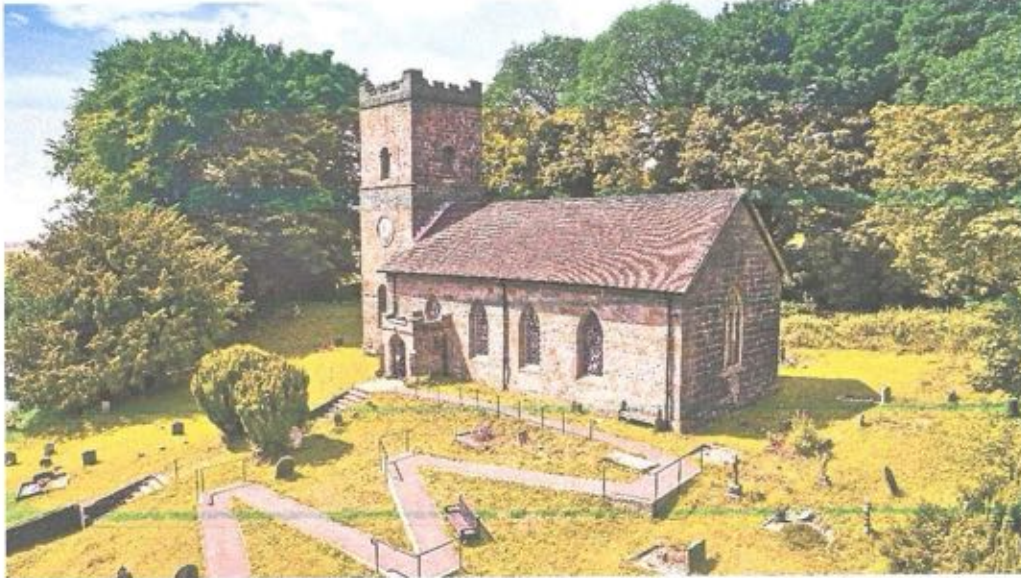


**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year end
31st December 2025**



The Parish of St John's Church, Doddington

Address for correspondence:

The Hon. Treasurer, Ewan Gibb, St John's Church, Doddington, DY14 0HL

Rector:

The Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank

Independent Examiner:

Mrs. Maureen Field

Our web site:

www.stjohnsdoddington.org

The Parochial Church Council is a registered Charity, number 1208550

The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church Doddington

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

Aim and Purpose

St John's Doddington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Church is a Grade II Listed Building, and the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the surrounding Churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC also tries to ensure it adheres to best practice behaviors in respect of ecological responsibility. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, 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; and
- Mission and community outreach work.

In support of this work, the PCC maintains the fabric of both the Church and the Churchyard.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Consistent with its mission and available resources, the PCC is keen to ensure that a range of services is available each month. Currently these are held every first Sunday (morning Eucharist) and third Sunday (afternoon Evening Prayer) of the month, supplemented by festival services, as dates fall in the month. The PCC sees its mission as reaching beyond the walls of the building, out into the community in holding monthly community events. There are 21 people registered on the Electoral Roll. (2024 – 22). Thanks to a generous one-off donation in the year, we acquired a beautiful new lectern Bible.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. A monthly Holy Communion Service is also held in Doddington Lodge Care Home. There was one burial of ashes during the year. Our annual Carol Service was as usual held jointly with our friends the Methodists, this year at St John's.

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the Diocesan Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod.

Church Fabric and our Project

The Beacon on the Hill Project, costing approx. £450,000 and funded by a portfolio of 11 (eleven) grant-making bodies was in full swing in the year. Project planning started in 2017 and following a long period of planning and funding applications, the main project expenditure started in February 2024. The Project has transformed the West end of the Church and ground floor of the Tower. We have repaired all our unique cast iron windows, connected the building to mains water, fitted a toilet, improved access, fitted a small servery, and a drop-in refreshment area. These facilities focus on a collection and display of physical and digital heritage materials, thereby creating a heritage display space that acts as a "gateway" to those who want to explore the rich and deep heritage of the building, community and landscape in which the building sits. We are delighted that, as well as meeting the project specified deliverables, we had sufficient financial contingency left as the project ended to be able to agree with the Lottery Fund that we could add in the

refurbishment of the Organ and our Clock. We were also delighted that as part of the Project we were able to hold a wide range of heritage and community focused events – workshops, walks, visits, craft sessions – culminating in our “Song of The Hill”. This multimedia concert, created by our songwriter in residence, Sid Peacock, involved local groups and the local school, and was performed in May 2025 in Ludlow St Laurence’s. A film of that event forms part of the legacy created by the Project and is available on our website.

