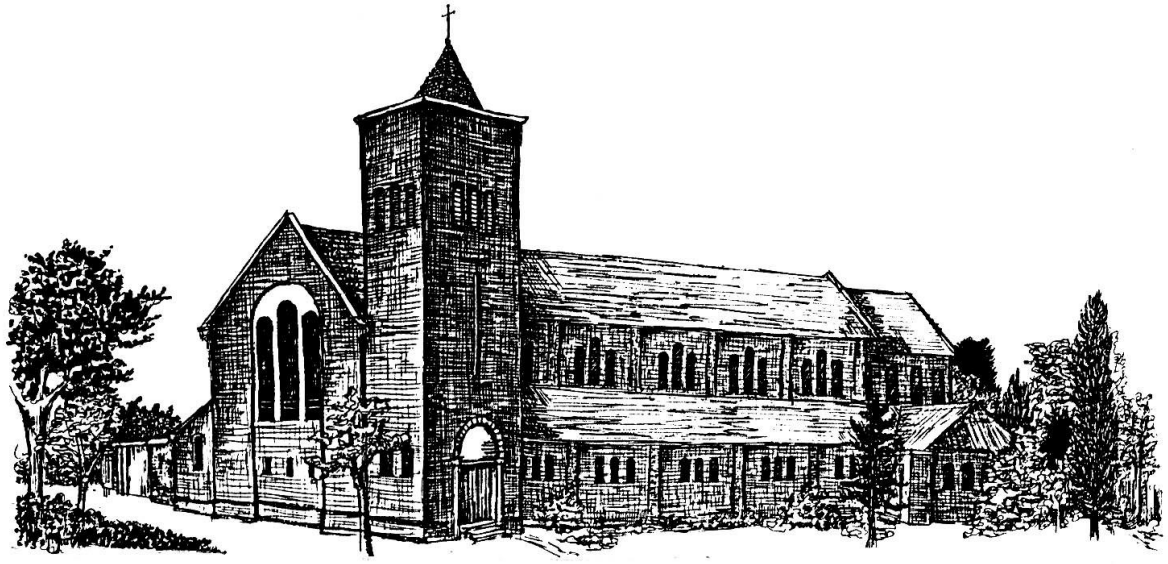
St Faith and St Laurence

Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 26th April 2026

Agenda, Minutes and Annual Reports 2025-2026



ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS
AND
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026 AT 11.15AM AND 11.30 AM
HELD IN THE CHURCH

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence

4. Minutes of the 2024/2025 meeting

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- A report on the numbers entered on the electoral roll since the last Annual Parochial Church meeting
- An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally
- The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2025
- A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018
- A report on the proceedings of the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Synod

6. Elections

- Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (1 for 2026-2028 and 3 for 2026-2029) plus 3 places on Deanery Synod
- Appointment of Independent Examiner

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.

8. Final words from the Chair

9. The Grace

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd David Parker*
Licensed Reader:	Sally Griffiths
Churchwardens:	David Glanvill* Caroline Mosley*
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Lesley Arkell Caroline Mosley Alex Robertson Corinne Treacy
Elected Members:	Malcolm Adey* Loleta Atkinson (Treasurer)* Roger Chester (Resigned July 2025) Angela Collingwood Dee Coyne Alan Jones Helen Setchell (Secretary)* Anita Tippin* Chris Stewart John Wadman Josie Phillips

* Standing Committee members

TASK GROUPS AND OTHER GROUPS 2025/2026

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee chaired by the Vicar. This is the only committee required by law. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with two other members of the PCC.

Children and Young People Task Group chaired by Helen Setchell

Church and Estates Task Group chaired by David Arkell

Eco Church chaired by Corinne Treacy

Mission Task Group chaired by Pauline Sitford

Socials Task Group chaired by David Glanvill

Safeguarding Sally Griffiths, Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Corinne Treacy, Parish Identity Verifier

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025 AT 11.15AM AND 11.30AM

1. **Opening Prayers**
David Parker led prayers.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

David explained that this meeting is open to all persons on the church's electoral roll and also all residents of the parish, reminding us that the parish church exists to serve everyone in the parish.

2. **Election of Churchwardens**
Thanks were given to the current Churchwardens David Glanvill and Corinne Treacy for their work over the past year. Special thanks were expressed by David Parker to Corinne who had served for 6 years as a Churchwarden during challenging times.

Two nominations had been received to serve as Churchwarden for the year 2025-26:

David Glanvill

Nominated: Malcolm Adey **Seconded:** Helen Hayward **Vote:** Unanimous

Caroline Mosley

Nominated: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Paul Bartels **Vote:** 41 in favour
1 abstention

David Glanvill and Caroline Mosley were duly confirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting is open to everyone on the church's electoral roll.

3. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies are recorded on the attendance sheet.

4. **Minutes of the previous APCM, held on 30th April 2024**
The minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2024 meeting.
Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Thelma Kettle

5. **Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:**

- **Electoral Roll** – David Parker reported that during the year Judith Bennett had resigned as Electoral Roll Officer, and Dee Coyne had kindly agreed to take over. This year, in common with all Church of England parishes, we had been required to remake the electoral roll from scratch, and as result the number had fallen significantly. The parish now has a total of 93 on the electoral roll, of whom 53 live in the parish and 40

live outside the parish. David noted that it is encouraging that 27 of those on the new roll were not on the previous roll.

- **PCC report** - David Parker drew the meeting's attention to the report on pp9 -11 of the booklet. At the time of the 2024 APCM the main issues confronting the parish were the need for gutter repairs and the need to appoint a permanent organist. David noted that Mark Lawrence had been officially appointed as Director of Music with effect from 1st August 2024 and was fulfilling the role admirably. The PCC had recently committed to carrying out the gutter repairs and the work was scheduled to start within a few weeks, though more funds still needed to be raised.
  A question was asked about why we have installed a phone in the church hall. David Parker replied that when the new internet contract was being arranged the PCC had discussed whether a phone was still needed and had decided that this was a safety requirement.

- **Financial statements** – David Parker referred the meeting to the accounts at the end of the booklet and the Treasurer's comments on pp12-13. He acknowledged that the way the accounts are set out by our existing accountant is unhelpful, and because of this the PCC has decided to change to a new accounting system for the coming year. Thanks were given to Loleta Atkinson for all her work as Treasurer and to the team behind her. The surplus noted included one-off items: 2 legacies, a gutter grant and an additional Gift Aid reclaim. Excluding these, the accounts would show a deficit of around £4000.
  A question was asked about the increase in the cost of church cleaning. David Parker replied that the apparent large increase was partly a matter of presentation: there is a single contract for cleaning both church and hall, and whereas in the 2023 accounts this cost was divided between £2853 for the church and £3675 for the hall, for 2024 essentially all of it has been shown under "church cleaning". Overall the cleaning costs have increased from just over £6500 to just over £8000. A new contract was agreed with effect from 1st March 2024, with increased hours recognising the increased usage of the hall.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2024

Proposed: Caroline Mosley **Seconded:** Malcolm Adey **Vote:** Unanimous

- **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments** A report had been received from the churchwardens (pp13-15 of the booklet). No questions were raised.

- **A report on the proceedings of the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Synod** The report is on pp16 – 17 of the booklet. No questions were raised but thanks were given to our representatives.

  David Parker reported on the Oversight Area which had been formed with 4 neighbouring parishes. 5 representatives from this parish attended a launch day in March 2025. David has been asked to act as Convenor for the Oversight Area pending appointment of an Oversight Minister. It was also noted that the rose given to the parish during this launch day is being well looked after by Wendy Watts.

- **Other reports** David drew the meeting's attention to the various task group reports in the booklet. No questions or comments were made apart from Alan Jones who thanked the flower arrangement team for the beautiful arrangements in church.

