



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Annual Report 2025

VICAR'S REPORT

Some excellent highlights of 2025:

- several young adults joining our church family
- the Hive becoming a hub for The Bread & Butter Thing, giving us another way to support people in our community who may be struggling, as well as reducing food waste
- a third fireside sunrise service to greet the dawn on Easter Sunday outside St Bart's • the continuation of Community Lounge, Foodbank & Community Lunch at the Hive • a whole year of Stay & Play at the Hive
- two summer Afternoon Tea & Songs of Praise events at St Bart's
- welcoming school children to St Bart's for Experience Harvest
- a new Knit & Natter group at the Hive who produced amazing displays for Remembrance Sunday • Clare rescinding her resignation as the Hive Manager
- a fabulous nativity in collaboration with St Paul's
- [and I'll sneak one in from January 2026... Jack's joyful baptism & confirmation at St Alban's] Funerals 29 (27 at St Bart's, 1 just at the crematorium, 1 just at the graveside) 3 interments of ashes in the graveyard

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child 0 Baptisms 13

Weddings 1 Vows Renewals 1

Rev'd Angela

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Once more this has been a busy year for the pastoral team. Bereavement care telephone calls have been made to all 29 families whose loved one's funerals were conducted in St Bart's. As is usually the case, most of these individuals have not felt in need of ongoing support but have appreciated the warm follow up. We held our annual Memorial Service in November, as with other recent years, the numbers attending this service were lower than was historically the case, but the service was gratefully received by those who did choose to come.

A committed and enthusiastic team of people have continued to enable month acts of worship in both Willow Barnes and Spratslade House this year. These services not only

meet residents' spiritual needs through the short services themselves, but they also provide important moments of pastoral care and much appreciated social interaction between residents and our church members.

We have also continued to visit a reducing number of people in their own homes and offered home communion to those who requested it. This year has seen the death of a number of elderly committed church members who have been unable to attend services in our buildings over recent years. Though most of our gathering community may no longer have missed their presence at our services, they remained loved by those who knew them and it has been good to be able to give thanks for them and join with their families in committing them into God's tender care.

With the average life expectancy in the UK, and therefore our parish, continuing to increase, ministry offered in care homes and people's own homes will remain an important aspect of the church's call to pastoral care. Whilst this is something to which we are committed it is also important to recognise that it is an aspect which poses us a degree of challenge as our own congregation continues to age.

In this area, as with many other areas of church life, our ability to sustain this care into the future, depends on our ability to grow younger as well as larger.

Rev'd Ali, Pastoral Team Leader

WILLOW BARNES

The service at Willow Barnes is held on the 1st Sunday morning of every month, it is a communion service with hymns readings, prayers and a talk. We have approximately 10 communicants and is well received by the residents. Three people who not residents attend, and before the service one resident likes to sing a song, another does the reading in the service. My heartfelt thanks go to Brian, Julia, and Sheila who are all actively involved with the service. Will you please hold the residents at Willow Barnes in your prayers. (Peter Walker)

SPRATSLADE HOUSE

The team have continued to visit Spratslade offering a small service related to a Bible verse or theme dependent eg Easter / Christmas. Most of the residents recognise us and are excited when we get there. They join in the hymns and Lords Prayer. I would like to thank everyone involved in this outreach mission. Dates have been agreed with Spratslade for 2026. (Julie Wood)

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Blurton & Dresden Kids

For the past year, the Kid's Group have used a resource called Roots. This is proving to be very valuable. We pay for using this but feel it is money well spent. The resource is lectionary based and so quite often the work the children do will be based on one of the bible readings heard by the adults in the main service.

Each week there is a theme, an opening prayer, some suggestions for activities, the relevant Bible reading, a colouring sheet, an activities sheet and a closing prayer. From this, the leaders can plan a meaningful session for the young people in our church.

We are still hoping and praying for more youngsters to be part of our church, but we are confident that when they arrive, we will have a stable foundation to deliver some teaching that is both relevant and enjoyable.

The team currently consists of Linda, Su, Veronica, Janet Harrison, Janet Hammond, and Lesley. Sarah occasionally steps in when someone is away. The whole team has valued using the Roots material and this has added to their enjoyment in delivering Kid's work. Each member's contribution is greatly valued and appreciated.

Because the material for each week is provided, joining the team does not mean lots of preparation. Maybe you could offer to assist occasionally and, in doing so, be part of the team? If so, please do speak to me.

Lesley Humphrey

Blurton & Dresden Youth

We have not had any young people aged 11-18 connecting with the church in 2025.
Rev'd Angela

SCHOOLS

I have continued to lead worship weekly at Belgrave St Bartholomew's Primary Academy, in addition to advising on their RE curriculum. I sat on the Governing Body as one of two Foundation Governors, serving as Vice-Chair in 2024-5. After serving a three-year term, the other Foundation Governor and I stood down, and in the autumn were replaced by Brian and Lesley, each nominated to serve three-year terms.

In the Summer term the parish were represented at Belgrave's summer fayre with a game stall and a teddy tombola.

In June two classes came from Kemball School to explore the building. then we welcomed all Belgrave pupils in years 1 and 2 for Experience Harvest at St Bart's in September. Year 6 also visited the Hive Foodbank distribution centre and the Foodbank Warehouse around Harvest time.

