

# 2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church Ascott-under-Wychwood

## Aim and purposes

The Parish of Ascott-under-Wychwood is part of the Chase Benefice - a group of four rural parishes in West Oxfordshire encompassing the villages of Ascott-under-Wychwood, Chadlington, Spelsbury and Enstone.

Holy Trinity Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent of the Chase Benefice, the Revd. Mark Abrey, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of Holy Trinity 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 our parish community at Holy Trinity and the wider Chase Benefice. Working closely with the other PCCs of the Benefice, the PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Benefice and makes suggestions on how our services and activities can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we seek to be faithful servants of God, cherishing the past and embracing the future, as together we seek to make God's love known in our Benefice.

This involves:

- deepening our relationship with God: in worship; through discipleship and prayer; by working together for the building of God's kingdom; and enabling each person to become the person that God wants them to be.
- serving each other: out of love for each other; by recognising and encouraging the God-given gifts of the people of the Benefice for the benefit of all; being God's family in this place; and by building community within our parish and across the Benefice.
- serving our community: by maintaining our church building as a focal point for the community; through outreach; by nurturing the young; by encouraging and enabling members of the church to take part in the leadership of our community; and by offering people opportunities to meet together.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church and seek ways to make it more inviting for worship and community groups.

At the time of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May 2025, there were 24 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

# Achievements and performance

## Deepening our relationship with God

Central to our mission is the desire to help all who worship with us deepen their relationship with God. Everyone is warmly welcome at our services, and as part of the Chase Benefice we worship together each week across our different churches in a well-established pattern.

The PCC remains committed to offering a range of services that our community finds spiritually nourishing and accessible. Each month we hold both traditional *Book of Common Prayer* services and more contemporary celebrations of Holy Communion. We also host occasional intergenerational services—Shared Communion—held in Chadlington or Enstone and aimed particularly at welcoming families across the Benefice. Our services at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas continue to draw larger congregations.

Our regular pattern of worship has consisted of one 8am and one 10 am service each week somewhere within the Benefice, with an additional 10am service on fifth Sundays. Attendance averages around four at 8am and between 25 and 35 at 10am. Online services continue to reach a wider congregation, attracting around 80 viewers each week. During Lent, the Jesus Prayer was said weekly in Chadlington, and during Advent we followed the Franciscan Community's online Advent calendar.

Our Easter service in 2025 welcomed 8 children and 28 adults. The Remembrance Day service in Ascott had a congregation of 38. At Christmas we were pleased to be able to hold a family friendly Carol Service which had a congregation of 12+ children and 86 adults, as well as 26 for our Christmas Day service.

Online worship continues to be an important part of our ministry. Our weekly recorded services include hymns, images and video "Peace" greetings from parishioners, and are available both online and by telephone for those without internet access. Designed to be short and accessible, they include prayers, a Gospel reading and a brief reflection. These services remain greatly appreciated by those unable to attend in person and reach well beyond our usual congregation. We are very grateful to Mark for producing them each week.

Alongside regular worship, the church continues to mark the important milestones of life. Through baptism we give thanks for the gift of life; in marriage we celebrate the gift of love; and through funeral services we support families in grief while giving thanks for lives lived and commending loved ones into God's care. During the year at Ascott we held two marriage blessings, four baptisms, three funerals and three interments of ashes. Our annual Memorial Service for those who have died in the Benefice over recent years was held in Enstone with 70 people attending. Our online service for The Longest Night in December was watched by 59 people.

The PCC records its sincere gratitude to Rev'd Elizabeth Koepping, Rev'd Jackie Jones, Rev'd John Partington and Rev'd Canon Judy French for faithfully covering our 8am services. We are also grateful to Rev'd Ilona Cheyne for her continued support to the Benefice.

We welcome the Windrush School on Monday each week for their school assembly.

As a Benefice we are committed to being an inclusive church community. We seek to offer a genuine welcome to all, regardless of economic circumstances, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. Our affiliation with *Inclusive Church* continues to draw people from beyond the Benefice, and we have been pleased to welcome new members both in person and online. In July, Chipping Norton hosted its third Pride event and the Benefice was pleased to be there. Many people commented how

pleased they were to see a church presence there, and we were delighted to distribute leaflets and have some meaningful conversations with participants.

