The Parish of Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10 May 2026

AGENDA

1. Opening prayers
2. Attendees and Apologies
3. Appointment of Tellers
4. APCM Minutes - 4 May 2025
5. Election of Church Wardens
6. Election of PCC Members
7. Appointment of Sidespersons

Reports

8. Electoral Roll Update 2026
9. Accounts
10. Safeguarding inc. Policy Statement
11. Wardens Report, including buildings report
12. Church House
13. Pastoral Care
14. Mothers' Union
15. Evangelist in Training
16. Toddle Time & Who Let the Dads Out?
17. Deanery Synod Report
18. Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC

19. Questions / Comments / Feedback

20. Closing prayers

The Parish of Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
Minutes of Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Sunday 4 May 2025

1. Opening Prayers

Rev. Jeb Beatty led the meeting and began in prayer.

2. Present:

Jeremy Beatty, Mark Goodwin, Norma Stowman, Di Bebb, Julia Blundell, Ken Hazeldine, Mark Rushton, Julie Okundaye, Nicky Beatty, Ian McGill, Arthur Bullock, Sylivia Parker, Audrey Mannion, Karen Bailey, Shum Goodwin, Lindsay Kemp, Mike Kemp, Mike Taylor, June Edgar, Jon Adams, Heather Adams.

Apologies: Lois Haslam, Heather Williams and Julie Johnson

3. Minutes of Previous APCM Held on Sunday 21 April 2024

Minutes of the previous APCM were proposed and seconded by Ian McGill and Sylivia Parker.

4. Appointment of Tellers:

No need for tellers as there was no need to vote this year.

5. Election of Church Wardens

Mike Taylor and June Edgar agreed to continue for the forthcoming year.

Mike and June were thanked for their faithful and professional work.

6. Election of Representatives for the PCC

It was noted that as the Electoral Roll has dropped below 100 the number of people required for PCC has changed. The following membership was proposed and approved.

The Parish of Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
Minutes of Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Sunday 4 May 2025

Name	Position	End Date	Notes
Jeremy Beatty	Vicar	NA	
Arthur Bullock			Treasurer
Mike Taylor	Church Warden	2027	
June Edgar	Church Warden	2027	
1. Mark Goodwin	Lay Member	2026	Secretary
2. Mary Mitchell	Lay Member	2027	
3. Karen Perry	Lay Member	2026	To serve 2025 – 2026
4. Ken Hazeldine	Lay Member	2027	
5. Andy Ogden	Lay Member	2028	To start 3-year term
6. Jon Adams	Lay Member	2026	
7. Ian McGill	Lay Member	2026	
8. Di Bebb	Lay Member	2026	
9. Phil James	Lay Member	2028	To start 3-year term
Julie Okundaye	Deanery Synod		Willing to continue
Mark Rushton	Deanery Synod		Willing to continue
Vacant	Deanery Synod		

Phil James was appointed, proposed by Sylvia Parker and Ian McGill. Andy Ogden – proposed by Lois Beatty and seconded by Nicky Beatty - and Karen Perry - proposed by June Edgar and Sandra Lambourne were reappointed.

Retirements

Three PCC members had reached the end of their term – Karen Bailey, Julia Blundell and Ruth Windsor – and were standing down. Our appreciation for their work was recorded.

Non-members who receive papers

It was explained that four people who hold offices in the church receive PCC papers but do not attend meetings and are not PCC Members – they are not PCC Trustees and they do not vote. They are Heather Adams and David Brown (Readers), Pam Robinson (Community Development Manager) and Julie Johnson (Permission to Officiate).

The Parish of Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
Minutes of Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Sunday 4 May 2025

7. Electoral Roll Update

The Electoral Roll has been completely revised and now stands at 94 people. The reasons for the changes were explained in Julie's report. Julie was thanked for all her work in updating and maintaining the Electoral Roll.

8. Appointment of Sidespersons

The names of sidespersons were noted i.e. Mark Rushton, Christine Dawson, Ruth Windsor, Karen Perry, June Edgar, Tim Morley, Di Bebb, Karen Bailey, Mark Goodwin, Shum Goodwin, Sandra Lambourn, Ian McGill, Ken Hazeldine, Mike Taylor and Steph Haynes.

9. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024, and approved by PCC on 26 March 2024, were noted. As in previous years, the accounts have been examined by John Freeman, at no charge, for which we are very grateful.

The church's challenging financial position was explained and Jeb encouraged people to give prayerfully and generously.

10. Safeguarding including Policy Statements

The meeting noted June's report and thanked her for her excellent work. The Church of England's national policy statement and St Matthew's policy statement were read out to remind us of the importance of safeguarding, and that it is everyone's responsibility.

The question was asked whether trained first aiders should be at midweek events. DB / MR to advise.

11. Churchwardens' report on the fabric of the building – APCM 2025

The church wardens summarised the key works to the building in 2025 and priorities for the forthcoming year.

The Parish of Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
Minutes of Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Sunday 4 May 2025

12. Community Development Manager

The Community Development Manager summarised her work in the preceding year. We thanked Pam for all she does in bringing resources into the Parish and for the clear Christian context in which she does her work.

13. Toddle Time & Who Let the Dads Out

Karen reported on the progress of Toddle Time and the very positive launch of Who Let The Dads Out. The benefits of external funding were noted. We thanked Karen and the team of volunteers who run these excellent groups.

14. Deanery Synod

The lay secretary of the Deanery Synod provided a summary of the year's proceedings.

15. Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC

Jeb provided a summary of the PCC's work and key projects during 2025 and thanked everyone for their work and support.

Church members are interested in the proposals for the audio-visual system. Ballpark costs are around £30,000. We will try to raise £12,000 from church members and allocate the rest from other sources.

St Matthew's Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
PCC Members and Church Office Holders

1. PCC Membership

The table on the following page proposes PCC membership to take office with effect from Sunday 10 May 2026:

- The proposal is based on people who have put their names forward at the time of writing this report. The APCM will be informed in the meeting if further nominations are received; a vote will be taken if necessary.

- People who are renewing their membership or taking office for the first time must be proposed and seconded by people who are on the Electoral Roll. Proposers and seconders will be recorded at the APCM on 10 May.

- Everyone who starts a term of office in 2026 must confirm that they are eligible to serve as a Charity Trustee by completing the appropriate paperwork.

- At the meeting on 10 May, we will confirm that the correct paperwork has been received, and the meeting will be asked to approve the PCC's membership.