The work in Church meant we started the year holding services at the local village Hall, to whom we are very grateful for their hospitality. We were able to resume worship in the Church building in April 2025.

The Church is now open from 9am till 5pm each day. The PCC believes that the Project changes have honoured and complimented the peace and simplicity of the building as a place for continued worship and contemplation, and provided an enhanced community asset for visitors, whether local or from afar.

The PCC gives prayerful thanks to the skillful and talented contractors and project leaders we worked with, and we are also very grateful to all the volunteers who have helped us during the year at our events and who continue to help in all aspects of the maintenance of the building, in the community events we hold and worship that take place in St John’s.

Mission and Evangelism

Providing support and events for the community is a demonstration of our faith. During this year, we held many community heritage, outreach and entertainment events, and one sponsored event. The events held included walks, talks, tile making, photography, writing events, heritage gathering, heritage visits, community entertainment events and our Song of The Hill. The PCC gives a huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped, and those who attended those events. Our Harvest Auction raised £198 for Cleobury Mortimer First Responders.

We continue to be active on appropriate Social Media platforms, and during the Project we built and launched our new website www.stjohnsdoddington.org, which contains information and heritage information from a wealth of talented and generous individuals, as well as details of our church events and services, and some of the heritage legacy digital assets created as part of the Beacon on the Hill project.

Other Activities

The PCC holds monthly meetings to organize events and sustain the workings of the Parish. Our Church Warden also attends local Parish Council meetings to provide updates as appropriate. The PCC is a member of Caring for Gods Acre, A Rocha (“Eco Church”) and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

Financial Review

The number of activities mean that we have a number of separate Funds. These have to be recorded separately and presented in separate fund types, in accordance with accounting best practice. Those funds fall into the categories described below - Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted and Endowment.

Unrestricted Funds – The General Fund

The fund which manages the day to day running of the Church and Parish is the Unrestricted General Fund (“The General Fund”). Total receipts on the General Fund were £11,128 (2024 - £8,388) and payments from this fund totaled £10,850 (2024 - £5,247), giving a modest surplus of £278 (2024 – surplus £3,082). Our fall in surplus is partly due to the General Fund having to pay for the interest of £3,567 on the Hereford Diocesan bridging loan (the terms of donor funds not permitting loan interest to form part of Project costs). We are grateful for regular giving, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, the use of which greatly simplifies cash administration particularly in this age of closing bank branches. PCC income is augmented by the continued community events we managed to hold. During the year these contributed £3,699 (2024-£2,128). We also hope that the church improvements will increase use of the facilities by the community and visitors. As a result, ongoing costs will rise (for example, water, electricity), but PCC hope that, as was envisaged when we undertook the Beacon on the Hill Project, the increased usage brings with it increased

donations and earned revenue, so boosting general revenues and sustaining the building into the future. Total General fund expenditure was £10,850 (2024 - £5,247). In 2025 this included the loan interest payment of £3,567 (not a feature in 2024). The largest ongoing element of our costs is our continued giving £2,850 (2024 - £2,795) to Central Church purposes "The Parish Offer" (which in turn helps pay for our clergy), and insurance of the building £1,127 (2024 - £1,106). With the surplus of £278 generated this year, the asset balance on the General Fund is £6,278, slightly above our £6,000 agreed policy target.

Designated Funds – Fabric Repair; Graveyard Maintenance; Flower; Clock Repair

Designated funds (funds with designated purposes, but where if those purposes cannot be met or they end, any remaining funds can then be transferred to the church Unrestricted Fund) are the Fabric Repair Fund; the Churchyard Maintenance Fund; the Flower Fund; the Clock Repair Fund.

Donations of £496 made in 2024 to the Clock Fund were moved to the Beacon Fund where the clock repair was done. The Clock Fund has now closed. Funeral and burial fees are allocated by the PCC to Graveyard Fund, and these added £74 to that Fund in 2025. From this Fund the PCC spent £1,175 on grass cutting, £840 on wall repair and £474 on a new external tap. Fund balance is now £3,573 (2024 – £5,988). The graveyard, which is sloping and uneven, is a beautiful but challenging site to maintain. It is maintained so as to be sensitive to both the needs of visitors and those using the graveyard, but also for wildlife and the interests of conservation. Fabric Repair fund (£5,154) was not used as any fabric repair was being done as part of the Beacon on The Hill project (below). The Flower fund has no funds but can be reinstated by the PCC as required.

