2025

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BENEFICE OF WHITCHURCH WITH TUFTON AND LITCHFIELD



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Registered Charity Number: 1133750

April 2026

Parish of Whitchurch with Tufton and Litchfield

Part of the Brightwaters Benefice

Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 19 April 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2024
2. Election of Churchwardens for 2026-27

Annual Parochial Church meeting

1. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2024
2. Matters arising
3. Annual Report
4. Election of PCC members
5. Date of next Annual Meeting
6. Any other business – items to be notified to the Chair before item 3

3 Annual Report

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1 Objectives

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for All Hallows, St Mary's and St James the Less.

2 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll for 2024 was 125, three less than the previous year. The number on roll now will be reported at the APCM.

3 Report on Activities

3.1 PCC Report – Andrew Hobley

The PCC is the body which governs our decisions as a community. Between April 2025 and March 2026 PCC met six times. PCC Standing Committee also met six times.

All members of PCC are Charity Trustees and as such have legal responsibility for the decisions we make. One major subject of discussion was how much the parish should be contributing the Diocesan Common Mission Fund.

We continued to support CMS and the work of Anna and Chris Hembury in Hull, and Medical Aid for Palestine, and decided to support NeighborCare and Whitchurch in Bloom.

PCC has also kept abreast of safeguarding developments, kept an eye on health and safety, received regular reports from the Treasurer and Church Wardens, discussed the use of the Church Room as well as debated a range of issues brought by members of the PCC on their own behalf or that of members of the congregation. We have approved various works of repair and refurbishment. Although no major decisions were made without the PCC we would have leaking roofs, no chancel lights, blocked toilets, and general air of dilapidation.

Throughout this time PCC members expressed not only their views, but the views of those who they were elected to serve - the wider parish. I am grateful for members ability to agree - or to agree to disagree politely, and for the time and effort they have put into meetings.

PCC members in 2024/25 were –
Clergy - Revd David Roche – Vicar, until 1 June 2025; Rus Smart, Assistant Priest; Nicky Smallwood, Sue Hart to July 2025.
Licenced Lay Ministers –Carolyn Jay, Philip Geddes
Church Wardens – Catherine Geddes, Nigel Scarfe
Deanery Synod members - Susan Bailey, Andrew Hobley (also PCC Secretary)
Ordinary members - Paul Barber, Louise Martin, Valerie Swayne-Bradshaw, Ann Simmonds, Peter Taylor, Beverly Vaughan, Andrew Ricketts, Carlos Ferreira, Gill Bilton.

Andrew Cope was co-opted as Treasurer.

3.2 Churchwarden Report – Catherine Geddes and Nigel Scarfe

As we reflect on the past year, we give thanks to God for the churches of All Hallows, Litchfield and Tufton, where we have gathered to worship, to be fed and then sent out in the power of the Spirit to love and serve the Lord. The church is the people, the body of Christ, taking Christ to our neighbours in all we say and do. We also have inherited three beautiful buildings which declare God's continued presence amongst us, sometimes providing shelter to those who need it and a place of spiritual nourishment and peace.

Keeping the church buildings open and in good order is therefore a priority and to that end general maintenance has continued throughout the year. All Hallows has received the most attention – the blocked drains were cleared, the dramatic roof leak fixed, and the chancel lights switched on. Hurrah!! The front door will hopefully be returned to its former glory in the near future. We give thanks to God for the plumbers, electricians, painters, cleaners and everyone else who has lifted a paint brush or pushed a hoover, turned out at a moment's notice and answered all Catherine's questions with grace and understanding.

During the vacancy so many people have taken on extra work, not least Vicky and Richard in the office, Rev Russ and the whole ministry team. Others have continued week by week to clean, ring bells, sing, play the piano and organ, organise the sound system, manage spreadsheets, make tea, organise children's activities, welcome and support one another. For each and every one we give thanks to God.

We would like to thank the PCC for their tremendous support and hard work. Nigel will be standing down at the forthcoming APCM but we are delighted that Andrew Hobley has agreed to stand for election.

There have been many highlights and memorable moments: David's farewell service, the extremely hot day of the fete, the fabulous Mozart concert, the joyful Christmas tree festival, the Pilgrimage walk around the benefice to name but a few.

As we look forward to a time of change, we trust the God who has blessed us so graciously over the past year, to continue to guide us and lead us as we seek to use the resources we have to glorify him. May we constantly be aware of his calling to serve our community and one another.