2. Church Office Holders

Three people who hold offices in the church receive PCC papers but do not attend meetings and are not PCC Members – they are not PCC Trustees and they do not vote. They are Heather Adams and David Brown (Readers) and Julie Johnson (Permission to Officiate).

3. Retirements

APCMs are also times when people retire. Di Bebb has completed her term, and Mary Mitchell is supporting Graham and would like to stand down. We're very grateful to Di and Mary for their service over many years (and in other roles besides PCC) and pray for God's faithful blessing on them both.

4. PCC Secretary

Mark Goodwin has served as PCC Secretary for many years. He is happy to continue on PCC for one more year, but wants to stand down as secretary. We deeply appreciate his efficient and professional work.

PCC secretary is a vital role supporting the planning and minuting of meetings and, less visibly, the submission of information to the Diocese, Charity Commission etc. The wardens and I are looking for a new secretary, to be in post as soon as possible. It does not have to be the case that one person does all the secretarial work – preparing papers, minuting meetings and submission of returns could be shared between different people. The people who do this work may be, but do not have to be, members of PCC.

If are interested in being PCC secretary, or some aspects of the role, please speak with the wardens in the first instance.

St Matthew's Edgeley & Cheadle Heath
PCC Members and Church Office Holders

5. PCC Proposed Membership

9 Lay Members	Name	Position	End Date	Proposer	Seconder	Notes
Shaded blue = appointment in 2026						
	Jeb	Vicar	NA	NA	NA	
	Mike Taylor	Warden	2027	NA	NA	
	June Edgar	Warden	2027	NA	NA	
1 of 9	Mark Goodwin	Lay	2027			Happy to serve one more year
2 of 9	Karen Perry	Lay	2027			Happy to serve one more year
3 of 9	Ken Hazeldine	Lay	2027	NA	NA	
4 of 9	Andy Ogden	Lay	2028	NA	NA	
5 of 9	Jon Adams	Lay	2029			
6 of 9	Ian McGill	Lay	2029			
7 of 9	Phil James	Lay	2028	NA	NA	
8 of 9	Mary Siwiak-Jaszek	Lay	2029			
9 of 9	Arthur Bullock	Lay + Treasurer	TBC			
	Mark Rushton	Deanery Synod		NA	NA	
	Julie Okundaye	Deanery Synod		NA	NA	
	Vacant	Deanery Synod		NA	NA	

APCM Electoral Roll Report

Published 10th May 2026

Number on Roll (from 94 at April 2025) 93

Deaths 2

Beryl Hubble; Mavis McEwan

Removed from the Roll 3

Moved away	2
Worshipping elsewhere	1

New to Roll 4

Heather Faulkner; Roger Hulme; Sheila Newton; Lorraine Wildman.

Age Demographic on Electoral Roll

2 over 90
16 over 80
17 over 70
19 over 60
17 over 50
7 over 40
7 over 30
6 over 20
2 over 16

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There is currently £8.6k available in unrestricted funds. Funds were transferred from designated legacies (with the permission of the PCC) to fully pay the parish share. There will not be sufficient legacies remaining to fully pay the parish share in 2026. This problem will be compounded by the increase in parish share for 2026.

There has been a major income issue relating to the rental of the tower for the mast. The decrease in income has been the result of the parish not receiving rent for the second half of 2025. This has been the result of Cellnex changing subcontractors and the parish not reaching an agreement with the new mast services company. As of yet, no agreement has been finalised and mast rental payments have not been restored. This income source is approximately £8k per year; its ongoing absence has significant implications for parish finances.

Overall giving increased by 5-6% compared with the previous year. This increase was achieved mainly through increases in average amounts donated by members of the congregation. The additional donations have not been sufficient to cover the raises in parish share, or the loss in income from mast rental.

The fund for our community development manager was down to £1.1k at the end of 2025. Our community development manger has since retired as of the end of January 2026, with the corresponding fund depleted. The depletion of this fund and ending of the role was the result of the being able to secure further lottery funding due to increased competition and being unable to find sufficient alternative funding sources.

A new designated fund for the AV upgrade has been established, with this fund having a value of £7.3k at the end of 2025. This amount is not expected to be sufficient for the full costs of the planned works. Permission to proceed has yet to be established; it is not currently possible to expend this fund.

		£	£
Monetary Assets			
	Current Bank Account		
	Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	24087	
	Other Accounts		
	St Matthew's Vernon Account	596	
	CBF Deposit	14274	
			38958
Designated Funds			
	Legacies/ In Memory	2692	
	Flowers	282	
	Children's Church	578	
Restricted Funds and Grants			
	Friends of the Holy Land		
	Community Development Manager Donations	1119	
	Toddle Time Grants	424	
	High Sheriff Landscaping Grants	419	
	AV fund	7280	
Buildings			
Restricted	Church Refurbishment and Maintenance	18826	
			31621
			7337

Edgeley Cheadle Heath Accounts 2025

Bank Account Reconcilliation		Current Account	
Balance as per statement			
	31/12/2025		30,480.11
Add Uncleared Lodgements			
	13/01/2026	Collections	354.00
			30,834.11
Less Unpresented Cheques			
	16/02/26	Wellspring collection	27.10
201702	31/12/2025	Chelwood Food Bank	72.50
	31/12/2025	Childrens Society	115.80
201549	31/12/2025	CDM retirement gift	75.00
	31/12/2025	Parish Share Dec '25	5,543.20
201471	31/12/2025	Vicar expenses Mar-D	913.67
			6,747.27
Balance as per cash sheets			**24,086.84**
All Accounts		Current Account	24,086.84
		Vernon Account	596.44
		CBF Account	14,274.36
	31/12/2025	**Total**	**38,957.64**

Restricted funds		
	Church refurbishment and maintenance	18,825.53
	AV upgrade fund	7,280.12
	Grants for Community Development Manager	1,119.39
	Friends of the Holy Land	-
	High Sheriff grant for landscaping	419.02
	Toddle Time grants	424.41
Designated funds		
	Flowers	282.27
	Childrens Church	578.39
	Hardship fund	
Unspent Legacies(unresticted)		
	Used for Pam's pension	2,692.00
	other uses eg parish share need PCC permission	
	Total restricted/designated funds	**31,621.13**
	GENERAL RUNNING COSTS IN CURRENT A/C	**7,336.51**

