St Paul's Church
Grove Park, W4 3SB

Annual Report 2025

Charity Registration Number 1154708



Reports for the year ending
December 31st 2025

Parish Reports

The Vicar – Rev'd Caroline Halmshaw

The Parochial Church Council – Keith Embleton

Churchwardens – Charlotte Wellburn and Sam Hearn

Treasurer – Julian Tanner

Electoral Roll – Angela Collins

Safeguarding – Shelagh Allsop

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Report from the Vicar, Reverend Caroline Halmshaw

Our church building and our garden continue to be places where all people are welcome, those who have been part of our church community for many years as well as those who are new or rarely come. As I read the comments in the visitors' book, I realise how the presence of the church touches people's lives in ways that are often hidden. I'm so grateful to our volunteers who enable our church to be open every day of the year. Many people come because it is a place for prayer and quiet reflection and find that stepping into the church brings a sense of renewed hope.

2025 saw the start of my third year as vicar of St Paul's; I can no longer say I'm new! This year we started several initiatives, as well as ensuring the continuity of those that are established, in line with our Mission Action Plan which was finalised in 2024. The MAP has three main strands: children and young people; spiritual growth; and caring for the community.

Growing younger

It's been wonderful to welcome new people into our congregation over the last year, including a steady increase in the number of young people coming along to our services. There is a sense in the wider church that younger people are open to exploring faith and being part of the church, and it's been great to experience this here at St Paul's. We continue to seek new ways to support and engage younger people, including starting a supper club for 20s-40s, which showed us how keen this group is to support local voluntary initiatives, to have a focus on health and wellbeing, as well as explore our Christian faith and its relevance to their lives. Our youth group has continued to meet regularly, and a highlight of the year was when six members of the group were Baptised or Confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral in November. The youth continue to be a part of the wider church life, taking part in our new All-Age services and serving regularly.

Spiritual growth

Creating time in our busy schedules for learning and reflecting is always a challenge. Our focal points for this in 2025 were our Lent and Advent groups and two Parish Quiet Days. In September, we started the Growing Leaders course; what I particularly like about this course is how it combines building confidence in Christian leadership alongside exploring and deepening our faith. Barbara Studd joined our ministry team this year. Barbara is in her penultimate year as an Ordinand at St Mellitus College, and we welcome her participation and leadership in many areas of our church life.

Caring for the community

The garden continues to go from strength to strength and is a great space for bringing local people together. We have ambitions to expand the garden and improve the area that surrounds the church, and this work continues to be supported by a group of inspiring volunteers. Our core community events have continued: the Friday coffee club has grown in numbers throughout the year and our Stay & Play sessions for babies, toddlers and their carers is now meeting twice a week. We held a wonderful pet service this year, which

attracted a very welcome wide range of canine friends and their owners, some of whom were in a church service for the first time in many years.

Our fundraising efforts in 2025 not only raised significant income but were a great way to welcome many people who don't regularly attend church services at St Paul's. Highlights were the flower festival in May, the fashion show in June and our sell-out Mike Reed and Friends concert in November; all three events brought the wider Grove Park community together for fun and celebrations.

We said goodbye to our parish administrator Annabel Hughes-Parkinson in the summer, as she left to continue her studies. In the autumn, Angela Collins, who is also a member of our congregation, took over this important role. Many thanks to both Annabel and Angela for ensuring the smooth running of the parish office. I was also delighted to welcome Sam Hearn as a new churchwarden during the year, working alongside Charlotte Wellburn.

We were all saddened by the death of a stalwart member of our congregation, Carolyn Ashford-Russell, who died unexpectedly in September. Carolyn was involved in many aspects of life at St Paul's, from the PCC, to the choir, to our Friday Coffee Club and as a regular Welcomer at our Sunday services. We miss her very much.

Each time I've reflected on the year that's just been, I realise how much this church belongs to all of us, and that it's the dedication and energy that people give that enables St Paul's to flourish. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in the life of our church, thank you for your wisdom and insight, and for your support to me over the last year.

Parochial Church Council

Keith Embleton, secretary

Our role as the Parochial Church Council is to consult and co-operate with the vicar on matters of general concern to the parish, including pastoral, social and ecumenical issues, church finances and the care of the buildings and grounds.

In addition to general outreach, our mission this year has focused on encouraging the younger members of the congregation and the parish and engaging them actively in our regular services.

Also, this year, we have had our five-yearly review of building fabric, an environmental review, and a fire safety assessment, each of which has highlighted issues that need to be addressed, in order of priority, over the next two to three years. We are also developing the church garden as an attractive space for parishioners and the local community to enjoy.