3.3 Choir - Stephen Preece

The choir has served faithfully through the last year, and looking back, it was a very busy year indeed!

We assembled the "Benefice Choir" at somewhat short notice to mark Bishop David's leaving for Truro and his farewell service in the Deanery on the 9th February. The massed voices of Barton Stacey Chamber Choir and the Singing for Fun group joined us filling the chancel with over 40 singers, and lifting the roof with 3 anthems, 4 hymns and 2 descants.

On Easter Sunday we launched our new Communion setting, going back to Schubert's German Mass, having been using Joanna Forbes Le'Strange's setting for the previous 5 years. The Sanctus is a particular favourite but it has been good to get to know the Gloria and Agnus Dei from this setting.

The choir were asked to sing for a wedding on the 26th April. I wouldn't normally include these but as this featured a choir anthem in Welsh, the Calon Lan, and the bride also asked us to sing the vocal elements of the receding voluntary from the Sound of Music, it was worth including.

Reverend David then told us that he too would be leaving, so we had a second farewell service to plan. On the 1st June we therefore assembled the Benefice Choir again, and sent David and Amy off in some style with the Vivaldi Gloria that we had sung at their welcome service, Rutter's "May the Lord bless you and keep you" and concluding with a magnificent rendition of Handel's Halleluiah Chorus - a first for me as a conductor and a real treat.

Some of the choir were involved in the Mozart Requiem concert in November so we moderated our ambition in the lead up to that but we did manage to sing a Ukranian Kontakion for the Dead at the Remembrance Service.

Our Christmas carol service was on the 21st December and the choir were wonderful as always, performing three new carols: Christmas Canon of Peace, A New Noel and Gold for a manger bed, as well as descants for all 6 congregation carols.

Some particular thanks to be noted: first to Andrew for your skill and patience accompanying us for every choir practice, to Robert for working with me to make it all happen, to Sophie for sharing the load, and to everyone who thanks us occasionally for a piece of music that moved them – that really helps and encourages us!

3.4 Bell Ringers Report – Jenny James

Although the band have not managed many quarter peals in the last few years, this year we achieved six. Amongst the occasions, a 50th birthday was celebrated, we started the Folk Festival and marked David Roches's last service. We also rang for VE and VJ days, and marked Remembrance Day with half muffles. Three funerals were also half muffled. Weddings are fewer these days, so only two to ring for.

We had visitors to ring a peal, and a ringing school also used our bells. The Beavers almost came for the evening but a power cut made things tricky so they will return in the New Year.

Members went on a popular ringing outing to London, and other towers came to us for a fun Learn to Splice afternoon. We also entered a handmade bell rope festooned tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

3.5 Parish Magazine – Gill Knappett

The magazine year runs from April to March. Twelve copies a year continue to be produced. The cost to buy a magazine in 2025 remained at £1 (£10 for the whole year to subscribers including local delivery) but it was decided that it will increase to £1.50 per copy (£15 to subscribers for the year) from April 2026. This decision was taken as printing costs have been increasing but the magazine price had remained the same for 10 years.

The magazine generated approximately £8,000 profit for the church in 2024 (£9,000 in 2023); at the time of compiling this report, it is likely that 2025 profits will be around the same as 2024. Net income is reducing year on year as it becomes more difficult to attract advertisers and subscribers. The use of free social media and people choosing to seek information online continues to affect the number of advertisers and subscribers (and also the number of people who think to use the parish magazine to provide articles about up-coming local events which sadly reduces its usefulness and appeal). However, we rely on the income from advertisers to make a profit from the magazine.

Subscribers - At the time of compiling this report, printed copies are now purchased by 619 subscribers (630 in 2024); additional copies are sold in the paper shop and 7 are purchased by on-line subscribers.

Sarah Owen (one of the copy editors) has been delivering spare magazines to different roads around the town for several months, with a note to encourage new subscribers.

Advertising -Mary Cope took on the role of administering the advertising in 2024 and did it again in 2025; she agreed to do it for three years so 2026 is expected to be the last year. As previously reported, we needed a new person on board in early 2026 to shadow her and take over the role but no one came forward to learn the role.
Vicky Jennings in the Admin Office helped with some following up of advertising contacts in 2025.
The number of advertisers remained the same in 2025 as for 2024 (we lost some and gained some new ones).

New members of magazine team - In 2025 we were delighted to welcome Pat Sydes who joined the news editing team. David Simmonds stood down as a distributor and grateful thanks are given to him for his years of service in this role. We are grateful that Dorrie Bilson has taken on the round, assisted by Anne Hill and Jane Glendening.