Rev'd Angela

FOODBANK

Foodbank sessions are every Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Hive in hall 1. Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank funded Money Matters who based themselves in hall 1 with foodbank dealing with clients there. In September they lost the Foodbank funding but applied elsewhere and got funding to continue. They now base themselves in the Community Lounge most weeks.

Foodbank and community lounge work well together. People with foodbank vouchers either stay in hall 1 and have a drink while waiting for their voucher to be processed or go to community lounge to speak to one of the various agencies, where their food parcels are taken to them.

We have had several schools visit us this year and Biddulph Rotary Club. They all donate food to Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank and want to see what happens to their donations. The visits are arranged by Caroline (foodbank office). They come to the Hive distribution centre first about 9.30 am. I take them through the process as if they had arrived with a E- voucher number, then Joan and Peter show them the picking and packing process. Answer any questions they might have. Then I take them to the café to show them where the community lounge takes place, explain what happens there and about The Bread-and-Butter Thing. Caroline then takes them down to the warehouse in Magdalen Road, where they learn what happens to their donation once it arrives at the warehouse.

We have had a full year of new picking lists and 3 vouchers per 6 months. The figures show we were slightly busier than 2024:

2024 2025 Difference

Vouchers 227 277 +50

People fed 580 731 +151

The picking list count for 2025:

2024 2025 Difference

Singles 94 107 +13

Couples 36 55 +19

Small Family 66 68 +2 (now classed as Family of 3-4)

Family of 5-6 32 +32 (new category)

Large Family 19 15 -4 (now classed as Family of 7+)

The Hive foodbank volunteers attended the Foodbank AGM with lunch at the Bethel Church, Dunrobin Street, Dresden in November 2025 and again on December 19th for a volunteers' Christmas party.

Lesley W decided to leave our group of volunteers and Kevin P joined. I would like to thank all my volunteers: Joan, Peter B, Kevin P, Georgina, Helen, Janet, Jean, Su and Jane for their support during this difficult year for me personally, and their willingness and dedication to the Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank and their guests.

Sheila Plant, Lead Volunteer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

9 PCC meetings were held during 2025. No meetings in February, August and December.

In mid-January the chair, Angela, became ill and was off work for ten weeks. Vice-chair Brian chaired meetings until Angela's return in March.

Parish finance budget spreadsheets were circulated to PCC committee members before each meeting. Treasurer Alan explained budget and was discussed by committee. Church finances are still a concern (congregation giving). Alan gave a Stewardship sermon in June and state of church finances letter was give to all church family in September. Response very poor.

Parish commitment for Mission Giving discussed. Charities chosen Tear Fund (international), Trussell Trust (national) The Hive for individuals in need (local).

Spratslade House visits commence from January 2025.

Su Wilshaw resigned as Safeguarding Officer effective from December. Janet Hammond took up the role and was co-opted on to PCC.

Reviewing and updating our Mission Action Plan was discussed, no changes were made. Review of winter months at St Alban's (Nov 24/Feb 25). Agreed to do it again Nov 2025/ Feb 26. The Baptism policy reviewed. No changes made.

Communion before Confirmation. Discussion about baptized adults/children taking Holy Communion before they are confirmed. As we are doing this now the PCC members proposed we apply to the bishop to be registered as a parish which practice this.

Quinquennial for 2026 PCC agreed to change architect to Cruciform.

Christmas services discussed at July meeting with a possible collaboration with St Paul's Longton Hall Road. Finalised in October.

Dave stood down as PCC secretary at APCM in May and Sheila was elected.

November Angela informed PCC that she and Ali would be leaving the parish at end of January 2026.

Dave and Sheila would like to thank all PCC members for their attendance and participation in PCC meetings.

We ended the year on a sad note we are losing our vicar, Rev'd Angela Bryan & Rev Ali Oxborrow, who will be starting a new adventure at the end of January 2026, their prayer, care, help, concern, teaching and of course humour for the people of Blurton and Dresden has been wonderful. The church family of this parish wish them both well in their new endeavours. God bless you both.

PCC Attendance

Blurton & Dresden PCC				Attendance 2025											
			Specific Role(s)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Attendance	
1	Mr	Peter	Barber	Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Rep	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9 of 9	
2	Rev'd	Angela	Bryan	Chair	A		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 of 9	
3	Mrs	Joan	Evans	Churchwarden	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9 of 9	
4	Mrs	May	Gilbert		A		1	1	1	1	1		1	7 of 9	
5	Mrs	Janet	Harrison		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8 of 9	
6	Rev'd	Alan	Humphrey	Treasurer				1	A	1	1	1	1	6 of 9	
7	Mrs	Lesley	Humphrey		1		1	1	A	1	1	1	1	8 of 9	
8	Ms	Tracy	Moore		resigned										
9	Rev'd	Ali	Oxborrow	Pastoral Care leader	A		A	A	1	A	A	A	A	1 of 9	
10	Mr	Kevin	Plant		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9 of 9	
11	Mrs	Sheila	Plant	Churchwarden, Secretary from May	elected in May				1	1	1	1	1	6 of 6	
12	Mr	Garry	Quinn		A		A	A	1	1	A	1	1	5 of 9	
13	Mr	Brian	Rushton	Churchwarden, Lay Chair	1		1	1	A	1	1	1	1	7 of 9	
14	Mr	Kevin	Spooner		elected in May				1	1	1	1	1	6 of 6	
15	Mr	David	Stockley	Secretary until May, Deanery Synod Rep	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9 of 9	
16	Mrs	Pauline	Stockley		A		resigned							0 of 1	
17	Mrs	Margaret	Whitehurst		elected in May				1	1	1	A	1	5 of 6	
18	Mr	Michael	Whitehurst		elected in May				1	1	1	A	1	5 of 6	
19	Mrs	Susan	Wilshaw	Safeguarding Officer, Deanery Synod Rep	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	8 of 9	
TOTAL ATTENDING				7		9	11	14	16	15	12	16	15		

