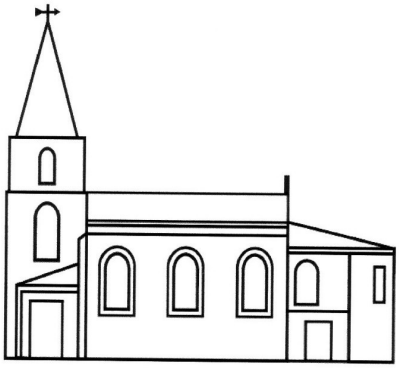


Gosforth
Parish Church
of St Nicholas

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity Number 1133837

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019).

1. Objectives and Activities

St Nicholas Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Paul Baker, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Nicholas. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve those who live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas and our church hall and annex.

2. Achievements and Performance

We are grateful for the support of many individuals for making the church community a constant focus of support.

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Gosforth and supports joint activities when these take place. This includes events like Remembrance Sunday in Central Park and an outdoor service on Good Friday.

Fr Paul reports later (10. Report from the Incumbent) in more detail on events during the year.

3. Planning for the future

Working with the churchwardens and ministry team, Fr Paul Baker has continued to look at raising the profile of St Nicholas' Church in our parish and community. Our aim remains to be seen as a welcoming and inclusive place, offering space for all. Close to the metro transport hub, we are in an ideal position to be seen and recognised in our locality.

The parish has strong links with local schools, including our church school, and welcomes people to a range of social events through the year. Our relationship with neighbouring Anglican parishes and churches of other denominations is important and through Fr Paul's role as Area Dean for Newcastle Central Deanery we seek to strengthen these links.

Our stance is to be outward looking, and we will continue to support local charities (for example food banks, a women's refuge) as well as international causes (Christian Aid).

In the longer term we will also be working on planning for net zero and are seeking advice and support from the Diocese for this.

4. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas	
Registered Charity Number	1133837	
Operational address	23 Ilford Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3NX	
Trustees	Rev P Baker	Incumbent
	R Stradling – to 31 October 2025	Assistant priest
	N Beale – ex-officio	Reader
	O Black – ex-officio	Reader
	C Pacitti - ex-officio	Reader
	M Allan – first elected 2025	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod rep
	B Coulson – first elected 2022	Churchwarden
	D Hunter – resigned April 2025	Churchwarden

Trustees (cont.)	S Ritchie – first elected 2022	Churchwarden
	D Young – first elected 2023	Churchwarden, Deanery Synod rep
	H Harrison – elected 2018	Safeguarding officer
	G P Barnard – elected 2023	
	F Haigh – elected 2023	
	S McLaughlin – elected 2023	
	K M Proudfoot – elected 2020	Treasurer
	R Tait – elected 2024	
	A J Thirlaway – elected 2022	
	S Ward – elected 2024	
	E Vickers – resigned Oct 2025	Deanery Synod rep
	T R Watkinson – elected 2025	
Architect	Tim Bailey, Xcite	
Independent Examiner	Douglas Maltman Connected Voice One Strawberry Lane Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BX	
Bankers	Barclays	
Investments	RBC Brewin Dolphin	

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing documents

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas is a registered charity, number 1133837, registered 28 January 2010.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed by election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting; they can also be co-opted during the year to fill a casual vacancy or skills gap.

Risk management

The charity is aware of the Commission's guidance on risk management including the development of a policy, identifying risks, assessing and evaluating the action(s) to be taken, review, monitor and assess periodically. Trustees work with the incumbent to ensure the continuing monitoring of risks.

6. Financial Review

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas is primarily funded by donations. The total income for the year was £139,786 (2024: £161,230). This income is allocated across respective funds on the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025, shows a deficit across all funds of £52,414 (2024: surplus £1,498).

The Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025 shows total funds carried forward of £789,536 (2024: £841,950) of which there are £735,059 unrestricted funds (2024: £790,568) and £54,477 endowment funds (2024: £51,382).

Reserves policy

The trustees have reviewed the charity’s reserves policy. It is the policy of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas to retain liquid funds in current account and on short-term deposit adequate to meet 3 months of financial activity. Longer-term investments held can be realised safely without undue cost within that time frame.

7. Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and planning its future activities. The trustees have also reviewed the charitable purposes of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain Northumbria Area Meeting, and the external environment, to make sure the Charity is still relevant and needed. This annual report will aim to demonstrate the link between our charitable activity and how this benefits our service users.

