St Mary's Marlborough Annual Review 2025

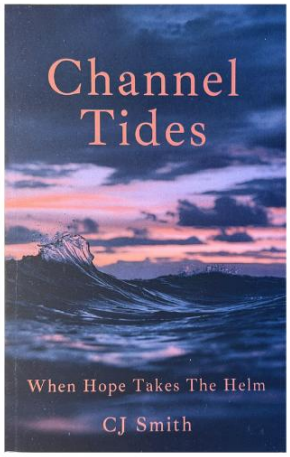


















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Rector's Report

Revd. Chris Smith, Team Rector

St Mary's continued to fulfil her mission throughout 2025. The year opened with 268 children from nine schools welcomed into the church for the *Life Exhibition*, which presented the Christian faith with clarity and imagination. It closed with the Giveaway Fayre, bringing the wider community together in a joyful expression of Christmas generosity.

In April, Nigel Hall and David Wylie began their service as Churchwardens. We were also pleased to welcome Penny Reader as Children and Families Worker and Karolina Bull as Team Administrator in May, and to celebrate the licensing of Louise Seddon as an LLM in September.

I am deeply grateful to the many people whose commitment and leadership enabled me to take a sabbatical from August to October. This time proved restorative after the challenges of the Covid years and culminated in the completion of my first novel, *Channel Tides*, which launched in November. Across the year as a whole, there has been a clear sense of growth and renewal within the team, alongside a deepening partnership with Christchurch Methodist Fellowship.

Significant improvements were made to our buildings and infrastructure, including the installation of solar panels at the Rectory in March and at the Church in November. Well done Martin! We thank God and our generous donors for the strength of our finances, with the year ending in surplus.

Our social life continued to recover well, marked by a full house at the refreshed Maundy Thursday Meal and a successful new initiative, *Compline at the Lock*, which included a memorable journey on the *Rose of Hungerford*.

A wide range of courses and ministries ran during the year, including *Start*, *The Parenting Course*, the bespoke *Lent with Lewis*, R*estored Lives* and *The Bereavement Journey*, all contributing to our outreach and discipleship.

At the same time, wider challenges within the Church of England continue to affect local parishes, particularly in relation to clergy morale and recruitment, as noted in Bishop Karen's report.

As we look ahead, we do so not anxiously but expectantly. God has been faithful to us, and we sense a call not simply to maintain what we have, but to grow: in the depth of our discipleship, in confidence in the Gospel, in our relationships with one another, and in service to Marlborough. If 2025 has been a year of restoration, we pray that the coming year will be marked by courage and fruitfulness as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to the installation of a new outdoor lighting system as part of our major visibility project. We also hope to introduce a new CCTV system to improve safety, and to upgrade the website to strengthen our online presence and welcome.

I would like to thank Pete, Sarah, Stephen, Sandra, Heather, Louise, Mark, John, Jeremy, Karolina, Penny, Hayley, David, Nigel, Chris T and Debbie for their unwavering support throughout 2025. We are blessed with a strong and committed team, and it is important that we recognise and value one another.

Finally, I give thanks to God for my wife, my family and for Bess who are a great blessing to us all.

Revd Christopher Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough



The Solar panels being installed on the Rectory roof - March 2025

Churchwardens' Report

David Wylie & Nigel Hall

The Role of Churchwarden

Churchwardens are voted for by the parish, sworn in by the Archdeacon and serve as Bishop's Officers in the parish. They represent three interests. We are the eyes and ears of Archdeacon Louise in the parish. We support the incumbent, Chris, both practically and in the burden of his role. We represent the wider parish and sit in an ex-officio role on the PCC.

January 2025 saw the start of another year without appointed churchwardens. We would like to join with the congregation in thanking those like, Pam, Derek, Martin, John, Jane and Simon, who undertook parts of the role of churchwardens without the authority that the appointment provides. Thank you to all who held the church together in the interregnum.

At 143 in our church community, St Mary's is one of the largest congregations in the diocese and indeed exceeds some entire Deaneries. We feel a great responsibility to get things right. It has been an honour to work together for the glory of the Lord.

A Safe and Secure environment

Joining the PCC in November, Nigel immediately added his energy to support the work of the safeguarding team. Indeed, right from our first meeting following our election to the role at the 2025 APCM we agreed our initial focus must be on Normalisation, Health & Safety, and Security within the church.

Following our installation to the role in June, we were enormously encouraged by the generosity of those who continued to contribute as they had in the interregnum. This allowed us the space to begin the work of normalisation of processes and practices. Thank you. We both very much felt that, whilst we dealt with emergencies like blocked loos, and the impact of a national Data Breach, we should begin to confirm that the fundamentals were in order.

We commissioned an external Fire and Safety Assessment which threw up several areas needing both immediate and medium-term response. The annual contract for maintenance of fire fighting equipment has been renewed with T H White. Five of us have had training on how to use the equipment. We are working with the PCC to upgrade the fire alert and alarm systems. We are also working with the new church architect, Rob Toal, on plans to add an additional fire exit at the east end of the church; something that has been on the wish list for many years.

Reinstating the Incident Reporting procedure quickly showed that our policy of having a church both open and unattended was leaving us vulnerable to young individuals who

did not respect the space. Sadly, the local police and school authorities have had to work with three families to bring this to a close. We are in discussion with the Town Council Youth Development Worker, Matt Powell, and the Library's Community & Family Navigator, Nicky Harris, to engage positively with groups of young people who find church a convenient refuge after school. We have installed CCTV on the perimeter of the Church Hall and Cottage and are applying for a faculty with the support of Rob Toal for CCTV in the entrance and around the outer vestry. We hope that this will allow the church particularly to remain open and unsupervised and is part of our preparations for the introduction later this year of 'Martyn's Law', requiring all venues that regularly hold more than 200 people to have arrangements in place to reduce the threat from abuse and terrorism.

Health and Safety is not a one-off action but rather a culture and on-going process. We have set up the weekly, monthly and annual safety checks on an app called Safety Culture which allows a team to work together on monitoring and implementing responses. We are delighted that the PCC have approved the re-establishment of a four hour a week caretaker contract, a contract that will have health and safety of church and hall at its core.

Cleanliness is next to godliness, and having found Hayley had improved the cleanliness of church, we have contracted with 'Sparkle & Clean by Hayley' in both church and hall, which has had a noticeable improvement.

Terrier, Inventories and Assessments

As Churchwardens we have reviewed the "Terrier", being the record of land belonging to the church, and have physically checked the "Inventory", being a list of all the silver and moveable chattels belonging to St Mary's. We received these from Pam and found them in order. We later visited Cadley churchyard and were impressed by Alan and Rosemary, who keep an eye on it from their home that once was Cadley Church.

Bringing Closure and Celebrating Achievement

It was wonderful to finally celebrate the successful conclusion of the ten-year project, led by David Du Croz, to refurbish the church organ with a superb concert, not just featuring the organ, but highlighting how incredibly lucky we are to have several accomplished musicians in our church community.

A stone vault in the churchyard had collapsed some time ago. We were able to work with Sam from Wiltshire Council to finally achieve a faculty so that they could have a stonemason reseal this hole in the ground.

With huge thanks to Martin, St Mary's south aisle roof now generates electricity from solar power to contribute to the grid and offset our electricity consumption. The PCC will consider data from the generation at the end of one year to decide if the expense of installing batteries would bring further benefit. The Rectory also now has solar panels

and batteries are under consideration. Frustratingly the church tower throws a huge shadow over the church hall roof.

Maintenance and Improvements

The Building Committee are three years into the current Quinquennial. A Grade 1 listed church with the unique features of St Mary's takes a lot of upkeep. For nineteen years Martin Selby has worked tirelessly to lead this work and to keep costs to a minimum. He is now looking to step back from the task. We are delighted to welcome Nick Harding to the building committee. In our recent meeting with Rob Toal, he was amazed that we had so much expertise at our fingertips. Much more than many of the churches with which he deals.

Fundamentally, people come to church to Hear the Word of God. The acoustics of St Mary's is amazing for music appreciation, but less so when it comes to hearing speech. In phase one of the project to remedy this, James Seddon, is leading a project to integrate the latest technology into our existing system to remove feedback and improve clarity for speech especially. This 2025 phase should also integrate the speech and music controls so that we don't need to set up a separate music system every Sunday. Once in place, phase two will look with Rob Toal and James to achieve a more balanced acoustic environment.

Many visitors to, and indeed residents of, Marlborough believe St Peter's is the town's church. Martyn Johnson, is making good progress with the faculty application for externally lighting the church building at night, in order to reinforce the importance of our site. Hopefully this will also allow a 'cross' to shine out at Christmas without the need for individuals to hang a physical cross over the tower parapet.

The Parish Hall is a way the church can support the needs of the town and at the same time provide opportunities for church work outside the church. Sally Faber and team hugely upgraded the cottage but came to a stop due to damp in the link wall. George Smith has pulled in contacts in the construction industry to identify the source of this issue and has undertaken remedial action. We wait to see if this will fix the problem and Sally's inspiration can be extended to the hallway and church hall itself. Graham Davis has recently agreed to initiate a funding bid to Biffa for a significant set of improvements to the church hall. Thanks to Peter Hussey who continues to manage the bookings and who is asking existing users what they feel most needs improvement. We will be looking for a project lead to carry through the project should funds be achieved. Chris and George with the sanding and varnishing of the hall floor, and Jill Moss and her team with the refresh of the hall kitchen, have given us a great impetus to carry this through.

Support to the team

As Churchwardens we have also assisted the line management of paid staff, Bookings Manager Peter Hussey, Team Administrator Karolina Bull and Children & Families Worker Penny Reader. We are working to implement information, communication and technological developments to parallel the upcoming Website Refresh to ensure their work is as efficient as possible. Simply spending £350 on a faster printer in the office has already paid dividends each week.

Other tasks we have undertaken this year:

- Lead church during Chris's sabbatical
- Supporting the Big Town Christmas Giveaway
- Mission Statistical Returns
- Six Month Safety Report
- Increased Numbers on Electoral Roll
- Key Register Updated
- Identified historic documents to go to Wiltshire Archive, deleted others
- Covered Administrator leave
- Installed a TV on Stand in Upper Room
- Replaced two kettles in hall kitchen
- Conducted 3 Month reviews of Karolina and Penny
- Supported Safeguarding and DBS move to 31:8 portal
- Registered PCC with the Data Commissioner
- Ensured Church and Hall Gas Supplies Certificated
- Recruited and trained a Verger
- Made 3 List A applications
- Updated Data Policy and instigated a CCTV Policy
- Ensured the bells rang at Christmas despite all clappers needing to be refounded

Churchwardens, Nigel Hall and David Wylie

Church Buildings and Fabric Report

Martin Selby

Health & Safety

A fire risk assessment covering church and hall was commissioned from TH White. As a result, most of the fire extinguishers were replaced. We are also reviewing our fire and intruder alarm needs and lone person working precautions. 6-monthly safety checks

have been carried out at the church. An accident and incident reporting book is now available outside the vestry.

Improvements

A temporary CCTV system, which has been set up for the organist is likely to become part of a larger CCTV project. Solar panels were installed on the side aisle roof. The de-cluttering program continues but it's an uphill struggle against a chronic lack of storage space.

Maintenance

Two window panels were replaced after being broken by vandalism. We assisted in obtaining permission to fill in a collapsed grave in the north churchyard. We spend £5k on stonework and pointing as required by the 2023 Quinquennial Report. Some walls have been re-painted particularly around radiators. The church doors and church cottage front door were repaired. 6 out of 8 bell clappers had to be replaced as they were cracked and unsafe. Meanwhile, the church clock continues to operate on only the west face; sorry no progress here.

Martin Selby

Church Hall Committee

Peter Hussey

In 2024 we raised £11, 611.21 in income and in 2025 I am delighted to report that I have increased that to £15,716.01, well over £4,000 more. This is mainly due to the luck we had when Marlborough College stopped the summer school and some bookings moved to us, and likewise I am now attracting bookings from the Scout Hut as they are closed for the summer holiday to refurbish the floor! Further, many of the new groups that started have stayed, and many have also added additional hours. Income from one off bookings has remained about the same.

At last, income from Church Cottage is on the increase as follows, though it's still only half of the £6,000 we were raising from FrucciFit back in 2021:

Lower room: 2024 £0 and in 2025 £375.75 *Upper hall*: 2024 £2,019.60 and in £2,769.40

As we are doing well, I have not increased hire charges this year; instead I have just increased a few long term groups who were getting a very cheap deal to bring them more in line with the published charges.

We had our usual amount of groups that tried to get going but failed for various reasons. Below you can see the groups in black that are continuing about the same, those in blue are increasing our revenue and those in red have reduced or have left the hall. I am in the process of starting several new groups off at the moment and hopefully we will benefit from these this year.

