

ANNUAL RETURN

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending
31 December 2025

St James Church PCC, Bream

Charity number: 1133851

ST. JAMES CHURCH, BREAM

Annual Report 2025

Aim and purposes

St. James Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) purpose is to promote the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This August we bid a fond farewell to our Children, Youth and Family workers. We pray that God's work through them reaches wide in Denmark.

Objectivities and Activities

- The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our Parish Community at St. James. We seek to serve the community of Bream in a variety of practical ways. We have a particular emphasis on encouraging children and young people from the community to engage and participate in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Initiatives / vision for this year include:

    1) Even with the departure of our Children, Youth and Family workers, we will continue to prioritise and resource Family, Youth and Children's ministry.

    2) To develop and maintain a variety of ministries aimed at combating poverty in all its forms in the community. Community Fridge and being part of The Forest Foodbank network of agencies who can facilitate vouchers for those within our Parish is an important part of this work.

    3) Extension of the previous work with families and the school enabling parents and helping them with specific struggles. The future work of Caleb's Mountain will strengthen this ministry.

    4) To continue looking into the development of church buildings to ensure they are fit for purpose.

    5) To support mission partners as agreed through PCC following a support network approach.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific 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 from the Bible; and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, young and old.
- Missionary and outreach work in the UK and further afield.

Achievements and Performance

Under 5's continues to be a strong community service. Unfortunately we have had to return to our Monday morning session only, this is well attended.
Messy Church grows with our local families and local churches volunteering too, we have regular families who return each month.
Memory Cafe continues to serve our community with vital relationships.
Lunch Club also is a popular event held every two weeks.
St James proudly supports X-Site a collaboration with other Churches around the Forest, a high energy bi-monthly coming together celebrating and discovering faith for age 7 to year 7.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer is seen as an essential key to all our outreach and activities at St. James. The Parish Prayer meeting meets once a month in the Church Centre. Prayer also takes place weekly on Wednesdays in the Church building at 7.00am. A team of dedicated people pray most weekdays for 2 hours in the morning using the prayer room in the church centre.
Sunday Worship seeks to be accessible to all, young and old, regular and newcomers. Morning worship is aimed at all ages, the children stay in the main service for the early worship session and then move to the church centre for age related activities. We continue to have an extra communion service at 9 am once a month.
Small Groups we have a number of groups, meeting in people's homes and at the Church Centre, that have committed volunteer leaders, a variety of days and times help us to meet the needs of our congregation and community

Deanery Synod

Two 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. A report from the Deanery Synod is regularly brought to the PCC.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is important to us at St. James, the incumbent and the pastoral team visit the sick and housebound in the village, taking home communion as needed. Care for the bereaved is also an important part of the work at St. James.

Mission and Evangelism

Mission and Evangelism is part of the historic 'life blood' of St. James.
We are reviewing this giving currently to reflect the vision and needs in the wider Christian community.
Supporting Caleb's Mountain seeking to help parents and children within the community and through schools. Although our Children, Youth and Family workers

were employed with Caleb's Mountain we will be seeking a way to continue this important ministry.

Bream Church of England School

Bream School is part of the Severn Federation Academy Trust (SFAT). Stephen Harrison is part of the governing body, along with another of our PCC members.

Our 'Open the Book' team visits the school regularly, presenting bible stories in an engaging format. The school visits the Church for Christmas and Easter services as well as at Harvest and to celebrate the end of the summer term.

Ecumenical Relationships

We continue to work with many of the local churches, with particular links with the youth. X-Site being a cross-church initiative supported by St James.
Branch and Breathe are supported and advertised to grow youth faith journeys.

Safeguarding (Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults)

In consultation with the Diocese of Gloucester this area is taken extremely seriously, with regular training and advice given by the Diocese, and a Child & Vulnerable Adults protection policy formulated for the church. We have a policy of 'safer recruitment' for volunteers and staff and DBS checks are made for those who work regularly with children and vulnerable adults.

There were no safeguarding incidents to report.

Financial Review

Total receipts on Unrestricted and Designated funds were £177,583 of which £1,662 was investment income. Restricted income of £294 including £194 of investment income was also received and is detailed in the Financial Statements. Income from Donations and Legacies increased by almost 4%. However, total income went down by almost 5% due to the grants received in 2024 from the Benefact Trust and The National Society.