14/01/2026

Dave Stockley and Sheila Plant.

DEANERY SYNOD

There were two Deanery Synod Meetings in 2025:

February at St. Werburgh, High Lane, Burslem

Peter Barber, David Stockley & Su Wilshaw, were attendees

Three huge issues

1. Archbishop of Canterbury / Archbishop of York - Resignation of Justin Welby - Appointment of his successor - Position of Stephen Cottrell
2. Safeguarding - Current safeguarding in our parishes - Our terrible past - Independent Safeguarding
3. Gay marriage - We are deeply divided - No change of doctrine - "Prayers of Love and Faith" ("PLF") - Work being led by the Bishop of Leicester - Standalone services - Episcopal provision for those who disagree - Preparing to have open conversations in our parishes - Pastoral Principles

Reverend Shaun Morris, Area Dean of Stoke, explained the feedback from the General Synod.

The Document was presented as a plan to see in the future how the Church can develop plans to accommodate the 3 items as described in the attached February 2025 – three huge issues document, it was obvious this will take time and prayer and thought, there will be in the future lengthy discussions on how to achieve the goals.

It was not an open discussion, (no questions / answers) but an explanation of how the Church is going to tackle these subjects over time.

Peter Barber, David Stockley, Sue Wilshaw were the attendees it's difficult for us to describe all that was said on the subjects and whatever as individuals we may say, would be our own thoughts not as a collective. It may have been helpful if there was a video so it could be shown to the PCC members.

The video below is worth watching about 6 minutes long:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkgvmWuR4f0> Could be used in our Church.

May at St. Paul's, Longton Hall Road

Present Peter Barber, David Stockley, Su Wilshaw, Vicar Angela

How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture - "Encouraging a culture of growth in our churches". -was presented by CPAS head of Leadership Development, James Lawrence.

A lengthy presentation which Su, was unable to keep notes, as it was a continuous output of information in the presentation, there were pamphlets and other books that could have been purchased which would help explain the evenings content, we were considering a purchase at the end. Vicar Angela had already purchased the relevant books about the evening and would be introducing some of its contents in due course to the church.

Peter B, Su W & Dave S, Deanery Synod Representatives

PRAYER & WORSHIP

In 2025 we continued worshipping all together on Sunday mornings, with a mixture of Common Worship, occasional Celtic-Style Worship, and monthly All-Age Worship. Sunday worship is usually Holy Communion, with a few Sundays a year a Service of the Word. We began the year at St Alban's and moved to St Bart's in March. One of the most encouraging things has been the atmosphere of unity and joy, which has pervaded our gatherings at both buildings.

There were no Praise & Praise evening services this year, but there was one midweek evening service when Bishop Matthew came to confirm three church members in August, which was joyful, and two summer Songs of Praise - one which was held outside and so hot that everyone was seeking shade, and one held inside because August had gone cool!

We have used recorded music for Sunday worship, apart from when I played, as no musicians joined us. However, Ken Smith has been a regular funeral organist for us. The weekly Saturday prayer meeting has continued, with much the same membership this year.

Rev'd Angela

HOUSE GROUP/S

In January we were still meeting all together in the Hive Cafe on Wednesday evenings, continuing with *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. The format meant that it was easy for a variety of people to lead a session or read a book chapter or from the Bible. Attendance varied from 6 to 16. The intention had been to become two groups fairly early in the new year, but this was delayed by my sick leave until the summer.

In order not to make group leadership too onerous, two facilitators were chosen for each group, with the intention that they share responsibility for enabling the group to meet, rather than leading in a more conventional sense. When the group became two,

there was still a few weeks of the study book to complete. One group decided to meet on Tuesday evenings and the other on Wednesday evenings. Following the completion of the book, I supplied all facilitators with a range of online and printed material, from which their groups could choose their topics for study.

In November both groups decided to take a winter break.

Rev'd Angela

The Wednesday group

The Wednesday group decided to watch the 1st series of The Chosen after finishing the book. By this time the group size was approximately 6.

As a one-off the two groups got back together at the beginning of Advent to have an evening of Readings, Prayer and Praise. This was enjoyed by all who attended.

Thank you to everyone who took part in making the year so enjoyable. Bless you all. Joan (& Garry)

The Tuesday group

The Tuesday group did a study on the Service of Holy Communion and shared a meal together. Sarah kindly offered to look for new material for Lent study for when we restart.

