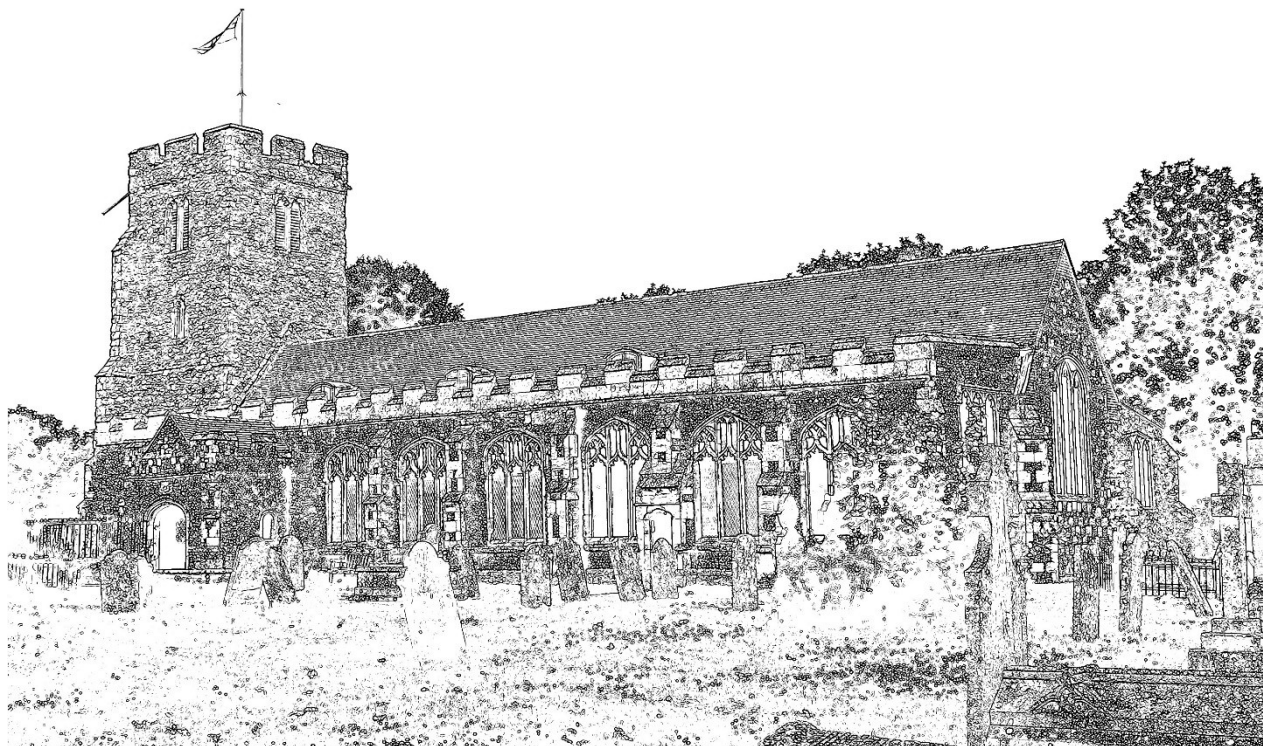


The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex



Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated on Church Road, Burnham-on-Crouch.
It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

The Correspondence Address is
The Vicarage, 2A Church Road,
Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, CM0 8DA.

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin (PCC) has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral,

evangelistic, social, and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of the St Mary's family. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament. We are committed to serving all the people of our parish as far as we can, through worship and prayer, the provision of pastoral care (including the occasional offices), and mission and outreach work.

Specific activities relating to the above are given in the review of the year below

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956). The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission as: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Burnham-on-Crouch, in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Charity number **1212410**. Members of the PCC are appointed according to the procedures set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020).

Committees:

The PCC has one committee, which meets independently of the full PCC:

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to the consent of the full PCC. Its membership comprises the PCC Chair, the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, and the PCC Secretary. Other PCC members can be invited to attend if and when required.

