We have also taken part in church and local community table fairs, selling our makes to raise funds for St Barts.

At Easter we sold our makes at church and raised £157 for church funds.

In November we had a stall at the church Christmas Fair and raised £211 and then a stall at Ignition Christmas Market which raised £278.50.

We are a small but friendly group of crafters who welcome all who wish to join us, whether you come along for the craft, or just the tea & chat. Why not come and join us?

Jo Perry, March 2026



The Parish of Sydenham

St Bartholomew's Church

Annual Report

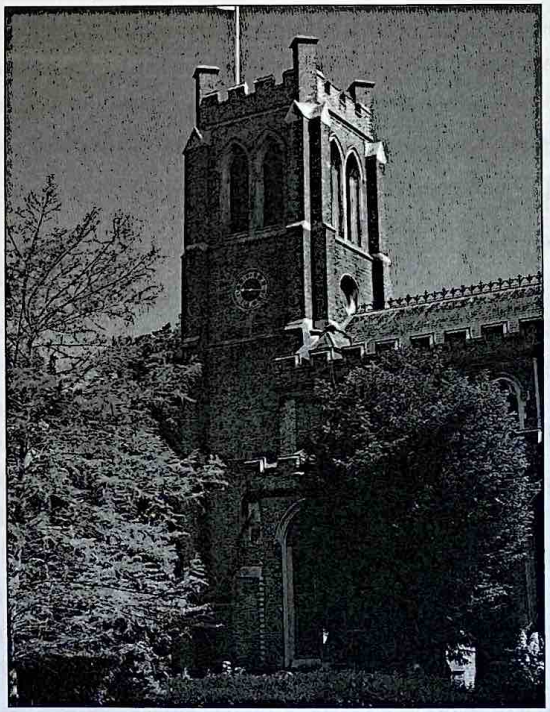


photo taken by Peter Stubbs

May 2026

The Diocese of Southwark
St Bartholomew's Church
Westwood Hill, Sydenham
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CONTENTS

1.	Electoral Roll	3
2.	Vicar	3
3.	Curate	5
4.	PCC Secretary	5
5.	Churchwardens (including Buildings & Fabric)	7
6.	Financial Summary for the year ended 31 December 2025	9
7.	Lettings	11
8.	Safeguarding	12
9.	Health & Safety	12
10.	Music	13
11.	Flowers	13
12.	St Bartholomew's School	14
13.	Sydenham Life	15
14.	Knit & Natter	16

1. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was completely revised last year. This allows us to have a realistic up to date picture of those who actively engage with the life of the Parish, whether or not they attend on a Sunday. As a result the number on the Roll is much lower than in the last few years, partly due to those who have moved away and partly due to those who have died and in one or two cases because someone no longer attends the church.

At present the number on the Electoral Roll stands at 97 (87 in 2025). There are still a few who regularly attend worship on a Sunday but who have not yet joined the Roll. We will continue to encourage people to 'sign-up'. There are 55 members who reside in the parish (Category A on the form) and 41 who are officially resident outside the parish (Category B).

Nigel Ralph, Church Electoral Roll Officer, March 2026

2. Vicar's Report

Jesus said to the disciples "In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places." *John 6: 2, from this morning's Gospel reading*. A possibly familiar reading that sets out our Christian hope that Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place in our eternal dwelling ready for all who choose to follow him there. Jesus goes on to speak of his unity with the Father and the unity we have with Jesus. The reading is often read at funerals, reminding us of our hope as we commend the deceased into God's eternal care. But Jesus is clear that it is not a passive hope about the future, but an active hope that drives our present as God's people on earth; our eternity starts now – we live it in our present time and place, the Body of Christ in Sydenham, both as individual Christians and as a church fellowship.

So as we look back over the previous year, once again THANK YOU to all those who play a part in helping St Bartholomew's live out our calling. I remain enormously thankful to Lesley and Roland our Church Wardens who do so much, both visible and 'behind the scenes'. The Warden's role is a significant one, and I continue to hope and pray that we may be able to appoint assistant Wardens to support them. The sacristy team make sure we always have a stock of candles, wine, bread and linen, and that everything is ready for Sunday worship . We have a large team who

prepare, edit and distribute Sydenham Life month by month – as you'll see from their report, new people to join the team, especially distributors, would be welcome. Tim, Roland and Kathy continue to to a great job, together with the choir, in providing music, and a number of people help lead our worship as readers, intercessors and Eucharistic ministers, or provide welcome and hospitality. Shireen Williams has served as PCC secretary as well as the many roles she often has on a Sunday morning. Rosalind, Gian, Ruth and Shireen prepare the rotas for Sunday mornings and are always pleased for new people to join. Colleen prepared the flowers for church for a number of years, working with Jean Clark and continued, together with Jayne, following Jean's death. During the year Colleen had to step back for health reasons, and she now lives in Westwood House. Thank you to Colleen, and to Jayne who continues to prepare the flowers – if anyone would like to join her she would be please to speak to you, no experience necessary!

