APCM 2026 - The Rector's Report

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you. As in previous years, I have continued to reflect on parish life in term of our reaching **up**, reaching **in** and reaching **out.**

Worship and Prayer and our Spiritual Life (UP)

> *Jesus said:* ***"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gathers in my name, there am I with them."*** Matthew 18:19, 20

Our worship life together is at the heart of all we do therefore I am thankful for everyone who is part of our worship team, lay and ordained, and how we have managed to maintain the rhythm of services and continue to adapt while much of 2025 awaiting the outcome of the Diocese's Vacancy Audit Process (VAP) to hear that this parish will continue to benefit from the ministry of an Associated Priest.

Over the year changes included saying farewell to assistant curate Revd Jason Wratten as he moved on from his curacy with us here to take up his first role, Minor Canon – Youth Chaplain people's lead at St. Alban's Cathedral with wife Revd Kayla and their newborn John. A few of us managed to get down to his licencing and it was a really special occasion.

During Lent last year seven members of the congregation representing all four parish churches attended wings for worship and were commissioned as Local Lay Worship Leaders at our Parish Service Commemorating The Venerable Bede in May. Since then, our LLWL's Lynn Armstrong, Tony Bowdell, Barbara Bradley, Judith Jackson, Lucy McAllister, Carol McKenzie and Simon Robinson have brought different voices and perspectives to newly introduced Services of the Word in St. John's, St. Simon's and St. peter's each month and continue to meet together with clergy on a monthly basis too as we continue to reflect together.

At Petertide 2025 we celebrated with Revd Andrew in St. Paul's Church on Sunday 29th June as he celebrated the Eucharist for the very first time following his ordination to the priesthood in Durham Cathedral supported by members of the congregation. The parish service was of course followed by a splendid, generous reception at St. John's and a huge thank you to everyone for making it such a memorable day.

Also in July, we said a fond farewell to our MEV Laura Barber as she returned to her home North Wearside and began working in a primary school while reflecting on her next steps with the Lord.

In terms of support from clergy with Permission To Officiate (PTO) it was in July that we heard good news from Hospital Chaplain Revd Craig Bently. He was successful in his application to re-train as an RAF Chaplain in Norfolk in the Autumn and his last service with us was July 13th.

By August I received a request to supervise a priest from the Anglican Communion (Nigeria) studying for an MA with Lindisfarne College of Theology and in September the parish welcomed Revd Obinna Nnadozie, his wife Gift and their three children Rejoice, Godsent and Victory.

Throughout all of these changes, and in particular supporting alongside Andrew as he settled in to his new role was Canon Sheila Bamber, a constant presence and wonderful preacher, she will continue to support the ministry team wherever possible.

In the Autumn of 2025 we began to discuss with Jacki Dunn, how after six decades of lay ministry at St. Mark's, the former Jarrow Team and Jarrow and Simonside she may begin to prepare for retirement from a role she has loved and brought so much warmth and support to the parish with her regular visits combined with roles as hospital chaplain, Mission to Seafarers and so much more Supported by parish wardens, ministry team members and friends a date was set for Candlemas 2026, making Advent, Christmas and Epiphany especially a particularly rich experience as we reflected on all that Jacki has brought to ministry over the decades.

I would like to thank everyone who helps prepare our church buildings for services, prepare rotas, read lessons, write intercessions, and take an active role in services and especially Our Director of Music Fred Hemmer and organist Ethan Fuller. Thank you also to our occasional organists Freda Carney and Gordon Scott.

We continued to Livestream a number of services each week in 2025 and through Lent offered different spaces: Stations of the Cross; Soulspace at St. John's, St. Simon's and St. Peter's. Revd Andrew led The Prayer Course at St. Peter's and we had a number of different spaces for prayer and reflection. During Lent we welcomed new members of our congregations across all four parish churches and in July, having prepared our candidates for Confirmation, Revd Andrew supported four people at the Deanery Confirmation Service.

There were also highlights in Holy Week and Easter including Good Friday, supported by Bishop Sarah as together we walked the Stations of the Cross on the Scotch Estate organized by Barbara Bradley before attending the Last Hour at the Cross with its powerful liturgy, music, and silence led by Fred, Freda and Simon with the additional singing voice of Revd Andrew.