We continue to provide many hours of free use to many groups such as Ark and Energise and for church groups and meetings and offer free toilet use for events in the church. Many other groups such as Rethink and Rangers benefit from a 50% discount or lower rates such as Brownies and Guides reflecting our goal of supporting our community.

Last year I wrote that *"It's been a difficult year from the point of view of complaints about the standard of cleaning and with things going missing and I urge that serious consideration is given to those matters, along with renovation of the kitchenette and disabled toilet and damp areas that potentially discourage people from using the hall."*

Sadly this not only continued into 2025, but it got a lot worse, to the point where, after 13 years, I seriously considered giving up the booking manager job due to the number of complaints and dis-satisfied hirers. I was not being kept informed of changes or developments and had to ask who my line manager was to try and get this resolved.

Bridge	**B**	£1,943.76
Scalextric	**X**	£1,697.25
Italian Lessons	I	£1,395.00
Pulse Healthcare Ltd	D	£1,120.00
Pilates (Johnson)	**J**	£1,035.00
Life Drawing	K	£972.00
Pilates (Playfoot)	**P**	£972.00
Marlborough Mondays	**M**	£720.00
Tai Chi	**T**	£720.00
Marlborough Fridays	**Y**	£570.00
Sing!	**H**	£567.00
Art Classes	**A**	£481.95
Guides	**G**	£450.00
Brownies	**N**	£450.00
Birth-Works	**G**	£360.00
Rethink	**R**	£351.00
Yoga	**S**	£193.50
Ballet	**L**	£158.00
MFR	**U**	£151.20
Rangers	**Z**	£135.00
Fired Up Leaders	**F**	£132.40
MCC	**C**	£45.00
Pilates (Staples)	**E**	£36.00
Marlborough Thursdays	**W**	£27.00
Total Income		**£15,716.91**
All Regular Income		**£14,683.06**
One Off Main Hall Hire		**£1,033.85**
Income Upper Hall	**Q**	**£2,769.40**
Income Lower Room	**V**	**£375.75**

I was contacted by Nigel Hall and we started to get on top of things but sadly he was taken seriously ill and since then David Wylie has stepped in to continue what we started. I am very grateful for the help I have had from Karolina – without which it would have all fallen apart.

It's very clear that many users have noticed a terrible decrease in standards at the hall, the floor, cleaning, toilets, and decoration and it is essential that these are fully

addressed along with Health and Safety, Fire Alarms, PAT testing, security and so on if we are to retain our clients.

The new cleaners, the kitchen island and the re-sanded floor are a step in the right direction – but there is a long way to go – I would like to see some of the extra income generated reinvested back into the hall.

I recently suggested that we survey our users; I designed some questions and sent out the survey and we had 16 people respond with some very interesting comments which you can access by clicking on this link.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11o8lktPXDAIMIU4AkbJe2tU3V5gBIKshFWlpylvxceU/edit?usp=sharing

I really hope that these issues are addressed quickly. David suggested to me that we might set up a user panel and you will see that there are a number of people who think this is a great idea and would be happy to join it and so I hope that this will be actioned as it shows just how much the hall is appreciated as a community asset.

Peter Hussey, St Mary's Church Hall Bookings Manager

Christchurch Methodist Fellowship

Revd. Stephen M. Skinner

It was over three years ago that Christchurch Methodist Fellowship, (CMF), were welcomed by St. Mary's to share in worship and witness to the town and area. It is still a joy to be part of this Christian community. CMF members enjoy participating in the life of the Church helping with music, worship, welcoming, serving coffee and technology, "Welcome Wednesdays" and the Men's and Ladies' Supper Clubs. It is also good to have been involved in special events, such as "The Big Christmas Give Away", banner making in the High Street, with a service on the Town Hall steps, on Easter Saturday and the Holy Week and Easter services.

CMF is also pleased to have been able to contribute to St Mary's, by offering the Advent evenings and the App. (thank you to Sandra Wylie, Gill Mortimer and Beverly Lyle); the Covenant Service; Maundy Thursday Meditative Service, (again thank you to Sandra and Gill); and this Lent with the virtual pilgrimage around our beautiful local churches, ending in Salisbury Cathedral. An enormous thank you goes to Sandra and Gill for guiding our footsteps and providing so much information, enhancing the daily devotions with Bible readings, photographs, pictures and music. Thank you also to Beverley for explaining the significance of images found in stained glass windows and paintings, both ancient and modern. The App has been a wonderfully uplifting companion in Lent

and Holy Week, making us want to explore the churches visited. It is a pleasure to share these occasions and do them together with our St Mary's friends.

It has been helpful to have a representative from St Mary's PCC on our Church Council. Encouraging signs of how St Mary's has welcomed CMF into the fellowship of the church are seen in the electing of David Wylie as a Church Warden and Sandra and Beverley as members of the PCC. Sandra, Gill and Stephen have also appreciated being welcomed at the Team Meetings and being part of the worship planning. The way in which Naomi Painter, (CMF Co-ordinator), and Karolina Bull, (at the Team Office), work also reflects how our congregations have come together.

Looking ahead to September / October 2027, Beverley, Sandra and Jane Rose are busy organising, "Picturing the Word", an exhibition of works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection to St Mary's. This will coincide with the Marlborough Literary Festival and be part of it. Arrangements are well under way and pictures have been chosen and requested. This is an exciting opportunity to share the good news of Jesus through the pictures and welcome people into the Church. The mission is to the town, including the schools, and the locality, as well as visitors for the Festival, the Mop Fair and those who will come for the exhibition. CMF appreciate the way in which St Mary's are supporting the exhibition and making it possible.

Once again, a big thank you goes to Revd. Chris Smith and all the St Mary's team and congregation for continuing to make us so warmly welcome and feel at home.

On a personal note, Jane and I have really appreciated and been greatly blessed by our time with CMF, worshipping and witnessing with St Mary's, before our retirement at the end of July this year. It may sound clichéd, but it is true, that we have both found it a privilege and a joy to be part of this Christian family. Thank you for making us so welcome and feel part of the community. We will take many fond memories of this part of our Christian journey with us into retirement.

Revd Stephen M. Skinner

Children and Young People

Penny Reader

Activities and Achievements

Over the past year, children's work at St Mary's has begun to grow and become more established, with encouraging signs of both numerical growth and deeper engagement.

Our Sunday evening *Energize* group continues to flourish, with around 14 children attending regularly, supported by a committed team of 11 volunteers. In January, we

introduced two age-based groups within Energize, enabling us to offer more focused and age-appropriate teaching and activities.

Our *Summer Energize* programme was particularly encouraging, welcoming 34 children over three weeks. It has been especially joyful to see ongoing impact from this, with two families now regularly attending All-Age worship, and one family bringing their children for baptism. We were also delighted that our three oldest Energize members chose to serve as helpers during these sessions.

We have continued to build strong connections with the wider community. In October, we partnered with Emmanuel Church to host a Light Party for around 30 children. At Christmas, our Christmas Eve family carol service welcomed over 290 adults and children, sharing the Christmas story in a creative and engaging way.

Our links with local schools remain an important part of this ministry. Collective worship continues regularly, and we have welcomed KS 2 pupils and their families into church for Harvest, Christmas, and Easter services. We were also pleased to host the Year 6 Leavers' Service, gifting each child a Youth Bible. In December, Reception and Year 1 classes visited for a Nativity-themed morning of storytelling, crafts, & activities.

The 5pm All-Age service continues to be central to our Children and Families ministry. Services such as Christingle and Mothering Sunday have been particularly effective in welcoming new families. We aim to actively involve children in all aspects of worship, including prayers, readings, drama, and creative responses.

A highlight of the year was a service led by our older children, who spoke on themes including belonging, courage, and what they would like to say to the adults in church. Their honesty and insight were both challenging and encouraging to the congregation.

In January, we hosted the *Life Exhibition*, welcoming 268 children & staff from local schools, along with home-educating families and 21 adult visitors, to explore the life of Jesus. We look forward to hosting this again in February 2027.



A school visit to our life exhibition - January 2025

Attendance and Involvement

- Average weekly attendance at Energize: approximately 14 children
- Summer Energize attendance: 34 children over three weeks
- Christmas Eve family service: over 290 attendees (adults and children)
- Light Party: approximately 30 children
- Volunteer team: 11 regular leaders, with 19 volunteers supporting summer activities
- Monthly Children and Families newsletter received by 24 families.

Children are increasingly involved in the life of the church, particularly through All-Age worship, where they contribute through readings, prayers, and leading elements of services.

Safeguarding and Compliance

Safeguarding remains a central priority in all our work with children and families.

All activities are carried out in line with the House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance, and the parish safeguarding policy and procedures are followed at all times. All volunteers working with children are safely recruited, including DBS checks where required, and safer recruitment processes are in place for new team members.

Members of the team have completed the relevant safeguarding training in accordance with Diocesan requirements, ensuring that we provide a safe and supportive environment for all children and families.

Leadership and Resources

We are incredibly grateful for our growing team of volunteers, whose commitment, energy, and care make this ministry possible. It has been particularly encouraging to see young people beginning to serve within this ministry.

We continue to use Energize as our central Children's and Youth resource across our groups, supplemented by a range of creative resources developed in house and services to support children in exploring faith in accessible and meaningful ways.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we hope to continue building on this growth by:

- Deepening relationships with families who are beginning to connect with the church
- Developing clearer pathways for children to grow in faith as they get older
- Expanding opportunities for outreach, particularly through events and schools work
- Continuing to equip and support our volunteer team

Reflection

This year has been one of real encouragement, as children's ministry at St Mary's has begun to take shape and grow. It has been a joy to see children becoming more confident, families returning, and new connections forming within our community.

I am thankful for the ways God has been at work, particularly in drawing in new families, nurturing faith among our children, and building a sense of belonging within the church.

Looking ahead, we ask for and value your prayers for continued growth, for more volunteers, and for wisdom as we support children and families in their faith journeys.

Penny Reader

Fusion Report by Caroline Philps

We feel very privileged to be able to go into Marlborough St Marys school to run a weekly club for Year 2 children.

This is during the lunch hour and comprises of a Bible story which is explored through a craft activity, a story told through video , drama and discussion.

A small team of us help weekly with this and I am very grateful for their faithful support .

The number of pupils varies a little depending on the weather but we have up to 12 or so children from each year 2 class and we see each class on alternate weeks.

Many thanks to Jane, Janet, Annie, Reuben and Linda for your help.

Caroline Philps

Ark Toddler Group Report by Caroline Philps

We are very happy to report the continued popularity of our Monday morning Toddler group.

We have up to about 16 families coming each week to enjoy toys and activities together sometimes special crafts and always coffee and biscuits for the Mums.

We enjoy good links with local families and a welcoming group for any families new to Marlborough or new to parenting. Many thanks to our team of helpers: Penny, Caroline, Louise and Linda.

Caroline Philps

Diocesan and Deanery Synods

Canon Sarah Musgrave LLM and Deanery Synod Lay Chair

Does the wider Church matter to you? Are you interested in having a voice?

If so, do consider whether you are being called to join our local Deanery Synod or the Diocesan Synod; with each synod meeting three times /year. At the Diocesan Synod, we hear from our diocesan bishop, The Rt Revd Stephen Lake about the Vision and Strategy for the whole diocese, and other wider matters such as Safeguarding, Salisbury Cathedral, and Christian Education within the diocese, with many opportunities to feedback views from our parishes. The Deanery Synod is an opportunity to relate these to our own churches and to discuss matters that need to be fed upwards. Those eligible to stand are over 16 years old and part of an Anglican Church in the diocese

Diocesan Synod

In March '25, Bishop Stephen discussed the new Diocesan Vision and Strategy which is not about corporate organisation but about our identity and being part of Christ's mission. The Good News is so important – we really need to make Jesus, the Word made flesh, known. As he said, it's all about a person. Jesus is the Good News; he's everything we need to know about God and relationship is at the heart of God. He also talked of the infectiousness of sin. We are all carriers and contaminators, and we can infect others; but our Saviour came for our healing, not to diagnose but to heal us and save us. Meanwhile the Gospel is also infectious as we share it with others.

The rest of the day was spent exploring how we do this, through creative partnerships in local mission and the idea of 'missional pathways' linking a designated group of churches, schools and communities, coming together in mission and ministry.

We also heard about a new Parish Share system, based on the amount of deployed ministry and the size of worshipping communities, and reports from the Diocesan Board of Education and the Safeguarding Team.

In June, the Diocesan Synod gathered for the Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Over the past 25 years, the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) has seen a consistent financial pattern: income – driven largely by Parish Share (around 75%) – has grown steadily and expenditure has been kept just below inflation.

