PARISH OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

PCC Annual report

Annual Report of Great Aycliffe PCC 2025

Administrative information

The Parish of Great Aycliffe is made up of four churches, St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe; St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham; St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village and St. Francis' Church which is a part of St. Francis Church of England aided Junior School, Horndale. The parish is a part of the Durham Diocese within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office. St Clare’s Church. St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5NT

Structure, governance and management

PCC's are governed by two "Church of England Measures"; the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the Parish of Great Aycliffe, the PCC consists of the Incumbent (At the moment Priest in charge) who acts as chair, any other clergy licensed to the parish, Licensed Lay Minister, Church Wardens, three deanery synod representatives and nine elected members, which according to the 2017 scheme 3 should come from each church. Up to two co-options are also permitted. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC is the governing body of the DCC's and therefore any faculty applications or other major decisions need to be approved at the PCC meetings. Both PCC and DCC’s meet bi-monthly and therefore six times each year. Subcommittees at DCC level have certain responsibilities and are able to deal with the ongoing development, upkeep and maintenance of the church. These committees include pastoral care, hall management, buildings committee, funding application committee, communications, and missional leadership for growth. They are responsible to the PCC and DCC's and report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received and discussed as necessary.

Aims and purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Great Aycliffe has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (or at present the Priest in Charge, Rev John Musson) 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 promotion of the Christian faith in the Church of England Aided School of St. Francis, Horndale and appoints foundation members to its governing body.

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 each of our churches of St. Clare, St. Andrew, and St. Elizabeth. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services 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. We have tried to fulfil the aims of the church for the benefit of our church and the wider community.

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

Membership in 2025

Rev John Musson, priest in charge
Rev Helen Musson, team vicar (from September 2025)
Churchwardens David Blair, Helen McCormick, Cath Halford
Deanery Synod Reps Annette Bowmer, David Blair
LLM Eileen Bowman
Members elected at the 2025 APCM
Julia Fay
Tony Carr
Judith Donald
Mel Stubbs
Louise Tarbit

Co-opted Paul Bromley

STANDING COMMITTEE

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

SUMMARY OF PCC Meetings

During 2025 the PCC of the Parish of Great Aycliffe met four times and continued to oversee worship, mission, finance, safeguarding, buildings, schools and parish life across St Andrew's, St Clare's and St

Elizabeth's.

Safeguarding
Safeguarding remained a standing priority throughout the year. The PCC monitored DBS checks, safeguarding training and volunteer agreements, ensuring compliance with diocesan and Church of England requirements. Updated safeguarding policies and posters were approved, and ongoing work continued to recruit a Parish Safeguarding Officer.
The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding.

Worship, Mission and Parish Life
The PCC reflected positively on Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services, particularly Christingle celebrations and parish-wide events. Planning also took place for major events including VE Day commemorations, the Knife Angel visit, railway bicentenary celebrations, Remembrance services, patronal festivals and All Souls' services. Discussions throughout the year focused on prayer, growth and mission, stewardship, publicity and outreach, alongside consideration of the sustainability of the current pattern of services across the parish. Rev Helen Musson was successfully recruited and began work as Team Vicar in September 2025.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
The PCC reviewed parish practice for baptisms, weddings and funerals in light of Church of England guidance. New accessible Common Worship baptism materials were approved, and greater clergy involvement in preparation and bookings was agreed. The PCC also considered ways to strengthen bereavement support and wedding preparation ministry.

Finance and Stewardship
The PCC continued work towards stronger parish-wide financial management. Parish Share commitments were maintained, budgets reviewed and discussions held regarding central parish costs, banking arrangements and financial policies. Work also began to clarify restricted and designated funds across the churches. Electronic giving and stewardship initiatives were further developed, and discussions took place with diocesan finance advisers regarding future sustainability and income generation.

Buildings and Fabric
Considerable attention was given to church buildings and facilities during the year. At St Andrew's, plans progressed for reordering works, including discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and architects. At St Clare's, the PCC approved replacement fire doors and kitchen adaptations linked to the installation of a dishwasher. Ongoing maintenance, security and caretaker arrangements were also addressed. At St Elizabeth's, preparations began for the church's 40th anniversary celebrations, alongside routine maintenance and equipment replacement.

Parish Youth and Schools
The PCC continued to support parish youth work, including participation in diocesan youth events and ongoing support for Shine Choir. Helen McCormick also began children's ministry training during the year. St Francis School became a standing item on PCC agendas as the school merger progressed. The PCC supported the school's new name, St Francis Horndale CE School, and parish clergy and lay leaders continued their involvement in worship and governance.