PCC Members in 2025

Incumbent	Rev Caroline Halmshaw (Chair)
Churchwardens	Charlotte Wellburn
	Sam Hearn

Elected Representatives	Shelagh Allsop (Safeguarding Officer)
	Marian Armitage
	Claire Carter
	Sara Hodson
	Anusha Rajiyah
	Peter Ryan
	Simon Surtees (Lay Minister)
	Julian Tanner (Treasurer)
	Jane Theakston
	Robert John van Exter
	Bea Vickers
Co-opted Secretary	Keith Embleton
Co-opted Electoral Roll Officer	Angela Collins

Churchwarden's Report

Charlotte Wellburn and Sam Hearn

The churchwardens are responsible for maintaining the fabric of the church and Grove Park Rooms as well as the church grounds.

Roof: In the early part of the year, JL Roofing erected scaffolding to repair the roof at the west end of the church and above the organ chamber. Water ingress has halted since this work was completed. Chunks of plaster have now stopped falling from the ceiling in the organ chamber.

Quinquennial Inspection (QI): Michael Swords (Michael Swords Studio) was appointed, with the approval of the DAC and our PCC, to carry out the inspection. Michael was selected as the best of three strong candidates. His report was received at the end of July. He reported that the fabric of St Paul's was largely in good condition and well cared for and that the urgent items highlighted in 2020 QI had all been addressed.

The actions summarised in the 2025 report, and their suggested timings, have all been accepted. Significant progress was made in 2025 on those items requiring immediate attention, and those to be completed within 18 months. Progress on the remaining actions has continued in 2026.

The QI identified active wood worm damage to the wooden floor of the church. Quotations were obtained for the chemical treatment of the infestation. All the floors and the wooden pews were sprayed by Timberwise early in 2026.

To comply with new legislation the QI recommended that the font cover lifting mechanism should be inspected annually. Alternatives are being investigated but no easy or inexpensive solutions have been identified.

The Energy Action Plan: The Diocese commissioned and paid for an Energy Saving and Net Zero Carbon survey of the Church and church rooms by Energy Efficiency Ltd. The purpose of the survey was to help us "take the first steps towards decarbonisation" in line with the Church of England's Green Agenda.

The report focused on the alternative options available for heating the church e.g. infra-red heaters and air-to-air heat pumps. Grants are likely to be available for this work. These are being actively researched but the need to keep the existing heating systems working has taken priority. Serious problems with the heating of the church were eventually resolved and a new contract placed with our heating maintenance company.

The report also emphasised the desirability of converting the church's interior lighting to LED bulbs. The likely failure of more of the remaining halogen light bulbs and the impact that this would have on church events makes this a priority in 2026. It is likely that grants will be available for this work.

Asset Inventory: An up-to-date inventory, with photographs, of all items belonging to the church and in the garden was completed in August with the help of Angela Collins and William, her son. Their time, patience and attention to detail is much appreciated.

Grove Park Rooms: Roof works during the winter period 2024 has stopped the water ingress into the upper floor of the Grove park Rooms. Redecoration of the room and the stairwell was completed in March 2025 by Phil Robinson. In the summer, Keith Embleton refurbished and painted the two exterior doorways of the Grove Park Rooms. He also donated a new name sign for the main entrance which matches the sign boards in the garden. It all looks very smart.

Tree Works: An order was placed for necessary tree works in the church's environs; removal of dead trees, lopping of branches over hanging pavements and reducing crowns. Planning consent was not obtained for the works until 2026.

Low Level Vandalism: In common with other local churches St Paul's has experienced some petty damage to the interior of the church itself and the Grove Park Rooms. An external key safe was broken into and damaged. The Police were informed. Repairs were straightforward and inexpensive.

New Church Warden: Sam Hearn was inducted as a second churchwarden in September, bringing with him a wealth of experience in building maintenance and care.

Treasurer's Report

Julian Tanner

Income

Total unrestricted income in 2025 was £136,013, which represented a significant 18% increase over 2024. Service collections, donations and planned giving combined amounted to £56,129, an increase of 34% over the £41,842 raised in 2024.

Unrestricted income exceeded expenditure by £6,127 in 2025. This surplus was slightly higher than the £5,592 recorded 2024, but very welcome against a 2025 budget that had forecast a deficit of more than £18,000 for the year. It also reflected a year of some major costs incurred in maintaining the fabric of the church building and increased running costs.

Restricted income for the year was £7,507 compared with £28,408 during 2024, although the 2024 figure included a one-off donation for the refurbishment of the Grove Park Rooms.

Year-end total net assets, as shown in the Balance Sheet, were £684,474, compared to £680,158 in 2024. By far the largest element of the net assets is St Paul's Hall in Pyrmont Road, which is let to Toddlers' World nursery.

Fundraising income after the deduction of costs was £18,600 in 2025, 20% higher than the £15,472 raised in 2024. Notably successful fundraising events included the flower festival and fashion show in the summer, and the hugely enjoyable Mike Reed & Friends Songs from the West End concert in November.