6. **Elections**

a. **Deanery Synod representatives**

The present Deanery Synod took office in 2023 with a 3 year term. The parish is entitled to have 4 lay representatives but currently has only 3. One nomination had been received to fill the vacant place:

Corinne Treacy
Proposed: Caroline Mosley **Seconded:** Michael Averill **Vote:** 41 in favour
1 abstention

The Deanery Synod representatives also become ex-officio members of the PCC, so Corinne will continue as a member of the PCC.

b. **Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC**

Before electing representatives to the PCC, the parish needed to confirm its policy with regard to Readers. David suggested that as we only have one (excellent) Reader, it is appropriate that she should continue to be a member of the PCC.

Sally Griffiths
Proposed: David Parker **Seconded:** Corinne Treacy **Vote:** Unanimous

Previously each year the parish would elect 4 members to the PCC for a 3 year term. Now that the electoral roll has dropped below 100 the rules specify a total of 9 elected members rather than 12, so 3 places are available for election. Of the existing members, Anita Tippin has completed her 3 years and is willing to stand again; Roger Chester was co-opted during 2024 and is now eligible for election. 3 nominations had been received for the 3 places available:

Anita Tippin
Proposed: Joy Aldous **Seconded:** Roger Chester

Roger Chester
Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Peter Stokes

Josie Phillips
Proposed: Brenda Stott **Seconded:** Malcolm Adey

As the number of candidates did not exceed the number of places, they were voted in *en bloc*.

Proposed: David Parker **Seconded:** David Glanvill **Vote:** Unanimous

c. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

As already noted, for 2025 the PCC proposed to change to a new accounting system, MyFundAccounting.Online, provided by DataDevelopments at a cost of £5 per month, and to employ DataDevelopments as Independent Examiners of the parish accounts.

Proposed: Roger Chester **Seconded:** Malcolm Adey **Vote:** Unanimous

7. **Any questions**

At this point, David Parker introduced the topic of the **Birmingham Jesus Vision Church (BJVC)**, a Korean church, who have asked to use our buildings on Sunday afternoons for their worship. The PCC had discussed this at their extraordinary meeting in April and most members were in favour (subject to reviewing the situation after an initial 6-month period) but it was agreed that before any final decision is made there should be an opportunity to consult the wider congregation. Since then David had circulated some background information to the congregation and asked for feedback. There was now an opportunity for anyone to ask questions or provide input, to help guide the PCC in making a final decision. David Parker shared his own personal view that this proposal is entirely consistent with our responsibility to support the Mission of God.

The following points were raised*:*

- Some concerns about parking have been raised, but on checking it would appear that there would be about 20 cars each Sunday.
- Concern had been raised about the BJVC's stance on Inclusivity. This had been followed up and reassurance has been received from the pastor that they have a positive approach to Inclusivity.
- It was noted that one member of the PCC objects in principle.
- A concern was raised about the use of the altar; we would ask BJVC not to use our altars during their twice-yearly communion.
- A question was asked about the style of worship – it is evangelical and in Korean.
- A concern was raised about the limit on numbers allowed in the church hall. David felt confident that BJVC would comply with all health and safety requirements.
- One member commented that it would be a good financial opportunity but this should not be the deciding factor.
- One member commented that we all serve one God and another that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Other items raised:

- An attendee proposed that a wider range of people (not sidespeople) be invited to help bring up the elements at communion, including children and young people. This was agreed by those present.
- Sally Griffiths shared how positive she feels in her role of Lay Reader, working alongside David Parker and thanked him and the community for the on-going work in the parish.
- An attendee mentioned the need for children to be included and thanked Helen Setchell for her work with children. Dee Coyne also thanked everyone for making her feel welcome in a new role.
- An attendee mentioned that the door between the porch and the Narthex squeaks: this will be attended to. The fact that the church is open for visitors and the community to visit is a cause for celebration.
- Mark Laurence commented how glad he is that a singing group has started for the 10am service, with practice from 9.30am. Mark would like to extend this to include children (Y3 and above) and encouraged the congregation to welcome noise in church, especially from children.

8. **Final words from the Chair**

David Parker thanked Sally Griffiths in particular for her service to the parish, and the other officers and members of the PCC for their continued contributions. Some of the highlights

of the year including the Remembrance Service in November 2024, the two Messy Church events and the number of worshippers at the Easter services. David commented that God is at work in our community, which is a blessing. The meeting ended with sharing the Peace.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2025/2026

Since the last APCM the Parochial Church Council has met on six occasions to discuss and decide upon matters of business relating to church life.

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

At its first meeting, in May 2025, the PCC re-elected Caroline Mosley as lay Vice-Chair, Loleta Atkinson as Treasurer and Helen Setchell as Secretary. Malcolm Adey and Anita Tippin were elected to the Standing Committee, joining the Priest-in-charge, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary who are ex-officio members of the Standing Committee. Roger Chester stepped down from the PCC in July for personal reasons.

The Standing Committee has met three times, in October, December and February, and has also transacted business by email.

As reported at the last APCM, the necessary refurbishment of the church gutters and downpipes was expected to cost £72k+VAT. From May 2025, attention was focussed on raising funds for the project. Various applications for grants towards this cost resulted in only a single grant of £3250. Following an extremely generous gift of £30k from a parishioner, the PCC decided to go ahead with the work and to raise funds as it proceeded. The work was successfully carried out between June and September 2025. On top of the £30k already received, a further £14,284 was donated to the project, to which was added £10,337 in recovered Gift Aid. This meant that the work could be paid for by withdrawing only £15k from the parish's existing Repairs Fund.

Unfortunately, in late November 2025 the church heating system developed a fault and the burner of the main boiler was declared to be unrepairable. The cost of a new burner, including installation, would be around £6k, which the PCC agreed to fund using the £10k legacy received from Revd Priscilla White in 2024. Frustratingly, the new burner could not be delivered until late February, so temporary arrangements were made to heat the church using a mix of electric heaters and a 50kW propane heater which was acquired for this purpose.

The remainder of Priscilla White's legacy has been earmarked to buy new chairs for the Hall and Committee Room. The Committee Room chairs were purchased in January 2026 and have proved popular. The intention is to buy the Hall chairs later this year, once the finances have recovered from the additional costs associated with the recent heating issues.

The request from the Korean Birmingham Jesus Vision Church (BJVC) to use our buildings on Sunday afternoons, which was discussed during the 2025 APCM, was followed up with discussion at the May PCC meeting and subsequently agreed. A hire contract was drawn up with advice from Laura Mynott at Anthony Collins Solicitors. BJVC's use of the buildings started in October 2025 and generally seems to have gone smoothly: the initial six month contract has just been renewed for a further six months.

At the July meeting, the PCC agreed to continue with the Parish Buying Scheme's "Energy Basket". This is a bulk buying gas and electricity scheme for the Church of England and Church in Wales and provides discounted rates. There were three options available and the PCC decided to go with the Environmentally Friendly package to help towards our Eco-Church targets. The rates are working out to be cheaper than the previous package.

In March 2025, the Slimming World group which had been using the Hall on Wednesday mornings moved to different premises, but the other Hall users continue and have recently been supplemented by a Dementia Café meeting once a month on Monday mornings.

During 2025 the front steps leading up to the church were re-laid, the car park lighting was reinstated and a sign directing to the accessible entrance has been put up. In March 2025, the Leylandii trees at the East end of the churchyard were trimmed back, at a cost of £1500; in February 2026 a large section broke off one of the trees at the NE corner of the churchyard, so the tree was felled, at a cost of £750.

