PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ADEL, LEEDS
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, 2025

AIM AND PURPOSES

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel cooperates with the Rector of the Parish and its elected Churchwardens in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. To do this, it aims to make the most appropriate use of the resources available to it: a beautiful 12th Century Parish Church; The Old Stables (used as a meeting place for activities in the Parish); the funds donated to the Church by regular giving, legacies and bequests; and, most importantly, the lay members of our Church, both those who wish to be formally identified by inclusion on our Electoral Roll - 179 at the renewal in 2025 - and those who, though not formal members, regard our Church as their spiritual home.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel is:

Adel Parish Church: part of Christ's family, welcoming everyone, sharing God's love and being a voice of hope.

Our Vision Statement:

We offer a warm and sincere welcome to everyone, old friends and new.
We share the love of God with our Church community and neighbours near and far.
We provide care and compassion by loving service for those in need.
We respect and nurture God's environment.

The PCC carries forward its mission and seeks to achieve its vision by maintaining oversight of our regular worship to ensure that it meets the spiritual needs of as many of our parishioners as possible; by making specific provision for young people to grow up in our Christian family; by encouraging and enabling all parishioners to take advantage of the occasional offices (baptism, marriage, funerals) and welcoming as many as possible to festival and special Services; by facilitating, promoting and organising social events open to all; by making The Old Stables available for the use of groups which benefit the community; and by providing spiritual and practical support for Adel St. John the Baptist Church of England Primary School. To achieve all this, we make prudent use of the financial resources available to us to maintain and enhance our beautiful church, The Old Stables (both Listed Buildings) and the churchyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Church

Our main services, and some select services such as funerals, continue to be live streamed each week and this is a valuable asset for those unable to get to church. We are grateful to our rota of technicians who make our church much more inclusive.

We continue to work hard to provide worship opportunities for as many people as possible. Over the year most of our services had an increase in number of worshippers compared to 2024, with our midweek Eucharist growing in numbers. It is good to see our young people growing in faith and confidence, in large part due to our dedicated Junior church team. Our Ace group for older children continues to be very popular and we have a good number of children at each session. Both our Ace and Ace+ groups remain very popular. Once a month, they are joined in church by parents for a short Eucharist; their leaders report:

Ace (ages 8 – 11) continues to prosper. We now have 43 children who are members. Luckily they are never all free at once, but usual attendance is over 30. We enjoy the usual mad games, inside and out, and a communion service once a month. At each meeting we discuss an aspect of faith, church life or a bible passage. We are constantly surprised by the depth of understanding showed by our young people.

On a number of occasions, an All Age service has grown from our discussions, with the children confidently taking the lead and sharing their thoughts.

Ace + (high school students) has now been running for over a year. With fewer young people, we have been able to try activities such as cooking – pancakes, cookies – axe throwing and spent a session cutting back brambles in the church yard. We ask for suggestions from this group, and hope, as they mature, that sessions will begin to be self led.

We are very lucky to have such dedicated leaders: Ruth, Julia, Tang, Henry and Isobel at Ace, and Amanda at Ace +. The presence of these young people is very important in the life of our church.

For our youngest members we also have JJs; their leaders report:

JJs is our church group for the youngest children and their parent/carer. We meet monthly, usually on the first Friday afternoon in term time in the Stables. We follow the church`s year with themes such as Harvest, Christmas, and Mothering Sunday, but also have stories about sharing, families and helping each other. In June we usually go into church to re- enact a baptism, and find out about our connection with St John the Baptist.

We like to use the outdoor space when we can, and also enjoy adding seed to the bird feeders in the churchyard, that Sarah keeps well stocked. We like singing rhymes, and playing with the musical instruments. We usually have a short story, a song and a prayer, some craft, as well as free play and refreshments. We always have a special farewell in July for those leaving us for school.

New families are always welcome, and we enjoy seeing the children and adults, meeting, spending time together and forming friendships. We continue to have five adults who regularly help.

