

ST JOHN'S HYDE PARK
HYDE PARK CRESCENT
LONDON W2 2QD

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025

Registered Charity 1132885

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st December 2025

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Administrative Information

PCC Members

The under-mentioned persons served on the PCC during the year:		PCC Meetings attended
Ex Officio Members		
The Reverend Stephen Mason	Incumbent	6/6
The Reverend Alex Norris	Associate Vicar	5/6
Bryan Stephens	Churchwarden and Deanery Synod Rep	3/6
Gaynor Scruton	Churchwarden	5/6
David Fletcher	Deanery Synod Rep	0/6
Chris Lees	Deanery Synod Rep	4/6
Elected Members		
Adebayo Ajayi (until March)		2/2
Andrew Beverley		4/6
Esme Daley		5/6
Susan Greeney		4/6
Anna Haase		4/6
Rachel Keller	from March	3/4
Ian Nelson	Treasurer	6/6
Chris Searle		3/6

Bankers: HSBC plc
69 Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5EY

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance
Beaufort House
Brunswick Road
Gloucester GL1 1JZ

Architect: John Bailey
Thomas Ford and Partners
177 Kirkdale
London SE26 4QH

Solicitor: Winckworth Sherwood
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London SE1 9BB

Auditor: TC Group
Statutory Auditor
3 Acorn Business Centre
Northarbour Road
Cosham, Portsmouth
Hampshire PO6 3TH

The church office is situated at St John's Church, Hyde Park Crescent, London, W2 2QD

Incumbent: The Reverend Stephen Mason

Church Administrator: Bryan Sollenberger

2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist with St Michael and all Angels, Paddington

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has pleasure in presenting its report and the financial statements of the Church for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Overview of the Year

2025 was a good year for St John's, Hyde Park. Average attendance at Sunday services increased by 5% over 2025 (103 to 108). We were pleased to host the Bishop of London at a choral evensong for the Deanery in January and again at Nine Lessons and Carols before she was installed as the new Archbishop of Canterbury in January 2026. Although the numbers of families and school aged children in the area remains low, our Thursday morning under-fives playgroup saw numbers increase during the year, reaching 40 children and carers by the end of the year. Our organ, Betty, celebrated 160 years of providing music to sustain and inspire our worship and events included a silent film and several recitals culminating in one by Dr Ian Tracey of Liverpool Cathedral. The lack of young families in the area contributed to the closure of Paint Pots Montessori Nursery in July after 21 years of using the hall. We are sorry to lose such a community asset but will take opportunity to refurbish the hall while we locate their successor.

2025 was also a good year financially for the parish. Despite the loss of Paint Pots and the last term's licence fee, fund raising activities generated sufficient income to cover their departure as well as enabling the council to set aside significant sums to reserves over and above their budgeted targets. The parish hall has had little significant investment over the years and the PCC was able to set aside significant funds towards the costs of a new floor, ceiling, lighting, toilets and kitchen and installation of secondary glazing which they hope to carry out in 2026.

The PCC had an away day to begin drafting a Mission Action Plan (MAP) that will guide them over the next ten years. In preparation for the away day, they met on three occasions to consider the topics of building, identity and growth. The away day itself was held in June and produced much discussion which will be incorporated into the new MAP.

Aims and Purposes

The primary objective of the PCC is to co-operate with the Incumbent, The Reverend Stephen Mason, in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, ecumenical and community building. The Incumbent has the obligation of providing pastoral care to all those resident within the geographical parish, as well as to those who attend services, with specific responsibility for rites of passage.

St John's is an inclusive church – that is, we believe that the Good News is for all people regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic circumstances or spiritual background. St John's welcomes anyone and seeks to build a congregation that reflects the diversity of the community we serve. We are aware that a number of our parishioners, along with occasional members of our congregation, are of other or no faith but all are welcomed with generosity and hospitality. This outlook sets the context for all that we do and influences our approach to planning services, pastoral care, social events and other activities which we undertake in furtherance of our aims. In all our activities we seek to minister to each one who comes through our doors – to provide a means to deepen the faith for those who are part of our worshipping community and to attract and to minister to those who are, at present, outside it.

Objectives and Activities

Church Attendance

There was an increase in the average attendance at Sunday services from 103 in 2024 to 108 in 2025. The numbers attending Nine Lessons and Carols were an all time high of 332 (253 in 2024). The previous high attendance had been 300 for a service remembering the Christmas Truce of 1914 during World War 1. Attendance at Easter services was 312 (305 in 2024) and 310 attended Christmas services (269 in 2024).

Church Activities and Highlights

Worship and pastoral care form the core of our activities and ministry at St John's. A choral eucharist takes place every Sunday at 10am and a said service at 8am except for the Sundays after Christmas and Easter. We also have a programme of evening services – St John's *Late* - featuring a jazz mass, compline, choral evensong and occasionally a Book of Common Prayer communion service. These take place on the Sunday evenings between All Saints and Advent and Epiphany and Lent except for the first Sunday of the month.

Our series of great carol services, which tell the events of the Christian year and encourage us to enter into seasonal preparation during Advent and Lent, are held on a Sunday evening around the beginning of the season to which they relate. Last year they were enhanced by a new service on Palm Sunday evening reliving the events of Holy Week. Replacing a service set around St John's Stations of the Cross and using various settings of the *Stabat Mater*, *From Dust to Glory* invited us to trace the Lenten journey together, to remember our own origins, confront our frailty and move towards the ultimate hope and promise of new life in Christ. It attracted 77, nearly double the usual number for the Palm Sunday evening service. The Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services in particular draw in large numbers of the congregation and local community and are underpinned by our Director of Music, choir and guest musicians.

Our Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas is often a highlight of the year and in 2025 this was especially so. Not only was it a community at which some of our local councillors and representatives of our local amenity societies took part, we were also pleased to welcome the outgoing Bishop of London before her installation as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. The service was very well attended - 362 – the best attendance by some measure!