However, despite these efforts, they've regularly reported an annual operating deficit of £800k–£1m.

- To date, this gap has been covered by selling clergy houses – an approach that's no longer sustainable.
- Each sale reduces both future income and capital growth.

As it's clear that incremental changes are not sufficient, bold, strategic steps are being taken towards long-term financial sustainability:

We also had an Address by Canon Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner. The Church Commissioners for England oversee the assets committee of the Church of England. The figures for 2026-28 had just been announced and would be £1.6bn for the next 3 years, the largest sum ever distributed. These are the funds we apply for – in our mission funding bid, for carbon net zero, for racial justice and support for giving and church buildings. This money also funds some of the costs of the Cathedral, Bishop Stephen's house and the stipends of our three bishops.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Stephen announced the good news that the diocese has secured £5.1m funding from the national church to support and accelerate our diocesan strategy to '*Make Jesus Known'*, through Mission Hubs. Mission Hubs are parishes working well across all ages, who want to establish creative partnerships with churches around them to offer resource, people and expertise. Many of the hubs will focus on working with the missing generations and resourcing and growing new leaders for the church of the future.

In October '25, Bishop Stephen started his Presidential Address by celebrated the appointment of Archbishop designate Sarah Mullally, who had been a former Canon Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and hence known to many of us.

The major item of business was the DBF budget for 2026. In proposing the budget DBF Chair Jane McCormick and other speakers recognised that it is a budget for transition

while we prayerfully navigate change together.

As a diocese we are now clear that the gap between our costs and income needs to be closed. The welcome 10.7% increase to clergy stipends from next April which has been nationally mandated adds to the urgency, as it represents a cost of over £830k each year. To maintain our current stipendiary presence with 175 clergy posts and the existing support and services provided by the DBF we need to encourage and inspire an increase in giving to Parish Share. With nearly 20 000 people in our worshipping community, each person giving a further £2.45 each week would close the gap.

Meanwhile, Synod recognised that many parishes face financial pressures beyond share and therefore an active programme of supporting the local parish 'economy' is being offered by Anna Hardy and colleagues. You can read the full guide to the approved budget on the Salisbury Diocese website, under Diocesan Synod.

Deanery Synod

Our Deanery is partnered with Bishop Data and the Diocese of Morobo, in South Sudan, and this continues to be a significant focus for our deanery. At our first meeting in **April '25,** we welcomed Katherine Robinson the Governance Support Officer and Pastoral Secretary of the DBF in the diocese.

Charles Graham reported on the turbulence in Sudan and South Sudan. He summarised the success of the some of the projects our Deanery Partnership had funded: the borehole, 10 beehives, 20 bicycles and provided financial support for refreshments at the Youth and Revival convention (1875 people had attended - 430 children, 615 youths, 720 women and 110 men). 27 people were converted to Christ. He read the letter of thanks from Bishop Data, adding that the committee intended to spend the remaining money from the borehole project on water storage tanks. There was a shortfall of 12 bicycles which the committee hoped we could meet so that each priest has one to travel around his parish. The bishop is hosting a conference for clergy and their spouses next month; and Bishop Data and Revd Beth Hutton had put together a Lent prayer cycle which had been distributed.

This was followed by a discussion on communication between our churches, the deanery and the diocese. It is the responsibility of the Deanery Synod reps to share the info downwards within their PCCs and to bring thoughts and queries back to the Deanery Synod, to be raised at the Diocesan Synod. In general, the Parish reps on the Deanery Synod, considered that they were quite well informed about proceedings of the Diocesan Synod, but had not found the best way of passing this on to parishioners. Do ask your parish rep for more information. Deanery Ascension Day service was held on Ascension Day, Thu 29 May at Chiseldon, with Archdeacon Alan Jeans presiding and preaching, prior to retiring during the summer.

In July, we welcomed Elizabeth Harvey (Diocesan Director of Finance and Operations) and Olivia Otieno (Head of Diocesan Finance) from the Diocese. After an update on the Diocesan Synod, the Lay Chair updated the Synod on the partnership with the Diocese of Morobo and asked if the Deanery would approve the release of £1300 from the Deanery Synod reserves to buy a grain grinder. A grinder would allow crops to be processed more efficiently, and some additional income could be raised by renting out the grinder to other agencies. The Synod was asked to vote on the proposal of releasing funds for the grinder from the Deanery funds and this was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth Harvey, Director of Finance and Operations for the Salisbury Diocese, gave an excellent presentation. She considered how doubt and uncertainty can be liberating, as they can create space for possibilities. She recognised that things were tough financially with parish finance during the last 10 years, showing a 13% reduction of money available across the diocese (which means there was less money to cover mission, ministry, courses etc) and the increase in the cost of maintenance of buildings.

She identified possibilities of raising money through inviting the local communities to help fund their local church; while some neighbouring parishes helped other parishes to meet their parish share. In one village where the church was due to close, new possibilities had opened up. A 'Save the Church' Committee has been set up with plans to raise £12k pa by reusing the church space for the community as a whole, and increased regular giving from the whole community (not just church goers).

She explained that we had 216 clergy houses, 175 of which were needed for clergy and curates. Meanwhile, opportunities for renting out glebe-land for example for solar panels may produce income. It was acknowledged that Salisbury has a higher reliance on parish share, some 75% compared to 60/50% of other neighbouring dioceses.

She was asked about the income from the immense sum that the national church had in investments. Elizabeth said that the amount released from the endowment fund is decided by the Archbishop's Council, such as paying for bishops and deans of cathedrals, low-income communities (areas of deprivation) – Salisbury does not fall into this category – and also the clergy stipend and their pension provisions.

She concluded by saying that we must do our best to help our neighbour parishes with support as we are so interlinked. She encouraged us to move towards the Parish Giving Scheme where people can sign up to give annually linked with inflation – this has proved very effective. Legacy giving is an area to be explored, and this is being publicised by Christian Aid for their 80th anniversary. They are very happy to come and talk.

We ended the meeting by thanking Penny Gold our outgoing Deanery Secretary for her wonderful contribution over many years and Stuart Laing was voted on as her

successor, unanimously. In October we welcomed Stuart Laing to his new role as Secretary of the Deanery Synod.

We were also joined by Stephi Scott, the Missional Network Lead from the Christian charity 'Rural Missions'. He spoke engagingly about empowering rural churches to thrive in their unique mission. Rural Missions firmly believe that every town and village should have a vibrant, credible, and caring Christian community, and they are dedicated to making this vision a reality.

They offer a wide range of resources and services designed to equip churches like ours for effective outreach: Tailor-Made Consultation Events Missional Networks Online and In-Person Forums, High-Quality Resources In addition, they've recently launched 'Rural Missions on the farm', a series of videos designed for use in church services, small groups and schools, focusing on the wonders of God's creation. You can explore more here: www.ruralmissions.org.uk All their work is offered free of charge.

Charles Graham updated the synod regarding the grinder and thanked the members of the Deanery Synod for their generosity of spirit towards our deanery partnership. He also outlined the Advent plan to send bibles for Bishop Data's ongoing work with the rebel leaders and the government, in their attempts to work towards peace.

We ended by thanking the Revd Canon Roger Powell, in his absence, for his excellent co-leadership of the Deanery Synod over the last seven years.

Sarah Musgrave, Lay Chair Marlborough Deanery

Electoral Roll

Hugh de Saram

The number of electors upon the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish, as revised in preparation for the Annual Meeting, was 153. Last year's figure was 129.

Hugh de Sarum

Small Groups

Revd. Chris Smith

St Mary's continues to be blessed with many small groups, with a notably high proportion of the congregation involved. This ministry would benefit from greater co-ordination and support, including training for group leaders, as well as attention to safeguarding and insurance considerations.

During Lent, many groups pause and take part in ecumenical partnerships, which again proved very fruitful in 2025. Overall, we give thanks for our small group leaders, their commitment, and the strength of this ministry.

Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough

Love Marlborough Kids Meals

Catherine Williams, Kids Meals Co-ordinator

Kids Meals continues to be sustainable and operates a simple model:

- We send out hot roast dinner meals on Friday afternoons.
- We occasionally send out additional grocery bags when families have an urgent need for help. We also refer to the Food Bank and now have capacity to send E-vouchers to be spent on food in Tesco.
- E-vouchers are usually sent during school holidays – we have separate funding from Wiltshire Engagement and Partnership Team specifically for this.
- We continue to offer a slow cooker to all new families (around 50% decide to have one).

We currently feed 47 families, with the highest number being 54 in 2025. Families continue to come to us for a short period, but most have been with us a long time. We check in with them from time-to-time. Families find us by word of mouth, via Food Bank, children's community services, Facebook and social media.

We continue to have a dedicated volunteer team. A team of 11 delivery volunteers operate on a rota, covering 7 delivery routes through town and out towards Avebury, Burbage, Great Bedwyn, Aldbourne and Ogbournes. A few long-term volunteers have stepped back recently, so we are in need of new team members. All delivery drivers are DBS checked through St Mary's Church. We have 3 lead cooks, and a small team of

regular kitchen helpers. We have enjoyed a few social events together, as the project has developed into a supportive community.

In addition, there are 4 coordinators (Jo Lansdown, Kymee Cleasby, Caroline Philps and myself) for liaising with families, food orders, onboarding volunteers and overall organisation of rotas and the project, respectively. Kymee Cleasby continues to allow us to use her catering facilities, without which we could not sustain the project in its current format. We have a large raw and frozen food delivery from Sainsbury's each week, which Kymee's team assist with, prior to our team arriving to cook.

We continue to receive IT support free of charge by Olwynne Goodrich at Easy Peasy Digital, with Candy Hung managing social media communications. Anna Olsen continues to support with fundraising, a role we hope to share with another volunteer this year. Through our charitable status with Love Marlborough, we continue to be supported by St Mary's Church Treasurers, especially Debbie Ryman.

Over 2025, we received grants and funds from the Wiltshire Council, Mayor's charitable fundraising, local commercial companies and a family charitable trust and from individuals. Our funds are healthy but we continue to rely on Wiltshire Council's support to sustain us. We now spend around £1.3k per month. We need to continually fundraise to remain sustainable using our current model.

2026 Plans and needs are:

1. Providing with hot food and e-vouchers provision & use of recyclable packaging.
2. Reviewing standard operating procedures and policies.
3. Recruit additional volunteers for both deliveries and kitchen teams.

Catherine Williams, Coordinator, Love Marlborough Kids Meals

The Mission Giving Committee

Revd Chris Smith

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Simon and Sheila Mills, who have recently stepped down from the Mission Committee after many years of faithful and dedicated service. Simon led the committee with wisdom, commitment, and clarity, providing steady and thoughtful leadership as chair. Sheila also made a significant contribution, particularly in helping to pioneer and develop our new partnership with the Pearts through CMS, which has already begun to bear fruit.

Although the committee is currently in a period of transition between chairs, its important work continues. Members remain actively engaged in the careful allocation of funds, as well as in encouraging prayerful support and raising awareness of mission both locally and globally. Their ongoing efforts ensure that mission remains a vital part of our church's life.

From time to time, we all benefit from being reminded that we are part of a much wider world – one that is full of both need and opportunity. There are many who have yet to hear the Good News, and many situations that call for compassion, generosity, and faithful engagement. The Mission Committee plays a key role in keeping this perspective before us, helping us to look beyond ourselves and respond as Christians to the needs around us.

We warmly commend the continued work of the Mission Committee and give thanks for its faithful service.

Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough

Willows Counselling and Training, Swindon by Debbie Ryman

From September 2024, Willows adopted a new 3 year business strategy. Their overall aim is to ensure their Counselling and Training Service is a more modern, professional and sustainable Organisation and to ensure that it survives and thrives into the future. This way they can continue to support the local community and ensure high quality counsellors with a professional career pathway. Willows are now able to offer counsellors paid roles, ensuring they are able to remain with the Service and create a group of experienced counsellors who can offer clients the benefits of their depth and experience. They are however, very proud of their past history, as a volunteer service and are grateful for those that remain as volunteers, including a number of volunteer counsellors which continues to be my role.

Having just ended the first year of their plan, they have increased the availability of affordable, quality counselling. The majority of clients have the cost of their sessions subsidised in varying amounts, many up to 50% dependant on income. There is no waiting list and Willows work hard to make our Service accessible and have just opened another accessible room. They now see on average 70 clients per week.

WIllows are very grateful to the many communities who support them both financially and with partnership working.