8. Related Party Transactions

The Trustees made the following donations to church funds in 2025 and 2024:

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction	**2025** **£**	2024 £
Rev P Baker	Vicar	Unrestricted donation	822	700
B J Coulson	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	1,150	1,150
SA Ritchie	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	2,440	2,906
D Young	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	540	831
K Proudfoot	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	1600	1,236
O Black	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	480	480
H Harrison	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	60	50
S McLaughlin	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	595	488
C Pacitti	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	600	600
R Stradling	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	50	-
R Tait	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	480	480
A J Thirlaway	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	180	180
E Vickers	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	60	-
T R Watkinson	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	795	-
S Ward	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	10	-
			9,862	9,101

In addition, M Allan rents 131 Church Road and paid rent to the church in 2025 of £7,700

9. Insurance

The charity's insurance policy does not provide trustee indemnity cover.

10. Report from the incumbent

It is a privilege as vicar of Gosforth St Nicholas to step back and provide an overview of the life of our church and parish during 2025. This is an opportunity to express gratitude to the many whose hard work sustains the life of our parish community. It is so easy to take people for granted. My report, which is a general survey, is intended to complement the other reports presented here.

I would like to honour the rhythm of prayer and worship at the heart of our church life. Without this none of the rest of what I write of below makes sense. Half a dozen people come faithfully to share morning prayer day by day, rain or shine. We also relish the big occasions for example the Parish Eucharist on Easter Day or Midnight Mass when St Nicholas looks almost full! In the midst of our community, right next to a busy travel hub, is a place of beauty which reminds us of the presence and peace of God.

We are blessed with a continuing strong musical tradition at St Nicholas in the form of our excellent organists and choir. During 2025 our organist John Goodenough has led the choir and played on the majority of Sundays, complemented by Phil Mills and also Marc Bryant. The choir is a wonderful collection of talent and enriches our worship week by week.

During the year Ruth successfully completed her curacy, and it was a delight to be at St Columba's Wideopen for her licensing as team vicar in November. Her time with us has flown by and we received much from her developing ministry. She and Aidan are missed.

As well as licensed clergy, our team is further enriched by the ministry of Fr Michael Douglass, Canon Richard Hill, Olwyn Black, Canon Ce Pacitti and Nick Beale. We have been able to continue to offer ministerial support to neighbours during clergy vacancies, sabbaticals and holidays.

We delight in the presence of children and young people at Gosforth St Nicholas, and we value work done with them by our Sunday School week by week. At the end of the Sunday Eucharist, they share what they have been doing. The Nativity Play is a highlight and reminds us of all that our hard-working team of leaders and assistants do, supported by parents, carers and families.

Our PCC has met regularly during the year to conduct the business of the parish and to make strategic decisions about its life. It ensures we fulfil our statutory obligations, for example in regard to our financial affairs and safeguarding. Our parish owes so much to PCC members and officers. I would like to pay tribute to Bev Bagnall minute secretary, treasurer Keith Proudfoot and Parish Safeguarding Officer Hilary Harrison. Sometimes heavy responsibilities are born lightly.

Hospitality is taken seriously in our church, but it is done with cheerfulness and generosity. It is made to look easy, though those who enable parish events come early and stay late. Sometimes there is fundraising, but mostly it is simply a case of welcoming and building community.

We benefit enormously from having – for historic reasons – four churchwardens (rather than the more normal two). This gives us a range of gifts and skills. This year our wardens were: Molly Allan, Barney Coulson, SallyAnn Ritchie and David Young. A huge thank you to them. Along with clergy, they act as a standing committee and set the PCC agenda, as well as overseeing much of the administration and activities of the church. Much of this work is necessarily unseen but vital.

As in previous reports a list may be the best way to give a flavour of the life and activities of our parish in 2025.

Advent Course; Lent Course; Sunday School Nativity; Christmas Carols at Three Mile and Job Bulman; Harvestival; the Moot; Safeguarding Sunday; many cakes and bottles of bubbly for significant birthdays; Ceilidh; Curry Club; Hail Gladdening Light services; funerals; burial of ashes; reading and leading intercessions; Zoom Compline; distribution of Christmas and Easter cards across our parish; PCCs, Deanery Synods and chapters; Home Communions; serving at the Eucharist; Generous Giving; safeguarding meetings; safer recruitment; DBS checks; taking bookings; bidding for funding; meetings; administration; accounting; Wine Clubs; barbecues; Craft Angels; Gardeners of Eden; Holy Dusters; Churches Together meetings and Unity Week Service; Gosforth Remembers; weddings; Monthly Eucharists at Abbeyfield; Summer Tea party; weekly worship at Archbishop Runcie First School; Governing Body; school visits from, and services for Archbishop Runcie; visits from and services with South Gosforth First School; Christmas lunch; baptisms; ‘After Evensong’ Concert in aid of Cancer Research; celebrating St Nicholas our patron at the cathedral; Flower Arranging; AdventOne fundraiser; cleaning; setting up and clearing away; reading; praying; turning up, simply being…

