Agenda for

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Sunday 24th May 2026

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Tabling of AOB
4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Parishioners
5. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Annual Reports
    a. Governance and Management Reports
    b. Reports from the PCC
    c. Church and Community Reports
    d. PCC's Responsibilities
    e. Annual Accounts
    f. Appendices
4. Election of representatives to the Parochial Church Council
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
6. Safeguarding Reminders
7. Prayers of Love and Faith
8. Final Remarks
9. Any other Business
10. Date of the Next Meeting (23rd May 2027 - TBC)

The Grace.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held on Sunday 11th May 2025

Present:

Steve Perry	Dorothy Walker
Barbara Perry	Brenda Cox
Peter Lyne	Mary Morris
L.N. Konneh	Linda Finch
Carole Lillico	Ann Hunter
Ellen Martin	Lawrence Hunter
Dorothy Darling	Anne Russell
Sylvia Atkinson	Alison Swift
Pat Corby	Jim Gordon
Joan Robson	Millie Hornsby
Evelyn Baron	Ann Walker
Norma Kirk	Ruth Burn
Christopher Guy	Wendy Wills
Kathleen Guy	Brenda Harrison
Carole Martin	Eric Aririsukwu
Geraldine Tinning	Nancy Gash
Margaret Cathey	Sue Wharton
Jacqueline Connell	Francesca Ayre
Edythe Ayre	

1. **Opening Prayer:**
Father Wal opened the meeting with prayers.

2. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies were received from:

Lynn Jones	Jenny Blaker
Gloria Stapylton	Sharon Wilkinson
Joyce Brannen	Helen Ekhorelen

3. **Tabling of Any Other Business:**

4. **Update to the Rules of Representation:**
Following an update by Father Wal on the update to the Rules of Representation were accepted by those present, any further information was available from the Vicar.

5. **Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting of Parishioners:**
The minutes of the last meeting were agreed, as read, they were proposed as a correct record by Geraldine Tinning and seconded by Eric Aririsukwu and all agreed.

6. **Election of Churchwardens:**
There have been two nominations for the positions of churchwardens, Geraldine Tinning and Jacqueline Connell, who both agreed to continue for another year. Sylvia Atkinson has accepted the proposal for her to act as Deputy Church Warden should the need arise. There were no objections and they were accepted. Father Wal thanked them for their continued hard work and support.

Nominated	*Proposed by*	*Seconded by*
Mrs Geraldine Tinning	Doreen Black	Dorothy Darling
Mrs Jacqueline Connell	Barbara Perry	Elizabeth Lattimer
Mrs Sylvia Atkinson	Helen Ekhorelen	Norma Kirk

Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – (taken as read).
Anne Russell proposed the minutes should be accepted as a true record seconded by Alison Swift.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
Father Wal said all the hard work carried out in 2024 was now evident in 2025.

3. To Receive the Annual Reports of the Parochial Church Council for 2024:

a. Governance and Management Reports
b. Reports from the PCC
c. Church and Community Reports
d. PCC's Responsibilities
e. Appendices:

i. Social Policies Summaries and Commitments

ii. List of Policies

f. The Annual Accounts for 2024 (Wendy Wills has kindly agreed to assist the Treasurer with the accounts.) It was noted that there was an interesting leaflet available highlighting the work undertaken by the church and how our money is being spent.

Father Wal thanked Dorothy Walker for her continued work with Mothers' Union and commitment to work in the community.

All reports have been previously circulated and taken as read.

4. Election of Deanery Synod Representative:

Nominated	*Proposed by*	*Seconded by*
Eric Aririsukwu	Alison Swift	Anne Russell

5.Election of representatives to the Parochial Church Council:

Nominated	*Proposed by*	*Seconded by*
Mrs Mary Morris	Dorothy Walker	Brenda Cox
Elizabeth Lattimer	Carole Martin	Brenda Cox
Barbara Perry	Carole Martin	Sylvia Atkinson
Sylvia Atkinson	Helen Ekhoroton	Norma Kirk
Evelyn Baron	Elizabeth Lattimer	Joan Robson
Linda Finch	Pat Corby	Jim Gordon
Wendy Wills	Ann Walker	Brenda Cox

All unanimously agreed.

Father Wal thanked all members of the Church Council for their continued commitment and hard work.

6. **Appointment of an Independent Examiner:**
Sadly Mr. Michael Davison passed away in 2024 after many years as our Independent Examiner, Mrs Joy Walker has now agreed to act in his place, this was proposed by Nancy Gash and seconded by Dorothy Walker. A letter of thanks would be sent accordingly.

Father Wal expressed his thanks to our Treasurer Barbara Perry for her continued work on church accounts and many other duties, Barbara said she could not have done the job without Father Wal's assistance.

7. **Final Remarks:**
The Church Wardens also thanked Father Wal for his ministry here at Holy Nativity and it was noted that everything was on the 'UP'.

8. **Any Other Business:**
No other business was discussed.

9. **Next Meeting of Parochial Church Council:**
The next meeting of the Church Council would be held on Thursday 5th June at 6.30 pm in church.

