

THE A453 CHURCHES OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

BARTON | GOTHAM | KINGSTON | RATCLIFFE | THRUMPTON



CHARITY COMMISSION REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE A453 CHURCHES
(BARTON | GOTHAM | KINGSTON | RATCLIFFE | THRUMPTON)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Structure, Governance and Management	3
Annual Report	4
Finance Report	7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Accounts	9

THE A453 CHURCHES

(BARTON | GOTHAM | KINGSTON | RATCLIFFE | THRUMPTON)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of The A453 Churches of South Nottinghamshire (The 453 Churches) is a registered charity, number 1189059 (registered address The New Rectory, 39 Leake Road, Gotham NG11 0HW). The Parochial Church Council (PCC) registered as a charity in April 2020.

As a church within the Church of England, the A453 Churches is constituted within the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Members of the Parochial Church Council are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and, by dint of membership, become the charity's Trustees. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC. PCC members are required to complete a HMRC Fit and Proper Persons Declaration.

The PCC has met approximately every three months. The PCC is responsible for policy approvals and decisions, approval of significant non-routine expenditure, identification, assessment and mitigation of risks, and other significant decision making including the ratification of any proposals submitted by church sub-committees.

Our Safeguarding Officer continues to ensure that the PCC complies with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent (Chair):</i>	Revd Richard Coleman	
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr David Smith	
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Anna Marsden Mrs Diana Beeby Mrs Sue Davies	
<i>PCC Secretary:</i>	Revd Richard Coleman	
<i>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</i>	Mrs Anne Farnsworth	
<i>Deputy Lead Recruiter:</i>	Mary Stephens	
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mr Phil Harrison	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	Mrs Janet State Mrs Julie Moore Mrs Georgina Draycott Mrs Sonya Hawkins	<i>Until APCM</i> <i>Until APCM</i> <i>From APCM</i> <i>From APCM</i>
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Mrs Carole Edis Mrs Pat Harrison Mrs Anne Farnsworth Mrs Julie Moore Mrs Angie Howard Mrs Bridget Plimmer Mrs Georgina Draycott Mrs Chris Pilnick Mrs Erica Turner	<i>Until APCM</i> <i>From APCM</i>

THE A453 CHURCHES
(BARTON | GOTHAM | KINGSTON | RATCLIFFE | THRUMPTON)

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Annual Report

Introduction and Background

During 2019 the five separate parishes of Barton-in-Fabis, Gotham, Kingston-on-Soar, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, and Thrumpton made the decision to join together into a single parish, The A453 Churches of South Nottinghamshire. This occurred on 1st June 2019. The A453 Churches PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, Revd Richard Coleman, in promoting the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has oversight of the financial affairs of the parish churches of St George's Church Barton-in-Fabis, St Lawrence Church Gotham, St Winifred's Church Kingston-on-Soar, Holy Trinity Church Ratcliffe-on-Soar, and All Saints Church Thrumpton and responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings. St George's Church Barton-in-Fabis has connected charities:

- The Unknown Donors Charity (216015)
- Church Lands (216015-1) - income to be spent on the upkeep of the church.

Objectives and Activities

The A453 Churches has a public duty and charge to the "cure (care) of souls" for the Ecclesiastical Parish of The A453 Churches of South Nottinghamshire. The overall ministry and work of the PCC and the Clergy routinely embraces this charge. All of the Churches services and activities are accessible and open to the general public living within and beyond the Parish boundaries. As an Anglican church we serve parishioners through the arrangement of baptisms, funerals, and weddings. Additionally at Christmas, Easter and Harvest we run specific services and events for the wider community and on Remembrance Sunday we meet our civic responsibilities to the Parish. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our communities through:

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

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our five churches.

Worship and Prayer

The number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll during the year was 84 (101 in 2024) and the average weekly attendance at Sunday Services, counted during October was 92 (89 in 2024), but this number increased at festivals and family services. St Lawrence Church Gotham is open on a Saturday morning providing refreshments and is well attended by an increasing number of people from the village. Our Family Fun Service, which is held once a month at 4pm continues to be run by lay people in the Church has a steady core of people attending. We continue to have a number of lay people who lead services on a regular basis at all five churches. We also have 4 lay people preaching regularly each month. Our online service continues to be available via our website which has attracted people from the wider community; and for the church members who are not online we have continued the printed service sheet and sermon for them each week.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our Parish are unable to attend Church due to sickness or age. Revd Richard Coleman has visited all Church members who have requested it, to celebrate Communion with them in their homes, hospital or care home. Anne Farnsworth has continued to organise volunteers to visit or telephone all who are sick or unable to get out for any other reason to keep them in touch with Church life. Around half of our combined congregations are members of one of our four lay-led Bible study groups which also provide pastoral care to members of the group, and it has been a delight to see people growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus through these groups. We continue to support the Foodbank in Clifton with food and other products that they need on a weekly basis. The Rector, along with Anne Farnsworth, is also able to hand out Foodbank vouchers to folk in the five villages who are referred to them.