£177,549 was spent to provide the general Christian ministry from St James's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share which totalled £76,500 for the year and largely provides the stipend, house and pension costs of the incumbent. The sum that the churches in the deanery have to find is based on the actual ministry costs of each parish. St James's has historically and consistently met the full cost the Diocese has requested, and often contributed slightly above this figure, so contributing 'mutual support' to other churches in the Diocese. It is the church's policy to donate approximately 10% of its unrestricted general income, to support Christian mission work in the United Kingdom and overseas.

The net result for the year before revaluation of fixed assets was an excess of income over expenditure of £33 on unrestricted funds and an excess of expenditure over income of £4,437 on restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy was amended, by the PCC during the November 2025 meeting. The bank balance of £52,607 on 31 December 2025 on unrestricted funds equated to slightly less than 4 months of all unrestricted payments. The current reserves policy states that we should keep 2 months of general expenditure (including Parish Share, utilities and other regular and normal church expenditure) and 3 months wages. This is currently in the region of £25,000 at the end of 2025. It is our policy to invest funds not required for immediate use with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Volunteers

Our volunteers give much of their time and energy helping out in many of the areas of church life – perhaps 80%+ of the work and service is done by willing volunteers. Without these committed volunteers our Church could not reach our community in the way it does. Their work includes the children, young people of our Church and community, the elderly, the local school, maintenance of our buildings, music and much more. Special mention to our Church Wardens Andrew Ewens and Louisa Smallpage-Mitchell. Our thanks to the years Shirley Robinson has been Treasurer, the role has been ably passed to Christine Wakerley mid year. Also to all the members of the PCC for their valuable contribution to our ministry here at St. James, enabling the church to run smoothly.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. James the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Church Wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Decisions that need to be made on matters within the church and the parish itself become the responsibility of the PCC. Part of their role is to decide where the funds of the church are to be distributed.

The full PCC met six times during the year and all meetings were quorate.

Administrative Information

St. James Church is situated in Bream in the Forest of Dean. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St James' Church Centre, Coleford Road, Bream, Lydney GL15 6ES.

The PCC is a body corporate, PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006. (and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.) The PCC was made up of the following members during 2025 – and up until the annual church meeting in May 2026:

Ex Officio:
Stephen Harrison
Don Ely

Wardens:
Andrew Ewens
Louisa Smallpage-Mitchell – until May 2026
Matthew Wakerley – from May 2026

Deanery Synod:
Annie Hemsley – left mid-term in 2025
Sergio Do Nascimento - left mid-term in 2025
Jonathan Hawken – from May 2026

Other Elected Members:
Shirley Robinson as Treasurer until May 2025
Louisa Smallpage-Mitchell – resigned as Churchwarden in May 2026
Cheri do Nascimento – left mid-term 2025
Peter Bean – until May 2026
Dave Chappell
Jane Simpson – left mid-term 2025
Iain Searle
Barry Stevens – until September 2025
Claire Phillips – until September 2025
Lucy Crick - PCC Secretary – until May 2025
Heather Marshall as PCC Secretary – from May 2025
Christine Wakerley as Treasurer – from May 2025

