Toddlers

The Toddler group continues to flourish on Friday mornings. Most weeks there are about 24 toddlers, several babies and their accompanying adults, mothers, fathers , grandparents and sometimes aunts and uncles.

The group manages itself, organizing the setting up of the room and clearing up afterwards. Members of the church community prepare snacks for the children and serve coffees and teas, which are all covered by the £1.50 admission charge for each family .

Rev Helen is present most mornings ,and organises a craft activity, which my include decorations for the church porch .

Financial Review

2025 has been a relatively quiet year for the Church, in terms of large project expenditure. No major capital projects were started though some grant income was received for the projects finished in 2024. Day to day expenditure rose slightly and this was balanced by a welcome increase in regular giving. Initiatives in establishing new worshipping communities and other community-centred activities were started and these were largely funded by grants which were received from a variety of funders. Overall the Church's finances were reasonably healthy for the year with a surplus of income over expenditure of £22,946. However most of this surplus was due to the £12,225 grant income from 2024 building work and the £10,000 3-year grant for "Together " new worshipping communities. In terms of day to day income and expenditure the funds were finely balanced as described below. A new accounting package has started to be used and consequently this year's accounts have a slightly different format from previous years.

Church day to day income and expenditure

The Church's unrestricted income for day to day expenses was £121,364 including Gift Aid tax recovery. This figure is encouragingly higher than last year (£113k). Of this total, planned giving was £79,787 which again is higher than last year (£77k). In addition to this planned income, £5,419 was received as one-off donations into the General Fund for specific appeals or in memory of loved ones. A further £3,327 was received in wedding and funeral fees. With other smaller items, this totals an income of £125,978 for the General Fund.

The total costs for day to day running of the Church were £124,891 which means that for day to day costs, income exceeded expenditure by £1,087 (0.9%). It should be noted, however, that there is currently no transfer of money into the funds for building repairs and other projects. 61% of the expenditure was on the Parish Share, 11% on administration, 7% on music and 5% each on utilities, insurance and maintenance. This leaves just 6% of the unrestricted income for mission / outreach / service expenses etc. However in 2025 this income was supplemented by external grants as described below.

The above income was for general expenditure but the church also received £15,395 into its designated funds. The largest item (£12,225) was grant money received after the previous QI repairs had been completed and is now available for future building repairs. No major capital works were undertaken during the year so these funds were not used, but major repairs are planned for 2026 which will use the capital funds.

Further grants of £11,540 were received into four Restricted Funds. This money can only be used for the specific purposes given by the granter. £10,000 of this money was associated with the setting up of Other Worshipping Communities led by Revd Helen Prior-Townsend and is funding to cover three years of this work. Other, smaller grants were for various one-off activities in the church and allowed different community activities to be expanded in the church's life. Of the Restricted Funds, £6,469 was spent in the year. All the funds of the smaller grants were used and the balance in the remaining Restricted Funds is to fund Revd Helen's work for the next two years.

Church Centre day to day income and expenditure

Once again the church centre lettings income held up well in view of the loss, the previous year, of a major renter. The total rental income of £22,065 was again slightly better than last year, which was a notable achievement. The total expenditure on running costs of the church centre, including repairs, was £21,207, which means that on running costs alone the church centre was in credit by £858. This is a good result for the year, however next year may be more difficult as not only has a major renter now left, but also there will be a full year of cleaning / caretaking costs and some major work is needed on the structure.

Investments and other activities

The church has made no major changes to its banking and investment arrangements. The current account has been re-classified by the Bank of Scotland from a Treasurer's Account to a Charity Account. The only difference is that they now charge bank charges. The Deposit Account with the CCLA has returned an income of £5,612 over the year. The CCLA announced that it would be acquired by Jupiter Investment Management Group. The Chair of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee welcomed the new arrangement as being positive for churches so we have continued with our investment with CCLA.

During the year the church held some fund-raising activities. The expenditure on these slightly exceeded the income (by £173), though this is largely due to buying a lot of glasses and some stocks of refreshments which will be used in future. However the aim was also to generate a presence in the community and the events were successful in achieving this.

