

Alne Parochial Church Council
Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has pleasure in presenting its Report together with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest-in-Charge (or the Diocese of York when in a period of interregnum) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the buildings of St. Mary's Alne, St. Stephen's Aldwark and St. Michael's Tollerton and the churchyards in Alne and Aldwark.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2021 and 2022. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Aims and purposes

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and considers prayerfully how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

Objectives and Activities

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of Sunday services across the three churches over the course of the year that offers worship that is both accessible for all in our communities and worship that serves to deepen personal discipleship and living out Christ's story. Services are led by a team of ordained and experienced lay leaders and across the Parish they reflect different worship styles. Services at St. Stephens and St. Mary's are structured in a more traditional style, with pockets of quiet reflection and times of Taizé style singing and silence. St Mary's offers some family-friendly services on special occasions such as Mother's Day, Harvest and Christingle. At St. Michaels, services are generally more expressive and less formal, with a worship group (of guitars, and sometimes keyboard and flute), that leads more contemporary worship songs. St Michael's has an All-Age Service once a week. All three churches aim to have a service of Holy Communion at least once a month.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. Our activities are posted on the church's Facebook Page and advertised in the Parish Magazine, which is hand delivered to households within the parish. We also publish services on our St Michael's website and 'A Church Near You' webpages for all three churches.

At present there are 88 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, a small increase on the previous year.

In 2025 there was a slight change to our service pattern, as we experimented trying to find a combination of services that was both possible to run and best supported the congregations of all three churches. On the 1st Sunday each month at 10:30a.m. we held a joint service at St. Stephens, attended by both St. Mary's and St. Michael's with a view of supporting the congregation at St, Stephen's and growing in faith together. Happily, we saw a few people from Aldwark and neighbouring villages join this larger congregation. Towards the end of 2025 we decided that St Michael's should have 4 weekly morning services; wonderfully we are seeing more people joining St Michael's in 2026.

To coincide with a shared service at St Stephen's, an additional evening service, was started at St. Michael's on the first Sunday at 6pm, focusing on encountering God in worship and bible reflection. This has attracted some from across the Ministry Unit, whilst offering to those from St Michael's a less traditional form of service in the first week. Even after changing back to its separate services, St Michael's is continuing with this monthly evening service.

For the first 5 months a Celtic style service was held on the 3rd Sunday in the afternoon at St. Stephen's, but due to very small numbers this was paused.

Communion services were provided across 3 of the 4 Sundays: 1st Sunday at St. Stephen's, 2nd Sunday at St. Mary's and the 3rd Sunday at St. Michael's, with a Communion Service on the 4th Sunday only available within the wider Ministry Unit.

As well as our regular services, in 2025 we enabled our community to celebrate the milestones of life through baptism, marriage, and memorials: 2 marriages were conducted (one at St. Stephen's and one at St. Mary's). 8 funerals took place (6 of which were at St. Mary's and 1 at St. Michael's and 1 at St. Stephen's) and 6 baptisms (1 at St. Stephens and 3 at St. Mary's and 2 at St. Michael's).

St Mary's and St Stephen's have continued to be open each day for private prayer and for general visitors

Volunteers

The PCC would like to thank all our volunteers who work hard to make our church welcoming, smooth running and enjoyable including: Those who lead services, those on the cleaning rota, those who tend the churchyard, those who provide flowers, those who launder the cloths used for communion, those who provide the music, and those who give of their time for the PCC.

Mission, Evangelism and discipleship

Vision Day

We enjoyed a Ministry Unit Away Day on 14th June 2025. Jan Grey from the Diocese helped us reflect on our generosity towards God, ourselves and our communities. We recognized that collectively we need to grow younger and be bold in sharing our faith.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The particular focus in 2025 has been to share knowledge and experience of

some of the practical ways we might implement our plans for "Living Christ's Story". The Venerable Rev'd John Day led a Learning Morning on steps for growing church as we speak about our faith. A group of 5 from the West Galtres Ministry Unit enjoyed a fun and helpful meeting.