For some years now a group of parishioners led by our Director of Music and choral scholars has gone carolling at four pubs in the parish to raise funds for a local charity. This year they supported the food bank at St Matthew's, Bayswater and raised £518.87.

While the decrease of young families moving into the area means we do not have the numbers of young children we once had, we do have a regular group of children from 8 years old though to teenagers. Attendance averaged nine during the year (eight in 2024) but there were as many as 24 in church on Easter Sunday. Marcus Walters-Pearce leads the older children in discussion and activities during the Sunday 10am service that are usually related to the gospel reading for that particular Sunday. During the spring, he led them on an Alpha course for 10 sessions which was very well received by the children and their parents. From September, a group was formed for the younger children led by a parent that engaged them in age-appropriate activities.

Adult education takes several forms. Bible Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month except in January and August and considers a range of theological and

topical issues from a biblical point of view. St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Paul's Cathedral provide excellent lecture series in the spring and autumn and groups from St John's often attend several lectures of interest and further reflection and discussion of the evening taking place over drinks after.

Social activities are a key part of our life at St John's, providing a space for parishioners to build and enhance relationships and helping to meet needs for community and friendship. Tea and coffee are provided after Sunday morning services, as well as fizz or sherry when appropriate and seasonally appropriate refreshments after our carol services. In February, a group from St John's went to see *Luminous*, a sound and light show inspired by St Paul's Cathedral that showed off the Cathedral's rich history and heritage. Our annual barbecue was held on 29th June in the gardens behind the church thanks again to the generosity of the Raynham residents. A series of five lunches was held at the vicarage in July, August and September, including one for members of the local community, as well as a supper for members of the PCC. Our annual quiz evening was held on 23rd October with 10 teams taking part. St John's Lunch Club met on two Sundays after the 10am service, enjoying tasty meals at local pubs The Monkey Puzzle in February and Duke of Kendal in November.

Since the departure of Ben Collyer in 2024, we had been without an organist and assistant to our Director of Music, Nick Miller. After several attempts to recruit one who fit with our musical ethos, we appointed Jack Gonzalez-Harding in December. We were pleased that he accepted and will take up his duties on 4th January 2026.

Since the arrival of the Reverend Stephen Mason as vicar in 2002, the PCC have set aside time approximately every ten years to consider the direction of the parish and to create a Mission Action Plan to guide their planning for the coming ten years. In 2025, their thinking was set around the areas of Building, Identity and Growth. In preparation for their away day the PCC met on three evenings to consider each of the above areas:

- Building - speaker: John Bailey, church architect
- Identity - speaker: Graham Butterworth, Start with Feel
- Growth - speaker: The Reverend Marcus Walker, St Bartholomew the Great

The away day was then held on 14th June at St Marylebone. It featured presentations by the Vicar, Stephen Mason and the Associate Vicar, Alex Norris and discussion was facilitated by The Reverend Alan Gyle, vicar of St Paul's, Knightsbridge. It was a positive day with much stimulating conversation and openness to what we might aim to achieve over the next decade. The Vicar and Associate Vicar took the output and over the autumn produced a set of bullet points which provided a basis for a first draft Mission Action Plan. They would refine this further for presentation to Standing Committee and PCC early in 2026.

Children at St John's

Marcus Walters-Pearce continued to lead our ministry to our youth again this year and did so with his usual energy, enthusiasm and good humour. Average attendance was 9, up one from the previous year and as many as 24 children came to church on Easter Sunday morning.

The Thursday morning playgroup, Bumps, Babies and Toddlers, met on Thursday mornings from 10-11.30am in the church. Facilitated by Alex Norris, it thrived and numbers increased over the course of the year, reaching around 20 toddlers plus a parent or carer by the end of December. Nick Miller, our Director of Music, often led a

session of singing nursery rhymes and giving the young ones a first experience of playing the organ.

For several years now our nativity scene has been built by one or more of our families. This year it was created by the families of Kids' Club who met together in the hall after school to design and build it. They also created 20 posters to hang from the candle holders on the columns inspired by the Christmas and Epiphany stories. This artwork was a very attractive feature throughout the season and we were appreciative of this initiative by our young families.

Our annual Christingle was held on 7th December and £58 was raised for the Children's Society.

Adult Education

Our adult education programme is under the direction of our Associate Vicar, Alex Norris. Bible Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month and takes a biblical perspective on theological issues and current affairs. We are fortunate also to have access to qood quality lecture series and often attend some of the evenings at St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Paul's Cathedral. In May a group attended the Rowan Williams lecture *Truth, Faith and Politics in a Post-Truth World* which considered the example of Dietrich Bonheoffer in speaking of God outside of religious insider language. St Martin's autumn lecture series *Here I Stand* featured an outstanding selection of speakers addressing issues for which they would be prepared to make a costly stand. Of particular interest to St John's were the lectures by former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams, economist Marianna Maaucato and Dame Mary Beard, pre-eminent British classicist.

Music at St John's

We were thrilled at the energy and creativity our Director of Music, Nick Miller, brought to our music. The music at our carols services this year was of a high standard, especially at Nine Lessons and Carols. Nick is dedicated to working with our choral scholars and guest orchestra to enhance our worship through excellent music.

2025 marked the 160th 'birthday' of our grade 2* listed organ, Betty. Nick Miller planned a series of events to mark her milestone: prom concerts after the 10am service, recitals, the silent film *Phantom of the Opera* which he accompanied on Betty and a celebrity organ recital by Professor Dr Ian Tracy of Liverpool Cathedral in November.

Our annual Jenny Clark Concert took place on 2nd November and featured the Cygnus Trio - cellist Hannah Lewis, violinist Javier Montañana and pianist Cesar Saura – who presented a programme of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Chopin and Arbos.

We had been searching for an organist appropriate for our musical approach. In November interviews were held, following which James Gonzalez-Harding was appointed organist in December. He will start on 4th January 2026 and will also serve as assistant to our Director of Music, Nick Miller. We look forward to his input to our music.