Governance and Administration
At the APCM, officers were elected and PCC roles confirmed. Work also continued on Electoral Roll revision, parish governance arrangements and Deanery Synod representation. The PCC expressed thanks to all clergy, wardens, treasurers, volunteers and church members for their continued commitment and service across the parish during the year.

Approved as the 2025 annual report from the PCC to the APCM.
Rev W J Musson, Chair

THE PCC OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Armstrong Accountancy
68 Leander Drive
Boldon
Tyne and Wear
NE35 9LS

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THE PARISH OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

CHURCH INFORMATION

Diocese ORD Number	248711
Charity Commission Registration Number	1131381
Priest in charge	Rev'd J. Musson
Bank	Barclays Bank plc 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Independent Examiner	Mrs L Armstrong Armstrong Accountancy 68 Leander Drive Henley Grange Boldon Colliery NE35 9LS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of the Parish of Great Aycliffe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 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 statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 matter has come to my attention:-

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act, which has not been met.

Signed

Mrs L Armstrong
Armstrong Accountancy
68 Leander Drive
Henley Grange
Boldon Colliery
NE35 9LS

Independent Examiner 23 April 2026

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary receipts					
Planned Giving	20,600	-	-	20,600	21,545
Income Tax Recovery	10,485	-	-	10,485	8,668
Open Plate collections	9,486	-	690	10,176	10,121
Other voluntary receipts					
Donations and Appeals	4,943	-	8,216	13,159	18,455
Sundry donations	328	-	1,077	1,405	1,590
Legacies	61,500	-	30,000	91,500	-
	107,342	-	39,982	147,324	60,379
Activities for generating funds					
Fetes Bazaars, other fund raising events	9,126	-	2,640	11,765	11,557
Welcome café	3,523	-	-	3,523	3,379
Church Hall lettings etc	25,168	-	-	25,168	34,242
Candles	433	-	-	433	52
Baptism/wedding certificates and banns	112	-	-	112	-
Sundry income	51	-	-	51	-
	38,413	-	2,640	41,053	49,230
Investment income					
Dividends	53	-	-	53	52
Interest	206	-	-	206	312
Surplus/-Deficit on investments	- 52	-	-	- 52	166
	206	-	-	206	530
Church activities					
Fees	17,194	-	1,063	18,257	14,319
Diocese clergy cover	-	-	-	-	1,958
Magazines	-	-	-	-	104
Grants	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,000
Refunds	741	-	-	741	8,940
Memorial book	75	-	-	75	75
Wifi contribution	240			240	-
Parish youth	-	-		-	50
Sundry Receipts	-	-	-	-	480
	18,250	-	3,063	21,313	26,926
Total receipts	164,212	-	45,685	209,897	137,065
Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments	59,632	-	28,880	88,512	-27,946
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank at 1 January 25	9,685	-	73,649	83,334	111,281
Cash at bank at 31 December 25	69,317	-	102,529	171,846	83,335

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Church activities					
Mission giving and donations					-
Missionary & charitable giving	-	-	-	-	64
Church Overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions & Church Societies	112	-	664	776	928
Secular charities	493	-	-	493	959
	604	-	664	1,269	1,951
Activities : related to church work					
Ministry : Parish share	46,983	-	-	46,983	76,736
Clergy Expenses	709	-	-	709	-
Visiting clergy	3,199	-	-	3,199	6,732
Clergy house (water)	-	-	-	-	100
Church running expenses	19,200	-	-	19,200	14,367
Rent	-	-	969	969	-
Church maintenance	5,525	-	4,038	9,562	13,176
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	1,290	1,290	1,566
Hall running costs	5,581	-	-	5,581	9,181
Major Repairs and decoration	-	-	4,700	4,700	10,837
Upkeep of church services	866	-	-	866	955
Copyright Licence	596	-	-	596	472
DBS checks	29	-	-	29	67
Parish children	156	-	95	251	269
Salaries	3,991	-	-	3,991	3,778
Pensions	780	-	-	780	780
Sundry Expenses	954	-	499	1,453	1,488
Fees paid	3,597	-	-	3,597	2,273
Organist	1,700	-	-	1,700	840
Vergers	1,460	-	-	1,460	775
Hampers and gifts	107	-	3,046	3,153	4,564
Equipment purchased	-	-	-	-	-
	95,431	-	14,636	110,067	148,956
Cost of generating funds					
Costs of fetes, bazaars etc	1,082	-	35	1,117	637
Welcome café	2,999	-	1,470	4,469	4,579
	4,081	-	1,505	5,586	5,216
Church Management & administration					
Accountancy	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,700
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	5,242
Bank and sum up charges	104	-	-	104	46
Advertising printing and stationery	1,041	-	-	1,041	493
Telephone	1,818	-	-	1,818	1,405
	4,463	-	-	4,463	8,886
Total payments	104,579	-	16,805	121,385	165,009