Communications

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners freely. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop knowledge and trust in Jesus. It also includes local community news. It is gratifying that several local organisations including the parish councils at Alne and Tollerton, agree to contribute to the cost of producing the parish magazine to cover something of the additional costs incurred resulting from the increased community news.

We have a shared weekly email with a 'Thought for the weekend'. This communication holds together all the 6 churches in the wider West Galtres Ministry Unit. It is currently sent out to 135 people. It helps the churches to pray together and support one another in mission and ministry, and share ideas and resources. The written reflection enables us to think together on an aspect of life with God, either from the news or from our cycle of lectionary readings.

Outreach Initiatives

All three churches actively seek to engage with the village communities. We have continued our focus to reach out to the villagers and raise the profile of the church within the community. These activities plant seeds of faith, not just developing improved relationships between the church and the village, but enabling us to demonstrate the love of Christ to the parishioners. These initiatives also offer opportunities for us to share our personal faith with people.

At St Stephen's these initiatives have been:

- Keeping church open as a place of prayer. St Stephen's is on the rambler's route and we know from the visitor's book that people come into church fairly regularly and enjoy its peace.
- Occasional offices of baptism and marriages
- Holding a busy Carol service
- Prayer stations during the Sept Global Week of Prayer

At St. Mary's these initiatives have been:

- Participation in the annual Street Fayre, which builds good will between the church and the village.
- Holding major festival services (Remembrance Day and the Christingle service).
- Occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funerals
- Prayer stations during the Sept Global Week of Prayer

At St. Michael's these initiatives have been:

- Continued distribution of a "welcome to Tollerton" booklet to all new residents on moving in.
- Hot Spot which ran in the Spring and Autumn. This has continued to be popular with a good number (of different people) attending each session. This has continued to improve the visibility and use of the church within the life of the village. We had to reduce the sessions from weekly to fortnightly, through lack of people resources.
- A Youth Drop-In Café, run weekly during term-time for 11-16 year olds. We offer games, crafts and some sporting activities and include a time where we share our Christian faith.
- Little Angels, run weekly, where we provide a space for mums/carers of babies and toddlers to socialise. Some of the mums from this activity were interested in gathering specifically to discuss faith and so in October a monthly gathering (Little Angels – Connect) was started.
- Discipleship Groups that meet in homes are life giving because of the fellowship and Bible study that attendees enjoy.
- Prayer Groups – once a week a group meets for prayer, being intentional about praying for God's blessing on all three villages, growth in our churches and for those in need of prayer.
- A 24-hour prayer space during September's Global Week of Prayer

Opportunities to deepen faith

Rev'd Lucy led an Alive course in May 2025 at St Michael's Tollerton focusing on the impact of Easter on our lives. love, hope, peace, freedom and purpose

Rev'd Lucy also invited all churches to engage with Thy Kingdom Come prayer in the 10 days before Pentecost, with prayer walks in each of the villages, and in the Global Week of Prayer in September 2025.

In 2025 a new homegroup started in Tollerton, which makes 4 different times to meet for learning together in the Parish of Alne. In October we joined in The Big Church Read, with the book; The Greatest Story Ever Told by Bear Grylls.

School's link

There is a strong relationship with the primary school in Alne, who use St Mary's for end of term services and on other occasions, resulting in a very full church of children and their parents several times per year.

In 2025 Rev'd Lucy went into Alne Primary School each month to take an assembly and also under the initiative called Growing Faith, Rev Lucy has been in at Pentecost, Harvest and Anti Bullying week to deliver immersive Christian faith centred workshops. These have resulted in art work and poetry being displayed in St Mary's and our ties have been strengthened.

Festival services

St Stephen's and St Mary's have had good community engagement at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, and in April a Halifax Bomber Memorial Service.

There continues to be a steady stream of visitors to view things of historic significance in St Mary's, and to the graveyard, both of which people find very tranquil and welcoming.