With no major capital works during the year and no other large expenditures, most of the other Funds had no income and only a small expenditure. For the "building" Funds the expenditure was largely preparatory survey and planning work for significant building works planned for 2026/7.

One legacy of £2,652 was received. This was left to be used at the discretion of the PCC who are currently considering various projects for its use

Accounting package and presentation of results.

For several years the church accounts had been managed using a set of spreadsheets constructed by a previous treasurer. These had worked very well, but it was realised in late 2024 that the management and presentation did not meet the latest recommendations of the Charity Commission and the Church of England. Although it would have been possible to modify the spreadsheets, a survey of the options available indicated that a switch to a commercial package would have numerous advantages in terms of security, easy of use, upgrades, compatibility etc. After reviewing the market it was decided to migrate to the "MyFundaccounting" online, cloud-based package. Considerable work was involved in migrating the data and modifying the existing codes, Funds etc to fit the new package, and more importantly to fit the latest recommendations. At the end of the 2025 the two packages are being used in parallel (so all data has to be entered twice) but the main results are coming from the new package. It is hoped that the remaining features of the new package will be brought into use in 2026 and the old spreadsheets can be discontinued.

The result of this is that the 2025 accounts look rather different from the previous years. In particular there is a new category of "Designated" Funds which are where funds are "designated" by the PCC but can still be used for any purpose if the PCC wishes to change the designation. To cope with this, some Funds have been renamed and several new categories of income and expenditure introduced. For this reason whilst the comparison with last year can be made at a top level, at a lower level of detail it is not always possible.

Reserves Policy

The PCC, as the church's trustees, are required to establish a general reserve within the heading of "unrestricted funds" sufficient to meet any potential shortfall caused by the uneven nature of our receipts and expenditure. In order to be prudent the PCC consider that a sum representing six weeks of average expenditure should be maintained as a cash or bank balance. In addition the PCC will endeavour to maintain a similar reserve for capital expenditure.

Risk Assessment

In common with other churches and charities, the PCC faces risks, be they operational, financial or reputational. The PCC will consider the major areas of risk to which it is exposed, measuring both the likelihood and impact of a particular event or action and will establish systems to mitigate those risks. This will involve regular reviews in identification, assessment and monitoring. Having reviewed the risks faced by the church, the PCC can state that at the date of approving the report, the PCC knows of no reason to doubt the ability of the church to continue as a going concern.

Summary and the Future

At the end of 2025 St Margaret's had a very healthy bank balance and had managed to balance its income and expenditure for normal running costs over the year. This is a significant achievement and means that the church can go forward into 2026, confident in its finances. This state of affairs is entirely due to the generous support of everyone who gives regularly to St Margaret's. The PCC is deeply appreciative and wholeheartedly thanks all the generous supporters.

For the future there is enough money in the Funds to pay for some of the major repair works needed for the Church and Church Centre in 2026. However this money is limited and the concern is that whilst the General Fund broke even in 2025, nothing was put into the reserves for future major projects either in building or mission. A further issue is that the government has ceased the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which used to pay the VAT on all our repair and renovation works. This action will thus increase all our future repair and renovation costs by 20%. It is therefore necessary to ask everyone to look at their giving to the church, to consider when they last reviewed it and prayerfully ask themselves whether their existing giving can now be increased to meet the future needs of their church.