Linda and Joan met, to put together an Advent reflection by Candlelight. Every member of the groups were involved in the presentation.

The groups are open to everyone, lasting just over an hour. Please see Linda or Joan if you would like to be part of one of these groups. Jesus said that if two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in the midst of them. So let's grow together learning, sharing, praying, walking the way of Jesus. Linda W (and Sarah)

FABRIC

The church year has seen numerous changes to our parish - its fabric and outside areas. Since the four wardens were admitted to their roles in a visitation service led by the Archdeacon and Area Dean, in many ways time seems to have flown by. This could be in part to how we four have supported each other and worked together. This report will both indicate work that has taken place, and also mention future priorities.

In addition to the ongoing yearly function of wardens to help ensure the smooth running of services and ordering of resources required for worship, the following has been undertaken this year.

Work Completed

- Hand rail installed in the cemetery
- New lighting in the south nave
- Broken window in the meeting room replaced
- Support rack for information leaflets put up in the lobby
- Plumbed in water heater in kitchen replaced with a free standing tea urn
- Painted lobby and toilet
- Wardens and volunteers decorated church for various festivals

Future Priorities

Next year the church is scheduled for a Quinquennial inspection. This is a mandatory inspection required by the Diocese. In another report it will mention the architectural company (Cruciform) approved by both the PCC and the Diocesan Council to carry out the inspection. When giving advice on a possible future redevelopment of the meeting room, an architect from Cruciform noticed signs of wet and dry rot in Saint Bartholomew's Church.

At this stage there is no need for alarm as this might be a small renovation to be completed. The PCC were informed immediately and there will be provision made in next year's financial budget.

As we near the end of this church year, the wardens would like to thank everyone in the congregation who always help to create such a warm and caring atmosphere in our parish.

Churchwardens Peter Barber, Joan Evans, Shelia Plant, Brian Rushton

SAFEGUARDING

Parish: this year there have been no issues raised whilst any of our Sunday/Wednesday services have taken place. No issues were raised during any of our other services that took place either inside or outside of our church building.

The Hive: early in 2025 there was an issue raised, during our community day (Tuesday) at the Hive. This was reported to Clare, as manager, and was quickly investigated by Brian Rushton, Sheila Plant, with me also taking part. The issue was resolved satisfactorily to all concerned. The diocese was also made aware of the issues that had been raised.

During the aforementioned investigation there were several points raised as to how we could further safeguard our community especially when The Hive was being used other than for our church activities. Going forward it was decided that Clare would take on the overall safeguarding responsibility for The Hive. The parish safeguarding officer would act as a secondary person for the Hive, and Clare would act as deputy PSO for the parish.

In late summer I made the personal decision to leave my role as safeguarding officer for Blurton and Dresden Parish and spoke to Angela about a transition period whilst we found a new PSO.

During October there were several members of the PCC that had to renew their basic/foundation certificates, with the majority now having completed both certificates or outstanding only the foundation certificate.

In November, I handed over the role to Janet Hammond, and I sincerely hope that everyone will show Janet the support, love and friendship that was shown to me, which is at the heart of safeguarding our church community.

Su Wilshaw, Safeguarding Officer

TREASURER'S REPORT

2025 has been a year of financial consolidation which has impacted the accounts in a positive manner. This has resulted in the parish being left in a healthy position at the end of this year.

The main impacts have been:

- Gift Aid recovery from previous years being higher than originally budgeted with the difference showing as income during the year.
- New utility contracts being signed with fixed rates for the next 3 years bringing significant savings over the latter months of the year.
- Long-term contracts being agreed with major hall users at The Hive with more reliable payment terms.
- New regular user bookings at The Hive.
- Unexpected ad hoc Gift Aid donations being received.
- Resolution of incorrect postings in recent earlier years into unrestricted funds rather than restricted.

As a result of the above, the parish enters 2026 having recovered from significant losses at The Hive the previous year. Total unrestricted funds stand at £48,345, compared with £32,251 at the end of 2024. This sum includes essential reserves in the region of £30,000. The resulting operational reserve of approximately £18,000 provides confidence in the financial stability of the parish for the year ahead.

For those unfamiliar with the parish accounts, the restricted funds balance includes the value of The Hive building as a fixed asset. This is for financial regulatory purposes. The restricted funds balance also includes funds for the salaries of the Manager and Activities Co-ordinator at The Hive. This currently provides security of tenure through to September 2028.

I commend this parish Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 for approval.

The Revd Alan Humphrey
Treasurer



Annual Report 2025

ST ALBAN'S LITTLE LEARNERS PRE-SCHOOL

During the last 12 months the nursery has continued to open 5 days a week 7am until 6pm.

We currently have 48 children who are attending the setting but obviously the 3-year-olds will leave us at the end of September as they will be going to School, so this is always a difficult time financially for the nursery. We will still have some babies and children under two who will still be attending through the summer holidays who are paying for their nursery fees. The nursery will be open for the first 5 weeks but as always, we will be closed the last week so that the staff can have a well-deserved break.

We had quite a busy year last year as we are now taking more babies from the age of 9 months to 2 years of age. This was due to the government announcing the government funding to enable parents and carers to go back to work. This has meant that we have had to take on a new member of staff to be able to cover the new child ratios.