Rental income from lettings of the church and Grove Park Rooms was £13,586, a 15% increase on the £11,845 revenues in 2024 and indicative of the improved appeal of the premises following the investment in the refurbishment of the Grove Park Rooms in 2024.

Electoral Roll

Angela Collins, Parish Administrator

Following the renewal of the Electoral Roll in 2025 (a task that is completed every six years), the current roll looks like this:

112 individuals, representing 69 families

The gender split is 70 female, 42 male

65 live within the parish, 47 outside

In the coming weeks, we will promote inclusion on the roll to new members of the congregation. This will be done via items in the pew sheet and newsletter, and also as a mention within church courses, such as Growing Leaders, the Pilgrim course for 20-40s and the Lent course so that people are invited to build their association with our Church. This could be done alongside a focus on Parish Giving as the two areas involve encouraging engagement.

Safeguarding

Shelagh Allsop, Safeguarding Officer

We have occasional actual safeguarding concerns to deal with and when these issues come up, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are a stalwart support.

But safeguarding is more than reacting to issues. The main business of safeguarding is creating an environment and ethos that make the likelihood of anyone coming to harm as minimal as possible. So we aim to have a consistent and constant process of ensuring that we comply with C of E guidance and requirements, which themselves are constantly developing and evolving. Barbara, one of our ordinands, works as a safeguarding officer in a large primary school and she is helping me with this complex business.

We need to ensure all the relevant people have up-to-date training; that those who need it have appropriate DBS clearance; that for all the various roles in the parish there is a role description and proper supervision; and that risk assessments are carried out for all of our activities.

I take opportunities to bring safeguarding thoughts to the fore. On Safeguarding Sunday in November, I used the sermon slot to focus on Safeguarding. I have visited the Youth Group to talk about safeguarding from their own point of view, and on another occasion, to discuss safeguarding in the context of the Welcomers role, with which they have expressed an interest in becoming involved. In every PCC meeting I make a safeguarding report and we also make space for a focussed discussion on an aspect of safeguarding.

Together with Caroline, Simon, our Ordinands Barbara and Anne, our church wardens and everyone who volunteers and supports us as a parish, we carry the responsibility of making sure our church is a safe place for every single person who comes in and I aim to make sure that everyone in the parish is equipped to carry out that responsibility. Please do make contact with me if you want to discuss any matters about safeguarding. I am easy to find. Usually here on Sundays and Fridays and very visible on the website.

Deanery Synod

Simon Surtees

The Hounslow Deanery Synod plays an important role in bringing parishes together and is led by the Area Dean, the Reverend Martine Oborne. Currently I am the Chair of the Laity.

Topics this year have included a brief on mission work, which focussed on a mission working with parishes in Southall. There was also a very good session on ways of developing Meditation and Prayer in the religious life of our parishes.

St Pauls is entitled to three places on the Deanery Synod. In 2025 the Lay members were myself and Carolyn Ashford-Russell, until she sadly passed away in September.

The year ending April 2026 has been the third and final year of the current Deanery Synod. Elections for the new triennia are about to take place. I encourage anyone in our parish and on the electoral roll who is interested in the wider role of the Church of England both in Kensington and in London to join us. Please see Caroline or me if you would like to find out more.

Reports from Working/Activity Groups

Coffee Club

Sara Hodson

Another successful year for the St. Paul's Coffee Club, which has run throughout the year on Friday mornings between 10.45am and 12 noon. It is held in the church where a host provides a warm welcome to all guests with delicious cake, plentiful coffee, and the occasional tea. For the first half of the year, towards the end of our session, Shelagh brought in the Stay & Play children and their carers, and the children entertained us with their action songs, which is always joyous. However, once the sun came out, there was more interest in the garden and so we haven't seen much of them latterly.

If you haven't yet joined us on a Friday, do plan it into your diary on occasion, bringing a neighbour or friend to enjoy the coffee, cake and excellent conversation. The number of regular guests has increased, an equal mix of congregation and non-church members, with more drop-in visitors who are walking past or who have a reason to visit the church. During the cold winter months we had slightly fewer guests, but as the weather improved over the summer and autumn, we welcomed more people and this has continued into 2026.

A big loss for all of us was the sad and untimely death of the marvellous Carolyn Ashford-Russell who was a dedicated host from the start of our Coffee Club. She always brought a smile, a warm welcome and plentiful cake on her rota days. Her generous volunteering and energetic welcoming style are much missed.

As mentioned last year, and with the loss of Carolyn, we need more people to join our rota of hosts. I'd like to thank all the hosts - Cassandra, Catherine J, Hillie, Jane, Margaret, Rachel and Rick - you have done a wonderful job throughout 2025 and our coffee club guests really enjoy your welcome.