There is so much to thank God for in the life of this church community. This is not by any means complete, I apologize for things I have missed; but it is a taster of what has been happening and who we have been at St Nicholas in 2025. May this church and community continue to be a sign of hope and of God’s presence in our parish.

11. Report on the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which works in co-operation with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the church, evangelistic, pastoral, social and ecumenical which in the parish. It is the duty of the incumbent and the PCC to consult together on matter of general concern and importance to the parish.

The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the Parish, including the collection and administration of all moneys raised for church purposes and for the keeping of accounts in relation to these.

The PCC is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the churchyard in co-operation with Newcastle City Council.

The Standing Committee is the only sub-committee required by law and has the power to carry out the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any direction by the PCC Secretary as elected by members of the PCC.

The PCC met seven times since the APCM held in May 2025.The average attendance was eleven out of a membership of sixteen.

The members signed forms, as required by the C of E, affirming that they were eligible to act as trustees of the charity.

The finances including the parish share continue to be of concern. The introduction of a Parish Giving Scheme was agreed, gradually to replace the yellow envelopes. This is now widely used in the C of E, is centrally administered and cost free.

A budget consultation from the diocese was received and replied to.

A Statement of Investment Policy was agreed, covering objectives, responsible investment and management.

The state of the buildings, especially the main church roof, is a constant problem and further advice from the church architect is being sought.

The faculty by which the City Council maintains the church yard was due to expire and was renewed.

The maintenance and improvement of the parish website was discussed.

Updates on safeguarding were regularly received, including a paper offering guidance on dealing with dementia.

The PCC received papers from the Church of England offering pastoral guidance on Living and Loving in Faith, and Prayers of Love and Faith.

12. PCC Members

The members of the PCC are listed in note 4 above.

13. Electoral Roll Report

The numbers entered on the church Electoral roll at 27th April 2026 is 134, of which 71 are non-resident in the parish. Lesley Robertson is the Electoral roll officer.

14. Churchwardens' Fabric Report

This year has seen the need to carry out some major repair work on the Church fabric.

The sink hole in the floor just outside the lady chapel was finally repaired thanks to a grant from Northumberland Historic Churches Trust.

The plastering of the South wall took some time to be completed as we had to wait for the specialist lime plasterer to become available to carry out the work, but this has now been completed.

The wall of the organ blower room was noted to be very damp; investigation revealed that this was due to the external wall needing to be re-pointed and repairs carried out to the rainwater hopper. These repairs have been carried out.

The South wall and organ blower room need to be painted, and this will be looked at in 2026.

The Hall annex roof was renewed, including incorporating a slight pitch to avoid rainwater pooling. Gutters were also added to better direct the flow of rainwater. There is no longer any water leaking into the annex and members of the congregation undertook the task of painting the damaged hall cupboards: they now look well maintained and smell fresh!

The walls in the Vestry have some surface cracks in them and a structural engineer was engaged to investigate this. After his site visit, the engineer reported that the vestry appears to be a later addition to the original building and that the cracks are superficial. The recommendation is that these cracks be monitored over a number of months to see if there is any movement and, if not, then the only action to be taken is decoration.

The church roof is still showing small leaks mainly in the South aisle and the church architect has been asked to advise the PCC on a way forward to solve this persistent problem.

Once each month we have teams of volunteers who do a tremendous job cleaning the church and the “Gardeners of Eden” keep the churchyard looking smart and tidy.

15. Deanery Synod Report

The Newcastle Central Deanery Synod met in full session twice in 2025: 20 March and 22 July. The November meeting was postponed until early 2026 because of a calendar clash with Diocesan Synod.

In March 2025 members looked at two main themes:

- Generosity and what motivates generous giving.
- The Year of Seeking, in our Diocesan process, and members were challenged to continue noticing where God is already at work in the community and the world around us.