The meeting closed with the words of The Grace.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Parochial Church Council of the
Church of the Holy Nativity
Chapel House

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year ended
31st December 2025

Including the
'Outside In' Community Project &
Community Peace Gardens Project

Registered Charity Number: 1134615

Commitment to the Environment

As part of its Eco-Policy, the PCC of the Church of Holy Nativity has adopted the Diocesan 'Commitment to the Environment', affirming the Fifth Mark of Mission as a central part of our life and work. The fifth Mark of Mission is, 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth'.

The buildings incorporate energy saving features including ground-source heating and air-source heating. The Community Peace Garden and Sensory Garden encourage a rich variety of wild-life and local interest in natural ecosystems.

List of Current Policies (available for consultation outside the office)

- Data Privacy Notice / GDPR Policy
- Financial Policies
  - Authorisation and procedure requirements
  - Cash Handling and Fee Policy
  - Acceptance and Refusal of Donations Policy
  - Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Reserve Policy
  - Church Legacy Policy
  - Pre-paid cards Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Volunteering Policy
- Mutual Expectations Statement
- Lone Worker Policy
- Complaints Policy and Procedures
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Disability Policy
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
  - Promoting a Safer Church
  - Guidance for Parishes
- Health and Safety Policy
- Eco-Policy
- Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation – Parish Policy
- Book of Remembrance Policy
- LLF Policy

APPENDIX

All policies were reviewed and updated where necessary and approved by the PCC in the past 12 months.

Safeguarding Policy – Commitment

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Health and Safety Summary Policy

Our policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors and others who may use the church, churchyard or any other building we are responsible for. This will be in accordance with good practice and any relevant statutory provisions where they apply.
The PCC, advised by the 'Diocesan Advisory Committee', undertakes to ensure that the premises and practices of the Church of the Holy Nativity are inspected and reviewed regularly to maintain appropriate levels of safety and a healthy environment.

This includes the Quinquennial Church Inspection by a designated Architect (Sarah Harrison) and Electrical Inspections.

Inclusive Church Commitment

We are an inclusive church committed to opening up our premises as a resource to any appropriate community, voluntary business or statutory organisation, group or activity irrespective of age, race, religion, ethnic origin, marital status, colour, nationality, gender, disability or sexual orientation, whose function, purpose and working methods will add to the well-being of the people in the locality, the needs of the whole person and to social cohesion.

The Church of the Holy Nativity Disability Policy outlines awareness of needs and intentions to improve facilities as soon as is possible, in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. *The new buildings are designed with accessibility issues in mind.*

Holy Nativity Mission Statement

We will...

... Offer a warm welcome to everyone
... Live and Share the good news of God's Love
... Build up Fellowship to grow in our community
... Seek ways of joyfully serving one another
... Support the work of the church and charities at home and abroad

Some activities which reflect this commitment:

- Teams of people who welcome visitors at the door and to offer refreshments and fellowship following worship. Children's activities bags are available for use.
- The good news is shared in many practical ways of service, information and support and with the help of the pastoral visitors.
- Fellowship groups, regular social and celebration events, coffee mornings, home visiting and the thrice weekly drop-in each offer times to meet and build friendships.
- The 'Outside In' Community Project is an expression of our commitment to be 'church in community'.
- Financial support of church ministry and mission at home and abroad comes from special services, collections, awareness events and donations.

Note		General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Reserve Fund £	Restricted Fund £	**Total Funds 2025**	Total Funds 2024 £
27	NE Door System (auto opening)		9,234				0
	Tyneside Electricals		1,934				0
	Air Source Heat Pump	270	15,060				0
	Metal Container		4,740				0
	Automatic Door Stops		3,899				0
XXX	**Fees to NDBF/RetiredClergy**	1,930					
	Total Payments	51,749	34,867	0	0	**86,616**	59,302

Note		General Fund	Designated Fund	Reserve Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£		£
	ARM Electrical	0				0	0
	CR Blackburn -QI Architect	0				0	290
	Kitchen Boiler replacement	0				0	1,018
	NCC Trade/Garden waste collection	270				270	263
	Insurance of premises	1,639				1,639	1,603
	Sunday Readings	161				161	149
	Copyright Licences	305				305	396
	Freewill Offering envelopes	35				35	38
	Wine, Candles etc	916				916	559
	Cleaning	1,314				1,314	1,184
	Printing and Stationery	1,266				1,266	1,175
	Church Hospitality & Refreshments	438				438	557
	Resources					0	260
	Sundry expenses	910				910	422
	Flower Fund (D)	200				200	81
	Garden, Drains & General Maintenance	1,721				1,721	1,899
	Little Fishes	444				444	0
	Women's Fellowship exps	50				50	0
	Cavtec - wi-fi upgrade/licences	0				0	30
	First Aid Training	0				0	0
	Petty Cash Float	1,763				1,763	1,165
	Equals Money payments	1,775				1,775	1,698
24	**Utility Services:**						
	Pozitive Energy	8,791				8,791	8,734
	Northumbrian Water - meter charges	954					
	BT/Broadband	1,727					
27	**Major Repairs to Church and Buildings:**						
	Plant Room Steel Door		0				
	Alarm adjustment re above		0				
	Boiler Room Roof Repair		0				
	Resin Path Cleaning	1,548					
	Carpet Cleaning	0					
	Gutter Cleaning, Locks & Windows	520					
	Architect re Steel Container, Air Pump etc		0				
	Planning Permission re Container & Air Pump		0				
	Air Pump Noise Assessment		0				