Restricted Funds – Beacon on the Hill Project

Restricted funds are where money has been given for a specific Restricted purposes and if that purpose cannot be fulfilled, the money has to be returned to the donor.

Expenditure on Beacon on The Hill Project started in February 2024. The opening value of this Fund on 1st January 2025 was net liability of £10,667 representing the net position of funds raised over expenditure made at that point in the project, less the Diocesan Bridging loan liability. The terms of the largest donors' grants were such that money had to be spent by the PCC before it could be reclaimed. This presented a significant cash flow challenge , and the PCC are very grateful that Hereford Diocese was able to provide a cash bridging Loan, which was fully repaid in accordance with its terms on 31st August 2025. The PCC is tremendously thankful for the support of all donors and funding providers.

During 2025, £299,506 was spent, and £304,850 funding was drawn. To this the PCC has also added the clock fund £456. Starting the year with negative Funds of £10,667 (including certain of the 11 donor grants where money was given in advance and outright, and money raised by the PCC itself) in 2025 the project had a net cash inflow of £5,841.

Ending 2025 with a net cumulative liability of £4,826, the final claim for funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will be after the year end, in mid-January 2026. At that point all works will be done. There is then a project snagging review in March 2026 at which point retention money held for this purpose will be available to make the final contractor payment, the fund will show net nil balance and will be closed.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was given to PCC in the 1800's. The capital of this cannot be touched by the PCC. The money is invested with CCLA in the CBF Church of England Investment Deposit Fund. Interest generated from this of £299 (2024 - £292) is shown within General Fund income. The capital value of the units changes annually. The value of the fund units of £10,344 (2024 - £10,775) fell by £431 (2024 – a rise of £241)

Reserves Policy

Once completed in early 2026, the Beacon on the Hill will have no reserves and the Project will be closed (after the March 2026 snagging and retention period has elapsed).

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund, which equates to at least one years unrestricted payments (estimated at £6,000) to cover emergencies. In addition, we aim to build towards and then maintain the same £6k amount in our Fabric Repair Fund (currently £5,154) and also the Graveyard Maintenance Fund (currently £3,753).

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the 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).

Volunteers

The PCC thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Special thanks go to our Churchwarden, Celia Gibb, who in addition to warden activities has worked so hard up to and during the Project, on all aspects of project control, grant claiming and reporting, working with our project Heritage Officer Mr. Jim Grevatte, and supported by the Steering Committee.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 9 times during the year (2024 – 9). Minutes are taken and circulated after each meeting by the Secretary. The average level of attendance was 68% (2024 71%) (affected by the incapacity of two of our members) The PCC only has one subcommittee, the Project Steering Committee, reporting at each PCC meeting to the full PCC.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated at Doddington DY14 0HL of the Deanery of Ludlow, in the Diocese of Hereford. The correspondence address is St John's Church, Doddington, DY14 0HL.

Legal and Charitable Status

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and is a registered Charity with the Charity Commissioners, number 1208550.

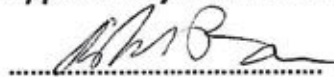
PCC members who have served from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck	Chair
Churchwarden	Mrs Celia Gibb	
Deanery Synod Rep	Mr. Ewan Gibb	also Treasurer to the PCC
Other Elected Members	Mrs. Virginia Robinns	
	Mrs. Carol Evans	
	Mrs. Vivian Kerry	
	Mrs. Sonia Pearsall	Secretary
	Mrs. Doris Smardon	

All members of the PCC are elected for a period of one year from the date of the APCM.

Approved by the PCC on 22/04/26 and signed on its behalf by:


Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck (Chair)


Mr. Ewan Gibb ACA, Lib (Treasurer)



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	St John's Parochial Church Council, Doddington		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2025	Charity no (if any)	1208550
Set out on pages	6-10		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 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 cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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: Maureen Field **Date:** 22nd April 2026