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2a	121364	15395	11540	148299	175087
Income from charitable activities	2b	3385	19602		22987	20958
Other trading activities	2c		2405		2405	
Investments	2d		5612		5612	12529
Other income	2e	1229			1229	1272
Total income		125978	43014	11540	180532	209846
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3c	1352			1352	
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	123539	26226	6469	156234	410429
Total expenditure		124891	26226	6469	157586	410429
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers		**1087**	**16788**	**5071**	**22946**	**-200583**
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in			1293	3000	4293	
Gross transfers between funds - out		-843		-3450	-4293	
Write-offs			-394		-394	
Net movement in funds		244	17688	4621	22553	-200583
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		26172	129422	8633	164227	364810
Total funds carried forward		**26416**	**147110**	**13254**	**186780**	**164227**

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed Assets (Church Centre)	4	100000	100000
Total Fixed assets		100000	100000
Current assets			
Bank current account		46496	27852
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	6	131206	125595
Accounts Receivable	7	13785	15119
Total Current assets		191487	168566
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	8	4707	4339
Total Liabilities		4707	4339
	Total Assets	**286780**	**264227**
Reserves			
End of Year excess		22949	-200585
Starting balances (including write-offs)	5	263831	464810
Total Reserves		286780	264227

Represented by Funds (Note 9)

	2025 £	2024 £
General (Unrestricted)	26417	26172
Designated	147109	129422
Restricted	13254	8633
Fixed Assets	100000	100000
Total	286780	264227

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 December 2025

General

The format and categories of the statements for 2025 have been modified significantly from previous years in order to fit with the recommendations of the Charities Commission and the Church of England. Several account codes have been renamed but the main differences are in the listing of the Funds. The previous two types of Fund (Unrestricted and Restricted) have been expanded to add Designated Funds. This has led to some renaming of Funds which in turn will lead to some difficulty in comparison with the previous year.

1. **Accounting Policies**

   a. The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions. Other than investments, which have been included at market value, the accounts have been prepared on the historic cost basis and as a going concern.

   a. Funds
   The General Fund 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. The General Fund is an Unrestricted Fund.

   Designated Funds are funds that have been designated by the PCC for a particular purpose. However these funds are unrestricted and can be used for any purpose if agreed by the PCC.

   Restricted funds are only to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

   The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

   b. Incoming resources
   Collections and planned giving are recognised when received by the PCC.
   Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is received.
   Interest, rental and similar income is accounted for when due.

   c. Resources expended
   The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.
   Grants payable are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.
   All other expenditure is accounted for on the accruals basis and includes recoverable VAT.

   d. Fixed Assets
   Consecrated and beneficed properties are excluded from the accounts as are any moveable church furnishings which require a faculty for disposal.
   As the church is unlikely to dispose of any bought assets within four years and as most bought assets are purchased with the assistance of external grants, all assets are written off on purchase and not depreciated.

NOTES

	2025				2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Income					
Note 2a) Donations and Legacies					
Planned Giving	79787	0	0	79787	77224
Collections at services	17255	57	0	17312	12492
Donations (for General Fund and for specific projects)	5419	66	0	5485	5019
Tax recovered	18753	0	0	18753	18284
Grants	150	12620	900	13670	62068
3-year grant for "Other worshipping Communities" (Together) to cover 2025-2027			10000		
Other (including legacies)	0	2652	640	3292	
Total	121364	15395	11540	148299	175087
Note 2b) Income from Charitable Activities					
Wedding / funeral fees	3327	0	0	3327	1145
Church Centre rent to General Fund	58	0	0	58	
Church Centre rents	0	19602	0	19602	19813
Total	3385	19602	0	22987	20958
Note 2c) Other trading activities					
Church Centre rents for fundraising purposes	0	2405	0	2405	
Total	0	2405	0	2405	0
Note 2d) Income from investments and deposits in 2025					
Dividend from CCLA Investment Fund	n/a				375
Income reinvestment from CBF CofE Deposit Fund		5612		5612	11773
Net gain on investments	n/a				381
Total income from investments	0	5612	0	5612	12529
Notes for investment income:					
a) The CCLA Investment Fund was closed in 2024					
b) Interest from the CBF Deposit Fund is designated as income to the Legacies Fund					
Note 2e) Other income					
Income from fundraising	1179				1272
Sale of surplus assets	50				
	1229	0	0	1229	1272
Total Income	**125978**	**43014**	**11540**	**180532**	**209846**
Expenditure					
Note 3a) Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	76720			76720	74290
Mission giving and donations	1500			1500	1600
Salaries and wages, including self-employed staff	19278	4404	147	23829	17513
Clergy and Staff Expenses	558			558	1008
	98056	4404	147	102607	94411
Note 3b) Church expenses					
Mission and Evangelism costs	445	3	4430	4878	510
Church running and maintenance	18102		1892	19994	17973
Church utility bills	6936			6936	7478
Costs of trading (Church Centre)		13326		13326	23380
	25483	13329	6322	45134	49341
Note 3c) Other expenses					
Costs of raising funds	1352			1352	
Repairs to Church structure		5019		5019	266677
Repairs to Church Centre		3474		3474	
	1352	8493	0	9845	266677
Total Expenditure	**124891**	**26226**	**6469**	**157586**	**410429**
Net excess of total income over expenditure	**1087**	**16788**	**5071**	**22946**	**-200583**