Social Outreach and Charitable Giving

St John's supports the food bank at our sister deanery church, St Matthew', Bayswater, with collections of tinned goods and dried foodstuffs at Mothering Sunday and Harvest and a group from St John's raised £518.87 for the food bank by singing Christmas carols

in December at several pubs around the parish. We continued to work with the West London Synagogue in hosting their monthly refugee drop-in centre. Held usually on the third Sunday afternoon of the month, the centre provides a hot meal as well as advice and support on practical issues and several members of our congregation and local community have volunteered to help. For the third year running the North Paddington Food Bank had a Christmas fund raising concert in December.

Working in Local Schools

We are very proud of the standards our local voluntary aided primary school, St James and St John, which we share with St James, Sussex Gardens. We support the school and were represented on the board of governors governor by the Vicar, who was foundation governor, and Chris Lees as a foundation governor representing the Paddington Deanery Synod. During the year the school became part of a multi-school federation, Go Shine, after which they both served on the Board of Governors of the Federation and of the Local Advisory Board. The clergy provided weekly assemblies as well as assisting with occasional classroom activities relating to RE or class assemblies. The whole school came to St John's for services at Epiphany, Pentecost and Harvest and during Lent year six came for a session set around our Stations of the Cross. The head, Adrian Evans, and the staff continue to improve standards at the school.

Connaught House School continued their tradition of holding their Christmas programme at St John's.

Working in the Community

Involvement in our local community is also an important part of our ministry. We are involved with both of our local amenity groups – Hyde Park Residents (HyPER) and the Hyde Park Estate Association (HPEA). The Vicar is an elected member of the HPEA executive committee and the Hyde Park and Paddington Forum steering group. He attends the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Ward Panel. The administrator, verger and associate vicar represent him at some of these meetings from time to time.

Our local Labour Ward Councillors held monthly surgeries in the hall on the first Thursday of each month and our local MP, Rachel Blake, held surgeries in the church as part of her programme in meeting in various locations across the constituency.

Within the Diocese of London, the Vicar acted as Area Dean for the Paddington and was both a participant and a review facilitator in the Continuing Ministerial Development Review programme for the Diocese, facilitating the annual professional review of clergy. In addition, he acted as one of the Bishop's Surrogates for issuing Common Licences for marriage and served as Area Dean of the Paddington Deanery. In this role he has had increased engagement with the work of the Diocese regarding the shape of ministry in the Deanery amidst the changing shape of the demographics of Paddington and especially in the potential for estate ministry in what were originally social housing estates. He was engaged in pastoral care of the deanery clergy and also continued as a trustee of the Paddington Charities.

As part of the Diocese of London's Church Vision and Strategy 2031, the Two Cities Area explored making an application for funding from the Church of England Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Fund for five years for missional activities in the Paddington Deanery along with the Church Street Ward in the Marylebone Deanery. The Vicar, as Area Dean for the Paddington Deanery, met with Adam Atkinson, the

former Archdeacon of Charing Cross and, following his departure the Diocese of London, and in January these areas were adopted by the Bishop of London as one of three areas of work in the coming years. A steering group was set up of the Area Deans of Paddington and Marylebone, the Archdeacon of Charing Cross, the Dean of Mission and a number of experts in the field to explore missional opportunities in the Paddington area around youth work, care of the elderly and work in schools as a means of rejuvenating some of the parishes which are poorly resourced and struggling. St John's is exploring shared opportunities in youth and schools work and for music projects in St James and St John and other primary schools as well as ministry in the Paddington Basin. The steering group is facilitating a number of round table meetings in parishes that might benefit from this activity and are open to further exploration. The present timetable is for an application to be submitted for central church funds in autumn 2026. The Vicar and Associate Vicar have been taking part in the round table discussions and see this as an exciting opportunity for our Deanery and parish.

Safeguarding

It is a prime objective that all who worship at St John's or use our premises or take part in our church and community activities do so in safety and security and are respectful of the right of others to do so. Each year the PCC reviews and revises its Safeguarding Policy in order to comply with the House of Bishops' Policy Statements 'Protecting a Safer Church' (2017) and 'Protecting All God's Children' (2020), as well as the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Diocese' (2018). We have engaged with the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. PCC members are expected to undergo a DBS assessment and to complete Church of England Basic and Foundation safeguarding training courses. The clergy team regularly engage with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team regarding safeguarding incidents relating to ministry at St John's. Safeguarding is also promoted in the weekly notices and information on where to obtain advice is displayed in the porch and on the parish website.

Trustee Induction

Each year following the annual meetings, an induction evening is arranged for all new officers and members of the PCC. Topics covered include the Role of the PCC and subcommittees, the offices of Churchwarden and Treasurer, Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit, an introduction to the staff team and their various responsibilities, the clergy & staff housing, finance, what a typical meeting might look like and what is happening throughout that year. In 2025 this was held on 23rd April.

Strategic Development

The current Mission Action Plan (MAP) was agreed in 2016. As part of the process of crafting a new MAP, the PCC held an away day on 14th June at St Marylebone. To prepare for this, they also met on three evenings in advance of the away day to consider three key components informing the new MAP: Building, Identity and Growth. Our architect, John Bailey, led the evening on Building, Graham Butterworth of Start with Feel led a discussion on Identity and The Reverend Marcus Walker engaged us on Growth. The away day featured presentations by The Vicar, Stephen Mason, and the Associate Vicar, Alex Norris and was facilitated by The Reverend Alan Gyle. There was much discussion on where we felt we were and where we wanted to be in ten years' time. The Vicar and Associate Vicar took the information produced by the away day and produced a list of bullet points which formed the basis of a first draft of the new MAP over the course of the autumn. After further refinements, it is expected to be considered

by Standing Committee and PCC early in 2026. Our ethos statement will also be reviewed and updated.

