

# 2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Kenelm's Church, Enstone

## Aim and purposes

The Parish of Enstone 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.

St. Kenelm's 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 St. Kenelm's Church, Enstone.

## 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 St. Kenelm's 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 St. Kenelm's 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 35 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 seven 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 7 children and 30 adults. The Remembrance Day service in Enstone had a congregation of 39. At Christmas we were pleased to be able to hold a Carol Service which had a congregation of 10+ children and 70 adults. Christmas Eve saw a well-attended Crib Service, followed by a Midnight Mass for the Benefice with a congregation of 38. On Christmas morning our Family Communion had a congregation of 31.

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 Enstone we held five weddings, four baptisms, six funerals and one 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. He also holds Communion services in Enstone House Care Home twice a month.

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 St Kenelm's 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**

St Kenelm's 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. Enstone History Society uses the building for their regular meetings.

The PCC is committed to safeguarding the future of this building, and is grateful to The St Kenelm's Endowment Trust for assisting with payments for maintenance and care. During the year, no major repairs were made. The roof alarm and fire extinguishers were serviced, the bells checked and the gutters cleared of moss and leaves. Sadly our clock was not working for part of the year and look forward to it marking time again soon. We continue to monitor the Chancel Roof during heavy rainfall.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was dated November 2021 and agreed in early 2022. The next inspection will be in early 2027. All the urgent recommendations have been dealt with, and most of the works recommended for completion within the five year period have also been completed.

However, there are outstanding items, including the repainting of the cast-iron downpipes and hoppers, and restoration work on the lychgate. Fundraising is ongoing to accommodate the cost of the ongoing repair, maintenance, and restoration work.

In 2025, we have continued to manage the churchyard sympathetically for nature, maintaining our established programme of careful grass-cutting throughout the year to encourage wildflowers and insects to thrive, while ensuring that paths remain clear for visitors to the graves. It has been encouraging to see the churchyard developing as a result of our efforts, with the areas sown with wildflower seed beginning to fulfil their promise. The noticeboard in the church porch has continued to be updated to reflect activities and points of interest through the seasons. We are very grateful once again to Enstone Eco for their valued support in helping us to manage the churchyard in a way that benefits both the local community and the natural environment.

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 £315.25 was given to the Royal British Legion.

The PCC continues to support and encourage church members in organising events connected to the Church. We have had a monthly Coffee Morning in the church, on Saturday mornings during the year, which has been very well supported, and which creates an opportunity for much cheerful conversation. We thank all those willing bakers, raffle-organisers, coffee-makers, and washer-uppers who have worked so willingly each month—not to mention the gentlemen who have helped set out the tables and chairs and put them away again. These popular events raised £2,672 for Church funds.

Thanks to some generous sponsorship, we have been able to hold a number of fundraising concerts, raising £2,441. Our grateful thanks go to Philippa Ibbotson for arranging the concerts, and to Brian Pennington for organising the bar. We have also been delighted to welcome the Shipston Song Music Festival who wish to make St Kenelm's their home for future annual festivals.

Special thanks (with applause!) go to Anna Marnham and her faithful team of knitters, who have raised the astonishing amount of £2,950 during the year. They not only knit, but also Anna and some of the team book, set up, and run all the stalls. Anna first started selling Christmas cards for the Church back in 2006 and knitted goods were first mentioned in 2012. Looking through the church accounts this dedicated and talented group have raised an unbelievable £49,784!! We are grateful for all their hard work.

St Kenelm's 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 St Kenelm's. Thanks to Dawn Briggs and Rosy Nixon for riding and striding and raising £417 for Church funds.

Our parish magazine, the Ensign, is delivered monthly to households across the parish and continues to be an important means of communication within the village. We are grateful to Andrea Bates for editing it, David Robottom for producing it and Ashley Rogers for dealing with sponsorship. Alongside the magazine, 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, Rosy Nixon, 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 19 - 20.

# 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 07391868478, 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 set out on pages 10 to 18 of this report.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is pleased to report another successful 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 those who dedicate their time and effort to fundraising activities which play a vital role in the life of the Church.

Following Ashley Rogers retirement as Treasurer in May 2024, Mark Abrey has been overseeing the day-to-day financial management of the PCC accounts until a permanent Treasurer is found. We are grateful for all that Mark has done. We also thank Beth Sinclair, the Benefice Administrator, for bookkeeping, and Alison Parker for independently examining the accounts.