2025 saw a notable increase in regular attendance at Sunday worship – around 16% on average! This was also reflected in attendance at Christmas and Easter. We thank God for this and hope and pray that we continue to see growth in attendance, activity and spiritual maturity. Several community events were particularly successful; our St Bart's day 'hymns and prayers', carols in the churchyard and in the Greyhound all help to ensure that what we do is not hidden behind the walls. Our Halloween event, where Jo, David and Sophie gave a wonderful dramatic reading of 'Funny Bones' was an unexpected success – we served 9 ½ litres of hot chocolate and gave out 150m packs of sweets!

We continue to offer a welcome to children and families. Thank you to Clare, Edward and Jo who have continued to run a monthly group for children during the 10:00 service on the second Sunday of the month. There were 5 Christenings of children in the year. Our MAP commits us to exploring ways to expand our work with children, families and young people. If these are areas of particular interest to you, do speak to us.

Another commitment in our MAP was to expand opportunities for study and learning together. Recent Lent, study groups and 'brief introduction' breakfasts have been well attended and feedback has been good.

It has been wonderful to have Mthr Bethany as a colleague. While she is here as a Curate to learn and develop, she continues to contribute a great deal to our life, through preaching and teaching, leading worship, pastorally, and much more.

In our Deanery we welcomed Fr Julian as vicar of St Hilda's, Crofton Park and in my role as Area Dean, as well as being close by, myself and Mthr Bethany (and also with Bethany's wife, Charlie) have been supporting a neighbouring Parish while their vicar has been on an extended sabbatical. It has also been good to welcome Rev'd Allan as pastor of Grove Centre Church and we look forward to working with him.

As we thank God for all the good things, there are also challenges. Our wonderful building has a growing list of significant needs. We are currently awaiting the quinquennial report from our architect which will help us to prioritise the work to be done. Additionally there are ideas for improving our facilities, that together may form the basis of a project to get the building in good shape for the 200th anniversary of our founding in 2032. More to come!

Finances are also a challenge. Our Diocese, Southwark, have reported that over the last 5 years costs have increased by around 20%, while income has only increased by 1%. As a result they are planning for a significant 'reduction in resources' within 5 years. This will affect both clergy numbers and the support available to parishes from the Diocesan team. It presents a challenge to all parishes, including ourselves, to consider increasing our 'Parish pledge' – the amount we contribute to the Diocese. We currently only pledge around 2/3rds of the 'indicative cost' of our Parish, it would be good to increase this.
A further financial challenge to the Parish has been a claim against us by the owners of the building adjacent to the church, that one of the trees in the churchyard has caused damage to their building. This required significant legal support and eventually a settlement. The settlement and legal costs have used up nearly 3/4rs of our reserves. The good news is that, thanks to our treasurer Peter Stubb's careful stewardship, we had the reserves in the first place!
Both of these matters put pressure on our financial position and outlook. I am hugely grateful for the generosity of our congregations and for the relative stability of our finances. The only sources of income we have is our rental income and the donations we receive. Recognising that everyone is facing financial pressures at this time, where it is possible to either increase giving to the Parish, or to sign up to regular giving through the bank, I encourage you to do so. And again, thank you

everyone who contributes financially in any way, and to Peter who with the support of Nigel looks after our finances.

In the year ahead we will say farewell to Bishop Christopher who has faithfully served us as both Bishop of Woolwich and of Southwark; he will be greatly missed. We pray for all those involved in selecting the Bishop of Southwark.

In challenging times, may we continue to be people of hope, trusting in the one who has gone before us, but also walks with us; to whom be all praise and glory, now and always.

Rev'd Jim, Easter 5, 2025.

3. Curate's Report

My second year as your curate has been a remarkable one, not least since it has been my first year as a priest. I had the great privilege of celebrating my first eucharist with you in July, and of serving you as both deacon and priest since then.

As last year, each month, I have been required to attend training with the other curates of the diocese. This year we have had sessions on governance, inter-faith work, and estates ministry to name but a few. Each time we meet, we have been studying the gospel according to St. Matthew, which you will have seen the fruit of in my preaching on the lectionary gospel this year. As part of this programme, I have also had chance to reflect and write about the Assisted Dying debate, and the impact of presiding at the eucharist on my ministry.

In my day to day work as curate, I have continued working closely with St. Bartholomew's school doing collective worship, arranging visits, and acting as a governor. This year I have also had the opportunity to work with the GDST school up the road, teaching a PSHE lesson, showing some students around the church, and opening opportunities to work with their music department in the future.

I have had the opportunity to conduct more funerals this year, and look forward to presiding at the blessing of Laurence and Alba's wedding in Easter week. I love this part of my job, where I get to draw alongside people at the best and worst times of their lives, to pray with them and to bless them, and to see God's goodness in their lives.

This year has also seen me and Charlie take two pilgrimages. We kept you all in our prayers as we walked to Santiago de Compostela last Easter, and to Canterbury in October. We are all God's pilgrim people, and to undertake these walks reminded me strongly of that fact. We are all pilgrims on the same road, and I am pleased that for this season God has called me to walk alongside you.