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2025

Cash Funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank accounts churches	64,565	-	99,850	164,415	75,904
Cash accounts	2	-	-	2	154
CCLA	4,750	-	-	4,750	4,598
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
Investment funds (at market value)	-	-	2,679	2,679	2,679
Assets retained for Church use	-	-	-	-	-
	69,318	-	102,528	171,846	83,335
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
	69,318	-	102,528	171,846	83,335

Approved by the Parish of Great Aycliffe, and signed on its behalf by Rev'd John Musson (Interim for Change Minister)

Rev'd J. Musson (Interim for Change Minister)

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Notes to the financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2 Fixed assets under £5,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

3 Movements in designated and restricted funds were:-

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments	59,632	-	28,880	88,512	- 27,946
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank at 1 January 25	9,685	-	73,649	83,334	111,280
Cash at bank at 31 December 25	69,317	-	102,529	171,846	83,334

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Surplus & (Deficit)	Interest	Closing Balance Designated	Restricted
St Andrew								
Fabric fund	39749.34	2551.89	877.88					41423.35
Fabric fund - WC	9499.11		4400.00					5099.11
Churchyard	1864.68	1063.00	1290.00					1637.68
Bells	1235.00	30.00						1265.00
Organ	685.60							685.60
Heritage fund	311.80							311.80
T Chapman	120.25							120.25
Tithe Act	393.09							393.09
AH Bowen	663.56							663.56
T Gibson	1501.70							1501.70
St Clare								
Youth ministry	54.78	80.00	32.26					102.52
Fabric fund	6724.03	33147.45	3323.99					36547.49
Messy church	116.05	129.32	49.95					195.42
Tiddlers and toddlers	47.75		12.35					35.40
Charities	0.00	968.55	556.05					412.50
								0.00
St Elizabeth of Hungary								0.00
Fabric fund	741.77	272.00	220.80					792.97
Fabric - church carpet	1905.00							1905.00
Deanery weekly welcom	735.38	334.63	448.88					621.13
Grants	524.85							524.85
Collections	0.00	108.30	108.30					0.00
St Francis								
Fabric	960.39		46.00					914.39
Parish								
Community fund	1615.41	7000.00	5439.00					3176.41
Wardens fund	4046.00							4046.00
Holiday	127.30							127.30
Open the book	17.55							17.55
Pastoral care	8.17							8.17
								0.00
	73648.56	45685.14	16805.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102528.24

NB Fund statements for St Andrews were not availble. The value is negligble and does not affect the reading of the Financial Statements

THE PCC OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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It is my responsibility to:

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Basis of independent examiner's statement

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   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act, which has not been met.

Signed

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Independent Examiner 23 April 2026

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary receipts					
Planned Giving	20,600	-	-	20,600	21,545
Income Tax Recovery	10,485	-	-	10,485	8,668
Open Plate collections	9,486	-	690	10,176	10,121
Other voluntary receipts					
Donations and Appeals	4,943	-	8,216	13,159	18,455
Sundry donations	328	-	1,077	1,405	1,590
Legacies	61,500	-	30,000	91,500	-
	107,342	-	39,982	147,324	60,379
Activities for generating funds					
Fetes Bazaars, other fund raising events	9,126	-	2,640	11,765	11,557
Welcome café	3,523	-	-	3,523	3,379
Church Hall lettings etc	25,168	-	-	25,168	34,242
Candles	433	-	-	433	52
Baptism/wedding certificates and banns	112	-	-	112	-
Sundry income	51	-	-	51	-
	38,413	-	2,640	41,053	49,230
Investment income					
Dividends	53	-	-	53	52
Interest	206	-	-	206	312
Surplus/-Deficit on investments	- 52	-	-	- 52	166
	206	-	-	206	530
Church activities					
Fees	17,194	-	1,063	18,257	14,319
Diocese clergy cover	-	-	-	-	1,958
Magazines	-	-	-	-	104
Grants	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,000
Refunds	741	-	-	741	8,940
Memorial book	75	-	-	75	75
Wifi contribution	240			240	-
Parish youth	-	-		-	50
Sundry Receipts	-	-	-	-	480
	18,250	-	3,063	21,313	26,926
Total receipts	164,212	-	45,685	209,897	137,065
Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments	59,632	-	28,880	88,512	-27,946
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank at 1 January 25	9,685	-	73,649	83,334	111,281
Cash at bank at 31 December 25	69,317	-	102,529	171,846	83,335