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Parochial Church Council
of The Church of the Holy Nativity, Chapel House

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Principal Office
The (Parish) Church of the Holy Nativity Chapel House
(Church of England, Diocese of Newcastle)
Hillhead Parkway
Chapel House
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DR

Telephone: 0191 2670559
E-mail: office@holynativity-chapelhouse.co.uk

Priest-in-Char e:
Father Waldemar Nion

Telephone: 07763 761330
E-mail: vicar@holynativity-chapelhouse.co.uk

Independent Examiner
Mrs Joy Walker

Bankers
Barclays Bank Plc

Solicitors
Jane Lowdon, Diocesan Registrar
Sintons LLP
The Cube
Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 6DB

Note		General Fund	Designated Fund	Reserve Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
12	**Church Activities:**						
	Use of Premises by Community Organisations	8,546				**8,546**	6,360
	Use of Premises by Church Groups	0				**0**	110
XX	Funeral and Wedding Fees to NDBF/Clergy/Organist	1,108					
	Total Receipts	**62,130**	**15,141**	**0**	**1**	**77,272**	63,112
	Payments:						
	Church and Parish Centre Activities:						
18	**Charitable Giving**						
	Designated Donations	2,503					
	Annual PCC Charitable Giving	20					
19	**Parish Share**	14,300				**14,300**	13,068
21	**Clergy costs:**						
	Clergy during Vacancy or absence	0				**0**	222
	Council Tax	2,933				**2,933**	2,788
	Water Rates	377				**377**	356
	BT/Broadband	0				**0**	1,006
23	**Running Expenses and Maintenance:**						
	CDS Security Alarm, Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting	1,119				**1,119**	1,012
	Alarm call out charges	0				**0**	631
	Servicing of Fire Extinguishers	140				**140**	282
	PAT testing (ARM Electrical)	180				180	283
	Ground Source Heat Pump	1,063				1,063	203
	Organ Maintenance	167				**167**	75

Note		General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Reserve Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024 £
	Voluntary receipts:						
2	**Planned Giving (Envelopes and Direct Debits- Gift Aided**	13,740				**13,740**	13,707
2	**Other Planned Giving - without Gift Aid**	4,562				**4,562**	4,409
3	**Collections at Services**	2,223				**2,223**	1,428
4	**All other giving/voluntary receipts:**						
	In Memoriam donations					**0**	3,100
	Votive Candles	205				**205**	260
	Little Fishes	1,457				**1,457**	1,539
	Community donations	2,710				**2,710**	1,249
	Legacy	4,000	375			**4,375**	10,120
6	**Gift Aid recovered**	3,713				**3,713**	8,666
9	**Activities for Generating Funds:**						
	Gift Day	1,375				**1,375**	1,687
	Refunded cash floats	349				**349**	0
	Christmas Fayre	967				**967**	0
	Charitable Giving donations	2,185				**2,185**	1,138
	Coffee Mornings and Refreshments	4,233				**4,233**	4,068
	Flower Fund	129				**129**	221
	On-line Giving (Sum-Up)	1,737				**1,737**	782
	Christopher Blackburn			0		**0**	200
	Closure of Women's Fellowship account		0			**0**	255
	Benefact Trust Grant	0				**0**	1,750
	Garfield Weston Grant	7,500				**7,500**	0
	Archbishops Council Grant		14,239			**14,239**	0
	Women's Fellowship donation	0				**0**	300
	Mothers' Union donation	50				**50**	291
	Joinery work in church (transfer)	270				**270**	0
	Pennies & 5p Jars	96				**96**	30
10	**Investment Income**		527		1	**528**	177
11	**Fees - Baptism certificates, Wedding and Funerals to PCC**	975				**975**	382

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

PCC MEMBERSHIP – 2025

Priest in Charge Reverend Waldemar Nion

Churchwardens
Mrs Jacqueline Connell (FE 2023 – Re. 2025)
Mrs Geraldine Tinning (FE 2023 – Re. 2025)

Representatives to the Newcastle West Deanery Synod
Mr Eric Aririsukwu (FE 2022 – Re. 2025)
Mrs Debbie Owens (FE 2024 – Re. 2025)

Other Elected Members – *mandate*
Mrs Sylvia Atkinson – *2025-28*
Ms Francesca Ayre – *2024-27*
Mrs Evelyn Baron – *2025-28*
Mrs Linda Finch – *2025-28*
Mr. Christopher Guy – *2023-26*
Mrs Elizabeth Lattimer – *2025-28* (PCC Secretary)
Mrs Carole Martin – *2024-27*
Mrs Mary Morris – *2025-28*
Mrs Barbara Perry – ***Co. 2025-26***
Mrs Wendy Wills *2025-28*

TERM OF OFFICE FOR NON EX-OFFICIO ELECTED MEMBERS

Until APCM 2026
Mr Christopher Guy
Mrs Barbara Perry (Co.)