More hands still needed - As requested several times both in the magazine and on the weekly All Hallows newsletter we still need the following help:

- Additional layout editor.
- Someone to take over the advertising for 2027–28.

To date no one has stepped forward to take on either role. (At the time of writing the report, Mary has now done the advertising for 2026 single-handed, so no one has learned the role for next year and beyond.)
The roles do not need to be filled by a member of the congregation, although this would be the ideal.

The future of the magazine - If no one is willing to take on the advertising role in particular, the future of the magazine will need to be considered during 2026.

3.6 Children's Ministry (Sunday School) – Ann Simmonds and Sarah Smart

We have continued with our rhythm of all-age services once a month and it has been a joy to see members of the congregation of all ages engaging with God in creative ways, exploring different ways of engaging with God, the Bible and prayer.

The all-age service on Good Friday provided another brilliant opportunity to tell the events of the first Easter. It was such a pleasure to work with YoG on all elements of the service which included music, drama, prayer and creativity which included constructing edible Easter gardens!
On Easter Sunday itself we had a bumper turnout, with 18 children and some parents and grandparents engaged in a lively time in the Church Rooms. This was followed by the traditional Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard which was generously provided and organised by Caroline Simpson and greatly enjoyed by the participants.

Consistency of those attending on Sunday mornings continues to be a challenge in terms of gaining any momentum and growth for ministry among children and families. We introduced Packs in Pews for children to use over the Summer and continuing for Sundays surrounding school holidays and whilst the Crib and Christmas tree occupied the children's area. These packs have a variety of materials, including puzzles based on the season of the church year or on the lectionary readings, colouring, stickers, simple crafts, bible stories and fidget toys. The hope is that there is something for most ages to engage with. In the Autumn we moved our activities back into the Children's Area in church for most Sundays with a bible reading linked to the lectionary and associated crafts, puzzles and other activities.

As we move into 2026 we would love to think creatively around what that ministry looks like at All Hallows. However, we end this year very thankful to God for the children and families at All Hallows and the depth of relationships held among the children and young people.

We would like to thank everyone for all of your continued support and prayer.

3.7 Youth of God– Carlos Ferreira

Over the past year, the Youth of God (YOG) group has continued to meet regularly, giving young people a space to explore the Christian faith together in a relaxed and supportive environment. The aim of the group has been to help them grow in their understanding of Jesus, build friendships within the church, and think about how faith fits into everyday life.

During the year we held 14 sessions, including youth gatherings and social evenings after YOG services. Attendance averaged around eight young people. Although the group is small, this has worked well in allowing more open discussion and helping everyone feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions.
Sessions tend to follow a simple and familiar structure – time to settle in and chat, an opening prayer, a Bible reading, a short explanation or teaching, and then discussion. We usually include an activity or game linked to the theme, and finish with a short time of reflection.

Our theme this year has been “Rooted in Christ”. We’ve spent time looking at what it means to build our lives on Jesus and to grow in faith, especially through Jeremiah 17 and John 15 where Jesus speaks about being the true vine.
As part of this, the group made a large tree poster, adding their names and some of their hopes for the year. It became a simple but helpful reminder that faith grows over time when it’s rooted in Christ. We also made paper footsteps to reflect the idea of following in Jesus’ steps.

Across the year we looked at a range of themes based on the life and teaching of Jesus. One area we focused on was the belief that we are created and loved by God. We talked about what it means to be made in God’s image, using passages from Genesis and the Gospels, and this led into conversations about kindness, generosity and how we treat others. We also spent time on forgiveness and repentance, using the Lord’s Prayer as a starting point. In particular, the line “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” led to some honest conversations about mistakes, forgiveness, and the importance of grace in our relationships.

Several sessions focused more directly on different parts of Jesus’ ministry.
Jesus the teacher - We looked at the Sermon on the Mount and discussed how Jesus’ teaching applies in everyday life.
Jesus the healer - The group wrote prayers for people and situations in need of healing. These included prayers for peace, for those facing poverty and hunger, and for healing in communities.
Jesus the servant - Using the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet, we talked about what it means to serve others. Rather than acting it out, we focused on the kind of everyday acts of service we often avoid, and how we might do these quietly without looking for recognition.