The Rev'd Bethany Emily Middleton, Assistant Curate, March 2026

4. PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC met 5 times this year. Meetings have been well attended. The PCC discusses and makes decisions on a wide variety of topics and issues during the year, mainly prompted by the reports from its various sub-committees. In addition, there was other business to discuss:

May	Welcomed new members to the PCC. Discussed the charities for Mission Giving. Discussion of the Mission Action Plan and the priority of the things to be done as part of this.
July	
Sep	Discussion on the amount of the parish pledge took place. Agreed that the charities suggested by the PCC for Mission Giving would be put to the congregation to choose. Health & Safety protocols that had been completed and also those to be done were discussed. Also, was what was to be done about the heating. Safeguarding Officers were appointed.
Nov	The parish pledge had been accepted by the Diocese. The forecasted budget for the year was discussed and approved. Discussion on the increased numbers attending the 10:00 service and the need to follow-up with newcomers. There was also discussion of the Christmas Services.
Mar	Accounts for last year were discussed. A new resolution on Safeguarding Serious Incident Reporting was discussed and passed. Mission statistics for 2024 and 2025 were also discussed.

Shireen Williams, PCC Secretary

5. Churchwardens' Report
including report on the Goods, Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

As we approach the 200th anniversary of the building of St. Bartholomew's Church, we continue to wage a constant battle with building issues brought about by time and use. There is work that needs doing in the near future or in the next few years in several areas, but we have recently had a Quinquennial Inspection and are currently awaiting the report from Thomas Ford & Partners; this will enable us to prioritise work that needs doing. Some of the areas requiring attention are:

North porch – this is showing some structural damage to the masonry, and it has been suggested by the architect that a diagnostic hole needs to be dug to help determine the issue. We are currently awaiting the specifications for this.

As previously identified, the nave roof has been patched up in recent years, but it is likely that it will need to be replaced at some stage in the next few years. This will require some major fundraising.

The church heating remains compromised due to a leak beneath the stone flooring which has necessitated isolating part of the system, thus reducing its effectiveness. We have topped up the heating with space heaters in the colder months, but we do require a longer-term solution. We have had a survey of our heating and electrical systems carried out, with a view to identifying a more eco-friendly way to provide our heating and other needs. Modern solutions include ways of focusing the heating where it is most effective, i.e. heating the people and not the empty spaces, and we will be ascertaining the most suitable solution for our space. Again, this is likely to require some fundraising; we believe there may be some grants available for eco-friendly heating in the near future and this would certainly be of assistance in reaching the financial goal.

We have some funds left from previous fundraising by Sabre which are available for completion of the works on the drainage system, and this will be done once we have prioritised work identified in the Quinquennial Report.

We are still waiting for the required work on the bell to be done; this is subject to a faculty and availability of the bell specialists.

Replacement for lighting serving the chancel is still awaiting approval of a faculty; once this is done, the work can be completed quite quickly. We did instal some

external lighting to cover the path from the north porch to the front of the church this year, as there was a health and safety issue for people leaving events in the hall on dark evenings.

Due to generous donations received, we are able to carry out work to clean, restore and relight the reredos, and also to redecorate the hall. A sample clean has been done on the reredos. Work on the hall will be planned as part of our long-term plan, mentioned below.

As part of our Mission Plan, which is shortly due for renewal, it is the intention that, informed by the Quinquennial Report and our current knowledge, we will create a schedule of work to be done to protect and sustain the building well into the next 200 years.

A recent great disappointment to us was the result of the claim against us for damage caused to the neighbouring property by the roots of the oak trees by the lychgate. The Diocese made it clear that this was an issue for the church but put us in touch with the Diocesan solicitor specialising in this type of issue, who has been advising us. Our insurers are currently denying liability and we have had to take the decision to settle the claim, to avoid the risk of incurring a liability for damages and legal costs of a much higher sum. We are continuing to try to recover at least some of the amount settled from our insurers.

Following Nigel Rushton's retirement, we have engaged with local tradespeople to carry out maintenance tasks, but we would really welcome some support from members of the congregation with maintenance skills and/or buildings knowledge to assist us to protect and maintain the building and manage projects relating to the building.

Roland has project-managed periodic cleaning days to tackle the areas that don't get picked up in our regular weekly cleaning, and another one will be scheduled soon. Volunteers able to assist with this exercise in any way are encouraged to make themselves known to Roland.

As always, we would like to acknowledge the great contribution made by regular volunteers, without whom we couldn't function. Our thanks go to all who volunteer in any way at St. Bart's; the stewards, sacristans, readers, choir and musicians, those who do the flowers, serve coffee, deliver sacraments, look after the church linen, buy supplies, or act as Treasurer or on the PCC or in any other voluntary

capacity; also those who generously donate to help us to achieve our aims. Grateful thanks also to Rev Jim and Mother Bethany, for leading us all so well.

Lesley and Roland, Churchwardens, March 2026

6. Financial Summary for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

(A copy of the full accounts and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 is available for viewing on the notice board at the back of church. Printed copies are available on request.)