In early 2025 the Mission Task Group received a request from our link parish in Malawi, where crops had failed, for help in buying maize to feed their parishioners. £1500 was immediately given from PCC funds, and a further £1650 was subsequently raised through an appeal in church. In November the PCC agreed the recommendations of the Mission Task Group regarding our Away Giving. As £1500 had already been given to Malawi, a further £2400 was given from PCC funds, equally split between Shelter Box, Target Ovarian Cancer and Birmingham City Mission, and a further £100 to A Rocha UK, making a total of £4000 given from PCC funds during 2025. The PCC also agreed to increase our annual diocesan Common Fund contribution to £50,000.

The Vicarage continues to be occupied by Revd Sam Sieber, priest in charge of St Gabriel's Weoley Castle, so the PCC has no responsibility for its upkeep.

During 2024 the PCC agreed that, with effect from the start of 2025, the parish would adopt a new accounting package, MyFundAccounting.Online, which provides much greater transparency, particularly with regard to funds held by the PCC on behalf of other parties. It also brings our accounts into line with Charity Commission rules. The 2025 accounts presented with this report have been prepared using this new package. The software providers, Data Developments, provided an Independent Examiner service for a small fee. In regards Gift Aid reclamation, David Parker has continued to take on the role of submitting the claims with the HMRC. This will be picked up by Loleta Atkinson going forward.

The Archdeacon of Birmingham, Jenny Tomlinson joined the January 2026 meeting to put forward the proposal that the permanent part-time priest role for St Faith & St Laurence would be combined with a new part-time Area Dean role with appointment potentially to be in late 2026. Revd David Parker, whose three-year licence with us is drawing to an end, would be staying on

until close to the new incumbent's start date. There are a number of steps to be followed before the recruitment will get underway.

The January and March meetings also saw welcome news regarding lay ministry calls within the church. Bronwen Jones, having completed the "Growing Gifts" training will be authorised as an occasional preacher at the 10am service. Helen Setchell has decided to apply for Reader ministry training. The PCC was unanimous in approving both of these.

The PCC notes that one of the PCC members, Corinne Treacy, has an interest in R.T. Cleaning and Maintenance, who have the contract for cleaning the church and church hall. Corinne was not involved in the appointment decision process.

As always, this report has focussed on matters directly considered by the PCC. However, many parish matters are devolved to the various Task Groups, whose work we commend and whose individual reports accompany this report.

The PCC

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The bulk of the Treasurer's Report is on the final page of the 2025 Accounts, which is printed separately.

Thank You: Thanks to all those who have helped with counting, recording and banking the income. Special thank you to Brenda Stott and Anita Tippin who recently retired from the counting team after many years, thank you very much.

To Chris and Roger who recently joined; Lesley, Peter, Malcolm and David with the count.

To Judith for managing the hall hire. And to the church wardens, Caroline and David for their support.

Thanks to Revd David Parker for making the annual grant claims and grant applications and for imputing the 2025 receipts and payments into the new accounting system.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church.

Parish Giving Scheme: Finally, if you give regularly please join the Parish Giving Scheme. This delivers the Gift Aid, (tax refund) much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place on 14th January 2026 and was undertaken by Area Dean Mike Sermon. The visitation focused on any issues relating to the updating of the Logbook; the display of up to date Safeguarding Posters (is it up to date and clearly visible at each entry/exit

point of the church or hall), maintenance of Parish Records and Registers, and our knowledge of where parish records/archives are kept, which we passed with flying colours. The visitation also provided an opportunity to have had useful conversations with the Area Dean about a number of things including the governance, the building, safeguarding and the then recently announced new incumbent role. We were not required to submit any Articles of Enquiry for 2025, but this will resume for 2026.

Fabric and Buildings

The fabric of the Church and the Hall buildings remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard. The state of the buildings is monitored on a regular basis and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through the Church Estate Task Group (CETG), the Standing Committee (SC) and/or Parochial Church Council (PCC).

All maintenance services throughout 2025/26 were carried out in accordance with the regulations i.e. bells, boilers, fire extinguishers and fire alarms, intruder alarms, organ, piano, and sound system. The Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was completed on 28th August 2025.

The Church

The overhaul of the church guttering was the major project for 2025. This arose from the 2023 Quinquennial. This programme of repair and maintenance works was carried out to address defects identified to the rainwater goods and tower roof coverings. The works were undertaken to reduce the risk of water ingress, improve drainage performance, and prolong the service life of existing materials. The contractors started work in June 2025 and the work was completed in September. There a few outstanding snagging issues, but we are working with the architect and contractors to resolve these. The project was funded in large proportion by a fundraising programme and a small grant. The Wardens would like to record their appreciation of the generosity of people in providing such a large sum.

The burner in the church boiler failed in late November 2025. Initial attempts to repair this were unsuccessful and a full replacement of the burner was deemed necessary. This did not require a faculty and was ordered in early December with an eight week lead in time. This unfortunately left the church with minimal heating over Advent and Christmas and the main winter months. With the use of the electric heaters in the Lady Chapel and Choir Vestry, some borrowed electric heaters in the church and the purchase of a large propane space heater, some heating was able to be provided. The advice to wrap up warm was taken by congregants and we thank them for their forbearance. The new burner was installed on 18th February 2026 to much rejoicing! The new burner should extend the life of the boiler for many years.

The Hall and Committee Room

The Hall and Committee Room continue to be well used by regular and occasional hirers. A number of new regular hirers have joined this year.

Following a suggestion from members of the congregation, the PCC approved the replacement of the Committee Room chairs. It was decided that these would be funded from the legacy received from Revd. Priscilla White. A small group looked at the options and the chairs were ordered and delivered in January 2026. The old chairs were dismantled and the metal frames will be taken for recycling shortly.

Committee Room roof

A small leak was detected in the Committee Room roof in January 2026. Rio Roofing, the contractors who installed the roof, were contacted and they found an area of wear on the roof and made a repair on 23rd January. This seemed to solve the problem. Unfortunately, a far more major leak was found on 5th March and appears to be ongoing. Rio Roofing have not yet been able to establish the source and it is under further investigation. There is damage to a portion of the ceiling and the wall which will require repair once the source has been found and repaired. The Committee Room will then require redecoration.

Vicarage

The Revd Samantha Sieber, from St Gabriel's, Weoley Castle, has continued as tenant in the Vicarage during 2025 and to date. The PCC has, therefore, not been responsible for any of the utility bills or grounds maintenance in that time. We have paid towards the servicing of the alarm, sharing the cost with Sam Sieber. Sam will be leaving the vicarage sometime this year when St Gabriels completes its recruitment of a permanent incumbent. The PCC will again be responsible for the bills etc until the new incumbent for St Faith and St Laurence moves in.

Quinquennial 2023

The Church & Estates Task Group continue to review the Quinquennial report and identify areas for repair and treatment. A number of cracks in the church are being monitored although no significant movement has been noted. The guttering project, as previously noted, has been the main focus this year.

Goods and Ornaments

The churchwarden have a number of legal duties of which one is to hold title to the property owned by the church. This includes any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate and ornaments. A full audit of the church property recorded in the Terrier and Inventory was completed in March 2026 and all items have been accounted for and are in reasonable condition.

In December 2025, David Parker identified problems with the two smaller chalices used at the 8am and Wednesday communion services. The Victorian silver chalice, which had been repaired previously, had again broken at the stem. The medium sized silver plated chalice was pitted and the brass underlay was showing through. Quotes were obtained for the repair of both which the Standing Committee approved. The chalices are now under repair and will be back in use shortly.

During the audit, a large gold ring, found a number of years ago and with no traceable owner was found on the inventory and kept in the safe. As the ring served no purpose, the wardens proposed to sell the ring for church funds with the approval of PCC. It raised £235.

Grounds

The community garden, the front grounds and the church surroundings continue to be well maintained and kept tidy thanks to the gardening team, lawn and hedge cutters, litter picking volunteers and the Eco-church and general working parties.

The church steps have been re-laid and a new noticeboard for Eco-church and environmental information have been installed.

