THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WHITCHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1213356)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

Team Rector: The Reverend Canon Kevin Davies
The Rectory, Checkendon, Oxfordshire RG8 0SR

Team Vicar: The Reverend Dr James Leach
St. Mary's House, High Street, Whitchurch On Thames,
Oxfordshire, RG8 7DF

Bank: HSBC

Independent Examiner: Mr Robert Plumb

The parish of Whitchurch, incorporating the churches of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitchurch on Thames and St. John the Baptist, Whitchurch Hill is part of the Langtree Team Benefice. The PCC promotes in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church.
The approximate number of adult attendees on a Sunday averages 20-30

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During 2025 the following served as members of the PCC:

Team Vicar and Chair:	The Revd Dr James Leach
Church Wardens:	Kenneth Baker
	Paul Witcher (to 21/03/25)
	Rosemary Pearce (from AGM)

Deanery Synod Rep:	Graeme Pearce up to APCM, subsequently vacant
Elected Members:	Jeanette Cabeldu (Parish Safeguarding Officer) Peter Dragonetti (Treasurer) Katharine Martin Graeme Pearce (from APCM) Geraldine Witcher (up to 21/03/25) Nick Bion (from APCM)
Secretary:	Rosemary Pearce up to APCM, subsequently vacant

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT TO THE APCM ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2025

Introduction

The PCC met six times in 2025 to discuss and make decisions concerning the ministry and mission of the church in the parish of Whitchurch. What follows are the highlights of what took place during the year.

Worship, Mission and Community Life

During 2025 the PCC supported a wide range of worship and mission activities across the parish. Regular worship continued at both St Mary's and St John's, with careful monitoring of attendance trends, particularly at Christmas services. While some traditional services over Christmas saw reduced numbers, newer initiatives such as *Carols by Candlelight* and *Outdoor Church* were encouraged and developed, with Outdoor Church becoming an established and valued part of parish life. The Annual *Service of Remembering* continues to be well supported.

Youth and family ministry remained a significant focus. *St Mary's Youth Club (SMYC)* and *Tots on the Thames* continued to flourish, with strong weekly attendance. *SMYC* expanded to three sessions in September to include Years 6 to 10. Fundraising events, including the Art Café, successfully supported this work. As well as *Outdoor Church*, other all-age services included *Mothering Sunday* and *Harvest Thanksgiving*.

During the year in our two churches there were five baptisms, two weddings and nine funerals.

Buildings and Churchyards

Buildings and churchyards were a major focus of PCC activity in 2025. Significant time and energy were put into the *Save Our Spire* project at St Mary's, including identifying a preferred contractor, approving tender stages, submitting major grant applications (including to the National Lottery Heritage Fund), and undertaking extensive local fundraising. Towards the end of the year, the PCC committed to establishing a Community Engagement Taskforce to oversee delivery of community engagement aspects of the project.

Alongside the spire project, practical maintenance was addressed. This included cleaning the bell tower, servicing the St. Mary's organ, reviewing heating usage to reduce costs, and approving the installation of Wi-Fi in St. Mary's and the Old Rectory Stables, planned for 2026.

Churchyard matters received sustained attention. The PCC carried out tree works at St John's and co-operated with the Goring Heath Parish Council on hedge works along the south boundary. A Churchyard Management Plan was adopted for St. John's, balancing aesthetics, the needs of families tending to graves, biodiversity and long-term maintenance.

The PCC is hugely grateful to the Friends of St. Mary's and St. John's for their financial and practical support, including £20,000 set aside for the Spire Project, and regular working parties in both churchyards.

Finances

Throughout 2025 the PCC exercised careful financial oversight. Regular reviews of balances were undertaken, and adjustments were made to Parish Share payments in response to cash flow, while keeping alignment with the Deanery Sustainability Plan. By the end of the year, the PCC was able to pay the 2025 Parish Share in full.

Also during the year the link between "use of organ" fees for occasional services and servicing costs for organs was reviewed and newly available funds from the St John's Parsonage Fund were incorporated into our financial planning.

Safeguarding

In its ongoing work to implement its Safeguarding Action Plan 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).