Receipt & Payment Accounts

		2025		2024	
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources from Donors					
	Gift Aid Giving	40477		37885	
	Planned Giving	1558		1958	
	Collections and other giving	9795		5480	
	Restricted Collections for charity	927		1505	
	Income Tax recovered	11288		10441	
			64045		**57269**
Voluntary Income from other sources					
Grants R*	Community Development Manager	7500		21470	
Grants R*	Toddle Time grants			1095	
	Fund Raising events	1207		1849	
Grants R*	High Sheriff grant for landscaping	500			
			9207		**24414**
Income from Investments					
	Interest	2130		3084	
			2130		**3084**
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
	Fees	1701		2227	
	Church Booking Fees	1440		590	
	Church House Booking	7803		8490	
	Printing	5		5	
	Cellnex	5052		8260	
	Sale of items	36			
	Parking income	78			
	Sale of dartboard	45			
			16159		**19572**
Other Income					
	Legacy			1000	
	Sundry Receipts	981		1187	
	Vestry refurb contribution	25			
	Toddle Time contributions (non R*)	1576		1272	
	Cellnex mast survey refund	285			
			2867		**6325**
Buildings					
Grant R*	Reclaimed VAT (building work)			878	
Grant R*	SMBC (to mount memorial boards)				
Grants R*	AV Fund Donations	7280			
Grant R*	Building work grants				
			7280		**878**
Total Receipts			**101688**		**111543**

Payments

		£	£	£	£
Grants					
	Charitable Giving	990		1490	
			990		**1490**
Activities directly related to the work of the church					
	Parish Share	66518		60993	
	Ministry Expenses	6853		8566	
	Church Running Costs	9350		9035	
	Utilities	10200		10665	
	Church House Running Costs	1449		450	
	Cost of Services			0	
Grant R* part	Salaries incl. NI & Pension	21976		31506	
	Support costs & mission			0	
D*	Children's church				
R*	Warm Spaces activities/energy			400	
R*	Toddle Time restricted grants	191		792	
			116537		**122407**
Church Management & Administration					
	Fund Raising Expenses	294		310	
	Administration	890		944	
	Printing Costs	1789		1747	
			2973		**3002**
Other					
R*	Flowers	21		24	
	Sundry Payments				
	Toddle Time expenses	242		52	
R*	High Sheriff landscaping	76			
	Architect fee	285			
	Gas leak investigation	137			
	CDM petty cash fund	50			
	Vestry refurb	300			
	Cellmax mast survey			228	
			1111		**24**
Buildings					
Grant R*	Roofing Project				
R*	Church Refurbishment	695		2577	
R*	AV system laptop and projector bulb				
R*	Architect fee			759	
R*	Church House				
			695		**3336**
Total Payments			**122306**		**130259**

R*= Restricted Funds
D*= Designated Funds

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2026

1. **No safeguarding incidents to report.**
2. **Safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting and at monthly wardens meetings.**
3. **We have a rolling programme of safeguarding training which is run mostly on line. The majority of people required to complete training have done so. Any outstanding training will be completed soon. Many thanks to those who have completed their training.**
4. **Our volunteers are required to complete an enhanced DBS which are renewed 3 yearly. All those required to complete a DBS have done so. The DBS programme is a continual process. 6 DBS are due for renewal this year.**
5. **Role descriptions and risk assessments are now in place and reviewed regularly.**
6. **Parish dashboards is a system where our data is entered into a computer programme. This allows us to see where we are lacking and allows the diocese access to our anonymised data to help improve the delivery of training and to provide other support to ensure safeguarding is given the priority it deserves. We have made good progress on the dashboard and it is currently at 93% completion.**
7. **In February General Synod approved the new Safer Recruitment and People Management Code of Practice. As part of this from June new volunteers need to complete an application form as part of our safer recruitment process. I will put this in place as soon as possible.**
8. **I would like to thank all those who have completed their safeguarding obligations.**
9. **I am happy to answer any questions about safeguarding.**

June M. Edgar,

Parish Safeguarding Officer,

18/04/2026

10. Policy Statement

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults

St Matthew's Church
Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

7

The Church of England, its Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and leaders are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused.

8

We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

The Church of England affirms the ‘Whole Church’ approach to safeguarding. This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Church bodies, Church Officers and that everyone associated with the Church, who comes into contact with children, young people and adults, has a role to play.

9

The Church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ’s Ministry towards children, young people and adults; to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.

10

Policy Statement

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults
St Matthew's Church (Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath)
This statement was agreed at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) held on 10 May 2026.

It will be read out to at least one PCC meeting each year, where progress in implementing it will be monitored.

11

- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church.

12

- Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and to providing supervision.
- Our church is committed to following the guidelines and procedures published by the Diocese.
- The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.
- Each worker with children, young people and vulnerable adults must know the guidelines and undertake to follow them.

13

- Each will have access to a copy of the Diocesan agreed procedures and good practice guidelines. www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk/about-us/children-in-church
- As part of our commitment to children, young people and vulnerable adults, the PCC has appointed Karen Perry to be the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.
- Children, young people and vulnerable adults are an important part of our Church today.

14

- They have much to give as well as to receive.
- We will listen to them.
- As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

15

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 10 May 2026

Churchwardens' report on the fabric of the building and related matters

1. In the past year there has been progress in a number of areas in the maintenance and use of our church buildings. The vestry has now been transformed, with bright decoration and a new carpet, and is coming into use. The cleaning of church, identified as an area of need in last year's report, has been taken in hand by the new cleaning team; the visibly higher levels of order and cleanliness bring credit on the church. The repainting of the west doors has added greatly to the external attractiveness of the building. The gardening team have begun a project to bring colour and botanical diversity of the churchyard.

2. In 2025 we received the QI report on our buildings, which, while confirming that they are generally in good state, identifies a number of matters requiring attention, amongst them some bowing in the east window which needs expert investigation. It is doubtful whether we have sufficient funds for what is needed.

3. The church building continues to be well used throughout the week. In addition to already existing groups, we now host 3rd Cheadle Heath Guides and Brownies. This is very positive, but there is increasing pressure on storage space.