### **Serving each other**

As a Benefice we remain committed to supporting those who are sick, bereaved, housebound or otherwise in need. Some parishioners are unable to attend church due to age or illness, and Mark continues to visit those who request it, offering communion at home or in hospital and providing pastoral support.

Our weekly e-Bulletin remains an important way of keeping both the congregation and the wider community informed and connected.

Many aspects of worship involve the gifts and participation of lay members across the Benefice. Parishioners regularly assist by reading, leading intercessions, helping with music, arranging flowers, providing refreshments and ringing the bells. We are pleased that more people have offered to share in these roles during the year. We are particularly grateful to our dedicated team of flower arrangers who help make Holy Trinity such a welcoming place.

Following the retirement of our Associate Priest in December 2017, the Joint PCCs have continued to reflect on the future shape of ministry within the Benefice. After discussions with the Diocese it was agreed to suspend the appointment of a new Associate Priest for at least a year while the Diocese lets the Vicarage in Enstone. Savings on Parish Share during this period were placed in a 'Ministry Fund' to allow the Benefice to buy in additional ministerial support where needed. At the end of the year any unspent funds were returned to the individual PCCs.

### **Serving our community**

Holy Trinity Church continues to be a valued resource for the wider community. The church remains open daily during daylight hours and is used regularly by both visitors and parishioners for quiet reflection and prayer.

The PCC is committed to safeguarding the future of this building and overseeing routine maintenance and care. During the year, no major repairs were made. The roof alarm and fire extinguishers were serviced, the bells checked the organ tuned and the gutters cleared of moss and leaves. The gas heaters were serviced and safety checked and all our light bulbs were changed for energy saving LEDs. Also during the year, a number of broken or missing roof tiles were repaired.

During the year the only major structural works carried out was the repair of the Churchyard Wall opposite Heritage Lane. The PCC will be consulting with our architect in 2026 to discuss and prioritise works that had been identified during our Quinquennial inspection.

Mark has very good relations with the Primary Schools in the Benefice [Chadlington, Ascott and Enstone] and is in regular contact with staff and pupils.

Supporting those in need remains an important expression of our faith. We continue to support the North Cotswold Community Food Bank, with the collection box outside the Vicarage proving very successful. Our collection at the Remembrance Day service, amounting to £194.38 was given to the Royal British Legion.

The PCC continues to support and encourage church members in organising events connected to the Church. These included an illustrated talk at Tiddy Hall, a village picnic, and afternoon tea at Chastleton House. We are grateful to all those who took part.

Holy Trinity participates in the Annual Oxfordshire Historic Church Trust (OHCT) Ride and Stride. The money raised helps to preserve some of Oxfordshire's 650 churches, chapels and meeting houses that are at risk of falling into disrepair as well as supporting Holy Trinity.

Ascott's village magazine, the Ascott Grape Vine is regularly provided with details of Holy Trinity's news. Alongside this we have further developed our Benefice website and make use of email and social media to connect with both the congregation and the wider community.

### **Links with the wider Church**

One member of the PCC sits on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod can be found on pages 16 and 17.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC is committed to safeguarding children and young people, vulnerable adults and those in abusive relationships. We aim to create a safe environment where children and young people are nurtured and protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. All PCC members have completed Basic Awareness and Foundation safeguarding training as required by the Diocese.

The Benefice follows the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and Church of England policy and practice. A copy of our Safeguarding Policy Statement is displayed on our noticeboard. This statement is also available on the Benefice website, along with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook [see: [www.thechasebenefice/safeguarding](http://www.thechasebenefice/safeguarding)].

We will act promptly on any complaints made and work in close partnership with police and social care services where children or vulnerable adults have been harmed or are at risk of harm or mistreatment. We provide safe recruitment, training and support to our voluntary and paid workers with children and vulnerable adults. We care for those who have been abused in the past and minister appropriately to those who have abused.

The Chase Benefice's Safeguarding Officer is Julie Benson who can be contacted on 01608 676672 or by email at [safeguarding@thechasebenefice.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thechasebenefice.org.uk)

The Diocesan Head of Safeguarding is Louise Whitehead who can be contacted on 07391 868478 or by email at [louise.whitehead@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:louise.whitehead@oxford.anglican.org).

## **Financial review**

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 are found on pages 9 to 15 of this report.