In July 2025 we were joined by Canon Ric Whaite, the Director of Mission and Ministry. He introduced the Year of Sharing and the next stage of Deanery Development.

We began to prepare for the next Deanery Plan, aiming to have a draft plan ready by June 2026.

At all Synods there was an opportunity to share information and news and to receive reports from recent Diocesan and General Synods.

Gosforth St Nicholas is well represented on Synod: members are Fr Paul (Area Dean), Molly Allan (Deanery Secretary) and David Young, with Gill Mitchell also involved as Deanery Finance Officer.

16. Work with children and young people

Sunday School

This year our little people have taken part in many wonderful activities. We average 12 children per Sunday but have seen numbers in the twenties on busy Sundays! We are thrilled that this area of our church ministry continues to grow.

We've seen particular joys on Palm Sunday when the children help process and carry banners and puppets, our Good Friday service where the children hear the story of Easter and made crafts, our summer party which was chaperoned by our lovely parents and of course, our Nativity play followed by a family Christmas dinner and party where we fed nearly 60 people.

Our little people are getting more and more courageous and curious about God and the Bible, and we've spent the last year learning about stories based on our Gospel readings, the Church calendar as well as stand alone lessons.

Our team has three set leaders and a few helpers and in the next year we're hoping to expand our team. The Sunday school team would like to thank our little people and their parents/guardians as well as the clergy for all their love and support this last year.

Children's work

We continue to offer family events throughout the year, which we now regularly advertise to local schools and family networks. Our family St Nicholas storytelling service in December is growing in popularity, and we are grateful that our resident "St Nicholas" continues to be an enthusiastic part of this special event! The crib service on Christmas Eve is a joyful occasion with large numbers of families who come to hear the shepherd's story and help Fr Paul bless the crib. We were also pleased to see new people join us for our Good Friday story and crafts this year.

We are really encouraged by the growth of engagement in our work with children and families, through Sunday School and special family events, and how it illustrates the importance of its role in the life and mission of St Nicholas' Church.

17. Eco Church Report

Exploring avenues where we as a church community can continue and increase our efforts to minimise our environmental impact upon the world.

Current practice revolves around two specific areas.

Management of Church land members and non-members of the church community give up their free time to tidy up the churchyard on a monthly basis - regardless of the weather. The work carried out includes grass cutting, strimming, planting, leaf blowing, clearing branch debris and path maintenance.

Lifestyle recyclable goods collection continues (donation bins at the back of Church) and is well supported by those who bring items for recycling as well as also kindly take items to larger "banks" outwith church.

The donation table at the post-service coffee time, for magazines, papers and books to be recirculated continues to be popular.

18. Health and Safety Report

Churches are covered by the statutory legislation in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and are classified as being of low risk. Under the H&S Act where a church employs less than five people a written Health and Safety plan is not required.

The church Health and Safety policy is implemented using information available from the Ecclesiastical Insurance company as posted on the Diocese of Newcastle website.

Health and Safety is an item on each PCC agenda. The Health and Safety policy is reviewed annually using the current documentation on the Church of England website.

As part of the Health and Safety programme the annual fire extinguishers testing has been carried out in both the church and church hall. The annual test of the lighting conductor on the church tower has been carried out.

The periodic electrical testing of the hall was carried out in November with some minor work being undertaken to bring the installation up to current regulations. During the annual test of the hall emergency lighting, two of the emergency lighting packs failed the 1 hour test, new ones have been ordered to replace these.

19. Safeguarding Policy Report

This report is focused on areas in the safeguarding action plan produced by the safeguarding dashboards and monitored by the parish dashboards team and Newcastle Diocese and based on updated reports presented to the PCC.

The PCC reaffirmed agreement to have “due regard” to the House of Bishop ‘s guidance in relation to safeguarding in September 2025. This includes both the handbook (which includes procedures, roles, training, reporting and church activities) and the policy statement. The same statement can be seen in the Church Hall annex, Church Hall noticeboard and the church porch noticeboard. A hard copy of the safeguarding action plan is kept by the safeguarding officer. All PCC members have access to the data dashboard.

We are at level 3 on the data dashboard however the dashboard must be constantly reviewed and update and is presented to PCC meetings.

In August 2025 there had been a data breach at APCS (The Diocese DBS checker). The PCC held on 16 September 2025 was informed that the data breach happened at another service APCS user. Guidance was received from the Diocese as to action to be taken. All action was carried out.