NOTES

Note 4. Tangible Fixed Assets

The value of £100,000 is an estimate of the value of the Church Centre for accounting purposes only. The Church Centre is an asset of the PCC. However it is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustees for St Margaret's PCC in accordance with the Parochial Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. St Margaret's PCC are the Managing Trustees.

Note 5. Write-offs

Two debtors of £185.60 and £208.25 which appeared in the Accounts receivable for 2024 could not be recovered after considerable efforts to do so. The PCC therefore decided to write off these two debts. This is reflected in the accounts by the starting balance for 2025 being £393.85 lower than the closing balance reported for 2024.

Note 6. Deposit Accounts

The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

Value at 1st January 2025	£125594
Income reinvestment	£5612
Value at 31st December 2025	£131206

Note 7. Debtors (Accounts receivable)

	2025	2024
Debtors for Goods and Services	£5279	£6147
HMRC (Gift Aid tax pertaining to Giving income received in 2025)	£8505	£8971
Total	£13784	£15118

Note 8. Creditors (Accounts payable)

	2025	2024
Creditors for goods and Services	£4707	£4339

St Margaret's Church, Ipswich

Note 9

Fund movement summary for Year ending 31st December 2025

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Write-offs	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted						
General Fund	26171	125978	124891	-841		26417
Designated						
Bells Maintenance	6678	60				6738
Capital Reserve	54518	5612	3474			56656
Church Centre	23325	22069	17730	200	394	27470
Clock	117	394				511
Fabric	-1091			1091		0
Legacies	32517	2654				35171
QI Repairs	13199	12226	5019			20406
Vicar / Wardens	160		3			157
Restricted						
Befrienders Fund	887		117			770
Bells Maintenance	3698		1892			1806
Blue Coat Foundation Grant		150	150			0
The Choral Evensong Trust		250	262			-12
Church Centre	190					190
Clock Fund	146					146
Fabric	250			-250		0
Inspiring Ipswich - Together		10640	2241			8399
DBF Season Of Invitation		500	494			6
Suffolk Community Fund			1313	2800		1487
Unspecified	3462			-3000		462
Totals	164227	180533	157586	0	394	186780

Notes

Note 10 Staff Costs

St Margaret's Church is a "Real Living Wage" organisation, paying at least the Real Living Wage which is above the government's minimum wage.

Staff costs are the gross wages of payroll (contracted) staff plus the payroll administrative costs.

The staff include Administrator, Caretaker and Cleaner. They do not include musicians who are self-employed.

	2025	2024	
Staff costs	£15,296	£17,396	12% decrease

The decrease in Staff costs is due to the absence of a Church Centre Caretaker for most of the year and the maternity leave for the Parish Administrator for the latter part of the year.

Note 11 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related charity were received by the Trustees for their role as Trustees. (Trustees may be employed in other roles)

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
St Margaret's Church, IPSWICH

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2025

Charity no (if any)

113751

Set out on pages

1 of 2.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2025 .

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

J.M.Rendle

Date:

23rd March 2025

Name:

J.M.RENDLE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FCMA CGMA (Rtd.)

Address:

154 Valley Rd

IPSWICH

IP4 3AJ

Section B **Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE