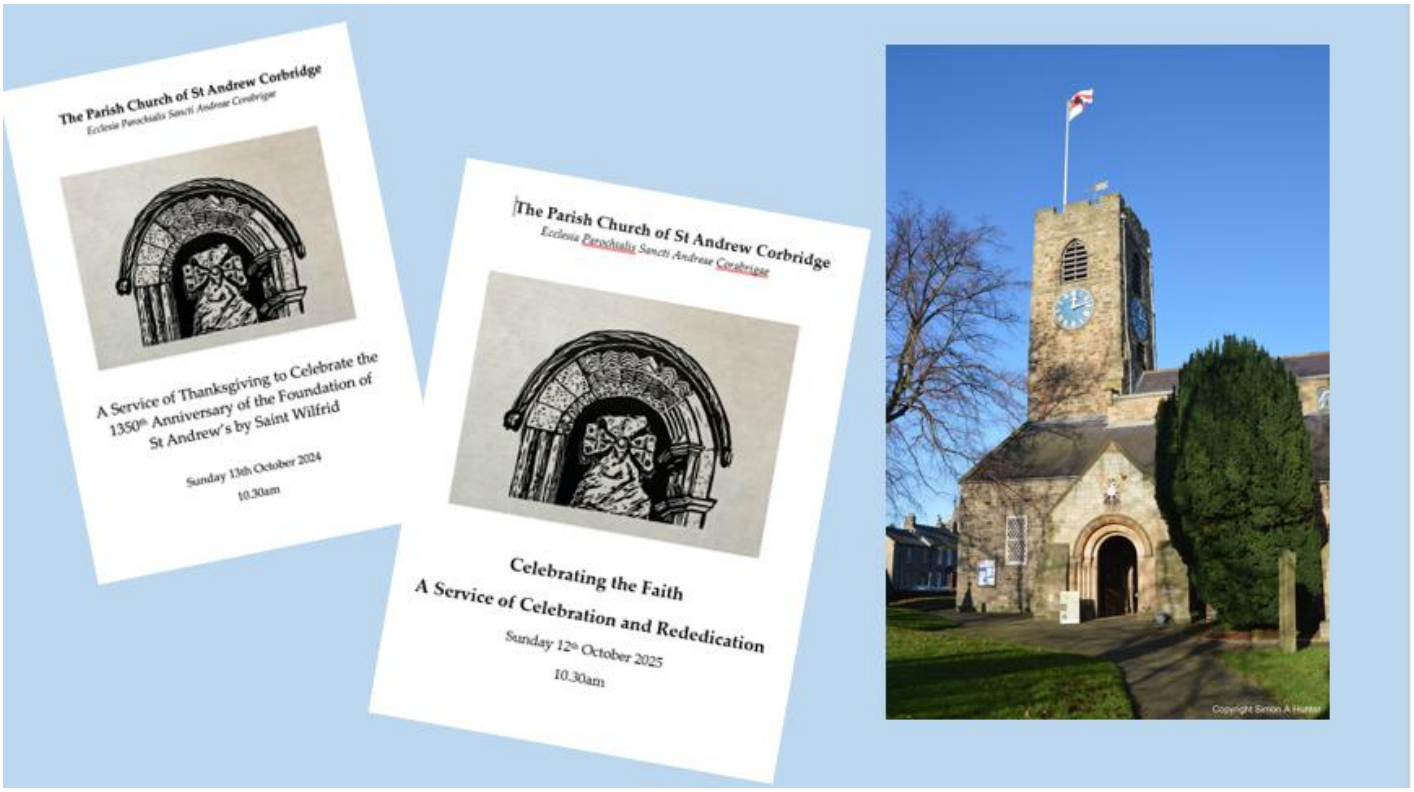
The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald's, Halton and Newton Hall



ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2026

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St Oswald's, Halton and Newton Hall.

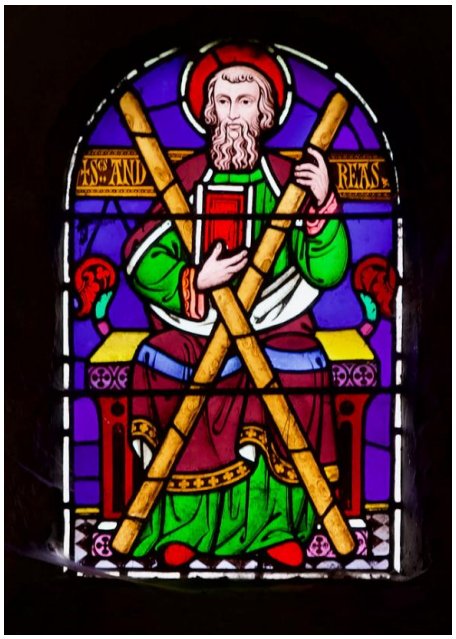
MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the living God we know in Jesus Christ. As a Church family, we seek to grow

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- through living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese
- by looking outwards in seeking to care for creation, our nation and God's world

To this end
our doors are open
our minds are open
our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children and adults to Jesus.



ANNUAL REPORTS

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church meeting held in St Andrew's Church, Corbridge on Sunday 18th May at 11.15am

Present:
Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Rev'd Linda Hunter, Rev'd Claire Robson, Rev'd Phil Smith and 42 laity.

Canon David Kennedy opened the meeting in prayer.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
This meeting was for the election of Churchwardens, for which anyone voting must be either resident in the parish or on the electoral roll. David McEwan and Peter Cook had agreed to be re-elected. There were no further nominees and a vote was carried unanimously to re-elect David McEwan and Peter Cook. David Kennedy thanked David McEwan and Peter Cook for all their work as Churchwardens during the past year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Apologies:**
   David McEwan, Jennifer Wright, John and Sue Wilson

2. **Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 5th May 2024**
   Acceptance of minutes was proposed by David Kennedy and a vote carried unanimously.

3. **Financial Statement**
   Cliff Wright referred to the report and accounts that had been circulated.
   Cliff thanked all who had supported the church financially and especially to the cash counters who assisted each week. Cliff was pleased to report that the Church's Net Worth had increased by £97,625 by December 2024. Cliff reported that the Church had received a very generous legacy from John Ross of £113,000 of which £30,000 was requested to be set aside for the future of the organ, this left a balance of £83,000 open to be used for the good of the Church. Once again Cliff pointed out that although it was good to end the year in credit, we must be mindful of rising costs and the future increase in Parish Share, together with our aging congregation's contributions. Cliff also thanked Mike Collins for his assistance with the preparation of the accounts.

   David Kennedy thanked Cliff for all his work that is reflected in his excellent presentation of the accounts and of his weekly attendance in church to keep everything ticking long so well, it was very much appreciated.

   David Kennedy reminded the meeting that daily expenses come from the additional events that are necessary to fund and support the Church and the broader community. He reflected on the importance of receiving the many people who daily visit the Church and attend the special events put on throughout the year.

4. **Electoral Roll**
   David Kennedy once again thanked Maureen Davison for maintaining the electoral roll which now stands at 132 and has decreased in numbers from 174 last year. David pointed out to the meeting that if anyone still wishes to come onto to the electoral roll it is not too late.

Annual Reports

David Kennedy said that copies of the Annual Report were available at the back of the church and could also be accessed via the church website. He expressed his sincere thanks to all those who contributed reports, highlighting that together they provide a valuable "snapshot" of the life of the Church over the past year. These contributions reflect not only the wide range of activities taking place, but also the commitment, faith, and generosity of the people involved.

He emphasised that the Church is enriched by the diverse gifts and talents of its members, all of which are evident throughout the report. From worship and pastoral care to outreach, fellowship, and practical support, each group plays a vital role in sustaining and developing the Church's life and mission.

In addition, David expressed his appreciation to the Ministry Team for their continued support, and commitment.

5. Elections

(i) Deanery Synod. Current representatives were Janet Kennedy and Alice Stephenson and they agreed to continue in this role.
John Wilson had also been nominated: Proposed by Sue Graves and seconded by Jennifer Wright. This was carried and John Wilson was appointed as a member of the Deanery Synod.

(ii) Parochial Church Council (PCC). 2 members had completed their term of office: Nahidah Remy and Alistair Lishman. There was one new nominee.

- Richard Adams: proposed by Max Philbrick, seconded by Monica Philbrick
  The vote was carried and Richard Adams was elected onto the PCC.

6. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Mike Collins agreed that he was happy to remain as independent examiner.
This was duly carried.

7. Any other Business

John McNamara asked about the on-going problem with the lights. David stated that the repairs and replacement of bulbs was in hand with the Lighting Engineers and work was in progress to address this problem.

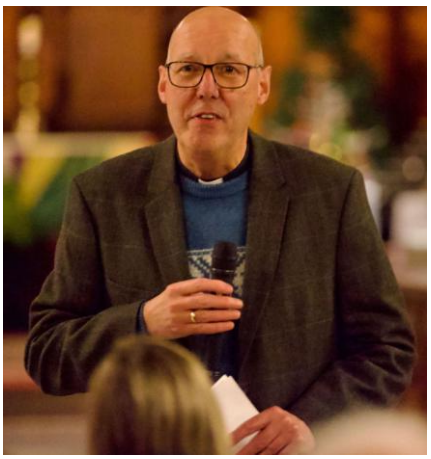
Ann King-Lewis asked how the new estate in the village was being covered by encouraging the new people to come along and join in with church and activities. Bob Eldridge said that much work had been done over the Christmas period with invitations etc and Linda Hunter added that 'River', 'Messy Church' and 'Tea & Chat' had all received new people in from the New Estate. It was felt that all the events planned for the summer will encourage people in the community to know we are here and to join with us in these activities.

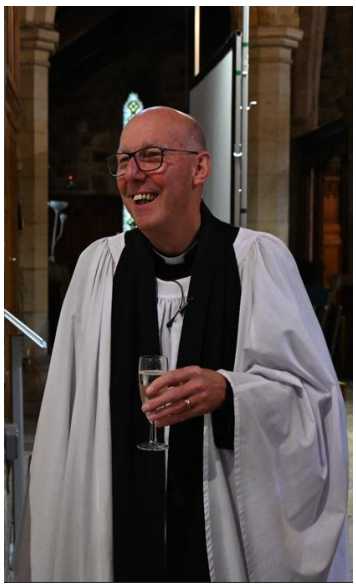
Alice Stephenson thanked David for his leadership which is very much appreciated.

There was no further business, the meeting was closed.

VICAR'S REPORT Canon Dr David J Kennedy







Introduction

I am delighted to present my eighth Annual Report on the life of St Andrew's and Halton. It is hard to believe that twelve months ago we were still in the thick of our 1350 celebrations, with the Flower Festival, Heritage Week and final weekend still before us. The Flower Festival was an outstanding success and the Heritage Week was a great celebration of both Church and community with the excellent weddings exhibition. The final weekend was a joyful conclusion. On Saturday, as well as guided tours, there was a conversation with the artist Jo Westgate (whose Wilfrid banners graced the Church), a Power-point presentation reviewing the year, a delicious afternoon tea, and act of worship. On Sunday, Bishop Mark joined us for the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication. The augmented choir sang the Kyrie from Louis Vierne's *Messe Solenelle*, Anton Bruckner's *Locus Iste* and Charles Stanford's *Te Deum in B flat* and our CE First School choir sang *King of kings, Majesty*. It was wonderful to welcome so many members of Church and Community to the final service. So, all in all, we had quite a year, but there is so much about it for which we thank God, and the year will stay long in the memory.