In 2025, we were very busy with events to bring our church family together.

To celebrate Easter, we held several family-oriented events to help to engage our younger families in the Easter story and to have some fun at such a wonderful time of the year.

In the Summer we held our first “Green Fair” which saw the church celebrating recycling and being eco aware.

In the summer we also welcomed the North8 choir who performed a concert.

Throughout the year, we held coffee mornings, brunch and afternoon tea events that bring the church and community together as well as raising money for the church.

We held our annual Harvest lunch in the Old Stables, which was very well attended.

At Christmas time, we hosted our regular concert by the Leeds Guild of Singers, and the congregation joined in a “reverse advent calendar” as a collection for the Leeds food bank.

For those who struggle to get into our church building we continued the monthly Stables Eucharist which is followed by a drink and chance to chat. This is small in numbers, but much loved by those who attend. Our Home Communion team continue to visit members of our parish in the community. These volunteers take communion out to people who would otherwise not be able to share in this vital aspect of our shared faith. It is much valued both by those who are visited, and the team, giving chance for a chat and maintaining links with the church. The Rector or lay minister Paul also takes a monthly communion service in the care home Adel Manor.

The 2025 Beating the Bounds Walk took place on the 24th May, the Saturday of Rogation weekend. The walk is open to all and it is taken at a pace that is comfortable for everybody. This is a very popular event and once again, it was well supported, not only by church members but also by friends from Adel and elsewhere. We met at the Old Stables early in the morning and spent the day walking the 15-mile parish boundary. Twenty-two people joined us to walk all or part of the way. We enjoyed good weather, wonderful views and plenty of stops for refreshments. Then on our return to the Stables, we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea provided by members of the Social Committee.

At Christmas we enjoyed some very notable services. We hosted a carol service with our augmented choir leading a wonderful service of lessons and carols for a packed church. The readers came from around the community, and there were The 3pm crib service was in church and packed out with small children and their families. We continued our tradition of holding the 5pm candle lit carols round the outdoor crib. It was very well attended, with 248 worshippers present, and enjoyed by all. Both crib services were ably lead by our yr6 church members. Once again, the nature of that service provides an opportunity for a Christmas service for those who have perhaps outgrown our woolly crib.

Outside of church it has been another difficult year, with the ongoing war in Ukraine, troubles in the middle east and the rising cost of living. We have tried to be a resource for the community through all of this. We continue to support Leeds North and West foodbank.

We continue to enjoy close links with our church school. The Rector or another member of church leads Collective Worship in school weekly. It was a joy to welcome the whole school to church for Easter, the Patronal Festival and Advent. The school choir again joined us for our Harvest Festival service and Mothering Sunday, singing for us during communion and as we left church. The Rector and Karen Baylis also led assemblies at Adel Primary for some of the major Christian festivals.

Thanks to our dedicated band of voluntary “church sitters” we were able to open the church for visitors every Monday and Saturday afternoon in 2025.

Our Social committee continued to provide opportunities for fellowship throughout 2025.Through these events, they raised over £3,000 for church funds, although money raising is not their main aim. Advertising the events with posters and in Adel Bells attracts people from the wider community as well as our church family. The big earners in terms of money for church were the concert in July by Northsong, the Harvest Lunch, the Christmas Coffee Morning and the concert by the Leeds Guild of Singers, but we also held a fun quiz evening, a talk by Joyce Hill and were entertained to a concert by Rector Alison and her friend Heather. All events were enjoyable and allowed us to reach out to the whole community of Adel and welcome new people to our church.

Adel Bells continues to be a valuable asset to our community, informing readers of church and community events and helping to spread the message of God’s love for us

all. In 2025 everything went smoothly, good quality magazines were printed, contributors got their articles in on time and the magazines generally got to readers on time. A new computer, together with appropriate software, was bought and a few subtle changes were made to parts of the magazine, with the intention of giving it a slightly more modern look.