Communications

Rachel Tanner

The St Paul's website, managed by Catherine Jessop, can be found at www.stpaulsgrovepark.com. It aims to reflect the values, mission and ethos of our church as well as providing easy-to-find, accurate and up-to-date information about our services. The Welcome/Home page always includes a seasonal message from Rev'd Caroline as well as all the events and services for the following two months. Visits to the site increased substantially in 2025; we regularly received between 2,000 and 2,500 visits a month, compared with 1,200 and 1,500 a month in 2024. To contribute ideas, content and photos to the website, please contact Catherine.

Our Newsletter was emailed to subscribers fortnightly during 2025, publicising church services and parish events. The number of subscribers grew from 120 to 128 over the year and we typically had an "open" rate of 40-45% each month. If you do not currently receive the Newsletter and would like to, please contact Rachel. Contributions and ideas for new articles are always welcome.

St Paul's boosted its social media presence towards the end of the year, when Makbule set up an Instagram account, stpauls_grovepark. There is a link to the account on the home page of the website.

In addition to online communications, Catherine continued to support all our services and events with her colourful posters, banners and flyers - a wonderful visual marketing presence for the church!

Fundraising and Community Events

Julian Tanner

We ran a very busy programme of events in 2025, raising more than £14,600. Enormous thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talents - a huge team effort throughout the year.

January	Quiz night - a fun social occasion and a great way to open the year
March	Bingo afternoon - eyes down! Produce bring and buy - delicious homemade treats
April	Poetry Evening: Spring to Life - readings and celebration
May	Flower Festival - this two-day event brought joy and many visitors to the church
June	Fashion Show - an outstanding evening of fashion and music, a huge success
September	St Paul's to St Paul's - more than 20 "pilgrims" joined the sponsored walk
October	Car boot sale - our stall at Chiswick School was very popular (repeated in December) Produce sale - seasonal produce sold out
November	Mike Reed and Friends Concert - Songs from the West End Musicals - a highlight of the year!
December	Wine Tasting Evening - just in time for Christmas! Concert, Joy to the World - a wonderful community event to round off the year

Garden

Isabelle Marks

The focus of work in 2025 and into 2026 has been to improve and repair the children's area in the church garden.

In 2025 we submitted a grant application to the local council to support the restoration and development of the children's play area. Unfortunately, this application was not successful. Alternative fundraising efforts were organised in order to move the project forward: a fashion show in June raised £3002; gifts from guests attending my birthday celebrations raised £1,128; and three large garden pots, generously given to me by my neighbours, were sold on Ebay and raised £450. We were also successful in securing external support from the Chiswick Flower Market, which kindly awarded the church a grant of £3,000 towards the improvement of the children's garden area. In total we raised £7580 last year to fund improvements to the garden.

The following work has been carried out so far:

- Repairs to the children's playhouse, including the installation of a new roof, and repairs to the small inner gate.
- Installation of a new fence and gate separating the children's garden from the vicarage garden, new fencing around the outside meter, and installation of compost bins to keep the area tidy and free of debris
- Removal of several large shrubs and overgrown planting to create a safer and more usable space for children.

Work in progress:
Levelling the ground to allow for the installation of a storage unit (garage) that will house the children's ride-on cars, bicycles, and outdoor toys.

Future Plans:
To create a walkway and designated play surface in the cleared area. A new bin storage unit in the area by the south door into the Grove Park Rooms is also planned.

The improvements made so far have already helped restore and enhance the children's garden area, with further development planned to make the space safer, more practical, and more enjoyable for families using the church grounds. A huge thankyou to Gwen, Cassandra, Shelagh, Jo, Lisa, Derek, John, Julian and Keith for all their help. New gardeners and volunteers always welcome!

Meditation Group

Sheila White

The group meets on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Church. Numbers grew in 2025 to around 15 members, although an average turnout is 10 to 12. Sue Shorter kindly provides us with her

gentle music, after which we have a short reading to help us to centre in our time of silence and stillness. After our meditation of about half an hour, we have a short convivial social time for those who are able to stay with us before we go home with, we hope, a little extra spiritual preparation for the week.

Music

Tom Torley, Church Organist

It has been another fantastic year of music at St Paul's. We are lucky to retain a wonderful choir who sing during Communion on Sunday mornings and at other special services. Their voices bring a reflective and spiritual atmosphere to our Sunday worship, which I know is greatly appreciated by many in the congregation.

At the beginning of 2025 we held our Candlemas Evensong, marking the end of the Christmas season. This was the brainchild of our wonderful tenor, Simon Surtees, who chose some challenging music for the three choirs of St Nicholas', St Michael's Elmwood Road, and St Paul's. They rose to the challenge to give a wonderful rendition of these beautiful pieces, my personal favourite being *And I Saw a New Heaven* by Bainton.

Over Easter weekend 2025 we joined forces with the choir of Christ Church, East Sheen, for two performances of Stainer's *Crucifixion* with some terrific soloists.