As before, these accounts have been prepared by Mark Abrey, from data supplied by Stuart Fox, our treasurer, and represent a considerable amount of work and expertise. We are grateful for all that Mark has done. We also thank Beth Sinclair, the Benefice Administrator, who collects and processes data from our treasurer. We are indebted to Alison Parker for her independent examination of the accounts.

We are pleased to note that we have met all our financial obligations and generated a surplus of £5,065 (2024 £2,992) for the year, leaving us with total reserves on 31st December of £45,338 (2024 £40,272).

The balance on our unrestricted funds including designated funds, at 31st December was £9,942, which covers 3 months of regular expenditure, including Parish Share.

- Our income in 2025 was £29,494 (2024 £27,249). Planned giving was £5,119. Collections and other donations plus Gift Aid. contributed £13,776 . Income from various fundraising events raised £4,863. Weddings and funerals provided £4,712, and interest added £1,021.
- Income generated from fundraising events includes serving teas at Chastleton House £980, and at the picnic in the recreation ground £379. A talk given by Juliet contributed £498, and the quiz night contributed £2,206. We raised £800 from the hire of the church by Windrush School.
- Our costs in 2025 were £24,707 (2024 £24,145). Our major expenses this year were the Parish Share £9,599, clergy and benefice costs £4,109, insurance £1,817, gas and electricity £1,028, general running costs £4,079, and upkeep of the churchyard £3,143. We also spent £932 on the costs of generating funds. General running costs include maintenance of the bells and the organ, work to ensure the safety of the gas heaters and weekly cleaning.

At the year-end, our total funds amounted to £45,338 (2024 £40,272), of which £7,906 was unrestricted and £37,432 restricted or designated. This includes £2,038 held by the benefice on our behalf in the Chase Benefice Accounts. This sum is used for the expenses in the Benefice Budget as agreed by all PCCs of the Benefice annually.

Our main restricted and designated funds are: Special Upkeep £30,641, the Church Paths Project £2,167, Benefice Fund £2,038, Fabric Fund (wall rebuilding) £1,461, plus other small, restricted funds which total £1,122.

**Stuart Fox**

## Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to about £5,925. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At the year-end, a balance of £7,906 is unrestricted and there are designated funds that can be used to cover any deficit. The PCC will continue to make every effort to improve our unrestricted funds.

## Volunteers

The past year has once again demonstrated the vitality and generosity of our church community. Much of what happens at Holy Trinity depends on the willingness of many people to give their time, talents and resources in service of God and neighbour. The PCC records its sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the life of the church, often quietly and behind the scenes.

In particular we want to mention the members of the PCC, Sarah Tribe, Sue Smith, Sue Mellor, Stuart Fox and Sarah Witheridge who support the clergy. We are also indebted to Mrs. Julie Benson, Benefice Safeguarding Officer, and Shane Barnes for the care of the cemetery and church grounds. Our worship has been enhanced by our organist Stuart Fox. Many volunteers give of their time and talents: bell ringers, intercessors, readers, sides people, coffee & cake makers, key holders, flower arrangers, cleaners and the Benefice Choir. To all of them we express our thanks for the essential contribution they make to the life of the parish.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we do so with gratitude for all that has been achieved and with confidence in the continued witness and ministry of Holy Trinity within the village and the wider Benefice.

# Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Holy Trinity, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who are members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training in the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met once during the year. In addition to this meeting, the PCC met with the other PCCs from the Benefice on three occasions.

The PCC has one statutory committee, being:

The Standing Committee. This committee, which is required by law, has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. Members of the standing committee are The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

This committee is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly with minutes of its decisions. They are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary. The Standing Committee has not met this year as the PCC handled all relevant matters through its routine meetings.