Debbie Ryman

The Salisbury/ Sudans Medical Link ('SML') by Mike Maclachlan

St Mary's has been a faithful sponsor of the Medical Link for nearly 20 years. Set up in 1983, SML continues to support primary healthcare in South Sudan and, where possible, Sudan in the north. An offshoot of Salisbury Diocese, SML is run by UK-based volunteers, some medically qualified and several with East African experience. Unlike an aid agency, SML is based on mutuality: that two churches separated by distance and culture can care for one another in sharing resources, experience and practical help. Central to SML is prayer for one another, strengthened by relationships between people from different countries.



Medicines provided by SML and prescribed by a smiling Salisbury-trained nurse

SML's work is mainly through the provision of medicine consignments to 16+ primary healthcare clinics. Basic pharmaceuticals are sourced locally in South Sudan at competitive prices. To ensure appropriate prescribing, individuals and parishes in the UK sponsor and fund the training of clinical officers, nurses and midwives to staff clinics which are often remote and the only medical presence in an otherwise barren horizon. South Sudan has the highest maternal death rate in the world as well as a high incidence of infant mortality and SML has recently introduced Maternity Birthing Kits – a pinprick but nonetheless.

To ensure that medicines and training meet local needs and professional standards, periodic visits to the clinics and training schools are made from the UK. One such trip took place in 2025 and another is planned for this year.

SML's annual income is normally some £60k while required expenditure just to maintain past supplies is some £80k. To make matters worse there will be an inevitable

impact from the UK's decision to cut our Overseas Aid budget. And an influx of refugees from the civil-war-torn Sudan to the north puts even greater pressure on medical resources. Imaginative fundraising is crucial and the annual South Canonry fête in the Cathedral Close is a major contributor – this year on Sunday, 7th June.

The Medical Link is hugely grateful to St Mary's not only for the contribution that comes in year by year but also that we have been so steadfast in our giving for so long! Thank you!

Mike Maclachlan

Alabaré by Ann Yates

Alabaré is a charity based in Salisbury who provide care and support for disadvantaged people in the community.

In a letter from the senior chaplain, Rev. Gill Turner-Callis, in which she thanks those churches which support their work she says the following.

"In Alabaré we talk about positive "move-ons". This is where we plan, with the client, their preferred future - often a new home. We do this from pretty much the first time they come in through the door. From the moment they lay their head on a pillow in their new, safe, place to stay, we're talking about them moving on.

Matthew 8:20 sees Jesus replying to a question with "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man as nowhere to lay His head" Jesus knew what it was to move often, with no chance to call a place His own.

Obviously, that is where most of the parallels end. Jesus is choosing his itinerant lifestyle to best proclaim the message of salvation to as wide an audience as possible. Our clients are moving to avoid trouble or to access support. But the impact is the same. Our accommodation is temporary. But that's not at all a bad thing.

Jesus's own move-on was the most positive of all-a move to His home in Heaven, opening a way for residency for us all. Our client's earthly heaven is a home of their own. Their own front door. Their own key."

Gill goes on to say that the support we give from St. Mary's helps Alabaré provide that temporary accommodation so that their dream might become a reality. Our support also enables a Christian presence reminding them, and our staff, that this earthly goal isn't all there is.

Ann Yates

Open Doors by Margaret Hoyland

Open Doors is an International Charity serving persecuted Christians in 70 countries around the world. St. Mary's Church has supported Open Doors since 2020, and during that time the numbers of persecuted Christians worldwide has increased significantly.

Their global underground networks work in partnership with the local church wherever it is found and whatever the danger. Through our gifts and prayers, supporters of Open Doors help millions of Christians receive food and medicine, spiritual care, training and legal advice. They are provided with smuggled bibles and literature. Homes are rebuilt, lives are rescued and churches are restored.

Please do look at their website www.opendoorsuk.org which shows personal stories of Christians, taken from countries in their Top 10 World Watch List, which is a ranking of where following Jesus costs the most. At this time especially we are asked to pray for all those in Middle Eastern Countries experiencing the devastating effects of war.

Open Doors are thankful for our support.

Margaret Hoyland

The Marlborough Deanery link with the Diocese of Morobo, South Sudan by Mike Maclachlan

Plenty of good things have been happening in Morobo over 2025, despite continuing problems of security which have complicated life for both Church and community. Two ambulances at the hospital were destroyed by thugs frustrated at being unable to get hold of drugs, and recently the solar panels at the cathedral were wrecked during a thunderstorm, cutting off their source of power however the mission of the church thrives:

- Bishop Data was sponsored by a friend to attend a conference in the Philippines on Transforming Communities, and he returned with ideas that can be applied to Morobo.
- At the end of August there was a successful week of training for all church leaders.
- Bishop Data has been working hard as a peacemaker, to bring together government and rebel soldiers, as well as reaching out to wives and offspring of the combatants.
- The Advent Appeal for Bibles raised a splendid £600, enabling around 60 Bibles to be given to soldiers on both sides of the conflict who have decided to follow Jesus, helping them to grow in faith.

We pray that these continuing efforts of the Morobo Church to bring peace to the region will bear fruit.

Here are some projects that Marlborough Deanery have been supporting over nearly four years:

- Production of crops continues successfully, including good harvests of maize, beans, groundnuts and honey from hives we funded. Sales from these provide a small income for the clergy.
- Safe delivery of twelve more bicycles for clergy.
- Money left over from a previous appeal used to purchase and install a new rainwater butt at the cathedral.
- Spare money in our Deanery account paid for a labour-saving (and revenue-earning) grain grinder.
- The purchase of 15 sewing machines for the Mothers' Union. 40 trainees have enrolled for tailoring training, and the machines are in use and working well (see photo).

Meanwhile, it has been suggested that representatives of the Link join Morobo's Diocesan Synod early in 2027 and, God willing, we shall be taking up their invitation.

Thank you again to all who are so faithfully supporting this partnership by prayer and giving. It continues to be a blessing to so many.

Mike Maclachlan

Music at St Mary's

Revd Pete Sainsbury – Contemporary Worship Lead

The past year has seen a continuation of the pattern of previous years (see below) with the happy addition of expanded children's ministry working alongside Penny Reader, Childrens & Families Worker. Penny's exciting vision for the expansion of gathered children's ministry including sung worship plays into my gifts in a happy way. All involved greatly enjoyed delivering the Summer Energise programme last year.

Plans are being made for similar activity this year at St Mary's.

As Contemporary Worship Lead at St Mary's in 2025, I continued to

- be the primary leader of sung worship at the evening service
- assist Chris in devising our themes, preaching series and general approach

- set up and lead Lent and Holy Week events at St Mary's, including the popular Good Friday service led with Sarah Musgrave
- lead 'Welcome Wednesdays', monthly
- devise and lead the reflective and contemplative Lent Quiet Morning
- contribute to the leadership and preaching of the 5pm service, and more occasionally at the 10.30 service
- lead and coordinate *Beer & Carols* in December.

I had to delegate one significant additional event in June, Pentecost Praise, because of family bereavement. James Seddon and Gill Mortimer covered this very effectively – I am grateful to them for having done this with little notice.

Along with Sunday evenings, I am able as a full-time priest within the team to support the life of St Mary's in broader ways. I take funerals at St Mary's as necessary. During Chris' sabbatical in 2025, I assisted with occasional or one-off events such as the St Mary's Primary School Harvest celebration in church, and I enjoyed supporting the two quite newly appointed churchwardens. Additionally, it was also a joy to support Louise Seddon as she became a Licensed Lay Minister for St Mary's, in September.

Essentially, I have something of an associate clergy role at St Mary's.

One interesting and welcome development is how the style and approach to sung worship at the evening service has been requested for funerals by families with a connection to the evening service. This shows an 'embedding' of an approach to music ministry, which can have a wider reach.

Thanks as always to James Seddon who is strong in musical and broader support, to Alice and Leonie too, and not least to John Dunnett. It is great to have such a talented, warm and committed team, and to be part of a happy ministry staff across the Anglican Team. In conclusion, as last year, "we are always open to enquiries from musicians and singers and would love to welcome new people to the team who have an appreciation for contemporary sung worship and who simply, love to worship."

Revd Pete Sainsbury

Choir Report by Gill Mortimer, Jane Rose, David Ripley & Keith Galpin - Volunteer Organists & Conductors

The choir enjoys leading worship throughout the year by contributing anthems, introits, worship songs and blessings to the regular 10.30 services. The music is seasonally selected or thematically related to the service content. We are lucky to have a strong group of musicians who can play and lead rehearsals; Keith Galpin, David Ripley, Jane Rose and Gill Mortimer and a choir of willing singers, (now numbering 20 with a good

balance of parts), that all love to praise God by making music and giving of their time generously. We have been blessed to have other members of the congregation join us singing at Christmas and other key services, and we thank Eric Gilbert for joining the organ team.

The choir led worship at the reflective service for Maundy Thursday using Taizé responses, and has contributed anthems for All Souls, MCT Advent and the Community Carol services. We also sang a blessing for Chris as he completed his final morning service before his Sabbatical.

The choir rehearses every Friday evening between 6-7pm and most Sunday mornings at 9.55am. New members with a little musical knowledge, are always welcome to come and try singing with the choir.

The organ refurbishment project continued into the Spring of 2025 and was finally completed with the organ being rededicated at a celebratory concert on May 22nd. We thank Ian Crabbe, Michael Reynolds and David Ripley for generously agreeing to play for the evening.

The choir have also enjoyed fellowship together with a couple of socials in the summer and winter.

Gill Mortimer

Mustard Seed

Rachel Maurice

Mustard Seed has managed to be open Monday-Saturday for most of the year and it's been great having a couple of teenagers working on a Saturday. We are a face of the Christian community that has a wide reach to people who never darken a church building. It has been wonderful that when we have needed a new volunteer one has emerged, but we are always on the lookout for people who are willing to commit half a day a week.

Early in 2026 our coffeeshop manager resigned as she was returning to her native Switzerland. March 1st we were happy to see Ingo Brenk join the team as the new coffeeshop manager. For a number of reasons, the decision has been taken to open Monday-Friday.

The coffeeshop serves a wide clientele with many regulars who see it as home from home. The weekly Recharge café, a drop-in support for mental well being, has 10+ participants. The personal service and welcome is what many value. The bookshop has continued to host a quarterly half-hour quiet space, building on the comments we

get that a moment of peace is what people are looking for. The quarterly book group has 15+ participants. We've hosted author events and provided books for Lent groups and church groups in the area.

Rachel Maurice

Open the Book

Alison Selby

Open the Book is all about 'story telling' using drama as a means of engaging the attention of children of primary school age in Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments. The stories are taken from a Bible Society publication "The Lion Storyteller Bible". Judging by the comments we have from teachers that the children are excited when they know we are going to be 'performing', and indeed from the evidence of our own eyes, we can see that they are engaged in our presentations. Both Infant and Junior children enjoy taking part in the dramas and we involve them whenever possible. Typically, we might have around six children being 'extras'

Marlborough St Mary's Primary school now has both Infants and Juniors on one site, and so for the last two years we have provided one story to the whole school assembly - six stories a year, one each term. Even though we rehearse and plan well, contingencies can arise! Flexibility and quick thinking are essential qualities in the team. The presentation has a top and tail of introduction and conclusion, when the children are invited to reflect on the implications of the story for today's world, and if they want to make the closing prayer their own, to join the 'Amen'.

What we never know, of course, is what the children make of the message of the story. We are obliged to stick strictly to the script, so that the story can stand alone as just that, a story. This protects the Bible Society from any accusation of proselytising. This probably wouldn't be a problem in our locality, where the primary schools are mainly Church of England foundations, but might elsewhere. We are always pleased if the member of staff in charge of the assembly picks up on the message in their closing remarks and maybe relates it to other aspects of the current curriculum.

At a training session we were reminded of how important it is to tell stories. Most of us remembered stories being told to us by our parents or by teachers at school, and so Open the Book is a valuable way to bring Bible Stories into the children's lives. We are pleased to lead collective worship at Marlborough St Mary's once a term, with 6 terms in the school year. We have the whole school in one assembly, which is a challenge to not worry the little ones (4 & 5 years olds) and bore the big ones (11 year olds).That is where the Open the Book stories are very positive. The assemblies are loosely based on the school values which change each term. We are still having to avoid many Old Testament stories at present because they involve the Israelites either killing or being killed. In the 2025 Summer terms we told the story of Noah (Perseverance) and Four

Good Friends (Courage). We told the story of Joseph in the Autumn terms (Fairness & Respect) and in January 2026, A Friend at Midnight (Friendship) and Palm Sunday (Love) this March. Please continue to pray for the team as we prepare our stories and then go into the school.

Our team reaches across all the church denominations and my thanks go to Theresa Nash, Sandra Wylie, Janet Buck, Gina Cooke, Dorothy Maclachlan, Christine Barnett and Sue Tulloh – the wonderful team.

There is always space for more volunteers and we would appreciate some ideas from the younger and the tech-savvy - it is fun - and rewarding!

