Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of St Bartholomew's Church, Arborfield

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees Annual Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reference and administrative information
The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew's, Arborfield, registration number 1146779.

The correspondence address of the Church is The Rectory, Church Lane, Arborfield, Berkshire RG2 9HZ.

The Trustees, members of the PCC who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved (or as indicated) are:

Minister	Rev Andrew Kearns (Chair)
Associate Minister	Iain Lingwood
Churchwardens	Joseph Brown
	Lynn McBurnie
Deanery Synod reps	Ruth Kershaw
	Poppy Brown (until 19/01/26)
	Anthony Pollock
Elected members	Alison Caldwell
	Patricia Fryer
	Mark McDonnell (until 03/02/26)
	Rob Hughes
	Felicity Singh
	Jonathan Green
	Alex Kershaw
	Becca Holloway (since 18/05/25)
	Ian Hollamby (until 18/05/25)

Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC
Independent Examiner	Hannah Clack Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passages London

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by, and set out in, the Church Representation Rules. The Trustees, members of the PCC, are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted onto the PCC and hold office for 3 years.

Objectives and activities

The principal purpose of St Bartholomew's Church, Arborfield is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The trustees confirm that they have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the operation of public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Our aim as a Church is to honour the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. By his grace we are seeking to grow in our knowledge of him, our love for him and our obedience to him. We are also seeking to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to others as well, both by reaching out to others ourselves and by supporting mission partners in the UK and overseas. During 2025 we committed to support the following: Christian Community Action (CCA), Open Doors, Crosslinks and Compassion UK.

Our Sunday services are the focus for our life as a Church as we gather to listen to the Word of God being read and preached, and as we respond to him in prayer and praise. This is also a vital time for us to grow as a fellowship and refreshments after the service provide the opportunity for relationships to build. It is our assumption, however, that our life as a Church should overflow into our daily lives and our growth groups continue to provide a natural context for relationships to develop whereby people can serve and encourage one another further.

Church at the Green marked its eighth birthday in March 2025 and continues to give thanks to God for all that He continues to do in establishing and keeping the church family, as well as building our relationships with neighbours who continue to move into the new housing locally. Rev Iain Lingwood continues to lead the ministry at CTG.

Andy Kearns continues as Rector of Arborfield with Barkham and continues to be based at St Bartholomew's, Arborfield.

During the year the Electoral Roll was revised in accordance with Church of England practice and the number currently on the Roll is 95.

Most of the charity's activities are undertaken by volunteers and the charity could not operate effectively without their efforts. In planning the activities, the PCC has applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

Our Lord, continues to be very kind to us. Andy Kearns remains as rector for the benefice and Ruth Kershaw continues as part-time community minister. We also contribute to the youth work and office costs across our partnership of 4 churches, paid through the trust. The diocese pay Andy's salary and Ruth's is handled by the trust.

During the year the Church income was £141,944 (an increase of £22,777 from 2024) and Church expenditure was £199,553 (an increase of £77,121 from 2024).

We have made mortgage repayments of £24,835 (£13,158 Capital Repayments and £11,677 Interest Repayments) to Methodist Chapel Aid limited towards our loan of £250,000 for the refurbishment of School House. We have also remortgaged the property with Methodist Chapel Aid over a longer term until the 31st December 2045.

There is £68,606 invested in a 120 day notice investment fund, £25,700 in the Kingdom Bank Account and £16,097 in our current accounts (£1,847 of these funds are restricted)

Although we obtained planning permission for a car park last year, there were several conditions the council attached to the plans which made it difficult to move ahead with it and we were unable to find any builders who would quote to build us a car park. We are in negotiations with the council to alter the plans.

Heating

The heating was replaced with under pew heaters at a cost of £39,182

Kirkland residence

We have been blessed to receive a legacy from the estate of Michele Kirkland, this includes a house which is listed in the assets as £525,000. The administration for receiving this legacy is expected to complete in early 2026.

Reserves

The reserves policy of the charity is to hold cash reserves which equate to a minimum of 2 months income at all times. For the 2024 year end this would require approximately £19,000 of cash reserve. The unrestricted immediately accessible cash held at the year end was £40,019; so the trustees are confident their reserve policy has been complied with.

Quinquennial Inspection

The quinquennial inspection was carried out this year. There were several issues where the architect has requested we appoint a structural engineer to investigate.