Worship

This has been a settled year for our pattern of Sunday and weekday worship, with no major developments. It is good to report that levels of attendance continue to be maintained at both St Andrew's and Halton, and we have welcomed new people into our various worshipping communities. We have continued with our well attended 10am Parish Communion with organ and choir and our afternoon pattern of Informal Worship, with monthly Messy Church, our monthly River gathering (which has attracted new people over the year) and Simply Worship, a simple Service of the Word with Bible exposition. By this we seek to offer a balance of traditional and informal services, adorned by preaching as we seek to apply the Bible to our Christian faith, and engage in prayer for God's world. This, we believe, is what a Church set in a large village/small town in a rural context should be offering. One of our great strengths at St Andrew's is that our Church

family is diverse, with a wide range of Christian experience, traditions and spiritualities. No one tradition dominates, but we hope we provide something for everyone. The Church, as Archbishop Desmond Tuto famously said, is 'the rainbow people of God', and in our diversity we are seek an ever deeper unity in Christ. As Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you'.

Each year we send a return of statistics to the central Church. From our return in January 2026. For 2025, the following were returned.

- Average Sunday attendance ('normal Sunday') 125
- Easter Day attendance 349 (176 Communicants)
- Advent special services 1,270
- Advent Schools' services 707
- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day attendance 986 (228 communicants).

We have continued with our annual programme of special services, marking the Christian year and twice a year on Sunday morning, we offer prayer and the laying on of hands and anointing for healing. One highlight was a joyful Deanery Confirmation service held at St Andrew's and led by Bishop Mark. Some of the candidates gave their testimony and it was a powerful witness to all the ways in which the Lord is working in their lives.



People

Linda Hunter duly completed her curacy and to our delight was appointed as Associate Priest of this benefice. Once again, we welcomed Bishop Mark who licensed Linda on 19th April at our 10am service. It was a wonderfully joyful service with a very full Church. At the end, the Choir sang *The Prayer of St Columba* with music by Richard Shephard, last sung at Linda's First Presidency of the Eucharist in 2024. Paul Heatherington has joined our Church during the past year; he is an Authorized Worship Leader in Newcastle Diocese and comes with experience of being a licensed Reader in Durham Diocese.



We were saddened by the death of a number of members of our Church community over the recent year, Nicholas Craig, Christopher Kennedy, John Galpin, Madge Howard, Elsie Fletcher, Mary Rae, Martin Kitchen, Pauline Bennett, Margaret Preece, and Bobbie Middleton. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mission and Ministry

The extensive 1350 programme was the focus for the first six months since the last APCM and we were ready for a rest! But the pace of things in Corbridge never seems to slacken as immediately we entered the very busy period of All Saints to Advent, Advent itself and Christmas. The Advent Compline addresses focussed on Luke Chapter 1. And then more recently, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Lent and Holy Week evening Compline Services included addresses on the Psalms. We continue to give *Exploring the Bible* group studies, studying The Nicene Creed using Richard Steel's Grove Booklet, *The Nicene Creed and the Bible* (also studied by our Home Group and Book Group) in the autumn, and the Prophet Jeremiah during Lent.





The Wider Deanery

I reigned as Area Dean on 31st October after 6 years and have been succeeded by the Revd Rachel Scheffer, the Vicar of Stamfordham, Matfen and Heddon. Linda also handed on the baton as Deanery Secretary. I would like to express my gratitude to Linda for her exemplary service as Secretary; she has wonderfully supported me, the Deanery Development Group and the Deanery Synod. For the past two and a half years Corbridge has looked Whittonstall, and on 1st May, Linda and I were licensed as Curates of the Parish by Archdeacon Catherine.

And personally

The past year has been the hardest that Janet and I have faced since our marriage in 1982, following the tragic death of our beloved son Christopher last May. We have been wonderfully supported by the love and prayers of so many from St Andrew's and St Oswald's and from the wider community. The funeral service, led by our Bishop, with a beautiful sermon from Linda, and assisted by my colleagues, was powerfully moving and full of faith in the midst of grief, adorned by the music of our choir, where the singing of *Nunc Dimittis* to the setting by Geoffrey Burgon was something we will never forget. Thank you for your continuing support, love and prayers.

In Eastertide, we celebrate the ground of our hope, the dying and rising of Jesus. The ancient Russian hymn for the departed expresses both our mortality and our hope. I offer it as a prayer for all we love but see no longer.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting. You alone are immortal, the Creator and maker of all people: and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth, and to earth shall we return: for so you did ordain, when you created me saying: 'You are dust and to dust you shall return'. We all go down to the dust; yet weeping o'er the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio:

Vicar: Canon David Kennedy

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Linda Hunter

Associate Priests: Revd Phil Smith, Revd Claire Robson

Churchwardens: Peter Cook, David McEwan

Richard Adams	John Clark	Karen Harkness	Jen Lansberry
Max Philbrick	Edward Pybus	John Wilson	

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Janet Kennedy, Alice Stephenson, John Wilson

Co-opted

Cliff Wright: Treasurer Jo Eldridge: Minute Secretary

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.

Members: Vicar, Assistant Curate, Churchwardens, Treasurer.

PCC MEETINGS

This report summarises the work of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), some items are mentioned in more detail in other reports. It has been a year marked by significant activity in worship, mission, and the maintenance of the church buildings. The highlight of the year has been the celebration of the church's 1350th anniversary, which is reported elsewhere in this booklet.

Mission and Ministry

The PCC has continued to support a full and active pattern of worship and ministry throughout the year. More detail is in the Vicar's report. The PCC has also given continued attention to the Ministry of Welcome. Renewed encouragement in this area has resulted in improved engagement with visitors. (See Church guides report). During the year, the Mission Statement was reviewed and revised. Following discussion, it was formally adopted by the PCC, reflecting both local priorities and the wider mission of the Church within a national and global context.

1350th Anniversary Celebrations: The 1350th anniversary year has been a major focus of activity and celebration. A full report follows. Financially, the events made a substantial contribution to church income, with fundraising activities generating significant net proceeds. The success of the year has also helped to build a strong foundation for future events and community involvement.

Finance: This is reported in the finance report.

Fabric and Major Projects: The PCC has given considerable attention to the maintenance and development of church property. The following projects have been discussed and are reported in the Maintenance report.

- Lady Chapel Project
- Church Roof and Gutters
- Newton Churchyard, where discussions continue regarding future maintenance responsibilities and the closure of the churchyard.
- Church lighting, identified as a priority area requiring further work and investment
- The Church Cottage, where minor issues are being monitored
- The transition from analogue to digital communication systems has been successfully completed.

Safeguarding: Safeguarding remains a high priority for the PCC. Policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated in line with current requirements. Training has been undertaken by members of the congregation, including new requirements relating to domestic abuse awareness. A national, minor data breach reported during the year was addressed promptly, with no further issues identified. Data protection procedures have been strengthened as a result.

Community Engagement and Events: The church has continued to develop its role as a centre for community activity. The Christmas Tree Festival was particularly successful, attracting over 11,000 visitors and raising more than £14,000. This event, along with others throughout the year, has demonstrated the strong connection between the church and the local community. The PCC has approved revised charges for the hire of church and cottage facilities, reflecting increased use of the buildings and the need to ensure sustainability.

Canon David Kennedy and the Revd Linda Hunter are trustees of Corbridge Community Partnership,

Governance and Administration: The PCC has maintained effective governance throughout the year. Committees: including Standing, Maintenance, Events, and Take 5, have continued to function effectively.

Following the resignation of the church cleaner, a new appointment was successfully made.
The success of the 1350th anniversary celebrations, places the church in a positive position for the future. At the same time, the PCC remains mindful of the challenges ahead, particularly in relation to financial sustainability and the cost of essential building works. Careful planning and continued community engagement will be essential in addressing these challenges.

The PCC records its thanks to all who have contributed to the life and work of the church during the year.

ELECTORAL ROLL — Maureen Davison

The year 2025 saw the start of a completely new Electoral Roll for the Parish. It started with 144 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year four names have been removed. The current total is 140.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT & FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH — David McEwan and Peter Cook

Both Churchwardens are members of the PCC, Standing Committee and Maintenance Committee, so we contribute to all decision-making about the maintenance and upkeep of our churches. Maintaining the Church buildings is the most important of our roles and involving principally major projects and routine maintenance, some of which can be undertaken ourselves. The fabric of both our churches is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The committee meets regularly and reports to PCC. The members are Canon David Kennedy, Rev'd Linda Hunter, Jane Darbyshire-Walker, Peter Cook, Jon Williams and David McEwan.

Quinquennial Inspections and recommendations.
Inspections of both churches, and of the cottage, are all up to date and the maintenance committee are busy working through and prioritising the recommendations given.

Maintenance and works undertaken

- **Statutory Requirements**: During the year we have had inspections of the fire extinguishers, boilers, alarm system, and ladders. Electrical PAT testing was done in November 2025.
- **Clock:** The clock's annual inspection was done in October 2025. We are grateful to Mike Collins and Paul Morris who check, monitor and adjust the clock when required. Fortunately, it no longer needs winding three times a week, thanks to the automated winding installed in 2021.
- **Lady Chapel:** The Lady Chapel remains under consideration by the PCC as we gather information to assist our decision-making process. Following the consultation process with the congregation, the PCC instructed Howarth Litchfield to progress with Stage 3 of the of the project, specifically the production of the architects Stage 3 report which contains a number of detailed drawings and addresses amongst other things, materials, lighting, and sound impact. This document then formed the basis of a DAC submission in early 2026. Their response provided us with feedback which has been passed on the architect for further consideration and if appropriate inclusion in the scoping work for the project. Further DAC consultations will be required before we make a final decision on whether to proceed or not.
- **Roof:** Maintaining a watertight roof, as with all historic buildings, is an ongoing process. There are two major projects underway on the vestry roof and the high guttering on the south elevation of the church. Both areas have suffered from persistent leaks over the years. After a lengthy consultation with the DAC over a two-year period, and in conjunction with our architects Howarth Litchfield, we secured DAC approval for the replacement of the entire vestry roof and

the high guttering repair in September 2025 on a quote from Ryton Construction. On receipt of the approval, we learnt that Planning Permission was also required from NCC which was duly given in January 2026. Since then, we have been trying to obtain a start date from Ryton. At the time of writing, we do not have a start date albeit the contractor has given no indication that they want to withdraw. Our architect advises that this is a widespread issue in the contracting community at the moment with a surplus of work for the available reliable firms and to date has advised us to remain with Ryton in the expectation that the work will start in the next few months. Meanwhile the leak attributable to the high guttering issue has become quite noticeable in periods of intense rain so we are very anxious to get this work done on a timely basis. Once completed, the cost for these two major pieces of work will probably amount to £80,000 including professional fees

- **Church lighting**: Internal lighting in the church has been under strain for some time with frequent bulb failures, often in inaccessible places. We have worked diligently with Burncliffe Electricians of Hexham to maintain the system but it became clear in 2025 because of the rate of recurring bulb failure that a more radical approach was required. In discussions with other churches notably Hexham Abbey, we were recommended to approach R Lightfoot Electricians of Bishop Auckland who had been one of the main contractors in the upgrade of Hexham Abbey's lighting as well as other churches. At the time of writing, we await their detailed report but their basic diagnosis is that the system as set up is not compatible with modern dimmable LED bulbs and that there will need to be a large-scale refit of the system to bring it up to a functional standard. We don't have an indication of cost but it will be an expensive undertaking when it eventually takes place and will involve some disruption.
- **Cottage:** There has been no significant work undertaken on the cottage since the 2024 kitchen refit. There is a possibility that we may undertake further works to address the ongoing high humidity issue but given the commitment to other projects, the cottage has a lower priority
- **Churchyard and garden**: We have a good working relationship with the Parish Council, which has responsibility for the churchyard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths and trees. A periodic volunteer working party has been organised to undertake a tidy up.
- **Tuning:** The organ is tuned 3 times a year. The church piano is tuned at least twice a year often arranged and funded by musicians hiring the church for performances. The cottage piano is tuned once a year.
- **Architects**: Since the appointment in 2025 of Neil Turner of Howard Litchfield as architectural advisor to the PCC we have consulted him extensively on the Lady Chapel project, roof repairs and cottage. He has provided good impartial advice to inform the decision making of the PCC.
- **Newton churchyard:** A faculty has been granted to convert a section of the churchyard into a memorial garden for interment of ashes. This is now completed. We are now in the process of closing the churchyard (which now has no vacant burial plots) meaning that its maintenance will will become the responsibility of the local authority.
- **Utilities**: Contract renewals. The cottage gas contract was wrapped into the St Andrew's gas of May 2026 and should result in a saving of several thousand pounds of cost annually.
- **Health & Safety**: Review of our fire safety risk assessments is ongoing. Event risk assessments are carried out for all new events.