We also sadly lost one of our long-standing member of staff (Chloe) of over 10 years due to her health and needing a change of career. We have now replaced her with a previous member of staff who has happily rejoined our team.

During last year we had to demolish our shed/summerhouse from the outside area due to an infestation of rats who had decided to feed from the outside bin and then have a long overnight stay in our shed. This meant that obviously everything in the shed/summerhouse had to be skipped including the shed. We are currently trying to raise funds to replace all items that we lost. Hopefully this will be resolved very soon.

We had several meetings with the sub-committee towards the end of last year to resolve the issues with the Licence agreement with the Hive. We have now signed a 3-year contract agreement with them and are waiting for a couple of other issues regarding some items to be agreed or resolved.

Finance Report

St Alban's Little Learners' Nursery's finances are stable for now due to the extra 9-month government funding. We are still struggling to source funding for the outside area as this is an area that needs developing to get it to a standard that is a better environment for the children. Any volunteers for ideas or help would be welcome.

We feel that we now have a better working relationship with The Hive and are working well together to improve any situations that arise. We have regular meetings with them, and we do our best to attend The Hive committee meetings.

Kind regards, Lisa Bromley and St Alban's Little Learners' Staff

TWEEDALE ACADEMY OF DANCING

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Clare and the Committee for the help, guidance, and continued support they have given us over the past year. This support has been especially valuable during discussions around increasing fees, and we are very grateful for their understanding and advice throughout this process.

The year 2025 was an examination year, and we are extremely proud to report outstanding results. We were initially concerned about our latest Examiner as she leads the IDTA West Midlands branch and so has very high standards, but across all age groups, we achieved excellent results, with the vast majority of students receiving high marks and distinctions, and a 100% pass rate.

Currently, our academy has approximately 70 pupils, including students across various age groups and disciplines. Attendance remains strong, and some students have increased the number of classes they attend each week. The use of the café facilities continues to be positive, and we look forward to continuing our arrangement this year.

We will be performing at The Rep Theatre in July 2026; this is a new time for us as we usually perform in March and so the year seems more relaxed than usual. We have already booked extra dates with Clare for photograph days and rehearsals.

During 2025 we welcomed two new TAD staff babies with a further one due this year. A change in staff has presented its challenges, but we work well as a team and continue to support one another throughout these changes.

Overall, we are extremely proud of what has been achieved and are looking forward to another successful and exciting year for Tweedale Academy of Dancing. Thank you.

Julie Wood & Emma Morris

A CUP OF COFFEE

The group has stayed successful for another year. We have people recommended into group from the community lounge as well as the local PCN. Many of our group are 65+ and would otherwise experience isolation. We do not charge a fee and cover the rent by regular raffle and meal donation. It can be hard to raise funds and we appreciate the ongoing help from the Hive. We still receive regular education on health and scams etc. We are looking forward to a group holiday to Barmouth again this year. Many of our group have not been on holiday since losing their husband or wife. We will continue to offer a safe place to come and join us for a brew and a chat.

Paula and Liz group leaders.

GENTLE EXERCISE

We started the year with 16 members but on return in the new year one lady decided not to return. During the year 2 men and 2 ladies joined the group. Members now total 19 with a possibility of 2 more joining in January.

We meet at 2.30pm on Monday at the Hive except Bank Holidays. Ages range from late 60's to 91. Everyone has now started bringing cakes when it's their birthday. The group enjoy the exercises and drink, chat and maybe cake after session.

All 19 enjoyed a Festive Lunch at the Harvester (Poachers Cottage) on December 15th. I am thankful for my long-standing members and the increase in new members Sheila Plant, Gentle Exercise Leader

PARISH GRANT FUNDING REPORT

Introduction: the second year

This second year of our funding has seen greater stability at the Hive in several ways but, at the same time, we have had a treasurer vacancy for some of the year, and then a new treasurer, so some of our spending had to be curtailed until our new treasurer had made sense of some patchy previous records. Consequently, you will see that our spending from the capital portion of the grant funding was suspended until recent months.

In terms of the goals of the grant funding, however, we have continued to develop projects started in year one, and started two significant new projects: Stay & Play parent and toddler group, and The Bread & Butter Thing. Having two members on site much of the time has transformed what is possible in terms of projects, and increased flexibility for unlocking and locking up from one-off hires.

The Hive Management Committee are delighted with the progress made over the last twelve months, and the new and existing ways we have found to serve our local community.

Moving On: our second-year

Development of Community Lounge

The Community Lounge has continued to grow from strength to strength this year. We provide warm, nutritious meals for around 32–35 people every week. For some of our older population, this is the only hot meal they receive, so we also offer takeaway meals for those unable to eat on site.

Support for Refugee Families

We support refugee families living in single-room accommodation with no cooking facilities other than a kettle. We provide culturally-appropriate halal ready meals to ensure they have access to safe, suitable food. The local hotel can house up to 38 families at any one time, and these people are desperate for free warm meals. We also support them with free advice and wifi access.