We sadly said goodbye to one of our stalwart members, the wonderful soprano Carolyn Ashford-Russell, who died in September. A choir of over 40 singers at her funeral sang some of her favourite music. There couldn't have been a more fitting tribute or testament to her than having so many people from the different walks of her life coming together to make music in her memory.

We again joined forces with St Nicolas' and St Michael's for a wonderful Advent carol service at St Michael's. And in January 2026 the three choirs performed a very special Choral Evensong at St Nicholas' to mark the retirement of Father Simon Brandes, a beautiful service, and all of us from the choir who joined will, I'm sure, remember it very fondly.

Our own Christmas Concert at St Paul's, Joy to the World, was another real highlight of the year. It was the best attendance we have had so far and the choir sounded absolutely terrific.

The inaugural Chiswick Brass Festival was held at St Paul's in February 2025, and the event was repeated in March this year. I would like to thank the church for all its help in getting the Festival off the ground. The event means a lot to me and it wouldn't have been possible without the support, infrastructure, and kindness of everyone at St Paul's. I really can't thank you enough!

To the last and most important note (pun intended): the choir is always on the lookout for new members! We welcome all singers, young and old. If you have ever considered joining, or know someone who would like to join, then please speak to me or Simon. We would love to involve as many people as possible.

Poetry Group

Sue Hearn

The Poetry Group continued to meet online, weekly, through the year. A theme is chosen for each session and attendees select a piece to share. The group is particularly valued by members of our congregation who are housebound or have limited mobility; we have a loyal following who value the stimulus, friendship and sense of community. We were greatly saddened by the death of group stalwart, Carolyn Ashford-Russell, in September. New members, or occasional visitors to the group, are most welcome.

Refugee Support

Rachel Tanner

The Refugee Fund set up in 2020 continued to support a group of women and children seeking asylum and living in a hostel in Hounslow during 2025. We provided access to Wi-Fi, a regular payment of £5 per week (rising to £10 in the summer) to each adult, and various emergency payments, such as grants for school uniforms, travel to refugee and church social events, and travel to hospital appointments.

We did our best to make life more fun for the children. Stephanie White arranged outings during school holidays, including attending a family workshop at Chiswick House in the Easter holidays, and swimming lessons for two 12-year olds during Spring half term. In the summer holidays we accompanied some of the families on the annual trip to the seaside organised by Refugees Welcome Hounslow. In September we helped four of the families attend a joyous kite-flying afternoon organised by Hounslow Rotary and arranged for one of the children to experience riding on horse. And in December, two of the children went to the Christmas at Kew light show and were very excited to be given some pocket money to spend there.

Three women who were granted refugee status during 2025 were given resettlement grants by the fund, to help them access private rented accommodation and set up their new homes.

In January 2026 we received confirmation that the hostel would close within three weeks, which prompted a flurry of activity to support the three remaining families who were moved by the Home Office to locations outside Hounslow. As the hostel has closed and people have been sent far afield, it is no longer feasible to have weekly contact with the women but we are still in touch with some of them and continue to offer friendship and moral support.

We are now considering the future of the Refugee Fund within the broader context of St Paul's outreach work.

Stay & Play

Shelagh Allsop

Stay & Play group on a Friday morning continues to be popular. As is the way of these groups, there is a level of churn; children grow out of it and move on to nursery, and new younger children join. At the moment we have an average of 6 adults attending with 1 or 2 children each so there are often approximately 20 people in the Lower Grove Park Room.

I usually run the group. A consistent face lends stability and predictability to the atmosphere. But I do have several volunteers to call on who are experienced and have DBS clearance to run the group if I am unable to be there.

The adults who come to the group tell me that they like it because the coffee is good, it is peaceful (we don't have background music although we do have a music and story section in the morning), and the group is small and contained. And, of course, our beautiful garden is very much loved and enjoyed by the children and their carers.

Sunday Coffee

Cathy Morgan

Sunday morning coffee continues to be an important part of our ministry as a way of welcoming new members and also enabling regulars to catch up with friends and offer support if needed. I would like to thank my regular helpers who are wonderful. As the congregation is growing considerably, to serve coffee to around 50 each week is no mean task! To my new helpers, thank you very much! Helping with the coffee with an "old hand" is a way of getting to know other parishioners and feeling included in church life.

Donations to the coffee fund have reduced considerably as we are now largely in a cashless society. I assume donations are made via the card reader by the door but this is impossible to evaluate. I am stepping down as the organiser this Spring, and very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in taking over this worthwhile and enjoyable role

Youth Group

Lucas Tanner

Youth Group met fortnightly during term times throughout 2025. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoons and led by Bea Vickers and Rev'd Caroline, with help from youth leaders Sophia Cook and myself. There were typically around six teenagers attending sessions, although numbers fluctuated throughout the year.