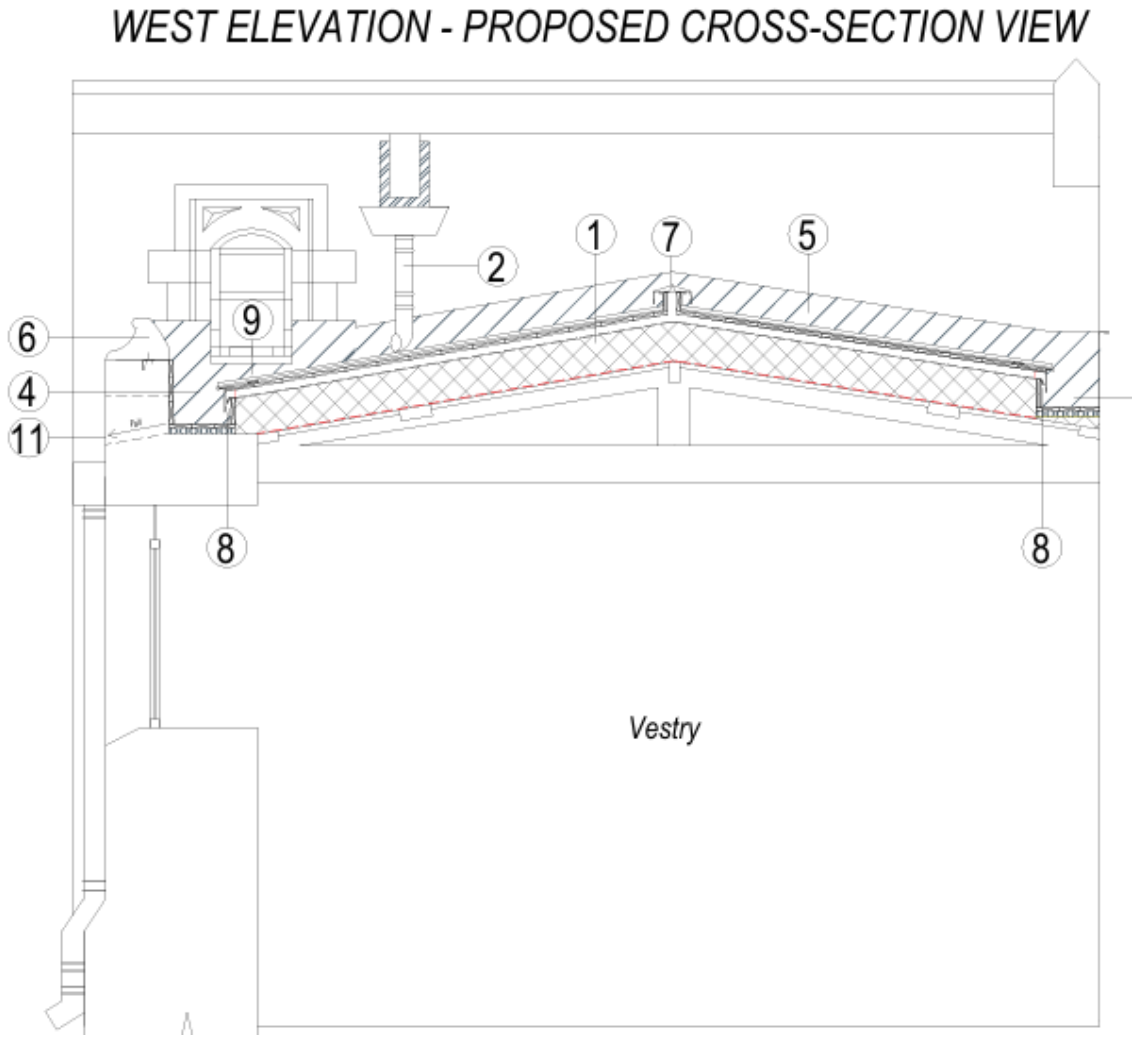
- **Security Review.** We regularly monitor our security arrangements. A new cottage door installed during 2025 meant that the number of keys for the cottage was greatly reduced on the advice of the insurance company.

There are many other routine tasks which we attend to facilitate the smooth running of the church and to assist the ministry team in their work. These include liaising with local tradesmen involved in electrical work, joinery, painting, boiler maintenance, gutters and drains, roof repairs and more. We would like to thank Sue Graves for all her efforts to co-ordinate the team of welcomers for the Sunday 10.00am service and to her and Jean Wilks, for the installation of the many banners that feature on the frame outside the Church throughout the year. There are also many others involved in a variety of rotas that operate through the year to whom we also wish to express our thanks for their invaluable support.

We are always looking for more volunteers to take on a range of tasks or responsibilities; if you could offer some help, please speak to the churchwardens.

Finally on behalf of the congregation, we wish to express our gratitude to the ministry team, for their considerable pastoral activity in the Church and in the village and for their many unheralded acts of kindness and care towards those in need.

Vestry Roof Plan



HALTON ST. OSWALD Edward Pybus

The established pattern of services at Halton continues. Over this 2025/26 year Holy Communion has been celebrated on the first Sunday of each month including at Harvest Festival in October (average 12) and at Easter (27) and Christmas (28), Choral Evensong (28) was sung by the St Andrew's choir on Trinity Sunday in June to coincide with the garden opening at Halton Castle and Evensong (7) was said on Trinity 6 in July (attendance shown in brackets). Canon David Kennedy, The Revd Linda Hunter, The Revd Phil Smith, The Revd Claire Robson and Canon Michael Thompson all presided and preached in their turn.

We are a loyal and devoted congregation who support the church in diverse ways and are supported in turn by our dedicated clergy team and our churchwardens. There are others too who contribute quietly behind the scenes. We thank them all most sincerely, in particular the team who consistently produce their wonderful flower arrangements and the Blackett family who generously carry out general maintenance work to the church building and keep the graveyard immaculate.

This small church also continues to be a place of sanctuary for those seeking peace and space. It is always open (you just have to give the door a firm push). Comments in the visitors book bear witness to numerous visitors from all over the world: some more local and returning; others, many of them walkers, finding the church for the first time. They delight in the simplicity and beauty of the building and its surroundings; they love the flowers; they reflect on their lives; they remember family and friends, both living and departed; they offer their prayers. They seek variously inspiration and strength, comfort and consolation.



SAFEGUARDING

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding for further information



Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mandy Norton **Tel: 07831 136505**

Safer Recruitment Officer: Richard Adams **Tel: 01434 634869**

Asst PSO (Admin): Linda E Hunter **Tel: 01434 633742**

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.'

Safeguarding continues to be a key priority for the PCC as we strive to ensure that St Andrew's and Halton Churches are a safe and supportive place for all. We are reminded that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we all have a role to play in looking out for one another.

If you have any concerns, please speak with Mandy Norton. Her contact details can be found on the noticeboard and the website. Mandy is always available to listen and can offer guidance or direct you to further support if needed.

Richard oversees recruitment processes, including volunteer forms and online DBS checks for both new applicants and renewals.

Data Breach: A minor national data breach, linked with DBS checks, reported during the year was addressed promptly, with no further issues identified. As a result, Data protection procedures have been strengthened across the Church of England.

Over the past year, we have continued to use the **National Church Dashboard** and the **Safeguarding Hub.**

The **Safeguarding Dashboard**, which records all aspects of safeguarding activity, continues to be an invaluable tool for the parish. It helps ensure that all necessary information is maintained and up to date for compliance purposes.

The Safeguarding Hub enables us to effectively monitor training requirements for specific roles, as well as DBS renewal dates. It also provides timely reminders when renewals are due, helping us to maintain compliance at all times.

Safer recruitment remains a key priority. We are committed to ensuring that all roles are filled safely and that anyone working with children or vulnerable adults has the appropriate checks in place. All individuals in roles requiring safeguarding training have completed the appropriate level for their role. During the year:

- 14 people have either completed or renewed Basic and Foundation safeguarding training.
- 2 people have renewed Leadership Training
- In response to updated regulations requiring all those working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults to complete Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training, a session led by Mandy Norton was attended by 14 participants. A further three individuals completed this training online.

- All clergy who lead worship in this parish have also ensured that their DBS and training requirements are up to date.

Basic Awareness training is available online, and anyone wishing to learn more about safeguarding is encouraged to register via the Church of England website.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and all PCC members are kept up to date with current information. The annual **Safeguarding Review** took place in January. The updated action plan, along with all relevant policies and procedures, was circulated to the PCC and formally approved. Booklets containing this information are available at the back of church and on the website.

It was agreed that, in order to comply **with data protection requirements,** PCC minutes will no longer be published on the church website. Minutes will remain available upon request to church members, and the Annual Report will continue to be published online.

Overall, throughout the year, we have remained as up to date as possible as the team continues to ensure that our safeguarding practices are as robust as they can be.
Remember if you have any concerns please speak to Mandy or one of the clergy, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@newcastle.anglican.org or phoning 0191 270 4105.







CELEBRATING 1350 YEARS OF FAITH, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY

Rev'd Linda Hunter

As we move into reporting the next phase of our 1350th anniversary year, it is worth briefly recalling the happy and joyful beginnings that were already shared in the report last year. Since our launch on St Wilfrid's Day in October 2024, we have celebrated with worship, music, storytelling, and community gatherings that have drawn people together in remarkable ways. From our Opening weekend to the Christmas Tree Festival, welcoming thousands of visitors and filling the church with beauty, creativity, music and word, the early months have set a tone of celebration, and hope. We now look ahead to the next chapter of events and activities, which took place this year.





Our next major event was the Caporetto Exhibition, launched at a special Preview Evening on Thursday 8th May. At 6.30pm, the church bells rang out, joining others across the country to mark VE Day, a tribute to peace hard-won and lives lost.

Sculptor Keith Roberts shared the story behind his powerful installation, originally created for the 2017 exhibition *War in the Sunshine*. The sculpted, fractured bells reflect the devastation of the 1917 Battle of Caporetto on the Italian front. They speak not only of that moment in history but of the universal cost of war — its chaos, dislocation, and emotional toll. **Yet they** also invite reflection on healing, humanity, and the way faith speaks into brokenness.

The evening was enriched by a poem read by Helen Mason and a moving choral performance of *The Road Home* by St Andrew's Choir. We are really grateful to the anonymous sponsor whose generosity made this thought-provoking installation possible. It was housed in the South Transept, for 16 days and offered a quiet space for contemplation, remembrance, and prayer.

Next came the Art Exhibition. We were delighted to host an exhibition by Helen Alice Johnson, whose landscapes brought a sense of joy and quiet reflection into the church. Helen and her husband live and work between the North Pennines and northern France, **and landscapes** shape her visual language, where pattern, geometry, and colour come together in a spirit of celebration. Many visitors commented on the quality of her paintings, and the way they seemed to invite stillness, wonder, and a renewed connection with the natural world.



One of the most anticipated events of our anniversary year was the 1350th Flower Festival, held in June. Organised by Ann Prudhoe and her fabulous flower team, the event brought together arrangers from across the Tyne Valley in a stunning celebration of faith, beauty, and community. Inspired by the legacy of St Wilfrid and St Andrew, each display reflected the rich history and living faith of our church.

The arrangements filled St Andrew's with colour and creativity, offering visitors a moving reflection on 1350 years of worship, mission, and care. We're so grateful to everyone who helped make the Festival such a friendly and memorable part of our year**,** through sponsorship and helping with the day to day running.






ROBERT
THE
BRUCE
KING
OF
SCOTS






22

As part of the Flower Festival, visitors were greeted by a beautiful cascade of crocheted and knitted flowers flowing down the outside of the lych gate.

Organised by the Sewing Bee and created by many willing fingers from both church and community, this colourful display stood not only as a symbol of creativity and welcome, but also of the care and connection with the village, that has long been part of St Andrew's life. The cascade remained in place until the end of August, delighting passers-by and marking our 1350th year with joy and colour.



David may not have got his wish of matching Ripon Cathedral's full line-up of 1350 events, but we were lucky enough to be part of the *Cathedrals Cycle Relay 2025*.

Thanks to the efforts of Sean Cutler, from the Pele and organiser of the national Cathedrals cycle race, we welcomed the baton on its journey from Carlisle to Newcastle Cathedral. The relay, **which** began at Bradford Cathedral and was visiting every Church of England cathedral, arrived in Corbridge cathedral at 1.00pm on Tuesday 1st July.

After a cuppa, a short service of prayer was held in the church before the riders continued on their way at 1.50pm. It was a small, but special moment of connection with the wider Church and a reminder that even in the middle of a long journey, there's always time to stop, pray, and give thanks.





Another highlight of our 1350th celebrations was the special collaboration with the Corbridge Chamber Music Festival.

As part of the festival, artist Jo Westgate, who we have all heard from this afternoon, exhibited her striking new woodcut of St Wilfrid, showing the saint superimposed on St Andrew's Church.





Hand-printed from two carved wood blocks and finished with gold leaf, the piece was commissioned by The Gould Trio and formed part of a larger exhibition in the church.

Alongside it, the premiere of a newly commissioned work, *The rise and Fall of Sirius'*, by renowned composer Piers Hellawell, brought the story of our founding saint to life in music. **Performed by the Gould Trio** and clarinettist Robert Plane, and even involving the audience, it was a striking and memorable centrepiece of both the festival and our anniversary year.



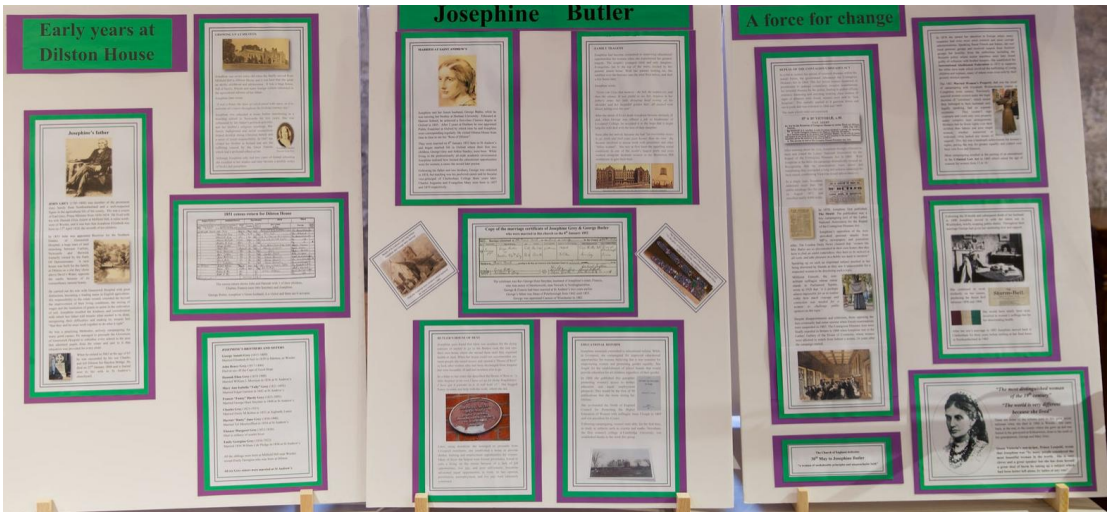


Heritage Week marked a memorable and fitting finale to our 1350th anniversary celebrations, a week that brought together history, community, and story. Inside the church, a striking exhibition curated by Simon Hunter celebrated love across the generations, with over 125 wedding photographs of couples married at St Andrew's, a tribute to the lives shaped within its walls.

Complementing this were displays from local organisations and detailed information boards from the Heritage Centre, all adding to the rich tapestry of stories on show.

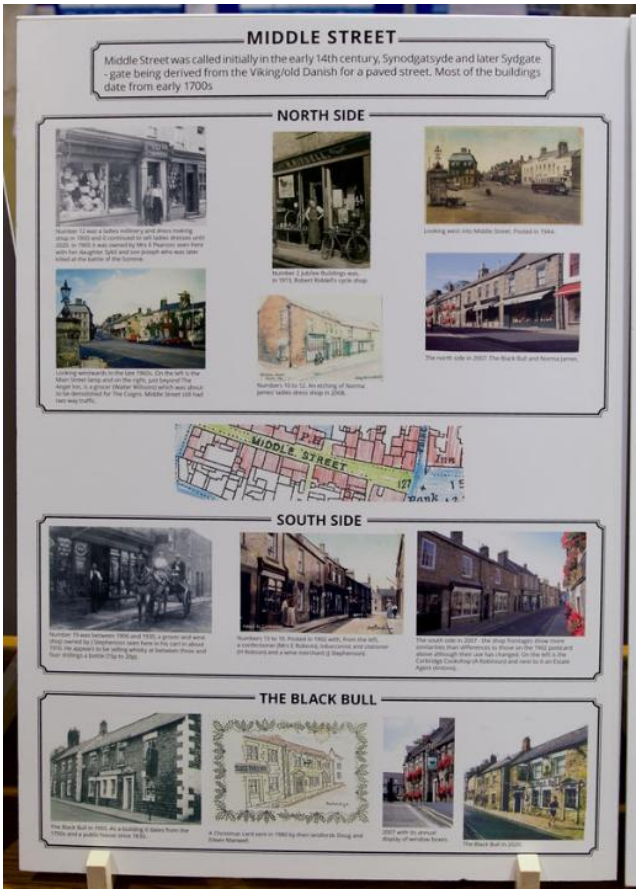


A specially produced video by Steve Betts, tracing the church from its earliest foundations in 675 through to the present day, was enjoyed by many. Together, these events and displays created not just a celebration, but a living reflection of all that St Andrew's has meant and continues to mean to Corbridge. This was reflected too in our Sunday morning service.



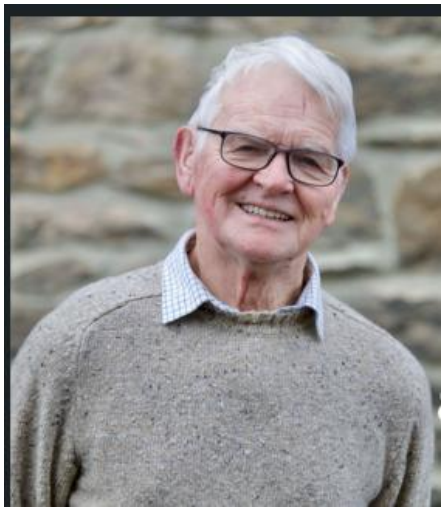
Throughout the year, a series of **bi-monthly heritage displays** brought fresh focus to different aspects of church and village life, ranging from local shops, Royal British Legion, to Josephine Butler, the church choir and past Vicars and Curates.





Guided walks led by David Waugh invited visitors to uncover the rich layers of Corbridge's past, weaving through centuries of change and continuity. At St Andrew's, our Church Guides offered insightful tours that shed new light on the building's unique architecture, deep-rooted heritage, and the central role it continues to play in village life.









Our Heritage Talk Series added meaningful depth to the year's celebrations, drawing strong interest from the local community and beyond.

The series began in February with David Waugh's illuminating talk, *St Andrew's 674 to 2024: The First 1350 Years*, setting the stage with a sweeping overview of the church's long and varied history.

In March, **Dr Frances McIntosh** explored the lives of *Edwardian Corbridge Families*, offering fascinating insights into social history through local stories.

She was followed by **Dr David Petts,** whose engaging lecture on *Early Medieval Northumbria – with a Corbridge Slant* connected wider regional history with our own village's past.

Later in the year, **Douglas Knott** shared his family story when he talked about *A Blacksmith's Family*, drawing from lots of personal memories.

John Malden, son of a previous vicar, talked of life in Corbridge as a Vicar's Son *A Vicar's Son*, with reflections on faith and family in a historical context.

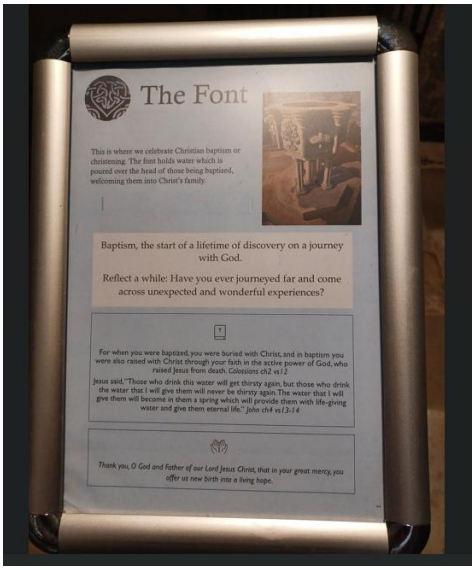
The series concluded during Heritage Week in September with **Molly Kady** of Hexham Abbey. Her talk, *Making Connections: Between the Two St Andrew's – Hexham Abbey and Corbridge*, brought a thoughtful close to the programme by highlighting the shared roots and continued relationship between the two historic churches.





Visitors to St Andrew's have been invited to explore the church at their own pace, guided not only by history but by a sense of peace and spiritual reflection.

Our specially created **silver free standing boards** and accompanying booklet — *A Spiritual Pilgrimage* — offer more than just historical facts. Designed to gently lead visitors through the church's, each small board combines key information with moments of stillness, scripture, and a simple prayer.



The Parish Church of St. Andrew Corbridge
Ecclesia Parochialis Sancti Andreae Corabrigae



A Prayer Walk
around St Andrew's Church,
Corbridge

This self-guided experience encourages quiet contemplation, allowing individuals to pause, reflect, and connect with the deep spiritual heritage that has shaped St Andrew's for over 1,300 years. Many have found the church's calm and timeless atmosphere to be a place of personal meaning a space where history and holiness meet.

Our 2025 Christmas Tree festival was one of the best yet with record numbers of visitors.

This church and community have shaped the journey we've walked together over the past year. It has been a year of celebration, reflection, and renewal, rooted in prayer and carried forward by the generosity, creativity, and faithfulness of so many. As we look back, we give heartfelt thanks for all that has been accomplished, not by any one person, but by a whole church and community offering what they have been able to do.