Volunteer Support & Inclusion

Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds, including:

- Adults with learning difficulties
- Individuals in rehabilitation or recovering from mental health challenges
- Refugee families wishing to improve their English

All of our achievements are made possible by the effort and time given by our wonderful volunteers. Across all projects we currently have a team of 32 volunteers. Some of these

people help a couple of times a month and some attend regularly and support all our projects. Volunteers do a range of activities to suit their abilities, and we are aware that some people come to us simply to get some interaction with other people.

Many of our volunteers are on career breaks after struggling with mental health problems. We also support adults with learning difficulties to be able to work as a team, on projects like the 'Bread and Butter Thing'. We also collaborate with the local special needs school, who visit weekly in term time to bring 8 children to pack bags, greet customers and practice customer service, which all counts towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We reward our team with regular get-togethers and a Christmas party. They really are the backbone of what we do and we appreciate their contribution as much as they enjoy coming each week. We currently have volunteers from Syria,

Afghanistan and Pakistan, who are now brilliant members of the team. Their contribution is invaluable.

Cup of Coffee Group

The Cup of Coffee Group provides a safe, social environment for local older adults, many of whom are isolated. The group offers twice-weekly opportunities to chat, play bingo, cards, crafts, and engage in other activities that support wellbeing and community building.

Knit & Natter

This new group, meeting since July 2025, offers social connection for church members and local OAPs, regularly welcoming 10–12 participants. They completed a beautiful project for the Royal British Legion, producing poppies and a large installation for the local Cenotaph, which became a focal point of the Remembrance Sunday service.

'The Bread and Butter Thing'

This food waste–reduction project supplies affordable groceries to 80 local families weekly, with no referral needed — only a contribution of £8.50. We also provide vouchers for families in crisis. The project is supported entirely by volunteers, many of whom are adults with learning difficulties. We currently have 265 families registered, showing a high level of demand. We started operating our hub of the TBBT in February this year. We operate with JET employment and training to get people off benefits. We have had 12 people go on to gain employment after volunteering with us. We have achieved a 5-star food standards rating and I'm very pleased to say we are the best performing hub in the whole of the north of the UK despite being the newest hub to come on board. We have packed and distribute over 4100 bags of food, saving over 78 tons of food going to landfill. 80 families every week receive 3 bags of food saving on average £67.50 on their weekly shopping bill.

Stay and Play - in partnership with Stoke Baby Bank

We reported on having just started our Stay & Play sessions in last year's report, and this year it has become an established part of our weekly programme. This initiative supports families with children under five and helps reduce social isolation, especially among single parents. The group also distributes healthy leftover fruit and vegetables from 'The Bread and Butter Thing'.

Through our collaboration with Stoke Baby Bank, families can donate or request essential baby items including clothing, toys, and safety equipment such as stair gates. This partnership also supports the newly established Family Hub next door, creating a collaborative community network of quality provision.

Mental Health Training & Crisis Support

We have seen an increase in the number of individuals experiencing mental health crises who have reached out to us for support. Through our ongoing mental health training, we have been able to offer appropriate help and guidance. Several individuals who previously struggled with their mental health are now valued volunteers, thanks to the opportunities and support available through the Hive. This training has been vital for both community safety and volunteer wellbeing.

Summary: the second year

This year has been one of successful collaborations between other lottery projects including Affordable Foods Stoke, TBBT, Stoke foodbank and Stoke Baby Bank. We have welcomed the arrival of a Family Hub into the council building next door, and worked with them to ensure that our provision is collaborative and complimentary.

Across all our projects, the Hive continues to grow as a key support hub within the community. From food provision to social groups, family support, crisis support, and inclusive volunteering opportunities, our work is deeply rooted in compassion, dignity, and empowerment. We remain committed to supporting our community in meaningful, sustainable ways. We are indebted to TNL's Community Fund for working with us to deliver support and transformation.

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of Blurton & Dresden

For the year ended 31st December 2025

**PARISH
OF
BLURTON AND DRESDEN
(Churches of St Bartholomew and St Alban)**

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**2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Blurton &
Dresden**

Trustees Annual Report

Please see separate Word document

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the PCC of Blurton & Dresden

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees 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

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 26 March 2026

Claire Slater FCCA
Slaters & Co Accountants
Lymore Villa, 162a London Road,
Chesterton, Newcastle, Staffs., ST5 7JB

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming Resources						<i>*see note 12 for full comparatives</i>
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies	2a	42,462	45,651	245	88,358	65,181
Activities for Generating Funds	2b	38,744	-	-	38,744	27,413
Income from Investments	2c	1,522	-	-	1,522	919
Church Activities	2d	5,314	-	5,603	10,917	6,249
Other	2e	2,325	-	3,490	5,815	4,924
Total		90,367	45,651	9,338	145,356	104,686
Resources Expended						
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	3a	-	-	-	-	207
Church Activities	3b	77,619	48,536	9,357	135,512	122,300
Other	3c	2,533	-	-	2,533	3,127
Total		80,152	48,536	9,357	138,045	125,634
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		10,215	(2,885)	(19)	7,311	(20,948)
Net gain/(losses) on investments	7(b) & 8(a)	-	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)		10,215	(2,885)	(19)	7,311	(20,948)
Transfer between Funds	6	5,879	(5,879)		-	-
Net Movement in Funds		16,094	(8,764)	(19)	7,311	(20,948)
Total Funds brought forward	11	32,251	688,128	380	720,759	741,707
Total Funds carried forward		48,345	679,364	361	728,070	720,759