1) General Fund

Most of our day-to-day income and running costs go through the General Fund.

Regular donations via the Parish Giving Scheme stayed at a healthy £57,000, which is a very good result because it fell the previous year. We had a one-off boost from the sale for £5,300 of one of the freeholds on the site of the old church hall. On the fundraising side, the income from lettings, the Nearly New Sale and Christmas Fair etc. was similar to 2024. Income from renting the flat has been partly replaced by a Curate Training Subsidy from the diocese. Total income increased by £9,000.

Some costs did rise in 2025, such as our Pledge to the diocese, utilities and non-fund-raising expenses, and overall in the General Fund we had a deficit of £6,000 in the year. There is a challenge to encourage more regular giving, hire out the hall and crypt more, and have more fundraising activities.

Cash reserves in the General Fund would cover about 50% of our annual running costs. It is good practice to have reserves for at least three months expenses, and we are above that.

2) Buildings Fund

All costs relating to the maintenance of the church buildings are shown in the Buildings Fund. Costs were £5,000 in 2025 for the regular repairs and maintenance to the church. Other building costs of £7,000 were for installing a new boiler in the flat, and legal fees for the tree subsidence claim. We received donations towards building works of £4,000, and we also made a transfer from the General Fund of £7,000 towards these costs.

Overall, we made a small surplus of £1,000 in the fund (allowing for increased equity in the flat as we pay off the loan). This resulted in reserves for future building

work standing at £31,000 at the end of the year. The equity in the curate's flat (the difference between the purchase price and the outstanding mortgage) now stands at £152,000. This is not available to spend unless the flat is sold.

3) SABRE Fund

During 2025 the only movement was interest earned of £1,262. There is £89,000 in the fund for further repairs, restoration, and improvements to the building. The 2025 Quinquennial survey will highlight the priorities for future work.

4) Specific Projects Fund

This fund is used for special causes and charities, piano and organ restoration work, youth work, a small welfare fund, and Area Dean expenses. At the end of 2025 there was a surplus in this fund of £4,000.

Peter Stubbs, PCC Treasurer, March 2026

7. Lettings Report

We have two regular weekly hall hirers – Eos Dance on Saturday mornings and Vocal Chords on Monday evenings, both of whom have been with us several years now. Unfortunately, the Tuesday Pilates class came to an end due to the teacher having a long-term injury. We therefore still have evening availability on several evenings in the hall. There is a possibility of a choir starting in the near future.

The church is still used by Bishop Vanessa's congregation early on Sunday afternoons and various groups also hire the church for occasional concerts; this includes Bach to Baby, Baby Broadway and Violin Lab, who hold their regular pupils' concerts with us.

St Bart's is a popular venue for musical and theatrical performances, and we are a regular base for local groups such as ensemble 26, who have brought several high-quality musical performances and their now annual performances of The Snowman to the church, and Spontaneous Productions, who this year delivered original performances based around Ernest Shackleton and Jane Austen. We have also welcomed Crystal Palace Brass Band, Paradisal Players and others.

Part of our crypt has been hired out to musicians as a studio for the last couple of years, and this has continued; this is regular income and a valuable contribution to the budget.

Ad-hoc hire of the hall for children's parties, Resident Association AGMs and other events has continued, although frequency has not returned to pre-covid levels.

We also organise a number of our own events. This year, they have included a jumble sale; Christmas Fair; Quiz Night; Music, Cheese & Wine Evening and a Burns Night. All have been well attended and enjoyed. Our Knit & Natter group meets twice a month on Saturday mornings, and they have again this year produced a whole range of knitted and crocheted items which have been sold to raise money for church funds.

We plan to have more frequent church events, but they all take time to plan and run. We would love to have more people involved so that we can spread the load and hold events more often, so if this is something you think you might be able to help with, in whatever capacity, please do let me know!

Lesley Khatibi, March 2026

8. Safeguarding

Following the Safeguarding Audit which was carried out in 2025 the PCC and Safeguarding Officers under the leadership of Reverend Jim and Mother Bethany continue to do their upmost to ensure that St Bartholomew's Church is a safe and inclusive space for all who use it.

There is a dedicated area to Safeguarding on the church notice board.

There has been a change in the Safeguarding officers due to the sad loss of Lisa Fannon, in addition to Bernard Rice moving outside of the area. There is currently one vacancy - if you have any suggestions of someone who may be appropriate, or would like to know more about the role, please speak to the Clergy, Wardens or Hilary-Anne Buckhurst. PCC members have undertaken basic on-line Safeguarding training. The Safeguarding officer has also attended face to face Safeguarding Training at Trinity House, Southwark and two courses of online training.

No major issues were found at St Bartholomew's in last years audit but we are by no means complacent. Safeguarding covers all groups within St Bartholomew's.

It is the responsibility of all of our church family and we welcome any suggestions or observations to ensure we have a safe church for everyone.

Hilary-Anne Buckhurst

9. Health & Safety

There was one incident recorded in the accident book during the year, not related to the building or fabric of the church.