The conifer trees have been reduced in size. Some of the other trees had to be cut back having been damaged and become dangerous following the winter storms.

Services

We have maintained our normal pattern of services during the year. Under the direction of Mark Lawrence, our Director of Music, the Singing Group at the 10am service has gone from strength to strength and are much appreciated. We held the Oversight Group's Ascension Day service on 29th May 2025, where the group was joined by the choirs of St Peter's Harborne and St Mary's Selly Oak. Once again, the West House School Chorale joined with the group for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 14th December 2025.

St Faith & St Laurence Incumbent Vacancy

The Revd David Parker is coming to the end of his three year licence at St Faith and St Laurence. At the PCC meeting in January 2026, the Archdeacon of Birmingham announced that it was proposed that the part time priest role planned for St Faith & St Laurence would be combined with the new part-time Area Dean role. Recruitment for this role, the timing of which is dependent on a number of other factors, is likely to be later in 2026. Fortunately for us, David Parker's licence will be extended to cover most of this period and we will not need to face a long vacancy. In preparation for the recruitment process, a Parish Profile will need to be drafted and a small group will be formed to do this. Views of the congregation will also be solicited.

Birmingham Jesus Vision Church

Since mid-October 2025, the Birmingham Jesus Vision Church (BJVC), a church for the Korean community in the Birmingham area, has been hiring the Church and Hall on Sunday afternoons for their weekly worship and Sunday School. They also use the church on key festival days such as Christmas and Holy Week. All services are held in Korean. BJVC are a large and active church and we are building good relationships with the leadership team. Following a review meeting in February, it has been agreed to continue the hire on the existing arrangements for another six months.

Appreciation

David and Caroline would like to record their grateful thanks and appreciation to:

- David Parker, our Priest-in-Charge, for all he does in the Parish and Church ensuring that our spiritual life continues to develop and grow and for agreeing to stay and guide us through the vacancy.
- Malcolm Adey, Sue Glanvill and Corinne Treacy, Deputy Wardens at the 10am service, for their ongoing support and assistance.
- All the sidepersons and stewards at our services who are the first point of welcome to the church.
- Peter Stokes for compiling and printing the Parish magazine and the regular pew sheets and for printing the occasional orders for services, the APCM papers and any other printing required.
- All the Servers, Chalice Administrators, intercessors and readers for the important role they play in our worship.
- Mark Lawrence, our Director of Music, Richard Lewis and David Griffiths who support him in playing the organ, the members of the Singing Group and the Bell Ringers who provide us with wonderful music.

- Sally Griffiths, our Lay Reader, for her huge contribution to the life of the church.
- Loleta Atkinson, our Treasurer for all her work on the financial side, as well as the counters and paying-in teams who keep our cash flowing.
- The cleaners and the flower arrangers for ensuring the church always looks beautiful.
- The coffee and tea makers and those who launder the Altar linens and the kitchen cloths.
- The Children and Young People team's work on Messy Club and the children's activities at the 10am service.
- The church opening and closing team who keep our church open and available to the community.
- Everyone at SF&SL, for their continued willingness to give their time to carry out tasks, duties and offer each other support, encouragement and assistance.

David Glanvill and Caroline Mosley (Churchwardens)

WARLEY AND EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD 2025/2026

The Deanery Synod met on 5th June 2025, 8th October 2025 and 12th February 2026. St Faith and St Laurence's members of Synod are Lesley Arkell, Caroline Mosley, Alex Robertson and Corinne Treacy. Revd David Parker is automatically a member as priest in charge.

The June 2025 meeting was held at Christ Church, Summerfield. We were welcomed by Revd Katie Stock who talked about their church's recent discussions inspired by the "Talking Jesus" project, including questions like "How can I be happy?" and "What happens after you die?" with scripture offering hope and meaning. She reflected on how the themes can be applied to conversations within the wider parish.

The meeting consisted of the sharing of "good news" stories from parishes across the deanery. This began with a few testimonies from Old Church Smethwick, St Bartholomew's, Edgbaston and from St Faith & St Laurence's. Our testimony focused on the development of the singing group, the success of the children's activities in the 10am service and the huge generosity shown in the Malawi and gutters appeals – all real signs of the Spirit moving amongst us. We then broke into small groups to discuss and learn from each other.

Following on from the meeting we were informed that the Birmingham diocese has been awarded the Silver eco diocese award - the first diocese in the country to do so.

The October meeting was held at St Hilda's, Warley Woods where we were welcomed by Revd Jenni Crewes. The church has recently completed a heating project and was now fully carbon neutral using ethical, all-electric systems. They had also achieved the Silver Eco Church award.

We were joined by Bishop Michael for the commissioning service of Blessing Jegede, Reader at St Germain, Edgbaston as Deanery Warden of Readers. This important role is to support, promote and develop Reader Ministry within the Deanery in coordination with the Diocesan Warden of Readers.

Bishop Michael was joined by Jan Smart (Diocesan Secretary) and Andy Winmill (Diocesan Director of Mission) and a presentation was given on the recent National Church funding award of £17.8m to CofE Birmingham. This is a result of a bid by the Diocese for resources to continue the vision behind the Transforming Church project to grow churches at the heart of every

community in the Diocese. This funding is to reinvigorate the existing plans and ambitions that have been in place for many years.

There are four key pillars to the strategy supported by the funding: Sustainability, Leadership, Parish Growth and Revitalisation and Church Planting. Without this funding, the diocese would face a difficult future marked by budget cuts, reduced ministry, and diminishing mission. It provides an opportunity to get back on track and to see growth and flourishing across all parishes and the diocese.

The meeting then broke into smaller groups, based on oversight areas, to discuss the proposals. Comments and questions were then brought back to Bishop Michael, Jan and Andy.

Finally, we broke into houses for elections to the Diocesan Synod. There was one vacancy for the house of clergy and one vacancy for the house of laity. The house of clergy also voted for the clergy vacancy on the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Synod Standing Committee.

The last meeting of the Synod was held at St John's, Harborne on 12th February 2026. The meeting was preceded by the opportunity to tour the new church rooms. The Revd Jon Tattersall welcomed us and led us in worship.

Dawn Baker, the new Head of Generosity for the CofE Birmingham gave a presentation on her role and that of her team. It will be encouraging generosity in its broadest sense. They will be working with parishes to develop individual financial plans to include budgeting for the next five years of common fund. This is a key project under the National Church funding, with the aim of achieving financial sustainability for the diocese. We broke into small groups to consider the question "How can we best prepare for the visit of Dawn and her team and encourage a conversation about generosity".

Revd Jon Tattersall and Revd James Gandon spoke about the new parish partnership between St James' Rounds Green and St John's Harborne. This is the fourth "revitalisation" "project in our deanery, the others being at Christchurch Summerfield, St Mary the Virgin Bearwood and St Matthew with St Chad Smethwick.

Area Dean Mike Sermon announced his retirement from 17th May, after twenty-seven years of stipendiary ministry. Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson gave an update and announced that the next area dean will also be a part time parish priest within the deanery at St Faith and St Laurence.

The final meeting of this Deanery Synod three-year cycle will be held at St Georges, Edgbaston on 10th June 2026. The Deanery Synod elections at the APCM will be for a new triennium starting from 1st July 2026 until 30th June 2029. The lay representatives elected to the new Deanery Synod will form the electorate for the Birmingham representatives in the General Synod elections to be held in September and October 2026.

Caroline Mosley

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP

St Faith and St Laurence hosted 4 Messy Club opportunities during this last year cycle, two linked to Social Committee events and two stand-alone Messy Club mornings. In the summer, we celebrated Creation and the World Around Us with families being able to able to join in the crafting activities along with our community barbeque. A good time was had by all! Our Messy Club in the Autumn Term focused on Harvest and by giving thanks for the food we eat. The activities focused on God's good gifts and included things to do with leaves, sticks and yummy treats! The Messy Club towards Christmas was linked to St Faith and St Laurence's Autumn Fair and everyone was invited to create amongst other things, cards, decorations, door hangers and biscuits using a wide range of craft materials. A stand-alone event in February celebrated love and painting, colouring, crafting and icing biscuits certainly gave us all a warm glow of satisfaction.

