

# 2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church, Spelsbury

## Aim and purposes

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

All Saints' Parochial 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 All Saints' Church, Spelsbury.

## 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 All Saints' 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 All Saints' 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 22 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 10am service each week somewhere within the Benefice, with an additional 10am service on fifth Sundays. Attendance averages around six 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.

The Remembrance Day service in Spelsbury had a congregation of 9. At Christmas we were pleased to join with Chadlington for a joint Celebration of Christmas at St Nicholas', with carols, seasonal and Bible readings followed by refreshments. This replaced the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols and was warmly received. Sadly, due to clergy illness, we were unable to hold a service on Christmas Day but were pleased that many of our congregation join the celebration at Chadlington.

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 Spelsbury we held one wedding, one baptism, four funerals and two 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.

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 All Saints' 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**

The Church of All Saints' 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 remains committed to caring for this historic building and records its gratitude to our Churchwarden, Ken Wakefield, for overseeing its routine care and maintenance. The roof alarm and fire extinguishers were serviced and a maintenance check was carried out on the bells. The gutters, downpipes and french drains were cleaned out.

The PCC continues to be concerned about ingress of water when there is heavy rain. To this end, a temporary down-pipe has been fitted to divert water from the Tower roof in order to allow the south aisle wall to dry out so that it can be repointed in due course. We are grateful to Robert Hobill for his help with this temporary solution and we continue to work with our architect James Mackintosh to find a permanent solution to this problem.

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. The PCC normally supports the work of a number of charities through special collections and the Designated Charitable Giving Fund. The collection at the Remembrance Day service, amounting to £208 was given to the Royal British Legion. In 2024, the PCC authorised donations from the Designated Charitable Giving Fund totalling £1,181 to Medicine San Frontiers; International Rescue Fund; Water Aid and Katherine House Hospice. These payments were transferred in early 2025. The PCC will consider making additional payments to charities from unrestricted funds.

All Saints' participates in the annual Oxfordshire Historic Church Trust Ride and Stride event. Funds raised help preserve many of Oxfordshire's churches, chapels and meeting houses while also supporting All Saints' Church.

Our parish magazine, shared with Spelsbury, is delivered bi-monthly to households across the parish and continues to be an important means of communication within the village. 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.

### **Friends of All Saints' Church, Spelsbury**

2025 was another busy year for the Friends. We were able to provide teas on 6 occasions at The Edwards Gardens, once at Dean Manor and once at Chastleton. The nett total raised was £3,682.00.

Again none of these activities would have been possible without our wonderful team of volunteers for providing and serving. We also thank David and Jill Edwards and Pippa and Johnny Hornby for suggesting that the Friends provide teas for their open days.

Stephen Barbour again showed a group of 25 round his garden and special interest trees which were already in blossom and leaf on June 7th. This was followed by hot soup and rolls in the Memorial Hall. Stephen again very kindly matched the donations made on the tour. The total raised was £580.

The Ditchley day that the committee planned for October sadly did not happen due to unforeseen circumstances. We are still hopeful that there will be an event at Ditchley this year.

On October 18th we ran a Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall and hosted 29 guests, mostly from the Parish. The Menu was "Bangers and Mash" followed by fruit crumble. Maxine provided a Farmers quiz using pictures put up on the walls which was fun and quite a test. Everyone enjoyed the evening with an opportunity to spend time together. It was felt that something like this would be worth repeating in 2026.

During the year more visiting within the Spelsbury Parish was done, raising the profile of All Saints Church and the work of the Friends within that. Further annual subscriptions were added. At the moment there are 39 standing orders and quite a few one-off donations. We therefore received a total of £1,678 in 2025 before gift aid.

The Friends have continued to pay for the cleaning of the church which is done with love and care by Thalita de Aranjó who also cleans Enstone and Chadlington churches.

Plans for reordering the rear of the church to include a composting toilet and servery have been drawn up by the architect James Macintosh. These are presently being discussed with the Rector and PCC. The Application for permission from the Diocese to do this is presently being written. The Rector has said that there are additional church funds that could be made available to fund this.

Total funds raised in 2025 amounted to £6,268. At the year end the total of the Friends Fund was £17,342. The PCC is indebted to the Friends' Committee and in particular to Gillie and Christopher Galloway who have been instrumental in the establishment and running of the Friends. A full breakdown of receipts and payments of the Friends can be found on page 16.

***Gillie Galloway, Chair of Friends of All Saints' Church, Spelsbury***

## 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 21 - 21.

## 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 will undertake basic awareness 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 [juliebenson@btinternet.com](mailto:juliebenson@btinternet.com).