### Financial Overview

We are pleased to report that we met all our financial obligations in 2025 and achieved a surplus on unrestricted funds of £9,000, up from £6,598 in 2024 and a significant improvement from the -£4,368 deficit in 2023. Key contributors to this turnaround include: a very generous one-off donation of £4,000; monthly coffee mornings: £2,672; sale of knitted goods: £2,950; and an increase in visitor donations following the introduction of the card terminal: £1,190 (2024: £592).

- **Total income** in 2025 amounted to £48,993 (2024: £53,410). The key sources of income were: Planned Giving: £14,932; Collections, other Donations, and Gift Aid: £16,299; Unrestricted Fundraising Activities: £7,849; Restricted Fundraising for Concerts and the Ensign: £6,669; Fee income from Occasional Offices: £2,756; Sundry income from VAT: £315 and £169 Investment Income.

- **Total expenditure** in 2025 was £37,729 (2024: £44,053). Our major expenses included: Parish Share: £14,032; Clergy and benefice costs: £6,005; General church running costs: £7,749; Churchyard maintenance: £507; utility costs: £4,498; Restricted Fundraising costs for Ensign: £2,940 and Concerts: £1,714; Unrestricted fundraising costs: £106.

## Year-End Financial Position

As of year-end, total funds amounted to £44,461 (2024: £32,886), comprising: Restricted funds: £12,591 and Unrestricted/designated funds: £31,869. This includes £2,884 held within the Chase Benefice Accounts on our behalf, earmarked for expenses within the Benefice Budget, as agreed annually by all PCCs.

We are committed to maintaining sound financial stewardship and sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to ensuring the ongoing financial stability of our Church.

## 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 £8,197.75. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At the year-end, a balance of £28,785 unrestricted general funds was held (2024: £18,447). As noted above, the PCC is making every effort to increase this reserve.

## Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our PCC members, Ashley Rogers, Penny Silva and Louise Ferguson Davie, who continue to work tirelessly on our behalf. We are also grateful to Angela Taylor who served on the PCC until May 2025 and thank her for her years of service. We thank Charles Powell for his care of the fabric, his management of the lockers/unlockers, the heating, and many other things. We thank Julie Benson for her Safeguarding work for the Benefice. Our worship has been enhanced by our organist Elsa Williams. Many volunteers give of their time and talents: bell-ringers, intercessors, readers, sides-people, those who have set up and cleared away for services, coffee & cake makers, lower arrangers, knitters, fundraisers and those who unlock and lock the church each day. We express our thanks for the essential contribution they make to the life of the parish.

This past year has seen the departure of two much-valued members of our PCC, and we would like to place on record our profound gratitude for everything they have given to St Kenelm's and the wider Benefice. Rosy Nixon, served our community with extraordinary dedication for over thirty years as PCC member and leader of the Benefice Choir, bringing music, joy and worship to countless services and occasions. Penny Silva gave so generously of her time and talents across multiple vital roles — as Church Warden, PCC Secretary, Sacristan and latterly organising our monthly coffee mornings, with quiet efficiency and devotion. Both have moved away, and their departures have left a very great hole in our Church family. We thank them wholeheartedly for their many years of faithful service and wish them every blessing in their new chapters. We are now actively seeking new members to join the PCC, and warmly invite anyone who feels called to serve our church community in this way to come forward.

# Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Kenelm's, 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 once formally during the year. In addition to this meeting, the PCC met with the other PCCs from the Benefice on three 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: Charles Powell (Chairman), the Incumbent and the Treasurer (all ex officio). The committee has the right to co-opt additional members as it sees fit.

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

St. Kenelm's Church is situated in Enstone. 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) (Treasurer from May 2024)  
Former Curate: The Reverend Professor Ilona Cheyne  
Churchwardens: *Vacant*

## Elected members:

Representative on Deanery Synod — Ms Rosy Nixon - *until May 2025*

Mrs Louise Ferguson Davie - *from May 2025*

Mr Ashley Rogers

Mrs Penny Silva (Secretary) - *until December 2025*

Mrs Angela Taylor - *until May 2025*

Four vacancies

This report was approved by the PCC on 31 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 18.