You will notice that, after much consideration, we have slightly altered the name for the family opportunities held at St Faith and St Laurence Church. Messy Club feels more welcoming and appropriate for our context. Some principles from a book called 'Vibrant Christianity in Multifaith Britain' by Andrew Smith supports how we wish to engage well within our local community:

- Holding together, being confident in loving people and being confident in loving God
- Loving people enough to go to them where they are
- Being genuine, equal in relationship and honesty
- Sharing faith positively and humbly

Messy Club continues to value the strong link with the Stay and Play group, held on a Thursday morning, and more families are being encouraged to join us when we have our planned events. The number of children attending now fluctuates between 14 – 20, but all those involved in offering opportunities for Christian Fellowship in our community recognise that it is a worthwhile and rewarding use of our time. I am so grateful for the support given to our Messy Club from those who are willing to run an activity table but also others who provide refreshments and help prepare and clear up afterwards. It couldn't happen without you all!

We are blessed that there are 2 children who regularly and enthusiastically attend the Sunday 10am Service along with a small number of others who occasionally worship alongside us. We welcome all children to the children's area in church with a number of weekly activities such as playdough, colouring, card making, sticker work and reading games. We ask for your continued prayers that this mission opportunity may continue and grow.

Children's work continues to be linked to our neighbouring parish of St Peter's Harborne and together we work with the aim of sharing God's love in an engaging way. Members of our Church Community were warmly welcomed to attend St Peter's Family Day in June and their Christmas Event and will be invited to join in the Good Friday children's celebration, so it is a continued blessing that there have been more activities available for families during the past 12 months.

In this way, joint events that both parishes share, enable the continuation of children being welcomed into our church communities and provide opportunities for all of us to grow in love, deepen our faith and together, work for God.

Helen Setchell

CHURCH ESTATE TASK GROUP

The major project of 2025 was the replacement of the cast iron gutters and drainpipes and was successfully completed just before the summer party. Some cracks have been noted in the church building masonry and 5 monitoring devices have been installed. To date (more than 12 months since installation), no appreciable movement has been noted.

The door at the top of the bell tower has been restored, redecorated and replaced, and all the outer church doors have been oiled following repair. The main front steps have been re-laid and new external lights to the car park have been fitted. A second notice board have been erected near the car park entrance, which contains eco-church and environmental information. The church heating, a real concern for some time, has required a new burner in the boiler and this was successfully fitted on Ash Wednesday. A leak from the committee room roof is presently being investigated.

Outside in the community garden, the brickwork around the raised beds has been repaired and the 13 conifer trees have been reduced in size. The trees on the eastern border of the front lawn have also been reduced as they became unstable and dangerous following recent storms.

David Arkell

CHURCH FLOWER GROUP

Over the last year, the ladies who undertake the floral displays in our beautiful church have worked together to make some significant changes to enhance the way we work.

Our membership has increased from 7 to 11, and we were delighted to welcome our 4 new people on board. They have brought with them great enthusiasm and different skills. This does not close the door; we would be happy to welcome anyone else who may be interested in joining us.

We meet around 3 times per year to plan floral arrangements, particularly for Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. Working together, we have achieved the completion of some long overdue administrative tasks, a necessary church requirement, which makes us compliant with church policies. We have enhanced financial monitoring. We have chosen a name for the group, - St. Faith and St. Laurence Church Flower Group, or Church Flower Group for short. In addition, we have our own Group Prayer, which David Parker kindly provided.

We have divided up the important tasks of the group, into: Administrative Tasks; Compiling and Maintaining a Rota; Monitoring and Replenishing Consumables Stock; and Flower Fund Monitoring and Reporting. This helps things run more smoothly and ensures that we comply with church policy and requirements. Importantly, this means that these tasks do not all fall on the shoulders of one person. The Group continues to evolve and work together to make improvements. Church Flower Group have made some great strides forward in the last year, which they can be very proud of.

Whilst remaining a valued part of the Church Flower Group, Anita Tippin has stepped down from the organisation of the team but will continue with floral arrangements. We would like to thank Anita for her hard work and commitment in keep church flower arranging going for many years.

Josie Phillips and Helen Hayward

CHURCHWOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship had a very good year in 2025, especially regarding membership which increased by 7, making a full membership of 25. The talks, which are arranged by Caroline Marshall, have been varied and very interesting - they included an insight into the work of Cerebral Palsy Midlands, the Fire Service, the early life of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the History of Aston Hall, music relating to Spring and a Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi led by Peter Stokes. We also held our AGM followed by a Quiz compiled by one of our members. Our Spring and Christmas lunches in May and December were held at The Old House at Home. We start the afternoon with a special prayer and The Lord's Prayer and follow the talk with tea/coffee and biscuits and finish with a raffle. We are a friendly and welcoming group of ladies so please, if you feel you would like to join us, do come along. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Committee Room. (Note: next month we shall have our Spring lunch).

Helen Hayward

ECO CHURCH REPORT

Our mission continues as we work toward Net Zero Carbon and strive to achieve the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award.

Energy & Carbon Footprint

- Energy Footprint Toolkit (EFT): The 2025 EFT questionnaire was successfully submitted to the Diocese.
- Emission Reduction: I am pleased to report a slight decrease in our carbon footprint, moving from 10.4 net tonnes (CO2e) in 2024 to 10.1 in 2025.
- Heating: Following significant Church building boiler issues in November 2025, we had to use alternative heating system until it was repaired on February 18th 2026.
- Utilities: We have transitioned to new energy suppliers. As of October 2025, we have opted into a 5% "greener" choice as approved by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at their meeting held on July 9th.

Policy & Strategy

- Environmental Policy: The PCC completed its annual review of the St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) Environmental Policy on 13th January 2026.
- Path to Net Zero: In collaboration with the Church Estate Task Group, we have developed a Practical Path to Net Zero. This roadmap helps SF&SL systematically reduce energy use to meet the Church of England's 2030 national commitment. Regular reports were presented to PCC.

Community & Collaboration

- Deanery Engagement: We continue to meet bi-monthly with the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Parish Environment Contacts (PEC). These meetings allow us to share ideas, knowledge, and support regarding Eco Church awards and community engagement.
- Local Success: Congratulations to St Hilda's for achieving Net Zero Carbon Neutral status in July.
- Churches Count on Nature & the Great Big Green Week: On 7th June 2025, we held a litter-picking / working party to mark these important campaigns. Though small in number, the team was incredibly efficient in caring for "God's Acre." Thank you to everyone who helped.

Communication & Outreach

- The Eco Church noticeboard was installed at the car park entrance in September 2025. This features environmental news, key dates, and green tips.
- We continue to include environmental articles and tips in our weekly emails, pew sheets, and quarterly magazines.

If you have environmental tips to share, or if you would like to help us on our journey toward the Gold Award, please do speak with me.

Corinne Treacy, Parish Environment Contact

GARDEN GROUP

Due to the weather conditions over last few months not much has been done but the garden at the side of the church going down to the lady chapel has been dug over and some of the shrubs have been taken out as they were not doing very well it has also been covered with wood chip which will help to keep the weeds down.

During September last year the beavers and some cubs came round and planted some bulbs in the garden, they also pulled back the ivy from the trees and the grass in the back garden they did a good job.

The small round garden by the main entrance to the church has been dug over but has got to be done again before we plant it up. The grass has had its first cut off the year.