At Bedetide, Dean Philip Plyming of Durham Cathedral led a Civic Service alongside Revd Andrew at St. Paul's to commemorate Bedetide with local school children, community partners and the Mayor and Mayoress of South Tyneside.

The Summer saw something completely new, initially for three sessions at St. Peter's – Evening Praise led by Revd Andrew and Lucy McAllister supported by Judith Jackson, Caroline Simblett, Josef Craig and Tony and Lynn Bowdell this new monthly

services brings contemporary worship music, opportunities for reflection and prayer to a new worship time of Tuesday evenings and has reached people and for some, brought them into a church to worship for the very first time. So, thank you to all who are involved in this – something completely new requires a lot of prayer and energy.

By December 2026 our special Advent and Christmas Services in our churches were attended by around 2,400 people over and above our usual services and that is not including our services held at local schools and our programme changed slightly as we did not have a Christmas Tree Festival but as a result of closer working with our C of E Primary School, Jarrow Cross, we held Carols in the Car park led by Revd Andrew and school pupils on a Thursday Evening. This proved to be a wonderful idea, supported by lots of parents and carers and gave us much to reflect upon.

Midnight Mass at St. Paul's was supported by many people for the first time and we had another stunning Christingle service at St. John's which saw – Charlotte (10) – lead the Christingle alongside Revd Andrew for the second time

And while all of these things happened in a specific place, the Prayer Circle, supported by Lynn Armstrong, continued Mondays at 2 from wherever we were. Thank you Lynn for keeping this going. And I'm glad to say that all are welcome to attend our regular services and there is an ever-changing number of people who attend services on-line or are supported to receive Holy Communion at home.

In terms of our opportunity to worship with children and young people, aside from seasonal visits to our churches for Easter, Christmas, Carols by Candlelight and curriculum visits, 2025 saw Revd Andrew take the lead on our work with schools and build upon the foundation which we began to rebuild in 2021. Schools supported in 2025 in addition to Jarrow Cross were primaries Bede Burn, Dunn Street, Lord Blyton, Simonside and Valley View and secondary Jarrow School with RE visits and Q & A's.

Our dedicated 'Open the Book' team continue faithfully in Simonside School every month, and our volunteers really enjoy sharing the Bible stories with the children and always looking for new members. By Autumn 2025 the group supported three schools a month: Simonside, Lord Blyton and Jarrow Cross so please be in touch with

Carol Cowan if you would like to be part of this ministry and take part in school assemblies.

To offer a wide variety of services across the four churches especially during the seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter takes a tremendous effort and so thank you to everyone involved and for supporting one another.

Our occasional offices of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals were remained the same in 2025 as in the previous year, 62 in total with wardens, vergers and volunteers supporting: 26 baptisms including 5 adults, 2 weddings and 18 funerals in our churches and 16 funerals at the crematorium only.

Nurture and Pastoral Care (IN)

> *Jesus said:* ***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."***
> *John 13: 34, 35*

Looking after one another, checking in, visiting and the pastoral visiting of Jacki, lay people and ministers has been a hallmark of our caring for one another in the parish and in 2025 Jacki's work in the parish and beyond was recognised as she was invited to receive the Maundy Money by His Royal Highness King Charles III at Durham Cathedral on Maundy Thursday, a once in a life-time moment and recognition of a life of service both in church and across the community of South Tyneside.

In 2025 we endeavoured to stay in touch with as many people as possible with a weekly pew sheet, available in all churches, available on our website and distributed as a PDF to many by email each week. At the heart of our communications and keeping everything moving is our Parish Administrator Leanne Reilly. We continue to give thanks for Leanne and her sense of calm as she supports wardens, officers, group organisers, hall rentals and ministers as well as continuing to keep our bookings for occasional offices running smoothly.

Throughout 2025 was a wide programme of social events – great spaces where we could get together and raise funds for the parish at the same time including: line

dancing, chocolate hampers, community coffee mornings, Summer Fayre at St. Paul's, concerts with Compass Acapella, Jarrow Choral Society and Musica Johannis, as well as clubbacise, afternoon teas and many opportunities for home-made baking taking us up to the Christmas produce stall at the end of the year.