Youth-led services - YOG has continued to be involved in the worship life of the church through youth-led services.
In November, the service followed the theme “Rooted in Christ, Growing in Love”, with readings from Jeremiah 17 and John 15, focusing on staying rooted in Christ.

In March, the service focused on the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus’ teaching that we are the salt of the earth, with readings from Isaiah 58 and Matthew 5. At the end of the service, small bags of salt were given out as a reminder of the role Christians are called to play in the world.

Some of the young people have also begun to get involved in the worship band, helping to lead through singing and playing instruments. This has been a really positive step in building confidence and helping them feel more part of the wider church.

Alongside the teaching, time spent together socially has been an important part of the group.

- Activities this year have included:
- A trip to Go Ape at Alice Holt Forest
- A hot chocolate evening on the cricket pitch
- A pizza and film night where we watched Bruce Almighty and talked about prayer and trusting God
- A Christmas party with games, including a ping pong cup challenge and dressing each other up as Christmas trees

These kinds of evenings have helped create a relaxed atmosphere where friendships can grow naturally.

Over the past year I have continued to build on my training in areas connected to youth work and safeguarding. I completed courses in domestic abuse awareness, basic and foundation safeguarding awareness, and local leadership awareness training. Sophie has also completed domestic abuse awareness training and schools work training during this academic year, which has been really valuable in supporting the group.

Safeguarding continues to be taken seriously within YOG. All activities are run in line with the church's safeguarding policy, with the aim of making sure the young people are supported in a safe and appropriate environment.

Sophie and I would like to continue developing the group and encourage more young people to get involved. We are planning to visit Whitchurch Church of England Primary School to help raise awareness locally, and we also hope to make better use of church and benefice newsletters to promote YOG. Over the summer, we would like to include more outdoor sessions, making the most of time outside while still creating space for conversation and reflection. Our hope is simply to see more young people come along, feel welcome, and find their place within the life of the church.

I would like to thank the PCC, church leadership, parents, and everyone who supports the young people involved in YOG. Your support makes it possible for the group to continue.

3.8 Small Group – Catherine Geddes

Small groups remain a valuable and encouraging part of church life. In chapter one of Paul's letter to Philemon Paul says 'I always thank God as I remember you in my prayers'. We have several groups who meet regularly to pray together, some with a particular focus eg the vacancy, our children and the community.

Paul goes on to say 'I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.' Talking about our faith and reading the bible together are essential for our faith to grow and flourish. Following Andrew Hobley's homily on the Nicene Creed one group thoroughly enjoyed working through the Creed week by week. It was both enlightening and challenging.

The phrase 'full understanding' certainly applied to the Advent study – Christmas, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. This study focussed on the lesser characters of the Christmas story, challenging us to look beyond the nativity stereotypes and think about their motivation and contribution to the most important birth of all time.

This lent we have tried a new format, meeting together for lunch in the Church Rooms and hearing from a range of speakers who have shared a 'thought for the day'. The Drawing Near to God resources have provided daily readings, prayers and weekly themes which we have then discussed over a simple lunch.

I give thanks to God for the resources, both people and materials, that we have available to us, but most of all for the freedom to meet together.

3.9 Safeguarding – Revd Rus Smart and Gill Bilton

The Safeguarding Team at All Hallows continues to do an excellent job overseeing safeguarding in the church and across the benefice. Vicky Jennings (Benefice Safeguarding Administrator) and Paul Barber (Parish Safeguarding Officer) work with Revd Russ to make sure the church remains a safe place for all. Regular communication between the team and the diocese ensures we stay up to date on any changes that take place.

Much of Vicky's time is spent sorting out DBS applications and reminding people to complete safeguarding training. She uses the online Safeguarding Dashboard to monitor progress of individuals and PCCs to make sure everyone remains compliant. Over the last year the dashboard has expanded to include greater accountability for PCCs and now has an area for the safer recruitment of volunteers. This includes further checks on many volunteer roles within the church. Some people will be asked to complete an application form, provide references, sign a confidential declaration form, undertake safeguarding training, complete a DBS check, and meet with a leader for induction, training and regular supervision. All of this is to ensure our team of volunteers across the benefice are trained, supported and safe to work with.

Vicky also oversees the risk assessments across the benefice making sure our churches remain safe places. She works with churchwardens and other group leaders to ensure these are regularly reviewed. Vicky does an amazing job with all of this and we are very thankful for her hard work and commitment.

At All Hallows, Paul Barber continues to deal with any questions or concerns that may arise. He oversees the work with children, young people and vulnerable adults to make sure any issues are dealt with promptly. We are so grateful to him for giving his time and expertise in this role.