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

7(a)

Investment Assets

7(b)

Total Fixed Assets

Current Assets

Stock

8(a)

Debtors and prepayments

8(b)

Cash at bank and in hand

8(c)

Total Current Assets

Current Liabilities - due within 1 year

Creditors and accruals

Total Current Liabilities

9(a)

Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)

Liabilities due after one year

9(b)

Creditors

Deferred Parish Share

Total Liabilities due after one year

Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)

Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
658,829	659,405
-	-
658,829	659,405
30	30
7,124	16,020
81,649	61,949
88,803	77,999
19,562	16,645
19,562	16,645
69,241	61,354
728,070	720,759

Funds of the PCC

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

Restricted Funds

Designated Fund

Total Funds

Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
48,345	32,251
679,364	688,128
361	380
728,070	720,759

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26-04-2026 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: Brian T. Rushton

Name: MR BRIAN

THOMAS RUSHTON

PCC Chairman

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

PARISH OF BLURTON AND DRESDEN
(Churches of St Bartholomew and St Alban)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. 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.

Cashflow 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.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

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.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

PARISH OF BLURTON AND DRESDEN
(Churches of St Bartholomew and St Alban)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Accounting Policies continued
Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. 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 and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. 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.

Expenditure

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.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included from the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable 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.

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 7.

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured at cash expected to be received.

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and Legacies						
	2					
	2a					
Voluntary Income						
1		17,410	-	-	17,410	16,173
2		7,818	-	-	7,818	8,451
3		4,493	-	-	4,493	3,779
All other giving and voluntary receipts						
4		1,868	-	245	2,113	2,123
6		8,435	-	-	8,435	4,582
6		2,438	1,991	-	4,429	530
7		-	-	-	-	-
8		-	43,660	-	43,660	29,543
		42,462	45,651	245	88,358	65,181
Charitable Activities						
	2b					
Activities for Generating Funds						
9		-	-	-	-	513
9		111	-	-	111	764
12		38,633	-	-	38,633	26,136
		38,744	-	-	38,744	27,413
Income from Investments						
10	2c	1,522	-	-	1,522	919
		1,522	-	-	1,522	919
Income from Church Activities						
11	2d	4,075	-	5,603	9,678	4,340
12		1,239	-	-	1,239	1,909
		5,314	-	5,603	10,917	6,249
Other Income						
13	2e	2,325	-	3,490	5,815	4,924
		2,325	-	3,490	5,815	4,924
A	Total Income	90,367	45,651	9,338	145,356	104,686

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

EXPENDITURE

Raising Funds

Costs of Generating Funds

17 Fund raising costs

Charitable Activities

Church Activities

18 Mission Giving and Donations

19 Diocesan Parish Share

20 Salaries and Wages

21 Clergy and Staff Expenses

Church Expenses

22 Church Expenses (Mission and Evangelism)

23 Church Running Expenses (St Bartholomew's)

23 Church Running Expenses (The Hive)

23 Church Running Expenses (Depreciation)

24 Church Utility Bills (St Bartholomew's)

24 Church Utility Bills (The Hive)

25 Cost of Trading (Magazine, bookstall etc)

25 Activity costs

Major Capital Expenditure

27 Audio Visual

99 Other Expenditure

Office expenses - St Bartholomew's

Office expenses - The Hive

Telephone

Bank charges

Professional fees

C Total Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
3					
3a					
	-			-	207
	-	-	-	-	207
3b					
	2,819	-	-	2,819	2,306
	32,691	-		32,691	31,140
	6,751	44,447	3,540	54,738	40,188
	2,366	-	5,669	8,035	411
	140	66	-	206	616
	5,077	2,156	148	7,381	3,538
	6,014	-	-	6,014	11,501
	576			576	600
	5,319	-	-	5,319	6,551
	15,820			15,820	25,024
	-	-	-	-	71
	46	1,867		1,913	354
		-	-	-	-
	77,619	48,536	9,357	135,512	122,300
3c					
	90	-	-	90	779
	1,203			1,203	1,057
	771			771	691
	69			69	-
	400			400	600
	2,533	-	-	2,533	3,127
	80,152	48,536	9,357	138,045	125,634

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

4 Allocation of Support Costs

Support costs comprise Trustee Training and Governance Costs etc. Due to the nature of the financial activities of the PCC, these would be allocated across Charitable Expenditure which comprises the majority of its expenditure and as such are automatically charged there.

5 (a) Staff Costs

Wages & Salaries

Average number of employees

2025	2024
£54,738	£40,188
3	3

During the year to PCC employed a cleaner and activities co-ordinator and a community worker.

5 (b) Related Parties

Mrs V Mountford, a member of the PCC, left her employment during 2024 (2024 : £1,623)

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5 (c) Fees for the examination of the accounts

Independent Examiner's fees

Other fees (e.g. accountancy services)

2025	2024
£400	£600
-	-

6 Analysis of Transfer between Funds

Transfers to unrestricted funds to the value of £5,879 have been made in respect of earlier years expenditure being allocated as unrestricted instead of restricted funds.