Following this incident, the Diocese Parish Dashboards Team issued a new requirement that a new Service Agreement (SA) must be accepted by any authorised Hub Owner on behalf of the PCC before December 1st, 2025.

This SA sets out the responsibilities of both the provider and the users of a safeguarding hub and helps to ensure that any data processing complies with the UK's General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This is accessed and signed through the hub.

Fr Paul (Vicar), June Douglas (Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer) and Hilary Harrison (Parish Safeguarding Officer) signed the agreement following this meeting.

All DBS checks are carried out every 3 years and we now use Thirtyone:eight as our DBS checker. Hilary and June organise the checks and will be undertaking updated DBS administration training.

All new PCC members and other volunteers in roles of responsibility must have an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and complete a Confidential Declaration Form (CDF). These checks are a key requirement of anyone in a role requiring work with children and vulnerable adults. This is in respect of paid or unpaid work.

All PCC members must undertake the required safeguarding training as recommended by the Church of England House of Bishops. The required training can be found on the hub dashboard.

All church wardens must undertake the required safeguarding training as recommended by the Church of England House of Bishops. The required training can be found on the hub dashboard.

New members accepted onto the PCC at the last APCM have completed relevant training which includes basic and foundation safeguarding training. It is a requirement of the role that all PCC members must complete the required training.

Church Wardens and others in leadership roles e.g. Safeguarding Officers, Sunday School Leaders must also complete Leadership training. Members are regularly reminded of training requirements.

Safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of our church website.

Safer Recruitment is a key issue, so role descriptions and person specifications are identified for anyone considering a new role in the church.

20. Church Flowers Report

There is a good team who are very much a collective effort, and we enjoy our mornings of chat and coffee alongside the flower arranging. The team would like to thank all who those who give for so generously for flowers during the year.

As at team we work to maintain a high standard of floral arrangements in church particularly for the major celebrations throughout the year, Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday where aided by the children we hand out bunches of daffodils for everyone on which is followed by refreshments served in the Annex.

As is the custom at St Nicholas there is a list on the wall at the back of church with calendar dates of each Sunday throughout the year for anyone who wants to make a special dedication of the Sunday flowers.

21. Music Report

Music continues to play a vital part in the worship and life of St Nicholas Gosforth. During 2025 we have continued to be blessed by organist John Goodenough, assisted by Phil Mills and also Marc Bryant.

The choir supports singing hymns and settings for the Eucharist and enriches worship with choir only items from time to time. Our organists lead rehearsals, mostly on Sunday mornings.

For members of the congregation, one of the musical highlights of Sunday morning is the organ voluntary at the end of the Sung Eucharist, many stay to listen to an exceptional range of wonderful pieces.

22. Other activities

The Church Craft Group meet in the main hall from 1:45 to 3:45pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month and is more about fellowship than creative ability - so all are welcome.

At the end of 2025 Diane Featherstone stepped down from running this group. We thank Diane for all her hard work in helping establish the group. Simon Ward and Jane Salter assume responsibility for this group in 2026.

During the past year members of the group knitted poppies which were then used around the church yard during the remembrance period, and they have been kept for future use.

At its heart, this is a group for all which uses craft work to encourage fellowship and fun with cups of tea/coffee and sweet treats!

The wine club meets over the winter once a month on a Friday night from the autumn to spring made up of a mixture of members of the congregation and non-church members. Depending on the number attendees we meet in either the main hall or annex starting a 7:00pm to sample 6 different types of red or white wines accompanied by some food.

At most meetings the wines are chosen from a particular country and in 2025 this included wines from Australia, Argentina, Greece and Portugal. In December there was a whisky tasting.

Members of the congregation make up the catering team who prepare meat and cheese food platters on the night for the people attending. The cost of the food and the wine is covered by the entrance fee or donation with no cost to the church. Many thanks to Anne and Stuart Baker who run this club.

23. Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The charity trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of incoming resources and application of resources. In preparing financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 10 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

K M Proudfoot

Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the financial statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 16 to 27.

