Rector’s Report APCM 2026

Over the past year, the life of St George’s has continued in a steady, faithful, and encouraging manner. We have much for which to give thanks, and much to which we can look forward with hope and expectation.

Let me draw your attention to some of the significant moments in our common life during the past year.

Just before Advent, we held our now well-established All Souls’ Requiem Mass. This year’s setting was Fauré’s *Requiem*, and Sam and his colleagues served us magnificently as we entered into an evening of prayerful remembrance for the departed, carried by music of profound beauty and emotional depth. The service appears to have become a firm fixture in many people’s calendars, and the excellent attendance was greatly encouraging.

Advent began with a parish retreat day at St Katharine’s Foundation in Limehouse, which I had the privilege of leading. It provided a valuable opportunity for reflection, prayer, and fellowship as we prepared ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ.

Attendance at church throughout Advent remained steady and showed some modest growth. Both our Advent Carol Service and Christmas Carol Service were richly attended and reflected the beauty and dignity of the season. We were especially honoured that Fr Demytro from the Ukrainian Church sang the Gospel from St John at the Christmas liturgy. Both Christmas Eve and, in particular, Christmas Day saw very strong congregations, which was heartening to witness.

During the winter months, we continued our partnership with C4WS, offering shelter and hospitality to those experiencing homelessness. I am deeply grateful to Patricia Cobb for organising the volunteers and to everyone who cooked meals, donated food, or gave their time. Guests frequently remark on how welcomed and cared for they feel at St George’s — and not least how much they appreciate our wonderfully warm underfloor heating during the cold weather.

Ash Wednesday was prayerful and well attended, enhanced by beautiful music. During Lent, we studied Rowan Williams’ *Discovering Christianity*, accompanied by a series of short videos that prompted

thoughtful and engaging discussions. The sessions were well attended and provided an opportunity for all to participate openly and reflectively.

Our Wednesday evening services have also continued throughout the year. Each week offers a different style of worship — from silence and contemplation to sung evening prayer — all designed to provide a brief oasis of stillness and prayer in the midst of a busy and noisy world. Attendance may not be large, but it remains faithful and committed.

Holy Week and Easter once again invited us more deeply into the Paschal Mystery through the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day. The services on Thursday and Friday were deeply moving and beautifully observed, with attendance noticeably higher than last year. Easter Day itself was a truly joyful celebration with a packed church — indeed, our largest Easter congregation since the pandemic.

Sixteen of us took part in our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, which remains an important and cherished part of our parish life. We look forward to returning again this August.

During the year, we said goodbye to the Rev'd Philip Dawson, who has been appointed Parish Priest of St Olave's in the City. Philip contributed greatly to the life of St George's and is much missed. He once remarked that St George's was the most diverse and inclusive congregation among the churches with which he had served, and I believe that observation says something important and valuable about the character of this parish.

Sadly, we also lost two people who gave enormously to the life of St George's: Chris Summers and Eoin McMahon. Both served faithfully on the PCC, and during the restoration period they devoted extraordinary amounts of time, practical skill, wisdom, and care to the wellbeing of this church. Chris served as Churchwarden and Eoin assisted his wife Patricia in her role as Treasurer, and both leave a lasting legacy. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Barbara, Chris's wife, and Patricia.

The Korean community continues to worship at St George's, and we are glad to have them as part of our wider church family. It was a pleasure to welcome Fr Taemin Oh, who ministers to the community, to preach at our St George's Day celebrations this year.

We also continue to host the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They use the church extensively during the week and on Sunday mornings before our Eucharist. Many among their congregation are refugees who have fled

the ongoing war and devastation caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We continue to hold them in our prayers and are pleased to offer them hospitality and friendship. Their presence enriches our life together, and they also make an important contribution to the church's finances. It was also wonderful to receive a new altar crucifix, icon style, from the Ukrainian community. It was painted in Ukraine, not far from the front line of the war.

At the heart of parish life remains the faithful rhythm of the Sunday Eucharist. Our worship continues to be enriched immeasurably by the ministry of our choral scholars under the gifted leadership of our Director of Music, Mr Sam Bardsley. We are deeply grateful to Sam for all he contributes to the worship and musical life of St George's.

Alongside our liturgical life, a wide range of social events have taken place throughout the year: quizzes, cream teas, talks, book groups, and other gatherings that strengthen friendship and fellowship within the congregation and wider community.

There are many people to whom I wish to express my sincere thanks, both personally and on behalf of the whole parish.

To our churchwardens, Julian Sharpe and Helena Roden: thank you for your wisdom, encouragement, and steadfast support. Julian, through his professional expertise as an architect, carries particular responsibility for the care of this beautiful but demanding building and the many challenges it presents. Helena brings warmth, hospitality, and a strong commitment to the social life of the parish and to the events that draw people together.