The Old Stables
This listed building provides an excellent resource to support our Church's outreach into the community. The main room is used every Sunday - during the 10am Service for our Junior Church and after it to provide refreshments and the opportunity for fellowship for the whole congregation. And both downstairs rooms are regularly used throughout the week by up to a dozen different community groups.

The PCC and some of its committees also meet in The Old Stables. It has a fully equipped kitchen and our Social Committee arranges and runs a series of events throughout the year. Some associated with the church's Festivals and others, such as regular coffee mornings on Saturdays, talks, quiz nights etc., which are aimed at - and attract - people from the wider community. These events always include refreshment, which acts as a lubricant both for fellowship and for outreach. During 2025, the PCC felt that the kitchen facilities in the Old Stables are worn and outdated. It was felt that this may be an off putting factor when people look to hire the space for private events. The PCC then undertook a feasibility study to understand the possibility of replacing the kitchen. This project is ongoing.

We ensure that hirers of The Old Stables have adequate public liability insurance, so that the PCC would not itself be liable if there were a claim against the church.

Churchyard
Andrew B and Andy McG continue to ably carry out weekly churchyard maintenance and mowing, with occasional welcome help from Eusabio. We've also welcomed several new volunteers who've further enlarged our enthusiastic team of monthly gardeners.

In June the PCC heard an informative presentation from Steve about the importance of our churchyard as a habitat for a wide number of creatures. This has helped us better understand what a precious space it is for birds, animals and insects.

A lot of hard work this year has seen areas cleared of scrub, bramble and small saplings, as well as ivy cleared back from gravestones. As a result swathes of spring bulbs have reappeared from cleared areas and put on a beautiful show. Memorial slabs have been tidied too, and particular attention paid to ensuring the war graves are kept neat and access paths trimmed back.

Some of our plentiful compost has been used to refresh the flower beds outside the front of The Stables, and in collaboration with the church flower team we have set up a new space behind The Stables for growing evergreens and other plants to help with providing foliage for flower arrangements; particular thanks to Andy McG for his carpentry.

We were able to put up some new birdboxes in time for nesting season; thanks to Steve for making these; we continue to feed the birds each winter.

Plans have been made to plant some new trees to replace a number of diseased or dead trees that have had to be removed.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's business. We are all conscious of our responsibility in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding meetings are held biannually with the Rector, the parish Safeguarding Officer and the Child Advocate.

All appropriate DBS checks have been carried out for those involved in the provision of services to young children. In addition, Confidential Declaration Forms are completed annually. All those involved are actively encouraged to undertake Safeguarding training, a process which is ongoing.

The Diocese continue to use the booklet "Promoting a Safer Church" setting out the Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England. This is an abridged version of their more detailed document. This is now displayed next to the Church's Safeguarding policy for all to read.

There have been no Safeguarding incidents to report during the year.

We are conscious of our responsibility in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and those involved have attended Diocesan trainings and adhere to our Safeguarding Policy

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist, Adel is a Registered Charity which administers the activities of our Church in the Parish. So its policies and procedures are controlled not only by Church law - in particular the *Church Representation Rules 2011,* the *Churchwarden's Measure 2001*, and the *Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended)* - but also by the criminal and civil law of England and Wales and in particular the *Charities Act 2006*.

The policies and procedures of the PCC are formalised in our Governing Document (last updated in January 2015) which, in accordance with the legislation listed above, defines the mission, structure and organisation of the PCC. It commits the PCC to providing a safe environment for all church members and visitors to our premises by implementing all relevant Health and Safety legislation and by adopting and implementing Diocesan and national Church policies and guidelines for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Governing Document includes annexes which lay down the rules for the conduct of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and PCC meetings and gives details of the purpose and procedures of the permanent committees of the PCC.