Along the way, we've found creative and inventive ways to weave **135** into our celebrations—135 carols sung during the Christmas Tree Festival, guided tours starting promptly at 13:50, and countless other little nods to this remarkable milestone, through our liturgy, our prayers and our fellowship.

Alongside our anniversary events, St Andrew's has continued to thrive as a vibrant venue for music, offering a rich and varied concert programme that has drawn in large audiences throughout the year.

MUSICAL EVENTS **Jean Wilks**

Musicians love performing here, and we love hosting and working with them. Throughout the year we have enjoyed a rich and varied concert programme, from choral masterpieces to intimate recitals, and drawn in some large audiences.

Our musical events are planned and managed by a small committee, led by Linda Hunter, and comprising Jayne Cook, Mary Oswell, Coleen Petrie, Alice Stephenson and Jean Wilks. We thank them all, along with former members Marc Bryant, Nicki Swart and Jenny Watson, and the many volunteers who get drafted in to help with jobs like putting up staging and running the bar. If anyone would like to be a member of this group please let us know. You would be most welcome.



These were some of the highlights during 2025-26. **Choral events** included uplifting performances by **Ryton Choral Society, Hexham Orpheus Choir, Voices of Hope and** the **Bach Choir**; (who had sung at our 1300th celebrations) a moving rendition of the *St John Passion* sung by **The Bishops' Consort**; a Passiontide concert by **Antiphon** (directed by our organist John Roper); a concert in aid of **Tynedale Hospice at Home**; **Dark Sky Voices**; the **Fenham Ensemble**; and **Wild Flowers acapella** who sang during the previews of the Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival.

Our lunchtime concert series has proved especially popular, drawing enthusiastic audiences for both spring and summer events. We began with a series of organ recitals in the spring, showcasing the talents of both our own accomplished organists and invited guests, as well as the richness and versatility of the organ. This was followed by a summer series featuring a variety of local talent and visiting artists, and choirs from our local schools.

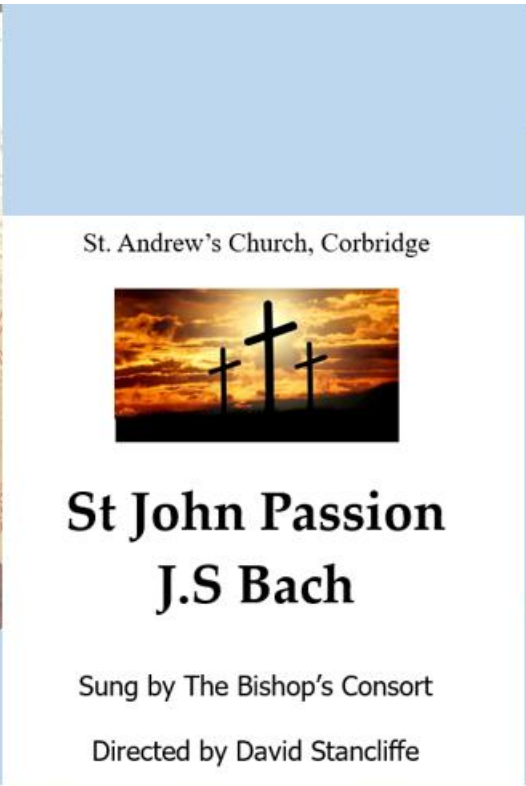
Corbridge's annual **Chamber Music Festival** filled the church with another wonderful programme at the end of July, as well as in March this year for its annual fundraiser concert

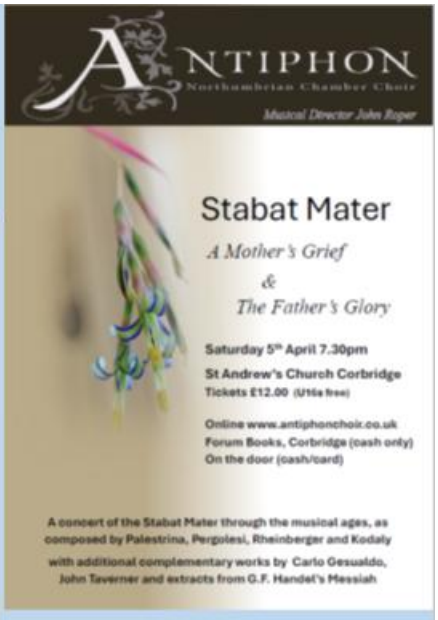
In September an outstanding performance came from renowned violinist **Bradley Creswick**, joined by pianist **David Murray**, their concert brought a particular brilliance to the season.

Other memorable events were a return visit by the gifted Ukrainian sisters **Khrystyna and Sasha Mykhailichenko**, whose playing captivated the audience with its technical skill and emotional depth, and a chamber concert by **John Green** and friends.









MISSION AND MINISTRY

MESSY CHURCH — Louise Stubbs

Messy Church is now in its sixteenth year and once again the Team, led by Revd. Linda Hunter, can celebrate another successful achievement.

The large Messy Church banner is always displayed, well in advance, in the Church grounds. It continues to serve as a reminder for our regular participating families and serves as an encouragement, for visiting families to join us.

Publicity is through flyers which are distributed in school, displayed on the church noticeboard, the Website and the Church Facebook page. The flyers are designed and produced by Max Philbrick. At the end of every Messy Church session the next date is always flagged up.

Our team have regular planning/review meetings which are held in advance of the next session. The team use this valuable time to work creatively around the themes we plan for the year. The team know this is appreciated by the comments we receive from our Messy Church families. The Ministry team continue to be fully involved in Messy Church. Revd. Linda Hunter has continued to lead the team. Her dedication and encouragement ensures the team always deliver and present activities in a fun way, as well as the opportunity to share the Christian gospel with our families. Our team would always welcome anyone who may be interested to join and help us.

The afternoon usually includes a video and is used to introduce the story/theme for the day. When required Max Philbrick operates all the technology using the laptop and screen. A game is often played, related to our theme, and everyone is invited to participate. Table top activities are always available and parents are encouraged to help. The afternoon concludes with a recap of the story, songs and prayers. Attendance continues to vary with numbers relatively low. The timing changes introduced in June 2024 have remained unchanged, starting at 4pm and ending at 5pm (with tea provided). This appears to be a good time for families with the added bonus of not requiring to make tea at home! Janet Morrison continues to provide an amazing 'buffet style' tea which is thoroughly enjoyed by all the families. We are grateful to Janet's husband who kindly delivers the tea before the start of our afternoon.

The themes we have addressed in this period have included: Good Friday-Easter, Goliath, The great feast, Elijah and the ravens (over two sessions), God helps, The wonders of God, God is special. Lost and Found, The Good Samaritan, The mustard seed.

As always, our thoughts and prayers remain with all our Messy Church families, the team and everyone who contributes in any way.

OUTSIDE MISSION AND GIVING: 'TAKE 5' **Malcolm Warin**.

Committee members: Malcolm Warin (Chair), David Kennedy, Linda Hunter, Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright, Richard Adams, Fiona Warin

We have held regular meetings throughout the past year when we have heard reports regarding the various individuals, families and projects that we support. After discussion it was felt that we should continue with our current commitments rather than pursue something new.
Max and Monica remain in regular and developing communication with the **Peart family**, working with CMS in Bolivia. They have not had an easy year but continue with their work supporting a church in La Paz.

Monica also continues to be in contact with GAP; they value our support and we hope to have another visit from them during 2026.

Jennifer, after much persevering, was able to arrange a Take 5 visit to the **Byker Project** in October. This was very encouraging regarding the newly refurbished resources, although it also raised questions about how the Christian faith could best be taken forward in such a difficult environment. We would like to develop stronger links but await the appointment of new clergy before this can be explored.

Richard continues to be our environmental expert although maintaining contact with **ARocha** is a challenge as, because of the nature of the organisation, they don't supply regular feedback in the same way that others might be able to. However, because of the work they do both in the UK and overseas, we're happy to continue supporting them as the environmental part of Take 5.

Malcolm and Fiona have seen a growing relationship with **Getachew and Getashign** during the year. We were thrilled to hear about the publication of scripture in a new language in Autumn, 2025 as part of Getachew's work. On a recent visit to the British Library we were able to share with Getachew images of a 17th century Ethiopian Bible; he was thrilled to see this and told us it would be a real joy for him, one day, to visit and see it.

We continue to follow the work done by all the organisations and individuals we support and, where possible, to remain in contact and to encourage. We will continue to meet regularly and in Autumn, 2026 will once again review who we support and to what level. We continue to be aware of the difficulty of communicating out enthusiasm for Take 5 to the wider congregation and hope that a visit from GAP will demonstrate the importance of St Andrew's links with the community beyond Corbridge.



PASTORAL OUTREACH **The Rev'd Linda E Hunter**

As followers of Christ, we are called to love one another, support each other in times of need, and extend Jesus' compassion to those around us. The care we offer, within our church and beyond, isn't just part of what we do; it's part of who we are.

Our Pastoral Lead Team: Jennifer Wright, Mandy Norton, Mike Bewick, and myself, meet to prayerfully discern how we can further develop and extend the care we offer. We are committed to ensuring that support is readily available for anyone who asks.

Pastoral Visitors Ministry

We have a dedicated team of pastoral visitors who have been safely recruited and trained to provide either regular or occasional visits. This ministry offers a practical expression of Christ's love, bringing encouragement, prayer, and companionship to those who may be feeling isolated or in need of connection. If you or someone you know would value a visit, please contact Linda to make arrangements. Likewise, if you feel drawn to this ministry and would like to become a pastoral visitor, we would be delighted to hear from you.

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

We have 3 teams of people who lead monthly worship in the Residential Homes.

Abbeyfield House: **Diane Wylie and Maurice Holmes.**

Maurice Holmes and I lead a Service of the Word with the residents on the first Wednesday of the month. There are 4 regulars and we share the short worship in the conservatory, with a lovely view over the back gardens. Sadly, we have lost Margaret, a faithful Catholic lady, and Jean has moved to a Haydon Bridge care home. We occasionally provide communion. The residents sing traditional hymns, most recognise the older ones. I usually lead, including a bible reading and prayers. Maurice gives the talk. We have a time afterwards discussing the theme with some questions to do with the talk. The chat afterwards is very informal, but meaningful. It is a privilege to bring God's Good News to them, the hope we have in Jesus. Few we may be but it is so valuable for all of us. One of the ladies confesses to be a non-believer yet enjoys our visits.

Burn Brae Lodge: **Jennifer Wright, Monica Philbrick and Alice Stephenson**

Monica Philbrick, Alice Stephenson and Jennifer Wright continue to visit Burn Brae Care home every month. We have used a book called Celebrating the Seasons in Residential Care Homes by Lindsay Pelloquin and Jaye Keightley which has inspired us to use a fresh approach to worship in the care home. We also go once a month to take Holy Communion to those people who have requested it.

Charlotte Straker House: **Bob and Jo Eldridge**.

Jo and I continue to prepare and lead the Resident's Service, normally the first Monday of each month starting with coffee at 11.00am. We have recently distributed an invitation to each room in advance in an attempt to encourage more folk to come along.

Generally we theme according to the Church calendar, for example in May we are in Matt 6 (25-34) God's provision in the Springtime. We sing hymns such as Morning has Broken and All Things Bright and Beautiful. (with downloaded music) Starting with structured large print Service Sheet

and prayer. We tend to always do a simple Q & A to encourage their involvement. Typically 6-10 attend depending upon Resident's health issues. After the Service Jo separately does communion sometimes in individual's room setting. We pray every day together for the Charlotte Straker.

Mike Bewick, David or Linda help when members of the various teams are unable to go on their 'day' to the residential home.