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 2022 ("the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, 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 material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Doug Maltman FMAAT
Fellow Member of the Association of Accountancy Technicians
Connected Voice Business Services
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX
Date: 20 August 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Giving, tax relief and investment	6	79,029	-	**79,029**	80,142
Income from operating activities	7	6,018	-	**6,018**	9,858
Fundraising income	8	27,587	10,000	**37,587**	49,272
Investment income	9	17,152	-	**17,152**	21,958
Total income		129,786	10,000	**139,786**	161,230
Expenditure on:					
Donations	10	607	-	**607**	1,561
Activities relating to the work of the church	11	166,988	10,000	**176,988**	138,640
Expenditure to generate funds	12	34,348	-	**34,348**	32,649
Church management and administration	13	10,592	-	**10,592**	9,959
Total expenditure		212,535	10,000	**222,535**	182,809
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(82,749)	-	**(82,749)**	(21,579)
Unrealised gains on investment properties	18	182,177	-	**182,177**	-
Movement on revaluation reserve		(167,500)	-	**(167,500)**	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	19	12,563	3,095	**15,658**	23,077
Net movement of funds		(55,509)	3,095	**(52,414)**	1,498
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		790,568	51,382	**841,950**	840,452
Total funds carried forward		735,059	54,477	**789,536**	841,950

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSFORTH ST NICHOLAS

BALANCE SHEET

Charity Number 1133837

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	£	Total 2025 £	£	Restated Total 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	18		305,682		527,823
Investments	19		287,861		274,021
Total fixed assets			**593,543**		**801,844**
Current assets					
Debtors	20	34,437		24,414	
Cash at bank and in hand	21	164,417		19,632	
Total current assets		**198,854**		**44,046**	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	**(2,861)**		**(3,940)**	
Net current assets			**195,993**		**40,106**
Total assets less current liabilities			**789,536**		**841,950**
Total net assets or liabilities			**789,536**		**841,950**
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			545,313		432,980
Designated fund			22,246		22,588
Revaluation surplus			167,500		335,000
Restricted fund			54,477		51,382
Total funds			**789,536**		**841,950**

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on: 20 August 2026

and are signed on its behalf by: K M Proudfoot
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

2 Basis of accounting

2.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2022.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gosforth St Nicholas meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £735,059 and has already secured a significant amount of funding for the current year. The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

3 Income

3.1 Recognition of income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the resources, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

3.2 Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by FRS102 SORP or FRS102.

3.3 Grants and donations

Income from government and other grants, whether ‘capital’ grants or ‘revenue’ grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria of income recognition are met.

3.4 Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

3.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

3.6 Investment gains and losses

This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

3.7 Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Donations received for particular purposes are designated, unrestricted funds, as is the attendant expenditure.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

3.8 Endowment fund

Over many years donations have been given to the church with the specific intention to help the clergy in their role within the parish, such funds are classed as "Restricted and Designated". The income generated from the Endowment Fund assets - stocks and shares - is applied to the specific purpose of the fund. In accordance with the practice of many years the income is applied as follows: 25% to the General Fund to meet the requirements of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance, the balance to the incumbent to help meet expenses of the office.

It would be disproportionately expensive to have the endowment fund managed separately to the other investments. £1,400 has been calculated as the appropriate proportion of the income, at present, to go to the expenses of the incumbent. The amount is reviewed annually against the performance of the investments as a whole. This is shown in the Invstment Income from Dividends note.

4 Expenditure and liabilities

4.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

4.2 Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of grant offerings and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

4.3 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance cost and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

4.4 Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

4.5 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

5 Assets

5.1 Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

Individual fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis.

Other fixed assets	Straight line over five years
Organ	Straight line over 40 years
Church houses	No depreciation

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by virtue of s96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

The Nicholson organ, acquired in 2000, has been capitalised and is being depreciated in the accounts over its currently anticipated useful life of 40 years on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings is written off.

Other tangible fixed assets includes equipment with an original cost of over £2,000 and are depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years, starting in the year of acquisition.

5.2 Investments

Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.

Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

The investment properties are included at valuation, any change in market value over cost is reflected in these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Analysis of income

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
6	**Giving, tax relief and investment income**					
	Planned giving & other	55,620	-	-	**55,620**	54,639
	Collection at services	5,880	-	-	**5,880**	7,460
	Income tax received and receivable	10,000	-	-	**10,000**	11,956
	Donations to flowers and candles	98	333	-	**431**	567
	Donations & Legacies	6,525	573	-	**7,098**	5,520
		78,123	906	-	**79,029**	80,142
7	**Income from operating activities: to further the objectives of the PCC**					
	Parish Mission and events	4,081	-	-	**4,081**	4,001
	Theatre visits	-	-	-	**-**	813
	Fees	964	973	-	**1,937**	5,044
		5,045	973	-	**6,018**	9,858
8	**Income from operating activities: to generate funds**					
	Church Hall Lettings & Grants	-	23,447	-	**23,447**	22,500
	Beer festival	4,075	-	-	**4,075**	25,241
	Grants and fundraising activities	-	-	10,000	**10,000**	1,500
	Sundry income (Easy Fundraising)	65	-	-	**65**	31
		4,140	23,447	10,000	**37,587**	49,272
9	**Income from investments**					
	Rental income from investment properties	2,569	5,131	-	**7,700**	13,856
	Investment income - Dividends	5,326	1,400	-	**6,726**	6,731
	Investment income - Interest received	2,726	-	-	**2,726**	1,371
		10,621	6,531	-	**17,152**	21,958