The PCC has a Standing Committee and 4 other permanent committees:

- Fabric Committee
- Finance Committee
- Social Committee
- Health and Safety Committee

The Governing Document defines the purpose of all committees, their membership, the minimum number of meetings they should hold and the arrangements for reporting back to the PCC. Most of the committees also have oversight of Teams, under the leadership of a coordinator, to carry out particular functions – e.g. Eucharistic ministers; Junior Church leaders; churchyard conservation.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist is situated at the junction of Church Lane and Back Church Lane in Adel, north Leeds. The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity no: 1133876; during 2024, its members (i.e., trustees) were:

Rev’d Alison Battye *Chairperson and Rector*

Anne Andrews) *Churchwardens*
Alison Howarth)

Mark Seaward) *Deanery Synod Representatives*
Leanne Whinfield)

Marjorie Cole Bob Holloway
Jenny Jones Sarah Johnson
Andy Neal Marisa Clayton Tina Gledhill
Carole Smithies Loveday Loveridge
Paul Barker Bruce Buchan
Sandra Lavery Sue Lawson

Andy Neal,
PCC Secretary
468 Otley Road, Adel, Leeds, LS16 8AE

ADEL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, LEEDS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

Basis of Financial Statements.

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice and Reporting by Charities 2005 (SORP 2005).

The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church Groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained permanently, however the investment income can be used depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. Adel PCC does not have any *Endowment Funds.*

Unrestricted Funds are income funds which are spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated Funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for a specific use in the future, such as an Organ Fund. *Designated Funds* remain unrestricted and the PCC can move them for general purposes.

Restricted Funds are funds received, such as restricted donations, legacies, grants and so forth where the donor or donors specify the purpose or PCC activity intended by the donor or donors. The PCC must only use *Restricted Funds* for the purposes for which the donation, legacy, grant and so forth was given.

Incoming Resources.

Collections, Planned Giving receivable under Gift Aid, Income Tax recoverable on gift aid donations, Grants and Legacies to the PCC, Funds raised by concerts, barbeques and similar events, Sales of Books from the church bookstall and of the Parish Magazine, and Rental income from the lettings of the Church Hall (The Old Stables) are recognised when received. *Income Interest* from investments is recognised when received. Realised gains or losses are recognised when the *Investments* are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of *Investments* at 31st December.

Resources Expended.

All expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed Assets.

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Church Wardens on special trust and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC consider this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as soon a paid. New and replacement items of equipment are written off when acquired.

Adel PCC Unrestricted Funds,Receipts and Payments. Year Ending 31st December 2025

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS		
Regular Giving		
Planned Giving under Gift Aid	46236	51433
Planned Giving not under Gift Aid	10675	8870
Collections (Open Plate) and other giving	7561	8746
Income Tax recovered on Unrestricted Receipts	18555	15842
Total	**83027**	**84981**
Other Voluntary Receipts		
Unrestricted Donations	2145	9248
Sundry Receipts		282
Insurance Received	0	0
Total	**2145**	**9461**
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Parish Magazine (Adel Bells) Sales and Adverts	3444	3590
Bookstall	460	414
Fundraising Activities by Social Committee	3624	4866
100 Club Draw	4240	4715
Church Hall (The Old Stables) Lettings	9523	9366
Total	**21291**	**22951**
Receipts from Church Activities		
Fees Payable to PCC from weddings and Funerals	11,000	11,000
Receipts from Investments		
Interest and Dividends on Unrestricted Funds	2112	2400
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED RECEIPTS	**119575**	**130772**
PAYMENTS		
Diocesan Parish Share	102074	96403
Clergy Expenses	688	913
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3800	4107
Junior Church and Youth Work	43	36
Local Mission and Outreach	1224	924
Provision of Services	668	514
Provision of Music	3050	2544
Church Running Expenses	5171	6625
Church Minor Maintenance	0	0
Churchyard Upkeep, including paths and walls	3933	1237
Expenditure on Parish Magazine (Adel Bells)	3430	1601
Expenditure on Bookstall	0	0
Church Hall (The Old Stables) Running Costs	7081	6809
Church Hall (The Old Stables) routine maintenance	0	48
Administration	793	393
Fund Raising Expenses	108	202
100 Club Draw Prizes	1760	1960
Church and Church Hall Insurance	5670	3824
Sundry Expenses	1966	1001
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS	**141459**	**139647**
	-21884	**-12055**