Alison Selby, On behalf of the Open the Book Team

Pastoral Care

Ann Yates, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

The LPA team for St. Mary's church are: Dorothy Maclachlan, Rachel Maurice, Anne Norman, Sue Pearce, Debbie Ryman, Ann Yates

On July 6th we were recommissioned by Chris at the 10.30 service. This is normally done every 3 years and used to be in Salisbury cathedral but there has been a move to bring the focus into the parish church that we serve.

At the time I was aware that it would be helpful to say more about the role.
"A Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) is trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity. Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills, and the context in which these are used. But in all cases the ministry of an LPA calls for a loving and compassionate heart and a willingness to listen and support those in need".

The very good training course consists of 10 sessions covering such topics as 'learning to listen', 'coming alongside those with acute & chronic illness' and 'Valuing later life'. There are also opportunities for further training in their "Continuing Ministerial Development" (CMD) programme. Please do talk to talk to one of us if you would like to know more about being an LPA. The Salisbury diocese web site is also helpful.

It is worth saying that although currently we are an all female team in the past we have had male LPAs who were much appreciated.

Some of our activities are as follows:

- Taking communion to the housebound (including the Jubilee Centre and Merlin court if requested by clergy)

- Organisation of “Ladies Suppers”
- Helping with refreshments at “Coffee and doughnuts” on a Wednesday
- There is an LPA on duty every Sunday looking out for newcomers or anyone who might appreciate a chat, and noticing if a regular worshipper has not been attending for some time and maybe unwell. Following up, when wanted, with a visit at home or hospital.

I meet with Chris monthly to share pastoral concerns, a meeting we both find helpful. Many other members of the congregation also participate in care and support and it is gratifying to hear people remark that St. Mary’s is such a friendly church.

Ann Yates, Pastoral Care co-ordinator

Post Script

It was a shock and great sadness to us all when we heard that Sue Pearce had died suddenly on the 9th January this year (2026). I have asked one of the people who Sue visited as an LPA to say how she experienced her.

“She was calm, sincere, humble, kind, caring, modest, loving, interested and interesting. Somebody rather special, a privilege to have met her.”
There are many others who will miss her pastoral care and a great loss to the LPA team.

Safeguarding

Karen Davis, Parish Safeguarding Officer

2025 has seen St Mary’s continue to make progress with our safeguarding processes and practice. It has been a year of much change. During the year we moved away from the Salisbury DBS Microsite database and DBS checks being completed by APCS. We are now using a new database called the Safeguarding Hub. ThirtyOne:Eight is the organisation undertaking the processing of DBS checks for us. The transition has been a mammoth, manual task. Thank you to the many people who have supported with the data migration and set up. We have also created a single central record to keep a simple, easily accessible summary of every volunteer’s training and DBS type.

Louise Seddon has continued as the role of Safeguarding Lead for the PCC. The PCC have a Safeguarding Action Plan which they track and review throughout the year.

In August 2025 we were informed that a number of our volunteers had been impacted by a national data breach following a cyber attack on APCS. All those affected were offered credit and web monitoring using Experian Identity Plus Scheme to provide alerts if anyone were to attempt to use the stolen identity details. During the year we have processed over 45 DBS. Thank you to everyone who has good naturedly complied with

the requirements of the process and successfully navigated using the new Safeguarding Hub.

Finally, thanks to the many volunteers who have completed or updated their training this year. Training needs to be refreshed every three years. We appreciate you all prioritising this important element of our work.

Karen Davis, St Mary's Safeguarding Officer

PCC Secretary's Report

David du Croz

The PCC met 10 times in 2025. Much of what was discussed at these meetings is referenced in many of the other reports in this Review. Copies of the Minutes of the three most recent PCC meetings are posted in the church. Associated and supporting papers for items discussed, and copies of earlier Minutes are available on request.

The election of two churchwardens at the Vestry Meeting in May transformed the operations of the PCC in 2025, and amongst other things made it possible for the parish to manage the Rector's absence on sabbatical. Following elections at the APCM, in addition to the Chair (Rector), two churchwardens and the treasurer, there were 3 Deanery Synod members, and 9 elected representatives, making a PCC of 16 members in total. Names and photos of all are displayed in the church.

The PCC continued to address compliance in Safeguarding. Matters which featured in discussion throughout the year included: the appointment of a Children and Families Worker (appointed and doing excellent work); the external lighting of the church and the installation of solar panels; Sound and Vision upgrade; initiatives in prayer; social events; the Big Town Giveaway (Christmas Fayre) - a great success; plans for the Methodist Art Exhibition (2027); security and the installation of CCTV.

David Du Croz, PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Christopher Tawney

The following details the important elements of the Church's finances covering the period 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025, together with the budget for 2026. Overall the finances at St Marys' remain healthy and 2025 continued the trend of the previous year with a surplus on general spending.

The following table shows the Main Fund income and expenditure over the last couple of years together with the figures for 2025, and the budget for 2026:

	Actual			Budget
Normal Income	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Planned giving including envelopes	£82,323	£100,098	£114,934	£120,000
Collections	£9,774	£7,253	£7,508	£7,500
Other donations	£3,349	£3,803	£1,606	£1,500
Gift aid	£21,725	£24,425	£26,721	£27,800
PCC Fees	£3,112	£2,782	£3,359	£3,500
Church hire fees	£4,237	£4,474	£4,520	£4,500
Contributions from SG and SJB	£5,776	£15,823	£16,566	£16,000
Income from lettings	£9,797	£11,465	£15,727	£16,000
Bequests and legacies	£422	£0	£1,116	£0
Other income including interest & dividend income	£5,760	£4,577	£3,582	£4,500
	£146,275	**£174,700**	**£195,639**	**£201,300**
Normal expenditure				
Parish share	£80,337	£86,764	£83,655	£85,360
Staff & office expenses	£22,322	£36,063	£44,665	£52,245
Clergy expenses	£2,743	£3,045	£2,945	£3,500
Upkeep of services	£3,860	£3,013	£3,522	£4,500
Local outreach	£2,754	£1,925	£5,539	£5,000
Tithe	£10,875	£11,970	£15,058	£15,847
Utilities	£8,273	£6,137	£5,046	£6,000
Insurance	£2,726	£2,809	£2,833	£3,200
Maintenance	£2,046	£411	£10,308	£10,100
Church hall expenses and staff	£10,980	£10,614	£9,693	£10,000
Other expenditure	£2,309	£4,752	£2,189	£1,500
	£149,225	**£167,503**	**£185,453**	**£197,252**
Surplus/(deficit)	**(£2,950)**	**£7,197**	**£10,186**	**£4,048**

Comments

The operating surplus of £10,186 is the surplus of normal income over normal expenditure. Necessary repairs were made to the bells and fire safety equipment was upgraded. Designated and Restricted Funds reduced in the year as a result of planned spending on the solar power project, restoring the organ, the appointment of the Children and Families Worker and the Rector's personal assistant.

The following table shows the funds where the financial resources of the Church are held:

Funds

Unrestricted		
Main Fund	£26,796	
Quinquennial (formerly Fabric) Fund	£32,536	
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	£78,887	
Total Unrestricted		£138,219
Designated		
Solar Project	£0	
Lighting project	£3,470	
Website project	£5,000	
Admin Asst Fund	£17,561	
Total Designated		£26,031
Restricted		
Children's & Family Worker	£17,338	
LMKM	£19,410	
Organ Restoration	£1,730	
Misc Restricted Fund	£3,511	
Bellringers	£955	
Cadley Churchyard	£37,109	
Total restricted		£80,053
Total funds(increased to)		£244,303

Comments

The General Fund, Quinquennial (formerly Fabric) Fund and Capital Reserves Fund, plus the funds for the Lighting project, the Website Upgrade and the Rector's PA contain all the assets over which the PCC has discretion. These amount to £164,250, a substantial increase on the position at the start of the year.

Designated funds are those where money has been set aside for specific purposes. While these can be redirected should the PCC consider it appropriate, the intention is that these funds are used for the purposes for which they were designated. The total in these funds amounts to £26,031.

Restricted funds are only available for the specific purpose that they were set up for and comprise: Children and Families Worker Fund, Love Marlborough Kids Meals, Marlborough Churches Together, the Organ Restoration Fund, the Bellringers' Fund and Cadley Churchyard funds which combined total £80,053.

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy requires us to maintain an amount equivalent to three months estimated normal expenditure, approximately £12,000 per month, so £36,000 in total. Additionally, the PCC has decided to keep a reserve of not less than £10,000 in the Quinquennial (formerly Fabric) fund, which is intended to cover costs arising from the quinquennial architect's inspection.

Investments

The PCC holds £121,066 in various CCLA investment accounts. There were revaluation losses over the year of £4,369. Investments are subject to market fluctuations and can go down as well as up. We keep a close eye on performance, whilst recognizing that by their nature these are longer term assets.

Commentary

The PCC's financial situation at present is satisfactory and reserves are adequate for anticipated expenditure in 2026. Regular giving increased by 11%, almost £15,000, over 2024; collections also ncreased slightly.

The budget for 2026 shows a small surplus of £4,048.

Members of the St Mary's congregation are welcome to ask for further explanation or information regarding any aspect of this year's accounts. A full set is available on the website, or can be sent electronically. Please contact Christopher Tawney MA FCA at treasurermarlborough@hotmail.com, or 07867 555 908.

My thanks to all those who have provided support and advice during the year. In particular my thanks to those on the Finance and Employment Committees: Roger

Wheeler, Alison Selby, Chris Saunders and of course Debbie Ryman, without whose help and support the task of keeping the finances of the church in order would be insuperable.

I would also like to record my heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, Mark Whitehead, for his continued support.

St. Mary's, Marlborough

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER & ST PAUL, MARLBOROUGH

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Marlborough Anglican Team

Marlborough

Anglican Team

'Making Jesus Known'

Team Rector

The Reverend Christopher J Smith

Team Vicar

The Reverend Peter Sainsbury

The Parish of Marlborough
St. Mary the Virgin with St Peter and St Paul
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church is situated off Kingsbury Street in the parish of Marlborough, Wilts. It is a team benefice with the parishes of St George's, Preshute and St John the Baptist, Mildenhall. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Marlborough Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage, Silverless Street, Marlborough, SN8 1JQ.

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The PCC was formerly an excepted charity. Its registration with the Charity Commission was formally approved on 10 March 2010. The registration number is 1134792. Information about the PCC and its activities can be found on the Charity Commission website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk . The PCC is subject to the Charities Act 2011.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Chris Smith	2019	Chairman Ex Officio
Churchwardens	David Wylie (appointed at 2025 APCM) Nigel Hall (appointed at 2025 APCM)		

Other Elected Members:

Martyn Johnson (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Debbie Ryman (Elected Member until APCM 2025)
Shirley Tawney (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Jane Rose (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Rachel Maurice (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Teresa Wheeler (Elected Member until APCM 2025)
Louise Seddon (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Pauline Berryman (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Sandra Wylie (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Beverley Lyle (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Pam Tulloch (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Nigel Hall (Co-opted until APCM 2025)

Co-opted Members:

Mark Whitehead (Treasurer) until 2025 APCM
Christopher Tawney (Treasurer) appointed at 2025 APCM

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Rupert Travis (Co-opted until APCM 2026)
George Smith (Co-opted until APCM 2026)
Debbie Ryman (Co-opted until APCM 2026)

Other parishioners performing specific duties or having specific responsibilities are:

Licensed Lay Minister	Sarah Musgrave (St John the Baptist, Mildenhall; Member of Marlborough Anglican Team); Heather Lee (St George's Preshute); Louise Seddon (St Mary's Marlborough)	
PCC secretary	David Du Croz	
LPAs	Ann Yates Dorothy Maclachlan Rachel Maurice Anne Norman Sue Pearce Debbie Ryman	
Vergers	Ian Perryman David Wylie Catherine Smith	
Representatives:	Bell ringers, Tower Captain	David Miles
	Church Hall, Bookings clerk	Peter Hussey
	Safeguarding officer	Karen Davis
	Choir Director	Gill Mortimer
	Church Buildings	Martin Selby
	Church Buildings	Simon Mills
	Church Administrator	Penny Reader/Karolina Bull
	Electoral Roll Secretary	Hugh de Saram
	Mission Committee Chair	Simon Mills
	Children's Church	Caroline Philps
	Children and Families Worker	Penny Reader

St. Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Marlborough

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend C J Smith, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the St Mary's Parish Hall and Church Cottage and Cadley Churchyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Chairman's Statement

St Mary's continued to fulfil her mission in 2025. The year began with 268 children from nine schools welcomed into the church for the Life Exhibition, which explained our faith with clarity and imagination. The year closed with the Giveaway Fayre, which brought the community together in a joyful act of Christmas generosity.