St James Church, Bream
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024 Restated
		£	£	£	£
Total Income					
Planned Giving		111,751	100	**111,851**	**116,226**
Gift Aid		24,582	0	**24,582**	**22,719**
One-Off Donations		9,099	0	**9,099**	**1,098**
Legacies		0	0	**0**	**0**
Donations and Legacies		**145,432**	**100**	**145,532**	**140,043**
Fund Raising		5,317	0	**5,317**	**4,706**
Church Centre Income		2,104	0	**2,104**	**2,639**
Church Activities Income		9,872	0	**9,872**	**10,180**
Charitable Activities		**17,293**	**0**	**17,293**	**17,525**
Grants		**500**	**0**	**500**	**15,920**
Interest		1,662	194	**1,855**	**3,014**
Other Income		12,696	0	**12,696**	**10,582**
Investments & Other Income		**14,358**	**194**	**14,552**	**13,596**
Total Income		**177,583**	**294**	**177,877**	**187,084**
Total Expenditure					
Parish Share		76,500	0	**76,500**	**75,000**
Wages and Expenses	1	32,827	3,432	**36,259**	**55,162**
Property and Office Costs		14,361	0	**14,361**	**14,152**
Property Repairs		10,616	0	**10,616**	**2,640**
General Church Running Costs		7,656	1,212	**8,868**	**7,274**
Depreciation		9,319	0	**9,319**	**9,318**
Church Running Costs		**151,279**	**4,645**	**155,923**	**163,546**
Raising Funds		406	0	**406**	**0**
Church Activities Running Costs		6,025	86	**6,111**	**8,197**
Mission Giving	2	9,600	0	**9,600**	**13,600**
Sundries		10,240	0	**10,240**	**13,429**
Other Expenditure		**26,271**	**86**	**26,357**	**35,226**
Total Expenditure		**177,549**	**4,731**	**182,281**	**198,772**
Net Income less Expenditure		**33**	**(4,437)**	**(4,404)**	**(11,688)**
Net Movement in Funds		**33**	**(4,437)**	**(4,404)**	**(11,688)**
Total funds brought forward		**430,068**	**26,226**	**456,294**	
Total funds carried forward		**430,101**	**21,789**	**451,890**	

St James Church, Bream
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	3	372,153	0	**372,153**	**371,644**
Total Fixed Assets		**372,153**	**0**	**372,153**	**371,644**
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	4	6,848	37	**6,885**	**9,314**
Cash at bank		52,607	21,752	**74,358**	**79,397**
Total Current Assets		**59,455**	**21,789**	**81,243**	**88,711**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one ye	5	1,506	0	**1,506**	**4,062**
Net Current Assets		**57,949**	**21,789**	**79,737**	**84,650**
Net Assets		**430,101**	**21,789**	**451,890**	**456,294**
Income Fund					
Funds Brought Forward		430,068	26,226	**456,294**	
Net Income less Expenditure		33	(4,437)	**(4,404)**	
Total funds		**430,101**	**21,789**	**451,890**	

St James Church, Bream
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2007) and the Charities Act 1993, these accounts have been prepared using the accruals basis of accounting. There have been no changes in accounting policies since last year.

Accounting Policies

Incoming resources are recognised when the church becomes entitled to the resources, the members of the PCC are virtually certain that they will receive the resources, and when the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only recognised when the Church has unconditional entitlement to the resources. Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the accounts at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Fees for examining the accounts

No fees were paid for examining the church's statutory accounts. (2024:£nil)

Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixtures and fittings are depreciated over 5 years on a straight line basis. Only purchases in excess of £1000 are capitalised.
Buildings are presented at their estimated current market value and amortised over a period of 50 years
Computers are depreciated over a period of 4 years

The church building does not belong to the PCC though it is their responsibility to maintain it. We do anticipate that the heating will need an expensive upgrade in the not too distant future.

Reserves Policy

In November 2024 it was decided by the PCC to reduce the reserves to 6 weeks general expenditure with 3 months of wages and other monies committed to remain the same. It was felt that the congregation would not simply stop giving and therefore it was safe to do this.

This was updated in November 2025 to 2 months general expenditure (including Parish Share, utilities and other regular and normal church expenditure) and 3 months wages.

Additionally at the beginning of 2022 it was agreed that, should funds allow, the sum of £5,000 per annum wil be transferred to a building fund to offset further major repairs. There was no surplus with which to do this at the end of 2025.
Any funds added to a building fund in future years will be designated rather than restricted funds. - see Note 6 Restricted Funds.

Notes to the accounts

1. Staff Costs and Expenses

	2025	2024
Salaries & Wages	35,410	54,115
Clergy Expenses	849	1,047
	36,259	**55,162**
Number of paid employees during the year	4	6

Salaries and wages includes small payments to members who provide verger and organist duties at services.