Adel P.C.C. Restricted Fund **Receipts and Payments** **Year Ending 31st December 2025**

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS		
Legacies	15000	157907
Interest and Dividends on Restricted Funds	7641	760
TOTAL RESTRICTED RECEIPTS	**22641**	**158667**
PAYMENTS		
Acorn Analytical	432	
Otley Hire Centre - New Sit On Mower	0	5780
Pearce Bottomley - Architects Fees - Q5	1520	967
MST Joinery	2008	
TME Jackson Electrical	2393	
arker Joinery	6942	
Aire Valley Tree Services	2490	
Byfield Heating	1222	
D Barker	400	
Interest withdrawn	5612	
TOTAL RESTRICTED PAYMENTS	**23019**	**6747**

	2025	2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash in Current and Reserve Accounts at Nat West Bank	13592	20846
Cash with Church Hall (The Old Stables) Manager	0	0
At Central Board of Finance Deposit Account (General)	49180	47051
At Central Board of Finance Deposit Account (Fabric)	8378	8015
At Central Board of Finance Deposit Account (Legacy)	160387	162023
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**231537**	**237935**

FIXED ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS		
Church Hall (The Old Stables) -- (See Notes)	**120107**	**120107**
Investment Assets -- (See Notes)	**165266**	**159096**
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS	285373	**279203**

Adel Parochial Church Council.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

Tangible Fixed Assets.

The Adel Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the freehold land and buildings of the former stables, a Grade II listed building, which is used as a Parish Hall, and is known as The Old Stables. The Old Stables were last revalued for accounting purposes in 1992, when the value was then increased, following building work, to £120,107. The Adel PCC does not intend to apply any depreciation or appreciation to the figure this year, so the nominal gross book value of The Old Stables remains at £120,107. However for insurance purposes the Old Stables is insured for a figure of £1,238,184 including buildings, furniture, fittings and lost rent.

Investments

Adel PCC holds 2664.31 shares in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Investment Accumulation Fund. Adel PCC receives no income from the fund as all profits are reinvested, and the value of the holding is reflected in the share price. As at 01/01/2025 the Adel PCC holding in the Fund was valued at £159,096 and at 31/12/2025 was valued at £165,266 an increase of £6170. The Fund represents the proceeds of the sale of the former Assistant Curate's House, and the Fund's use is Restricted.

Analysis of Assets by Fund.

All current and fixed assets of Adel PCC are held in either Unrestricted, Designated or Restricted Funds. Adel PCC does not administer any Endowment Funds.

Liabilities and Debtors.

Adel PCC does not have any liabilities or debtors.

Staff Costs.

Adel PCC does not have any employees. The Rector and other stipendiary clergy are employees of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance. However they are reimbursed their parochial expenses in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. The Organists and Vergers charge fees in accordance with published guidelines, and are treated as self-employed. The Churchwardens, the PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer, the Parish Hall (The Old Stables) Manager, and the Parish Magazine (Adel Bells) editors and distributors are reimbursed their routine postage, secretarial and telephone expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. Apart from the above, no member of the Adel PCC received any reimbursement of expenses or remuneration.

Report of serious financial incidents.

Adel PCC are pleased to report that they not aware of any Serious Incidents affecting the Adel PCC's finances which should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

Accounts approved by the Adel Parochial Church Council at its meeting on 12th March 2026

and signed on its behalf by:-

Rector. **PCC Treasurer.**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Adel Parochial Church Council, Leeds.

I report on the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025 which are set out in the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Adel Parochial Church Council and the Independent Examiner.

The Adel Parochial Church Council consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Adel Parochial Church Council concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J.E.Hobson

Hon. Independent Examiner.

March 2025