Nigel Hall and David Wylie began as new Churchwardens in April. Penny Reader joined us as Children and Families Worker in May, Karolina Bull as Team Administrator in May, and Louise Seddon was licensed as an LLM in September. I am grateful for the sabbatical I took from August to October; it recharged my batteries post-Covid and, in a creative blitz, I wrote a novel, *Channel Tides*, which was launched in November. The year has carried a sense of growth and restoration within the team and of deepened partnership with Christchurch Methodist Fellowship.

The plant was improved in many ways, including the installation of solar panels at the Rectory in March and at the church in November. We thank God and our donors for healthy finances, with the year ending in surplus.

Social activities continued to recover, with a full house at the Maundy Thursday Meal and a new venture, 'Compline at the Lock', which included a ride on the *Rose of Hungerford*.

Start, The Parenting Course, the Lent Course, Restored Lives and The Bereavement Journey all ran during the year as part of our outreach and discipleship.

Wider issues within the Church of England continue to weigh on local parishes, including affecting clergy morale and recruitment.

As we look ahead, we do so not anxiously but expectantly. God has been faithful to us, and we sense His call not merely to maintain what we have, but to grow – in depth of discipleship, in confidence in the Gospel, in closer relationships and in service to Marlborough. If 2025 has been a year of restoration, may the coming year be one of courage and fruitfulness as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Revd Christopher Smith
Team Rector of Marlborough

Church Roll and PCC meetings

At the time of the 2025 Annual Meeting there were 129 (*2024:* 191) parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

The full PCC met 10 times in 2025 (*2024:* 9) with an average attendance of 74% (*2024:* 73%). The Standing Committee met between meetings and the minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources were £238,011 (*2024*: £227,947) and are detailed in the financial statements on page 13.

Total expenditure was £247,913 (*2024*: £221,971) including church activities, and Parish Share of £83,655 (2024: £86,764) and are detailed in the financial statements on page 14.

There were unrealised losses on investments of £4,369 (*2024*: gain of £5,745).

Other donations include £6,665 towards the cost of the Children and Families Worker and £1,102 for the Organ Restoration fund; both of these amounts were restricted.

The operating surplus on the unrestricted funds (main fund), was £10,186. This compares with a surplus in 2024 of £7,197.

Total fund balances carried forward at 31 December decreased to £244,303 (*2024*: £258,574) as a result of project spending from designated and restricted funds. £50,019 are held in funds which are restricted and can only be used for the specified purpose. A further £30,034 (2024: £31,285) are funds held for the sole purpose of maintaining Cadley Churchyard. The PCC has discretion over £164,250, being the sum of the Unrestricted and Designated funds at the bottom of page 8.

Reserves Policy

General Reserves:	balance at year end to be at least 25% of annual normal expenditure (i.e. main fund expenditure)
Quinquennial Fund:	balance at year end to be not less than £10,000.

The Quinquennial Fund (formerly the Fabric Fund) is retained to meet the cost of repairs to the fabric of the church, including costs arising from Quinquennial inspections.

It is PCC policy to invest fund balances with CCLA investment and deposit accounts and other savings and investment vehicles as prescribed from time to time.

Approved by the PCC on 26 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by :



Reverend C J Smith (PCC Chairman)

Parish of St Mary the Virgin with St Peter and St Paul Marlborough

Charity registration number 1134792

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER AND ST PAUL MARLBOROUGH

Charity Registration Number 1134792

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 8 - 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (PCC Members) 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met,

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

Pete Davies

Mr Peter Davies
Peter Davies Accountant
Sunrise Chapel Lane
Hermitage
RG18 9RL

Date: 31 March 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments (detailed on page 13)						
Income from donors - Planned Giving	114,934	-	-	-	114,934	100,098
Income from donors - Other Donations	10,230	-	-	-	10,230	26,322
Income for specified purposes	-	10,035	28,713	-	38,748	27,944
Other ordinary incoming resources	51,166	830	583	-	52,579	56,421
Income from ancillary trading	15,727	-	-	-	15,727	11,465
Income from investments	3,582	909	1,302	-	5,793	5,697
Total income	**195,639**	**11,774**	**30,598**	-	**238,011**	**227,947**
Expenditure (detailed on page 14)						
Church ministry and services	**107,542**	652	6,270	-	114,464	123,790
Expenditure for specified purposes	20,669	17,499	18,801	-	56,969	41,335
Church management and administration	31,875	6,540	9,009	-	47,424	32,385
Church Hall Expenditure	9,693	-	-	-	9,693	10,614
Specified receipts & collections inc Mission giving	15,058	-	-	-	**15,058**	11,970
Other Costs	**616**	2,464	1,225	-	**4,305**	1,877
Total expenditure	185,453	**27,155**	**35,305**	-	247,913	**221,971**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**10,186**	**(15,381)**	(4,707)	-	(9,902)	**5,976**
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)						
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	(3,118)	-	(1,251)	(4,369)	5,745
Net movement in funds	10,186	**(18,499)**	**(4,707)**	**(1,251)**	**(14,271)**	**11,721**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**16,610**	**155,953**	54,726	**31,285**	**258,574**	**246,853**
Total funds carried forward	**26,796**	**137,454**	**50,019**	**30,034**	**244,303**	**258,574**

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
Tangible Assets (page 16)	616	1,232
Investments (page 17)	121,066	125,435
	121,682	**126,667**
Current assets		
Debtors (page 18)	8,438	1,603
Cash at bank and In hand	116,998	133,753
	125,436	135,356
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year (page 18)	2,815	3,449
Net current assets less current liabilities	**122,621**	**131,907**
Total assets less current liabilities	**244,303**	**258,574**
Represented by:		
Unrestricted - General Funds	26,796	16,610
Designated		
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	78,887	81,095
Rectors PA Assistant	17,561	24,102
Quinquennial fund	32,536	35,000
Proposed Lighting Project	3,470	3,980
Proposed Solar Project	-	6,776
Website Development	5,000	5,000
Restricted		
Bellringers	955	980
Cadley cash	7,075	6,972
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	19,410	18,939
Miscellaneous Restricted Receipts	854	1,440
Organ restoration	1,730	6,713
Marlborough Churches Together	2,657	-
Children and Families Worker	17,338	19,682
Endowment		
Cadley endowment	30,034	31,285
Fund Totals	**244,303**	**258,574**

The annual financial accounts were approved by the PCC on 26 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Christopher Smith Rector

Christopher Tawney Treasurer

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER & ST PAUL, MARLBOROUGH

Charity Registration Number 1134792

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, with St Peter & St Paul, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

a) **Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals.

b) **Funds**

Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated by the PCC for a particular purpose. They can be redesignated by the PCC.

Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot, and must not, be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.

Endowment funds are funds given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. Endowment funds also include an asset donated to be retained by the PCC for continuing use by the Church. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments. Endowment funds can either be permanent, ie the PCC have no power to convert it into income, or expendable, where the PCC may, in certain circumstances, spend the funds endowed.

c) **Incoming resources**

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by any fete or social event are accounted for gross, where practicable.

Income from ancillary trading

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investment

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

d) **Resources used**

Church ministry and services

The diocesan share is accounted for when payable. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Grants made

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

e) **Fixed assets**

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.

f) Fixed assets - *Office equipment*

Office equipment is capitalised and depreciated on a straight line basis as follows:

Computer equipment	25% of cost per annum

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

g) Investments

Investments are valued at bid price (market value) at 31 December.

h) Current Assets

Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is classified as a short term deposit.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:						
Income from Donors - Planned Giving						
Regular giving incl S/O's & Parish Giving Scheme	114,934	-	-	-	114,934	100,098
Totals	**114,934**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**114,934**	**100,098**
Income from Donors - Other Donations						
Loose collections	7,508	-	-	-	7,508	7,253
Other donations and one off gifts	441	-	-	-	441	13,803
Giving - Rectors Discretion	-	-	-	-	-	266
Donations for local outreach	1,165	-	-	-	1,165	-
Bequests, legacies, gifts in memory	1,116	-	-	-	1,116	5,000
Totals	**10,230**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,230**	**26,322**
Income for Specified Projects						
Children and Families Worker	-	-	6,665	-	6,665	100
Solar project income	-	10,035	-	-	10,035	-
Donations for LMKM	-	-	18,289	-	18,289	27,714
Bellringer fund income	-	-	-	-	-	130
Marlborough Churches Together	-	-	2,657	-	2,657	-
Donations to organ restoration fund	-	-	1,102	-	1,102	-
Totals	**-**	**10,035**	**28,713**	**-**	**38,748**	**27,944**
Other ordinary incoming resources						
Gift Aid	25,176	830	185	-	26,191	25,660
Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme	1,545	-	398	-	1,943	1,606
Fees PCC	3,359	-	-	-	3,359	2,782
Other PCC fees Inc church hire	4,520	-	-	-	4,520	4,474
Fundraising / Social Events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	10,195	-	-	-	10,195	15,676
Contributions to Team office	6,371	-	-	-	6,371	6,223
Totals	**51,166**	**830**	**583**	**-**	**52,579**	**56,421**
Income from ancillary trading						
Church Hall lettings	15,727	-	-	-	15,727	11,465
Totals	**15,727**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,727**	**11,465**
Income from investments						
Interest income, net of bank charges	2,480	909	432	-	3,821	3,761
Dividend income	1,102	-	870	-	1,972	1,936
Totals	**3,582**	**909**	**1,302**	**-**	**5,793**	**5,697**
Income totals	**195,639**	**11,774**	**30,598**	**-**	**238,011**	**227,947**

2. EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Church ministry and services						
Parish Share	83,655	-	-	-	83,655	86,764
LLM Expenses	447	-	-	-	447	687
Clergy expenses	2,498	-	-	-	2,498	2,358
Music	851	-	-	-	851	484
Organ and piano maintenance	(84)	-	2,201	-	2,117	22,841
Junior Church & Creche	1,672	-	-	-	1,672	353
Local Outreach	5,539	-	157	-	5,696	1,925
Expenses and fees of visitors	115	-	-	-	115	295
Gifts to volunteers	147	-	-	-	147	160
Upkeep of services	1,850	-	-	-	1,850	1,881
Church routine maintenance	10,392	-	3,590	-	13,982	411
Refreshments and Social Events	766	-	118	-	884	410
Other sundry expenses	(306)	652	204	-	550	5,220
Totals	**107,542**	**652**	**6,270**	**-**	**114,464**	**123,789**
Expenditure for specified purposes						
Contemporary Worship Lead costs	20,669	-	-	-	20,669	***19,956***
Solar project costs	-	17,499	-	-	17,499	-
LMKM costs	-	-	18,371	-	**18,371**	**20,671**
Giving - Rector's discretion	-	-	430	-	430	710
Totals	**20,669**	**17,499**	**18,801**	**-**	**56,969**	**41,337**
Church management and administration						
Church caretaker	2,462	-	-	-	2,462	2,752
Church utilities	5,046	-	-	-	5,046	6,137
Church insurance	2,833	-	-	-	2,833	2,809
Team Office staff	18,000	-	-	-	18,000	16,960
Rectors P A costs	-	6,540	-	-	6,540	898
Team Office supplies	2,290	-	-	-	2,290	1,636
Independent Examination fee	400	-	-	-	400	400
Team Office utilities	844	-	-	-	844	792
Children and Families Worker	-	-	9,009	-	9,009	-
Totals	**31,875**	**6,540**	**9,009**	**-**	**47,424**	**32,384**
Church Hall Expenditure						
Hall-Caretaker	-	-	-	-	-	4,897
Hall-Bookings Manager	1,555	-	-	-	1,555	1,481
Hall-utilities	3,769	-	-	-	3,769	3,788
Hall-maintenance, cleaning & repairs	4,369	-	-	-	4,369	448
Totals	**9,693**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**9,693**	**10,614**
Specified receipts and collections						
Mission Fund gifts	15,058	-	-	-	15,058	11,970
Totals	**15,058**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,058**	**11,970**
Other costs						
Depreciation of fixed assets	616	-	-	-	616	615
Church maintenance	-	2,464	-	-	2,464	100
Bellringer fund expenditure	-	-	25	-	25	162
Cadley churchyard maintenance	-	-	1,200	-	1,200	1,000
Totals	**616**	**2,464**	**1,225**	**-**	**4,305**	**1,877**
Expenditure grand totals	**185,453**	**27,155**	**35,305**	**-**	**247,913**	**221,971**

3 Staff Costs

	Year to 31 Dec 2025	Year to 31 Dec 2024
	£	£
Salaries (including employers NI), pension contributions	55,773	46,942

The number of persons employed by the charity during the year was 5.