The remit of the group is to encourage young people to think honestly about the teachings of Jesus and to participate in worship and the life of the church. All teenagers aged between 12-18 are welcome, whether they are committed Christians or whether they are thoughtful, curious atheists who are searching for moral answers to life's big questions. Each session offers a mix of informal social time, some focussed discussion, and prayer.

In the Spring term we based our discussion on the theme of Miracles; after Easter the group considered the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection. There was lively discussion about

the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb and the challenge posed by the story of doubting Thomas. As we moved into June we centred on a theme inspired by 1 Corinthians 13: *faith, hope, and love*. In July we reflected on the primacy of love, the hollowness of other virtues without this fundamental grounding, and ways in which the Christian calling is not merely one of contemplation but prescribes action and service in our communities and the wider world. The ending of the academic year was celebrated with a barbecue in the vicarage garden where the young people enjoyed burgers and marshmallows cooked over the firepit. Bea Vickers, who had valiantly run the group since 2012, stepped down at the end of the Summer term. Many thanks to Bea for her dedication!

Youth Group resumed in the Autumn term, under the leadership of Rev'd Caroline and with support from our ordinands, Anne and Barbara, as well as myself. As most of the members were interested in Confirmation, we used the sessions to prepare for a Confirmation Service that was held at St Paul's Cathedral in November. We drew on the Youth Alpha Course to complement the sessions, finding their videos thought-provoking and engaging. Broadly, the course covered the following topics: faith and spirituality; The Church; worship and the sacraments; The Holy Trinity; Christianity and other faiths; Jesus' death and resurrection; and evangelism. Alongside the confirmation course, several members of the youth group began serving in church and contributed to the first all-age service in December.

This year so far, the theme of the sessions has been *The Lord's Prayer*. We have been reflecting on the prayer in sections, trying to better understand its language and meaning, and the ways in which we can integrate it into a fuller life of daily spirituality. Although two members of the group have unfortunately stopped attending due to other commitments, we have had two new boys join us in the same period. As well as lots of interesting discussion and sharing of ideas, there has been much fun had playing games of *Would I Lie To You?* and decorating cupcakes for Mothering Sunday. We are looking forward to the warmer weather returning so that we can return to the vicarage garden for badminton, table tennis, and football.

Final words from Rev'd Caroline

We are grateful to God for the year that has finished and look forward to continuing to serve him and our community in 2026.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, GROVE PARK, W4

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154708

St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Notes
	2025				2024				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments									
Voluntary receipts:									
Gift Aid recovered	7,781	0	816	8,598	11,724	0	0	11,724	3a)
All other giving/voluntary receipts	56,129	0	3,559	59,688	41,842	0	28,408	70,251	3b)
Charitable activities	2,940	0	1,988	4,928	1,945	0	0	1,945	3d)
Activities for generating funds	35,464	0	1,144	36,608	27,317	0	0	27,317	3c), 3g)
Interest & investments	32,194	1,270	0	33,464	32,216	1,413	0	33,630	3f)
Other	1,505	0	0	1,505	262	0	0	262	3e)
Total income and endowments	136,013	1,270	7,507	144,790	116,306	1,413	28,408	146,127	
Expenditure									
Cost on Raising funds	4,422	0	0	4,422	2,827	0	0	2,827	4a)
Church activities	125,465	0	10,587	136,052	106,887	0	24,954	131,841	4b), 4c)
Total expenditure	129,886	0	10,587	140,473	109,714	0	24,954	134,668	
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on the revaluation of fixed assets	6,127	1,270	(3,080)	4,317	6,592	1,413	3,454	10,459	
Gains/(losses) on the revaluation of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	(25,000)	0	0	(25,000)	5), 7)
Net income/(expenditure)	6,127	1,270	(3,080)	4,317	(18,408)	1,413	3,454	(14,541)	

Reconciliation of funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Total funds brought forward	647,473	28,050	4,634	680,158	666,881	26,637	1,180	694,698
Total funds carried forward	653,600	29,320	1,554	684,474	647,473	28,050	4,634	680,158

St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4
Balance sheet - 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	(5)		600,000		600,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income		750		0	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,168		100,782	
		91,917		100,782	
CREDITORS (Amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors		3,306		0	
Independent Examiner's fee	(6)	1,140		1,308	
Accruals	(6)	2,998		19,316	
		7,444		20,624	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			84,474		80,158
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			684,474		680,158
FUNDS					
General Funds					
- Unrestricted funds	(7)		53,600		47,473
- Revaluation reserve	(7)		600,000		600,000
Designated Fund (Fabric Fund)			29,320		28,050
Restricted Funds			1,554		4,634
			684,474		680,158

Signed, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

12 June 2026

Caroline Halmshaw
Vicar

Charlotte Welburn
Churchwarden

Approved by the PCC

Independent Examiner's Report To The PCC Members of St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Year Ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts of the PCC of St Paul's Church, Grove Park for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The PCC Members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC of St Paul's Church accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed by examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Annie Lee FCA
Affinia Limited
Chartered Accountants
1 Parkshot
Richmond
TW9 2RD

Date: 12 June 2026

St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP. Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report

b) Preparation of Accounts on a Going Concern Basis
At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

c) Funds.

General Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, have not been designated for a particular purpose and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Fabric Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are designated for spending on any major church fabric projects.

Restricted Funds represent amounts collected in respect of the refugee appeal.

d) Incoming resources.

i) Voluntary incomes and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received.

ii) Income tax receivable on Gift Aid donations is only recognised when received.

iii) Funds raised from rent and sale of magazines are accounted for gross.

iv) Income from investments

Investment income is attributed to each fund, based on the amounts invested and the time for which they were invested and are accounted for as part of the fund to which they belonged, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

Rental income from investment property is recognised in the period of receipt and is accounted for as part of General Funds.

e) Resources used

i) Donations
Donations are accounted for when paid over.

ii) Activities directly relating to the work of the church
The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

f) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments represent investment property for which the PCC are managing trustee and beneficiary, and from which the PCC earns rentals or holds for capital appreciation.

Investment property is initially measured at cost and subsequently at fair value at the reporting date. Depreciation is not provided on investment property measured at fair value.

(g) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(h) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

(i) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025

3) INCOMING RESOURCES

3a) VOLUNTARY INCOME - GIFT AID

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aid	6,650	0	816	7,466	10,548
GASDS	1,131	0	0	1,131	1,176
	7,781	0	816	8,598	11,724

3b) VOLUNTARY INCOME - DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	40,098	0	0	40,098	27,646
Collections	8,613	0	0	8,613	12,432
Unrestricted donations	5,730	0	0	5,730	238
Resticted donations	0	0	0	0	23,695
Candle fund	0	0	294	294	0
Refugee appeal	0	0	3,265	3,265	4,714
Stay & Play	79	0	0	79	0
Coffee	1,609	0	0	1,609	1,526
	56,129	0	3,559	59,688	70,251

3c) ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Quiz night	1,621	0	0	1,621	1,272
Bingo	209	0	0	209	324
Produce Sales	660	0	0	660	807
Poetry Evening	486	0	0	486	787
Sponsored Event	621	0	0	621	0
Mike Reed Concert	4,898	0	0	4,898	0
Car Boot Sale	517	0	0	517	0
Christmas Concert	3,791	0	0	3,791	1,991
Flower Festival	3,119	0	0	3,119	0
Wine Tasting	1,834	0	0	1,834	0
Fashion Show	3,003	0	0	3,003	0
Other fund raising	1,119	0	1,144	2,263	10,311

	21,878	0	1,144	23,022	15,492

3d) CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
PCC Wedding fees	1,056	0	494	1,550	326
PCC Funeral / memorial fees	1,834	0	1,494	3,328	876
PCC baptism fees	50	0	0	50	743
	2,940	0	1,988	4,928	1,945

3e) OTHER INCOMING RESOURCE

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Claim monies received	1,485	0	0	1,485	250
Miscellaneous	20	0	0	20	12
	1,505	0	0	1,505	250

3f) INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Toddlers World rent	32,000	0	0	32,000	32,000
Interest	194	1,270	0	1,464	1,629
	32,194	1,270	0	33,464	33,629

3g) OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Rent from Church	3,585	0	0	3,585	4,053
Grove Park Rooms rent	10,001	0	0	10,001	7,793
	13,586	0	0	13,586	11,845

4) RESOURCES EXPENDED

4a) COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds

St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025

				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Quiz night	387	0	0	387	31
Bingo	0	0	0	0	145
Produce Sales	0	0	0	0	0
Poetry Evening	0	0	0	0	0
Sponsored Event	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Reed Concert	77	0	0	77	0
Christmas Concert	3,639	0	0	3,639	2,097
Flower Festival	307	0	0	307	0
Wine Tasting	2,025	0	0	2,025	0
Fashion Show	592	0	0	592	0
Other fund raising	(2,606)	0	0	(2,606)	555
	4,422	0	0	4,422	2,827

4b) CHURCH ACTIVITIES

		Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
					2025	2024
		£	£	£	£	£
4b).1	Diocese & Church Services					
	Common fund	68,000	0	0	68,000	60,000
	Diocese & Church Services	0	0	1,988	1,988	0
	Clergy expense	150	0	0	150	1,884
	Sanctuary	674	0	0	674	631
	Organist	8,905	0	0	8,905	5,720
	Flowers	448	0	0	448	235
	Crèche worker & Children's ministry	0	0	0	0	46
	Visiting preachers	50	0	0	50	148
		78,228	0	1,988	80,216	68,664
4b).2	Grants & Donations					
	PCC donations to charities	0	0	4,313	4,313	3,539
	3rd party donations to charities	0	0	3,969	3,969	731
		0	0	8,282	8,282	4,270
4b).3	Property Maintenance					
	Cleaner	1,490	0	0	1,490	1,200
	Repairs and maintenance	3,405	0	317	3,722	30,906
	Sound system, Piano and Organ	861	0	0	861	0
	Major works	4,248	0	0	4,248	0