Two staff away days were held in January and September which considered why numbers at services were not returning nearer to pre-Covid levels. The staff team looked at how newcomers visiting the church might perceive it and how we might enhance the first impression visitors might have of St John's as well as improve the welcome we extend to them.

Guided by the MAP, the vicar and administrator met quarterly to plan and to set strategic objectives for the year within a three-year timeframe. They also met weekly on Monday mornings to monitor progress on key objectives prior to the full staff meetings on Monday afternoons. The vicar met regularly with all staff for supervision and planning.

Fabric Maintenance

At the end of 2024, security gates and railings were being considered which would curtail illicit drug use, prostitution and rough sleeping in the four crypt stairwells around the church. Planning consent and a faculty were sought and obtained and we were informed in February that we had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy, administered by Westminster City Council, of £58,000 towards their costs. The gates and railings were installed in October and November and have eliminated the use of the stairwells for the above purposes, although some activity is still carried out elsewhere in the gardens.

Water ingress during heavy downpours at the southwest hopper has been a recurring problem. Further works were carried out early in 2025 but some water ingress was again noted at the end of October. Our architect, John Bailey, was to consider what further action we could take to rectify this problem and report back. We were awaiting his report at the end of the year.

Preparation for works to refurbish the upstairs vestry space and to install appropriate storage for our vestments continued. A key issue was the resiting of a BT circuit which controlled our broadband and telephony services. It had been installed in the vestry space unilaterally by BT and its current location prohibited replastering one wall. Having pressured them for over 12 months to move it to a more appropriate space, they finally attended at the beginning of December. With this obstacle removed, we were able to move ahead with plans to renovate the vestry room and we expect work to begin in March 2026. Funds to cover the cost of the works had been set aside by the PCC at the end of 2024.

A nursery has been run in the hall, under different management including St John's, for approximately 60 years. Paint Pots Montessori Nursery had been running a nursery for over 20 years but for the past 2-3 years had been feeling the effects of fewer young children living in the area. They gave notice in the spring that they would be giving up their licence at the end of the academic year. While starting to look for a replacement licencee, we realised this would also give us opportunity to refurbish the hall and upgrade the kitchen and toilet, making it more accessible. The Vicar met with John Bailey after which his firm started working on plans. The hall is the only community space available on the Hyde Park Estate and the works should make it more attractive to users of the hall. The PCC were able to set aside some funds in 2025 towards the costs of these works but it is likely that some fund raising may need to be carried out in order to meet the full costs.

Tree roots under the footpath running around the forecourt had elevated some of the paving stones in several places, making them a potential hazard. These sections were relaid in September.

The blue lights highlighting the outline of the front glass doors, installed by the Church Commissioners in 2018, began to fail and were replaced in November.

Regular cleans of the roof and gutters were carried out as well as annual maintenance of the fire safety equipment, clock, front plate glass doors, gas central heating systems and roof safety system. The organ was tuned three times during the year and the blower motor had its annual service.

Statement of Parochial Church Council Responsibilities

The PCC is responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing those financial statements the PCC is required

a) to select suitable accounting policies and then to apply them consistently;
b) to observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
c) to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
d) to state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on Accounting by Charities and the Accounting Regulations and applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
e) to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the church and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting 2019 (FRS 102). It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The advancement of religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in their administration of the church. The PCC believes that by promoting the Christian faith it provides a benefit to the public by:

1. Providing facilities for public worship, building community, pastoral care and spiritual development, both for existing church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers.
2. Promoting Christian values and service by members of the church in and to their community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Financial Review

An upsurge in use of the building by outside organisations and individuals in 2024 was much greater than anticipated. As it was not certain whether this was an isolated occurrence or that it would continue at that level or even increase, the PCC budgeted cautiously. Consequently, when income from use of the building actually increased further in 2025 (although the costs associated with these events also increased), the PCC were in a position to set aside funds towards future projects and anticipated costs as well as its annual budgeted provisions to Church Maintenance, Ministry and Staff Accommodation Deposit reserves of £20,000. As a lease with the Church Commissioners for the Associate Vicar's accommodation will expire in seven years, it made an additional provision to the Staff Accommodation Deposit Reserve as well as to the Ministry Reserve. It was also able to set aside funds to cover some of the costs of the hall refurbishment which is anticipated to be done in 2026.

The PCC's ability to set aside funds for future projects was also enhanced by the successful application for Community Infrastructure Levy funding of £58,000 for the installation of security gates and railings around the four stairwells to the crypt. We are grateful to them for funding much of the cost of their design and installation.

The Jenny Clark Fund portfolio, donated to the PCC in 2024 to further music at St John's, contributed towards the costs of the annual Jenny Clark Memorial Concert and a recital to mark 160 years of our organ, both in November, and also enabled us to recruit a Jenny Clark choral scholar for the first time.

Payments to the Diocese

The standard parish cost for 2025 was £99,980. The PCC agreed a further contribution to Common Fund, from which clergy stipends and costs are paid, of £2,020 for a total contribution of £102,00

In addition, £44,189 was paid to the Diocese to cover the costs of our associate vicar.

Total contributions to the Diocese of London for 2025 were £146,189.

Reserves Policy

The PCC budgets to put £10,000 each year in the Church Maintenance Reserve and £5,000 in its Staff Accommodation Deposit and Ministry Reserves. Due to a successful financial year, it was able to set aside further sums to reserves:

- £6,000 to the Ministry Reserve
- £20,000 to the Staff Accommodation Deposit Reserve

In considering the hall refurbishment discussed above, the PCC also created a new Hall Refurbishment Reserve and set aside £43,340 to it.