Membership:

Members of the PCC were elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

Revd. Suzanne Fryer

Curate: (appointed 8th July 2025)

Revd. Karen Eyles

Churchwardens:

Jeremy Cousins (ex officio)
Tony Young (ex officio)

Elected Members:

Terry Saunders (elected in 2022 for 3 years, appointed Deanery Synod Representative by the PCC on 30th April 2025)
Babs Owers (Deanery Synod Representative elected in 2023)
James Cousins (elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Janet Stead (elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Susan Waller (elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Peter Bowyer (elected 2024 for 3 years)
Walter Jenkins (elected 2024 for 3 years)
Bob Calver (elected in 2025 for 3 years)
Janet Hemmings (elected 2025 for 3 years)
Susan Cambridge (co-opted by the PCC on 25th June 2025)

Officers:

The Following were elected at the PCC meeting held on 12th May 2024:

PCC Chair	Revd. Suzie Fryer
PCC Lay Vice Chair	Tony Young
PCC Secretary	Walter Jenkins
PCC Treasurer	James Cousins
PCC Gift Aid Officer	James Cousins
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Walter Jenkins
PCC Health & Safety Officer	Bob Calver
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Linda Cleverley

Bank:

Barclays Bank UK PLC
Leicester. LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner:

Mr T Dungate
3 Springfield Road
Burnham-on-Crouch

Report on the Church Electoral Roll:

During the course of the year the Electoral Roll has been maintained.
During the revision of the Roll:

4 people were added. 3 people were removed.

As a result, the number of people on the Electoral Roll has increased by 1 to 65

Linda Cleverley

PCC Review of Activities 2025

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church, the churchyard, and the green, and for a wide range of matters affecting the parish, including compliance with health and safety legislation, disability legislation and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. In their capacity as trustees, members of the PCC are responsible for the stewardship of funds and for the appropriate accounting and reporting of the parish finances.

The PCC was pleased to welcome Karen Eyles, our new curate to the parish who was ordained deacon in September. The Churchwardens and Incumbent are ex-officio members of the Burnham United Charitable Trust. PCC meetings take place once every two months, with the Standing Committee meeting in-between. If urgent matters require attention the secretary would email members highlighting the issue and ask them for a decision which would then be endorsed and recorded in the minutes of the next PCC meeting.

Reports were received at each PCC Meeting from the Deanery Synod representatives, the Health and Safety Officer, Churches Together in Burnham representatives, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer. The churchwardens reported on the condition of the church building and the Treasurer provided an update on the financial situation. The parish health and safety policy was reviewed in November. Rev. Suzie reported on the activities in the sister parishes, Holy Trinity, North Farnbridge and St Andrew's, Althorne.

Walter Jenkins, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, gives a Safeguarding Report to each PCC meeting. There were no safeguarding issues or concerns during the year. The PCC started to approve the mandatory safeguarding requirements in the new Parish Dashboard. The work on the Safer Recruitment procedures is continuing. Member's Safeguarding Training is monitored and updated when necessary. The Parish Safeguarding Policies were adopted by the PCC with all the other Parish Policies at the November meeting.

Jim Cousins and Walter Jenkins continued as the St Mary's representatives on Churches Together in Burnham [CTB]. At the AGM in Burnham United Reformed Church, Rev Suzie was elected as Chair and Walter stood down as Treasurer. Members of the congregation help at the weekly satellite Dengie Food Pantry at the URC. Joint services were organised including the World Day of Prayer in March; a sunrise Easter Sunday service on the Quay; and

Rev Suzie, as the Chaplain for the local branches of the RNLI and the Royal British Legion, led the CTB services for the Blessing of the Lifeboats during Burnham Week and Remembrance services in November. She also led 80th Anniversary services for VE Day and VJ Day at the town War Memorial. On the Sunday following VJ Day a service of Thanksgiving for the end of World War 2 with Prayers for Peace was held in the Church. The annual Christian Aid week collection raised over £2,100 a slight decrease on the previous year. The Christmas Festive Fayre was well attended and the Christmas Message bags for the children proved to be popular.

2025 was the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the re-building of St Mary's Church after the devastating fire in July 1774. To celebrate this event Bishop Adam presided at the 10am service on 21st September. Walter gave an illustrated talk on the history of the church from early 1700 to the present day, we had a family fun day on the Church Green and Terry held a joint concert of music through the ages with Ormiston Rivers Academy.

The numbers attending Sunday worship are still increasing, particularly in the Family Services on the first Sunday of the month. The Lenten cycle of a Bible Study course and Compline once a week continued. The Easter services were well attended, the Good Friday Messy Church proving to be very popular, we almost reached capacity. Rev Suzie continues to conduct a large number of funeral services, many of which are at church, and there are a reasonable number of baptisms. St Mary's also hosted 2 weddings in 2025, as well as the Deanery Confirmation Service in June.