# Administrative information

Holy Trinity Church is situated in Ascott-under-Wychwood. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Road, Chadlington, Oxon. OX7 3LY.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

## **Ex Officio members:**

Incumbent:           The Reverend Mark Abrey (Chairman)  
Former Curate:       The Reverend Professor Ilona Cheyne  
Wardens:             No Church Wardens have been appointed

## **Elected members:**

Mrs. Sarah Tribe (representative on Deanery Synod)

Mrs. Sue Smith (Acting Secretary)

Mrs. Sue Mellor

Mr. Stuart Fox (Treasurer)

Mrs. Sarah Witheridge

*Two vacancies*

This report was approved by the PCC on 23 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Revd. Mark Abrey (PCC Chairman)



M E J Abrey

# Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 report

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 matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable 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 Alison Parker Date 31 March 2026

Alison Parker ACA  
Chartered Accountant  
7 Church Road  
Chadlington  
Chipping Norton  
Oxon. OX7 3LY

**Ascott-under-Wychwood PCC**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>							
	<b>3</b>						
Planned giving		5,119	—	—	—	5,119	5,304
Collections and other giving		5,780	—	—	—	5,780	8,244
Other voluntary receipts		1,812	—	2,050	—	3,862	2,989
Gift Aid recovered		3,353	—	400	—	3,753	3,440
Other Receipts		381	—	—	—	381	—
Activities for generating funds		4,863	—	—	—	4,863	3,728
Investment income		—	—	1,021	—	1,021	1,137
Receipts from church activities		4,712	—	—	—	4,712	2,404
<b>Total income</b>		<b>26,023</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29,494</b>	<b>27,249</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
	<b>3</b>						
Cost of generating funds		932	—	—	—	932	564
Parish Share		9,599	—	—	—	9,599	9,595
Clergy and Benefice Costs		4,109	—	—	—	4,109	4,377
Church Running Expenses		8,425	—	1,565	—	9,991	9,607
Governance Costs		75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>23,141</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,707</b>	<b>24,145</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets		—	278	—	—	278	(110)
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>		<b>2,881</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>2,992</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>							
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>2,992</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>5,024</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>33,488</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40,272</b>	<b>37,279</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>7,906</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>35,393</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>45,338</b>	<b>40,272</b>
<b>Represented by</b>							
Unrestricted							
General fund		7,906	—	—	—	7,906	5,024
Designated							
Benefice Fund		—	2,038	—	—	2,038	1,759
Restricted							
Alarm - CCTV		—	—	325	—	325	325
Bell		—	—	—	—	—	365
Children's Area		—	—	250	—	250	250
Churchyard Lights		—	—	7	—	7	7
Fabric Fund		—	—	1,461	—	1,461	211
Other - Legacy: E Campbell		—	—	540	—	540	540
Paths Project Fund		—	—	2,167	—	2,167	2,167
Special Upkeep Fund		—	—	30,641	—	30,641	29,620

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

**Ascott-under-Wychwood PCC**  
**Balance sheet (Church of England)**  
**As at: 31 December 2025**

	<b>As at 31/12/2025</b>	<b>As at 31/12/2024</b>
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	45,338	40,324
	45,338	40,324
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	—	52
	—	52
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>45,338</b>	<b>40,272</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>45,338</b>	<b>40,272</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>45,338</b>	<b>40,272</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	7,906	5,024
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Benefice Fund	2,038	1,759
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Alarm - CCTV	325	325
Restricted - Bell	—	365
Restricted - Other - Legacy: E Campbell	540	540
Restricted - Agency collection	—	—
Restricted - Churchyard Lights	7	7
Restricted - Fabric Fund	1,461	211
Restricted - Children's Area	250	250
Restricted - Paths Project Fund	2,167	2,167
Restricted - Tree Fund	—	—
Restricted - Special Upkeep Fund	30,641	29,620
Restricted - Churchyard maintenance	—	—
Restricted - Organ/music	—	—
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<b>45,338</b>	<b>40,272</b>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

**Ascott-under-Wychwood PCC**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)**  
**As at: 31 December 2025**

	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Previous balance</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		
<b>6501: Bank current account - Asset</b>		
Alarm - CCTV      Restricted	325.00	325.00
Children's Area      Restricted	250.00	250.00
Churchyard Lights      Restricted	7.49	7.49
Fabric Fund      Restricted	1,461.81	211.81
Paths Project Fund      Restricted	2,167.50	2,167.50
Special Upkeep Fund      Restricted	7,055.48	7,055.48
General fund      Unrestricted	7,906.27	5,024.54
Bell      Restricted	—	365.63
Other - Legacy: E Campbell      Restricted	540.53	540.53
Agency collection      Restricted	—	52.19
	<b>19,714.08</b>	<b>16,000.17</b>
<b>6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Asset</b>		
Special Upkeep Fund      Restricted	23,585.93	22,564.75
	<b>23,585.93</b>	<b>22,564.75</b>
<b>6530: Benefice Account - cash held for PCC - Asset</b>		
Benefice Fund      Designated	2,038.02	1,759.95
	<b>2,038.02</b>	<b>1,759.95</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>45,338.03</b>	<b>40,324.87</b>
<b>Agency accounts</b>		
<b>6699: Agency collections - Liability</b>		
Agency collection      Restricted	—	52.19
	<b>—</b>	<b>52.19</b>
<b>Agency accounts</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>52.19</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>45,338.03</b>	<b>40,272.68</b>