My thanks also go to the PCC — Claire Barraclough, Carmen Bailey, Neil Handley, Dorothy Connell, Mabel Alonso, and Sara Payne — for their time, commitment, and thoughtful contribution to the governance and future planning of the parish. Particular thanks go to Mabel for her diligent work as Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary, to Sara for serving as PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer, and to Dorothy for representing us at Deanery Synod.

Thanks to Dr Neil Handley for his ministry as a Licensed Lay Minister, and to Dr Jack Highton, who continues faithfully to serve at the altar and as a Licensed Lay Minister. Thanks also to Esther for her faithful ministry serving on Sundays and to Michael for helping to keep the liturgy on track!

Thank you to Eva Driskell for her ongoing work supporting our publicity and Sunday sheets, and also for the care she gives to the parish garden, along with everyone else who helps maintain and water it.

I would also like to thank all those who contribute quietly and faithfully week by week: those who read lessons, lead intercessions, ring the bell, welcome visitors at the door, arrange flowers, prepare refreshments, and carry out the countless unseen acts of service that sustain parish life. Special thanks to Tim Fairclough for faithfully sweeping the church steps, and to Kathryn Hughes for organising the readers' rota.

Particular thanks also go to Carmen Bailey for overseeing the cleaning and linen, preparing Sunday refreshments, and generally helping to keep both the parish and the parish priest on the straight and narrow.

Justin Pawley has successfully taken over responsibilities previously held by Noel Gordon. Justin has done much to help stabilise and improve aspects of the building's management and administration, particularly regarding practical and financial matters. We have also been pleased to welcome Emmie Claringbull, who has quickly become an excellent support to him and has fitted in very well.

My thanks also go to Pat in the office, who continues to work diligently on the accounts while managing the considerable challenge of transitioning to a new online accounting system.

We remain deeply grateful to all our volunteers who help open the building during the week and support the concert programme and wider use of the church.

I would also like to thank the congregation for supporting my work as a psychotherapist. On Tuesdays, I work at St Marylebone Church, which hosts a Christian therapy centre supporting ordinands, clergy, and others involved in church life who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties. I hope this work continues to deepen and inform my pastoral ministry, preaching, and care here at St George's.

Finances and Future Projects

Most of our income continues to come from the letting of the crypt to the Leicester Square Theatre Company and from hiring the hall to various community groups. Overall, our finances remain stable, and congregational giving has remained consistent over recent years.

However, if you have not reviewed your giving recently, I would gently encourage you to consider whether you might be able to increase your contribution in support of the church's worship, ministry, hospitality, and outreach. As many of you know, we have also changed banks, and therefore standing orders and regular giving will need to be transferred to the new account.

We are delighted that two new altar frontals, beautifully designed and made by Claire Barraclough, have been introduced into the church. They bring a renewed freshness and richness to the sanctuary and enhance the beauty of our worship.

We have also launched an appeal for £20,000 towards the purchase of a new piano. Our current instrument is nearing the end of its useful life, and the cost of restoration would exceed that of replacement. We are delighted that over £6,000 has already been raised, and we remain very grateful for any further donations towards this important project.

In Closing

Looking ahead, in 2030 St George's will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its consecration. This represents an exciting opportunity not only to celebrate our history but also to renew our vision for the future.

Over the coming years, we hope to begin planning a wide-ranging programme of events to mark this significant anniversary: special liturgies, lectures, concerts, exhibitions, social gatherings, and opportunities to engage both the parish and the wider local community.

So I encourage you all: keep your hands joined in prayer, but also put on your thinking caps. Begin imagining what we might do together, how we might celebrate this remarkable milestone, and how each of us might contribute to the life and witness of St George's in the years ahead.

2030 is not far away.

PCC Of St George Bloomsbury (Reg. Charity: 1139695)

Profit and Loss
January-December, 2025

	Total
Income	
Collections	£7,236.98
Box	484.10
Gift Aided	£5,063.06
Blue envelopes	557.00
Weekly giving scheme	893.70
Yellow Envelopes	1,277.60
Total for Gift Aided	**£7,791.36**
Plate	1,758.10
Tax recovered	£1,661.55
GASDS recovered	347.65
Total for Tax recovered	**£2,009.20**
Total for Collections	**£19,279.74**
Dividend Income	21,948.82
Fundraising	
Parish Lunch	1,385.00
Total for Fundraising	**£1,385.00**
Gifts and Donations Income	£4,317.78
Restricted	400.00
Unrestricted	11,670.01
Total for Gifts and Donations Income	**£16,387.79**
Income - Church and Hall Hire	£16,776.50
Church	8,420.00
Donations for use of space	£2,500.00
Donation for use of E courtyard	1,110.00
Total for Donations for use of space	**£3,610.00**
Musician fees	300.00
Upper Meeting Room	180.00
UVH (Upper Vestry hall)	8,180.00
Total for Income - Church and Hall Hire	**£37,466.50**
Income - Concerts	19,095.00
Income - Licences granted	£2,940.99
Lower Vestry Hall Licence	44,850.00
Undercroft Licence	63,257.33
Total for Income - Licences granted	**£111,048.32**
Interest Income	740.83
Parochial Fees	1,694.00
Total for Income	**£229,046.00**
Gross Profit	**£229,046.00**
Expenses	
1004 Donation to Charities	
C4WS night shelter	1,641.96
Total for 1004 Donation to Charities	**£1,641.96**