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 ended 31 December 2025 are set out on pages 10 to 19 of this report.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is pleased to report a satisfactory financial year, made possible by the continued generosity of our donors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our regular and occasional contributors. We particularly appreciate the contribution from the Friends of Spelsbury and others who dedicate their time and effort to fundraising activities : it is a vital role in the life of the Church.

We are grateful for all that Mark has done and continues to do, supporting George Bailey in the management and preparation of these accounts. We also thank Beth Sinclair, the Benefice Administrator, for bookkeeping, and Alison Parker for independently examining the accounts.

At the end of 2025 the PCC received a bequest of £175,000 from the late Mary Taylor of Taston for which we are enormously grateful. Whilst this sum is included in the Statement of Financial Activities, for the purposes of comparison with previous years, this sum has been excluded from the following observations.

## **Financial Overview**

We are pleased to report that we met all our financial obligations in 2025 and achieved a surplus of £3,202 income over expenditure during the year.

- **Total income** in 2025 amounted to £28,884 (2024: £34,649). The key sources of income were: Planned giving: £10,122; Collections, other donations, and Gift Aid: £11,729; Fundraising events: £4,199; and Fee income from Occasional Offices: £1,648.
- **Total expenditure** in 2025 was £25,017 (2024: £23,328). Our major expenses included: Parish Share: £9,015; Clergy and benefice costs: £3,859; General church running costs: £9,132; Churchyard maintenance (including equipment replacement): £1,620.

## **Year-End Financial Position**

At year-end, total funds amounted to £282,814 (2024: 104,611), comprising: Endowments: £214,055; Restricted funds: £58,674 and Unrestricted/designated funds: £10,084. This total includes £1,668 held by the Benefice on our behalf within the Chase Benefice Accounts.

We remain committed to sound financial stewardship and thank everyone who has contributed to ensuring the continued financial stability of our Church.

**George Bailey, Treasurer**

## **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 £5,501.25. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At the year-end, a balance of £8,045 unrestricted funds [excluding designated funds] were held. In addition to £19,630 in the restricted Spelsbury Fund which can be used at the discretion of the PCC. The PCC is making every effort to increase this reserve.

## **Volunteers**

The past year has once again demonstrated the vitality and generosity of our church community. Much of what happens at All Saints' 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 our churchwarden Mr Ken Wakefield who continues to work tirelessly on our behalf and Mr George Bailey who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances. We are also indebted to Mrs Gillie Galloway, PCC Secretary, organist and Chair of The Friends of All Saints' Church. Many volunteers give of their time and talents: bell ringers, intercessors, readers, sidespeople, coffee & cake makers, fundraisers, key holders, Maxine Hobill and the flower arrangers. 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 All Saints' 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 All Saints', the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), churchwardens 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 twice in person. In addition to these meetings, the PCC met with the other PCCs from the Benefice on three other occasions. The PCC has two committees:-

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.

The Fabric Committee. This committee is responsible to the PCC for general repairs and maintenance of all church property in the parish. It achieves this by the implementation of a costed work programme presented to and approved by the PCC. Additionally, the remit of the committee includes "Considering, advising on and, if appropriate, subsequently implementing any improvements to and enhancement of the interior facilities and decoration of the church requested by the PCC." Members of this committee during the year were: Mr Andrew Griffiths (Chairman), the Incumbent, the Churchwarden, the Treasurer and Brigadier Christopher Galloway (all ex officio).

These committees are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions. These are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

# Administrative information

All Saints' Church is situated in Spelsbury. 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
Warden:	Mr. Ken Wakefield (Vice chairman)

## **Elected members:**

Representative on Deanery Synod — Dr Andrew Griffiths (Chair of Fabric Committee)

Mr George Bailey (Treasurer)

Mrs Gillie Galloway - (Secretary)

Brigadier Christopher Galloway

*Three vacancies*

This report was approved by the PCC on 18th 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 10 to 19.