## Notes to the accounts

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
2. The movements in funds during the year were:

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
<b>Unrestricted</b>							
General - General fund	5,024	26,023	23,141	—	—	—	7,906
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>26,023</b>	<b>23,141</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,906</b>
<b>Designated</b>							
Benefice - Benefice Fund	1,759	—	—	—	—	278	2,038
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>2,038</b>
<b>Restricted</b>							
CCTV - Alarm - CCTV	325	—	—	—	—	—	325
CYLIGHTS - Churchyard Lights	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
FABRIC - Fabric Fund	211	1,250	—	—	—	—	1,461
KidsArea - Children's Area	250	—	—	—	—	—	250
PATHS - Paths Project Fund	2,167	—	—	—	—	—	2,167
TREE - Tree Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Upkeep - Special Upkeep Fund	29,620	1,021	—	—	—	—	30,641
Churchyard - Churchyard maintenance	—	1,100	1,100	—	—	—	—
Organ - Organ/music	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bell - Bell	365	100	465	—	—	—	—
Other - Other - Legacy: E Campbell	540	—	—	—	—	—	540
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>33,488</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>35,393</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40,272</b>	<b>29,494</b>	<b>24,707</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>45,338</b>

A summary of the purposes of these funds is given here:

### *Designated Funds*

**Benefice Fund:** represents funds held on behalf of the PCC in the Chase Benefice accounts. These funds are used for the expenses in the Benefice budget as agreed by all PCCs of the Benefice annually.

### *Restricted Funds*

**Alarm CCTV:** represents accumulated donations for the installation and upkeep of the CCTV monitoring equipment, which can only be spent for this purpose.

**Churchyard Lights:** represents balance of donations given to provide Churchyard lights, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Paths Project: represents the remaining balance from fundraising to pollard the lime trees and to reinstate paths through the Churchyard, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Fabric Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church and maintenance of the Churchyard, which can only be spent for these purposes.

Children's Area: represents money set aside for the provision of the children's area in Church, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Special Upkeep Fund: represents accumulated donations given for the use of the PCC to mitigate against unforeseen expenditures or unexpected falls future income.

Organ Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals for the upkeep of the organ, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Bell Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals for the upkeep of the bells, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Churchyard: The balance of a legacy given by Mrs Joan Pratley for the upkeep of the churchyard.

Campbell Legacy: represents the balance of a legacy given by the Hon. Mrs. Elisabeth Campbell in 2014, to be spent at the discretion of the PCC on something to enhance worship or the Church.