Until APCM 2027
Ms Francesca Ayre
Mrs Carole Martin

Until APCM 2028
Mrs Sylvia Atkinson
Mrs Elizabeth Lattimer
Mrs Evelyn Baron
Mrs Linda Finch
Mrs Dorothy Walker
Mrs Barbara Perry
Mrs Wendy Wills

Key: *FE = First Elected – Re. = Re-Elected – Co.= Co-opted*

Parochial Church Council
of The Church of the Holy Nativity, Chapel House

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

PARISH CHURCH: STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) submits its annual report together with the financial statements of the Church of the Holy Nativity, Chapel House (the PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2025. The PCC confirms that the annual report and financial statements of the PCC comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the PCC's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2019.

a. CONSTITUTION:

The principal object of the PCC is to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission and ministry of the Church, pastoral, spiritual, educational, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in keeping with the gospel of Jesus Christ and according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The Church of the Holy Nativity is the Parish Church of Chapel House. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, under the Diocesan structures of Newcastle Diocese in the Church of England, and is subject to the Church Representation Rules and Synodical Government of the Church of England, the Diocese of Newcastle and the Province of York.

The PCC registered with the Charities Commission in 2010.
Registered Charity Number: 1134615

b. APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Parochial Church Councils are governed by the Church Representation Rules 2020.
Ref: Appendix 2 of the Church Representation Rules which sets out the manner in which a PCC must act and also Church Representation Rules 14 to 21 which deal with the Constitution of Parochial Church Councils. Under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 – section 3 every PCC is deemed to be a body corporate with perpetual succession.

c. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

Parochial Church Council (PCC) is an elected body of people with the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (or Area Dean and Churchwardens during Vacancy) in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission and ministry of the Church. It is also responsible for the management and maintenance of the church buildings and grounds. It is

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Note

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- **Basis of preparation of financial statements**
  The financial statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

- **Fund accounting**
  General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the PCC which have not been designated for other purposes.

  Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

  Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the PCC for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

  Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

- **Incoming resources:**
  All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the PCC is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

  Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of donation.

  Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is received.

- **Resources expended:**
  All expenditure is accounted for on a Payments and Receipts basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

  Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

  Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the PCC. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the PCC and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	£	2025 £
CURRENT ASSETS			39,753.00
CHARITY FUNDS:			
Restricted funds:			
CBF FofE Deposit Fund	17	33.00	
Designated fund: Unrestricted	17	17,992.00	
Reserve fund:	17	12,539.00	
General Fund: Unrestricted	17	9 189.00	
TOTAL FUNDS			39,7 3.00

The Financial Statements were prepared by Mrs Barbara Perry, Treasurer to the PCC, and approved by the PCC on Thursday 19th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Reverend Waldemar Nion
Priest in Charge

.....

Mrs Jacqueline Connell
Churchwarden

.....

Churchwarden

comprised of 9 lay representatives and 5 members ex-officio: 2 churchwardens, 2 Deanery Synod Representatives, and the chair (Priest-in-Charge). Nominations can be made by anyone on the Electoral Roll. 1 or 2 representatives are elected onto the West Newcastle Deanery Synod. The PCC has prime responsibility for the community project.

Induction and training of PCC members: New PCC members are elected and safely recruited and given a copy of the PCC's policies, told about Diocesan training events, and are supported in their understanding of the work of the PCC by the Priest-in-Charge.

The PCC Standing Committee is legally authorised to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions by the PCC.

Chair of the PCC / Clergy Father Waldemar Nion was installed as Priest-in Charge in September 2021. He serves as Chair of the PCC.

Churchwardens, elected by people on the electoral roll of the parish, are responsible with the PCC for ensuring the proper running and maintenance of the church and its regular worship.

Electoral Roll Officer is in charge of ensuring the Electoral Roll of the Parish is kept up to date, reviewed and renewed according to the Church Representation Rules. **Electoral Roll**, any baptised resident of the parish is eligible to be on the electoral roll, also residents of other parishes if they are regular in worship at the church. Currently the Electoral Roll stands at 65 members.

Newcastle Diocese provides oversight regarding buildings and maintenance, accounts and management, also, with the Bishop of Newcastle, the appointment of clergy.

West Newcastle Deanery Synod is a body of elected representatives and clergy from each parish church in the west of Newcastle. It is responsible for co-ordinating inter-parish support and strategic initiatives. Each Deanery Synod elects representatives to Newcastle Diocesan Synod.

d. RISK MANAGEMENT

The PCC have assessed the major risks to which the PCC is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the PCC, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. Risk analysis is carried out for every activity.

e. PRINCIPAL FUNDING

The Church relies principally on support, gifts and donations received from its congregation, benefactors and fundraising events for which it is deeply grateful

Parochial Church Council
of The Church of the Holy Nativity, Chapel House

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

2025 REPORTS FROM THE PCC

Review of Activities and Plans

Chair of the PCC / Clergy Report

2025 has been a year of development and consolidation, as we have sought to sustain the worshipping life of the parish, deepen our service of the community, and care well for the buildings entrusted to us. The PCC's work has been shaped by the growing demands of maintenance and repair, and by the conviction that the church and its building exist to serve people.