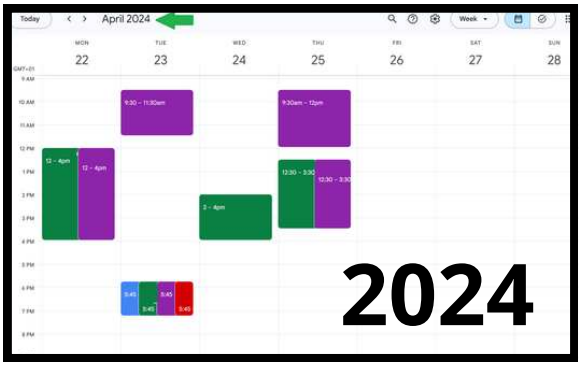
4. Work continues on faculty applications, for our planned AV upgrade, for permission to dispose of surplus items, for telecoms equipment in the tower. These are lengthy processes but it is hoped they will reach conclusion during the coming year.

5. A fund raising campaign for the AV project has met with a good response and we are now in a financial position to go ahead. Of more limited success has been an appeal to our church members concerning our difficult financial situation. Our inability to pay our parish share in full during 2026 rings alarm bells and calls for urgent action. There has been a generous response by a few people, but the overall level of giving does not bode well for our long-term financial viability.

6. Not mentioned in this report is Church House, which is dealt with elsewhere. Also not mentioned by name are the many people who have carried out various tasks, whether large or small, over the course of the year. What you have done is known and appreciated.



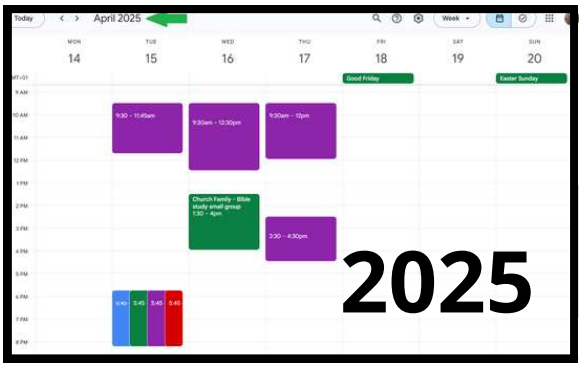
St Matthew's Church House
2025 - 2026
Improvements and Challenges



Increased hiring of the rooms

In 2026 we have more rooms hired across the day compared to the previous two years.

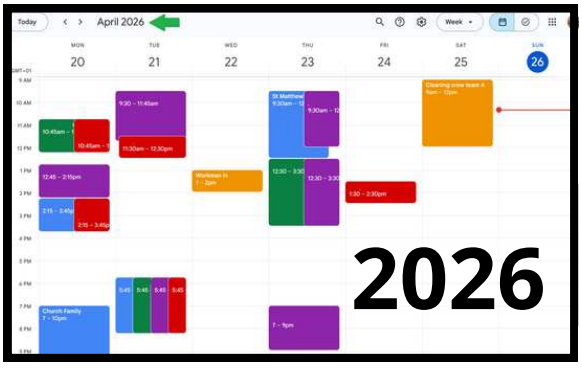
Diversity in the community of hirers has changed. We have several counselling organisations, community groups and private businesses using the space.



This supports word of mouth and wider awareness of the space.

Friday remains the quietest day of the week for house use. Several enquiries and viewings have happened but nobody has reserved the space on this day yet.

Other groups are using the rooms once a fortnight or once every 6 weeks. For these types of hiring it means we are more reliant on one-off sessions to fill the gaps.



Challenges: It's better but not where we want it to be yet. We need more people to know about the space. This will come through marketing via social media, open days and print media. Some hirers are requesting blocks of weeks which makes predictable income difficult.

"I have been working at St Matthew's Edgeley since March of this year. It is an easily accessible building, and clients have commented on how peaceful it feels. There are 2 spacious rooms downstairs and a kitchen which is helpful when anyone has needed a quick drink of water. My room is upstairs and has been a comfortable and calming place to practice." Source: Annual Report for Stockport Community Counselling



St Matthew's Church House
2025 - 2026
Improvements and Challenges

The little things matter

"The pantry looks great!"
"The place feels more organised, cleaner and tidier"
"We've noticed things are being fixed"
"The keysafe is a great addition and makes things a lot easier"
Source: Verbal feedback provided to Anna Rogers from various hirers






As a team, we've made many small changes that together have improved the space and people have noticed. Here are just some of the things we have done:

- **Added a mail cage to collect post**
- **Tidied up under the stairs so everything fits and maintained the space**
- **Moved the white boards and flip chart paper to more secure and suitable space**
- **Put a hanging basket up at the front and refreshed the writing for the doorbells**
- **Removed the "abandoned" vehicle in the car park**
- **Weeded the carpark area**
- **New microwave for the kitchen**
- **Cleared and tidied the pantry area**
- **Set up a cleaning crew**
- **Maintained consumables toilet roll, cleaning supplies, tissue boxes in rooms and table wipes.**
- **Removed no longer needed items from the garden and the house**
- **Installed a key safe**
- **Recalibrated and fixed the doorbells for each room**
- **Regular inspection of the space for cleanliness and tidiness.**








St Matthew's Church House
2025 - 2026
Improvements and Challenges

Risk Management

A risk plan is a living document, things get fixed and new things come along. There will always be work to do in this area. Here are some of the resolved items completed in the last year:

Systems & Operations	Compliance & Risk
Streamlined bookings, calendar, and invoicing - less time, clearer information for all users.	*Invoices for 2024 resolved – funds recovered*
Website-only booking process introduced for new hirers – ensuring insurance and safeguarding requirements are met	*Building and health & safety audit complete – including sanitary waste compliance*
Increased the number of people hiring the space	*PLI certificates of hirers – up to date and retained*
Stronger relationships established with existing users	*Existing user contributions documented and clarified.*

Our next priorities focus on maintaining safe, consistent and sustainable use of the space:

- **Reconciliation process – to be established. This will be simpler if a separate bank account is introduced.**
- **Fire drill – under review.**
- **Invoicing – slightly behind due to admin illness; currently being brought up to date.**
- **Bookings – continuing to build usage of the space (an ongoing focus).**
- **Shared resources – improving communication to avoid chairs/tables being unavailable when needed.**
- **Building maintenance – progress made; outstanding issues include a broken patio door and water dripping onto the kitchen roof.**
- **Electrics – unresolved. This is affecting the alarm, doorbells and heating, and will need addressing before Autumn.**



St Matthew's Church House
2025 - 2026
Improvements and Challenges

Some initiatives were tested or explored and have been paused for now:

- **Welcome baskets and books – paused. Information via email and in-room signage is sufficient for now.**
- **Open day – paused until electrics, WiFi and heating issues are resolved.**
- **Car park gate/lock – initial solution tested and not effective. Currently in "watch and wait" as the space is not being misused. A full barrier is not cost effective at this stage.**
- **Online booking and invoicing system – researched and paused. Would improve efficiency, but not cost effective at current income levels.**
- **Key management process – paused following introduction of the key safe. Existing key holders still to be reviewed.**

> *I want to thank you personally for the flexibility and understanding you have offered. St Matthew's Church House is such a wonderful space, and I am so glad of the home it gave our Thursday group! All our other groups will continue with you as normal, which we are so grateful for. Source: Unprompted feedback from a hirer via Email.*

Final Note

There are many members of the St Matthew's Church family who help to keep the building and grounds maintained on a voluntary basis.