The monthly All-Age services included Mothering Sunday, and Harvest Festival where donations were encouraged for the Food Pantry and the window sills were decorated by local community groups. Paul J King, Funeral Directors helped to organise a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in November to support the recently bereaved. St Mary's held carol services for St Mary's School, the RNLI, and the Town Council. The joint Farleigh "Light Up a Life" service with All Saints, Creeksea was held at St Marys.

Rev Suzie leads Collective Worship at St Mary's VA CofE Primary School every other week, and School Eucharists are scheduled once a term where parents can also attend. Rev Suzie also visits Burnham Primary School. St Mary's School pupils come to St Mary's for services on Ash Wednesday, Easter, Harvest, and a Carol service. The number of children in the early years classes have meant that two services are now arranged to accommodate all the children and parents who wish to attend. A special service is held for year 6 as they leave St Mary's School. Younger classes hold their Nativity Plays in the School. A report on the school's activities is always given to the PCC by either Rev Suzie or one of the PCC Governors.

The major fundraising event was the Great Burnham Bonfire, which was held on the Church Green, our thanks to everyone who helped with the organising of the event. Our Car Boot Sales on the Green continued once a month during the summer months. A Christmas Craft Fair and Coffee morning was held with the RNLI Burnham Branch. Pam Bridge continues to raise funds for St Mary's through her cards, thank you Pam. At a regular service of the organ a major overhaul was advised. To raise funds for this Terry held a six-hour organ marathon which was well supported, we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed towards this work which will involve the complete dismantling and rebuilding of the organ pipes.

The PCC thanks everyone who helps in the day-to-day affairs of St Mary's, especially Pam Bridge for making the cards; Terry for his concerts and work as Director of Music and organist; Jane and Mervyn Hammond, plus the rest of the flower team, for their continued work in decorating the Church; those who attend the Church for Church cleaning; and the bonfire builders and stewards who have made that event so important in the Burnham Calendar.

Walter Jenkins
PCC Secretary.

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

As with any church, the maintenance of the building is an ongoing process. Things break and need repairing or they come to the end of their useful life and need replacing.

We have continued to ensure broken tiles are fixed to avoid safety hazards and the side altar rail needed to be attached having come loose towards the end of the year.

The external cesspit tank required some work during the year and some urgent work was also required on the organ. Further work has been approved by the Archdeacon and will take place in 2026.

The communion plate, processional cross and candlesticks that are used regularly are all in a reasonable condition for their age.

In relation to the Quinquennial Report, completed in 2022, in 2024 we completed the urgent tasks listed and will continue to address the less urgent tasks during 2026.

Notwithstanding the above we have a wonderful church and as Churchwardens we would like to thank the members of our PCC and other committees; Deanery synod reps; sides people; readers; intercessors; refreshment providers and servers; Terry and the choir; the sacristy team; flower arrangers; our craft creators and helpers; those who open and lock up church daily; and church cleaners. We are sure we are bound to have missed some people but we really appreciate all their hard work to keep a loving and welcoming presence here at St Mary's.

Thank you.

Jeremy Cousins
Tony Young
Churchwardens

Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meetings took place on Thursday 10th April 2025 at St Michael's Church Woodham Walter, Wednesday 15th October 2025 at All Saints Maldon.

Topics discussed range from the condition of building and their repairs, the parish share and the Maldon & Dengie Deanery unable to pay this in full needing to improve from currently 83% to 92%, while the Church of England is criticised for spending millions on reparations. The Parish Giving Scheme is recommended as it takes pressure off Parish Treasurers without cost and tax is returned within a month. Safeguarding is a regular topic with the increasing need to protect our young people, avoid scams and review procedures. We also have a Vocations Advisor, Rev Julie Willmott, who stressed the need to promote the role each person in each congregation has within "the body of Christ"; that is each one of us, what we do and how we live.

The regular feedback from parishes continues, as last year, to be positive and upbeat. At each meeting parishes reported increased numbers in attendance, new and young faces, varied activities sometimes traditional ones brought to life with a new twist and modern technology brought in to help. The Hundred Days of Prayer which began on Ash Wednesday are an essential ingredient to this renewal and the continuance of interest and growth in faith.