	Total
2001 Common Fund	77,000.00
2002 Clergy Expenses	
2002 Books	133.39
2002 Courses and retreats	502.50
2002 Postage and stationery	282.04
2002 Rector discretionary fund	116.00
2002 Rector's pastoral work	1,792.92
2002 Stationery	63.25
2002 Sundry	951.18
2002 Telephone	365.00
2002 Travel	132.80
2002 Working lunches & coffees	652.99
Total for 2002 Clergy Expenses	**£4,992.07**
2003 Rectory Expenses	£734.99
2003 Rectory Water Rates	405.83
Total for 2003 Rectory Expenses	**£1,140.82**
2005 Church Running Expenses	
2005 Churchyard	21.23
2005 Cleaning General	8,809.96
2005 Cleaning Stone Floor	900.00
2005 Electricity	17,545.46
2005 Gas	7,141.69
2005 Gifts	206.84
2005 Insurance	19,360.81
2005 Sanitary Supplies	846.23
2005 Sundry	212.95
2005 Water Rates	3,436.63
Wifi equipment and maintenance	83.95
Total for 2005 Church Running Expenses	**£58,565.75**
2006 Church Maintenance	
2006 Boiler Maintenance	2,504.74
2006 Key cutting	2,717.81
2006 Lift Maintenance	7,760.78
2006 Misc	80.00
2006 Piano Tuning	1,305.00
2006 Refuse Collection	1,595.95
Total for 2006 Church Maintenance	**£15,964.28**
2007 Upkeep of Services	£1,412.49
2007 Flowers	60.80
2007 Honoraria	240.00
2007 Music Extra	2,121.52
2007 Music for High services	6,955.00
2007 Music sheets	50.91
2007 Publicity	1,752.00
2007 Sacristy Supplies	1,079.63

	Total
2007 Service Sheets	250.47
other	2,859.19
Total for 2007 Upkeep of Services	**£16,782.01**
2016 Salaries & Support	£9,907.62
2016 Accounts Manager	7,764.60
2016 Cantors	
Choral Scholars	8,290.00
Scholar deputies	1,785.00
Total for 2016 Cantors	**£10,075.00**
2016 Caretaker	15,991.00
2016 Development & Maintenance	331.50
2016 Organists	8,767.46
Total for 2016 Salaries & Support	**£52,837.18**
3000 Fund Raising	
3000 Parish Lunches & Events	170.00
Total for 3000 Fund Raising	**£170.00**
4000 Church Administration	
4000 Computer Hardware	2,514.00
4000 Computer Software	2,750.11
4000 IT Support	1,769.35
4000 Office Equipment	4,977.60
4000 Stationery/IT Consumables	4.50
4000 Sundry	141.20
4000 Telephone & broadband	2,056.42
4000 Travel	28.35
Total for 4000 Church Administration	**£14,241.53**
6000 Musician Fees	1,211.36
6120 Bank Service Charges	205.38
6140 Gifts and Honoraria	960.00
6160 Dues and Subscriptions	298.00
6270 Professional Fees	375.00
6560 Payroll Expenses	1,152.00
Concerts & Events	£670.00
Concerts - core expenses	£332.90
PRS tariff for concerts	704.06
Total for Concerts - core expenses	**£1,036.96**
Total for Concerts & Events	**£1,706.96**
Parish Events	4,863.60
Repairs & Renewals	1,466.52
Total for Expenses	**£255,574.42**
Net Operating Income	**-£26,528.42**
Other Income	
Increase in value of investment	2,925.67
Total for Other Income	**£2,925.67**

	Total
Other Expenses	
Decrease in value of investment	26,277.33
Total for Other Expenses	**£26,277.33**
Net Other Income	**-£23,351.66**
Net Income	**-£49,880.08**

LEON CHARLES LIMITED *CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS*
Suite 307 Boundary House, Boston Road London W7 2QE
Telephone: 020 8050 8591
Email: mailbox@leoncharles.com

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St George's, Bloomsbury

This report on the accounts of the St George's, Bloomsbury for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on the annexed pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2005 ('the Regulation') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner
As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

Basis of this report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or 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 41 of the Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K Schofield

_____

Katie Schofield ACA **29 October 2026**
Leon Charles ltd