HOME COMMUNION

A team of people: Jennifer Wright, Liz Buckley, Mike Bewick, Jo Eldridge, and Diane Wylie are authorised to take Communion to people in their own homes, this is a great support to David and Linda who are also part of this team. We have currently 6 people on our list receiving home communion but we could easily visit more housebound people if they would like to receive communion in their own home.

Holy Communion takes place at Primlea Court every 3 months on a Wednesday at 11.15am

TEA AND CHAT **Mike Bewick**

Tea and Chat has been running at The Community Hub for just over 3 years, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. The numbers have been steady though numbers have fallen over the last two months to between 20 and 30, Many people still come to enjoy fellowship with both friends old and new. We also have visitors from the various care homes as well as visitors to the village. This initiative started by Linda is a great success in bringing people together people, those of different faiths and none.

A huge Thank You to:

Ann Duncan who cooks all the cakes, organises the other volunteers in the kitchen and serving customers.

Thanks to those who help, Janice, Mike, Daphne, Dorothy, Sheila and Ann's husband Rob who does all the washing up! Thank you to Alice and Barbara who help on an ad hoc basis and Ellie who has now retired from helping at Tea and Chat.

Linda, Alice and Mike offer lifts to those less able, to come on their own. Looking forward to serving more people in 2026/27. Do come along and visit us in the Community Hub for some fellowship and cake



2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the Community Hub – all welcome.

Or if you would like to help speak to Linda or Mike

HOME GROUP — Paul Morris and Max Philbrick

Home Group meets every Thursday, usually at the home of Max and Monica Philbrick, but sometimes in other homes. Our discussions always have a Biblical basis, but often use video or a book as well. Over the past year we've worked through the Nicene Creed, using material written by Richard Steel who preached at St Andrew's; and learned more about heaven and life after death with video talks from N T Wright (former Bishop of Durham). During Lent we've seen videos about some of 'the Desert Fathers and Mothers'. We've also read through Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus, discussed 'gratefulness', and several times have just enjoyed conversations about what we've been doing, over tea, coffee and cake. We've been joined by four more people during the year – and always do our best to welcome newcomers!

PRAYER GROUP — Jennifer Wright

We meet every week in church, we pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world. We pray for the ministry team and all of the groups working within our church.

Every week we hold before God in prayer those people who have left prayer requests on the prayer board. On one occasion recently it was lovely to hear appreciation for our prayers from someone who had been given the "all clear" following treatment for cancer.
The church prayer diary is available on the prayer table.



CHURCH MUSIC Colin Williams Musical Director

Many church choirs bemoan a lack of men – tenors and basses. Sadly, St. Andrew's choir is now no exception and this gives as a constant challenge. However, our ladies have responded magnificently and continue to sing with verve and confidence.

We are very conscious that we are maintaining a tradition of choral music in St Andrews which stretches back at least fifty years. Although we can no longer sing all of our SATB repertoire we have continued to provide liturgically appropriate choral music every Sunday, and for Festival services and other occasions, and never has the choir been less than 8 singers, despite adverse weather, illness, grandparent duties and family responsibilities. As Choir Director, I am very aware of the time and commitment that this involves, and I am enormously appreciative.



Throughout each year there are always high points and this last year was no exception. We were asked to sing at the opening of the sculpture exhibition 'Caporetto' (details of this will be found elsewhere in the annual report) and given the poignant theme behind the sculpture we seized the opportunity to sing a haunting anthem by Stephen Paulus: 'The Road Home'. In October we invited St Mary's Choir under the direction of Paul Berry to join us for the finale of the 1350 celebrations. The combined voices enabled us to sing the Kyrie from Vierne's Messes Solennelle, the Te Deum in B by Stanford, and Locus Iste by Bruckner, three pieces from the classical choral repertoire which the congregation enjoyed as much as we enjoyed singing them. Glorious singing.

Some members of St Mary's Choir also joined us for the Remembrance service. Music included' For the Fallen', by Douglas Guest; and Psalm 121perfectly matched to a chant by Walford Davies. The final choral piece was 'In Paradisum' by the Latvian Rihards Dubra, in these war-torn times a sombrely pertinent choice of composer.

And then it was Advent and Christmas. Under David's inspiration the Advent Procession is always an evocative service. This year we contributed with a new anthem by Ben Ponnia, 'A Tender Shoot', as well as the traditional favourites including 'E'en so, Come Lord Jesus' by Manz.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service is a significant occasion in the village calendar, and each year the choir blends traditional favourites with one or two less familiar pieces. This time we included 'The Voice of the Angel Gabriel' by Philip Ledger. As always we end the service with 'A Christmas

Blessing' by Philip Stopford, a beautiful anthem which relates the Christmas story to our present lives.

In contrast, we sang at two more intimate occasions: the baptism of David's grandson, during which we sang a very appropriate anthem (also by Philip Stopford) 'Do not be Afraid'; and just before Christmas a few of us sang carols at the Abbeyfield Retirement Home, much appreciated by the residents.

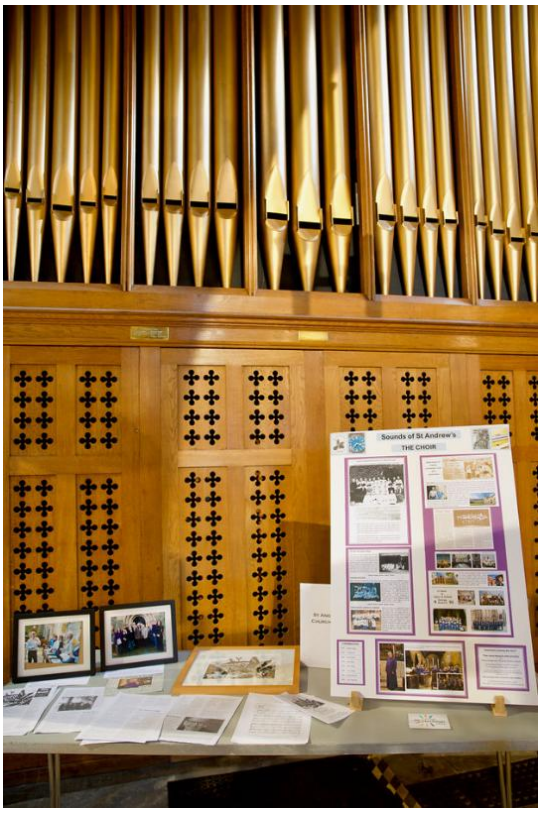
In February, St Andrew's hosted a 'Come and Sing' Evensong led by the Director of the Royal School of Church Music, Hugh Morris. It was wonderful to see the choir stalls filled to capacity, and the church reverberated to over fifty voices singing a traditional Evensong.

Notwithstanding the lack of some voice parts, the choir now has an extensive repertoire to draw on, and much of the music is familiar even if not remembered in detail. This makes the choice of music much easier, particularly when we cover several consecutive services. Over the Easter period we sang on Ash Wednesday, Evensong on Palm Sunday evening, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning,

As always, I have to thank our two organists John Roper and Marc Bryant for their unstinting support and musicianship. A testament to the success of the shared organist scheme is that never once in the last ten years has a service been without an organist. John and Marc – thank you.

Sharron Kirk is indispensable as the choir secretary, collating attendance responses and generally keeping us all informed. Liz Collins continues to look after the choir robes, and Jen Lansberry and Jayne Cook perform their magic in sorting music and tidying the vestry. None of what we do would be possible without the continued encouragement and support of David Kennedy, who also sings with us whenever he can. To all of you, my heartfelt thanks.





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP **Committee**

Treasurer: Sheila Neilson, **Social Secretary:** Claire Hay, **Minute Secretary**: Rosemary Rayfield **Programme Secretaries**: Liz Buckley & Yvonne Piper

Committee Members: Janet Kennedy, Janice McLean,
When we look back over the past year, it has been both a good and busy one for Women's Fellowship (WF), and it seems to have passed remarkably quickly. We have now been meeting in the Community Hub for over a year. Overall, it has proved to be a very suitable venue for us, despite the occasional hiccup. We have discovered that microphones are not to everyone's liking and that technology does not always cooperate, but aside from these minor challenges, the space has served us well. The committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to plan the programme and ensure the smooth running of meetings, always accompanied by a welcome cup of tea.

Following last year's AGM, our programme began in February with a talk from **Margaret Slater on the library services on Hill Street**. This was both informative and engaging, and many of us gained a new appreciation for the wide range of services the library provides.

In March, **Father Anthony spoke on *The Ebb and Flow of a Lifeboat Vicar***, offering a fascinating insight into his role as a RNLI chaplain, clearly a varied and demanding vocation.

April's meeting took the form of a **Lent Reflection entitled *The Symbols of Holy Week***. With readings, hymns, and prayers led by members, it was a thoughtful and meaningful time together.

In May, Jane Hutchinson shared examples of her **felting work**. We were all captivated by her creativity and skill, and many left feeling inspired (and perhaps a little in awe).

Our summer event in June was an **afternoon tea at Riding Mill Millennium Hall**. It was a very enjoyable occasion, with good food and conversation, despite the exceptionally warm weather. We are especially grateful to Sheila for organising the event.

After the summer break, we resumed in September with a talk by Maurice Holmes on his pilgrimage to **Santiago de Compostela**. Through photographs and artefacts, he brought the experience vividly to life, fortunately without us having to endure the blisters.

In October, Gwyn McKenzie and her colleague spoke on *Transforming Communities*, giving us much to reflect upon.
In November, when our planned speaker was unable to attend, the Vicar kindly stepped in at short notice and delivered an engaging and informative talk about his time **at Durham Cathedral, complete with photographs and books.**

We concluded the year with our Advent Reflection, ***From Darkness to Light***. This provided a welcome opportunity to pause during the busy Christmas season, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

We currently have 45 members, which is very encouraging. We have been pleased to welcome several new members during the year, and we extend a warm welcome to all who have joined us. All are welcome. We extend our thanks to everyone, particularly the committee, for their time, effort, and commitment in ensuring the continued success of Women's Fellowship.

OUTREACH Simon Hunter

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

St Andrew's Church Website www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

The 2025–2026 period has been a landmark year for St Andrew's church website, driven largely by the high engagement surrounding the **1350th Anniversary** celebrations. Our electronic communication channels remain the primary bridge between the congregation and the wider Corbridge community, providing essential weekly updates and event-driven content.

Website Traffic

1350th **Anniversary Impact:** A significant spike in traffic was recorded this year due to the 1350th Anniversary celebrations.

The "THIS WEEK" Page: This remains the most visited section of the site. It consolidates all essential weekly materials, including:

- Service Times
- Weekly Bulletins
- Reflections
- Opportunities for Worship and Prayer (monthly)
- Rotas (monthly)
- Posters for River and Messy Church and Lunchtime Organ recitals
- Posters for other Church events.

You are encouraged to bookmarked the **THIS WEEK** page: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk/this-week

Community Interest Pages

Beyond regular worship, the following sections have successfully engaged the broader Community:

- Christmas Tree Festival
- Musical Events
- General Events and 1350th Anniversary

We would welcome contributions for the Events section which can be emailed to corbridgechurchwebsite@btinternet.com (send information at least 2 weeks prior to the event)

Weekly Email Newsletter

The weekly email is our direct line to the congregation, providing a summary of upcoming activities and direct links to website resources.

Since 1st March 2026 we have changed the software platform we use to send the weekly email out due to the cost. The new platform maintains identical functionality to the previous system while reducing overhead costs to zero.