The Diocesan Report is read out. Sustaining Ministry is a matter of concern and prayer. Education and Safeguarding are invariably on the agenda as are distribution of funds, clergy stipends and budgets.

Our area Dean, Rev Peter Begley is retiring at the end of 2026.

Auriel Owers & Terry Saunders

Finance Report for Year To 31st December 2025

The Annual Accounts for the year to 31st December 2025 are attached.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows that the Church has Investments of £61,364 (all Endowment Funds) and Cash at Bank totalling £156,142 in our 11 bank accounts which represent Endowment or Restricted Funds except for the General Fund of £13,823 which is unrestricted.

The Receipts and Payments Account shows that most of our 11 Accounts have transactions limited to the receipt of bank interest or investment dividends for the year. The 4 Accounts which differ are firstly the Bell Fund which shows Income of £93 (donations), the second is the Organ Fund showing donations of £11,899 and Gift Aid of ££2,637 and the third is the Restoration Fund showing receipts of £3,967 (donation £500, sale of cards £304 and interest £3,163.57) and expenditure of £3,867 ((new waste pump £2,720, CCTV camera £946 and gazebo £201).

The other account is The General Fund which shows Income of £41,662 plus transfer of £837 from Tithe Chancel Fund and Expenditure of £43,392 resulting in a deficit of £893 and a year-end balance in the Fund of £13,823. The income included Donations and Tax Recovered of £32,491, Net Fees for Weddings and Funerals £3,390, Fund Raising (mainly Bonfire, Car Boot Sales, Fun Day, Terry's Concerts and Walter's Talk) £5,070 and Insurance Claim £710. Expenditure included Parish Share £27,000 and Running and Fundraising Costs £16,392

We increased our Parish Share contribution by £2,000 but nonetheless we are still falling well short of the required level.

A big thank you to our Church Donors, Terry, Walter and all who helped with our fund raising events for their contribution and to Pam Bridge for income from the sale of cards.

James Cousins
Hon Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary the Virgin Church Burnham on Crouch.

I report on the accounts of the PCC of St. Mary The Virgin Church Burnham on Crouch for the year ending 31st December 2025 which are set out on the 7 pages attached.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as 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 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 S130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records 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.

Signed 

Name and Address *TERENCE DAN GATE*
3 SPRINGFIELD ROAD
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH
ESSEX CM0 8TF

Date
10th Feb 2026

Burnham on Crouch St Mary PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2025

	Balance	Previous balance
Investments		
6430: ColFS Tithe Chancel 108001176s - Asset Tithe Chancel Endowment	32,689.87	33,935.55
6431: COIFS H E Pilkington 108001280s - Asset Pilkington Trust Endowment	5,571.77	5,803.80
6432: COIFS Dorothy Bell Bequest 108001432s - Asset Dorothy Bell Bequest Endowment	23,102.44	24,064.49
Investments	61,364.08	63,803.84
Cash at bank and in hand		
6501: Bank current account Barclays 70223867 - Asset General fund Unrestricted	13823.03	14,716.08
6502: Restoration Barclays 40223948 - Asset Restoration Fund Restricted	3,443.65	3,507.24
6506: Restoration Dep -Barclays 10061484 - Asset Restoration Fund Restricted	67.83	66.95
6507: Sunday School Dep -Barclays 50892483 - Asset Sunday School Restricted	408.04	473.73
6508: Dorothy Bell Dep - Barclays 90223913 - Asset Dorothy Bell Bequest Endowment	5,147.20	4,417.15
6509: Pilkington Trust Dep - Barclays 60539090 - Asset Pilkington Trust Endowment	1,318.32	1,141.25
6510: Bell Fund Dep - Barclays 40646148 - Asset Bell fund Restricted	239.10	143.81
6511: Choir Fund Dep - Barclays 93170764 - Asset Choir Fund Restricted	133.22	131.49
6512: Organ Fund Dep - Barclays 40634425 - Asset Organ Fund Restricted	14,632.17	94.04
6515: CCLA (CBF)608378001D Restoration Fund - Asset Restoration Fund Restricted	114,276.12	114,113.43
6516: CCLA (CBF) 608378002D Bell Fund - Asset Bell fund Restricted	2,653.34	2,564.84
Cash at bank and in hand	156,142.02	141,370.01
Grand Total	217,506.10	205,173.85