Income was £139,786 (2024: £161,230) of which £129,786 was unrestricted or designated (2024: £161,230) and £10,000 was restricted (2024: £nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
10 **Donations**					
Charitable donations	274	333	-	**607**	1,561
	274	333	-	**607**	1,561
11 **Activities relating to the work of the church**					
Parish Share	90,720	-	-	**90,720**	84,000
Diocesan fees	-	973	-	**973**	2,082
Clergy & worship expenses	12,638	1,400	-	**14,038**	13,102
Flowers & candles	556	333	-	**889**	850
Utilities, insurance & repairs	41,435	-	10,000	**51,435**	15,433
Junior church	510	120	-	**630**	2,882
Organ, organists and choir	5,950	-	-	**5,950**	4,295
Mission, outreach & events	212	-	-	**212**	2,359
Theatre visits	-	-	-	**-**	1,496
Depreciation	12,141	-	-	**12,141**	12,141
	164,162	2,826	10,000	**176,988**	138,640
12 **Expenditure to generate funds**					
Parish Hall	7,877	23,447	-	**31,324**	12,382
Beer festival	2,973	-	-	**2,973**	20,267
Postcards and other merchandise for sale	51	-	-	**51**	-
	10,901	23,447	-	**34,348**	32,649
13 **Church management and administration**					
Investment property repairs and other costs	-	5,131	-	**5,131**	4,273
Investment portfolio manager's fees	1,994	462	-	**2,456**	2,355
Professional fees	996	-	-	**996**	1,002
Printing & stationery - copier	1,862	-	-	**1,862**	1,460
Bank charges, less rebate	115	-	-	**115**	134
Safeguarding	22	-	-	**22**	-
Gifts & sundry expenses	10	-	-	**10**	735
	4,999	5,593	-	**10,592**	9,959

Expenditure on charitable activities was £222,535 (2024: £182,809) of which £212,535 was unrestricted or designated (2024: £182,809) and £10,000 was restricted (2024: £nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

14 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	**996**	972
	996	972

There were no other fees paid to the examiner (2024: £nil).

15 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

The charity currently does not employ any paid staff.

No employee received remuneration above £60,000 (2024: nil)

The key management personnel of the charity, comprise the Trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £nil.

16 Transactions with trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred in the year.

Transaction(s) with related parties

The vicar and churchwardens made the following unrestricted donations to church funds in 2024 and 2023:

Name of the trustee or related party		Description of the	**2025**	2024
			£	£
Rev P Baker	Vicar	Unrestricted donation	822	700
D Young	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	540	831
D Hunter	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	270
K Proudfoot	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	1,600	1,236
B J Coulson	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	1,150	1,150
S A Ritchie	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	2,440	2,906
G P Barnard	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	-
O Black	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	480	480
H Harrison	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	60	50
S McLaughlin	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	595	488
D Oliver	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	1,040
C Pacitti	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	600	600
L Robertson	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	120
R Stradling	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	50	-
C T Tait	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	235
R Tait	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	480	480
A J Thirlaway	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	180	180
K Wake	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	-	540
T R Watkinson	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	795	-
S Ward	Trustee	Unrestricted donation	10	-
			9,802	11,306

In addition M Allan rents 131 Church Road and paid rent to the church in 2025 of £7,700.