## 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



Date

28.4.26

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

**Enstone PCC**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>						
	<b>3</b>					
Planned giving	14,932	—	—	—	14,932	14,797
Collections and other giving	6,636	—	—	—	6,636	5,132
Other voluntary receipts	4,505	—	218	—	4,723	5,806
Gift Aid recovered	4,940	—	—	—	4,940	5,857
Other receipts	315	—	—	—	315	6,033
Activities for generating funds	7,849	—	6,669	—	14,519	13,941
Investment Income	71	0	98	—	169	192
Receipts from church activities	2,756	—	—	—	2,756	1,649
<b>Total income</b>	<b>42,006</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,986</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48,993</b>	<b>53,410</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
	<b>3</b>					
Cost of generating funds	106	—	4,654	—	4,761	4,460
Missionary and Charitable Giving	100	—	—	—	100	100
Parish Share	14,032	—	—	—	14,032	14,028
Clergy and Benefice costs	6,005	—	—	—	6,005	6,398
Church Running Expenses	12,686	—	68	—	12,754	13,680
Church Major Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	5,384
Governance Costs	75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>33,006</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>37,729</b>	<b>44,053</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	311	—	—	311	(44)
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,575</b>	<b>9,312</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
	<b>2</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,392	—	602	—	1,994	2,215
Gross transfers between funds - out	(55)	—	(1,939)	—	(1,994)	(2,215)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>						
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>10,337</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,575</b>	<b>9,312</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>18,447</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>11,666</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32,886</b>	<b>23,573</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>28,785</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>12,591</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>32,886</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
Unrestricted						
General fund	28,785	—	—	—	28,785	18,447
Designated						
Accumulated Fund	—	0	—	—	0	0
Benefice Fund	—	2,884	—	—	2,884	2,572
Charitable Giving Fund	—	200	—	—	200	200
Restricted						
Bell Fund	—	—	1,356	—	1,356	1,123
Chest Restoration Fund	—	—	478	—	478	472
Church Estate	—	—	4,415	—	4,415	4,358
Clock Repair Fund	—	—	2,499	—	2,499	2,507
Enstone Ensign	—	—	938	—	938	808
Fabric Fund	—	—	543	—	543	539
Lych Gate	—	—	547	—	547	—
Piano Fund	—	—	1,199	—	1,199	1,242
Re-ordering Project	—	—	613	—	613	613

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

Enstone PCC

Balance sheet (Church of England)

As at: 31 December 2025

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	44,461	32,886
	<u>44,461</u>	<u>32,886</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>32,886</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>32,886</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>32,886</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	28,785	18,447
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Accumulated Fund	0	0
Designated - Benefice Fund	2,884	2,572
Designated - Charitable Giving Fund	200	200
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Bell Fund	1,356	1,123
Restricted - Lych Gate	547	—
Restricted - 2018 Seating Project - Pews & Floors	—	—
Restricted - Piano Fund	1,199	1,242
Restricted - Re-ordering Project	613	613
Restricted - Restoration Fund	—	—
Restricted - Warmth, Welcome & Water	—	—
Restricted - Enstone Ensign	938	808
Restricted - 2018 Seating Project - Chairs	—	—
Restricted - Church Estate	4,415	4,358
Restricted - Chest Restoration Fund	478	472
Restricted - Churchyard Maintenance	—	—
Restricted - Clock Repair Fund	2,499	2,507
Restricted - Concert Fund	—	—
Restricted - Fabric Fund	543	539
Restricted - Flower Fund	—	—
<b>Endowment</b>		
Endowment - CP Re-ordering Endowment	—	—
Endowment - Cape Fund	—	—
Endowment - Church Hall Fund	—	—
Endowment - Church Room Trust	—	—
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>32,886</b>