Resubscription Notice

Due to the platform change, users who have not yet resubscribed must do so to continue receiving updates. So, if you would still like to receive the weekly email (and other important emails) and you **haven't resubscribed** you can use the QR code below or web address on the next page.

www.corbridgechurch.org.uk/church-newsletter

Social Media Footprint
We maintain a presence across multiple social channels to reach diverse demographics:
Facebook Accounts:

- **Corbridge Church:** Main parish updates.
- **Corbridge Church Families:** Resources and events for parents and children.
- **St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival:** Dedicated seasonal engagement.

X (formally twitter) account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurc1

(*Paper copies of Bulletin and Booklets are available in church to members of the congregation who don't have access to the internet)*

DEANERY SYNOD **Alice Stephenson**

July 2025: Tim Lewthwaite the Newcastle Diocese Church Building Resource Officer explained his role as first point of contact for any proposed church building or improvement works. Tim can also provide guidance on fundraising strategies and suggest potential grant sources including useful resources and links for further guidance including churchyards and the promotion of biodiversity.

November 2025: We welcomed Revd Melanie Shillito the new Priest in Charge of the Derwent Valley Parishes and Revd Rachel Scheffer as the new Area Dean who takes over from David. Thanking David for his steady supportive presence, providing guidance, wisdom, and encouragement to clergy and lay members alike. His leadership has helped nurture the growth of faith across parishes in the Deanery. Also thanking Linda Hunter for her sterling work as Acting Deanery Secretary.
The main business was for each parish to share: What are we celebrating? What would you like to pray about for us? Our hope for the future.

February 2026: A report was given on the November Diocesan Synod discussing Bishop Helen-Ann's Presidential Address framed around "who is my neighbour" in the contexts of migration and climate change. The main business of the meeting was a talk God's Creation Led by Revd Tim Mayfield, Parish Environment Champion Coordinator and Chair of the Environmental Working Group.

Finance, Parish Share 2025 was successfully contributed in the Deanery. The Diocesan wide contributions in 2025 nearly met the offer, but the offer leaves our Diocese with a shortfall. The Parish Share 2026 for Corbridge Deanery alone will be £391,305.00

CHURCH FLOWERS Flower Arranging Team **Ann Prudhoe**

The **1350 Flower Festival** last June proved to be a wonderful occasion and enjoyed by a huge number of people.

I was most grateful to all exhibitors who spent many hours designing and arranging beautiful displays and we wish to extend our sincere thanks. The feeling of such a joyful time was shared by all.



Sustainability

There is currently a lot of interest in sustainability and I would like to point out that the majority of our foliage used at St Andrew's Church is at least 95% locally sourced with our members spending a huge amount of time foraging from the lanes and countryside around Corbridge and in addition obtaining the help of contributions from the gardens and allotments of friends, family and also church members. Similarly with regard to the campaign to use English sourced flowers we are fortunate to have members of the church family together with friends and family willing to provide flowers from their gardens and allotments when they are in season and for this, we are most grateful. We also make use of the flowers and greenery from the church cottage garden and a friend of mine is kind enough to give me flowers from her allotment when her flowers are in season.

In addition, we also make use of outlets such as Halls of Heddon when stock is available in the Autumn season.

At this point I would like to mention that we are always seeking additional help in the provision of greenery and flowers and so if anyone would like to contribute, we would be most grateful.

Over the years we have been transitioning away from green Oasis which we have not used for some considerable time moving to more ecological products that are biodegradable and now we are introducing the latest product which is specified as being plant based and biodegradable and promises to be much more satisfactory.

We are always keen to welcome new members to our Flower Arranging Team and so we invite anyone interested to contact Ann Prudhoe on mobile 07483 855385 or home 01434 6329

We wish to sincerely thank all those people who have donated money for flowers during the year.

THE FEDERATION OF BROOMHAUGH AND CORBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

(VA) FIRST SCHOOL **Suz Hart, Executive Head Teacher**

At Corbridge Church of England First School, we have the Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, thankfulness and kindness guiding us in all we do, helping us to be courageous advocates who make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

'Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.' 1 John 3:18

Through high expectations and encouragement, we empower our children to believe in themselves and be the best they can be!

School Information

Number of children on roll: 149 % SEND pupils: 22.6%
Age range of pupils: 3-9 years % of disadvantaged pupils: 9%

Key Developments (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education)
The whole school ethos, and promotion of personal development, are enhanced through collective worship, RE, the work of the Buddies, the work of the School Council, the Eco-Council, the Diversity Council and Reading Ambassadors. Picture News is used in whole school worship to discuss current affairs; pupils can access the content at a suitable level. The use of Picture News encourages discussion and debate through links to current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to talk about things happening in the world right now, becoming courageous advocates for change.

Staff look at how the Bible can be linked to Picture News. The worship schedule is on the school website so that parents can use links from Picture News at home and know what has been discussed in school. Children have accessed further, special assemblies including a live Black History Month assembly, a presentation on mindfulness delivered by the Be You Team, weekly worship delivered by either Revd David, Revd Linda or Revd Marie Beard and a suite of assemblies on the school's Christian Values and distinct Christian vision, delivered by the Headteacher.

Revd Linda has established a team of worship leaders who write and deliver prayers for the whole school and during church services.

Every day, every class chooses someone to be a Special Person. The Special Person hears positive affirmations from their peers and provides their own self-affirmations; some pupils can initially find this difficult to do, however self-esteem is boosted as a result. The work also supports oracy and language development.

Our Easter carousel day was a huge success, where the children recreated many of the important events that took place during Holy Week. They had their feet washed by the teachers, made palm leaves to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem (Hosanna!) and also took a Holy Communion of bread and

'wine' to consider Jesus' sacrifice for us all. Mrs. Hart also led the annual tradition of 'egg jarping'. The rule of the game is simple: one holds a hard-boiled egg and taps the egg of another participant with one's own egg intending to break the other's, without breaking one's own. Simple, but so much fun! And so lovely to see our youngest and oldest children playing together as Nursery joined us.

We also held our Easter service where it was so lovely to welcome so many members of our community to church. The children sang and spoke beautifully.

Our nominated charity for this year is Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) who are doing much needed work in our community every day. We are very proud to support them.

SEND and Inclusion

The SENDCo works closely with a number of external partners to promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health in school; she has put in place a range of strategies to support pupils and parents. The SENDCo is a highly skilled practitioner who has a sharp focus on achieving the best outcomes for all pupils. Thanks to this, the school was awarded the bronze award by Carnegie for its mental health work. A parent newsletter focusing on SEMH is shared termly, as well as a dedicated section on the school website. The SENDCo and Headteacher organised a SEND-focussed INSET day at Corbridge Middle School for all schools in the Hexham Partnership and the South Tyne Alliance. More than 100 colleagues attended on the day! This involved:

- Presentation from the Be You Team;
- Dineo Brittain-Dodd on Belonging;
- Christine Mitchell on Anxiety and Autism;
- Overview of SEND in Northumberland from Dorothy Ricketts;
- Teacher session on Quality First Teaching and Ordinarily Available Provision;
- SENDCo network meeting to look specifically at SEND codes and specific areas.

Staff also received executive functioning training in school and occupational therapists from the Be You Team came into school to observe children and offer advice and training. A vulnerable children register has also been created for the first time, for children who may have a barrier to learning but are not included on the SEND or Pupil Premium register.

We are so proud of our SEND offer and how this continues to improve year on year, thanks to our talented and dedicated staff who embrace learning.

Extra-curricular provision

A wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs are on offer with strong numbers. Provision is always inclusive and funded places are available, so no-one misses out. Attendance is monitored. A proportional representation audit is completed each term to ascertain the number of Pupil Premium, vulnerable and SEND children accessing clubs and whether this is in line with Pupil Premium and SEND percentages in school. Zumba has been particularly popular with pupil voice showing high levels of enjoyment and a positive impact on mental wellbeing.

Special Event and Visits

- Children competed in the Corbridge Village Show and there was singing from the Federation choir. For the first time ever, we were able to enter produce from our school allotment;
- Year 2 visited Corbridge Heritage Centre and completed a history walk of the village.

- Tag rugby tournament for KS2 took place at Tynedale Rugby Club;
- The Halloween and Valentine's roller discos at Wentworth Leisure Centre were a huge success;
- Our Harvest Festival took place at St. Andrew's and was well attended;
- We held our Spring Music Concert, showcasing the talent of the children including the choir, children accessing music lessons in school (drums, guitar and violin), our Reception singers and our Year 2 ukulele players;
- KS1 children visited the Mosque in Newcastle to bring their RE learning to life;
- Year 3 children visited the Sikh Gurdwara and shared a meal in the langar, learning more about the incredible work of the Sikh community in Newcastle;
- KS2 children visited the Hindu Temple;
- Rainbow Day took place with a parade to end the day, which was a delight!
- STEM Fortnight was a huge success, with all children completing exciting projects, immersed in themed classrooms. Throughout the fortnight, different ambassadors visited us in school to give presentations and run workshops with the children, including:
    - MATT CHARLTON (Architecture) - Lego activity
    - PETER WARD (Mechanical Engineer)
    - LEIGH WARD (Environmental Consultant) - pH soil sample testing
    - DANIELLE REAY (Geneticist) - DNA extraction from strawberries
    - KIRSTY TAYLOR (Jeweller) - exploring gemstones
    - PASCALE DOBSON (Pharmacist) - pH testing products
- Parent to Lunch events took place, inviting families into school to share a delicious meal;
- The Be You Team from NCC delivered workshops to parents on emotional regulation, helping them to support the mental health of our children;
- Year 4 travelled to Ford Castle for their one-night residential. They made the most of every opportunity, making and solidifying new friendships across the federation and conquering fears. We posted as many pictures as we could to our Facebook page and you'll see so many happy smiles. What an experience!

Rainbow Day 2026

On Wednesday 28th January we held our annual Rainbow Day, where we celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion. Everyone agreed it was such a magical day. Seeing the children celebrate their uniqueness and individuality made us all so proud!

This year we explored what makes each and every one of us special, different families and mental health and wellbeing. The children each made a sign to show who they are and what they love. At the end of the day, the whole school paraded around the playground with their signs, whilst dancing to music. It really was such a joyful event!

Throughout the day, the children took part in different activities and workshops to help them better understand the themes. The Be You team came to lead assemblies across school and workshops with our KS2 children. The sessions focused on mindfulness and the importance of being present. Fred in Year 3 encapsulated this perfectly when he said, "*It is all about trying not to think about what has happened or what is coming up, you need to focus on the present.*" The children discussed different scenarios and how we can't always stop thoughts popping into our heads, but we can focus on our breathing and noticing to help ground us. They were even lucky enough to complete some mindful

eating with a chocolate button and couldn't believe how much better it tasted!

Capital Works and Site Development

Following the decision by Corbridge Kids' Club to cease operation, wraparound care is now in place at CFS. Breakfast Club takes place in the school hall and after-school provision in the portacabin on site. Numbers are strong.

20 new Chromebooks have been purchased and a full upgrade of the school WiFi has been completed. The old computer room is now a relaxing, comfortable and homely therapeutic classroom, made possible by the PTFA who have worked tirelessly this year to support the children through fundraising and volunteering.

A Lottery Grant for £12,000 has been received to upgrade the chicken and allotment site and establish a FairShare shop to benefit the community. More information will follow as this plan develops!



Thank you to Ian Wylie and Simon Hunter for the photography in this report and all those who have written reports.

The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.
As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition, An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
- (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

have not been met; or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Collins

Mike Collins

Dated: 9/3/26

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2025

1. Summary

In 2025, our financial net worth increased by £20,691 to £373,782. The improvement, expressed in thousands of pounds, can be attributed to

	£000's
Operating Activities (Surplus)	23.1
Net Capital (Spend)	-10.4
Value of Investments (Improvement)	6.9
Legacies (Received)	1.1
Net Increase in Funds	**20.7**

2. Operating Activities

This captures the financial results of running St Andrew's throughout the year and embraces all of the routine income and costs including fund raising events. It is measure of our financial viability.