Our wider safeguarding team at All Hallows also includes our youth and children's champions: Carlos Ferreira, Sophie Lloyd, Ann Simmonds, and Sarah Smart. Our vulnerable adults' champions are Marilyn Berridge, Dorrie Bilson, and

Peter Taylor. Anyone in the church can speak to these people if they have any safeguarding questions or concerns. We are very grateful to them for serving us in this way.

Each year in November we highlight Safeguarding Sunday in the church and remind people of the importance of safeguarding for everyone. We hope this annual reminder will reinforce all that we are doing and highlight any changes to our congregation.

Our PCC and Standing Committee have safeguarding as a regular agenda item at our meetings and we continue to discuss our progress, holding ourselves accountable to them. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Paul, Russ, or Vicky and we will be happy to help.

Thank you again for all that you do in keeping our churches a safe place for everyone.

3.10 Deanery Synod – Sue Bailey

Whitchurch Deanery comprises the parishes that lie between A303 and the Berkshire border from Longparish/East Woodhay in the west to Ashford Hill/ North Waltham in the east. The population is around 25,000 and the size of the individual parishes vary considerably. Responsibilities include the co-ordination of the CMF, training of lay-led services, strategic development and growth of congregations and ministry within the Deanery.

1. Four meetings were held during 2025 in February, June. September & November.
2. We said adieu to our former Area Dean, Rev. David Roche who has been succeeded by Rev. James Russell. The former Bishop of Basingstoke, Rt. Rev. David Williams moved to become Bishop of Truro and we welcomed his successor the Rt. Rev. Kelly Betteridge. In June our Lay Chair, Jonathan Taylor, stood down after 18 years devoted service and was succeeded by Peter Hull – we welcome him and our new Area Dean, Rev. James.
3. We had the following speakers at our meetings: -

    - Colin Harbidge and Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney on the Common Mission Fund
    - Rev Simon Butler on Growing Rural Parishes

4. We hope to welcome Rt. Rev. Kelly on a Deanery visit in June 2026.
5. At the APCM I will step down from Whitchurch Deanery Synod after nine years, six of them as Secretary.

Members Dr Andrew Hobley, Mrs Sue Bailey (Secretary)

3.11 Litchfield– Revd Mark Christian

A year of change at St. James-the Less. We were sad to see the departure of Rev. Sue Hart and would like to thank the benefice Clergy and LLM's for covering our services. Rev Mark Christian returned in August providing temporary cover, becoming permanent in January to cover services here and at St. James, Woodcott.

We had a successful Flower festival on 27th - 29th celebrating Jane Austen's local connections, her novels and her involvement with the church. Music and readings were performed on Saturday 28th.

We had a delightful Christmas with a carol service and 52 adults, 8 children (and a dog!) attending our services.

4 Clergy report on the year – Reverend Russell Smart

It has been another busy year in the life of the Benefice and the clergy team have been working hard, along with the wider ministry team and our amazing team of volunteers who make everything happen week by week.

In February we said goodbye to Bishop David at a Deanery service at All Hallows. It was a lovely occasion to get together to give thanks for his support and encouragement to us over many years.

In June Revd David Roche moved on to a new post as Head of Chaplaincy in the NHS Hospital Trust in South London and Maudsley. We had a wonderful celebration service and were able to give thanks for all his ministry across our Benefice. He is greatly missed by us! This began the time consuming process of finding a new Incumbent for our Benefice.

Also in June, Revd Georgi was ordained priest at Winchester Cathedral. It was lovely to celebrate with her as she took on greater responsibility across the Benefice.

In July Revd Sue Hart moved on from her post in Litchfield to a new Benefice in Salisbury Diocese. Sadly she was only with us a short time. We are very thankful to Revd Mark Christian for stepping in and covering the services in Litchfield and Woodcott during their vacancy.

Over the last year the clergy team have been busier with Revd David's departure. The team has managed to keep our regular pattern of services going, as well as meeting the needs of our communities through weddings, baptisms, funerals, pastoral visiting, and home communions. They have committed themselves to safeguarding training and other training opportunities through the diocese. Throughout the summer many church fetes and fayres have been a joy to the clergy team as they have engaged with more of the wider community.

The clergy team continue to serve in our four local primary schools across the Benefice with collective worship, church visits, Prayer Spaces, and governor visits.