Thank you

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of the church over the year, including (in no particular order and some in multiple capacities!):

- The magazine team: Rosemary Pearce, Angi Simpson and their dedicated team of deliverers.
- Judi Green and Debbie Leach for leadership of SMYC and Tots on the Thames.
- Our sidesteam members, readers and intercessors.
- Diana Smith, Angi Simpson and the flower teams.
- Stephanie May and the bellringers.
- Our musicians, especially Tim Valentine, Susan Lee, Leslie Maynerd, Hannah Hays and Geraldine Witcher.
- Treasurer Peter Dragonetti and Assistant Treasurer Ken Baker, for looking after our accounts and banking.
- Geoff Weir and Richard Scearce for looking after the Old Rectory Stables.
- Our churchwardens Ken Baker and Rosemary Pearce (and Paul Witcher up to March 2025), members of the PCC who undertake a variety of key roles and Debbie Leach for taking PCC minutes during 2025.
- All the members of the congregation who have supported the life of the church throughout the year.

The Rev'd Dr James Leach on behalf of the Whitchurch PCC

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S WHITCHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Accounts to 31 December 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

		Note	2025	2024
			£	£
Income	Stewardship Income		12,127	20,836
	Gift Aid Tax Received		6,559	6,548
	Parish Giving Scheme		9,311	2,643
	Collections		6,053	5,143
	Church Fees Received		9,023	6,106
	Interest & Dividends Received		3,143	2,344
	Donations Received		4,739	3,794
	Events	2	1,346	925
	Old Stables net	4	1,924	1,645
	Grants		-	3,070
	Spire project donations	8	32,318	
	Income from Tots and Youth Club	3 & 5	3,163	2,356
		Total Income	89,707	55,410
Expense	Langtree team ministry and Deanery		3,571	3,096
	Repairs & Maintenance	7	1,590	5,737
	Fees & Honoraria		2,561	1,768
	Church service expenses		488	28
	Heat & Light & water		3,921	3,568
	Sundry Expenses		1,765	1,207
	Expenditure on Tots and Youth Club	3 & 5	1,553	2,183
	Church cleaning		1,055	484
	Insurance		5,356	5,411
	Diocesan Parish Share		30,462	22,361
	Spire project	8	9,487	6,128
	Parish magazine	6	343	290
	Donations Paid		975	1,440
		Total Expense	63,127	53,700
Net Surplus			£ 26,580	£ 1,710

Peter Dragonetti
Honorary Treasurer

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

I have examined the receipts and documents presented to me and confirm the accounts are in accordance therewith.

Robert Plumb FCA
Honorary Auditor

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S WHITCHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Deposit account		74,641	2,712
CCLA		27,443	33,500
Bank & Cash		16,021	15,313
Total Assets		118,105	51,525
Loans for the Spire	9	(40,000)	
Net Assets		£ 78,105	£ 51,525
Represented by :			
Restricted Funds	1	2,700	2,700
General Reserve Surplus at the beginning of the year		48,825	47,116
Surplus for the year		26,580	1,710
Surplus at the end of the year		75,405	48,825
Total Funds & Reserves		£ 78,105	£ 51,525

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

		2025	2024
1	**Restricted Funds**		
	Legacies	2,700	2,700
		£ 2,700	£ 2,700
2	**Events**		
	Wreath making	375	
	Coffee mornings	654	548
	Book sales	61	
	Lent lunches	256	377
		1,346	£ 925
3	**Youth Club Income and Expense**		
	Income - includes fundraising and donations	2,625	1,819
	Expenditure	1,553	1,908
	Net income (cost)	£ 1,072	£ (89)
4	**Old Stables Income and Expense**		
	Income	4,273	2,902
	Less : Running expenses	2,349	1,257
	Net income	£ 1,924	£ 1,645
5	**Tots**		
	Income	538	537
	Expenditure		275
	Net income	538	£ 262
6	**Magazine**		
	Income	182	220
	Printing costs	525	510
	Net Cost	£ (343)	£ (290)
7	**Maintenance and Repairs**		
		Costs	
	Mowing St Johns	650	
	Other Church yard maintenance	510	
	Other	370	
		1,530	

8 **Spire Project**

During the year funds were collected for the cost of the project and were also expended on preliminary design and other work.
This income and expenditure is shown as relating to this year, although further income and expenditure will arise in the next financial year as the project progresses

9 **Loans**

Eight individuals have made loans to the Parochial Church Council of £5,000. These loans are for the Spire Project, are interest free and repayable by September 2026, if funds are available, when it is anticipated that the Spire Project will be completed.