3. Further analysis of Receipts and payments is shown on pages 14 and 15.

**Ascott-under-Wychwood PCC**

**Analysis of income and expenditure  
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>						
<i>Planned giving</i>						
0101 - Planned giving	5,119	—	—	—	5,119	5,304
<b>Planned giving Totals</b>	<b>5,119</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,119</b>	<b>5,304</b>
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
0301 - Loose plate collections	2,800	—	—	—	2,800	2,871
0302 - Loose plate collections - weddings etc.	1,045	—	—	—	1,045	4,730
0303 - Gift Aid - weddings etc.	1,250	—	—	—	1,250	—
0304 - Online donations	—	—	—	—	—	257
0401 - Wall box	685	—	—	—	685	385
<b>Collections and other giving Totals</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>8,244</b>
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
0550 - Donations	1,812	—	2,050	—	3,862	2,989
<b>Other voluntary receipts Totals</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>2,989</b>
<i>Gift Aid recovered</i>						
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	3,353	—	400	—	3,753	3,440
<b>Gift Aid recovered Totals</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>3,440</b>
<i>Other Receipts</i>						
1315 - VAT claim	381	—	—	—	381	—
<b>Other Receipts Totals</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>—</b>
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
0916 - Hire of Church	800	—	—	—	800	605
0917 - Coffee mornings / afternoon teas	1,359	—	—	—	1,359	416
0918 - Open Gardens	—	—	—	—	—	614
0919 - Other Events	2,703	—	—	—	2,703	2,092
<b>Activities for generating funds Totals</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>3,728</b>
<i>Investment income</i>						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	—	—	1,021	—	1,021	1,137
<b>Investment income Totals</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	4,712	—	—	—	4,712	2,404
<b>Receipts from church activities Totals</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>2,404</b>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts Grand totals</b>	26,023	—	3,471	—	29,494	27,249
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>						
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	932	—	—	—	932	564
<i>Cost of generating funds Totals</i>	932	—	—	—	932	564
<i>Parish Share</i>						
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	9,599	—	—	—	9,599	9,595
<i>Parish Share Totals</i>	9,599	—	—	—	9,599	9,595
<i>Clergy and Benefice Costs</i>						
2102 - Benefice expenses	3,902	—	—	—	3,902	3,654
2105 - Benefice Ministry Fund	206	—	—	—	206	722
<i>Clergy and Benefice Costs Totals</i>	4,109	—	—	—	4,109	4,377
<i>Church Running Expenses</i>						
2301 - Church running - insurance	1,816	—	—	—	1,816	1,776
2310 - Church Broadband	172	—	—	—	172	115
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	208	—	—	—	208	195
2330 - Church routine maintenance	1,939	—	465	—	2,405	1,600
2331 - Cleaning	1,040	—	—	—	1,040	580
2340 - Upkeep of services	51	—	—	—	51	965
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	2,043	—	1,100	—	3,143	3,110
2360 - Administration	47	—	—	—	47	35
2361 - Bank Charges	78	—	—	—	78	115
2401 - Church running - electric	685	—	—	—	685	769
2410 - Church running - gas	343	—	—	—	343	344
<i>Church Running Expenses Totals</i>	8,425	—	1,565	—	9,991	9,607
<i>Governance Costs</i>						
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	75	—	—	—	75	—
<i>Governance Costs Totals</i>	75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Expenditure Grand totals</b>	23,141	—	1,565	—	24,707	24,145

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

# Chipping Norton Deanery Report for 2025

The Chipping Norton Deanery Synod has had a busy year, meeting three times, on 6th March, 11th June and 4th November. During the Year David Salter finished his 5-year term as Area Dean, and Sarah Sharp was installed in his place. Before he retired David and I managed to make Inspections on behalf of Archdeacon David Tyler of one third of the churches in our Deanery and were met as usual with great kindness. It is always really lovely to go out to the churches and meet Churchwardens and others and hear their stories and learn about all the excellent work they are doing. David and I continued to meet regularly to keep each other up to date of events in the parishes between Synods and Standing Committee meetings, alongside Brian Ford (Treasurer) and Claire Blackman, the other member. During the year we also welcomed Nick Case as the new Deanery Treasurer.

On 6th March in **All Saints' Church, Churchill** we held the first Synod of 2026 and as a major issue looked at Safeguarding – which had also been one of the issues at General Synod - where we had asked our Representative to put forward our choice among the Motions proposed. During the year there were changes to the Safeguarding Team at Church House and so that Officers can meet clergy on equal terms, challenging where necessary, their designation has been changed to Advisors. The change in monitoring is continuing – it is better to get it right, than to rush – and as a Deanery Synod we continue to check on progress with the approach that it is a mission rather than a burden. The March Synod also continued to look at Engaging with Children and Young People and heard reports from round the Parishes.

The June Synod took a new format. We met at **Bruern Farm Café**, part of the Bruern Farm Estate, set up in the last few years by Henry Astor, who spoke honestly about farmers and the farming community and how fearful and lost they are feeling following changing political agendas, their ageing population (average age 61/62 years) and climate change. His wish is to build community and biodiversity, working with adjoining landowners. Farming is a lonely and stressful life and the problem of increasing industrialisation makes it all the harder. Henry spoke from the heart and thanks were given for his talk and his hospitality.