Burnham on Crouch St Mary PCC
Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Pilkington Trust (Endowment) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Investments		
Dividends		39.21
Bank and building society interest	177.07	133.78
<i>Total Investments</i>	177.07	172.99
Total income and endowments	177.07	172.99
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	177.07	172.99
Brought forward balance	6,945.05	6,642.19
Adjustments	(232.03)	129.87
Total carried forward balance	6,890.09	6,945.05

Restoration Fund (Restricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
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Income and endowments		
Donations appeals etc.	500.00	1,361.00
Legacies	-	100,462.33
Non-recurring one-off grants	-	4,680.00
Other funds generated	-	1,044.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	500.00	107,547
Other trading activities		
Fund raising	239.35	48.00
Fund raising - sale of goods	-	263.20
Bookstall sales - fundraising	64.20	49.00
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	303.55	360.20
Investments		
Dividends	-	179.73
Bank and building society interest	3,163.57	532.63
<i>Total Investments</i>	3,163.57	712.36
Total income and endowments	3,967.12	108,619.89
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Church maintenance	2,720.00	-
Equipment & Maintenance	1,147.14	-
Upkeep of churchyard	-	1,161.00
Church major repairs – Structure	-	6,264.00
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	3,867.14	7,425.00
Total expenditure		7,425.00
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	99.98	101,194.89
Brought forward balance	117,687.6	16,492.73
Transfers to/(from)	2	-
	-	
Total carried forward balance	117,787.6	117,687
	0	

Sunday School (Restricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations appeals etc	-	500.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	-	500.00
Investments		
Bank and building society interest	5.82	4.72
<i>Total Investments</i>	5.82	4.72
Total income and endowments	5.82	504.72
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Other expenses	71.51	105.78
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	71.51	105.78
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(65.69)	398.94
Brought forward balance	473.73	74.79
Total carried forward balance	408.04	473.73

Tithe Chancel (Endowment) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Investments		
Bank and building society interest	-	261.78
<i>Total Investments</i>	-	261.78
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-	261.78
Brought forward balance	33,935.55	36,493.82
Transfers to/[from]	(837.00)	(4,487.00)
Adjustments	(408.88)	1,666.95
Total carried forward balance	32,689.87	33,935.55

Bell fund (Restricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Gift Aid - Bank	10.00	-
Donations appeals etc	83.00	90.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	93.00	90.00
Other trading activities		
Fundraising	-	10.00
<i>Total Other tradings activities</i>	-	10.00
Investments		
Dividends	-	32.66
Bank and building society interest	90.79	98.19
<i>Total Investments</i>	90.79	130.85
Total income and endowments	183.79	230.85
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Equipment	-	132.00
Total expenditure on charitable activities	-	132.00
Total Expenditure	-	132.00
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	183.79	98.85
Transfers to/[from]	-	52.00
Brought forward balance	2,708.65	2,557.80
Total carried forward balance	2,892.44	2,708.65

Choir Fund (Restricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Investments		
Bank and building society interest	1.73	1.96
<i>Total Investments</i>	1.73	1.96
Total income and endowments	1.73	1.96
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	1.73	1.96
Brought forward balance	131.49	129.53
Total carried forward balance	133.22	131.49

Dorothy Bell Bequest (Endowment) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Investments		
Dividends	-	162.56
Bank and building society interest	730.05	576.61
<i>Total Investments</i>	730.05	739.17
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Church maintenance	-	1,500.00
Equipment	-	1,075.20
Total Expenditure	-	2,575.20
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	730.05	[1,836.03]
Adjustments	(962.05)	538.48
Brought forward balance	28,481.64	29,779.19
Total carried forward balance	28,249.64	28,481.64

Organ Fund (Restricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		

Donations appeals etc	11,899.39	-
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	2,637.50	-
Total Donations and legacies	14,536.89	-
Interest		
Bank and building society interest	1.24	1.40
<i>Total Investments</i>	1.24	1.40
Total income and endowments	14,538.13	1.40
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	14,538.13	1.40
Brought forward balance	94.04	92.64
Total carried forward balance	14632.17	94.04