Pastoral Care

Rev'd Lucy has dedicated time to pastoral care where the need was greatest but with one vicar taking care across 4 parishes (6 churches) the need no doubt exceeds her capacity. To increase our effectiveness in this area, she is looking to build a team including lay people who can provide additional pastoral care.

In the community, Rev'd Lucy has visited Oak Trees, the local Care Home in Alne to take a short service of hymn singing and share a short thought. Lucy has stayed to chat to residents too, sometimes giving Home Communion. This is a ministry that could also grow, with a pastoral team.

Generous churches

St. Michael's Tollerton donates 10% of its income to local, national or international Christian Missionary charities. St. Mary's donates to the Children's Society following the Christingle service and to the Royal British Legion following the Remembrance Service.

All three churches again contributed to a "Christmas Tree Angel" appeal, by which toys were purchased as gifts for disadvantaged children in York, arranged through the Salvation Army. A great number of parishioners contributed to this initiative and it was very effective at raising the profile of the 3 churches in a positive way.

In addition, St. Mary's held a shoe-box appeal which resulted in some boxes being donated to the Samaritan's Purse appeal for missionary work with children throughout the world in challenged countries.

In September the Parish of Alne participated in a month's sermon series on Giving.

Future hopes for the next 18 months

Prayer

There are many more opportunities to continue and deepen our prayer life across the Parish. Prayer is the foundation upon which God builds his church. In the 10 days before Pentecost, we will be engaging in Thy Kingdom Come and again in September with the Global Week of Prayer.

Families

We would love to see an increase in all our churches of families and children. We discern that the time is now to build a team to enable an Afternoon Service, to sit alongside our All Age Morning Worship. Rev'd Lucy and Churchwarden Richard will be looking for people to pray into this exciting venture. We will engage with our villages and ask for their thoughts.

Teams

There is a real need to grow our pastoral, family-service and prayer teams. There is also space for growing more Licensed Lay Leaders.

It would be wonderful to have more people stepping up to serve as churchwardens and on the PCCs.

In 2026/7 Rev'd Andy Hagon is going to join the Ministry Team for an extended placement of 12 months. Andy brings with him lots of experience of Bubble Church and other ways of growing younger, as well as a love of preaching and leading worship.

Generous Living

We will continue to explore giving in the context of God's abundance towards us. This will fuel our vision to grow in faith, in outreach and in numbers. As we are generous our churches become the very centre of God's purpose and his flourishing in our villages.

Governance

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least six months unrestricted payments. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. This was achieved by the PCC in 2025. For 2026 the reserves policy was changed by the PCC, with a separate policy for St. Michael's.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' for the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. GodZone (the 'Sunday School' at St. Michael's Tollerton, was normally held once each month depending on which children were in attendance. Safeguarding considerations were also taken into account regarding all church-run activities (Hot-Spot, Youth Drop In Café and Little Angels).

Building Maintenance and Development

No major work was required at any of the three churches in 2025. At St. Mary's the plan to re-develop the inner porch at the main entrance is still on the list of improvements to be made to complete better insulation, improved accessibility and a more welcoming entrance. There is a re-worked plan of how it can be done with further fundraising now being necessary. The Quinquennial inspection has been undertaken and verbally we have been re-assured nothing major is required, though we await receipt of the written report.

The written report from the quinquennial inspection that has taken place at St. Stephen's has finally been received and the priority action regarding the 5-year electrical inspection and the corrective work identified has been completed.

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.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the Priest-in-Charge (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who are members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for supervising the 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.

The full PCC met 4 times during the year in addition to the APCM which was held in April.