Within this context we completed the installation of a new heating system in the worship area and installed a storage container, improving comfort and ensuring safe storage in line with Health and Safety requirements. With the help of grants and generous funders (including private legacies, the Benefactor Group and Garfield Weston Foundation), the PCC raised £25,750 towards a forecast total cost of £26,717. We also made substantial progress on inclusion: nearly £15,000 was awarded towards accessibility improvements (including automatic doors, lighting and signage) from the Church of England Commissioners. Community life continued to develop with events, drop-ins, partners and groups, including the expansion of the Memory Café to a second weekly session (Thursday), which has proved both popular and needed.

In our worship and pastoral life, regular and seasonal services continued throughout the year, including Holy Week and Easter, All Souls and Remembrance, alongside our usual Sunday and weekday pattern. Formation and prayer were supported through the Lent Pilgrim Course and Wednesday Evening Prayer, which has become an established part of our common life. I continued home visits to those who are sick, on a six-weekly basis whenever possible, and Geraldine Tinning began accompanying me with a view to sharing some of these visits in 2026. We also planned a Living in Love and Faith study day which was postponed and will take place in early 2026.

In terms of our mission in Chapel House and our partnerships, the PCC sought to sustain and develop community-facing activities. Coffee mornings continued to welcome people and raise funds, with charitable giving agreed from proceeds, and the Drop-Ins remained an important point of contact and signposting. Encouraging developments included the formation of a new Narcotics Anonymous meeting and a new partnership with PROPS, now running a fortnightly drop-in. Relationships with partners and schools were strengthened through visits, assemblies and seasonal planning. With the PCC's consent (and as capacity allows), I have also taken on the role of "Haref Ally", a council-supported community partnership, as part of an invitation to help revive interfaith work and to play our part in addressing inequality and divisions in our communities. As a PCC we explored the possibility of longer-term community

STATEMENT OF FUNDS	General	Designated	Reserve	Restricted	TOTAL
SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS					
General Fund					
Balance b/fwd 1st Jan 2025	11,150.00				
Balance of funds 31st Dec 2025	10,381.00				
Transfer from General Fund to Designated Fund:	-12,342.00				
In Bank 31st Dec 2025:	9,189.00				
Reserve Account					
Balance b/fwd 1st Jan 2025					
Transfers from General Account:					
In Bank 31st Dec 2025:					
Designated Account					
Balance of funds 31st Dec 2025		-19,726			
Balance b/fwd 1st Jan 2025		25,376			
Transfers from General Fund		12,342			
In Bank 31st Dec 2025:		17,992			
CCLA Account					
Balance b/fwd 1st Jan 2025					
Interest as at 31st Dec 2025					
In Bank 31st Dec 2025:					
All accounts in Bank 31st Dec 2025:	9,189.00	17,992	12,539	33	**39,753**

STATEME T OF FI ANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Receipts and Payments Account	Note	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Reserve Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts:							
Voluntary receipts:							
Planned Giving	2	18,302.00				**18,302**	18,116
Collections at Services	3	2,223.00				**2,223**	1,428
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4	8,372.00	375			**8,747**	16,417
Gift Aid recovered	6	3,713.00				**3,713**	8,666
Activities for Generating Funds:	9	18,890.00	14,239			**33,129**	9,035
Investment Income	10		527		1	**528**	177
Fees to PCC	11	976.00				**976**	382
Church Activities	12	8,546.00				**8,546**	8,009
Funeral fees - NDBF	XX	1,108.00				**1,108**	883
Total Receipts		62,130.00	15,141	0	1	**77,272**	63,113
Payments:							
Church and Parish Centre Activities:							
Designated Charitable Donations	18	2,503.00				**2,503**	1,020
PCC Charitable Giving	18	20.00				**20**	423
Parish Share	19	14,300.00				**14,300**	13,068
Clergy costs	21	3,310.00				**3,310**	4,373
Running Expenses and Maintenance	23	17,945.00				**17,945**	15,272
Utility Services	24	11,471.00	-	-	-	**11,471**	10,495
Major works/repairs	27	270.00	34,867			**35,137**	14,267
Fees to NDBF/Clergy/Organist	XX	1,930.00				**1,930**	384
Total Payments		51,749.00	34,867		0	**86,616**	59,302
Balances of Receipts over Payments		10381	-19,726	0	1	**-9,344**	
Cash at Bank (all accounts) 01.01.25		11,150.00	25,376	12,539	32	**49,097**	
***Building Fund** - transfer from General Fund to Designated Fund during 2025*		-12,324.00	12,324.00				
Cash at Bank (all accounts) 31.12.25	17	9,189.00	17,992	12,539	33	**39,753**	

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

organising, working with the Centre for Theology and Community and Citizens UK; recognising the need to proceed at a realistic pace, we have put this on hold to focus on current priorities.