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

7 (a) Tangible Fixed Assets

Unrestricted (unless stated)

	Development of St Albans Property (Restricted) £	Community Centre Assets (Restricted) £	Kitchen Equipment (Restricted) £	Community Centre Assets £	Furniture, Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
At Cost or Valuation						
As at 1st Jan	658,829	9,943	25,001	6,009	17,529	717,311
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal in the Year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value at 31st Dec	658,829	9,943	25,001	6,009	17,529	717,311
Accumulated Depreciation						
As at 1st Jan	-	9,943	25,001	5,433	17,529	57,906
Charge for the Year	-	-	-	576	-	576
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value at 31st Dec	-	9,943	25,001	6,009	17,529	58,482
Net Book Value at 1st Jan 2025	658,829	-	-	576	-	659,405
33 Net Book Value at 31st Dec 2025	658,829	-	-	-	-	658,829

Depreciation is charged at the following rates:

Community Centre Assets - 10% on a straight line basis

Furniture, Fittings & Equipment - 25% on a straight line basis

7 (b) Fixed Asset Investments

The PCC has no Fixed Asset investments.

8 Current Assets

8 (a) Current Asset Investments

32 The only current asset investment for the PCC is stock of £30.

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

8 (b) Debtors

All unrestricted

Gift Aid recoverable

Prepayments

Other

2025 £	2024 £
5,856	12,527
78	1,194
1,190	2,299
7,124	16,020

34

8 (c) Cash at Bank and in hand

TSB current account

NatWest Current account

Co-op current account

Barclays - The Hive

Co-op - The Hive

CBF Deposit Account

Britannia Building Society

St Albans building fund account

Petty Cash

Unrestricted £	Legacy £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 £
13,395	-	-	13,395	12,134
26,523	-	-	26,523	17,314
14,304			14,304	11,292
42	-	-	42	113
7,659	-	-	7,659	2,127
17,372	-	1,824	19,196	18,415
397			397	397
14			14	14
119	-	-	119	143
	-			
79,825	-	1,824	81,649	61,949

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9 Liabilities

All unrestricted

9 (a) Amounts falling due in one year

Accruals

Taxation and Social security

Diocesan Parish Share

Other Creditors

2025 £	2024 £
2,555	1,126
578	462
-	1,243
16,429	13,814
19,562	16,645

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The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

10 Summary of Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds £		Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total 2025 £
Fixed Assets	-		658,829	-	658,829
Current Assets	88,018		705	80	88,803
Current Liabilities	(19,562)		-	-	(19,562)
F	68,456	-	659,534	80	728,070

11 Summary of Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund
The Hive

Restricted Funds

Building
St Alban's Development
Coalfields
The BIG Lottery
Co-op
Church Urban
Staffordshire Environmental Trust
St Modwen Trust
S-o-T City Council
St Alban's Development fund
Grant - Lichfield Diocese
Graveyard
Youth & Children's Work
Social Survey
The National Lottery - Activity Co-ordinator
The National Lottery - Moving On
Big Lottery - Covid 19 Family & Community
Project income/expenses

Designated Funds

Total Funds

Designated Funds

Flowers
Organist
Verger
Choir
Retire Clergy fee

For decorating the church
For weddings and funerals
For weddings and funerals
For weddings and funerals
For weddings and funerals

	Reserves at 1st Jan £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Reserves at 31st Dec £
	30,075	90,367	(80,152)	5,879	46,169
	2,176				2,176
	32,251	90,367	(80,152)	5,879	48,345
	3,265	-	-	-	3,265
					-
	95,200				95,200
	433,000				433,000
	30,000				30,000
	10,000				10,000
	29,973				29,973
	25,000				25,000
	25,000				25,000
	2,213				2,213
	116				116
	2,333		(2,156)		177
	3,628		(66)		3,562
	25				25
	3,394	-	(3,394)		-
	22,149	45,521	(41,053)	(4,784)	21,833
	2,026			(2,026)	-
	806	130	(1,867)	931	-
	688,128	45,651	(48,536)	(5,879)	679,364
	380	9,338	(9,357)	-	361
	720,759	145,356	(138,045)	-	728,070

The PCC of Blurton & Dresden

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

12 SOFA Comparatives (2024)

Income and Endowments

Donations and Legacies
Activities for Generating Funds
Investments
Church Activities
Other
Total Income

Expenditure

Church Activities
Raising Funds
Other
Total Expenditure

Net income/(expenditure)

Net gain/(losses) on investment

Net Income/(Expenditure)

Transfer between Funds

Net Movement in Funds

Total Funds brought forward

Total Funds carried forward

Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
36,318	28,593	270	65,181
27,413	-	-	27,413
919	-	-	919
5,974	-	275	6,249
2,186	98	2,640	4,924
72,810	28,691	3,185	104,686
83,233	36,262	2,805	122,300
207	-	-	207
3,127	-	-	3,127
86,567	36,262	2,805	125,634
(13,757)	(7,571)	380	(20,948)
-	-	-	-
(13,757)	(7,571)	380	(20,948)
-	-	-	-
(13,757)	(7,571)	380	(20,948)
46,008	695,699	-	741,707
32,251	688,128	380	720,759

R. J. Rush
26/4/26