AGM 13th July 2026

Chairman's Annual Report

This is the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2025, the eleventh full year since the Friends was launched.

The charity has been established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registration number 1161272, with the following objective: to preserve and protect St James the Less Church for the benefit of the public as a place of worship and such other charitable purposes as the Trustees deem appropriate.

A close working relationship has been established with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to identify improvements and modifications to the church which are beneficial in achieving greater use of the church buildings for both religious and secular purposes. In addition, the Friends are involved in raising funds to finance developments agreed by the PCC.

Membership of the Friends is available to anyone who supports its objectives and is interested in furthering its purposes. General meetings of the Friends are held bi-monthly to which all members are invited. Members are also invited to take part in the work of the various sub-groups. The Secretary of the Friends also maintains a database of supporters who wish to be kept informed of the activities of the Friends but do not wish to play a more active role in the running of the charity. These supporters are welcome to attend all our meetings but do not have voting rights. All databases are maintained in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

The three Trustees of the Friends are:

Chairman, Trustee and Treasurer: Paul Whatmough

Trustee: Rita Murphy

Trustee: Mel Winstanley

The contact details of all the Trustees can be found on the Charity Commission website or by contacting the Secretary.

It is the role and responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the organisation is run in accordance with its constitution and charity law.

Financial Review:

A copy of the Financial Statement is attached to this report and will be discussed fully later in this meeting under the item of the Treasurer's Report.

However I would point out that all the fundraising efforts by the Friends during 2025 were directed towards their agreed contribution towards the ongoing roof repairs and internal redecoration of the church. Due to this ongoing work it was difficult for the Friends to agree an events calendar for the year and it was agreed at the meeting of the Friends held on 11th November 2024 that the first business meeting of 2025 would be held on the 10th March 2025.

At the meeting in March it was agreed that the Friends would increase their contribution to the ongoing work from £22,000 to £25,000. Despite the difficulties in holding fundraising events this increase in our contribution is due mainly to the success of the 100 Club.

Events:

At the end of April and beginning of May volunteers from the Friends assisted the Parochial Church Council with catering at the Wray Scarecrow Festival and on the church stall at Wray Fair; a lot of baking, soup and sandwich making, washing up and hard work made for enjoyable and rewarding days.

Grateful thanks are due to Carl Hunter and Linda Ashworth who, at short notice, kindly offered to open their garden at Mill Croft on Saturday 24th May and donate the proceeds to the Roof Repair Fund. Never deterred the Events Committee swung into action to help bake and assist with the event and then due to a poor weather forecast, Carl & Linda offered to open the garden as well on Friday, 23rd May so it was all hands to the deck. The Open Garden at Mill Croft raised £678 which was immediately transferred into PCC funds.

Our next commitment was the Plant Sale held at the church on 7th June 2025. It was a great success thanks to all the hard work of the ladies of the Events Committee and to all the green fingered Friends and members of our community who contributed so generously with plants and their time. We were also able to take plants from Hornby Institute who had held a plant sale previously to ours and for a donation of £20 allowed to take our pick of their remnants. Stitch & Chatter kindly donated decorated plant pots and Rebecca Sanderson had samples of her beautiful craft items available in the Craft Marquee. Despite the rain we raised the tremendous total of £2004.50. It was agreed

at our July Business Meeting that due to the labour intensive commitment to this event by the gardeners in our community, this event would be held every two years and not annually.

Several members of the Friends also took part in the PCC event "Three Peaks in a Week". Pen y Ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside were all successfully climbed during the week commencing 6th July and the intrepid walkers raised in excess of £3,000 through sponsorship and were not deterred from their challenge despite the wind, mist, rain and a heatwave.

Members of the Friends also assisted at the PCC Annual Jumble Sale held at Hornby Institute on 13th September 2025.

Due to the repairs to the church roof it was decided that the Friends would not be able to plan for future events at the church until the PCC was in a position to clarify the completion of the work. However the ladies of the Events Committee met at the Wray Tearooms on Friday, 24th October for a coffee, cake and a chat and to juggle ideas for when they would be able to start planning again.

On Wednesday, 3rd December 19 members of the Friends enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Highwayman with good food and good company. Although not strictly a Friends event in December the Friends organised a raffle at the community event, the Christmas Sparkle, held at Wennington Hall on Friday, 12th December. A further £812 was raised with all proceeds going to the church roof repair fund.

As a charity we are indebted to the members of our 100 Club and its administrator, Sue Wood, for ensuring that our funds continue to grow to the tune of over £4,000 during the year and we are very grateful for her support and hard work.

Outgoings:

The Friends continue to raise funds to assist the PCC with the repairs to the roof in order that the structure of the church may be maintained as a community asset for the present generation and the generations to come.

Paul Whatmough
Chair

Friends of St. James the Less

Registered Charity Number 1161272

Financial Statement
31st December 2025

Prepared and presented by:

Paul Whatmough
Coach House
Wennington

Treasurer and Trustee

Friends of St. James the Less

11th Annual General Meeting, 11th May 2026

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statements relate to the year ending 31st December 2025.

The Financial Statements have not been independently examined because it is not a requirement of the Charities Commission.

Friends of St. James the Less

General Account
Income and Expenditure
Year to 31st December 2025

	2025		2024	
Income				
Wennington Hall Xmas Social	2,576.95		1,800.00	
Sale of Jam	0.00		42.00	
Plant Sale	1,934.50		1,022.28	
Afternoon Tea	0.00		920.00	
Open Gardens	678.00		0.00	
Donations	420.25		353.75	
Surplus from 100 Club	4,124.25		4,164.50	
Lost chqs by Barclays Bank	0.00		300.00	
Total Income		9,733.95		8,602.53
Expenditure				
Afternoon Tea	0.00		236.68	
Trestle Tables	241.20		0.00	
Open Gardens & Plant Sale	2,612.50		0.00	
Wennington Hall Xmas Social	1,765.00		1,800.00	
Lost cheques by Barclays Bank	0.00		300.00	
Total Expenditure		4,618.70		2,336.68
Annual Surplus		**5,115.25**		**6,265.85**
Represented by				
Bank balance b/fwd		28,338.38		22,072.53
Annual surplus		5,115.25		6,265.85
Bank balance c/fwd		**33,453.63**		**28,338.38**

Friends of St. James the Less

100 Club
Income and Expenditure
Year to 31st December 2025

		2025
Income		
	Monthly Membership	6345.00
Expenditure		
	Prize Money	1800.50
	Surplus & Donations to General A/c	4544.50

Balance Sheet
at 31st December 2025

Bank Balance	1930.00	
Less unpresented cheque	0.00	
Less Payments in Advance	1930.00	
		0.00