Going concern

The Charity is reliant on the support of voluntary donations to enable it to continue operating. The trustees believe that support will continue and that the Charity will continue to operate.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

With regard to the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the members of the PCC confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Mar 30, 2026, and signed on its behalf by:

A P Kearns
A P Kearns (Mar 30, 2026 16:26:16 GMT+1)

Rev Andrew Kearns
Chairman

Mar 30, 2026

Patricia Fryer
Patricia Fryer (Mar 30, 2026 13:07:31 GMT+1)

Patricia Fryer
Treasurer

Mar 30, 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Bartholomew's, Arborfield ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:
1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Hannah Clack
Hannah Clack (Apr 2, 2026 16:50:23 GMT+1)

Hannah Clack

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Apr 2, 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income receipts							
Voluntary receipts	2(a)	111,103	50	-	-	111,153	105,295
Fundraising income	2(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church activities	2(b)	4,661	859	-	-	5,520	2,836
Investment income	2(c)	3,757	10	-	21,504	25,271	11,036
Total receipts		119,521	919	-	21,504	141,944	119,167
Payments							
Church activities	3(a)	37,423	1,899	-	973	40,294	30,750
Ministry costs	3(b)	80,765	-	-	-	80,765	57,954
Mission and charitable gifts	3(c)	14,052	-	-	-	14,052	5,450
		132,240	1,899	-	973	135,112	94,154
Building work		39,606	-	-	-	39,606	2,736
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments		-	-		24,835	24,835	25,542
		39,606	-	-	24,835	64,441	28,278
Total payments		171,846	1,899	-	25,808	199,553	122,432
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		- 52,325	(980)	-	(4,304)	(57,609)	(3,265)
Transfers between funds		(5,466)	1,163	-	4,304	-	-
Net movement in funds		(57,792)	183	-	-	(57,609)	(3,265)
Cash funds as at last year end		79,219	1,664	87,197	-	168,080	171,345
Cash funds at this year end	A	21,427	1,847	87,197	-	110,472	168,080

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Endowment funds £	2025 £	2024 £
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access	18,950	1,847	21,000	-	41,797	102,535
United Trust Account - Investment	2,409	-	66,197	-	68,606	65,546
Cash banked post yearend	69	-	-	-	69	-
	21,427	**1,847**	**87,197**	**-**	**110,472**	**168,080**
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity	11,245	-	-	-	11,245	9,304
Prepayment	2,150	-	-	-	2,150	2,132
Other debtors	3,072	-	-	-	3,072	236
	16,467	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16,467**	**11,672**
Total current assets	**37,895**	**1,847**	**87,197**	**-**	**126,939**	**179,752**
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
Diocesan Board of Finance	-	-	-	-	-	1,030
Accounts payable	1,517	-	-	-	1,517	682
Grant obligations	172	-	-	-	172	4,000
Fee for Independent Examination	1,680	-	-	-	1,680	1,512
Other creditors	278	-	-	-	278	650
	3,648	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,648**	**7,874**
Total net current assets	**34,247**	**1,847**	**87,197**	**-**	**123,291**	**171,878**
D Assets and secured liabilities retained for charity's own use						
School House used as clergy accommodation (2021 valuation by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors)	-	-	-	750,000	750,000	750,000
Church under pew heating	38,102	-	-	-	38,102	-
Other Church Assets	5,465	-	-	-	5,465	2,887
	43,567	-	-	750,000	793,567	752,887
Liabilities secured on School House						
Capital Loan payments falling due within less than one year	-	-	-	9,868	9,868	13,158
Capital Loan payments falling due after one year	-	-	-	187,500	187,500	197,368
	-	-	-	197,368	197,368	210,526
Total assets less secured liabilities	**43,567**	**-**	**-**	**552,632**	**596,199**	**542,361**

School House is held under an endowment trust deed dated 1st December 1871 for the education of the children of Arborfield and Barkham in the principles of the Church of England at the Coombs Primary School. It is occupied as a residence by the church's associate minister for this purpose. The rent saved from renting accommodation for the church's associate minister from a third party will fund the loan repayments. There is therefore no additional liability on the PCC arising from this arrangement.

The above loan which is secured on the School House is repayable in equal half yearly instalments and is repayable in full by 2041.

Consecrated property, beneficed property and moveable church furnishings which require a special faculty for disposal are excluded from the above list of charity assets.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A P Kearns
A P Kearns (Mar 30, 2026 16:26:16 GMT+1)

Rev Andrew Kearns

Date: Mar 30, 2026

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

		General funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Endowment funds	Total 2025	Total 2023
2		£	£	£	£	£	£
a)	**Voluntary income**						
	Regular donations under gift aid	65,818	-	-	-	65,818	68,301
	Other regular donations	21,075	-	-	-	21,075	16,755
	Total regular receipts	86,893	-	-	-	86,893	85,056
	One-off donations under gift aid	6,950	-	-	-	6,950	8,360
	Other one-off donations	745	50	-	-	795	1,040
	Collections	367	-	-	-	367	274
	Total receipts from one-off donations	8,062	50	-	-	8,112	9,674
	Gift aid reclaimed	16,147	-	-	-	16,147	10,565
		111,103	50	-	-	111,153	105,295
b)	**Church activities**						
	Clergy fees	1,578	859	-	-	2,437	2,256
	Other activities and fees	3,083	-	-	-	3,083	580
		4,661	859	-	-	5,520	2,836
c)	**Investment income**						
	Rental Income	-	-	-	21,504	21,504	5,716
	Dividends from CBF investment funds	3,757	10	-	-	3,767	5,320
		3,757	10	-	21,504	25,271	11,036

		General funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Endowment funds	Total 2025	Total 2023
3		£	£	£	£	£	£
a)	**Church activities**						
	Church @ the Green	6,828	-	-	-	6,828	2,276
	Church running costs	10,162	-	-	280	10,442	11,261
	Office cost and central costs	10,236	-	-	-	10,236	6,928
	Insurance	3,608			693	4,301	4,264
	Legal and Accountancy	2,226	-	-	-	2,226	2,042
	School House costs	973	-	-	-	973	957
	Assigned fees	-	1,889	-	-	1,889	852
	Other charitable activities	437	-	-	-	437	65
	Other costs	2,953	10	-	-	2,963	2,104
		37,423	1,899	-	973	40,294	30,750
b)	**Ministry costs**						
	Associate Minister	14,032	-	-	-	14,032	27,132
	Youth worker	2,700	-	-	-	2,700	375
	Parish Share	61,872				61,872	28,902
	Other ministry expenses	2,161	-	-	-	2,161	1,545
		80,765	-	-	-	80,765	57,954
c)	**Mission and charitable gifts**						
	Christian Community Action	-	-	-	-	-	-
	South Central Gospel	-				-	-
	Crosslinks	6,037	-	-	-	6,037	5,016
	Open Doors	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Church at the Green	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Individuals	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bibles given to school leavers	-	-	-	-	-	424
	Friends of the Cathedral	8,015	-	-	-	8,015	10
		14,052	-	-	-	14,052	5,450

4 Staff and trustees

The church has no direct employees. Its activities are carried out by volunteers and by staff employed by an independent charity (The Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust). Grants paid to that trust to meet these costs are included in the ministry section of note 3 above.

Included in the staff employed by the independent charity are:

Rev Kearns is Rector and employed by the Diocese. The PCC pay Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust a proportion of benefice's parish share, which Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust subsequently provide to the Diocese, who provide Rev. Kearns with a stipend and accommodation to carry out his role as Rector. As Rector Rev. Kearns remains a member of the PCC and hence a trustee. [Note the benefice is made up of 4 churches who all pay a proportion of the parish share which is why the parish share is not paid directly to the Diocese] "□

Rev Iain Lingwood is Associate Minister, he is a member of the PCC and hence a trustee. He is employed by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust. Rev. Lingwood and family receive accommodation in the School House which is rented from the PCC by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust at a rate of £1782 pcm. In addition Iain Lingwood pays a peppercorn rent of 10 pcm to the PCC.

Ruth Kershaw who is a member of the PCC and hence a trustee is employed by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust in the role of Community Worker.

Becca Holloway is employed part time as an office worker (since Jan 2025) across the 4 churches which is paid out of the central funds to the trust and she is also a PCC member.

No other person connected with the PCC has been paid remuneration or other benefits from the funds of the PCC, other than the direct reimbursement of expenses with no profit element.

5 Fund movements

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	79,219	119,521	(171,846)	(5,466)	21,427
Restricted funds:					
Bell fund	1,452	50	(10)	-	1,492
Ditchfield prize fund	212	10	-	133	355
Oxford Diocese	-	859	(1,889)	1,030	-
Other nominated gifts	-	-	-	-	-
	1,664	919	(1,899)	1,163	1,847
Endowment funds:					
School House fund	-	21,504	(25,808)	4,304	-
	-	21,504	(25,808)	4,304	-
Designated funds:					
Sustain Ministry Legacy fund	87,197	-	-	-	87,197
	87,197	-	-	-	87,197
Total funds	168,080	141,944	(199,553)	-	110,472

The Bell fund relates to income and expenditure received and paid directly in relation to the Church bells and the bell ringing lessons.

The Ditchfield prize fund relates to income to be applied in providing one or more prizes for religious knowledge to one or more children in school every year.

The Oxford diocese funds represents fund from weddings, funerals etc that are owed to and paid to the diocese. In 2025 £1030 was paid for funds owed for 2024 receipts.

The School House endowment fund has been created following the surrender of the lease of the School House. The School House is held in accordance with the terms of the original trust deed dated 1 December 1871.

The Sustain Ministry Legacy fund relates to a legacy gift received that will contribute towards the continued ministry running costs of the church. This includes such costs as Minister costs and children & youth ministry costs.

The transfer from the general fund into the School House endowment fund is a contribution towards the mortgage repayment on the School House.