Investment Policy

The Jenny Clark Fund portfolio received by the PCC in 2024 was valued at £138,234 at 1st January 2025. During the year, Standing Committee agreed to drawdown £10,000 for use on music expenditure as agreed with the donor. At 31st December 2025, it was valued at £136,494. The portfolio is invested in medium risk assets which Standing Committee feel should maximise the returns over the drawdown period.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The appointment of members to the PCC is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. New members to the PCC as well as churchwardens normally undergo an induction to brief them on their legal obligations under Church Law, the content of the Constitution, the Council and the decision-making processes, and the recent financial performance of the Church. In 2024 this took place on 7th May.

Organisation

The PCC meets regularly throughout the year and there are committees to which there are delegated specific duties: Building, Congregational Giving, Communication, Education and Liturgy. A member of the PCC is appointed responsibility for each area at the first meeting of the new PCC and reports back at each subsequent meeting.

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by the Council. Members of the Standing Committee comprise the Vicar, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and Treasurer. There is an open seat on Standing Committee for one member of the PCC to attend each meeting on the proviso that they give prior notice. The full PCC met six times, in addition to the away day and the three preparatory meetings, and Standing Committee met seven times during the year.

Risk Management

The PCC is aware of the risks to which it is exposed and regularly considers how it might mitigate them. Key areas of risk are:

a. Financial Risk
Each year the PCC budgets carefully and prudently. Donations from parishioners and collections at services are all voluntary and the clergy and staff team work hard at creating an atmosphere of welcome and inclusivity that is in line with the PCC's ethos. Planned and tax efficient giving is promoted regularly in a variety of ways and clergy and staff have been creative at encouraging donations in support of events and activities at special services.

The PCC's Financial Risk Policy sets methods for recording cash collections, financial planning and reporting and secure handling of cash in order to protect those handling cash and to reduce the risk of fraud. A review of this policy was completed in 2020.

A sizeable proportion of income is derived from outside sources – hire of the church, parish hall and crypt, parking revenues, grants and ad hoc donations. The PCC is aware of the potential link between the strength of the local economy and use, in particular, of the forecourt by commercial firms working on local premises. This diversity of income streams helps to minimise the exposure to risk in any one category and makes it possible to draw upon the wider community for financial support. Use of the church by outside groups and individuals for concerts, lectures, receptions, charity fundraising events and community consultations has resumed since the end of Covid restrictions and this additional income stream has been a significant factor in enhancing the financial wellbeing of the parish. The PCC are very appreciative of the efforts of Andrejs Livins, the building manager, at looking after these events as well as the

involvement of the Vicar and Administrator for their support and occasional staffing of such events.

As the significant increase in the use of the building in 2024 continued throughout 2025, we undertook a review of how we recruited and trained staff who assist in looking after the building at events. Recruitment of such staff should be in line with safer recruitment procedures and they should have written job descriptions and offered training in health and safety and other aspects relating to these events. We also began exploring how we might become a licensed premises as some events needed a Temporary Events Notice (TENs). The Vicar and Churchwarden Gaynor Scruton met with Melvyn Caplyn of Westminster City Council in December. He was positive about the likelihood of obtaining a premises license although it could come with some attached conditions. He advised that we get professional advice to assist us in applying, especially as our application could go to a hearing if objections to our application were made. He put us in contact with a lawyer specialising in in licensing applications and a meeting was arranged for January.

Given the significant increase in total income over the past several years, at their December meeting Standing Committee were concerned to reduce the risk to regular operations should any one or more of their income streams produce less revenue than budgeted. Our insurance policy provides cover for up to £100,000 over 48 months. This was inadequate cover now and in December they instructed the Assistant Administrator, Philip Matei, to obtain a quote from our insurer, Ecclesiastical for improved cover.

b. Statutory and Legal Risks
Charities operate in an increasingly regulated context. St John's is an employer and, although falling below the threshold for some legislation, still has regard for employment legislation. All staff are paid at least the London living wage.

c. Operational Risk
As a building open to the public, we are mindful of our health & safety responsibilities and take advice on a range of issues from disabled access to fire and electrical safety. Proper care for children and vulnerable adults is a high priority and the PCC reviews its Safeguarding Policy annually to ensure that our younger parishioners and those at risk are looked after in a safe environment and that those who look after them are adequately trained and supported.

The PCC has an appropriate insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance. This is reviewed periodically to ensure that the sums insured are adequate and a review was conducted in 2019.

Clergy and Staff Housing

The Vicarage at 18 Somers Crescent forms part of the Vicar's freehold. While being maintained by the Diocese of London, the parish is responsible for internal decoration and any improvement works. The PCC budgets £2,000 annually for redecoration works. In a year when this is not spent, the balance is put aside into a reserve for use in a future year.

The parish has leases on three additional properties from the Church Commissioners which may be used for the accommodation of clergy and other members of staff. Nick Miller, our Director of Music, occupied the second and third floor maisonette at 12a Connaught Street. The first floor flat is now currently vacant pending our next appointment. 23 Archery Close is the third property leased from the Church Commissioners. It has been the home of our Associate Vicar, Alex Norris, and his wife Keri since December 2023.

In 2021 the PCC took a lease on the ground floor and basement flat at 11 Star Street to house the verger.

Looking Ahead

We continue to look to ways to build up the congregation. Numbers have crept ahead by 5% over the course of 2025, but our target is to return to attendance figures more pre-Covid. Some of our carol services are doing well – Nine Lessons particularly so – but we seek more growth across all services. We are aware that some new families are moving into the area and hope that we might draw them into the congregation once they settle.

We anticipate agreement of our new Mission Action Plan, which will guide planning and setting our goals and objectives for the next ten years. A draft discussion document should be ready for consideration by Standing Committee and PCC early in 2026. We will also review our ethos statement as part of this process.

We continue to see to recruit a Self-Supporting Minister. They will have responsibility for ministering to the older members of our congregation and especially to revitalise Culture Vulture Ventures, a series of social events aimed at that age group.

We want to move ahead with our application to Westminster City Council to register as a licensed premises and to implement safer recruitment polices for staff who assist at events.