Re-carpeting of the Nave, including the the edgings will form part of the plans for the repair and renewal of our building.

High-viz jackets have been acquired and plans are in hand for fire officer training. However we do need to increase the number of trained First Aid Officers. If you have up-to-date First Aid training from work or other activity and would be willing to be identified as a First Aid Officer for the Church, or would be interested in undertaking training, please speak to the the Wardens.

10. Music

Music in our Sunday worship has taken a new turn. Roland Bates is the Choirmaster and plays the piano. Tim Walder plays the organ and occasionally helps out with leading the choir. Kathy Swanson also helps by playing the piano. Other members of the choir help by preparing the room for practice, sorting out the books and music sheets and lending their advice and experience. The former Singers Group and the Choir have effectively merged and we said goodbye to XXXX. The Choir is also engaged in a medium term project to tidy up and sort out the Choir Vestry.

Tim plays quieter music before the service and something more lively at the end, from a repertoire which extends from the Baroque to the Modern, with some Classical and Romantic in between, as appropriate to the liturgical season and the theme of the service. Suggestions for pieces are welcome. The Choir have consistently supported the singing of hymns, psalms, and liturgical music (with different settings for different seasons) and sung the anthem during communion. The hymns now include some ancient classics and other popular hymns from the 18th and 19th centuries, along with new and more modern (sometimes very modern) offerings. The anthems have included the very ancient (Hildegard of Bingham, almost 1,000 years old), through to classics of the English Choral Tradition, to American and other gospel numbers and modern pieces.

Rehearsals, which are light-hearted and enjoyable, take place at 6.30pm on Thursday evenings and 9.30am on Sunday mornings in the Choir Vestry. The Choir would warmly welcome new members: the only qualification is enthusiasm for singing and supporting worship: the ability to read music or sing in parts is not necessary.

The organ (which dates in part back to 1874) continues to hold up well and is generally in fair working order. It is regularly tuned and maintained by a reputable organ company. We have made good use of the excellent new piano, which is a delight. We have made occasional use of an electronic keyboard. We enjoyed welcoming Noel Treddinick, a well know modern hymn writer, for a service, where he played both organ and piano exceptionally well.

Our Mission Action Plan includes proposals for the development of the choir, singers and music and the appointment of a new organist and / or Director of Music will form part of those discussions.

Tim Walder, Organist, March 2026

11. Flowers

Colleen and I, assisted by Anne, have provided the flowers in church throughout the year.

These have been in the Easter and Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, and other arrangements to reflect the festivals the church remembers throughout the year. We also include different hues in the flowers which we add for the weekly services during Ordinary Times when the theme is green (stems and leaves) but we can use a variety of flower colours.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Colleen has now had to step down after many years of providing such wonderful arrangements for us all to enjoy. With no training or experience whatsoever, except for putting bunches in vases, I try to keep both hers and Jean Clarks' arrangements in mind when I now do them.

I would love to hear from anyone who is interested in helping me – absolutely no previous experience or training is necessary.

Jayne Newman March 2026

12. St Bartholomew's School

To follow – available separately.

13. Sydenham Life

Sydenham Life has existed in some form or other since 1st Jan 1868 – 158yrs! All copies are with the British Library. The magazine is currently produced 10 times a year and delivered free to most households in the Parish (around 3,000 homes). The current edition with several previous editions can be downloaded or read online at St Bartholomew's Church Near You site.

We welcome submissions of articles, pictures, poetry, crosswords, story ideas, artwork etc., although we are unable to pay for submissions.

It is possible to advertise in Sydenham Life and we encourage local people to make use of local traders advertising in the magazine.

Sydenham Life is a crucial part of the St Bartholomew's Outreach. We welcome volunteers to help pack and deliver Sydenham Life. For the magazine to continue as a free, printed publication many more volunteers are needed to help, especially with distribution.

The Sydenham Life Working Group members are listed at the back of the Church.

Thank you to all, old and new volunteers, the local community, and everyone at St Bart's Church for your invaluable support.

Contacts:

Editor / submissions	Geoffrey	sydenhamlifeeditor@gmail.com
Advertising	Jane	slifeads@hotmail.co.uk
Distribution	Ope	otudek@yahoo.com

14. Knit & Natter

Throughout 2025, we have continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm (ish!) We mostly bring our own projects, drink tea & coffee, and chat about our week while we craft.