## 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

*25 March 2026*

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

**Spelsbury 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		10,122	—	—	—	10,122	9,939
Collections and other giving		3,759	—	—	—	3,759	5,546
Other voluntary receipts		2,010	—	2,246	—	4,256	6,119
Gift Aid recovered		3,256	—	458	—	3,714	4,190
Other receipts		180	175,000	—	—	175,180	254
Activities for generating funds		—	—	4,199	—	4,199	5,438
Investment Income		—	16	987	—	1,003	1,215
Receipts from church activities		1,648	—	—	—	1,648	1,945
<b>Total income</b>		<b>20,977</b>	<b>175,016</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>203,884</b>	<b>34,649</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
	<b>3</b>						
Cost of generating funds		—	—	107	—	107	30
Missionary and Charitable Giving		25	1,181	—	—	1,206	25
Parish Share		9,015	—	—	—	9,015	9,018
Clergy and Benefice costs		3,859	—	—	—	3,859	4,361
Church Running Expenses		6,892	—	2,239	—	9,132	9,894
Church Major Repairs & Maintenance		—	—	1,620	—	1,620	—
Governance Costs		75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>19,867</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>25,017</b>	<b>23,328</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets		—	15	—	(680)	(664)	336
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>		<b>1,109</b>	<b>173,849</b>	<b>3,923</b>	<b>(680)</b>	<b>178,202</b>	<b>11,656</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>							
	<b>2</b>						
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,109</b>	<b>173,849</b>	<b>3,923</b>	<b>(680)</b>	<b>178,202</b>	<b>11,656</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>6,935</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>54,751</b>	<b>39,735</b>	<b>104,611</b>	<b>92,955</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>8,045</b>	<b>177,039</b>	<b>58,674</b>	<b>39,055</b>	<b>282,814</b>	<b>104,611</b>
<b>Represented by</b>							
<b>Unrestricted</b>							
General fund		8,045	—	—	—	8,045	6,935
<b>Designated</b>							
Benefice Fund		—	1,668	—	—	1,668	1,652
Charitable Giving Fund		—	—	—	—	—	1,181
Mary Talor Legacy (Designated)		—	175,000	—	—	175,000	—
Repair Fund		—	370	—	—	370	354
<b>Restricted</b>							
Bell fund		—	—	970	—	970	585
Friends fund	<b>4</b>	—	—	17,342	—	17,342	14,130
Organ Fund		—	—	34	—	34	450
Spelsbury Roof Fund		—	—	16,510	—	16,510	16,960
Spelsbury fund		—	—	19,630	—	19,630	19,426
Williams fund(restricted)		—	—	4,186	—	4,186	3,199
<b>Endowment</b>							
Williams fund		—	—	—	39,055	39,055	39,735

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

**Spelsbury 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>Fixed assets</b>		
Investments	26,052	26,732
	26,052	26,732
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	256,762	78,006
	256,762	78,006
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	—	127
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>256,762</b>	<b>77,879</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>282,814</b>	<b>104,611</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>282,814</b>	<b>104,611</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	8,045	6,935
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Benefice Fund	1,668	1,652
Designated - Charitable Giving Fund	—	1,181
Designated - Mary Talor Legacy (Designated)	175,000	—
Designated - Repair Fund	370	354
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Organ Fund	34	450
Restricted - Spelsbury Roof Fund	16,510	16,960
Restricted - Spelsbury fund	19,630	19,426
Restricted - Williams fund(restricted)	4,186	3,199
Restricted - Bell fund	970	585
Restricted - Friends fund	17,342	14,130
<b>Endowment</b>		
Endowment - Williams fund	39,055	39,735
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<b>282,814</b>	<b>104,611</b>

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

**Spelsbury PCC**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)**

**As at: 31 December 2025**

	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Previous balance</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
<b>5000: Charles Stanley - Asset</b>		
Williams fund      Endowment	26,052.28	26,732.33
	<b>26,052.28</b>	<b>26,732.33</b>
<b>Investments</b>	<b>26,052.28</b>	<b>26,732.33</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		
<b>6501: Bank current account - Asset</b>		
Charitable Giving      Designated Fund	—	1,181.65
Organ Fund      Restricted	(15.88)	—
Spelsbury Roof Fund      Restricted	6,004.33	6,004.33
General fund      Unrestricted	7,577.05	6,467.07
Williams fund(restricted)      Restricted	1,540.81	1,029.00
Bell fund      Restricted	186.35	44.35
Friends fund      Restricted	311.16	679.48
Agency collection      Restricted	—	127.50
	<b>15,603.82</b>	<b>15,533.38</b>
<b>6505: Spelsbury Fund account - Asset</b>		
Mary Talor Legacy      Designated (Designated)	175,000.00	—
Organ Fund      Restricted	50.00	450.00
Spelsbury Roof Fund      Restricted	10,505.75	10,955.75
General fund      Unrestricted	424.70	424.70
Spelsbury fund      Restricted	19,630.96	19,426.36
Williams fund(restricted)      Restricted	1,019.56	371.42
Bell fund      Restricted	783.81	540.81
Friends fund      Restricted	17,031.45	13,451.34
	<b>224,446.23</b>	<b>45,620.38</b>
<b>6506: Repair &amp; Maintenance Fund Account - Asset</b>		
General fund      Unrestricted	0.11	0.11
	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.11</b>
<b>6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Asset</b>		
Williams fund      Endowment	13,003.17	13,003.17
Williams fund(restricted)      Restricted	1,556.67	1,556.67
Repair Fund      Designated	370.99	354.92
	<b>14,930.83</b>	<b>14,914.76</b>
<b>6530: Benefice Account - cash held for PCC - Asset</b>		
Benefice Fund      Designated	1,668.18	1,652.98
	<b>1,668.18</b>	<b>1,652.98</b>