The refurbishment of our vestry space and equipping it for proper storage of our vestments will start in March and we anticipate it will be ready by late spring. While the hall is currently not in use on a permanent basis, we want to take the opportunity to upgrade it and to have better facilities for church activities and community use.

Auditors

TC Group were first appointed to audit the 2013 financial statements after a review of our audit procedures. They were reappointed to audit the 2025 financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by

The Reverend Stephen Mason, Chair
8th March 2026

Independent Auditor's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist with St Michael and all Angels

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist with St Michael and all Angels for the year ended 31st December 2025 which comprise of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the 2024 report of the Parochial Church Council, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Parochial Church Council members' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Parochial Church Council Responsibilities statement, the Parochial Church Council members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Parochial Church Council members are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Parochial Church Council members either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.
Our approach was as follows:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience and through discussion with the Parochial Church Council members and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Parochial Church Council members and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011) and the relevant charity regulations in the UK;
- We considered the nature of the industry, the control environment and the charity's performance;
- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- We considered the procedures and controls that the charity has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes and controls.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included: testing manual journals; reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performing analytical procedures; and enquiring of management, and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

TC Group (Statutory Auditor) Date:
Office: Portsmouth

TC Group is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account)

Year Ending 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	309,057	67,313	376,370	473,916
Charitable Activities	107,339	0	107,339	87,470
Other Trading Activities	332,772	0	332,772	277,182
Investments	7,120	0	7,120	5,976
Total Income	**756,288**	**67,313**	**823,601**	**844,544**
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	84,639	0	84,639	48,251
Charitable Activities	566,194	71,765	637,959	561,800
Other	7,037	0	7,037	6,321
Total Expenditure	**657,870**	**71,765**	**729,635**	**616,372**
Net Income/(Expenditure)	98,418	(4,452)	93,966	288,172
Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investment Assets	0	8,260	8,260	4,200
Transfers between Funds	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Net Movement in Funds	**98,418**	**3,808**	**102,226**	**232,372**
Transfers Between Funds	0	0	0	0
Reconciliation in Funds				
Total funds brought forward	290,550	200,823	491,373	259,001
Total funds carried forward	**388,968**	**204,631**	**593,599**	**491,373**

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Balance Sheet

Year Ending 31st December 2025

		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		5,018		7,945
Current Assets				
Debtors[1]		28,873		36,709
Investments[2]		136,494		138,234
Cash at bank and in hand[3]		521,496		385,436
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year[4]		(98,282)		(76,951)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**588,581**		**483,428**
Net Assets		**593,599**		**491,373**
Charity Funds				
Restricted Funds[5]		204,631		200,823
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	17,728		8,650	
Ministry Reserve	120,358		109,358	
Clergy Accommodation Maintenance Reserve	12,990		12,990	
Church Maintenance Reserve	76,752		66,752	
Staff Accommodation Deposit	65,000		40,000	
Vestry Refurbishment	45,500		45,500	
Planned Vicarage Maintenance	7,300		7,300	
Hall Refurbishment Reserve	43,340			
Total Unrestricted Funds		388,968		290,550
Total Charity Funds		**593,599**		**491,373**

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Parochial Church Council on 8th March 2026.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Ian Nelson, Treasurer
8th March 2026

The notes on pages 27-33 form part of these financial statements.

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

General Fund Income & Expenditure

Year Ending 31st December 2025

SOFA		2025 Unrestricted	2025 Restricted	2024
Headings	**INCOME**	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	Donations Eligible for Gift Aid	101,822		100,340
	Envelopes	105		308
	Non-Taxed Pledges	988		3,562
	Tax Refund	27,768		29,257
	Collections	7,317		7,422
	Memorial Door Donations	0		21,817
	Other Donations	104,447		88,685
	Alms	550		333
	Fellowship	3,060		1,618
	Grants	50,000	58,000	60,000
	Vol Trust Admin Contrib	13,000		12,000
	Culture Vulture Ventures	0		1,970
		309,057	**58,000**	**327,312**
Activities for Generating Funds	Forecourt Income	47,401		38,805
	Nursery School Rent	54,206		44,851
	Crypt Rent	5,732		3,824
		107,339		**87,470**
Incoming Resources frm Charitable Activities	Special Services	14,762		13,811
	Hire of Church	293,645		239,295
	Hire of Hall	9,622		16,808
	Other Rents	14,743		7,268
		332,772		**277,182**
Investments	Interest	**7,120**		**5,976**
TOTAL INCOME		**756,288**	**58,000**	**697,940**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**(657,870)**	**(58,000)**	**(603,427)**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		**98,418**	**0**	**94,513**
RESERVES USED:				
	Vestment Reserve	0		1,881
SURP/(DEF) INC USED RESERVES		**98,418**		**96,394**
DESIGNATIONS TO RESERVES				
	Ministry Reserve	11,000		14,000
	Church Maintenance Reserve	10,000		18,000
	Staff Accommodation Deposit Reserve	25,000		16,000
	Planned Vicarage Maintenance	0		2,000
	Vestry Refurbishment	0		45,500
	Hall Refurbishment Reserve	43,340		0
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER DESIGNATIONS		**9,078**		**894**