They keep the grass under control, clean the rooms, put out the bins, fix things when they break, and organise workmen and other trades.

These contributions make a real difference to how the space runs day to day. Even our admin person has donated several hours of her own time to support this work.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 10 May 2026

Pastoral Care

1. At the start of 2026, we set up a team to help us to care for the people of our Church.

2. Everyone on the Electoral Roll was asked if they wanted to be included in this scheme.

3. Basically, our teams have a number of people on their list and if they do not see one of their people in church for 3 consecutive weeks, they give them a call to see if they are ok.

4. We have 6 people on our team, and they are doing a great job. So far, we have found out about a couple of people who were ill that we did not know about.

5. It is taking a little time to get the lists finalised, but we are pleased with the progress so far.

6. Thank you to all our Pastoral Visitors who are doing a great job.

Di Bebb
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 10 May 2026

Mothers' Union Fellowship Branch

1. We are a happy little group with 12 members. We meet every 3rd Saturday at 11am in Church. We are in our second year of being a Fellowship branch, which means we have no officers, no bank account and no AGM requirements. We just have a named contact for Head Office to send information to. We try to support Church by purchasing coffee from the Saturday Café before our meeting and by not requiring extra heating, as the Church is open for other things on our meeting day.

2. Over the last year we have had some interesting speakers, including Grace Anderson, Sharon Street (Local Historian), Nicky Beatty and Keith Tonge (a retired Prison Officer). We have had two Chippy Dinners at the Friary, and arranged a Sunday Lunch at the Chilli Massalla for all who wanted to come from Church. We have also arranged our own Quiet days and have had a couple of impromptu Sing Songs which was fun, and, of course, we had our Christmas Party.

3. Donation wise we have sent 5 bags of Education to the Door of Hope Charity for distribution through Eastern Europe and we intend to do the same again shortly. Donated Baby goods to Kids Club in Chester for inclusion in baby bags for New Parents struggling to make ends meet. Purchased 3 x £20 Mothers' Day Gifts of Practical Skills Training for young mothers in Rwanda. We raised £86.50 in a raffle for the AV Fund and recently held a coffee morning to raise £30 for Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary celebrations and the balance of £130.31 was given to Church to pay for our use of the building.

4. We would like to thank everyone who has come along to talk to us, or supported us in any way this last year, especially Jeb, Julie, Ian Magill and Maisie. I would like to personally thank every one of our members for their dedication and support of our donating and fundraising (even if they do think I am bonkers at times!) They never cease to amaze, they always come up with the goods and the help required on the day with enthusiasm and a smile.

Di Bebb
On behalf of St. Matthew's Mothers' Union Fellowship Branch.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 10 May 2026

To: APCM, St Matthew's Church
From: Philip James
Re: Annual Report and Forward Plan

Dear friends,

I wanted to offer a short reflection on the past year, and outline where things are heading as we move forward together.

Looking Back

This year has been one of steady growth, learning, and deepening relationships across church and community.

A significant part of the year has been my ongoing training with Church Army, which is now coming towards completion in July 2026. This has shaped not only my practice of evangelism but also how we are engaging missionally as a church—grounded in presence, listening, and building genuine connections.

Across the life of St Matthew's, it has been a privilege to support Jeb in ministry, working collaboratively in services, pastoral moments, and the developing vision of the church. Alongside this, we have continued to strengthen our links with School's and Community, welcoming visits into church and building meaningful connections with staff, children, and families.

There has also been increasing engagement beyond the parish. I have begun to build relationships and represent our context more widely across the diocese, including involvement with gatherings such as the Creamfields Music Festival, Sizewell Youth Holiday, local disability forums, and networks connected to Churches working together. These spaces are helping us listen, learn, and position St Matthew's as a church that is open, accessible, and engaged with the wider community.

A key developing area has been the continued shaping of *The Wired Community*. This has grown as a vision for creating spaces of belonging—particularly for those who are neurodivergent or who find traditional church settings difficult. Early expressions of this are beginning to take form through conversations, small gatherings, and planning for future hubs.

Looking Ahead

The coming year marks an important transition.

On **11 July 2026**, I will be **Admitted and Commissioned into the Office of Evangelist** with Church Army for the Church of England. This will then be followed on **10 October 2026** by receiving the **Bishop's Licence** that gives me the local licence to work as an Evangelist under the supervision of St Matthews's PCC. These milestones are not just personal, but part of how we continue to embed evangelism and Community more intentionally within the life of St Matthew's.
Moving forward, there are three key priorities:

1. **Deepening Local Mission**

   Continuing to build on relationships with the wider community, like " Fun in the Park" and Prayer Breakfast, and running "Alpha" with Rob (Local Baptist Church), and supporting the local church of St Luke's in Brinnington, creating more consistent pathways from contact → connection → belonging within church life.

2. **Growing The Wired Community**

   Developing "*The Wired Community"* into a more established and visible part of our ministry. This includes:

   - A regular café-style hub space where people can meet to talk, play, and start new projects together (The Wired Café Hub)
   - Creative and reflective gatherings (Soul Space Together)
   - Create a discipleship Space, people from all backgrounds, coming together to study the Bible together (The Wired Word)
   - Gentle, accessible entry points into faith and conversation (One-off Events in and out of Church)

   The aim is to offer a space where people can "Belong" before they believe, and where different ways of thinking and experiencing the world are welcomed, and we can all take this journey of life and faith together. I'm taking on a new role, becoming a Roofbreaker at St Matthew's, linking up with the "Through the Roof Network" that helps to put St Matthew's on the Map as a safe space.