In March we took part in 'Knit every day in March' fundraising event for Alzheimer's UK. Together we raised £821 for Alzheimer's UK charity.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Charity Commission Registration Number 1133852

CONTENTS

Page	2	Balance Sheet
	3	Statement of Financial Activities
	4 to 5	General Fund
	6	Buildings & SABRE Funds
	7	Specific Projects Fund
	8 to 10	Notes to the Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets *(curate's flat at cost)*	2		183,131		*183,131*
Current assets:					
Debtors & accrued income *(Dec Parish Giving, curate subsidy energy account in credit, lettings)*		29,748		*15,015*	
Payments in advance *(insurance)*		4,773		*4,680*	
Balance at Natwest bank *(current account)*		92,933		*89,296*	
Balance at CAF bank *(current account)*		39,556		*69,201*	
Balance at CofE CBF (Central Board of Finance *(deposit account))*		26,198		*25,064*	
Balance on Church Equals debits cards		533		*1,291*	
Cash in church safe for event floats and petty cash		881		*511*	
		194,622		*205,058*	
Current liabilities:					
Loan amount payable within one year *(flat repayment)*	2	6,464		*6,464*	
Other creditors due within one year *(accruals)*		4,288		*8,586*	
- fees due to the Diocese & Mission Giving					
		10,752		*15,050*	
Net current assets			183,870		*190,008*
Total assets minus current liabilities			367,001		*373,139*
Long term liability					
Diocesan loan for flat purchase - *payable after one year*	2	24,363		*31,242*	
			24,363		*31,242*
			342,638		*341,897*
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			66,584		*72,595*
Restricted funds					
Buildings fund					
curate flat purchase cost	183,131				
curate flat outstanding mortgage	30,827				
equity in curate flat - not available to spend	152,304				
surplus in fund that can be spent on works	31,014				
total in Buildings Fund at end of year	183,318	183,318		*178,091*	
SABRE restoration fund		88,611		*87,349*	
Specific projects fund		4,124		*3,862*	
			276,053		*269,302*
	8		342,637		*341,897*

Rev. Jim Perry
Incumbent

Lesley Khatibi
Churchwarden

Roland Bates
Churchwarden

March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- summarising the three funds in SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund £	Building fund £	SABRE restoration fund £	Specific projects fund £	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	91,073	0	0	1,178	92,251	*86,008*
Activities for generating funds	37,495	4,000	0	0	41,495	*52,159*
Investment income	0	0	1,262	0	1,262	*163*
Incoming resources from charitable activities ie fees	1,773	0	0	0	1,773	*763*
Total incoming resources	130,341	4,000	1,262	1,178	136,781	*139,093*
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Costs of running the church	122,888	18,701	0	916	142,505	*154,625*
Governance costs (examination of accounts)	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Total resources expended	122,888	18,701	0	916	142,505	*154,625*
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	7,453	-14,701	1,262	262	-5,724	*-15,532*
reduction in flat loan liability - to Balance Sheet	0	6,464	0	0	6,464	*6,464*
Transfers between funds	-13,464	13,464	0	0	0	*0*
Net movement in funds	-6,011	5,227	1,262	262	740	*-9,068*
Total funds as at 1 January 2025	72,595	178,091	87,349	3,862	341,897	*350,965*
Total funds as at 31 December 2025	66,584	183,318	88,611	4,124	342,637	*341,897*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Incoming Resources					
Donated income					
Parish Giving Scheme - *regular giving*		57,147		*57,089*	
Tax (gift aid) - *reclaimed on donations*		15,806		*13,420*	
Weekly collections - *now including the credit card machine*		8,186		*8,675*	
Non-specific donations *(various donations, votive stand etc)*		2,382		*1,645*	
Old Church Hall site *(ground rents and sale of 1 freehold)*		5,970		*250*	
Donations towards Sydenham Life costs		981		*2,000*	
Occasional collections *(at special services and events)*		601		*0*	
			91,073		*83,079*
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns			1,773		*763*
Fund-raising activities					
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire		22,089		*22,933*	
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		1,890		*1,820*	
Jumble sale income (*donations and the October Sale)*		1,449		*2,049*	
Floodlighting		0		*50*	
Action Bibles donations		270		*416*	
Remembrance Book donations		0		*500*	
Rent from the curate's flat (non currently)		0		*2,850*	
Curate training subsidy (from the diocese)		8,600		*4,300*	
Sunday morning coffee, breakfasts, afternoon teas		287		*424*	
Christmas Fair - *receipts and donations*		1,723		*1,771*	
Flowers donations		110		*0*	
Quiz Evening		448		*0*	
Knit and natter		629		*446*	
			37,495		*37,559*
Total general fund incoming resources			130,341		*121,401*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Resources Expended					
On church objects					
Parish Pledge to Diocese - *for clergy salaries, housing and training*		66,860		*65,545*	
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		5,250		*5,250*	
Utilities - *water, gas, electricity* - up due to timings and credits		15,285		*11,725*	
Bank charges		61		*61*	
Insurance - *for the building*		4,680		*4,572*	
Altar requisites - *wafers, wine, candles etc*		1,345		*698*	
Interest on loan to purchase the curate's flat		2,724		*3,557*	
Curate's flat service charge, council tax, repairs (refurbished in 2024)		4,278		*12,450*	
Cleaning - *includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean*		3,451		*3,796*	
Flower costs		141		*420*	
Staff expenses - travel, telephone etc	9	1,660		*243*	
Books & print		809		*346*	
Office expenses - photocopier, paper, wifi etc		2,199		*2,449*	
Non fund-raising activities *(catering for church events, flag misc costs)*		2,759		*1,256*	
Organist and pianist		4,555		*3,935*	
Choir & music - *church copyright licence, music books*		550		*660*	
Instrument maintenance		2,522		*2,400*	
Mission giving - *to local/national/international charities*	3	2,730		*2,600*	
Sunday morning coffee expenses		87		*104*	
Quiz costs		59		*0*	
Chistmas fair costs		187		*0*	
Jumble sale costs		168		*0*	
Action Bible costs		528		*450*	
total normal costs			122,888		*122,517*
Inter-fund transfers etc:					
Transfer to Buildings Fund - capital repayments on flat	2	-6,464		*-6,464*	
Transer from Builidngs Fund - curate flat refurbishment in 2024		0		*11,300*	
Transfer to Buildings Fund - repairs and renewals		-7,000		*-7,000*	
Total Inter-fund transfers etc:			-13,464		*-2,164*
Total general fund resources expended			136,352		*124,681*
Net (Deficit)/Surplus in the General Fund in the year			-6,011		*-3,280*
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year			72,595		*75,875*
Surplus/(deficit) carried forward to the ensuing year			66,584		*72,595*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