Mission and Evangelism

Our parish magazine (circulation c.1,200 households), named “Connection”, continues to be an important means of promoting the Church’s mission, work and activities to the local communities as well as providing articles of interest to the communities. We have a Welcome Pack which is delivered to people moving into the villages and which provides details of both church and village activities that folk may be interested in joining. Our community cinema is still appreciated by those who come. Due to our licence we are unable to advertise the names of the films outside of the church and so we have to give clues as to which film is being shown. We are also unable to charge for entry but can and do charge for refreshments. Our Opening The Book team have been going in to Gotham Primary School once a month to take assemblies in the school, which is much appreciated by staff and pupils. Our group of five churches, along with seven other churches in the local area, continue to financially support a Schools Worker at East Leake Academy; the weekly Youth Group which she runs at Gotham straight after school on a Tuesday has a regular core of 15 young people along with about half a dozen occasional attenders. This year we collected 118 shoeboxes, which will go to bring joy to children who wouldn’t normally receive anything at Christmas as well as providing them with the opportunity to learn about Jesus for themselves. At Easter time we collected 50 Easter eggs for the men at The London Road Project, who were very appreciative. In September we ran the Bereavement Journey Course again with 4 people, 2 of whom are now attending Gotham Church. Gotham Church has continued to host a number of groups in the Church who have remained in the Church despite the Memorial Hall now having been rebuilt following the fire in 2024. Gotham Church has also hosted a Police talk on fraud and scams.

Cherub’s Play Café

In 2022 the Gotham Local Management Group took the decision to sell the Church Hall, which suffered from disrepair and obsolescence, only being used by Little Cherubs Toddler Group. The proceeds of the sale are restricted for Ecclesiastical purposes only. Little Cherubs Toddler Group relocated to the Church and changed their name to Cherub’s Play Café. Cherub’s Play Café continue to meet on a Friday morning during term time with slightly lower numbers than last year due to new 2 year old funding now available for families who go back to work. Run by Anna Marsden, Fiona Coleman, Elaine Inskeep and Louise Third, they continue to provide a well resourced toddler group. The Bible and song time continue to be very popular and a good number of families stay right to the end of each session to join in with this. A lot of the Christian songs have been learnt and remembered by the children and parents who happily sing along.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structure of the Church of England.

Ecumenical Relationships

The Anglican church is the only church in the villages, but prior to the Covid lockdowns, once a month, St Lawrence Church Gotham was made available for a Methodist service. This offer has not been taken up by the Methodist circuit since the pandemic ended.

Financial Review

Each church has a number of ways of raising funds throughout the year but despite these efforts there is still great concern especially with the ability to pay the ever increasing Parish Share, the majority of which provides the stipends and housing of the Clergy. We are grateful to the villagers who continue to support the churches both financially and also with practical help throughout the year. St Lawrence Church Gotham continues to make good use of its building and the flexibility that the reordering in 2010 provides - being able to accommodate differing groups from the Memorial Hall within the Church could not have been done without it.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to look to maintain unrestricted funds which are sufficient to cover the general upkeep and running of each church and to maintain the fabric of the building. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The level of reserves is monitored and reviewed by the PCC on an ongoing basis.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens Anna Marsden, Diana Beeby and Sue Davies and the Deputy Churchwardens Carole Edis, Anne Farnsworth, Angie Howard, John Collins and Erica Turner who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. And to also thank our treasurer, Phil Harrison, for his continuing efforts with the accounts.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on 24th April 2026 by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R Coleman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Revd Richard Coleman (Rector & Chairman of the PCC).

THE A453 CHURCHES
(BARTON | GOTHAM | KINGSTON | RATCLIFFE | THRUMPTON)

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The A453 churches have now been combined as a single parish and single charity since July 2019. As the individual churches have drawn closer together the PCC has elected to report as a single entity with one set of accounts with a single independent examination. The PCC would like to thank Conrad Oatey, of St Mary's Church, East Leake for agreeing to act as independent examiner for 2025. The 2024 accounts have been restated to reflect this change in reporting. This change has also drawn attention to different accounting treatments in place across the charity which will be aligned in 2026.