Russ has been busy with developing the work to children and families across the Benefice. Much of this is happening in schools and through our Sunday morning family services, plus various events and activities throughout the year. It has been wonderful to see the growth in the Longparish family service and the toddler group there. Russ has noticed the extra workload in the vacancy and has been juggling this over the last year. However, the clergy team have been wonderful at sharing the load so it has made it bearable!

Over the last year Georgi and Chris have taken a lead with offering services in the Bere Hill Care Home and Wessex Lodge, which has been greatly appreciated by the staff and residents there. Chris continues to oversee the monthly Chatter Café in the White Hart, while Georgi has been the Chaplain to the Royal British Legion in Whitchurch since David left. Georgi also works for the Diocese as the Faith and Generosity Advisor.

Nicky has been very busy with her chaplaincy role at Naomi House and Jacksplace while studying for an MA in Healthcare Chaplaincy. She has also been fundraising for her trek to the Himalayas in 2026. Richard works hard as the Benefice Office Manager overseeing Vicky and all the administration across the Benefice. He continues with his regular Zoom services online for those unable to attend church and he has been supporting the vicar in the North West Hampshire Benefice who needed some ordained support for services, and as their interim treasurer as they bring together four of their churches into one combined parish. He also recently became the Deanery Treasurer, helping parishes with their finances.

Gordon has helped with more services over the last year which has been invaluable since David left. He has also been supporting Philip Geddes through his discernment process for ordination, which has been a great help to us.

In September and October, Dodie went to Uganda again to support the work going on there with the Mityana Projects Trust and also help to train some Lay Readers. She took eight others from across the Deanery. Along with other clergy, she has continued in supporting and encouraging many people in our rural parishes. Within the Benefice there have been highlights including the major festivals as well as Family Services and celebrations. These and other different activities and services across the year have strengthened relationships with the local communities. Some of the clergy have been able to help parishes in the Deanery during their interregnums.

Also in October, Nicky led our first Baby Loss service in All Hallows and we had good attendance for this service. We would like to do this again. Bishop Kelly joined the diocese in November and some of the clergy team had chance to meet her which was lovely. And when Christmas came everyone worked so hard and we had a great turnout at all our services which was really encouraging!

A big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard over this last year. You have been amazing.

FOOTNOTE:
'We would like to stress that Russ has been the glue that has kept the clergy team together during this extended time of vacancy. He has led us and encouraged us, as well as growing his own ministry – especially with schools, young people and families. None of what the team has managed to do this year would have been possible without him.'

The Bright Waters Clergy Team

5 Financial Statement

5.1 All Hallows Whitchurch, St Mary's Tufton and St James the Less Litchfield Consolidated Accounts 2025

Description	Year 2025	Year 2024	
INCOME			
Gift Aid Planned Giving	60,812	59,981	
Tax Refunds	19,616	15,680	
Other Planned Giving	24	24	
Other Donations	20,518	4,154	
Fete Income	4,449	6,084	Event shared with Primary School
Magazine Income	20,708	20,737	
Dividends and Interest	2,875	765	
Collections at Services	3,889	4,235	
Insurance Claims	122	-	Church Rooms drainage
Miscellaneous Income	220	100	Sale of old musical instruments
Fees (weddings, funerals, baptisms)	4,835	3,027	
Legacy Income	10,000	52,000	One Legacy received in 2025
100 Club Income	3,430	4,285	
Grants received	3,000	-	Archbishops' Council for the Decalogue
Church Room hire	5,638	5,898	
Fund raising	1,650	3,168	
Charity shop	2,901	2,479	
Retreat income	-	9,383	No retreat in 2025
Parish Office Income	6,585	5,199	
Investec / Rathbone	20,349	7,480	
Total	**191,620**	**204,679**	
EXPENDITURE			
Common Mission Fund	49,501	40,697	Full CMF paid in 2025
Ministry Expenses	2,859	4,208	
Utilities - All Hallows	11,154	10,073	
Insurance - All Hallows	4,657	4,546	
Organ Upkeep	8,532	5,995	Unplanned repairs continued in 2025
Repairs & Maintenance - All Hallows	27,831	14,480	Includes the first 50% of the Choir lighting
Cost of Services	2,654	2,208	
Fete Costs	1,421	1,927	
Magazine Costs	12,208	12,133	
Staff Costs	15,263	14,081	Excludes Parish Secretary
Mission Evangelism	2,505	8,453	
Vicars Discretionary fund	140	150	
Charities and Donations	7,849	6,947	
Miscellaneous Expenditure	1,772	3,523	New drum kit purchased 2025
Utilities - Tufton	709	720	
Insurance - Tufton	1,144	1,126	
Tufton Repairs & maintenance	315	3,071	
Parish Hospitality	315	70	
Expenses for 100 Club	1,543	1,584	