3. **Wider Engagement and Partnership**

   Continuing to engage with diocesan and regional networks—particularly around disability, inclusion, and mission—ensuring St Matthew's both contributes to and benefits from the wider church's learning and resources and linking up with local support networks.

As always, this work is not done alone. I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and shared vision within this church community. Please continue to pray for this next stage, particularly around the transition into licensed ministry and the growth of *The Wired Community*.

Grace and peace,

Philip James
Evangelist-in-Training, Church Army
St Matthew's Church, Edgeley

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 10 May 2026

Toddle Time and Who Let the Dads Out

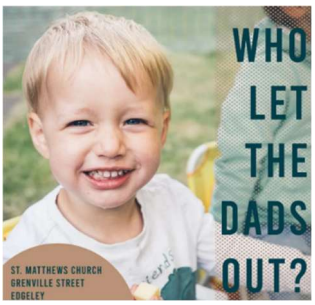
Annual report 2025 - 2026

Friday mornings at Toddle Time is still a blessing to us all, most of all, the local community. As one of the few groups open on a Friday, we continue to meet and greet over 30 families each week. We have a strong core of families that we see each week and enjoy watching the children develop as they become more confident week on week.

It was pointed out to me only this week, that we have a successful group because we ensure that all our families are made to feel welcome in an intergenerational group – parents, carers, grandparents, aunties and uncles. And that each of our children is made to feel important. A testimony to living through Christ - *…let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father…(Matt 5:16)*



Here are some of the crafts that we have made this year.



As well as our Toddle Time group, we have just celebrated our second year for Who Let the Dads Out – our monthly session for toddlers and their dads/uncles/grandads. This too has proved popular in the area, with most of our families walking to St Matthew's on a Saturday morning. We are part of a wider collection of dads groups in Stockport that support each other and ensure that there is a weekly group for dads in the area.

We love both of our groups, but neither would happen without the dedicated team of volunteers that give their time and support: Mike, Sylvia, Jeb, Becca, Joan, Sandra, Ian, Audrey, Doreen, Phil, Mesi and Joanna. We have also been able to provide some volunteering hours for three Duke of Edinburgh students from Stockport Academy. It's been great to have them with us. Thank you for all your efforts.

Karen Bailey

Combined Stockport Deanery Synod Report (APCM)
Covering Meetings: 25 March 2025 • 19 September 2025 • 19 November 2025 • 2 February 2026

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1. Synod Meeting — 25 March 2025

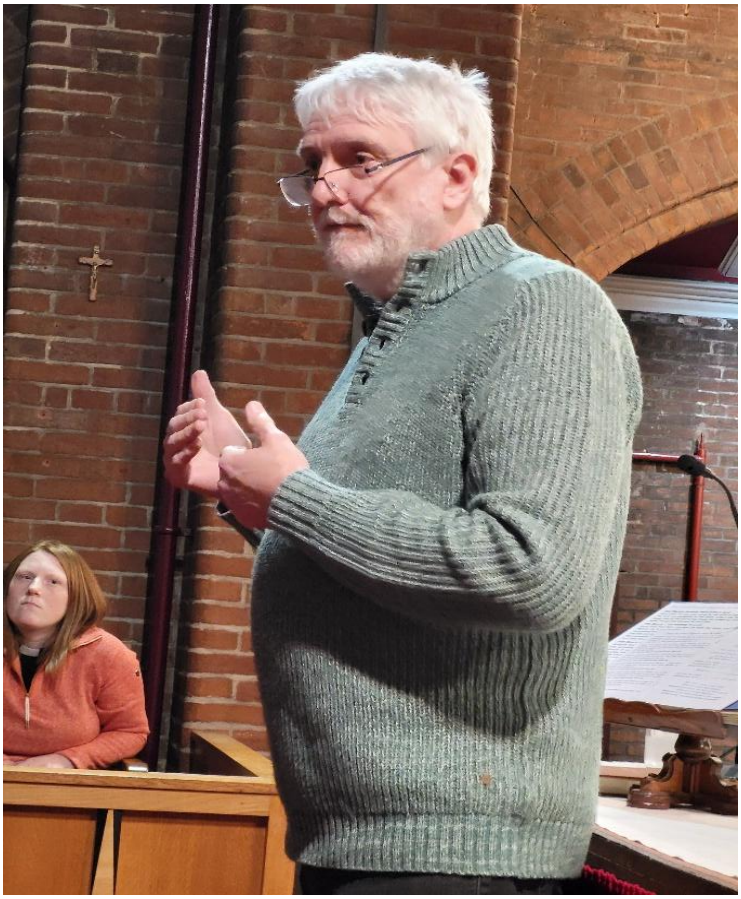
Venue: St Saviour's Church, Great Moor

Minutes

Previous minutes were read and approved.

Thanks, and Updates

- Elaine expressed thanks to Rev Josh Askwith (Norbury) for his work in Stockport and as a General Synod representative. Josh has been appointed Canon Pastor at St Asaph Cathedral.
- Elaine and Peter Hall were approaching retirement from their roles as Rural Dean and Chair.



- Elaine reflected on the joy of serving the deanery and looked forward to the appointment of new leadership.

Guest Speaker: Peter Hall — Bishop's Visitor

Peter outlined the role of Bishop's Visitors:

- Supporting non-clergy spouses following marital breakdown.
- Not counsellors or legal advisers, but signposts to support.
- Each diocese must have at least two visitors, listed publicly for confidential contact.
- Shared insights into the work of *Clergy Support* and the Edward Storey charity.
- Discussed challenges faced by clergy spouses, including loss of home, community, and support networks.
- Noted developments in guidelines since 2007 and the changing profile of clergy families.

Closing Prayer

Led by Rev Chris Blunt, giving thanks for Elaine and Peter's ministry.



A special welcome was extended to **Rev Margaret Lowe** at her induction at St Thomas Norbury by Bishop Sam Corley.
Attendees included: Patron Lord Richard Newton, Deputy Mayor Gary Lawson, Rev Tena Upton, Liz Gadess (HR Director), Rev Jess Piper (Rural Dean), Rev Heidi Munn (Curate), and numerous dignitaries.
The service was marked by warmth, hospitality, and celebration.

2. Synod Meeting — 19 November 2025
Venue: St Alban's Church, Offerton
Also attending: Bishop Sam, Bishop Othniel Gamutu, and Bishop Steven Koete (Acom Solomon Islands).
Worship: Led by Rev Marie Flint.
Summary of Proceedings
1A. Opening Remarks & Diocesan Updates

- Bishop Sam highlighted ongoing collaboration and Bishop Mark's intention to reduce the number of deaneries.