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

General Fund Income & Expenditure

Year Ending 31st December 2025

SOFA Headings		Unrestricted	2025 Restricted	2024
	EXPENDITURE		£	£
Raising Funds	Forecourt Expenditure	6,445		5,691
	Events Costs	78,194		42,560
		84,639		**48,251**
Charitable Activities	London Diocesan Fund	102,000		100,000
	Additional Clergy Costs	44,189		42,831
	Vicar's Expenses	11,365		14,513
	Additional Clergy Expenses	3,215		2,444
	Rents, Running Costs	49,677		32,137
	Vicarage Routine Maintenance	4,783		0
	Children's Education	3,319		3,125
	Adult Education	0		80
	Director of Music	19,866		20,042
	Music Expenses	44,694		40,210
	Fellowship	15,696		14,504
	Altar Requisites	3,971		6,530
	Light, Heat & Insurance	27,305		33,864
	Cleaning	12,388		12,947
	Grounds	2,072		2,567
	Repairs & Maintenance	19,767	58,000	22,979
	Memorial Office Doors	0		21,138
	Printing & Publicity	3,646		6,007
	Administrator	61,155		59,775
	Verger	35,622		37,356
	Assistant Administrator	34,037		10,224
	Staff Pension Contributions	32,791		30,165
	Office Expenses	15,987		17,165
	Equipment	2,966		2,369
	Depreciation	2,927		2.928
	Miscellaneous Expenses	3,379		2,063
	Professional Fees	9,377		8,922
	Culture Vulture Ventures	0		1.970
		566,194	**58,000**	**548,855**
Governance Costs	Audit Fee	6,180		5,700
	Bank Charges	857		621
		7,037		**6,321**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**657,870**	**58,000**	**603,427**

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Other Restricted Income & Expenditure

Year Ending 31st December 2025

		2025		2024
INCOME		£		£
Charities Income		577		1,363
Flower donations		1,121		1,942
Music Donations – Director of Music		2,525		1,630
Music Donations – Singers & Musicians		5,090		4,785
Staff Leaving Purse		0		2.850
TOTAL INCOME		**9,313**		**12,570**
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable Donations		577		1,363
Flower Expenses		1,121		1,942
Music Expenditure – Director of Music		1,296		1,006
Music Expenditure – Singers & Musicians		4,465		4,540
Vestments		0		1,244
Staff Leaving Purse		0		2,850
Expenditure from the Jenny Clark Fund[2]				
Jenny Clark Choral Scholar	4,950		0	
Jenny Clark Memorial Concert	450		0	
Betty's 160th Recital	906		0	
		6,306		0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**13,765**		**12,945**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		**(4,452)**		**(375)**

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ending 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**136,060**	**95,768**
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Cash flows from new borrowings	0	0
Repayment of borrowings	0	0
Change in cash & cash equivalents in the reporting period	**136,060**	**95,768**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	385,436	289,668
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the reporting period	**521,496**	**385,436**

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the SOFA)	102,226	232,372
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,927	2,928
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	7,836	(11,427)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	21,331	21,002
(Purchase)/sale of fixed assets	0	(10,873)
Non-cash donation	0	(134,034)
Gain on investments	(8,260)	(4,200)
Proceeds from disposal of investments	10,000	0
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**136,060**	**95,768**

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand	521,496	385,436
Notice deposits	0	0
Total cash and cash equivalents	**521,496**	**385,436**

St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st December 2025

a) General information and basis of preparation

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist with St Michael and All Angels, Paddington is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 4 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are, in co-operation with the vicar, promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, ecumenical and community building.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in according with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (issued in October 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant policies applied in presentation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years present unless otherwise stated.

b) Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The PCC believe there are no areas of significant estimation uncertainty.

c) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

d) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity; however, it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

e) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes rates and other costs appropriate to that activity, including costs incurred in fundraising and appeals;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred in fulfilling the church's objectives, together with any costs in support of these. This category includes costs normally considered support costs but because the building and staff are integral to fulfilling our objectives, they are included here.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

- Equipment – 3-5 years on a straight line basis
- Grand piano – 10 years on a straight line basis

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

g) Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

h) Investments

Listed investments are included in the Balance Sheet at their market value, which is determined with reference to the quoted price of the listed investment at the financial year end. The Trustees have unlimited investment powers and are advised by Evelyn Partners.

i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

j) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

k) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

l) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

As set out in the Statement of Parochial Church Council Responsibilities Statement on page 12, in preparing these financial statements the PCC are required to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate. In satisfaction of this responsibility the PCC has considered their expectations for the charity over the next 12 months and the charity's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, based upon the information available to the PCC at the date of these financial statements.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the charity has significant cash reserves to cover the operating costs of the charity for a period of at least six months. In addition, the charity has strategies planned to address potential significant changes to its incomes during the forthcoming period, should the charity experience a significant change in its incomes. The PCC therefore has a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to contend with the uncertainties that may arise and to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the PCC continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Accordingly, the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under which assets are recovered and liabilities repaid in the ordinary course of activities. The accompanying financial statements do not include adjustments that would need to be made in the case the charity was unable to continue as a going concern, should the assumptions referred to above subsequently prove to be invalid.

		2025		2024
[1]Debtors		£		£
Sundry Debtors		14,134		3,807
Income Tax Recoverable		14,739		32,902
TOTAL		28,873		36,709
[2]Investments				
Market value on receipt at 1st January 2025		138,234		134,034
Additions		0		0
Disposals		(10,000)		0
Gain/(loss) in market value of listed investments		8,260		4,200
Market value at 31st December 2025		136,494		138,234
Cash		3,584		5,197
Bonds		33,358		18,042
Alternatives & Multi-Asset		0		8,595
Equities		99,552		106,400
		136,494		138,234
Drawdown from fund	10,000		0	
Drawdown spent during year	6,306		0	
Drawdown remaining at 31st December		3,694		0
Total funds available at 31st December		140,188		138,234

All investments are carried at fair value. The main risk to the PCC lies in the combination of uncertain investment markets and volatility in yield. The PCC manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors and operating an investment policy that allows for diversification of asset classes. The PCC is aware that the value of such investments can go up as well as down.