		Balance	Previous balance
<b>6540: Charles Stanley - cash held on account - Asset</b>			
Williams	Restricted	69.78	242.04
fund(restricted)		<u>69.78</u>	<u>242.04</u>
<b>6590: Cash in hand - Asset</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	43.14	43.14
		<u>43.14</u>	<u>43.14</u>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>256,762.09</b>	<b>78,006.79</b>
<b>Agency accounts</b>			
<b>6699: Agency collections - Liability</b>			
Agency collection	Restricted	—	127.50
		<u>—</u>	<u>127.50</u>
<b>Agency accounts</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>127.50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>282,814.37</b>	<b>104,611.62</b>
		<u><u>282,814.37</u></u>	<u><u>104,611.62</u></u>

## Notes to the accounts

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- The movements in designated, restricted and endowment 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	6,935	20,977	19,867	—	—	—	8,045
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>20,977</b>	<b>19,867</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,045</b>
<b>Designated</b>							
Benefice - Benefice Fund	1,652	—	—	—	—	15	1,668
CGF - Charitable Giving Fund	1,181	—	1,181	—	—	—	—
MTLDes - Mary Talor Legacy (Designated)	—	175,000	—	—	—	—	175,000
Repair - Repair Fund	354	16	—	—	—	—	370
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>175,016</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>177,039</b>
<b>Restricted</b>							
Organ - Organ Fund	450	—	415	—	—	—	34
Roof - Spelsbury Roof Fund	16,960	—	450	—	—	—	16,510
Spels - Spelsbury fund	19,426	250	45	—	—	—	19,630
WilliamsR - Williams fund(restricted)	3,199	987	—	—	—	—	4,186
Bell - Bell fund	585	385	—	—	—	—	970
Friends - Friends fund	14,130	6,268	3,056	—	—	—	17,342
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>54,751</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>58,674</b>
<b>Endowment</b>							
Williams - Williams fund	39,735	—	—	—	(680)	—	39,055
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>39,735</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(680)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>39,055</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>104,611</b>	<b>203,884</b>	<b>25,017</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(680)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>282,814</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.

**Charitable Giving Fund:** represents sums set aside by the PCC from unrestricted annual income, to be dispersed to Mission and relief agencies.

**Mary Taylor Legacy:** represent a fund held in the name of the PCC, the income and capital of which can be spent at the discretion for the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

Repair Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals that the PCC chooses to set aside for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church.

#### *Restricted Funds*

Organ Fund: represents the balance of donations given to purchase the new electronic organ and for its subsequent upkeep, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Spelsbury Roof Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals for the recovering of the roofs, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Spelsbury 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 at the discretion of the PCC for these purposes.

Williams Repair Fund: represents accumulated income from the endowment, which can only be spent on upkeep of the fabric of the Church.

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

Friend's Fund: represents accumulated donations and funds raised by the Friend's of All Saints' Church, which can only be spent on the maintenance of the fabric of the Church and Churchyard, at the direction of the Friend's Committee.

#### *Endowment Funds*

Williams Fund (capital): represent a legacy left by the late John Williams which is held as a capital fund invested in stocks and shares and a high rate deposit account, the income of which can be spent for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church.

3. Further analysis of Receipts and payments is shown on pages 17 to 19.
4. A statement of Receipts and payments for the Friend's of All Saints' Church is found on page 16.

**Spelsbury PCC**  
**Receipts and payments**  
**Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

<i>Note</i>	<b>From To</b>	<b>01 January 2025 31 December 2025</b>	<b>01 January 2024 31 December 2024</b>
<b>Friends - Friends fund (Restricted) Fund</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Other voluntary receipts			
Donation (Friends)		1,678	1,787
	<i>Total Other voluntary receipts</i>	1,678	1,787
Gift Aid recovered			
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		391	166
	<i>Total Gift Aid recovered</i>	391	166
Activities for generating funds			
Fundraising		50	—
Friends' Event		4,149	3,237
	<i>Total Activities for generating funds</i>	4,199	3,237
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>6,268</b>	<b>5,190</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Cost of generating funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		107	—
	<i>Total Cost of generating funds</i>	107	—
Church Running Expenses			
Church routine maintenance		340	—
Cleaning		987	—
Upkeep of churchyard		—	1,430
	<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	1,328	1,430
Church Major Repairs & Maintenance			
Church major repairs - installation		1,620	—
	<i>Total Church Major Repairs &amp; Maintenance</i>	1,620	—
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>3,056</b>	<b>1,430</b>
		3,211	3,760
		14,130	10,370
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>		<b>17,342</b>	<b>14,130</b>