1B. Visit from Bishops of Melanesia
The visiting bishops spoke on:

- The history of the Anglican Church in Melanesia.
- Growth of the Province (10 dioceses across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia).



- The Melanesian Brotherhood and Sisters' work in mission, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.
- Climate change impacts on coastal communities.
- Prayer requests for resilience and mission.

2. Rural Dean's Notices.

(Kindley presented by Rev Paul Cumming acting Rural Dean)

- New Rural Dean expected to be announced by end of December 2025.
- St George's vacancy re-advertised; prayers requested.
- National clergy numbers projected to fall; parishes encouraged to nurture vocations.
- Safeguarding audit ongoing; "Speak Out, Stay Safe" materials temporarily out of stock.
- Diocesan strategy paused for "re-listening"; local clergy collaboration to continue.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

- Previous minutes approved.
- Chris updated Synod on motions to Diocesan Synod regarding funding for lowest-income communities.

4. Finance Report

- Balance: £695
- £100 compensation received from Lloyds Bank.
- No expenditure this period.
- Thanks expressed to the Treasurer.

5. Election of Lay Chair

- One nomination: **Julie Okundaye** — elected unopposed.

6. Diocesan Synod Clergy Vacancies

- Two vacancies; no nominations received.

7. Motion on Diocesan Strategy & Funding

Synod unanimously carried a motion requesting the Diocese to:

- Reprioritise mission funding.
- Apply for central Church of England funds.
- Resume progress on diocesan strategy.
- Improve communication with parishes.

8. Other Business

- Bishop Juli's *Sometimes* booklets made available.
- Secretary David Griffiths announced intention to step down at next cycle.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 March 2026, venue St Alban's

. Synod Gathering — 2 February 2026

Venue: St Saviour's (Feast of Candlemas)

Commissioning & Welcome



- Rev Jess Piper was presented by Assistant Archdeacon Lesley Currie to Bishop Sam and commissioned as **Rural Dean of Stockport**.
- Synod welcomed and prayed for **Julie Okundaye**, newly appointed **Lay Chair**, a special thanks to Rev Jess and Julie for standing in support of our deanery.

Prepared by:
David Griffiths, Secretary.

APCM, 10 May 2026

Report on the Work of the PCC in 2025

1. Reflecting on 2025, I am grateful to the wardens, PCC and everyone who serves the Lord and one another so cheerfully and faithfully. Including the year on loan from Marple I have been at St Matthew's nearly four years now, and there is much to be grateful for as we build on everything that is good from our past and look to the future with its opportunities and challenges.

2. PCC is integral to church life, and while it is not as visible as our Sunday services or other regular activities its discussions and decisions gradually shape the way we evolve. PCC met 4 times in 2025, plus an away day and for a Christmas Meal, where June won the quiz for the second year in a row!

3. Agendas are planned by a small standing committee and typically include finance, buildings, safeguarding, projects, Evangelist in Training report, a Church House update and a vicar's report to sweep up miscellaneous items.

4. It is very collegial and debate is respectful. We begin each meeting with a short exercise on how we work as a team and manage our time strictly to stay focussed on the jobs at hand.

5. Highlights from 2025 include:

    - Very positive progress on the audio-visual system, including raising the majority of £12,000 towards overall costs – a target now exceeded in 2026;
    - Making progress with the management and marketing of Church House, although more remains to be done;
    - Getting started on work to beautify the church grounds; and
    - Supporting Phil in his training and work in the parish, and backing Julie and Mesi to start Foundations.

6. Our financial challenges are well understood, and we used the last quarter of 2025 for meetings with the Diocese's Director of Finance and the Acting Archdeacon of Macclesfield to discuss our short and long-term options. Subsequently, we have appealed our parish share banding and asked for a temporary reduction in our monthly payments. We are waiting to hear the outcome of our appeal.

7. PCC also agreed a phased reduction in hours for our Community Development Manager, leading to her retirement in January 2026. Pam's work was exemplary, but she is still a valued and involved member of our fellowship. Pam writes,

    "During the final year as Community Development Manager at St Matthew's, there were three major public events organised, which brought hundreds of people through the doors - summer fair, Christmas fair, and the Community Open Day. Funding was secured for external groups, such as St Gabriel's, Friendly Fridays, and the Heald Green Community Apiary, as well as the Growing and Blooming project here at St Matthew's.

CDM supported Jeb through the process of creating a new vision for the church, as well as supporting Anna Rogers in her role at St Matthew's Church House. It has been a privilege to serve St Matthew's and this community for the last 14 years, and the thanksgiving service at my retirement was very much appreciated."

8. Our church vision – see below - is established and guides our priorities. In early 2026, PCC did some work on prayer and action priorities, and I will be following this up over the summer.



9. 'Fixing our eyes on Jesus' cannot be overstated as the most important factor in nurturing a healthy and mature St Matthew's; I encourage us all to do this, personally and collectively, in our homes, families, jobs and church-activities. Each of the coloured panels in our vision are equally important to ensure that our relationships with God, one another and our community grow in a balanced way.

10. It's important that we grow people in their gifts so new ministries will develop that share the gospel and serve the community. Seeing new areas of service emerge is very encouraging: the cleaning team, the Growing & Blooming work and Soul Space are great examples of members' ideas coming to fruition in ways that are wholly consistent with the vision.

11. PCC is not directly involved service planning but does approve the broad programme of activities for Lent / Easter and Advent / Christmas. We consider inter-church activities, such as Fun in the Park and recognise the importance of working with our local colleagues.

12. In terms of detailed planning, the church benefits from a team to that organises leading and preaching. Over the year we had several sermon series and balance this with regular lectionary-based preaching, contributing to the discipleship of the congregation and the development of the team. We are always keeping our eyes open for people to contribute to our services in a range of ways.

13. The worship planning team is working to include a range of styles and make our worship meaningful and linked to the service themes; we welcome input from more people, and we find use of a mix of live and recorded music useful to enable a wider repertoire. It was a joy to work with Christ Church Stockport and Stockport Baptist Church to host a candlelit carol service – a new and positive venture.

It remains my joy and privilege to be vicar at St Matthew's as we worship, learn and serve together.