Administrative information

The Parish of Aine is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, St. Michael's Church, Newton Road Tollerton York YO61 1QX. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date of this report were:

Ex Officio members:

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Lucy Brencher

Warden: vacancy

Warden: vacancy

Deputy-warden Mr Richard Swan (warden of St. Michael's, Tollerton)

Elected members:

Mr Arthur Harland (Lay Chair and Deanery Synod representative)

Mr Peter Cove (Deanery Synod representative)

Mrs Carol Watson (Parish Safeguarding Officer) until 20/10/2025

Mrs Carol Scott (Parish Safeguarding Officer) from 20/10/2025

Mr Ian Scott Treasurer

Mrs Vivienne Bird

Mrs Maggie Bond
Lady Sharon Oliver until 29/04/2025
Mr Andrew Naismith from 22/07/2025
Mrs Jan Naismith from 22/07/2025

Financial Review

The PCC is accountable for the financial management of the whole parish, but has delegated to Tollerton DCC the responsibility to manage its own income and expenditure.

Within the General Fund all but one item of income and four items of expenditure are attributable to each individual church. These five 'shared' items are shown as shaded in the accounts and each church is allocated their share on the basis of 'use' or 'ability to pay'.

In order to distinguish between PCC Budget/Accounts/General Fund and Tollerton Budget/Accounts/General Fund the following naming conventions will be used:

- PCC Budget or PCC Account or PCC General Fund refers to the two churches Alne and Aldwark
- Tollerton Budget or Tollerton Accounts or Tollerton General Fund refers to Tollerton only
- Combined Budget or Combined Accounts or Combined General Fund refers to the larger set of all three churches

The details of income, expenditure and profiled budget for the Combined Accounts are shown in the accounts below, along with the Statement of Assets which go forward to start 2026.

PCC General Fund Summary:

By the end of 2025 the PCC General Fund received income of £23,674.88 across both churches, this is £3,074.88 (17%) ahead of budget.

The principal variations within the income streams are:

- Gift Aid & GASDS is £229.60 (9%) under budget.
- Fees retained by (weddings/funerals) £2,268 (57%) ahead budget.

Expenditure across all elements of the PCC General Fund is 6% under budget at £28,934.38. There have been some variations within PCC expenditure

- Aldwark is £138.49 (1%) over budget
- Alne is £2,106.78 (11%) under budget.

PCC General Funds were budgeted to be in deficit by -£13,302.67; the year-end position is a deficit of -£8,259.50. This is £5,043.17 (approx. 38%) ahead of budget.

In short: total income for 2025 is £3,074.88 (17%) ahead of budget; total expenditure for 2025 is £1,968.29 (6%) under budget. Year-end position is a

loss that is £5,043.17 (38%) better than expected.
Accumulated loss for 2025 is -£8,259.50

Tollerton General Fund Summary:

By the end of 2025 the Tollerton General Fund received income of £32,899.41, this is £600.59 (2%) under budget.

The principal variations within the income streams are:

- Income from planned giving and plate is £1,899.80 (2%) under budget
- Gift Aid & GASDS £243.22 (5%) ahead of budget.
- Coffee club and Hot Spot donations totalling £1,114 have been received during the year.

Expenditure across all elements of the Tollerton General Fund is £27,513.58 or £6,013.75 (18%) under budget. The principal variations within expense elements are:

- Church Maintenance costs are £5,208 (61%) under budget and being the principal reason for this underspend.

Tollerton General Funds were budgeted to have a very small deficit of -£27; the year end position is a surplus of £5,385.83.

Approved by the PCC on Monday 18 May and signed on its behalf by

Revd Lucy Brencher, Priest-in-Charge

Signature *L Brencher*

Arthur Harland, Lay Chair of the PCC.

Signature *Arthur H Harland*

Independent examiner's report to Alne Parochial Church Council ("PCC")

Charity no: 1184626

I report to the PCC on my examination of the combined accounts of the churches of St Mary's Alne, St Stephen's Aldwark and St Michael's Tollerton which constitute the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alne for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations").

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

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the members of the PCC as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the PCC as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of this report

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 PCC 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 you as members of the PCC 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records or do not comply with the Regulations other than in respect of the requirement for a true and fair view.

