.00	387.00	360.10	2,840.00	24,391.75	11,819
Grants	570.00	15.00		525.00		500.00	1,610.00	1,205
Gift Aid Refund	2,813.79	2,193.55	2,495.87	799.35	184.64	412.50	8,899.70	9,650
<u>Church Activities</u>								
Parochial Fees	2,993.00		1,529.00	2,970.00			7,492.00	12,103
<u>Generating Funds</u>								
Fund-Raising Events	2,043.35	364.70	1,280.23	409.33	909.80	282.00	5,289.41	5,628
<u>Receipts from Investments</u>								
Bank & Deposit Interest	25.07	1030.51	53.89	25.07			1,134.54	1,248
Trusts	1,627.32	448.46	289.09	9,323.08			11,687.95	12,267
<u>Other Receipts</u>								
Maddington Fees					1,730.00		1,730.00	2,315
VAT Grant (LPWGS)	227.52		141.05				368.57	2,347
Wayleaves							-	17
Allotment fees	372.00						372.00	302
Nicola Window fund						1,931.00	1,931.00	-
CBF Investment Fund	760.00						760.00	31,713
Miscellaneous	210.00	8.50	673.57	200.00		349.46	1,441.53	428
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>22,901.05</b>	<b>33,356.73</b>	<b>16,345.01</b>	<b>18,289.46</b>	<b>3,574.54</b>	<b>6,314.96</b>	<b>100,781.75</b>	<b>127,534</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>								
<u>Church Activities</u>								
Diocesan Parish Share	34165.12	12314.23	12720.24	8800.40			67,999.99	67,961
Clergy Expenses	440.23	357.93	311.64	400.99			1,510.79	1,128
DBF Share of fees	2,062.00	17.00	307.00	1,067.00			3,453.00	3,119
<u>Running Expenses</u>								
Insurance	2,993.36	1,239.77	3,203.07	2,330.65	525.88		10,292.73	10,088
Electricity & Telephone	460.05	248.13	470.03	868.12	620.93		2,667.26	3,253
Heating Oil	1,015.29						1,015.29	1,018
Water	96.61			80.11	99.29		276.01	583
Building Maintenance	769.72	160.00	1,929.94	838.61	542.79	7.42	4,248.48	15,236
Cost of Services	246.57	255.78	223.07	336.98		34.99	1,097.39	1,656
Upkeep of Churchyards	500.00		1,215.00	960.00			2,675.00	3,240
<u>Charitable Giving</u>								
Overseas			913.23				913.23	-
Home	42.50	474.50		156.40		4,492.54	5,165.94	6,477
Leaving Gift						675.00	675.00	-
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>								
Fund-Raising Costs	312.18	53.00	4.36		1.62		371.16	149
<u>Church Management</u>								
Administration	107.20	119.95	234.38	107.19	0.91	60.26	629.89	434
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>43,210.83</b>	<b>15,240.29</b>	<b>21,531.96</b>	<b>15,946.45</b>	<b>1,791.42</b>	<b>5,270.21</b>	<b>102,991.16</b>	<b>114,343</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments (Payments over receipts)</b>								
	<b>(20,309.78)</b>	<b>18,116.44</b>	<b>(5,186.95)</b>	<b>2,343.01</b>	<b>1,783.12</b>	<b>1,044.75</b>	<b>(2,209.41)</b>	<b>13,191</b>



SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE 2025 BANK RECONCILIATION				31/12/2024 OPENING BANK	31/12/2025 CLOSING BALANCE	CHANGE TO CASH BALANCE
	DATE					
SHREWTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£18,981.57	SHREWTON	£18,981.57	
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		-£20,309.78			
	BALANCE		-£1,328.21			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	-£1,328.21		-£1,328.21	-£20,309.78
ORCHESTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£1,363.38	ORCHESTON	£25,109.84	
	LLOYDS BANK	31/12/2024	£1,529.40			
	CCLA	31/12/2024	£22,217.06			
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2024	£25,109.84		£43,226.28	£18,116.44
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2025		£18,116.44			
	BALANCE		£43,226.28			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	£3.77			
	LLOYDS BANK	31/12/2025	£0.00			
	CCLA	31/12/2025	£43,222.51			
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2025	£43,226.28			
CHITTERNE	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	-£198.13	CHITTERNE	£5,355.26	
	LLOYDS CURRENT	31/12/2024	£5,553.39			
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2024	£5,355.26		£168.31	-£5,186.95
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2025		-£5,186.95			
	BALANCE		£168.31			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	-£642.66			
	LLOYDS CURRENT	31/12/2025	£5,810.97			
	TRANSFER FROM CBF DEPOSIT FI	31/12/2025	-£5,000.00			
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2025	£168.31			
TILSHEAD	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£10,913.96	TILSHEAD	£10,913.96	
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2025		£2,343.01			
	BALANCE		£13,256.97			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	£13,256.97		£13,256.97	£2,343.01
MADDINGTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£4,451.58	MADDINGTON	£4,451.58	
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2025		£1,783.12			
	BALANCE		£6,234.70			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	£6,234.70		£6,234.70	£1,783.12
BENEFICE	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£9,511.13	BENEFICE	£9,511.13	
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2025		£1,044.75			
	BALANCE		£10,555.88			
	CAF BANK	31/12/2025	£10,555.88		£10,555.88	£1,044.75
					TOTAL	-£2,209.41
					2025 LOSS	-£2,209.41
					DISCREPANCY	£0.00