BUILDINGS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Donated income for repairs *including a legacy*		4,000		*14,600*	
Total buildings fund incoming resources			4,000		*14,600*
Resources Expended					
Routine repairs & maintenance	4	5,193		10,815	
Building works (new flat boiler and tree legal fees)		7,044			
Capital paid off loan to purchase curate's flat	2	6,464		6,464	
Total buildings fund resources expended			18,701		*17,279*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			(14,701)		*(2,679)*
Surplus from the previous year (inc equity in flat)			178,091		*172,142*
transfer from General Fund for flat capital repayment			6,464		*6,464*
transfer from General Fund for repairs & maintenance			7,000		*7,000*
transfer to General fund for curate flat refurbishment in 2024			0		*-11,300*
increase in Buildings Fund = reduction in loan liability on balance sheet			6,464		*6,464*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			183,318		*178,091*
Of this surplus, the amount available for works, excluding the equity in the flat, is:			31,014		*32,666*

SABRE RESTORATION FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
SABRE donations including gift aid		0		*0*	
grant income		0		*0*	
fundraising		0		*0*	
			0		*0*
Investment income					
Interest on balances with CAF and CCLA (mainly SABRE funds)		1,262		*163*	
			1,262		*163*
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources			1,262		*163*
Resources Expended					
SABRE restoration costs (VAT refund in 2024)	5	0		*0*	
Total SABRE fund resources expended			0		*0*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			1,262		*163*
Surplus from the previous year			87,349		*87,186*

Surplus carried forward to the following year	88,611	*87,349*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations					
Bishop's Lent appeal - *for a range of charities*		100		325	
Area Dean expenses fund for Rev. Jim to administer		500		0	
Carol service - *to Embrace the Middle East*		158		233	
Piano and Organ donations - *for the new piano*		0		13,555	
Christingle service - *for The Children's Society*		400		211	
Christian Aid collections		20		0	
Total specific projects fund incoming resources			1,178		*14,323*
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on church objects					
Bishop's Lent call		100		*197*	
Area Dean costs incurred		238		*0*	
Embrace the Middle East donations sent		158		*231*	
Christian Aid		20		*0*	
Piano and Organ restoration and purchase		0		*14,100*	
The Children's Society (Christingle)		400		*221*	
Community supermarket		0		*80*	
Total specific projects fund resources expended			916		*14,829*
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			262		*-11,900*
Surplus from the previous year			3,862		*15,762*
Surplus carried forward to the ensuing year			4,124		*3,862*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Commission's revised Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP).

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for its general purposes.
The Buildings Fund is a restricted fund deriving its income from legacies, donations and fund-raising activities to be used specifically for building work. It now holds the equity in the flat purchased for curates in training.
The Specific Projects Fund is a restricted fund reserved for the projects listed for which the incoming funds have been earmarked.

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

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the following manner:

(i) Collections and planned giving when received.
(ii) Gift Aid recoverable on donations, when receivable.
(iii) Grants and legacies to the PCC, when received.
(iv) Income from fund-raising and similar activities, gross when received.
(v) Investment income and income receivable, when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same year.

Resources Used

The Parish Pledge paid to the Diocese covers the cost of clergy, pensions, housing and central overheads. It is accounted for in the year during which payment is sought. Any unpaid contribution at 31st December is included in the balance sheet as a creditor (though not a legal liability).

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from these accounts.

Other property held for the church's use is shown at cost of acquisition (eg the curate's flat).