[3]Cash at Bank and in Hand		
General Fund	521,376	385,316
Petty Cash	120	120
TOTAL	521,496	385,436

[4]Amounts Falling Due within One Year		
Sundry Creditors	91,222	70,131
Rent Deposits	1,000	1,000
Audit Fee	6,060	5,820
TOTAL	98,282	76,951

[5]Restricted Funds		
Memorial Garden	3,834	3,834
Music Fund	49,337	47,483
Organ Fund	6,272	6,272
Servers' Vestments	5,000	5,000
Jenny Clark Fund	140,188	138,234
	204,631	200,823

Fixed Assets for Use by the PCC

	Equipment	Grand Piano	Total
Gross Book Value at 1 January 2025	44,575	17,000	61,575
Additions	0	0	0
(Disposals)	0	0	0
as at December 31 2025	44,575	17,000	61,575
Depreciation at 1 January 2025	36,630	17,000	53,630
Charge for the Year	2,927	0	2,927
Release on Disposal	0	0	0
at 31 December 2025	39,557	17,000	56,557
Net Book Value at 31 December 2025	5,018	0	5,018
At 31 December 2024	7,945	0	7,945

Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total**
Fixed Assets	5,018	0	5,018
Current Assets	478,812	208,051	686,863
Current Liabilities	(94,862)	(3,420)	(98,282)
TOTAL ASSETS	**388,968**	**204,631**	**593,599**

STAFF COSTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	138,367	135,856
Social Security Costs	18,219	14,785
Pension Costs	32,790	17,088
TOTAL COSTS	189,376	167,729

The average number of staff during the year was four (four in 2024). No employee was paid between £60,000 and £70,000. One employee was paid between 70,000 and £80,000 during the year. No members of staff were paid more than £80,000.

Pension contributions are currently payable for four members of staff and clergy and are made under a defined contribution scheme. One member of staff is provided use of the 2nd and 3rd floor maisonette at 12a Connaught Street.

FUND DETAILS

In 2007, the Parochial Church Council adopted a Reserves Policy which established the following funds: General Reserves, Ministry Reserve, Music Reserve, Church Maintenance Reserve and Clergy Accommodation Reserve. The policy was reviewed in 2013 and 2019.

The General Reserve is for any surpluses over and above those specified under the policy. It is the aim of the PCC to build up reserves to cover six months' running costs.

The Ministry Reserve was created in 1998 when the PCC decided to recruit an Associate Vicar. It is a provision made to cover anticipated additional ministry costs that might not be met by the operational budget.

The Church Maintenance Reserve was established to assist the PCC in meeting the costs of keeping up a Grade II listed building, especially to provide for unforeseen or emergency repairs which might be outside the scope of the annual budget. The Hall Refurbishment Reserve was agreed in 2025 to set aside funds to provide for the refurbishment works expected to be undertaken in 2026.

The Staff Accommodation Deposit is a recent reserve, created by the PCC in recognition that the properties they lease for the accommodation of staff are on short- to medium-term rolling leases and agreements and that the mews house used to accommodate the Associate Vicar is held on an historic agreement which will expire in approximately seven years. The aim of the PCC is to build up adequate funds to provide for the deposit to purchase a property in which to house staff and so reduce dependence on leased properties.

The flourishing of a music tradition over the past years has greatly enhanced the worship on Sundays and at special services. Many of the costs of the choir, director of music and guest singers and musicians have been generously provided by members of the congregation. Donations received in excess of costs are accumulated and held in a restricted reserve. In recognition of the fluidity of the parish and that generous contributors to the music programme may only be around for a short time, the PCC have aimed to have the equivalent of two years' costs in reserve.

The Clergy Accommodation Reserve was created in 2001 when major repairs and renovations to most of the clergy accommodation made a large call on parish resources. Currently, the PCC also budgets £2,000 a year towards future Vicarage redecoration works. Any unspent amount in the year is set aside for future works.

Restricted funds held by the PCC are as set out in note 4 to the Balance Sheet. Memorial Garden funds will be used to develop one of the gardens along the church as a Garden of Remembrance. The Music Reserve holds funds donated explicitly for music. Vestments are as set out above. The Organ Fund arose when the grade 2* listed organ was refurbished in 2015 and is used for upkeep and maintenance of the organ.

The Jenny Clark Fund is the donation of an investment portfolio from the Lombard Charitable Trust made to the PCC for the provision and furtherance of church music. The funds in the portfolio will be drawn down over a period of around ten years.

During the year the Parochial Church Council applied for a grant from the Community Investment Levy Fund to provide funding for the installation of metal railings and security gates around the four crypt stairwells which were regularly being used by prostitutes, drug users and rough sleepers. A grant of £58,000 was agreed and paid on completion of the works. Total costs were £68,8189 and the balance was funded by the PCC.

2025 PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

No elected members of St John's PCC received any reimbursement of expenses or remuneration. All clergy are reimbursed reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. In 2025, reimbursements totalling £14,580 were made to two members of the clergy (£16,957 in 2024) for ministry expenses and expenditure incurred in the provision of parish hospitality. During the year the charity paid £15,333 of pension contributions on behalf of two members of the PCC (£14,164 in 2024 for two members).

Trustees' and Officers' Indemnity is provided for members of the PCC under the terms of the church's insurance cover and is included in the premium for the year.

COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 December 2025 the charity had commitments under non-cancellable leases as follows:

		2025	2024
Operating leases which expire:			
Due within 1year	12a Connaught Street	11,000	11,000
	11 Star Street	26,000	26,000
Within 2-5 years	12a Connaught Street	11,000	11,000
	11 Star Street	26,000	52,000

CONNECTED CHARITY

The church received grants in the year of £45,000 (£60,000 in 2024) from the William Gibbs Religious and Educational Trust. Furtherance of the educational and charitable work of the Church of England in the parish of St John the Evangelist is one of the objectives of the Trust. The Vicar and Churchwardens of St John's are *ex officio* trustees. The parish administrator also serves as clerk to the Trust and the Trust Administration Contribution is a voluntary donation on the part of the Trust in recognition of the services provided by him and in recognition that expenses are incurred by the parish in servicing the Trust. A contribution of £13,000 was made for 2025 (£12,000 in 2024).

AUDIT FEE

The fee for the audit of the 2024 accounts was £5,700. A provision of £6,180 has been made for the audit of the 2025 accounts.