Employed staff roles in 2025 were: Team Administrator, Church hall Booking Secretary, Contemporary Worship Lead, Rector's Personal Assistant and Children and Families Worker (appointed 8 May 2025).

No trustees received remuneration except for the Rector Christopher Smith who received a priest's stipend from the Diocese of Salisbury, the cost of which is financed out of the Diocesan share, as a cost of Church ministry.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC	2025	2024
The number of trustees who were reimbursed was	5	3
The total amount reimbursed was:	£1,059	£800

The expenses reimbursed were: mileage, travel, hospitality and catering, telephone, broadband, study courses, prayer materials, stationery, office expenses, small gifts (not exceeding £50 each), garden waste collection, licences, Christmas service date cards.

4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 January 2025	2,464	0	2,464
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	**2,464**	**0**	**2,464**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2025	1,232	0	1,232
Charge for the year	616	-	616
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	**1,848**	**0**	**1,848**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2025	**616**	**0**	**616**

5 Investments

	Market Value	No of Shares	Cost	Bid price
At 1 January 2025	£		£	£
CBF Investment Fund (Acc)	48,417	771	21,294	62.76
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc)	45,733	14,223	22,974	3.2154
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) at Diocese (Cadley Churchyard)	31,285	1,353	3,094	23.1227
	125,435		47,362	
Changes in 2025				
CBF Investment Fund (Acc) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(565)			
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(2,553)			
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) (Sav/ChCh) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(1,251)			
	(4,369)			
Balances at 31 December 2025				
CBF Investment Fund (Acc)	47,852	771	21,294	62.03
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc)	43,180	14,223	22,974	3.0359
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) at Diocese (Cadley Churchyard)	30,034	1,353	3,094	22.198
	121,066		47,362	

6 Income Accruals and Debtors	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Gift aid recoverable - Main Fund	2,988	1,321
Gift aid recoverable – Specified funds	243	145
Prepaid RSCM	137	137
Interest receivable	1,558	-
Collections and donations	1,689	-
VAT	923	-
Other	900	-
	8,438	1,603

7 Expense Accruals and Creditors	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
Amounts due within one year:	£	£
Accounts Independent Examination	400	400
Employment costs outstanding – Tax, NI and pension	1,567	1,606
Others (including gas, electricity, printer charges, team utilities)	848	703
Outreach activities	-	110
Clergy travel expenses	-	630
	2,815	3,449

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Main Fund	26,796	-	-	-	26,796	16,610
Quinquennial Fund	-	32,536	-	-	32,536	35,000
Children and Families Worker	-	-	17,338	-	17,338	19,682
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	-	78,887	-	-	78,887	81,095
Rector's PA Fund	-	17,561	-	-	17,561	24,102
Funds awaiting payment	-	-	854	-	854	1,440
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	-	-	19,410	-	19,410	18,939
Marlborough Churches Together	-	-	2,657	-	2,657	-
Lighting Project	-	3,470	-	-	3,470	3,980
Solar Project	-	-	-	-	-	6,776
Bellringers Fund	-	-	955	-	955	980
Organ Restoration	-	-	1,730	-	1,730	6,713
Website Project	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	5,000
Cadley Churchyard Inv Fund	-	-	-	30,034	30,034	31,285
Cadley Churchyard Deposit	-		7,075	-	7,075	6,972
	26,796	137,454	50,019	30,034	244,303	258,574
Comprising:						
Fixed Assets	-	616	-	-	616	1,232
Investments	-	91,033	-	30,034	121,067	125,435
Current Assets - Debtors	6,320	896	1,222	-	8,438	1,603
Current Assets - Cash at bank and in hand	23,291	44,909	48,797	-	116,997	133,753
Current Liabilities - Creditors & Accruals	(2,815)	-	-	-	(2,815)	(3,449)
Total	26,796	137,454	50,019	30,034	244,303	258,574

9 Fund Movements

Designated Fund

	Balance at 01/01/25	Income	Revaluation	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/25
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	81,095	909	(3,118)		78,886
Rectors PA Assistant	24,102			(6,540)	17,562
Quinquennial Fund	35,000			(2,464)	32,536
Lighting Project	3,980			(510)	3,470
Solar Project	6,776	10,865		(17,641)	0
Website Development	5,000				5,000
	155,953	**11,774**	**(3,118)**	**(27,155)**	**137,454**

Restricted funds

Bellringers	980			(25)	955
Cadley cash	6,972	1,302		(1,200)	7,074
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	18,939	18,872		(18,400)	19,411
Miscellaneous Restricted Receipts	1,440			(587)	853
Organ restoration	6,713	1,102		(6,084)	1,731
Marlborough Churches Together		2,657			2,657
Children and Families Worker Fund	19,682	6,665		(9,009)	17,338
	54,726	**30,598**	**-**	**(35,305)**	**50,019**

St. Mary's, Marlborough

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER & ST PAUL, MARLBOROUGH

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Marlborough Anglican Team

Marlborough

Anglican Team

'Making Jesus Known'

Team Rector

The Reverend Christopher J Smith

Team Vicar

The Reverend Peter Sainsbury

The Parish of Marlborough
St. Mary the Virgin with St Peter and St Paul
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church is situated off Kingsbury Street in the parish of Marlborough, Wilts. It is a team benefice with the parishes of St George's, Preshute and St John the Baptist, Mildenhall. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Marlborough Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage, Silverless Street, Marlborough, SN8 1JQ.

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The PCC was formerly an excepted charity. Its registration with the Charity Commission was formally approved on 10 March 2010. The registration number is 1134792. Information about the PCC and its activities can be found on the Charity Commission website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk . The PCC is subject to the Charities Act 2011.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Chris Smith	2019	Chairman Ex Officio
Churchwardens	David Wylie (appointed at 2025 APCM) Nigel Hall (appointed at 2025 APCM)		

Other Elected Members:

Martyn Johnson (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Debbie Ryman (Elected Member until APCM 2025)
Shirley Tawney (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Jane Rose (Elected Member until APCM 2026)
Rachel Maurice (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Teresa Wheeler (Elected Member until APCM 2025)
Louise Seddon (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Pauline Berryman (Elected Member until APCM 2027)
Sandra Wylie (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Beverley Lyle (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Pam Tulloch (Elected Member until APCM 2028)
Nigel Hall (Co-opted until APCM 2025)

Co-opted Members:

Mark Whitehead (Treasurer) until 2025 APCM
Christopher Tawney (Treasurer) appointed at 2025 APCM

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Rupert Travis (Co-opted until APCM 2026)
George Smith (Co-opted until APCM 2026)
Debbie Ryman (Co-opted until APCM 2026)

Other parishioners performing specific duties or having specific responsibilities are:

Licensed Lay Minister	Sarah Musgrave (St John the Baptist, Mildenhall; Member of Marlborough Anglican Team); Heather Lee (St George's Preshute); Louise Seddon (St Mary's Marlborough)	
PCC secretary	David Du Croz	
LPAs	Ann Yates Dorothy Maclachlan Rachel Maurice Anne Norman Sue Pearce Debbie Ryman	
Vergers	Ian Perryman David Wylie Catherine Smith	
Representatives:	Bell ringers, Tower Captain	David Miles
	Church Hall, Bookings clerk	Peter Hussey
	Safeguarding officer	Karen Davis
	Choir Director	Gill Mortimer
	Church Buildings	Martin Selby
	Church Buildings	Simon Mills
	Church Administrator	Penny Reader/Karolina Bull
	Electoral Roll Secretary	Hugh de Saram
	Mission Committee Chair	Simon Mills
	Children's Church	Caroline Philps
	Children and Families Worker	Penny Reader

St. Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Marlborough

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend C J Smith, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the St Mary's Parish Hall and Church Cottage and Cadley Churchyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Chairman's Statement

St Mary's continued to fulfil her mission in 2025. The year began with 268 children from nine schools welcomed into the church for the Life Exhibition, which explained our faith with clarity and imagination. The year closed with the Giveaway Fayre, which brought the community together in a joyful act of Christmas generosity.

Nigel Hall and David Wylie began as new Churchwardens in April. Penny Reader joined us as Children and Families Worker in May, Karolina Bull as Team Administrator in May, and Louise Seddon was licensed as an LLM in September. I am grateful for the sabbatical I took from August to October; it recharged my batteries post-Covid and, in a creative blitz, I wrote a novel, *Channel Tides*, which was launched in November. The year has carried a sense of growth and restoration within the team and of deepened partnership with Christchurch Methodist Fellowship.

The plant was improved in many ways, including the installation of solar panels at the Rectory in March and at the church in November. We thank God and our donors for healthy finances, with the year ending in surplus.

Social activities continued to recover, with a full house at the Maundy Thursday Meal and a new venture, 'Compline at the Lock', which included a ride on the *Rose of Hungerford*.

Start, The Parenting Course, the Lent Course, Restored Lives and The Bereavement Journey all ran during the year as part of our outreach and discipleship.

Wider issues within the Church of England continue to weigh on local parishes, including affecting clergy morale and recruitment.

As we look ahead, we do so not anxiously but expectantly. God has been faithful to us, and we sense His call not merely to maintain what we have, but to grow – in depth of discipleship, in confidence in the Gospel, in closer relationships and in service to Marlborough. If 2025 has been a year of restoration, may the coming year be one of courage and fruitfulness as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Revd Christopher Smith
Team Rector of Marlborough

Church Roll and PCC meetings

At the time of the 2025 Annual Meeting there were 129 (*2024:* 191) parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

The full PCC met 10 times in 2025 (*2024:* 9) with an average attendance of 74% (*2024:* 73%). The Standing Committee met between meetings and the minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources were £238,011 (*2024*: £227,947) and are detailed in the financial statements on page 13.

Total expenditure was £247,913 (*2024*: £221,971) including church activities, and Parish Share of £83,655 (2024: £86,764) and are detailed in the financial statements on page 14.

There were unrealised losses on investments of £4,369 (*2024*: gain of £5,745).

Other donations include £6,665 towards the cost of the Children and Families Worker and £1,102 for the Organ Restoration fund; both of these amounts were restricted.

The operating surplus on the unrestricted funds (main fund), was £10,186. This compares with a surplus in 2024 of £7,197.

Total fund balances carried forward at 31 December decreased to £244,303 (*2024*: £258,574) as a result of project spending from designated and restricted funds. £50,019 are held in funds which are restricted and can only be used for the specified purpose. A further £30,034 (2024: £31,285) are funds held for the sole purpose of maintaining Cadley Churchyard. The PCC has discretion over £164,250, being the sum of the Unrestricted and Designated funds at the bottom of page 8.

Reserves Policy

General Reserves:	balance at year end to be at least 25% of annual normal expenditure (i.e. main fund expenditure)
Quinquennial Fund:	balance at year end to be not less than £10,000.

The Quinquennial Fund (formerly the Fabric Fund) is retained to meet the cost of repairs to the fabric of the church, including costs arising from Quinquennial inspections.

It is PCC policy to invest fund balances with CCLA investment and deposit accounts and other savings and investment vehicles as prescribed from time to time.