The Operating surplus last year of £23,100 was an impressive £7,400 higher than 2024. This improvement was achieved despite an increase of £6,700 (near enough 8%) in Parish Share payments. By far the main driver behind the improvement was Events fund raising and, in particular, the programme associated with our "1350" celebrations which, alone, accounted for almost £10,000. This was an appropriate return for all of the carefully organised and coordinated work that had been invested. It was notable also that Donations income increased by £2,200 with use of the card reader becoming increasingly significant.

There is one reservation amongst this generally positive result, however. The personal giving trend has, since 2015, shown a consistent increase but in 2025, the trend flattened out. Some slowing down has been expected but the initial results from the recent appeal look encouraging so there is a little more optimism there.

3. Net Capital

Spend last year was made up of:

	£000's
Lady Chapel (net of Gift Aid)	0.6
St Andrew's Cottage	3.8
Vestry Roof	4.9
Other	1.1
Total	**10.4**

4. Investment Value

The value of our investments (primarily Charifund bonds through M&G) rose by £6,900 in 2025 bringing the total value to £71,300.

5. Reserves

At the end of 2025 our total Reserves were standing at £374,000 with £252,000 of that total "Unrestricted". This is a strong position by any reasonable standard.

6. Conclusion

In financial terms, 2025 was, without any doubt, a highly successful year and our enviable Reserves position provides great security. Our outstanding Operating surplus of £23,100, however, owed much to "1350" celebrations and cannot be regarded as a reasonable benchmark for the future. What we do know, though, is that Parish Share contributions will continue to rise and that levels of inflation remain high. Challenges in financing the future upkeep of our beautiful church are also never far away. The careful management of our resources that we have always applied in the past will be required in the future.

Parocial Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2025

		Note	2025 £	2024 £
INVESTMENTS				
	Investment assets	5		
	CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		**18936**	**19725**
	M & G Fund (3033 units)		**52396**	**44658**
			71333	**64383**
CURRENT ASSETS				
	CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		**12678**	**12129**
	Cash at bank and in hand	7	**281418**	**270253**
	Halton General		**7651**	**7651**
			301747	**290033**
ADD ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS		6	**11374**	**10622**
LESS LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		8	**10671**	**11946**
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**302450**	**288709**
NET ASSETS			**373782**	**353092**
FUNDS		10		
	Unrestricted		**251749**	**237241**
	Restricted		**122034**	**115850**
			373782	**353092**

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf

David J Kemp

Chairman

11/3/26

Treasurer

11/3/26

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
– for the year ending 31st December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £	2024 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	119239	0	119239	*120162*
Other voluntary income resources	2b	16649	57383	74032	*79286*
Income from charitable and ancilliary trading	2c	8250	17635	25885	*24323*
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	5251	5251	*7431*
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	0	0	*0*
Income from investments	2f	3502	462	3963	*3876*
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		**147640**	**80730**	**228370**	*235078*
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	9284	5251	14535	*15916*
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	99959	57808	157767	*152780*
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	8221	6342	14563	*11506*
Church management and administration	3d	13347	0	13347	*11211*
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	300	300	*0*
Projects	3f	3805	11392	15197	*60758*
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	*0*
Total Expenditure		**134615**	**81093**	**215708**	*252170*
Legacies Received	2g	**1079**	**0**	**1079**	*113141*
Net Income/Expenditure incl Legacies (-)		**14103**	**-362**	**13741**	*96049*
Transfers Between Funds		**-6546**	**6546**	**0**	*0*
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		**6950**	**0**	**6950**	*1576*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**14507**	**6184**	**20691**	*97625*
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2024		**237241**	**115850**	**353092**	*255467*
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		**251749**	**122034**	**373782**	*353092*

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Scope

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

Funds

Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that donations or contributions made by donors for specific purposes are properly applied. Restricted funds are set up and removed at the direction of PCC. Unrestricted funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.
Income tax recoverable on covenants/gift aid donations is recognised in the year in which it applies.
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
Income from fund raising activities is accounted for gross.
Sales of books, magazines, postcards, etc. from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.
Income will be accrued as appropriate.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to the expenditure categories used in the statement of financial activities. The church is not registered for VAT, accordingly expenditure is shown gross of unrecoverable VAT.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvements, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at 31 December. The statement of financial activity includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

Net current assets

Current Assets include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, at the bank or in hand.

Amounts owing to, or prepaid by, PCC at 31st December are shown as "Accrued Income & Prepayments".

Amounts which have not been invoiced by service providers but are owed by PCC are shown as "Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year"

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

			Unrestricted Income	*Restricted Income*	*TOTAL FUNDS 2025*	*2024*
			£		£	£
Incoming resources from donors						
	2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	87,594	0	87594	*89361*
		Tax refunds from gift aid.	22,958	0	22958	*22640*
		Cash collections at all services	8,687	0	8687	*8161*
		Total: 2a	**119,239**	**0**	**119239**	*120162*
Other voluntary income resources						
	2b	Donations	0	15814	15814	*40819*
		Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	12701	12701	*8625*
		Other Fund raising	16,649	28868	45517	*29842*
Halton	**2b**	Church Box	0	0	0	*0*
		Total: 2b	**16,649**	**57383**	**74032**	*79286*
Income from charitable & anciliary trading						
	2c	Fees	8,250	15711	23961	*22192*
		Hire of Church/Cottage	0	1924	1924	*2131*
		Total: 2c	**8,250**	**17635**	**25885**	*24323*
Other ordinary incoming resources						
	2d	Funeral collections	0	5251	5251	*7431*
		Special collections	0	0	0	*0*
		Total: 2d	**0**	**5251**	**5251**	*7431*
Income from investments						
	2f	Dividends and interest	3,502	462	3963	*3876*
		Total: 2f	**3,502**	**462**	**3963**	*3876*
		Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f	**147,640**	**80730**	**228370**	*235078*
Legacies	**2g**	**Total: 2g**	**1,079**	**0**	**1079**	*0*
		Total incoming resources: 2a–g	**148,719**	**80730**	**229449**	*235078*

3. EXPENDITURE

			Unrestricted Expenditure	*Restricted Expenditure*	*TOTAL FUNDS 2025*	*2024*
			£	£	£	£
Grants						
	3a					
		PCC donations	0	0	0	*0*
		PCC grants	9284	0	9284	*8485*
		Funeral services	0	5251	5251	*7431*
		Total: 3a	**9284**	**5251**	**14535**	*15916*
Activities directly related to the activities of the church						
	3b	Ministry				
		– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	91106	6882	97988	*91424*
		– Vicarage	4132	0	4132	*3877*
		– Vicar	2299	0	2299	*2776*
		– Other Clergy	0	0	0	*1947*
		Church and Services				
		– Building + building insurance	0	27491	27491	*27072*
		– Service requisites	2692	1788	4480	*4896*
		– Music				
		Organ/Pianos	0	984	984	*1466*
		Choir	0	3069	3069	*2794*
		Organists	0	11095	11095	*11251*
		Parish Organisations	-270	366	96	*-327*
		St Andrew's Cottage	0	5708	5708	*5154*
		Memorial Garden Engraving	0	425	425	*450*
		Total: 3b	**99959**	**57808**	**157767**	*152780*
Fund-raising and publicity						
	3c	Cost of events	8221	6342	14563	*11506*
		Total: 3c	**8221**	**6342**	**14563**	*11506*
Church management and administration						
	3d	Copying, stationery and telephone	5687	0	5687	*4527*
		Bank charges + prof fees + misc	1703	0	1703	*622*
		Parish Administrator	5957		5957	*6062*
		Total: 3d	**13347**	**0**	**13347**	*11211*
Repairs and maintenance						
	3e	Miscellaneous		300	300	*0*
		Total: 3e	**0**	**300**	**300**	*0*
Projects						
	3f	Lady Chapel		5616	5616	*9480*
		Quinquennial Inspection			0	*3792*
		Halton Churchyard			0	*4727*
		Office Computer		833	833	*0*
		Kitchen Project	3805		3805	*42759*
		Vestry Roof		4943	4943	*0*
		Total: 3f	**3805**	**11392**	**15197**	*60758*
		Total expenditure: 3a–f	**134615**	**81093**	**215708**	*252170*

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**14,140**	*14,685*

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists, a trumpeter for Remembrance Day, a cleaner and the Parish Administrator. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund:. Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2025 = **£18936.26** (31 Dec 2024 = **£19724.82**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2025 = **£52396.29** (31 Dec 2024 = **£44657.81**).

6 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
Accrued Income & Prepayments:		
Gift Aid	2699	*1877*
Insurance Prepaid	1211	*1186*
Parish Fees		*1049*
December cash banked in January incl card reader	7245	*5863*
Paid in Advance	217	*137*
Donations		*510*
	11372	*10622*

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2025	2024
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	16309	*98,607*
– Planned Giving	118483	*46,600*
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	102821	*80,987*
– Womens Fellowship	706	*820*
– Fabric	43099	*43,099*
Petty Cash	0	*140*
	281418	*270,253*

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Accrued Costs:		
Advance contributions to events	3057	*1001*
Organist fees	1307	*1365*
Utilities	1043	*-359*
Expenses	542	*1562*
Prepaid Fees	3440	*4450*
Invoices	463	*1740*
Parish Fees	463	*2031*
Funeral collections	356	*157*
	10671	**11946**

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are aso treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Investments	71,333	0	71333
Current Assets	176,784	124,499	301284
Current Debtors	6,958	4,416	11374
Current Liabilities	(3,326)	(6,882)	(10,208)
	251,749	122,034	373782

Restricted funds:

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Projects	32,503	462	6,076	0	26,888
Organ Upkeep	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
Halton	3,572	0	0	0	3,572
Church Music	0	15706	15,148	0	558
Building Running Costs	0	27020	33,200	6,180	0
Funerals	0	5251	5,251	0	0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0	0	1,159
Messy Church	0	0	366	366	0
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0	0	1,206
Try Praying	195	0	0	0	195
Heritage Boards	736	0	0	0	736
DBF	0	6882	6,882	0	0
1350 Anniversary	1,396	15028	6,342	0	10,082
Ladychapel	43,520	5100	5,616	0	43,004
Other Minor	1,564	5282	2,213	0	4,633
	115,850	80730	81,093	6,546	122,034

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

PCC Grants & Donations

	2022	2023	2024	2025
	£	£	£	£
Royal British Legion	223	203	222	302
Stop Gap	1000	1250	1360	1,550.00
Stop Gap 2021	1200			
Church Mission Society	1925	2425	2922	2,902.00
Church Mission Society 2021	1800			
Practical Compassion for Destitute Children 2021	300			
A Rocha UK		900	580	1,020.00
A Rocha UK 2020/21	1472			
The Yohannes family	1925	2425	2360	2,490.00
The Yohannes family 2021	1800			
Byker PCC/Lighthouse Project		1050	1040	1,020.00
Mission Initiative North East 2021	1000			
Mission Initiative North East 2022	1000			
Climate Stewards	900			
Corbridge Youth Initiative	500			
Cuthbert's Cycling Challenge	100			
Newcastle Cathedral Renovation Project				
	15,145	**8,253**	**8,485**	**9,284**

Note that out of the total payment of £15,145 in 2022, £7,572 related to the 2020 or 2021 discretionary programes.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.
As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition, An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
- (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

have not been met; or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Collins

Mike Collins

Dated: 9/3/26