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts due to the PCC at 31 December 2025

2) **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Office Equipment £	Long Leasehold £
Cost		
At 1st January 2025	2,792	183,130
Additions	0	0
At 31st December 2025	2,792	183,130
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2025	2,791	0
For the year	0	0
At 31st December 2025	2,791	0
Net Book Amounts		
At 31st December 2025	1	183,130
At 31st December 2025	1	183,130

The leasehold property was purchased on 10th August 2005 for the purpose of housing curates sent to the parish by the Diocese of Southwark for training. It consists of a flat at 1 Ashleigh Court, 81 Lawrie Park Road, London, SE26 6EX. In accordance with the law relating to property held by parishes, the legal owners of the property are the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and the South London Church Fund as Custodian Trustees for the parish. Any capital gain or loss on the property will accrue to the parish.
The flat was purchased for £183,130, and might now be worth more than that.
The loan of £150,000 from the Diocese is repayable over 25 years from 12th August 2005 by monthly instalments inclusive of interest currently at 3.5% above Bank Rate.
The lease has been extended to 990 years.

	£
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2024	37,706
less repayments made in 2025	-9,603
plus interest costs added in 2025	2,724
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2025	30,827
amount payable within one year	6,464
amount payable after one year	24,363
	30,827

Now included in the accounts is a transfer from the General Fund to the Buildings Fund equal to the capital repayments for the flat loan. Interest costs are an expense from the General Fund, but capital repayments result in an increase in the Buldings Fund as the loan liability reduces. Significant capital repayments are now being made, and the addition of this line makes clear the funding needs for these repayments. So the surplus or deficit in the General Fund shows the full position after both interest and capital repayments have been made.

3) MISSION GIVING

Mission giving is agreed at 3% of the church's donated income during the previous year and was used to support various causes by direct giving from the church's general income, rather than by specific fund-raising activities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

4) BUILDINGS FUND

The balance in this fund represents the funds donated for building works, and the equity in the curate's flat. A summary of the money available for building works is:

available for repairs works at 31/12/2024	£32,666
donations received for building works	£4,000
transferred from the General Fund - repairs & maintenance	£7,000
building works	-£7,044
spent on routine repairs and maintenance	-£5,193
available for repairs at 31/12/2025	**£31,429**
plus the equity in the curate's flat (not availble to spend)	£152,304
total carried forward in Buildings Fund at 31/12/25	£183,733

5) **SABRE RESTORATION FUND**

The Saint Barts Restoration Appeal (SABRE) was launched in 2014 to raise money for a comprehensive programme of repairs to and restoration of the building, along with improvements to benefit the congregation and community.

funds brought forward 1/1/2025	£87,349
funds raised in 2025	£0
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)	£1,262
income/spend in the year	£0
SABRE funds available at 31/12/2025	£88,611

This balance is held in the church accounts at NatWest, CAF bank and CBF (Church of England account).
The total raised so far since the appeal was launched is: £415,526

6) SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND

The balance in this fund at 31/12/2025 breaks down as:

£1,048	Youth Work funds
£1,152	Welfare Fund, to be used at the discretion of the vicar for needy members of the congregation.
£262	Balance in the Area Dean expenses fund
£1,662	available for organ restoration and repairs
£4,124	

7) PCC MEMBERS

No member of the PCC has received any remuneration from the PCC during the year.

8) ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BALANCE SHEET HEADINGS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund	Building fund	SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	0	183,131	0	0	183,131	*183,131*
Current assets	69,957	31,014	88,611	4,124	193,706	*205,058*
Less Current liabilities	4,288	6,464	0	0	10,752	*15,050*
Less Long term liabilities	0	24,363	0	0	24,363	*31,242*
Total net assets	**65,669**	**183,318**	**88,611**	**4,124**	**341,722**	*341,897*

9) ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE PCC DURING 2025

	Travel	Other	Total
	£	£	£
Rev Jim Perry	62	101	163
Mthr Bethany	247	167	413
Total	**309**	**267**	**576**

Report by the Independent Examiner on the accounts for St Bartholomew Church, Sydenham, 2025

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions with the treasurer.

No major failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year, and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements.

St Bartholomew's utilises a General Fund for operating income and expenditure, together with three Reserved Funds; the Building Fund to meet ongoing maintenance; the SABRE fund, for major restoration of the church building and roof; and the Special Purposes Fund used for special causes and charities, piano and organ restoration work, youth work, a small welfare fund, and Area Dean expenses.

After transfers to other funds the General Fund had a deficit of £6,011. This reflects increased Parish Share contribution, and higher utility costs. Income from renting the flat has been partly replaced by a Curate Training Subsidy from the diocese. There was also income from the sale of one of the freeholds on the site of the old church hall .

Routine maintenance from the Building Fund was covered by transfer from the General Fund. The SABRE fund stands at £87,349 is for repairs, restoration, and improvements to the building. A recent survey of the building will highlight priorities for future work.

The monthly reconciliation with bank statements shows a small difference, possibly due to delays in banking collections and cheques. This is not material to the accounts, and the Treasurer aims to resolve this issue in 2026.

The financial position of St Bartholomew's remains secure and at end 2025 cash reserves of the General Fund covers about 50% of annual running costs.

The outlook for 2026 will be impacted by a significant expense of around £50,000 to settle a claim relating to subsidence and trees in St Bartholomew's grounds. It is therefore expected that reserves will reduce in 2026.



Simon Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels 10 April 2026