Jeb, Vicar

There is currently £8.6k available in unrestricted funds. Funds were transferred from designated legacies (with the permission of the PCC) to fully pay the parish share. There will not be sufficient legacies remaining to fully pay the parish share in 2026. This problem will be compounded by the increase in parish share for 2026.

There has been a major income issue relating to the rental of the tower for the mast. The decrease in income has been the result of the parish not receiving rent for the second half of 2025. This has been the result of Cellnex changing subcontractors and the parish not reaching an agreement with the new mast services company. As of yet, no agreement has been finalised and mast rental payments have not been restored. This income source is approximately £8k per year; its ongoing absence has significant implications for parish finances.

Overall giving increased by 5-6% compared with the previous year. This increase was achieved mainly through increases in average amounts donated by members of the congregation. The additional donations have not been sufficient to cover the raises in parish share, or the loss in income from mast rental.

The fund for our community development manager was down to £1.1k at the end of 2025. Our community development manger has since retired as of the end of January 2026, with the corresponding fund depleted. The depletion of this fund and ending of the role was the result of the being able to secure further lottery funding due to increased competition and being unable to find sufficient alternative funding sources.

A new designated fund for the AV upgrade has been established, with this fund having a value of £7.3k at the end of 2025. This amount is not expected to be sufficient for the full costs of the planned works. Permission to proceed has yet to be established; it is not currently possible to expend this fund.

		£	£
Monetary Assets			
	Current Bank Account		
	Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	24087	
	Other Accounts		
	St Matthew's Vernon Account	596	
	CBF Deposit	14274	
			38958
Designated Funds			
	Legacies/ In Memory	2692	
	Flowers	282	
	Children's Church	578	
Restricted Funds and Grants			
	Friends of the Holy Land		
	Community Development Manager Donations	1119	
	Toddle Time Grants	424	
	High Sheriff Landscaping Grants	419	
	AV fund	7280	
Buildings			
Restricted	Church Refurbishment and Maintenance	18826	
			31621
			7337

Edgeley Cheadle Heath Accounts 2025

Bank Account Reconcilliation		Current Account	
Balance as per statement			
	31/12/2025		30,480.11
Add Uncleared Lodgements			
	13/01/2026	Collections	354.00
			30,834.11
Less Unpresented Cheques			
	16/02/26	Wellspring collection	27.10
201702	31/12/2025	Chelwood Food Bank	72.50
	31/12/2025	Childrens Society	115.80
201549	31/12/2025	CDM retirement gift	75.00
	31/12/2025	Parish Share Dec '25	5,543.20
201471	31/12/2025	Vicar expenses Mar-D	913.67
			6,747.27
Balance as per cash sheets			**24,086.84**
All Accounts		Current Account	24,086.84
		Vernon Account	596.44
		CBF Account	14,274.36
	31/12/2025	**Total**	**38,957.64**

Restricted funds		
	Church refurbishment and maintenance	18,825.53
	AV upgrade fund	7,280.12
	Grants for Community Development Manager	1,119.39
	Friends of the Holy Land	-
	High Sheriff grant for landscaping	419.02
	Toddle Time grants	424.41
Designated funds		
	Flowers	282.27
	Childrens Church	578.39
	Hardship fund	
Unspent Legacies(unresticted)		
	Used for Pam's pension	2,692.00
	other uses eg parish share need PCC permission	
	Total restricted/designated funds	**31,621.13**
	GENERAL RUNNING COSTS IN CURRENT A/C	**7,336.51**

Receipt & Payment Accounts

		2025		2024	
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources from Donors					
	Gift Aid Giving	40477		37885	
	Planned Giving	1558		1958	
	Collections and other giving	9795		5480	
	Restricted Collections for charity	927		1505	
	Income Tax recovered	11288		10441	
			64045		**57269**
Voluntary Income from other sources					
Grants R*	Community Development Manager	7500		21470	
Grants R*	Toddle Time grants			1095	
	Fund Raising events	1207		1849	
Grants R*	High Sheriff grant for landscaping	500			
			9207		**24414**
Income from Investments					
	Interest	2130		3084	
			2130		**3084**
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
	Fees	1701		2227	
	Church Booking Fees	1440		590	
	Church House Booking	7803		8490	
	Printing	5		5	
	Cellnex	5052		8260	
	Sale of items	36			
	Parking income	78			
	Sale of dartboard	45			
			16159		**19572**
Other Income					
	Legacy			1000	
	Sundry Receipts	981		1187	
	Vestry refurb contribution	25			
	Toddle Time contributions (non R*)	1576		1272	
	Cellnex mast survey refund	285			
			2867		**6325**
Buildings					
Grant R*	Reclaimed VAT (building work)			878	
Grant R*	SMBC (to mount memorial boards)				
Grants R*	AV Fund Donations	7280			
Grant R*	Building work grants				
			7280		**878**
Total Receipts			**101688**		**111543**

Payments

		£	£	£	£
Grants					
	Charitable Giving	990		1490	
			990		**1490**
Activities directly related to the work of the church					
	Parish Share	66518		60993	
	Ministry Expenses	6853		8566	
	Church Running Costs	9350		9035	
	Utilities	10200		10665	
	Church House Running Costs	1449		450	
	Cost of Services			0	
Grant R* part	Salaries incl. NI & Pension	21976		31506	
	Support costs & mission			0	
D*	Children's church				
R*	Warm Spaces activities/energy			400	
R*	Toddle Time restricted grants	191		792	
			116537		**122407**
Church Management & Administration					
	Fund Raising Expenses	294		310	
	Administration	890		944	
	Printing Costs	1789		1747	
			2973		**3002**
Other					
R*	Flowers	21		24	
	Sundry Payments				
	Toddle Time expenses	242		52	
R*	High Sheriff landscaping	76			
	Architect fee	285			
	Gas leak investigation	137			
	CDM petty cash fund	50			
	Vestry refurb	300			
	Cellmax mast survey			228	
			1111		**24**
Buildings					
Grant R*	Roofing Project				
R*	Church Refurbishment	695		2577	
R*	AV system laptop and projector bulb				
R*	Architect fee			759	
R*	Church House				
			695		**3336**
Total Payments			**122306**		**130259**

R*= Restricted Funds
D*= Designated Funds

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ending 2025 which are set out on the attached sheets.

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act

Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a view of the accounting methods kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that accounting methods were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or the accounts do not accord with the accounting methods.

I 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.

J.J.C. Freeman

Stable Court

20a Leigh Way

Weaverham