Approved by the PCC on 26 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by :



Reverend C J Smith (PCC Chairman)

Parish of St Mary the Virgin with St Peter and St Paul Marlborough

Charity registration number 1134792

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER AND ST PAUL MARLBOROUGH

Charity Registration Number 1134792

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 8 - 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (PCC Members) 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met,

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

Pete Davies

Mr Peter Davies
Peter Davies Accountant
Sunrise Chapel Lane
Hermitage
RG18 9RL

Date: 31 March 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments (detailed on page 13)						
Income from donors - Planned Giving	114,934	-	-	-	114,934	100,098
Income from donors - Other Donations	10,230	-	-	-	10,230	26,322
Income for specified purposes	-	10,035	28,713	-	38,748	27,944
Other ordinary incoming resources	51,166	830	583	-	52,579	56,421
Income from ancillary trading	15,727	-	-	-	15,727	11,465
Income from investments	3,582	909	1,302	-	5,793	5,697
Total income	**195,639**	**11,774**	**30,598**	-	**238,011**	**227,947**
Expenditure (detailed on page 14)						
Church ministry and services	**107,542**	652	6,270	-	114,464	123,790
Expenditure for specified purposes	20,669	17,499	18,801	-	56,969	41,335
Church management and administration	31,875	6,540	9,009	-	47,424	32,385
Church Hall Expenditure	9,693	-	-	-	9,693	10,614
Specified receipts & collections inc Mission giving	15,058	-	-	-	**15,058**	11,970
Other Costs	**616**	2,464	1,225	-	**4,305**	1,877
Total expenditure	185,453	**27,155**	**35,305**	-	247,913	**221,971**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**10,186**	**(15,381)**	(4,707)	-	(9,902)	**5,976**
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)						
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	(3,118)	-	(1,251)	(4,369)	5,745
Net movement in funds	10,186	**(18,499)**	**(4,707)**	**(1,251)**	**(14,271)**	**11,721**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**16,610**	**155,953**	54,726	**31,285**	**258,574**	**246,853**
Total funds carried forward	**26,796**	**137,454**	**50,019**	**30,034**	**244,303**	**258,574**

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
Tangible Assets (page 16)	616	1,232
Investments (page 17)	121,066	125,435
	121,682	**126,667**
Current assets		
Debtors (page 18)	8,438	1,603
Cash at bank and In hand	116,998	133,753
	125,436	135,356
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year (page 18)	2,815	3,449
Net current assets less current liabilities	**122,621**	**131,907**
Total assets less current liabilities	**244,303**	**258,574**
Represented by:		
Unrestricted - General Funds	26,796	16,610
Designated		
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	78,887	81,095
Rectors PA Assistant	17,561	24,102
Quinquennial fund	32,536	35,000
Proposed Lighting Project	3,470	3,980
Proposed Solar Project	-	6,776
Website Development	5,000	5,000
Restricted		
Bellringers	955	980
Cadley cash	7,075	6,972
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	19,410	18,939
Miscellaneous Restricted Receipts	854	1,440
Organ restoration	1,730	6,713
Marlborough Churches Together	2,657	-
Children and Families Worker	17,338	19,682
Endowment		
Cadley endowment	30,034	31,285
Fund Totals	**244,303**	**258,574**

The annual financial accounts were approved by the PCC on 26 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Christopher Smith Rector

Christopher Tawney Treasurer

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST PETER & ST PAUL, MARLBOROUGH

Charity Registration Number 1134792

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, with St Peter & St Paul, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

a) **Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals.

b) **Funds**

Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated by the PCC for a particular purpose. They can be redesignated by the PCC.

Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot, and must not, be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.

Endowment funds are funds given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. Endowment funds also include an asset donated to be retained by the PCC for continuing use by the Church. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments. Endowment funds can either be permanent, ie the PCC have no power to convert it into income, or expendable, where the PCC may, in certain circumstances, spend the funds endowed.

c) **Incoming resources**

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by any fete or social event are accounted for gross, where practicable.

Income from ancillary trading

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investment

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

d) **Resources used**

Church ministry and services

The diocesan share is accounted for when payable. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Grants made

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

e) **Fixed assets**

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.

f) Fixed assets - *Office equipment*

Office equipment is capitalised and depreciated on a straight line basis as follows:

Computer equipment	25% of cost per annum

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

g) Investments

Investments are valued at bid price (market value) at 31 December.

h) Current Assets

Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is classified as a short term deposit.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:						
Income from Donors - Planned Giving						
Regular giving incl S/O's & Parish Giving Scheme	114,934	-	-	-	114,934	100,098
Totals	**114,934**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**114,934**	**100,098**
Income from Donors - Other Donations						
Loose collections	7,508	-	-	-	7,508	7,253
Other donations and one off gifts	441	-	-	-	441	13,803
Giving - Rectors Discretion	-	-	-	-	-	266
Donations for local outreach	1,165	-	-	-	1,165	-
Bequests, legacies, gifts in memory	1,116	-	-	-	1,116	5,000
Totals	**10,230**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,230**	**26,322**
Income for Specified Projects						
Children and Families Worker	-	-	6,665	-	6,665	100
Solar project income	-	10,035	-	-	10,035	-
Donations for LMKM	-	-	18,289	-	18,289	27,714
Bellringer fund income	-	-	-	-	-	130
Marlborough Churches Together	-	-	2,657	-	2,657	-
Donations to organ restoration fund	-	-	1,102	-	1,102	-
Totals	**-**	**10,035**	**28,713**	**-**	**38,748**	**27,944**
Other ordinary incoming resources						
Gift Aid	25,176	830	185	-	26,191	25,660
Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme	1,545	-	398	-	1,943	1,606
Fees PCC	3,359	-	-	-	3,359	2,782
Other PCC fees Inc church hire	4,520	-	-	-	4,520	4,474
Fundraising / Social Events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	10,195	-	-	-	10,195	15,676
Contributions to Team office	6,371	-	-	-	6,371	6,223
Totals	**51,166**	**830**	**583**	**-**	**52,579**	**56,421**
Income from ancillary trading						
Church Hall lettings	15,727	-	-	-	15,727	11,465
Totals	**15,727**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,727**	**11,465**
Income from investments						
Interest income, net of bank charges	2,480	909	432	-	3,821	3,761
Dividend income	1,102	-	870	-	1,972	1,936
Totals	**3,582**	**909**	**1,302**	**-**	**5,793**	**5,697**
Income totals	**195,639**	**11,774**	**30,598**	**-**	**238,011**	**227,947**

2. EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Church ministry and services						
Parish Share	83,655	-	-	-	83,655	86,764
LLM Expenses	447	-	-	-	447	687
Clergy expenses	2,498	-	-	-	2,498	2,358
Music	851	-	-	-	851	484
Organ and piano maintenance	(84)	-	2,201	-	2,117	22,841
Junior Church & Creche	1,672	-	-	-	1,672	353
Local Outreach	5,539	-	157	-	5,696	1,925
Expenses and fees of visitors	115	-	-	-	115	295
Gifts to volunteers	147	-	-	-	147	160
Upkeep of services	1,850	-	-	-	1,850	1,881
Church routine maintenance	10,392	-	3,590	-	13,982	411
Refreshments and Social Events	766	-	118	-	884	410
Other sundry expenses	(306)	652	204	-	550	5,220
Totals	**107,542**	**652**	**6,270**	**-**	**114,464**	**123,789**
Expenditure for specified purposes						
Contemporary Worship Lead costs	20,669	-	-	-	20,669	***19,956***
Solar project costs	-	17,499	-	-	17,499	-
LMKM costs	-	-	18,371	-	**18,371**	**20,671**
Giving - Rector's discretion	-	-	430	-	430	710
Totals	**20,669**	**17,499**	**18,801**	**-**	**56,969**	**41,337**
Church management and administration						
Church caretaker	2,462	-	-	-	2,462	2,752
Church utilities	5,046	-	-	-	5,046	6,137
Church insurance	2,833	-	-	-	2,833	2,809
Team Office staff	18,000	-	-	-	18,000	16,960
Rectors P A costs	-	6,540	-	-	6,540	898
Team Office supplies	2,290	-	-	-	2,290	1,636
Independent Examination fee	400	-	-	-	400	400
Team Office utilities	844	-	-	-	844	792
Children and Families Worker	-	-	9,009	-	9,009	-
Totals	**31,875**	**6,540**	**9,009**	**-**	**47,424**	**32,384**
Church Hall Expenditure						
Hall-Caretaker	-	-	-	-	-	4,897
Hall-Bookings Manager	1,555	-	-	-	1,555	1,481
Hall-utilities	3,769	-	-	-	3,769	3,788
Hall-maintenance, cleaning & repairs	4,369	-	-	-	4,369	448
Totals	**9,693**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**9,693**	**10,614**
Specified receipts and collections						
Mission Fund gifts	15,058	-	-	-	15,058	11,970
Totals	**15,058**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,058**	**11,970**
Other costs						
Depreciation of fixed assets	616	-	-	-	616	615
Church maintenance	-	2,464	-	-	2,464	100
Bellringer fund expenditure	-	-	25	-	25	162
Cadley churchyard maintenance	-	-	1,200	-	1,200	1,000
Totals	**616**	**2,464**	**1,225**	**-**	**4,305**	**1,877**
Expenditure grand totals	**185,453**	**27,155**	**35,305**	**-**	**247,913**	**221,971**

3 Staff Costs

	Year to 31 Dec 2025	Year to 31 Dec 2024
	£	£
Salaries (including employers NI), pension contributions	55,773	46,942

The number of persons employed by the charity during the year was 5.

Employed staff roles in 2025 were: Team Administrator, Church hall Booking Secretary, Contemporary Worship Lead, Rector's Personal Assistant and Children and Families Worker (appointed 8 May 2025).

No trustees received remuneration except for the Rector Christopher Smith who received a priest's stipend from the Diocese of Salisbury, the cost of which is financed out of the Diocesan share, as a cost of Church ministry.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC	2025	2024
The number of trustees who were reimbursed was	5	3
The total amount reimbursed was:	£1,059	£800

The expenses reimbursed were: mileage, travel, hospitality and catering, telephone, broadband, study courses, prayer materials, stationery, office expenses, small gifts (not exceeding £50 each), garden waste collection, licences, Christmas service date cards.

4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 January 2025	2,464	0	2,464
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	**2,464**	**0**	**2,464**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2025	1,232	0	1,232
Charge for the year	616	-	616
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	**1,848**	**0**	**1,848**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2025	**616**	**0**	**616**

5 Investments

	Market Value	No of Shares	Cost	Bid price
At 1 January 2025	£		£	£
CBF Investment Fund (Acc)	48,417	771	21,294	62.76
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc)	45,733	14,223	22,974	3.2154
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) at Diocese (Cadley Churchyard)	31,285	1,353	3,094	23.1227
	125,435		47,362	
Changes in 2025				
CBF Investment Fund (Acc) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(565)			
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(2,553)			
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) (Sav/ChCh) - revalue 31-Dec (unrealised loss)	(1,251)			
	(4,369)			
Balances at 31 December 2025				
CBF Investment Fund (Acc)	47,852	771	21,294	62.03
CBF Global Equity Fund (Inc)	43,180	14,223	22,974	3.0359
CBF Investment Fund (Inc) at Diocese (Cadley Churchyard)	30,034	1,353	3,094	22.198
	121,066		47,362	

6 Income Accruals and Debtors	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Gift aid recoverable - Main Fund	2,988	1,321
Gift aid recoverable – Specified funds	243	145
Prepaid RSCM	137	137
Interest receivable	1,558	-
Collections and donations	1,689	-
VAT	923	-
Other	900	-
	8,438	1,603

7 Expense Accruals and Creditors	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
Amounts due within one year:	£	£
Accounts Independent Examination	400	400
Employment costs outstanding – Tax, NI and pension	1,567	1,606
Others (including gas, electricity, printer charges, team utilities)	848	703
Outreach activities	-	110
Clergy travel expenses	-	630
	2,815	3,449

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Main Fund	26,796	-	-	-	26,796	16,610
Quinquennial Fund	-	32,536	-	-	32,536	35,000
Children and Families Worker	-	-	17,338	-	17,338	19,682
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	-	78,887	-	-	78,887	81,095
Rector's PA Fund	-	17,561	-	-	17,561	24,102
Funds awaiting payment	-	-	854	-	854	1,440
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	-	-	19,410	-	19,410	18,939
Marlborough Churches Together	-	-	2,657	-	2,657	-
Lighting Project	-	3,470	-	-	3,470	3,980
Solar Project	-	-	-	-	-	6,776
Bellringers Fund	-	-	955	-	955	980
Organ Restoration	-	-	1,730	-	1,730	6,713
Website Project	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	5,000
Cadley Churchyard Inv Fund	-	-	-	30,034	30,034	31,285
Cadley Churchyard Deposit	-		7,075	-	7,075	6,972
	26,796	137,454	50,019	30,034	244,303	258,574
Comprising:						
Fixed Assets	-	616	-	-	616	1,232
Investments	-	91,033	-	30,034	121,067	125,435
Current Assets - Debtors	6,320	896	1,222	-	8,438	1,603
Current Assets - Cash at bank and in hand	23,291	44,909	48,797	-	116,997	133,753
Current Liabilities - Creditors & Accruals	(2,815)	-	-	-	(2,815)	(3,449)
Total	26,796	137,454	50,019	30,034	244,303	258,574

9 Fund Movements

Designated Fund

	Balance at 01/01/25	Income	Revaluation	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/25
Capital Reserves for Future Projects	81,095	909	(3,118)		78,886
Rectors PA Assistant	24,102			(6,540)	17,562
Quinquennial Fund	35,000			(2,464)	32,536
Lighting Project	3,980			(510)	3,470
Solar Project	6,776	10,865		(17,641)	0
Website Development	5,000				5,000
	155,953	**11,774**	**(3,118)**	**(27,155)**	**137,454**

Restricted funds

Bellringers	980			(25)	955
Cadley cash	6,972	1,302		(1,200)	7,074
Love Marlborough Kids Meals	18,939	18,872		(18,400)	19,411
Miscellaneous Restricted Receipts	1,440			(587)	853
Organ restoration	6,713	1,102		(6,084)	1,731
Marlborough Churches Together		2,657			2,657
Children and Families Worker Fund	19,682	6,665		(9,009)	17,338
	54,726	**30,598**	**-**	**(35,305)**	**50,019**