	Fire prevention systems	859	0	0	859	
	Heating system	5,004	0	0	5,004	0
	Church garden	52	0	0	52	500
	Cleaning materials	246	0	0	246	498
		16,165	0	317	16,482	33,104
4b).4	Insurance, Utilities etc					
	Insurance	5,323	0	0	5,323	5,629
	Utilities and services	10,871	0	0	10,871	5,306
		16,195	0	0	16,195	10,934
4b).5	Office Expenses					
	Staff costs	6,122	0	0	6,122	4,762
	Books and publications	62	0	0	62	153
	Printing	1,671	0	0	1,671	503
	Stationery	477	0	0	477	441
	Other inc card reader machine	0	0	0	0	168
	Telephone Costs	60	0	0	60	270
	Advertising and marketing	342	0	0	342	0
	Computer and Web costs	186	0	0	186	978
		8,920	0	0	8,920	7,274
4b).6	Professional fees					
	Book keeping fees	3,936	0	0	3,936	5,622
		3,936	0	0	3,936	5,622
4b).7	Other Expenditure					
	Refreshments	805	0	0	805	523
	New items	0	0	0	0	0
	Gifts	76	0	0	76	142
		881	0	0	881	665
	Total Church Activities	124,325	0	10,587	134,912	130,533

4c) GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	1,140	0	0	1,140	1,308
	1,140	0	0	1,140	1,308

5) INVESTMENTS

	Total Funds	
	2025	2024
Investment property	£	£
Valuation as at 1 January	600,000	625,000
Acquisitions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) during the period	0	(25,000)
Valuation as at 31 December	600,000	600,000

Legal title of the above investment property is vested in the London Diocese as custodian, but the PCC is the managing trustee and beneficiary of income earned from it. As such, the PCC recognise the investment property as a fixed asset at the reporting date.

Investment property is not depreciated.

"The subject property was professionally valued on an open market value basis as at 31 December 2024 and is currently valued at £600,000"".The PCC are of the opinion that the open market value of the property is equal to its fair value as at each reportingdate."

The PCC are unable to determine the original cost of the investment property. However, given the age of the property, the PCC are of the opinion that the original cost would not have been material to these financial statements. Any determination of original cost would not affect overall general funds, but the balance between unrestricted funds and the revaluation reserve would alter by this amount.

6) CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	
				2025	2024
Accruals	£	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	1,140	0	0	1,140	1,308
Monies collected for Charities	0	0	864	864	1,909
National Insurance	292	0	0	292	126
Christmas Concert costs	1,013	0	0	1,013	17,280
Refugee fund costs	0	0	830	830	0
	2,444	0	1,694	4,138	20,624

Monies were collected `at the end of the year for two charities were passed in 2026.

7) GENERAL FUNDS

2024	Unrestricted Fund	Revaluation reserve	Total Funds
	£	£	£
As at 1 January 2024	41,882	625,000	666,882
Unrestricted fund surplus/(deficit)	5,591	0	5,591
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) during the period	0	(25,000)	(25,000)
Transfer to restricted funds	0	0	0

As at 31 December 2024	47,473	600,000	647,473

2025	Unrestricted Fund £	Revaluation reserve £	Total Funds £
As at 1 January 2025	47,473	600,000	647,473
Unrestricted fund surplus/(deficit)	6,127	0	6,127
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) during the period	0	0	0
As at 31 December 2025	53,600	600,000	653,600

8) **DESIGNATED & RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Designated Funds £	Resticted Funds £	Total Funds £
As at 1 January 2025	28,050	4,634	32,685
Designated funds surplus during the year	1,270	0	1,270
Unrestricted fund surplus/(deficit)	0	(3,080)	(3,080)
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) during the period	0	0	0
Transfer to restricted funds	0	0	0
As at 31 December 2025	29,320	1,554	30,875

9) **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There are no related party transactions during the period (2024: £ nil).

10) **TRUSTEES AND KEY MANAGEMENT, PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

Independent Examiner's Report To The PCC Members of St Paul's Church, Grove Park, W4

Year Ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts of the PCC of St Paul's Church, Grove Park for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The PCC Members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC of St Paul's Church accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed by examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: Annie Lee

Annie Lee FCA
Affinia Limited
Chartered Accountants
1 Parkshot
Richmond
TW9 2RD

Date: 12 June 2026