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

**Enstone 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>			
Bell Fund	Restricted	465.68	247.68
Charitable Giving Fund	Designated	200.00	200.00
Clock Repair Fund	Restricted	2,499.70	2,507.77
Fabric Fund	Restricted	457.15	457.15
Lych Gate	Restricted	547.25	—
Piano Fund	Restricted	(60.00)	—
General fund	Unrestricted	23,364.69	11,453.08
		<b>27,474.47</b>	<b>14,865.68</b>
<b>6505: Bank deposit account - Asset</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	5,420.24	6,993.99
		<b>5,420.24</b>	<b>6,993.99</b>
<b>6506: Ensign current account - Asset</b>			
Enstone Ensign	Restricted	910.29	780.29
		<b>910.29</b>	<b>780.29</b>
<b>6507: Ensign deposit account - Asset</b>			
Enstone Ensign	Restricted	28.66	28.39
General fund	Unrestricted	0.10	—
		<b>28.76</b>	<b>28.39</b>
<b>6508: Appeal current account - Asset</b>			
Re-ordering Project	Restricted	613.03	613.03
		<b>613.03</b>	<b>613.03</b>
<b>6509: Appeal deposit account - Asset</b>			
Bell Fund	Restricted	787.15	776.90
Chest Restoration Fund	Restricted	478.15	472.07
Piano Fund	Restricted	1,259.22	1,242.76
		<b>2,524.52</b>	<b>2,491.73</b>
<b>6511: Church estate deposit account - Asset</b>			
Church Estate	Restricted	4,415.54	4,358.19
		<b>4,415.54</b>	<b>4,358.19</b>
<b>6520: CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Asset</b>			
Accumulated Fund	Designated	0.43	0.42
Bell Fund	Restricted	103.76	99.27
Fabric Fund	Restricted	86.36	82.62
		<b>190.55</b>	<b>182.31</b>
<b>6530: Benefice Account - cash held for PCC - Asset</b>			
Benefice Fund	Designated	2,884.32	2,572.50
		<b>2,884.32</b>	<b>2,572.50</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>44,461.72</b>	<b>32,886.11</b>

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	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Previous balance</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<u><u>44,461.72</u></u>	<u><u>32,886.11</u></u>

## 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 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	18,447	42,006	33,006	1,337	—	—	28,785
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>18,447</b>	<b>42,006</b>	<b>33,006</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>28,785</b>
<b>Designated</b>							
AccFund - Accumulated Fund	0	0	—	—	—	—	0
Benefice - Benefice Fund	2,572	—	—	—	—	311	2,884
CGF - Charitable Giving Fund	200	—	—	—	—	—	200
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>3,084</b>
<b>Restricted</b>							
BellFund - Bell Fund	1,123	232	—	—	—	—	1,356
ChEstate - Church Estate	4,358	57	—	—	—	—	4,415
Chest - Chest Restoration Fund	472	6	—	—	—	—	478
Clock - Clock Repair Fund	2,507	—	8	—	—	—	2,499
Fabric - Fabric Fund	539	3	—	—	—	—	543
Gate - Lych Gate	—	—	—	547	—	—	547
Piano - Piano Fund	1,242	16	60	—	—	—	1,199
Reorder - Re-ordering Project	613	—	—	—	—	—	613
nsign - Enstone Ensign	808	3,070	2,940	—	—	—	938
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>11,666</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,591</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32,886</b>	<b>45,393</b>	<b>36,014</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>44,461</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.

## *Restricted Funds*

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

Clock Fund: represents funds raised and donated for the repair and improvements to the Tower Clock.

Church Estate: represents the balance of the historic Church Estate Trust Fund, the proceeds of which can be spent at the discretion of the PCC in line with the original terms of the Trust, namely religious education, financial support for elderly church members and the upkeep of the churchyard.

Chest Restoration Fund: represents accumulated donations for the restoration of the Church chest, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Fabric Fund: represents the donations and appeals for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Lych Gate Fund: represents funds raised and donated for the repairs to the Lych Gate.

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

Re-ordering Fund: represents accumulated donations and appeals for the re-ordering project 2017/18, which can only be spent for this purpose.

Warmth, Welcome and Water: represents monies raised through fundraising activities [coffee mornings, sales of work, knitted goods and cards] for the provision of amenities to make the Church building more welcoming to visitors.

Enstone Ensign: represents monies collected from advertisers and donors for the production and publication of the monthly parish magazine, which can only be spent for this purpose.