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

Spelsbury 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	10,112	—	—	—	10,112	9,939
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	10	—	—	—	10	—
<i>Planned giving Totals</i>	10,122	—	—	—	10,122	9,939
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
0301 - Loose plate collections	1,363	—	—	—	1,363	1,708
0302 - Loose plate - weddings etc.	1,786	—	—	—	1,786	1,297
0303 - Gift Aid - weddings etc	—	—	—	—	—	2,220
0304 - Online donations	16	—	—	—	16	24
0401 - Wall box	592	—	—	—	592	295
<i>Collections and other giving Totals</i>	3,759	—	—	—	3,759	5,546
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
0550 - Donations	2,010	—	568	—	2,578	4,332
0553 - Donation (Friends)	—	—	1,678	—	1,678	1,787
<i>Other voluntary receipts Totals</i>	2,010	—	2,246	—	4,256	6,119
<i>Gift Aid recovered</i>						
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	3,256	—	458	—	3,714	4,190
<i>Gift Aid recovered Totals</i>	3,256	—	458	—	3,714	4,190
<i>Other receipts</i>						
0701 - Legacies	—	175,000	—	—	175,000	—
1301 - VAT rebates	180	—	—	—	180	—
1315 - VAT Claim	—	—	—	—	—	254
<i>Other receipts Totals</i>	180	175,000	—	—	175,180	254
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
0901 - Fundraising	—	—	50	—	50	2,076
0912 - OHTC Ride and Stride	—	—	—	—	—	125
0915 - Friends' Event	—	—	4,149	—	4,149	3,237
<i>Activities for generating funds Totals</i>	—	—	4,199	—	4,199	5,438
<i>Investment Income</i>						
1001 - Dividends	—	—	339	—	339	507
1020 - Bank and building society interest	—	16	648	—	664	708
<i>Investment Income Totals</i>	—	16	987	—	1,003	1,215

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

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	1,648	—	—	—	1,648	1,945
<i>Receipts from church activities Totals</i>						
	1,648	—	—	—	1,648	1,945
<b>Receipts Grand totals</b>						
	20,977	175,016	7,890	—	203,884	34,649

## Payments

### *Cost of generating funds*

1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	—	—	—	—	—	30
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	—	—	107	—	107	—

<i>Cost of generating funds Totals</i>	—	—	107	—	107	30
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### *Missionary and Charitable Giving*

1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	—	885	—	—	885	—
1850 - Home mission	25	296	—	—	321	25

<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving Totals</i>	25	1,181	—	—	1,206	25
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### *Parish Share*

1910 - Ministry parish share	9,015	—	—	—	9,015	9,018
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<i>Parish Share Totals</i>	9,015	—	—	—	9,015	9,018
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### *Clergy and Benefice costs*

2101 - Clergy expenses	—	—	—	—	—	250
2102 - Benefice expenses	3,665	—	—	—	3,665	3,432
2105 - Benefice Ministry Fund	193	—	—	—	193	678

<i>Clergy and Benefice costs Totals</i>	3,859	—	—	—	3,859	4,361
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### *Church Running Expenses*

2301 - Church running - insurance	3,087	—	—	—	3,087	3,071
2310 - Church Broadband	87	—	—	—	87	95
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	—	—	15	—	15	—
2330 - Church routine maintenance	901	—	790	—	1,692	1,709
2331 - Cleaning	—	—	987	—	987	144
2340 - Upkeep of services	271	—	400	—	671	271
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	1,112	—	—	—	1,112	3,709
2361 - Bank Charges	61	—	45	—	107	149
2401 - Church running - electric	1,286	—	—	—	1,286	664
2420 - Church running - water	84	—	—	—	84	77

<i>Church Running Expenses Totals</i>	6,892	—	2,239	—	9,132	9,894
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### *Church Major Repairs & Maintenance*

2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	—	1,620	—	1,620	—
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<i>Church Major Repairs &amp; Maintenance Totals</i>	—	—	1,620	—	1,620	—
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*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<i>Governance Costs</i>						
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	75	—	—	—	75	—
<i>Governance Costs Totals</i>	75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Payments Grand totals</b>	19,867	1,181	3,967	—	25,017	23,328

*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*