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Church activities					
Mission giving and donations					-
Missionary & charitable giving	-	-	-	-	64
Church Overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions & Church Societies	112	-	664	776	928
Secular charities	493	-	-	493	959
	604	-	664	1,269	1,951
Activities : related to church work					
Ministry : Parish share	46,983	-	-	46,983	76,736
Clergy Expenses	709	-	-	709	-
Visiting clergy	3,199	-	-	3,199	6,732
Clergy house (water)	-	-	-	-	100
Church running expenses	19,200	-	-	19,200	14,367
Rent	-	-	969	969	-
Church maintenance	5,525	-	4,038	9,562	13,176
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	1,290	1,290	1,566
Hall running costs	5,581	-	-	5,581	9,181
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Upkeep of church services	866	-	-	866	955
Copyright Licence	596	-	-	596	472
DBS checks	29	-	-	29	67
Parish children	156	-	95	251	269
Salaries	3,991	-	-	3,991	3,778
Pensions	780	-	-	780	780
Sundry Expenses	954	-	499	1,453	1,488
Fees paid	3,597	-	-	3,597	2,273
Organist	1,700	-	-	1,700	840
Vergers	1,460	-	-	1,460	775
Hampers and gifts	107	-	3,046	3,153	4,564
Equipment purchased	-	-	-	-	-
	95,431	-	14,636	110,067	148,956
Cost of generating funds					
Costs of fetes, bazaars etc	1,082	-	35	1,117	637
Welcome café	2,999	-	1,470	4,469	4,579
	4,081	-	1,505	5,586	5,216
Church Management & administration					
Accountancy	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,700
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	5,242
Bank and sum up charges	104	-	-	104	46
Advertising printing and stationery	1,041	-	-	1,041	493
Telephone	1,818	-	-	1,818	1,405
	4,463	-	-	4,463	8,886
Total payments	104,579	-	16,805	121,385	165,009

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2025

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Cash accounts	2	-	-	2	154
CCLA	4,750	-	-	4,750	4,598
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
Investment funds (at market value)	-	-	2,679	2,679	2,679
Assets retained for Church use	-	-	-	-	-
	69,318	-	102,528	171,846	83,335
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
	69,318	-	102,528	171,846	83,335

Approved by the Parish of Great Aycliffe, and signed on its behalf by Rev'd John Musson (Interim for Change Minister)

Rev'd J. Musson (Interim for Change Minister)

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Notes to the financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

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Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank at 1 January 25	9,685	-	73,649	83,334	111,280
Cash at bank at 31 December 25	69,317	-	102,529	171,846	83,334

The Parish of Great Aycliffe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Surplus & (Deficit)	Interest	Closing Balance Designated	Restricted
St Andrew								
Fabric fund	39749.34	2551.89	877.88					41423.35
Fabric fund - WC	9499.11		4400.00					5099.11
Churchyard	1864.68	1063.00	1290.00					1637.68
Bells	1235.00	30.00						1265.00
Organ	685.60							685.60
Heritage fund	311.80							311.80
T Chapman	120.25							120.25
Tithe Act	393.09							393.09
AH Bowen	663.56							663.56
T Gibson	1501.70							1501.70
St Clare								
Youth ministry	54.78	80.00	32.26					102.52
Fabric fund	6724.03	33147.45	3323.99					36547.49
Messy church	116.05	129.32	49.95					195.42
Tiddlers and toddlers	47.75		12.35					35.40
Charities	0.00	968.55	556.05					412.50
								0.00
St Elizabeth of Hungary								0.00
Fabric fund	741.77	272.00	220.80					792.97
Fabric - church carpet	1905.00							1905.00
Deanery weekly welcom	735.38	334.63	448.88					621.13
Grants	524.85							524.85
Collections	0.00	108.30	108.30					0.00
St Francis								
Fabric	960.39		46.00					914.39
Parish								
Community fund	1615.41	7000.00	5439.00					3176.41
Wardens fund	4046.00							4046.00
Holiday	127.30							127.30
Open the book	17.55							17.55
Pastoral care	8.17							8.17
								0.00
	73648.56	45685.14	16805.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102528.24

NB Fund statements for St Andrews were not availble. The value is negligble and does not affect the reading of the Financial Statements