While I do not consider numerical growth to be a true indicator of a community's ministry, it is still heartening to see that the annual Mission statistics (which the Diocese and National Church require) consistently reflect a slight but steady increase in attendance and occasional services.

A significant portion of PCC time was devoted to buildings, maintenance and inclusion. Alongside completing the heating and storage project, we made progress on urgent fabric priorities, including roof repairs (with an original quote of £24,000 + VAT, reviewed at around £15,000 + VAT). We also began putting a plan together towards a gradual upgrade to LED lighting (with a total estimate around £15,000), while continuing to seek best value and grant opportunities. Accessibility remained a major priority: with nearly £15,000 awarded and the faculty accepted, improvements such as automatic doors, enhanced outdoor lighting and clearer indoor signage are expected to be completed by early 2026. A Disability Champion has been appointed (Jacqueline Connell), and in worship the PCC continues to reflect and act on practical steps such as greater use of the screen and wider use of large-print materials.

These responsibilities continue to place real demands on parish finances, so the PCC monitored income and expenditure closely throughout the year. Full detail is set out in the Treasurer's report, but I would like to commend the PCC's decision to carefully consider and agree a 10% increase in Parish Share. Parish Share helps fund key diocesan teams such as Safeguarding, the DAC, Ministry and Mission, and Finance, while also providing for clergy, training, and support to neighbouring parishes. Income continues to rely heavily on planned giving, supplemented by fundraising and by significant grant and legacy support for major projects.

The PCC continued to keep good practice under review in health and safety, data protection (GDPR) and safeguarding. Safeguarding detail is covered in the separate Parish Safeguarding Officers' Report; training, DBS renewals and safer recruitment were monitored during the year, and the PCC agreed to increase safeguarding capacity in response to workload pressures. The PCC also notified the Charity Commission and the Information Commissioner's Office of the data breach experienced by two volunteers following the cyber-attack on the Intradev/APCS servers, and recorded the support provided by the National Church, the diocesan safeguarding team, and the parish DBS officer and clergy. Policies were reviewed in line with guidance from the diocese and the Charity Commission. The Standing Committee worked with the Churchwardens to prepare for the Archdeacon's visit, which highlighted the care with which the Churchwardens, PCC and volunteers have invested in making this a thriving church and a resource to serve the community

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As we look towards 2026, we hope to build on the progress made this year while remaining realistic about capacity and the continuing pressures of maintenance, repair and finances. Priorities include completing the funded accessibility works; progressing urgent fabric priorities (especially roof repairs) and a costed plan for lighting; sustaining and strengthening safeguarding provision (including supporting the Parish Safeguarding Officer role now in place); encouraging sustainable resourcing through planned giving and fundraising; and continuing to develop community initiatives and partnerships.

In sum, despite challenges, Holy Nativity continues to flourish thanks to the dedication of its volunteers, the generosity of those who give, and the support of our partners. On behalf of the PCC, I offer heartfelt thanks to our Churchwardens and PCC members, volunteers, groups, partners and all who contribute time, skills and resources to the life of the parish. Your faithful service enables Holy Nativity to maintain worship, extend hospitality, and serve the community throughout the year in more ways than any list can express.

Merciful God, we give you thanks for this past year;
the life of this parish,
our worship and our work,
all those we have met, welcomed, and commended to you,
we offer you the pleasures and the pains of 2025
that in everything
we may know the love of Christ and be thankful.

Reverend Waldemar Nion
Priest-in-Charge & Chair of the PCC

Parish Safeguarding Officers' Report

In the past year, all our safeguarding policies and procedures have been reviewed, assessed and revised.

Holy Nativity has maintained its Level Three on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and the Safeguarding Hub (for Safer Recruitment) is regularly updated. Clergy, and Churchwardens (in their quality of Safeguarding Officers) have continued to work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and Local Authorities, following policy, GDPR guidance and good practice.

Throughout the year fourteen people were opened to safeguarding concerns. Among them, ten are now closed and four remain opened on a monitoring status. All fourteen people, and any other person involved with their circumstances, have been offered support.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I DEPE DENT INER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY, CHAPEL HOUSE

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025.

This report is made solely to the PCC's members in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC's members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC and the PCC's members for my work or for this report.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PCC AND EXAMINER

The PCC's members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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 PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as PCC members 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 financial statements 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Joy Walker
50 Southway
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 7RD.

Signed: J. Walker

Date: 1/4/2026.

PCC's RESPONSIBILITIES

The Members of the PCC are responsible for preparing the Members' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and of the trust deed. The Members are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The PCC are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the PCC's Standing Committee on 27th April 2026 and signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Rev. Waldemar Nion
Priest-in-Charge – Chair

Elizabeth Lattimer, *Secretary*

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In the second half of 2025, Sue Wharton has been recruited by the PCC to become our next Parish Safeguarding Officer. (Sue Wharton took on her role in February 2026.)