Name: Maureen Field

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): N/A

Address: 7 Titterstone Close, Cleehill, SY18 3QZ

St John's Church Doddington
STATEMENT of FUNDING ACTIVITIES
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2025 Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	6,014	-496	496	-	6,014	5,576
Income from charitable activities	4,318	74	-	-	4,392	3,981
Investments	680	-	-	-	680	662
Other income	115	-	304,850	-	304,966	103,368
Total income	11,128	-422	305,347	-	316,052	113,588
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3,756	-	-	-	3,756	115
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,854	2,515	17,535	-	26,903	32,957
Other expenditure	240	-	281,971	-	282,211	109,065
Total expenditure	10,850	2,515	299,506	-	312,871	142,137
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	278	-2,937	5,841	-	3,182	-28,549
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-	59,082
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-	-59,082
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-431	-431	-
Net movement in funds	278	-2,937	5,841	-431	2,751	-28,549
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	6,000	11,665	-10,667	10,775	17,774	46,323
Total funds carried forward	6,278	8,728	-4,826	10,344	20,525	17,774
Represented by						
<u>Unrestricted</u>						
General Fund	6,278	-	-	-	6,278	6,000
<u>Designated</u>						
Clock Repair Fund	-	-	-	-	-	496
Fabric Repair	-	5,155	-	-	5,155	5,155
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-	-	26
Graveyard Maintenance	-	3,573	-	-	3,573	5,988
<u>Restricted</u>						
Beacon On The Hill	-	-	-4,826	-	-4,826	-10,667
<u>Endowment</u>						
CCLA Fund	-	-	-	10,344	10,344	10,775

Figures are rounded for presentation purposes, and this may cause apparent minor discrepancies

St John's PCC Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Receipts and Payments Account

2025 **2024**

THE GENERAL FUND - Unrestricted General Fund

Receipts

Voluntary receipts

Regular Giving

Planned giving

2,104 2,083

Collections at services

752 493

Other recurring donations

1,774 1,068

Gift Aid recovered

802 754

5,432 4,398

Other voluntary receipts

Grants

0 0

Legacies

0 0

Non-recurring donations and appeals

1048 874

1048 874

Activities for generating funds

Gross income from fundraising events

NOTE 3

3,970 2,395

3,970 2,395

Income from investments

Interest – Bank

380 370

Interest – Endowment Fund

299 292

679 662

TOTAL RECEIPTS

11,128 8,329

Payments

Church activities

Interest on Bridging Loan for Project

3,567 0

Mission giving and donations

NOTE 2

644 115

Wedding fees

0 0

Diocesan Parish Offer

2,850 2,795

Church utility costs (Water and Elec)

507 56

Church and service consumables

708 87

Vending consumables and costs

500 0

Church Insurances

1,127 1,105

Cleobury office expenses

317 347

Membership fees

NOTE 1

117 75

Website and software

240 0

Banking fees

15 0

Fire equipment and servicing, cleaning and sundry

257 667

7,282 5,247

TOTAL PAYMENTS

10,849 5,247

Excess of receipts over payments

278 3,082

Transfer to other Funds

0 (3082)

278 0

Represented by

Bank current and deposit accounts on 1 January

6,000 6,000

Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December

6,278 6,000

The surplus of £278 for the year has been retained within General Fund. In 2024 the surplus was transferred to the Beacon Project Fund.

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Receipts and Payments a/c – Designated Funds (Fabric, Graveyard, Flower and Clock Repair)

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts - Designated Funds				
Flower fund receipt	0		40	
Donations to Clock repair fund	0		496	
Funeral and Ashes Internment fees	74		1,113	
		74		1,649
Payments - Designated Funds				
Flowers	26		14	
Sundry repairs	0		0	
Upkeep of churchyard – Grass, Wall repair, tap	2,489		1,125	
		2,515		1,139
(Deficit) / surplus of receipts over payments		(2,441)		510
Transfer in from other funds		0		1,003
Transfer Clock to Beacon Project		(496)		0
(Deficit) / Surplus of income over expenditure		(2,937)		1,513
Represented By:				
Bank current and deposit accounts on 1 January		11,665		10,152
(Deficit) / surplus in year		(2,937)		1,513
Bank current and deposit accounts on 31 December - Combined Designated Funds		8,728		11,665