The garden at the front by the privet hedge has been looked after by Lesley and David Arkell and is beginning to look very colourful. The box hedge has box blight and needs to be removed. We have some new people helping to do the garden but there is still a lot to do so anyone interested would be very welcome.

The Garden Group

MINISTRY TEAM

Sally and David have met regularly to plan services and discuss pastoral issues. Recently we have been joined by Bronwen Jones, who has completed the diocesan "Growing Gifts" training and in March was authorised by David as an occasional preacher: we expect that Bron will be preaching at the 10am service roughly once every 2 months. Going forward we will also be joined by Helen Setchell who has applied to start training as a Reader. We are delighted to welcome Bron and Helen to our team and believe they will greatly enrich the ministry we offer to the parish.

The pattern of regular services has remained unchanged over the last year. All age (Parade) services were held at 10am on 30th March (Mothering Sunday), 13th July, 12th October (Harvest), 14th December (Christingle) 2025, 25th Jan 2026 (Conversion of Paul), and 22nd March 2026. The Remembrance Sunday service on 9th November was very well supported by the local Air Cadet squadron as well as by our own uniformed groups. The Service of the Word on 14th September was on the theme of Creationtide.

Special evening services during the year included the All Souls Memorial Service on 2nd November, Music and Readings for Advent on 30th November, and communion services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. The Carol Service was held on 14th December starting at 5.30pm; we were again delighted to welcome choristers from West House School to this service. In the last year, our worship has been greatly blessed by the contributions from the informal Singing Group who are clearly growing in confidence: we thank them, and also Mark Lawrence for all he does to uphold the standard of music in our worship.

During Lent 2026 discussion groups were held on Thursday afternoons and evenings based on the national church's "Draw Near" material.

Five baptisms were performed during 2025, one of which was for an adult who was subsequently confirmed by Bishop Esther at St Hilda's, Warley Woods. Two weddings were celebrated, and also a service of blessing following a civil wedding. During 2025, 7 funerals were held in church and David conducted a further 11 at local crematoria; to date in 2026 we have conducted a further 5 funerals.

Attendance at the monthly services led by Sally at Queen Mother Gardens and by David at William Lench Court had dwindled and in early 2026 the decision was taken to stop both these services. David and Sally continue to take communion to a number of parishioners who are no longer able to get to church.

Unfortunately, the usual visit to church by Woodhouse Primary Academy in December had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a storm, but in April David led an assembly for them on the theme of Holy Week. In March David welcomed the Cubs to church as part of their work for the World Faiths Badge, and in late April a class from Our Lady of Fatima are due to visit.

David Parker and Sally Griffiths

MISSION TASK GROUP

Last year we reported on the renewed contact with our former link parish of Liwonde in Malawi, and the news that the people there were close to starving due to crop failures: following this in early 2025 the PCC gave £1,500 in immediate aid and an appeal in the parish raised a further £1,650 which was sent to Liwonde. Unfortunately, since then we have learnt that Fr Louis Majeza has moved on from Liwonde, so we do not currently have a contact there.

The Task Group met formally only once last year, in October, to decide which charities to recommend to the PCC for the 2025 Away Giving. Since £1500 had already been given to Malawi, we proposed that the remaining funds be split between Shelter Box Emergency Disaster Relief, Birmingham City Mission, and Target Ovarian Cancer. The PCC subsequently gave £800

to each of these causes, as well as £100 to A Rocha UK, making a total of £4,000 Away Giving from PCC funds in 2025.

We continue with Call in for Coffee, Prayer Cards etc., and Pauline is in contact with our usual Mission Societies.

Chair: Pauline Sitford; Secretary: Judith Bennett; Members: David Parker, Hilary Shaylor, Sue Glanvill, Angela Collingwood and Peter Stokes

David Parker and Pauline Sitford

MUSIC

My second full year as Director of Music has seen consolidation and continuity. I continue to choose the music for every Sunday and the major festivals and play the organ for the majority of services during the year. Our regular group of singers has grown in size and confidence. We have deliberately kept our ambition modest, practising the hymns together but then singing them seated amongst the congregation to boost everyone's confidence. It seems to work. In addition, we have sung a simple anthem or (in Advent and Lent) a responsorial psalm. At Ascension, we joined with choristers from St Peter's Harborne and St Mary's Selly Oak. At Christmas, we again combined forces with my West House School Chorale for the Nine Lessons and Carols service.

It remains the case that the singers group is open to new members, is not auditioned and is flexible - since not everyone can come every week, including me. We would happily welcome male singers and children from Year 3 up (with their parent or responsible adult present in the church). Anyone who would like to sing with us should have a word with me on a Sunday morning, then come along and see if they enjoy it.

I am most grateful to David Griffiths and Richard Lewis, who have played the organ when I am unavailable. The organ itself continues to be maintained and kept in working order. These biannual visits for tuning and fixing any small problems are far preferable to the much larger expenditure that would be required for major refurbishment. At present, we seem to be doing OK!

It is good that other organisations like to use our church for concerts from time to time. We are fortunate to have a fine, medium-sized church with a warm acoustic for music, with a convenient hall, toilets and plentiful free roadside parking. One thing I would mention as a possible future project, if we wanted to encourage more concerts in church, is that the elderly church piano is not really of a good enough standard and a small grand piano with fewer 'miles on the clock' would be a big improvement.

Finally, thank you to everyone for being so encouraging as we work together to keep our music going.

Mark Lawrence, Director of Music

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is the action the Church can take to promote a safer culture and is about protecting people with regards to their health, wellbeing and human rights. It is everyone's responsibility – every individual who partakes in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

We take safeguarding seriously at St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) and we try to ensure that everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe.

SF&SL Parochial Church Council (PCC) has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, specifically in having 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We have adopted and acted in accordance with the Church of England's safeguarding policies, including the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy statement.

Our Safeguarding policies fully adhere to Church of England and Diocese of Birmingham requirements. Ratified by the PCC on March 10th 2026, these policies are available at ***www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk*** and via hardcopy in the church Narthex and hall lobby. These policies apply to all clergy, churchwardens, PCC members, and everyone carrying out any church or non-church activity on the premises, whether paid or voluntary.

We are committed to maintaining a safe environment. DBS checks and Safeguarding training for SF&SL volunteers and trustees are kept up-to-date through a rolling, ongoing process. On September 9th, 2025, the PCC reviewed and authorised all church and non-church activities. Furthermore, we are in the process of finalising risk assessments and defining roles for all volunteer groups to ensure safe working practices.

We continue to use the Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub to monitor our compliance.

If you ever have concerns about someone's wellbeing or need to talk to someone, please speak to Sally Griffiths, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator contact.

Thank you for helping us keep SF&SL Church safe for all.

Sally Griffiths, David Parker and Corinne Treacy

SOCIALS TASK GROUP

We held a full timetable of events during the year, commencing with a Coffee and Cake Morning on the 17th May, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day 1945. We decorated the Hall with Union Flags, bunting and wartime music played throughout the morning. Attendance was not as good as hoped, but those who did come were treated to the sight of a certain vicar dressed in shorts, a little white frilly "French maid's" apron and a union flag bowler hat.!!!! The cakes were all homemade and dispatched effortlessly; the Tombola also proved popular.

On the 7th June we embarked on a new venture, An Evening Concert. This was well attended and comprised two halves. The first half featured two acts, The Notes (a ladies Ukulele Band) and the Teatime Trio, an ensemble who played modern tunes on conventional instruments. After an interval of nibbles and wine (soft drinks were available) at which the audience and acts were able to mingle, we reconvened for the second half which featured the very popular Rock Choir. This was enjoyed by everyone, who all joined in with the singing and raised £440.

The planned coach trip to Stourbridge Glass Museum on the 21st June was cancelled due to lack of interest but we are planning another for this year.