General fund (Unrestricted) Fund

Note	From 1/1/25 to 31/12/25	From 1/1/24 to 31/12/24
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Gift Aid – Bank	13,030.00	13,095.00
Gift Aid – Envelopes blue	4,049.00	3,834.50
Other planned giving	1,672.60	1,726.20
Loose plate collections	3,555.06	3,457.84
Online giving	1,989.97	1,951.00
One-off Gift Aid gifts	616.90	6.00
Donations appeals etc	720.40	1,071.21
Donation Flowers	135.00	262.63
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	6,722.78	6,212.27
Non-recurring one-off grants	-	550.00
Other funds generated	-	10.95
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	32,491.71	32,177.60
Income from charitable activities		
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals	4,095.65	3,012.20
Verger & Organist fees	(705.00)	[1,090].00
purchase of plaque	-	350.00
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	3,390.65	2,272.20
Other trading activities		
Fund raising	5,070.03	4,371.27
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	5,070.03	4,371.27
Other Income		
Insurance claims	710.00	-
<i>Total Other Income</i>	710.00	-
Total income and endowments	41,662.39	38,821.07
Expenditure		
Raising funds		
Costs of fund raising	765.15	969
Cost of fund raising - refreshments	28.27	
<i>Total Raising funds</i>	793.42	969
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Giving to charities	460.00	-
Parish share	27,000.00	25,000.00
Working expenses of incumbent	523.35	196.00
Church running – insurance	4,288.84	3,997.45
Organ/piano tuning	523.20	-
Organist	50.00	150.00
Church maintenance	-	929.99
Equipment	-	1,415.00
Equipment & maintenance	2,205.87	551.98
Upkeep of services	1,740.25	2,101.94
Flowers	275.25	363.00
Upkeep of churchyard	811.50	970.50
Administration	1,614.16	1,022.28
Other expenses	35.00	-
Cost of online giving	24.47	28.37
Church running - electric	2,907.73	3,767.90
Church running - water	139.40	252.87
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	42,599.02	40,749.28
Total expenditure	43,392.44	41,718.46
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(1,730.05)	[2,897.39]

Transfers to/[from]	837.00	4,435.00
Brought forward balance	14,716.08	13,178.47
Adjustments	-	-
Total carried forward balance	13,823.03	14,716.08

Other Activities not covered in the Annual Report

Bell Ringers Report 2025

Our tower continues to have a reliable team of ringers although age is beginning to take its Toll on some of us, me included!!

Tony Eaton continues with his teaching skills and David Mason with his knowledge of bell maintenance.

At the moment I am attempting to clean “upstairs” where the bells are situated but have met with signs of something nesting aloft and also an insect infestation. These problems with help from my team I will deal with, as and when. Tony Young is our “Steeple Keeper” and is helping with this.

We ring every Sunday and at all Weddings and Services when required.

When we have visiting ringers. I now pass any donations directly to Jim Cousins rather than holding them until the end of the year.

Steve Clarke is still willing to stand in for me if needed but hopefully not yet!!

Although I am Tower Captain without all the support I receive from all my ringers it would be a thankless task, so my thanks goes to all of them

Wendy Hooper

Tower Captain

Director of Music's Report 2025

We finished 2025 as we began, with the same nine seasoned choristers who have a total of over 500 years' choral singing between them. I don't keep a register, but I would be surprised if any of them had an attendance record of less than 90%; we are indeed fortunate to be able to benefit from such a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Once again, the choir stepped up to the plate when needed for major services – those at Easter and Christmas and the Civic Service in May. It was at the other service supported by the council – the Town Carol Service – that the choir, plus a few extras, really came into their own, when the organ packed up just before the ‘How silently’ verse of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. They provided a much-needed input to the unaccompanied singing for the five remaining carols and their efforts received much praise afterwards from several of the distinguished guests.

We are always on the look-out for new members to join us (whether with 50 years' choral experience or none). We meet every Sunday at 9.15 to go

through the hymns – including the introit just before the service starts – and the psalm, if applicable. Please let me know if this is something that appeals to you – anyone is welcome to come along on a trial basis with no obligation!

Terry Saunders.

Director of Music & Choirmaster

Flower Report 2025

We have been able to decorate our beautiful Church building for all the major festivals this year. It is very much a team effort. However you have helped, I would like to express my very sincere thanks.

The price of flowers is still high and I am very thankful to everyone who has donated money. My thanks go to Jeremy Cousins for organising this. It has enabled us to fund the flowers.

Jane Hammond

Flower Arranger