CR Maintenance Cleaning	3,876	4,066	
Expenses from fund raising	2,165	2,152	
Bank charges	109	187	
Parish Office Admin Costs	1,032	1,968	
Parish Office Staff Costs	8,793	8,092	
Insurance Litchfield	1,536	1,508	
Utilities Litchfield	2,859	1,565	
Organ - Litchfield	698	434	
Building Maintenance Litchfield	3,216	1,311	
Litchfield Churchyard maintenance	834	923	
Red House Rent, Council Tax, Exps	3,138	5,246	
Litchfield Fees	2,811	1,889	
Total	**183,442**	**165,335**	
Total of Income less Expenditure	**8,178**	**39,344**	
Balance Sheet			
Description	**As at 31/12/2025**	**As at 31/12/2025**	
CURRENT ASSETS			
CCLA CB3036737 General Investment	2,077	2,086	
CCLA CB3036736 Investment Account	12,733	12,439	Holds Fabric Reserve
NatWest Business Savings Account	123,366	100,638	
Business Money Manager	3,315	-	Account opened in 2025
NW1 Operating Account	3,319	11,328	
HSBC1 Main Operating Account	668	2,650	
HSBC2 Current Account	209	4,774	
HSBC3 100 Club Account	113	6,086	
NW2 Church Room Account	406	1,888	
Coop Bank Fabric Account	170	146	
Accounts Receivable	1,425	2,907	
Litchfield Current Account	10,896	2,327	
Cash in Hand	204	449	
Total Current Assets	**158,900**	**147,719**	
LIABILITIES			
100 Club Deferred Income	530	485	
Retreat Deferred Income	1,900	-	
Church Room Deferred Income	350	-	
Wedding, Baptism Deferred Income	1,250	200	
Agency collections	100	170	
Accounts Payable	4,902	7,400	
Creditors Due More than 1 Year	1,942	-	Retention payment (2.5%) for Tufton Repairs
Total Liabilities	**10,974**	**8,255**	
Net Asset Surplus/(Deficit)	**147,927**	**139,465**	

RESERVES			
Excess / (deficit) to date	8,178	39,344	
Starting balance	139,465	98,789	
Other gains/(losses)	284	1,331	
Gains and losses own use	-	-	
Total Reserves	**147,927**	**139,465**	
Represented by Funds			
Unrestricted	10,144	15,463	
Designated	75,596	81,985	
Restricted	62,187	42,016	
Endowment	-	-	
Total	**147,927**	**139,465**	
Detail of Funds			
Unrestricted			
General fund	**10,144**	**15,463**	Impact of last quarter: utilities, maintenance and charities.
Designated			
Fabric Reserve	20,264	31,645	Used to clear organ repairs
Legacy Fund	55,093	50,341	Includes additional £10k legacy and accumulated interest. Used towards the lighting fund
Community Café	239	-	Created in 2025
	75,596	**81,985**	
Restricted			
AH Choir Lighting	8,481	(536)	Increased with fund raising
All Hallows Heritage Fund	37,189	28,673	Increased with fund raising and 100 Club
Benefice Office	78	(571)	Increased and consumed through the year
Christmas Dinner	76	74	Includes accumulated interest
Organ Maintenance	-	(1,637)	Cleared by Fabric Reserve
Parish Retreats	4,959	2,557	Additional contributions made through the year
Tufton Repairs & Maintenance	11,404	13,455	Progressively utilised through the year
	62,187	**42,016**	
Total	**147,927**	**139,465**	

5.2 Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Trustees of Whitchurch with Tufton and Litchfield PCC

On accounts for the year ending December 31st 2025 Charity no 1133750
Set out in The Financial Summary for 2025 (pages 1 and 2) which includes Income and Expenditure for the year and the balance sheet at year end.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Sandra J Smith, ACMA
Address: 21 Lynch Hill Park, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7NF



Date: 15 September 2026

6 Elections

6.1 PCC members

PCC members are elected to serve for three years. This year Paul Barber, Louise Martin and Valerie Swayne-Bradshaw must stand down from PCC and so we have three ordinary PCC vacancies. All Deanery Synod members must stand down; three new representatives will be elected to serve for the next three years. All those who must stand down may stand again for re-election.