I confirm that there are no matters in connection with the examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____

Laurence Perry ACMA
2 Owlwood Court
Dunnington
York
YO19 5SA

Date: _____

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2026

Parochial Church Council of Aine

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary receipts:					
Tax Efficient Planned giving	29,921.16	0.00	2,030.00	31,951.16	32,566.17
Other Planned giving	1,880.00	0.00	45.00	1,925.00	4,639.02
Collections at services	5,932.36	0.00	667.27	6,599.63	6,392.54
Other giving / voluntary receipts	1,114.00	0.00	0.00	1,114.00	452.06
Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Gift aid recovered	8,218.62	0.00	738.54	8,957.16	8,189.35
Grants	0.00	0.00	5,057.66	5,057.66	7.48
	47,066.14	0.00	8,538.47	55,604.61	67,246.62
Activities for generating funds:					
Fundraising Event income (Gross)	0.00	0.00	1,006.00	1,006.00	1,555.95
Trading Activity income (Gross)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Hall lettings	180.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00
Investment Income					
Current Account Interest	60.15	0.00	0.00	60.15	118.49
Saving Account Interest	0.00		1,332.80	1,332.80	1,672.29
Rent from PCC owned land/buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
Insurance Claims	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Activities:					
PCC Fees	6,268.00	0.00	0.00	6,268.00	7,126.00
Magazine Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	53,574.29	0.00	10,877.27	64,451.56	77,749.35
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities:					
Free Will Offer	32,100.00	0.00	0.00	32,100.00	29,900.00
Salaries Wages & Honorarium	1,321.00	0.00	0.00	1,321.00	2,480.40
Clergy & staffing Expenses	123.00	0.00	0.00	123.00	0.00
Mission & Evangelism Costs	3,852.84	0.00	0.00	3,852.84	2,352.80
Church running expenses	12,689.63	0.00	2,508.00	15,197.63	13,440.31
Church Utility expenses	3,244.49	0.00	0.00	3,244.49	4,782.24
Hall running costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mission giving and donations	3,087.00	0.00	0.00	3,087.00	2,568.00
Major Repairs & Works Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,011.81
Major Repairs & Works Hall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Building Works	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	56,417.96	0.00	2,508.00	58,925.96	87,535.56
Cost of Generating Funds:					
Cost of Fund Raising	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00
Cost of Trading	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	56,447.96	0.00	2,508.00	58,955.96	87,535.56
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	-2,873.67	0.00	8,369.27	5,495.60	-9,786.21
Transfers between funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:	-2,873.67	0.00	8,369.27	5,495.60	-9,786.21
Cash & Bank balances at 1st January	62,465.15	0.00	72,553.01	135,018.16	144,804.37
Cash & Bank balances at 31st December	59,591.48	0.00	80,922.28	140,513.76	135,018.16

Parochial Church Council of Alne
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated PCC Mission £	Tollerton General Fund £	Restricted Alne Fabric Fund	Restricted Aldwark Fabric Fund	Restricted Tollerton Fund	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash funds								
Bank current account	28,426	4,720	26,445	5,120	2,929	2,574	70,381	68,119
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	11,929	4,093	57,307	73,331	87,227
	28,426	4,720	26,446	17,049	4,093	59,781	140,514	133,346
Investment assets								
Investment fund shares at market value	3							

Notes:

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- The PCC has one designated fund, the purpose of which is based on The Great Commission as outlined in Matthew 28:16-20 in which Jesus calls on His disciples to make disciples. The PCC has 3 restricted funds, the purpose of which is limited to paying for any repair works on the building or grounds; or be restricted to the sole work and purpose of the individual church.
- The movement in funds during the year were:

	<u>Bal b/f</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Bal c/f</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	62,465.15	53,574.29	56,447.96	59,591.48
Designated/Restricted				
Des PCC Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Res Alne Fabric	7,277.67	9,770.85	0.00	17,048.52
Res Aldw Fabric	6,580.18	20.82	2,508.00	4,093.00
Res Tollerton	58,695.16	1,085.60	0.00	59,780.76
	135,018.16	64,451.56	58,955.96	140,513.76