3. Further analysis of Receipts and payments is shown on pages 16 to 18.

Enstone 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	14,932	—	—	—	14,932	14,777
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	—	—	—	—	—	20
<b>Planned giving Totals</b>	<b>14,932</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>14,932</b>	<b>14,797</b>
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
0301 - Loose plate collections	2,402	—	—	—	2,402	2,229
0302 - Loose plate collections - weddings etc.	1,903	—	—	—	1,903	1,809
0303 - Gift Aid - weddings etc.	1,140	—	—	—	1,140	500
0401 - Wall box	1,190	—	—	—	1,190	592
<b>Collections and other giving Totals</b>	<b>6,636</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,636</b>	<b>5,132</b>
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
0550 - Donations	4,505	—	218	—	4,723	3,410
0552 - Donations (Ensign)	—	—	—	—	—	600
0554 - Donations (Fundraising)	—	—	—	—	—	1,795
<b>Other voluntary receipts Totals</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>5,806</b>
<i>Gift Aid recovered</i>						
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	4,940	—	—	—	4,940	5,566
0602 - Fundraising Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	—	—	—	—	—	291
<b>Gift Aid recovered Totals</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>5,857</b>
<i>Other receipts</i>						
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	—	—	—	4,500
1315 - VAT claim	315	—	—	—	315	1,533
<b>Other receipts Totals</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>6,033</b>
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
0912 - OHTC Ride and Stride	417	—	—	—	417	270
0913 - Concerts and music	400	—	3,599	—	3,999	1,823
0916 - Hire of church	1,410	—	—	—	1,410	1,930
0917 - Coffee mornings	2,672	—	—	—	2,672	2,784
0919 - Other Fundraising Events	—	—	—	—	—	452
1225 - Cards and knitted goods - fund raising	2,950	—	—	—	2,950	3,808
1261 - Parish Magazine donations	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	—
1262 - Parish Magazine Sponsors and advertising	—	—	2,070	—	2,070	2,873
<b>Activities for generating funds Totals</b>	<b>7,849</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,669</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>14,519</b>	<b>13,941</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
<i>Investment Income</i>						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	71	0	98	—	169	192
<b>Investment Income Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>192</b>
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	2,756	—	—	—	2,756	1,649
<b>Receipts from church activities Totals</b>	<b>2,756</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,756</b>	<b>1,649</b>
<b>Receipts Grand totals</b>	<b>42,006</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,986</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48,993</b>	<b>53,410</b>

## Payments

<i>Cost of generating funds</i>						
1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	—	—	156	—	156	—
1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	46	—	—	—	46	80
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	—	—	1,558	—	1,558	1,340
2510 - Bookstall costs	60	—	—	—	60	—
2520 - Magazine Production costs	—	—	755	—	755	540
2521 - Magazine Printing Costs	—	—	2,185	—	2,185	2,500
<b>Cost of generating funds Totals</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,761</b>	<b>4,460</b>
<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving</i>						
1850 - Home mission	100	—	—	—	100	100
<b>Missionary and Charitable Giving Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Parish Share</i>						
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	14,032	—	—	—	14,032	14,028
<b>Parish Share Totals</b>	<b>14,032</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>14,032</b>	<b>14,028</b>
<i>Clergy and Benefice costs</i>						
2102 - Benefice expenses	5,704	—	—	—	5,704	5,342
2105 - Benefice Ministry Fund	301	—	—	—	301	1,056
<b>Clergy and Benefice costs Totals</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>6,398</b>
<i>Church Running Expenses</i>						
2301 - Church running - insurance	3,959	—	—	—	3,959	3,904
2310 - Church Broadband	188	—	—	—	188	242
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	—	—	60	—	60	40
2322 - Music	—	—	—	—	—	133
2323 - Flowers	54	—	—	—	54	110
2330 - Church routine maintenance and cleaning	2,396	—	8	—	2,404	3,522
2331 - Cleaning	574	—	—	—	574	195
2340 - Upkeep of services	504	—	—	—	504	600
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	507	—	—	—	507	450
2401 - Church running - electric	914	—	—	—	914	924
2420 - Church running - water	157	—	—	—	157	620
2430 - Church running - oil	3,427	—	—	—	3,427	2,936
<b>Church Running Expenses</b>	<b>12,686</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,754</b>	<b>13,680</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
<i>Totals</i>						
<i>Church Major Repairs &amp; Maintenance</i>						
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	5,384
<i>Church Major Repairs &amp; Maintenance Totals</i>	—	—	—	—	—	5,384
<i>Governance Costs</i>						
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	75	—	—	—	75	—
<i>Governance Costs Totals</i>	75	—	—	—	75	—
<b>Payments Grand totals</b>	33,006	—	4,723	—	37,729	44,053

*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 a 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*