On 12th July we held our Family Fun Day combined with Messy Club. This was well attended with the children enjoying the activities in the Hall and the Bouncy Castle while the arrival of the Ice Cream van nearly caused a stampede. My sincere thanks go to Helen Setchell and her team for conducting the Messy Club, Stephen Shaylor for keeping the food coming all through lunchtime, despite the soaring temperatures and Caroline Mosley for the endless stream of fresh salads, jugs of squash and then bowls of strawberries and cream (well it was Wimbledon Final's Day). With your support we raised £327.25 towards the Gutter Fund.

On 18th October we held our Harvest Supper. We provided a choice of fillings for the jacket potatoes, a range of salads and coleslaw followed by a choice of desserts. During the evening, we held a quiz compiled by Vicky Miller. The evening raised £320.

We held our Autumn Fayre and Messy Club on the 8th November. This proved really popular with the youngsters, who with the conclusion of the Messy Club, migrated from the church with their parents to the Hall and supported the various stalls, The Chocolate Tombola, Tombola and Christmas Stall proved very attractive and were well patronised. Gill Hubble and her team were kept busy providing a range of refreshments throughout lunchtime all of which made for a very busy and happy day. As a result, we were able to boost the Gutter Fund coffers by £1031.05.

We have a series of events planned for this coming year, the first of which was a Burns Night Supper held on 25th January. The others are:

25th April	Skittles with Fish and Chips Supper.
May (Date TBC)	Coach Trip
11th July	Family Fun Day with a Barbeque and Bouncy Castle
17th October	Harvest Supper
9th November	Autumn Fayre

On behalf of the Task Group, I want to thank all those who helped and supported our events during the year and we all look forward to welcoming you again this year.

David Glanvill, Chair

STAY AND PLAY

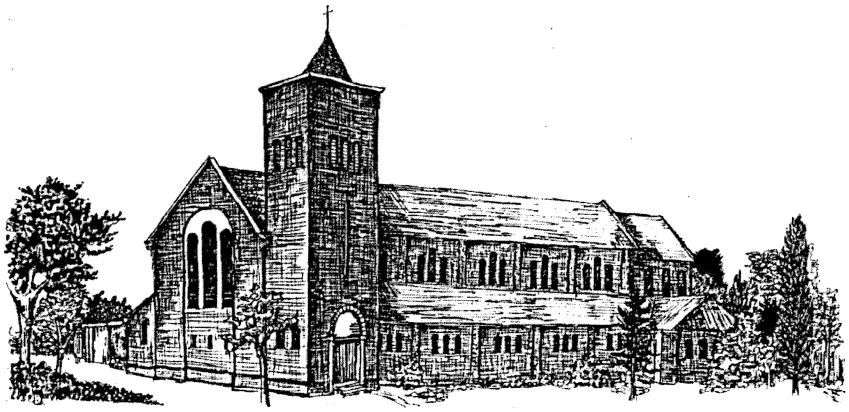
The playgroup takes place on a weekly basis throughout the year overseen by our regular group of volunteers. The parents/carers supervise their child's play and we provide toast and drinks, with a singing session at the end.

We are fortunate in having many families attending on a regular basis and also new families joining us.

It is pleasing to note that some of our families take part in Messy Club.

Judith Bennett

St Faith and St Laurence
Annual Accounts
2025



St Faith and St Laurence Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Priest in Charge:
The Reverend David Parker
Harborne, Birmingham

Bank:
TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley, B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:
Mr Stephen Hendy
Data Developments Ltd
First Floor, Chubb Building
Fryer Steet, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT

PCC Members 2025

Malcolm Adey, Lesley Arkell, Loleta Atkinson, Roger Chester (resigned June 2025), Angela Collingwood, Dee Coyne, David Glanvill, Sally Griffiths, Alan Jones, Caroline Mosley, David Parker, Josie Phillips (from May 2025), Alex Robertson, Helen Setchell, Chris Stewart, Anita Tippin, Corinne Treacy, John Wadman

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of
The PCC of St Faith and St Laurence

Registered charity number: 1134152

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the with the accounting records

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

Signed: Date: 10th March 2026
Mr Stephen Hendy

Data Developments (UK) Ltd
First Floor, Chubb Building, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1Ht

St Faith and St Laurence PCC
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Accounting Policies
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Other assets – the parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to have a current market value of £510,426 (and has been insured for this amount).

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

St Faith and St Laurence PCC
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	53,108	-	69,260	-	122,368	71,781
Income from charitable activities	5,891	-	-	-	5,891	5,273
Other trading activities	26,836	-	-	-	26,836	24,862
Investments	828	1,391	-	-	2,219	2,486
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	**86,662**	**1,391**	**69,260**	**-**	**157,313**	**104,402**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	92,767	-	86,190	-	178,958	87,428
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**92,767**	**-**	**86,190**	**-**	**178,958**	**87,428**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(6,105)**	**1,391**	**(16,931)**	**-**	**(21,644)**	**16,974**
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	(15,000)	-	-	(15,000)	-
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(6,105)**	**(13,609)**	**(1,931)**	**-**	**(21,644)**	**16,974**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**31,472**	**31,030**	**4,106**	**-**	**66,609**	**49,635**
Total funds carried forward	**25,367**	**17,422**	**2,175**	**-**	**44,965**	**66,609**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General Fund	25,367	-	-	-	25,367	31,472
Designated						
Church And Hall Repairs Fund	-	17,402	-	-	17,402	31,012
Fabric Furniture And Fittings Fund	-	19	-	-	19	19
Restricted						
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	-	-	67	-	67	-
Gutter Refurbishment Fund	-	-	1,101	-	1,101	3,250
Women's Fellowship	-	-	1,007	-	1,007	856

St Faith and St Laurence PCC
Balance Sheet as at 31.12.2025

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
6501	Bank current account	8,574	17,843
6510	CCLA (CBF) deposit account - PCC	19,124	18,296
6511	CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Church and Hall Repairs Fund	17,402	31,012
6512	CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund	19	19
6520	Women's Fellowship Account	660	856
6590	Cash in hand	414	-
Z05	Accounts Receivable	-	55
	Total Current assets	**46,193**	**68,080**
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	429	-
Z04	Accounts Payable	800	1,472
	Total Liabilities	**1,229**	**1,472**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**44,965**	**66,609**
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	(21,644)	-
Z01	Starting balances	66,609	66,609
	Total Reserves	**44,965**	**66,609**
	Represented by Funds		
	General (Unrestricted)	25,367	31,472
	Designated	17,422	31,030
	Restricted	2,175	4,106
	Total	**44,965**	**66,609**

St Faith and St Laurence PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities – 2025

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
Bank current account	7,044	-	1,530	-	8,574	17,843
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - PCC	19,124	-	-	-	19,124	18,296
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Church and Hall Repairs Fund	-	17,402	-	-	17,402	31,012
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund	-	19	-	-	19	19
Women's Fellowship Account	-	-	660	-	660	856
Cash in hand	-	-	414	-	414	-
Total	**26,167**	**17,422**	**2,604**	**-**	**46,193**	**68,025**
Current Asset - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	55
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**55**
Liability - Agency Accounts						
Agency collections	-	-	429	-	429	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**429**	**-**	**429**	**-**
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year						
Accounts Payable	800	-	-	-	800	1,472
Total	**800**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**800**	**1,472**
Net total assets	**25,367**	**17,422**	**2,175**	**-**	**44,965**	**66,609**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – 2024

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
Bank current account	14,593	-	3,250	-	17,843	-
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - PCC	18,296	-	-	-	18,296	-
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Church and Hall Repairs Fund	-	31,012	-	-	31,012	-
CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund	-	19	-	-	19	-
Women's Fellowship Account	-	-	856	-	856	-
Total	**32,889**	**31,030**	**4,106**	**-**	**68,025**	**-**
Current Asset - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable	55	-	-	-	55	-
Total	**55**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**55**	**-**
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year						
Accounts Payable	1,472	-	-	-	1,472	-
Total	**1,472**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,472**	**-**
Net total assets	**31,472**	**31,030**	**4,106**	**-**	**66,609**	**-**