Meanwhile, we have continued to act as Safeguarding Officers, working alongside Fr Wal and the new Diocesan Safeguarding Team (from 28 April):

- Sharon Devlin, Director of Safeguarding:
- Jill Thirlaway, Safeguarding Caseworker:
- John Hulse, Training & Learning Advisor:
- Maggi Creese, Lead Officer, Chaplaincy to Survivors:

  Matthew Kelley, Safeguarding Administrator:

(General safeguarding enquiries to)

In conclusion, safeguarding continues to be central to the life and mission of Holy Nativity. The PCC, clergy and safeguarding officers remain committed to creating and sustaining a safe, supportive and transparent environment for all. We are grateful for the guidance and partnership of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and for the care and diligence shown by all those involved in safeguarding work during a demanding year. As we move into the coming year, we do so with renewed commitment, welcoming Sue Wharton into her role and continuing to review our practices to ensure they reflect both national guidance and the needs of our parish community.

Geraldine Tinning and Jacqui Connell
Parish Safeguarding Officers & Reverend Waldemar Nion
Priest-in-Charge & PCC chair

Deanery Synod Report

The deanery Synod met four times this year, including one extra-ordinary meeting with the Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry, the Reverend Dr Richard Whaite, and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, The Venerable Catherine Sourbut Groves.

This year, five clergy have moved out of the deanery, The Revd Dan McCarthy (from Holy Cross, Fenham), The Revd Allison Harding (from Newburn and Throckley), The Revd Matthew Hunter (from St John's Whorlton), the Revd Osaro Omobude (from St James & St Basil, Fenham) and the Revd Ryan McKeon (from St James & St Basil, Fenham).

As a result, three parishes are now in interregnum: St Michael's church, Newburn and St Mary's church, Throckley; Holy Cross, Fenham; and St John's, Whorlton. The Deanery Synod and clergy Chapter have worked to the best of their abilities to fill the gaps.

Sadly, the deanery also lost Simon Embleton and Anne Morris who both served as Reader in St John's Whorlton for many years. The deanery synod recognized that the former deanery redevelopment plans were out of date but that lay volunteers, PCCs and clergy should continue to strive to work better together as a deanery, supporting our sister parishes whenever and wherever we can.

The three key areas the Deanery has been asked to focus on between 2025 and 2028 are:

- Buildings for Mission: ensuring that our premises are fit for mission (accessible, in good condition, and ecological minded).
- New Worshipping Communities: refreshing our capacity to worship in various settings and ways with all, crossing over the boundaries of traditions (Evangelical, Charismatic, Anglo-Catholic), and reaching out to those on the fringes and in search for God.
- Growing Closer to God: deepening our discipleship, faith, and awareness of God's invitation in God's mission.

Safeguarding remains a constant item on the synod's agenda, with regular updates on alerts from the Diocesan Safeguarding team and Parish Dashboard reminders.

Debbie Owens & Eric Aririsukwu
Deanery Representatives
& Reverend Waldemar Nion
Priest-in-Charge & PCC chair

Churchwardens' Report

2025 has been a busy but very good year. It has been encouraging to see our congregation continue to grow in strength. It is especially encouraging to welcome so many young people to our worship.

Our new heating system has finally been installed. It is a great blessing to now have a warm and welcoming church for all who attend.

We have also begun replacing the lighting both inside and outside the church, with further improvements planned for the coming year. The external floodlights have already been upgraded, providing brighter and safer illumination for those entering and leaving via the Peace Garden, particularly during the evening. We

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In addition, the Recovery Drop-In has continued and Fr Wal and Sue (our recovery volunteers) have worked with the Recovery Church and engaged with the Revival Newcastle (an initiative to coordinate Recovery Partners together).

In 2025, two new partners have started using our premises regularly:
- PROPS (a specialist service for people whose lives are affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use);
- and a local branch of Narcotics Anonymous (a community of people who support each other to achieve and maintain a drug and alcohol-free life).

We also have had the pleasure to continue hosting a small Warhammer private group of friends and to welcome Dosti – another wonderful group of friends looking after each other.

The local shops owners, local councillors, schools, and churches continue to be valuable partners with whom the PCC and volunteers are regularly in contact with to serve the community.

Women's Fellowship Report

Following the various changes made to Women's Fellowship during 2024 we are still enjoying our monthly Fellowship meetings in the form, of Pop-In Meetings at 1.00 pm. on the second Wednesday of the month in the Community Room. This past year we have still been able to invite various speakers talking on a number of interesting subjects, also Councillor Marc Donnelly came to give a talk 'Know Your Council' as a freebee.

On other occasions we have played games of Bingo had Beatle Drives, consumed mince pies and cream teas and had a good chat. At Christmas we enjoyed listening to Ellen doing her usual monologues, thank you Ellen.

We have also made our annual donation to The Children's Society, a charity close to our hearts.

Margaret Cathey, Norma Kirk, Joan Robson

Drop-In Report

Our Church Drop-In Sessions are held each Monday and Friday morning from 10.00 am and also on a Wednesday morning following the Church Service at around 11.00 am.