2. Charitable Donations

During the year the Church made the following charitable donations:-

	Overseas	Home	Total	2024
Jane and Hans Koebele and family (OM)	6,600		**6,600**	**6,600**
Bible Society		1,000	**1,000**	**1,000**
Let's Talk Well			**0**	**1,000**
Christians Against Poverty		1,000	**1,000**	**2,000**
Tear Fund			**0**	**1,000**
Turkey	1,000		**1,000**	**2,000**
	7,600	**2,000**	**9,600**	**13,600**

The PCC made the decision in 2024 to retain £1000 of missionary giving to support people from St James carrying out missionary work. This would predominantly but not exclusively be for youth. This has been carried forward to 2025.

3. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation				
Balance brought forward	423,560	18,803	**442,363**	**442,363**
Additions	0	9,827	**9,827**	**0**
Disposal of Assets	0	0	**0**	**0**
Balance carried forward	**423,560**	**28,630**	**452,190**	**442,363**
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance brought forward	55,062	15,657	70,719	61,400
Depreciation for year	8,471	848	9,319	9,319
Balance carried forward	**63,533**	**16,505**	**80,038**	**70,719**
Net Book Value at 31 December 2025	**360,027**	**12,126**	**372,153**	
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	**368,498**	**3,146**	**371,644**	

4. Debtors and Prepayments

	Unrestricted	Restricted/ Designated	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£		£	£
Inland Revenue Gift Aid (inc CYFW)	6,533	0	**6,533**	8,701
Interest due at year end	315	37	**352**	513
Sundry	0	0	**0**	100
	6,848	**37**	**6,885**	**9,314**

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Christmas Hampers	850	0
Falconer & Gilbert (Architects)	0	969
Foodbank	0	500
Baby Bank	0	60
HMRC	275	802
Diocese Fees	0	241
Caleb's Mountain/Linking Lives wages	0	1,410
Other	381	80
Total	**1,506**	4,062

6. Restricted Funds

		Fund Total 2025	2024	Movement 2025
		£	£	
Church Building Fund	9	3,660	3,577	83
Caleb's Mountain	10	17,377	22,340	(4,963)
Linking Lives	11	752	309	443
		21,789	**26,226**	**(4,437)**

Above figures have taken accruals into account.

Due to completion of the work, the PCC has agreed that the Linking Lives account will be closed and all monies transferred to unrestricted funds in 2026.

The PCC plan to upgrade the Church in 2026 and the Church Building Fund will be used as part of this. Caleb's Mountain will be the only remaining restricted fund once that is completed.

7. Related Party Transactions

It is the policy of the PCC to reimburse the Vicar for his out of pocket expenses in full. 2025: £849 2024: £1,047.

Three full members of the PCC were employed by the church for part of the year. As at the end of the year this has reduced to zero. One member of the PCC receives small amounts to act as a verger at services 2025: £120.

8. Church Building Funds

	2025	2024
Opening Balance	3,577	3,329
Expenditure	(111)	0
Interest on Funds	194	248
Closing Balance	3,660	3,577

St James Church, Bream
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9. Caleb's Mountain	2025	2024
Opening Balance	22,340	16,119
Donations	100	1,200
Transfers	200	0
Grants	0	10,000
Gift Aid Received	0	500
Salaries	(4,232)	(4,685)
Other Expenditure	(1,031)	(794)
Closing Balance	17,377	22,340

The grant for 2024 was from the Growing Faith Foundation through the Growing Faith Learning Hub Project.

10. Linking Lives	2025	2024
Opening Balance	309	570
Tfr from PCC (Container Money)		2,000
Grants (Anchor Foundation)		4,640
Other Income	610	50
Salaries	(97)	(6,857)
Other Expenditure	(70)	(94)
Total C/Fwd	752	309

11. Movement in Reserves	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Reserves at 1 January 2025	430,068	26,226	**456,294**
Net gain / (loss) for the year	33	(4,437)	**(4,404)**
Reserves at 31 December 2025	430,101	21,789	**451,890**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	St James PCC, Bream		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/25	**Charity no (if any)**	1133851
Set out on pages	1 – 6 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The ~~charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name~~ of ~~applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives 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 no concerns and 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	D. Broom	**Date:**	14/5/26
Name:	DEREK BROOM FCCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body	CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANT		

(if any):	
Address:	FAIRWAYS, LANSDOWN WALK, BREAM GLOS GL15 6NE

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	