So, thank you to everyone who stepped in to create these wonderful social spaces – they are a great way for us to get together as well as welcome in our neighbours. It takes a great deal of effort so thank you to all who offered their time, talents and efforts making the arrangements, selling tickets, baking cakes, making the produce, finding the raffle prizes, co-ordinating everyone else or making an effort to join in on the day and so on. Thank you for all you do.

Mission, Evangelism and Outreach (OUT)

> Jesus said: ***"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*** Matthew 25:40

In recent years the parish warm spaces offered within Places of Welcome have benefitted by funding to support community Craft Activities led by artists working with Cultural Spring. As part of Laura's study work around her MEV placement with us she gave a presentation at Lindisfarne College of Theology around the benefits of arts, crafts and community creative spaces on well-being – both for individuals and church communities. So, it was wonderful to see how resident crafters Susan Short and Diane Jamieson offer to continue the work of Cultural Spring to offer a weekly space in St. Peter's Place of Welcome: Community Craft and Chat.

During 2025 we offered free food and activities through Places of Welcome to include spaces where families could get together, try something new and as in previous years it was the Family Cooking with Let's Get Cooking that proved the most popular. Thank you to Lynn Bowdell for helping those sessions to continue when Revd Jason moved on to his new post, your wealth of knowledge and teaching style was very much appreciated.

2025 saw the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and there was only one place to put on a Street Party Event – St. John's. the parish received a community grant from South

Tyneside Council which enabled Dorothy Lamb, Barbara Bradley supported by Lynn Bowdell to cook up a buffet that would have kept many a soldier on their feet! It was a wonderful event – eventually indoors due to weather – and some of the oldest residents of the Scotch Estate were invited as our VE Day VIP's on the day including Jessie, Nancy and Roy. The event was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of South Tyneside and local MP as well as members from our congregations, friends and neighbours.

Once again, the volunteer team at St. Paul's, co-ordinated by Freda, welcomed in thousands of visitors across the year including school visits, pilgrims from near and far, local people looking for a quiet spot, visitors keen to explore the history and architecture, or looking for somewhere to pray. To open 7 days of the week for 10 months of the year is a huge commitment and speaks volumes of the care and dedication of all involved at St. Paul's, and all who volunteer from churches across Jarrow. The newly formed Jarrow Forward project board are keen to work with the parish and in particular St. Paul's as they promote the area over the next 10 years following a significant Government grant, and invest in Jarrow as a destination as well as a place of culture and opportunity for young people.

Money Advice South Tyneside, reach more people across the borough to reach a shocking milestone of helping people manage over £1 million of debt led by Sam Harrison and supported by a small board of trustees and Communities Together Durham (Canon Sheila Bamber in particular). Thank you to members of the PCC for your vision in supporting this project when it launched in 2021.

With so many things going on in the parish, our website, social media and our pages on a Church Near You help us to spread the word in terms of community events as well as continually off an invitation to come along to church services, Bible study groups and preparation for Baptism and Confirmation and in 2025 it became clear that before coming to church for the first time, a number of people were watching services on Facebook and visiting achurchnearyou.com We are thankful for all who found their way to the Lord last year, all who are now baptised and as we speak attending Revd Andrew's Bible Course on Monday evenings as part of their Confirmation preparation. Please continue to pray for all who want to know more

about Jesus and all who are looking for a church they can feel welcomed and belong. Thank you to all who have the gift of welcoming people in, and gently being alongside others, you are a real gift to the church.

Reaching out and helping people in need of support is a practical demonstration of our faith. The parish supported collections in kind for amongst others the local food banks, support the Children's Society through the distribution of home collection boxes and managed to maintain our mission giving at the end of the year.

Final thoughts…

As we arrive at this point in 2026, where despite all of the changes mentioned among the ministry team last year, I have added a change of my own following a time of deep prayer and discernment and a strong sense of God's call to another part of God's church. At the time of sending in this report and following a moving Holy Week in which Revd Dr. David Bryan shared his reflections with us and Bishop Sarah Clark walked alongside us on Good Friday, I am now in the process of moving house and will not actually be with you for the APCM.

We are fortunate in that we have three parish wardens who will lead Jarrow and Simonside through the interregnum. Carol Cowing, Fred Hemmer and Irene McConnachie have between them a wide range of gifts and talents, they are three very safe pairs of hands, assisted by deputy wardens Barbara Gordon and Evelyn. Your parish wardens and Revd Andrew will continue to work with Archdeacon Katherine in the recruitment of your next Rector. I for one will be praying for you all until the new appointment is made.

In the meantime can I take this last opportunity to say a huge thank you to Revd Andrew, local lay worship leaders, wardens, office holders, PCC members, volunteers, in fact everyone who made so many things possible in 2025, all who hold our common parish life in prayer, and all who are so generous with their time, talents and resources, all who extend a hand of friendship and all who bring so much to parish life. May God continue to bless you in this new season.

Revd Lesley Jones, Rector of Jarrow and Simonside, Easter 2026

PARISH OF JARROW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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5	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
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PARISH OF JARROW

CHURCH INFORMATION

Charity Commission Registration Number	1137304
Rector	Reverend L. Jones St Peter's House York Avenue Jarrow
Bank	Barclays Bank plc King Street South Shields
Independent Examiner	Mrs L Armstrong 68 Leander Drive Henley Grange Boldon Colliery NE35 9LS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of the Parish of Jarrow

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 3 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no 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 Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met.

Signed

Mrs L Armstrong
68 Leander Drive
Henley Grange
Boldon Colliery
NE35 9LS

Independent Examiner

16 February 2026

Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2,025	Total Funds 2,024
Voluntary receipts						
Planned Giving						
Gift aid donations		2,749	-	-	2,749	2,729
Gift aid small donations		1,538	-	-	1,538	3,344
Parish giving		22,128	-	-	22,128	20,338
Income tax recovery		9,691	-	-	9,691	8,012
Open Plate collections		6,168	-	-	6,168	5,728
Other voluntary receipts						
Donations and appeals		11,959	-	694	12,652	5,242
Sundry donations		174	-	759	933	2,879
St Pauls donation box		2,501	-	-	2,501	2,411
Contactless donations		3,618	-	-	3,618	3,194
Legacies		-	-	-	-	3,589
		60,526	-	1,453	61,979	57,466
Activities for generating funds						
Fetes bazaars, other fund raising events		9,207	-	-	9,207	10,678
Church hall lettings etc		15,800	-	-	15,800	14,482
Trading income-lecturers		-	-	1,077	1,077	1,478
		25,007	-	1,077	26,084	26,638
Investment income						
Interest		3,409	-	10,500	13,910	16,322
		3,409	-	10,500	13,910	16,322
Church activities						
Fees		2,367	-	-	2,367	2,196
Refunds		198	-	-	198	270
School visits		396	-	-	396	-
Grants		2,000	904	950	3,854	17,399
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	135
Sundry receipts		-	-	-	-	68
		4,961	904	950	6,815	20,068
Total receipts		93,903	904	13,980	108,787	120,494

Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Payments	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2,025	Total Funds 2,024
Church Activities						
Mission giving and donations						
Church overseas		375	-		375	500
Home missions & church societies		250	-	500	750	705
	6	625	-	500	1,125	1,205
Activities : related to church work						
Ministry : Parish share		10,000	-	-	10,000	13,750
Curate expenses		1,014	-	-	1,014	1,194
Assistant staff expenses		1,191	-	-	1,191	1,334
Visiting clergy		-	-	-	-	57
Clergy's house		1,506	-	-	1,506	1,875
Church running expenses	5	27,370	-	-	27,370	28,635
Church maintenance		4,778	-	13,061	17,839	19,931
Upkeep of church yard		163	-	-	163	-
Hall running expenses	5	8,475	-	-	8,475	3,321
Major repairs and decoration		-	-	1,113	1,113	27,732
Upkeep of church services		2,717	-	441	3,158	4,105
Salaries		14,459	-	-	14,459	13,286
Sundry expenses		37	-	-	37	313
Parish training and mission		91	-	329	420	1,106
Education young people		104	-	117	221	334
Warm spaces		-	-	-	-	793
Gifts and bursary		-	-	-	-	50
Hospitality		-	-	-	-	423
Equipment purchased		46	-	1,779	1,825	2,117
		71,951	-	16,840	88,791	120,355
Cost of generating funds						
Trading expenditure-lecturers		-	-	2,736	2,736	1,217
Costs of fetes, bazaars etc		716	-	484	1,201	1,555
		716	-	3,221	3,937	2,772
Church Management & administration						
Advertising printing and stationery		1,797	-	-	1,797	2,395
Telephone		2,433	-	-	2,433	1,902
Website		333	-	-	333	331
Subscriptions		1,225	-	-	1,225	1,462
Bank charges		681	-	-	681	777
Professional fees		-	-	4,350	4,350	1,980
		6,470	-	4,350	10,820	8,846
Total payments		79,763	-	24,910	104,673	133,178

Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2,025	Total Funds 2,024
		£	£	£		
Fixed Assets						
Freehold land & buildings	2	-	-	-	-	230,959
Church Contents	2	-	-	-	-	509,996
Current Assets						
Cash at Bank and in Hand						
Bank Accounts		34,344	-	16,970	51,314	35,134
Cash in Hand		239	-	-	239	282
Investments		22,935	905	271,754	295,594	307,214
Debtors						
Agency collections		-	-	-	-	-
Current Liabilities						
Accruals and deferred income		-724	-	-	-724	-319
Total Net Assets		56,793	905	288,724	346,422	1,083,266

Represented by

Fund movements		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2,025	Total Funds 2,024
Assets and Liabilities b/fwd		783,606	2	299,655	1,083,263	1,095,951
Church assets transferred		-740,955	0	0	-740,955	
Transfers between funds		1	-1	-	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) of resources for year		14,141	904	-10,931	4,114	-12,687
Total surplus from resources	4	56,793	905	288,724	346,422	1,083,264

Approved by the Parish of Jarrow, and signed on its behalf by F. H. Hemmer (PCC Lay Deputy Chair)

F. H. Hemmer

Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
Notes to the financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2 Fixed Assets for use by the PCC

Tangible Assets	**Freehold Land and Buildings £**	**Church Contents £**	**Total 2,025 £**
Gross book value			
at 1 January 2025	230,959	509,996	740,955
Additions	-	-	-
transfer of assets	- 230,959	- 509,996	- 740,955
at 31 December 2025	-	-	-
Net book value			
at 31 December 2025	-	-	-
at 31 December 2024	230,959	509,996	740,955

The land and property, and church contents have been taken out of the accounts to help understanding. The surplus shown, reflects the actual funds held by the parish.

3 Fixed assets under £5,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

4 Movements in designated and restricted funds were:-

	Unrestricted Funds	**Designated funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds 2,025**	**Total Funds 2,024**
Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments	**14,141**	**904**	**-10,931**	**4,114**	**-12,687**
Transfers of assets	**-740,955**	**-**	**-**	**-740,955**	**-**
Transfer	1	**-1**	-	-	-
Assets and liabilities brought forward	783,607	2	299,654	1,083,263	1,095,951
Assets and liabilities at 31 December 2025	**56,793**	**905**	**288,724**	**346,422**	**1,083,264**

5 Analysis of Church running expenses

	St Peter's	**St Paul's**	**St John's**	**St Simon's**	**Hall**	**Total 2,025**
Insurance	2,236	6,092	1,396	2,641	-	12,366
Electricity	636	881	599	**-31**	2,215	4,299
Gas	1,709	-	2,223	1,692	6,260	11,884
Water rates	442	-	939	-	-	1,381
Oil	-	2,190	-	-	-	2,190
	5,024	9,163	5,156	4,302	8,475	32,120

6 Analysis on charitable donations given during the year

	£ 2,025	£ 2,024
Smile train	125	125
St Oswald Hospice	125	125
Mission to seafarers	125	125
Leprosy mission	125	125
Christian Aid	500	500
Al Shurooq School	125	125
Childrens society	-	80
	1,125	1,205

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Signed

Mrs L Armstrong
68 Leander Drive
Henley Grange
Boldon Colliery
NE35 9LS

Independent Examiner

9 February 2026