Following Henry's talk the Synod heard from Hannah Mann, Oxford Diocesan Environment Officer, who spoke about the Church of England's environmental policies. In the Deanery 2 churches (Charlbury and Fifield) are registered as "eco churches", and 9 more are taking action at some level for biodiversity. 77% have completed their energy footprint tool and 4 with old boilers are looking at plans to replace them.

The June Synod was David Salter's last as Area Dean and he was thanked for all his work – which he began when we were in Covid Lock-down and his installation took place online. David was presented with a hand-made garden pot and a book token and a presentation was also made to Samantha Shaw, as Deanery Administrator. The new Area Dean was announced as Revd Canon Sarah Sharp of the Wychwood Benefice.

On 4th November we had our final Synod of 2025, our first with Sarah Sharp in the Chair, meeting at the **Hook Norton Brewery**, with its present Director, James Clarke, talking about the Brewery, started in 1849 by John Harris, his Great Great Grandfather, at a time when every community had a brewing facility because drinking water was anything but fit to drink. In recent times the Brewery has diversified, working to recreate the social element of going out, making a greater range of beer and lager and recently holding different events to attract different age groups. Now in its 5th generation, with two of his sons working in the business, James admitted he feels privileged. **Ukraine Project** In March 2022 James became involved with Ukraine, taking vehicles (including fire engines and ambulances), food, clothing and medical equipment and looking to the day when vans and cement mixers can be transported to start rebuilding. Synod members were enthralled by it all and, as a bonus, discovered the difference between lager and ale (lager is brewed at colder temperatures and is therefore slower, whereas Ale is made in a much shorter period, and thus has a quicker turn-round). Thanks were given to James for his talk and his hospitality.

Having reported in my 2024 Lay Chair Report that we were reeling from the resignation of Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, we had to wait until 3rd October this year to hear that his successor will be The Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mulally who will be formally installed at Canterbury Cathedral, rather appropriately on Lady Day, 25th March, this year.

On 18th November Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft announced his retirement as Bishop of Oxford, a post he has held for 10 years and from which he will stand down in July 2026. His last service, as he prepares to lay down his Crozier, will be at Christ Church Cathedral on 31st May, at 5p.m. There will obviously be more information about this nearer the time.

Thank you to all who take office in the Parish, the Deanery and indeed in the wider Church, giving so much of your time and accepting considerable responsibility. Church House does offer guidance and there is always someone you can ask if you have a concern, but at the same time does continue to assume that we are all fully au fait with all their different computer programmes and have at our fingertips detailed technical knowledge. That might be the case in a few years' time, but not yet.

Bishop Gavin continues his "Zoom" get-togethers for the eleven Lay Chairs of the Dorchester Area for us to talk about our Deaneries but I will admit I prefer in-person meetings with the opportunity of picking your fellow Lay Chairs' brains for ideas and information. We meet once a year in person for a relaxed social and recently the Lay Chairs have started to hold their own meetings.

My thanks go David, to Sarah who has followed David, to Brian Ford, for his work as Deanery Treasurer and to Nick Case, who is following in Brian's footsteps as our Deanery Treasurer, to Claire Blackman, who made up the Standing Committee until June, and to Sam Shaw, our brilliant Administrator, who is so good at reminding us all of our duties in our various roles – gone are the days when PCCs seemed to do more as or less as they pleased.

This Report will be on your agenda at your APCM - as will the election of Deanery Synod Representatives – I do hope you will have a good attendance. Thank you to all who stand as Deanery Representatives, your gifts of time and energy are so very much appreciated. Do your best to fill your quota of Deanery Representatives, who report at PCC meetings, and that we see them all at Deanery Synods. The Term of Office for Deanery Synod Representatives (and also Lay Chairs) is 3 years, and they take office from 1st July, regardless of the date of their election. I have served on Synod since 2002 and was first Elected in 2018, mid-term, but there is no limit, which is particularly helpful for very small parishes.

On a personal level I have continued to write regular Lay Chair letters to try to keep everyone in touch between Synods, and, I hope, encourage everyone in all their endeavours – these go out to Churchwardens but can be passed on more widely if you wish. I am very grateful for all the lovely messages of thanks I receive. I hope you are looking towards the challenges of 2026 with relish.

**Catherine Hitchens**

*Lay Chair – Chipping Norton Deanery  
March 2026*