If there are more nominees than vacancies, an election will be held. If you would like to know more, please speak with any PCC member. If you would like a nomination form please contact the PCC Secretary, Andrew Hobley at hobleymeads@btinternet.com.

6.2 Independent Examiner

Sandra Smith has indicated that she is happy to serve again.

Thanks and acknowledgements

Throughout the year many people normally serve within our churches, including clergy, lay ministers, church wardens, deanery synod representatives, members of the PCC, sidespeople, servers, chalice bearers, intercessors, readers, those who clean the church and tidy the churchyards, coffee makers, those who prepare and organise food, those who assist at weddings, funerals and baptisms, choir, musicians, sound people, bell ringers, those who lead and help at Sunday School and YOG, parish visitors, the verger, our parish administrators, the parish magazine team and the magazine distributors, and those who look after our finances. We thank them all and look forward to finding out how God wishes us to serve His people in Whitchurch in 2026

If you would like to serve the church in any way, or no longer wish to perform your role, please let Andrew Hobley know at –hobleymeads@btinternet.com

Parish of Whitchurch with Tufton and Litchfield

Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting

Held in All Hallows Church Rooms, Whitchurch

Sunday 27 April 2025 at 12:00 noon

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting

Rev'd David Roche chaired the meeting. **35** Parishioners were present, as well as Revd Russell

Smart (Associate Priest) and Revd Nicky Smallwood (Assistant Priest)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: David and Ann Simmonds, Fran Harris, Nigel Scarfe,

2. Minutes

a. The minutes of the meeting of Sunday 21 April 2024 had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

b. Proposed by Carolyn Jay and seconded by Dorrie Bilson the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

c. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Nominee		Proposer	Seconder
a.	Catherine Geddes	Ann Simmonds	Sophie Lloyd
b.	Nigel Scarfe	P Rampton	Pete Taylor

These being the only nominations received the Chair declared them duly elected

Russell Smart said that Dorrie Bilson and Peter Taylor would continue with their informal roles as Deputy Wardens and thanked them for their work. Mention of JM

There being no other business the meeting closed at **12:08** pm.

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

There was no change to the meeting attendees or apologies from the Annual Vestry Meeting.

1. Minutes

a. The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2023 had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

b. Proposed by Tim Fisher and seconded by Sue Bailey the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

a. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Annual Report

a. The annual report of the Parish had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

b. This year the Electoral Roll had been compiled from scratch. Caroline Barber reported the number of electors on the Electoral roll was 125, down from 165 at the 2024 APCM. The Chair thanked Caroline for taking over as Interim Electoral Officer from the late John Mariner at very short notice.

c. Andrew Cope summed up the accounts. It has been a comfortable year, with income up (ignoring the legacy), regular bookings of the Church Rooms and good takings from charity shop. Magazine income was down, but it still made a good profit. The proceeds of the Fete had been shared with the primary school. Expenses were more than expected for the organ, staff, and repairs. The office hours for the Administrators had been extended to help support the wider benefice, we benefited from this. The overall deficit had been covered from existing funds. The Chair thanked Andrew Cope for his work. There were no questions.

4. Elections

4.1 PCC (3 Three year vacancies)

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Andrew Ricketts	Philip Geddes	Matthew Parrott
Carlos Ferreira	Stephen Court	Gareth Humphreys
Gill Bilson	Carolyn Jay	Matthew Parrott

PCC (2 Two year vacancies)

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Ann Simmonds	Dorrie Bilson	Linda Frith
Beverly Vaughan	Stephen Court	Collete Court

These being the only nominations received the Chair declared them duly elected.

4.2 Deanery Synod (1 One year vacancy)

No nomination was received for this post so it remained vacant.

5.0 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Sandra Smith, the current examiner, was proposed Andrew Cope and seconded by Carolyn Jay**.** There being no other nominations Ms Smith was duly appointed.

6 Date of next meeting

6.1 The Annual Vestry Meeting for next year will be set by PCC at their first meeting

6.2 The first meeting of Standing Committee will be 20 May 2025 7:30pm in All Hallows Church Office.

6.3 The first meeting of the PCC will be Tuesday 3 June 2025 at 7:30 pm in All Hallows Church Rooms.

7 Any Other Business

A brief outline of how the interregnum would be managed was given. David Roche was thanked for his leadership and for leaving us in a strong position.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at **12:30 pm**.