17 **Corporation Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

18 **Tangible fixed assets**

	Other fixed Assets £	Nicholson organ £	Church Houses £	Total £
Cost				
Balance brought forward	32,820	223,068	420,000	**675,888**
Additions	-	-	-	**-**
Disposals	-	-	(210,000)	**(210,000)**
Balance carried forward	32,820	223,068	210,000	**465,888**
Depreciation				
Basis	SL	SL	SL	
Rate	20.0%	2.5%	0.0%	
Balance brought forward	8,640	139,425	-	**148,065**
Depreciation charge for year	6,564	5,577	-	**12,141**
Disposals	-	-	-	**-**
Balance carried forward	15,204	145,002	-	**160,206**
Net book value				
Brought forward	24,180	83,643	420,000	**527,823**
Carried forward	17,616	78,066	210,000	**305,682**

Other fixed assets at cost		**2025 £**	2024 £
Sound System	Purchased January 2023	**10,380**	10,380
Church boilers	Purchased November 2024	**22,440**	22,440
		32,820	32,820

Sale of Church house

	2025 £	2024 £
Sale proceeds	**224,677**	-
Less value as at 1 January 2025	**(210,000)**	-
Surplus on sale	**14,677**	-
Property revaluation reserve applicable	**167,500**	-
Realised profit	**182,177**	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

19 Fixed asset investments

Listed Investment	**2025 £**	2024 £
Carrying (fair) value at the beginning of period	**259,927**	240,273
Management & dealing costs	**(2,456)**	(2,355)
Realised gains & losses for year	**1,195**	3,475
Unrealised gains & losses for year	**14,463**	18,534
Carrying (fair) value at end of year	**273,129**	259,927

Church hall	**2025 £**	2024 £
Church hall investment account	**14,732**	14,094
	14,732	14,094
TOTAL	**287,861**	274,021

20 Debtors and prepayments (receivable within 1 year)

	2025 £	2024 £
Gift aid claim	**34,000**	24,000
Dividends receivable	**437**	414
	34,437	24,414

21 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
General fund community account	**1,574**	8,930
Church active saver account	**162,790**	10,702
	164,364	19,632

22 Creditors and accruals (payable within 1 year)

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	**1,865**	2,968
Accruals		
Independent examination of accounts	**996**	972
	2,861	3,940

23 Events after the end of the reporting period

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but before the accounts are authorised which relate to conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

24 Analysis of charitable funds

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Income resource £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Fund balances carried forward £
General funds	432,980	97,929	(180,336)	-	194,740	**545,313**
Designated funds	22,588	31,857	(32,199)	-	-	**22,246**
Revaluation surplus	335,000	-	-	-	(167,500)	**167,500**
	790,568	129,786	(212,535)	-	27,240	**735,059**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Income resource £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Fund balances carried forward £
General funds	436,927	133,220	(157,464)	-	20,297	**432,980**
Designated funds	19,923	28,010	(25,345)	-	-	**22,588**
Revaluation surplus	335,000	-	-	-	-	**335,000**
	791,850	161,230	(182,809)	-	20,297	**790,568**

Purpose of unrestricted funds

General unrestricted fund	The 'free reserves' after allowing for designated funds
Designated funds	Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC
Revaluation surplus	Revaluation reserve for the church houses. Pat Robson provided a valuation in 2023 for the houses that had originally been included in the accounts at historical cost: £85,000. The increase to the valuation of £420,000 is shown as the Revaluation Reserve £335,000

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Income resource £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Fund balances carried forward £
Endowment fund	51,382	-	-	-	3,095	**54,477**
	51,382	-	-	-	3,095	**54,477**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Income resource £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Fund balances carried forward £
Endowment fund	48,602	-	-	-	2,780	**51,382**
	48,602	-	-	-	2,780	**51,382**

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor

Endowment fund — Over many years donations have been given to the church with the specific intention to help the clergy in their role within the parish, such funds are classed as "Restricted and Designated". The income generated from the Endowment Fund assets - stocks and shares - is applied to the specific purpose of the fund. In accordance with the practice of many years the income is applied as follows: 25% to the General Fund to meet the requirements of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance, the balance to the incumbent to help meet expenses of the office. It would be disproportionately expensive to have the endowment fund managed separately to the other investments. £1400 has been calculated as the appropriate proportion of the income, at present, to go to the expenses of the incumbent. The amount is reviewed annually against the performance of the investments as a whole.

25 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2025, the charity had no capital commitments (2024: £nil).

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**
Tangible fixed assets	305,682	-	-	**305,682**
Investments	233,384	-	54,477	**287,861**
Current assets	176,608	22,246	-	**198,854**
Liabilities	(2,861)	-	-	**(2,861)**
	712,813	22,246	54,477	**789,536**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2024 £**
Tangible fixed assets	527,823	-	-	**527,823**
Investments	222,639	-	51,382	**274,021**
Current assets	21,458	22,588	-	**44,046**
Liabilities	(3,940)	-	-	**(3,940)**
	767,980	22,588	51,382	**841,950**