The combined total of unrestricted income for the benefice for the year ended 31st December 2025 was £108,368 and restricted income amounted to £13,727, giving total income of £122,095 from normal church activities, which is a decrease of 9% from last year. Within total income the total for planned giving reduced again to £63,374 (including Gift Aid) from 110 donors, 7 fewer than last year. Collections at services amounted to £14,358 (excluding Gift Aid) an increase of 9%. Fundraising activities raised £16,531, including £5,883 of grants towards repairs at Ratcliffe.

Parish share was the biggest cost and the payment of £61,150 was 86% of the allocation made by the Diocese (an increase of 3% on 2024) and 59% of our total unrestricted income. Repair and maintenance costs are always significant as our church buildings are all Grade I or II Listed. These costs totalled £25,523 in 2025, including window repairs at Ratcliffe in excess of £15,000. Other significant costs were insurance at £11,065 and gas / electricity costs of £12,223 for the year.

Total expenditure amounted to £131,338 resulting in a net deficit in the charity of £9,243. This is an improvement on the deficit in 2024 of £13,888, although there remain challenges to reach parity. The change in accounting treatment in 2025 has presented new opportunities to reduce expenditure in the years ahead.

Total unrestricted cash (bank balances and Church Of England Deposit Funds) at 31st December 2025 amounted to £65,692 (£64,623 in 2024) and restricted cash amounted to £212,517 (£218,760 in 2024), most of that being funds from the sale of the Church Hall at Gotham.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE A453 CHURCHES OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have 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.



Conrad Oatey

7th April 2026

7 Hall Gardens, East Leake, LE12 6NA

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE A453 CHURCHES OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Group 2025 General Fund	Group 2025 Designated Funds	Group 2025 Restricted funds	Group 2025 Total funds	Group 2024 Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	43,034	-	4,375	47,409	49,362
Collections and other giving	14,358	-	-	14,358	13,223
Other voluntary receipts	3,063	-	1,030	4,093	4,218
Gift Aid recovered	14,753	-	1,212	15,965	18,368
Other receipts	5,832	-	77	5,909	6,638
Net receipts from church activities	7,363	-	-	7,363	5,461
Activities for generating funds	10,648	-	5,883	16,531	27,198
Investment Income and Interest	5,716	3,601	1,150	10,467	10,376
Total receipts	104,767	3,601	13,727	122,095	134,844
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	249	-	-	249	-
Missionary and Charitable Giving	764	-	-	764	2,446
Parish Share	61,150	-	-	61,150	65,485
Clergy and Staffing costs	3,988	-	-	3,988	5,226
Church Running Expenses	37,749	7,686	19,752	65,187	75,254
Total payments	103,900	7,686	19,752	131,338	148,412
Excess / (deficit) of receipts over payments before transfer	867	(4,085)	(6,025)	(9,243)	(13,568)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	400	200	-	600	1,220
Gross transfers between funds - out	(200)	(400)	-	(600)	(1,220)
Unrealised Gain / (Loss) on investments	-	(3,034)	(218)	(3,252)	2,267
Excess / (deficit) of receipts over payments before other gains	1,067	(7,319)	(6,243)	(12,495)	(11,301)
Net movement in funds	1,067	(7,319)	(6,243)	(12,495)	(11,301)
Reconciliation of funds					
All assets at 01 January 2025	64,625	91,263	218,760	374,648	385,949
All assets at 31 December 2025	65,692	83,944	212,517	362,153	374,648
Represented by					
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	65,692	-	-	65,692	64,623
Designated Funds					
Gotham - Bell fund	-	1,315	-	1,315	-
A453 churches - Fabric funds	-	82,592	-	82,592	91,214
Flower fund	-	-	-	-	13
Little cherubs	-	37	-	37	37
Restricted Funds					
Gotham - Agency collection	-	-	45	45	45
Gotham - Bell Fund	-	-	1,171	1,171	1,142
Gotham - Childrens activities	-	-	161	161	161
Gotham - Church community clock	-	-	2,128	2,128	4,608
Gotham - Fabric/repairs	-	-	2,819	2,819	1,378
Gotham - Garden of rest	-	-	292	292	251
Gotham - Restoration 2025	-	-	161	161	-
Gotham - Ukraine Refugee Support Fund	-	-	548	548	548
Gotham - Church hall sale funds	-	-	172,537	172,537	172,537
Ratcliffe - Altar Window Fund	-	-	-	-	5,957
Thrumpton - Church and Churchyard	-	-	10,628	10,628	10,649
Thrumpton - Stained Glass Window	-	-	1,040	1,040	1,040
Kingston - Babington Memorial Repair Fund	-	-	8,450	8,450	8,542
Barton - Dorothy Wilkinson Charity residual	-	-	12,537	12,537	11,903
Total	65,692	83,944	212,517	362,153	374,648