**Statement of Assets as at 31 December 2025**

		<b>Shrewton</b>	<b>Orcheston</b>	<b>Chitterne</b>	<b>Tilshead</b>	<b>Maddington</b>	<b>Benefice</b>
<b><u>Current &amp; Deposit accounts</u></b>							
<b>Orcheston Bank &amp; Cash assets</b>	31/12/24		£1,529.40				
	31/12/25		£0.00				
<b>Chitterne Bank Current A/cs &amp; Cash</b>	31/12/24			£5,553.39			
	31/12/25			£5,810.97			
<b>Benefice Current Account</b>	31/12/24	£18,981.57	£1,363.38	-£198.13	£10,913.96	£4,451.58	£9,511.13
	31/12/25	-£1,328.21	£3.77	-£642.66	£13,256.97	£6,234.70	£10,555.88
<b>Outstanding Gift Aid to recover</b>	31/12/24						£2,053.77
	31/12/25						£2,231.42
<b><u>Liabilities - DBF fees</u></b>	31/12/24	£981.00	£17.00	£17.00	£124.00		
	31/12/25	£70.00	£0.00	£48.33	£18.00		
<b><u>Investment Funds</u></b>							
<b>Shrewton Church Land Fund 2,557.9566 shares</b>	31/12/24	£59,146.86					
<b>2,524.4993 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund</b>	31/12/25	£56,039.59					
<b>Orcheston CCLA Fabric Fund</b>	31/12/24		£22,217.06				
	31/12/25		£43,222.51				
<b>Orcheston Church Cottage Income Shares</b>	31/12/24		£15,029.76				
<b>650 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund</b>	31/12/25		£14,428.90				
<b>Orcheston - Gaye - Income Shares</b>	31/12/24		£1,109.89				
<b>48 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund</b>	31/12/25		£1,065.52				
<b>Chitterne CBF Deposit Fund 850</b>	31/12/24			£19,797.96			
	31/12/25			£15,666.12			
<b>CBF Investment Fund 851</b>	31/12/24			£10,404.29			
	31/12/25			£9,988.35			
<b>CBF Accumulation Investment Fund Share</b>	31/12/24			£62,762.20			
	31/12/25			£62,029.60			
<b>Tilshead Empire Bungalow Fund</b>	31/12/24				£331,640.56		
<b>14,342.64 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund</b>	31/12/25				£318,382.23		
<b>Tilshead Kempson Fund</b>	31/12/24				£3,884.61		
<b>168 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund</b>	31/12/25				£3,729.31		
<b>Shrewton Allotments</b>	31/12/24	£1,000.00					
	31/12/25	£1,000.00					
<b>Maddington Church Rooms</b>	31/12/24					£1,000.00	
	31/12/25					£1,000.00	

**Note 1** Assets in current accounts have been adjusted for unpresented cheques at 31/12/24 & 31/12/25 plus cash held

**Note 2** 33.4573 Shares sold for £760.00 in Shrewton Church Land Fund 11/03/2025 to pay for repairs to vestry roof.



**Notes to the 2025 Accounts**  
**Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC**

1. The Benefice of Salisbury Plain was legally constituted at the end of 2013.
2. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments method.
3. The Statement of Account lists separately the accounts for each of the four former parishes, for Maddington Church Rooms, and a general account, which are then consolidated.
4. The Statement of Assets shows all cash holdings and other investment funds held.
5. The investment funds are at market value as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. These funds are invested in the CBF Investment Fund by CCLA on behalf of the Parish.
6. The Shrewton allotment land continues to be included at a nominal value of £1,000.
7. The Maddington Church Rooms in Shrewton continue to be included at a nominal value of £1,000.
8. Outstanding Gift Aid is the sum due to be reclaimed from qualifying donations in 2025.
9. Liabilities are those known fees owed to Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for fees incurred in the fourth quarter of 2025 but due for payment in January 2026.



CHITTERNE • ORCHESTON  
SHREWTON • TILSHEAD

Charity Number 1173846