Receipts and Payments a/c – Restricted Fund:
Beacon on the Hill Fund

	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Shropshire SPF- drawdown	102,438		34,712	
Grant from Listed Places of Worship – drawdown	31,136		9,516	
National Lottery Heritage Fund – drawdown	171,276		30,140	
Garfield Weston – outright grant	0		20,000	
Lasletts Hinton – outright grant	0		5,000	
Shropshire Historic Churches Trust - outright grant	0		3,000	
Local Parish Council Grant – outright	0		1,000	
		304,850		103,368
Payments				
Architects, Archaeologist and evaluator fees	10,461		11,835	
Project and Heritage Coordinator	7,074		15,339	
Songwriter and Song Of Hill event	19,344		4,604	
Interpretation materials	8,918		0	
Ledger Stones	3,360		0	
Graphics	25,228		0	
Workshops and events	6,844		2,720	
Building and repair work in Church	176,612		89,770	
Catering equipment	9,008		0	
Heater panels	7,744		0	
Clock	14,105		0	
Organ	5,000		0	

PA system upgrade	1,843	0
Website, digital outputs and equip	0	8,908
Signs, safety, PR, Media and sundry	3,964	3,756
	281,971	136,753
(Deficit) / Excess of receipts over payments, pre fund transfer	5,344	(33,385)
Transfer in from other funds	496	3,082
Net surplus / (deficit) of Income over Expenditure	5,841	(30,303)
Represented by		
Bank current and deposit accounts deficit on 1 January	(10,667)	19,637
Surplus / (deficit) in year	5,841	(30,303)
Bank accounts deficit on 31 December	(4,826)	(10,667)

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Permanent	Total	Total
	General	Funds	Beacon on	Endowment	2025	2024
	fund		the Hill	fund		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
CCLA (Investment Fund)	0	0	0	10,344	10,344	10,775
	0	0	0	10,344	10,344	10,775
Cash Funds						
Cash in Hand	307	0	0	0	307	40
Bank Accounts – Lloyds	5,971	8,728	(4,826)	0	9,874	106,959
	6,278	8,728	(4,826)	0	10,181	106,999
Net Fund Asset Surplus / (Deficit)	6,278	8,728	(4,826)	10,344	20,525	117,774
Less: Liabilities						
Loan from Diocese of Hereford (repaid Aug 2025)	0	0	0	0	0	(100,000)
Net Assets less Liabilities – Fund						
Totals – Surplus / (Deficit)	6,278	8,728	(4,826)	10,344	20,525	17,774

The **Unrestricted** fund is the church General Fund for general church use.

The **Designated** fund relates to funds set aside by the PCC to meet the cost of Repairing the Fabric. Maintaining the Churchyard, Providing Flowers, and Refurbishing the Church Clock.

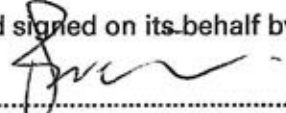
The **Restricted** fund relates to the Beacon on the Hill Project

The **Endowment** fund relates to the historic Legacy. Income from the permanent endowment fund is for general church use and included within unrestricted funds.

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the **Receipts and Payments basis**.
2. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: moveable church furnishings held by Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
3. During the year the PCC drew down and repaid in accordance with contractual terms a Bridging Loan of £100,000 from the Hereford Diocese, at interest rate of Bank of England base rate plus 1.5%, (total interest charge in the period £3,567) to allow PCC to manage the large cash outflows of the Beacon on the Hill project where significant cash funds are required to be expended in advance of being able to reclaim pledged monies from grant bodies.

Approved by the PCC on the [22nd April] 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


 Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck (Chair)


 Mr. Ewan Gibb ACA, Lib (Treasurer)

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes to the Accounts

1 Statutory Fees in and membership fees out

Fees IN

Fees paid to PCC – Wedding – to Unrestricted General Fund
 Fees Paid to PCC – Funeral and ashes interment – to Designated Graveyard fund
 War Graves commission – to General Fund
 Total Statutory Fees payable to PCC

2025 £	2024 £
0	0
74	1,113
0	0
74	1,810

Fees OUT

In 2025 the PCC paid membership fees to Caring for Gods Acre; Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and A Rocha (Eco Church) totalling £117 (2024 - £75)

2 Mission Giving and Donations

	2025 £	2024 £
Ride and Stride Event	174	115
Harvest collection given to Cleobury First Responders	198	0
Funeral Collection given to Funeral Cause	115	0
Cards for local residents	47	0

3 Income from Fundraising Events and activities

	2025 £	2024 £
January event – Burns lunch	397	0
Pancake event	218	256
Strawberry Teas	291	193
Harvest	198	108
Musical concert	314	0
Monthly Whist and Bingo	1,224	1,093
Bric-a-Brac sale	235	0
Christmas Fair	560	478
Coffee and vend machines	264	0
Sponsored event (gross)	269	267
TOTAL	3,970	2,395