The Drop-In provides a friendly, happy place where people can come in for a cup of coffee, make new friends and have a chat. Quite a number of people who may be lonely or isolated have come along and made friends along with passers-by maybe on their way to the surgeries or shops and who are not members of our church have joined the groups and been made very welcome.

Obviously we would like to encourage more people to come in and make friends.

Pat Corby, Norma Kirk, Elizabeth Lattimer

Partnership with other organisations and Outreach

As already stated above, the church is working with several partners to support the community: Search, responsible for the Memory Café; Everyturn Mental Health, running the Men's Group, NAPI (supporting Little Fishes), the Local Council (IT Skills), and the Local Authorities and Police (on Safeguarding, Prevention). A Coffee Morning event is held every first Saturday of the month as part of the church's response to address the issue of isolation in our community. The church and office are also open three times a week to respond to enquiries, provide fellowship, and open the church to those in need of quiet space and safe haven to pray and reflect.

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also received a storage container, now in situ, providing a much-needed safe space for garden and maintenance equipment.

Also, thanks to funding from the National Church, we have been able to instal automated door system on both entrances and continue making the church more accessible to all.

We are grateful to our local councillors Marc Donnelly, Margaret Donnelly, and Lawrence Hunter, for their continued support and especially for their help with the maintenance of the church grounds.

Thanks to our work with the City Council and Connected Voice, we have also had the pleasure to receive the help of a few volunteers from the Department of Work and Pension who did a fantastic job of clearing and tidying our gardens. We are looking forward to welcoming them again as well as new partners in 2026.

2026 no doubt holds it own challenges, not least of which, some urgent roof repairs and the potential replacement of the Ground Source Heat Pump unit which continues to show more and more signs of failure. Yet, we remain confident that those issues will be addressed too and these premises and church community will continue to serve Chapel House for many more years.

The Community Room and the whole of our premises are regularly used by community partners (*see partners report*) and a few local businesses (Slimming World, Zumba). The Memory Tea group is now meeting twice weekly, enabling us to welcome more people. It provides a safe and supportive space where individuals can meet, share any concerns, receive advice, and enjoy time together—often singing their hearts out.

It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve Holy Nativity for another year. We would like to thank all our volunteers for their dedication and support, which ensure the smooth running of our church. We also extend our sincere thanks to Fr Wal for his invaluable support and continued pastoral leadership.

May God continue to guide and strengthen us in our mission.

Jacqui Connell and Geraldine Tinning
Churchwardens

Treasurer's Report 2025

The Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended

31st December 2025 have been inspected and approved by an Independent Examiner, Mrs. Joy Walker.

I have given below a summary of how Income and Expenditure were allocated to the different Funds.

Income for 2025 was £77,272 compared to £63,113 for 2024.

Expenditure for 2025 was £86,616 compared to £59,302 for 2024.

General: Designated: Reserve: Restricted:

Total:

Receipts £62,130 £15,141 £0 £1 £77,272

Payments £52,591 £34,025 £0 £0 £86,616

Full details are in the Financial Statements section of the Annual Report, and I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

As you will appreciate the expenditure for our church increases at the same rate as our home expenditure. We are very much dependent on our parishioners for support. There are so many ways of giving to your church and we are grateful to all who volunteer through their many unique gifts and for the financial support we receive. Your support, time, prayers, care, and generosity really do make a difference.

If anyone needs to speak to me about Giving for the upkeep of our church or wishes to discuss Gift Aid eligibility, please do not hesitate to get in touch

Thank you once again for all your support.

Barbara Perry – Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

This year the electoral roll has been revised.
The electoral roll for the current year now has **65** members.

Resident	35
Non-Resident	30
Total	**65**

Geraldine Tinning
Electoral Roll Officer

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2025 CHURCH AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

Little Fishes (Parent – Baby & Toddler Group)

Little Fishes Playgroup continues to thrive, (we have a waiting list!).

We meet on a Thursday morning term time only. We support and welcome about 20 regular families and watch in delight as the infant becomes a toddler and then off to nursery, three years later.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers who use their time, creative skills and talents to support, engage with the families who attend our group.

Thursday mornings are busy, noisy and a delight.

Alison Swift Group Leader

Mothers' Union Report

Firstly a massive thank you to all our branch members who looked after the branch whilst I was recovering from surgery. You are all stars.

We are a small, aged branch and support the aim of the Mothers Union in various ways.

We held a very successful Deanery Tea in July and donated money to Deanery Projects. Members of our Church also donate to the Mothers Union projects by either money or items. We have made numerous emergency hospital bags, and a local firm donated 60 premade bags which we donated to the Reverend Anne Marr. We continually collect hand-made premature baby hats and booties from none members of the Mothers Union, our church members and outside groups.

The Benwell project has had items donated by the branch and friends of our Church and we usually drop off at the Reverend Anne Marr's house.

The branch has achieved the silver award re domestic abuse. We continually have various speakers to our branch meetings thus advertising it to the wider community and other branches.

Debbie Owens, Branch Leader