St Faith and St Laurence PCC
Fund movement summary – 2025

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
General							
Unrestricted	31,472	86,662	92,767	-	-	-	25,367
Sub-totals	**31,472**	**86,662**	**92,767**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**25,367**
Gutters							
Restricted	3,250	68,977	86,125	15,000	-	-	1,101
Sub-totals	**3,250**	**68,977**	**86,125**	**15,000**	**-**	**-**	**1,101**
Repairs							
Designated	31,012	1,390	-	(15,000)	-	-	17,402
Sub-totals	**31,012**	**1,390**	**-**	**(15,000)**	**-**	**-**	**17,402**
Fabric & Fittings							
Designated	19	1	-	-	-	-	19
Sub-totals	**19**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**19**
Flowers							
Restricted	-	132	65	-	-	-	67
Sub-totals	**-**	**132**	**65**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**67**
Women's Fellowship							
Restricted	856	151	-	-	-	-	1,007
Sub-totals	**856**	**151**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,007**
Totals	**66,609**	**157,313**	**178,958**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**44,965**

Analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid - Bank	4,158	-	41,052	-	45,210	7,027
Parish Giving Scheme	26,344	-	-	-	26,344	28,669
Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,902	-	-	-	2,902	2,501
Other planned giving - envelopes	1,525	-	-	-	1,525	-
Planned giving - Standing orders	1,104	-	-	-	1,104	-
Loose plate collections	3,087	-	-	-	3,087	3,047
Collections - Funeral	37	-	-	-	37	-
Collections - Wedding	20	-	-	-	20	-
Contactless donations	1,946	-	203	-	2,149	-
Magazine donations	270	-	-	-	270	-
Coffee donations	734	-	-	-	734	703
Votive candle donations	175	-	-	-	175	-
Donations appeals etc	1,859	-	3,314	-	5,173	6,606
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,949	-	10,338	-	19,286	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	13,163
Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	-	-	-	10,065
Listed Places of Worship Grant	-	-	14,354	-	14,354	-
Donations and legacies Totals	**53,108**	**-**	**69,260**	**-**	**122,368**	**71,781**
Income from charitable activities						
Stay and Play subs	961	-	-	-	961	876
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,330	-	-	-	2,330	4,397
Church hall lettings - objectives	2,600	-	-	-	2,600	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	**5,891**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**5,891**	**5,273**
Other trading activities						
Fund raising events	-	-	-	-	-	627
Church hall lettings - fund raising	26,281	-	-	-	26,281	23,406
Magazine income - advertising	555	-	-	-	555	829
Other trading activities Totals	**26,836**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**26,836**	**24,862**
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	828	1,391	-	-	2,219	2,486
Investments Totals	**828**	**1,391**	**-**	**-**	**2,219**	**2,486**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**86,662**	**1,391**	**69,260**	**-**	**157,313**	**104,402**

Analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Last year
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving - relief and development agencies	3,929	-	-	-	3,929	-
Home mission	800	-	-	-	800	4,475
Secular charities	900	-	-	-	900	308
Common Fund	46,000	-	-	-	46,000	40,000
Organists	4,871	-	-	-	4,871	2,377
Working expenses of incumbent	300	-	-	-	300	2,769
Parsonage house expenses	188	-	-	-	188	-
Vicarage gas	193	-	-	-	193	-
Vicarage electricity	17	-	-	-	17	-
Church running - insurance	4,303	-	-	-	4,303	4,177
Church office - telephone	726	-	-	-	726	-
Photocopier	1,840	-	-	-	1,840	1,556
Consumables	1,052	-	-	-	1,052	-
Organ / piano tuning	754	-	-	-	754	-
Fire extinguishers	546	-	-	-	546	-
Church maintenance	7,169	-	-	-	7,169	5,805
Cleaning	8,586	-	-	-	8,586	8,167
Upkeep of services	769	-	65	-	834	2,547
RSCM	137	-	-	-	137	-
CCLI licences	305	-	-	-	305	-
Upkeep of churchyard	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-
Administration	396	-	-	-	396	6,278
Bank charges	275	-	-	-	275	220
Church running - electric	2,099	-	-	-	2,099	4,389
Church running - gas	3,019	-	-	-	3,019	-
Hall running - electricity	-	-	-	-	-	2,424
Hall running - maintenance	678	-	-	-	678	811
Hall cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	285
Governance costs examination/audit fee	876	-	-	-	876	840
Legal advice	540	-	-	-	540	-
Church major repairs - structure	-	-	86,125	-	86,125	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**92,767**	**-**	**86,190**	**-**	**178,958**	**87,428**
Expenditure Grand totals	**92,767**	**-**	**86,190**	**-**	**178,958**	**87,428**

Notes on the 2025 accounts

This is the first set of annual accounts prepared using the new accounting package adopted in 2025, which provides a more detailed and accurate breakdown of our income and expenditure.

The balance sheet on p5 shows that at the end of 2025 the parish had total assets of £44,965, down from £66,609 at the start of the year. The figure of £414 shown for "Cash in hand" includes £347 held by the Women's Fellowship and £67 for the Flower Fund. During the year £15,000 was withdrawn from the previous Repairs Fund as a contribution to the Gutters Project.

Income and expenditure totals for the year were respectively £157,313 and £178,958, and the analysis of these sums is set out on pp8-9. The "Restricted" column is entirely the Gutters Project, apart from income and expenditure of £132 and £65 respectively for the Flowers Fund.

Because of the change in accounting package, the 2025 analysis cannot be directly compared to the previous year's figures. Note that income from hire of the church/hall is now separated into those activities which are consistent with our charitable objectives (BJVC, Guides, Women's Fellowship) and those which are intended as a source of income (everything else).

The principal one-off factors affecting the 2025 accounts were the Gutters Project and the church heating failure. Since October the Birmingham Jesus Vision Church have been renting the church buildings on Sunday afternoons which provides an additional source of income; there was a one-off legal cost involved in setting up the contract.

Gutters: A major undertaking in 2025 was the Gutters Project, for which a dedicated restricted account was created: this started the year holding the previous grant of £3,250, and received donations of £44,284, to which was added £10,337 in gift aid recovered. The planned work was carried out between June and September, and expenditure to date totals £86,125, which includes £14,354 in VAT that has been reimbursed through the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme. After transferring £15,000 from the previous Repairs Fund, there is a balance of £1,101 in the Gutters Fund, against which there will be a retention of £1,719 to be paid in due course.

Church Heating: The unexpected failure of the church heating system in November 2025 resulted in £4621 of additional expenses during the year:

£3123 for the new burner (paid for in December, delivered February 2026)
£1110 for the cost of engineer's visits (reimbursed by a donation in early 2026)
£196 for the purchase of a portable propane heater, £191 for propane gas

General Fund: Overall, there was a deficit of £6,105 on the General Fund (£25,367, down from £31,472 at the start of the year). £1,250 of this deficit was actually debts owed to charities from the previous year (not shown explicitly in the 2024 accounts) which were paid out during 2025. Allowing for this, and without the extra costs associated with the heating failure, the parish would have been very close to breaking even. It should also be noted that over £3k of significant "one-off" maintenance/repair tasks were completed during 2025, including:

£1500 for trimming trees,
£985 for relaying the front steps,
£432 for replacing car-park lights,
£275 for repairs to the tower door.

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of
The PCC of St Faith and St Laurence

Registered charity number: 1134152

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the with the accounting records

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

Signed: Date: 10th March 2026
Mr Stephen Hendy

Data Developments (UK) Ltd
First Floor, Chubb Building, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1Ht