

The Parish Church of St Barnabas Southfields

Annual Report 2026

Sunday, 24th May 2026



St Barnabas Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church and the Church Hall complex adjacent to the Church.



Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to sustaining the liberal catholic tradition and ethos of the parish and maintaining a pattern of services rooted in Eucharistic worship, but in an open way which welcomes as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the church community at St Barnabas. The PCC reviews our services regularly. When planning our activities for the year, we have sought to follow the principles in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- liturgy and prayer; learning about the Christian faith; and developing people's knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- opening the church up to the community by sharing our facilities with as many groups as possible as a sign of the Kingdom of God

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Barnabas and the adjacent Halls.

Vicar's Report – Rev'd Vanessa Elston

My first year as the vicar of St Barnabas has been enjoyable and encouraging.

When I came to St Barnabas I inherited a growing monthly Children's Service, but it was felt that there was not much integration between the young families and the 10.30am Sunday congregation, so this has been a priority over 2025. A lot has been achieved here. Our regular 10.30am services have successfully integrated families with children, we have a thriving monthly Sunday School which has grown in numbers and volunteers, the monthly Children's Service has grown in attendance, and we have had a number of creative all-age worship services. Baptisms have integrated new families into the life of St Barnabas over 2025.

An early priority in 2025 was to support Rebecca Lea and her work with Sunday School as well as Pippa Fell and the Children's Service. I gathered the **children's team** on 24 February to plan for a **more established pattern of Sunday Schools, regular publicity**

and to grow the team of volunteers. This team of volunteers met at the start of every term in 2025 to plan Sunday School dates, special events like the Pancake Challenge, and to provide safeguarding and other training. This team has grown and continues to be a cornerstone of the ministry to families at St Barnabas. We were sorry to say goodbye to the Fell family at the end of 2025 but grateful for all that Pippa has done to promote the growth of ministry with families at St Barnabas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered as part of the children's team in 2025, and particularly to Rebecca Lea, Claudia Vaughan, Anna Wickins, Carina Dunlop, Charlotte Dunlop and Bethany Mather for all their work in this area in 2025.

A new initiative, which started early in 2025, was hosting **a monthly St B Girls' Group** at the vicarage on a Sunday evening. St Barnabas has a small group of girls in the upper years of primary school and early years of secondary school, so this provided an opportunity to hold a regular gathering around food, chat and craft, where their needs and spiritual growth could be attended to with Vanessa and another volunteer. This has helped to grow the friendships among this group and to provide a parent-free zone to discuss issues of life and faith.

We have **increased ways for parents to volunteer** via the WhatsApp volunteer groups so that parents have joined the Welcomers' rota, Hospitality and Gardening teams. I was very pleased that four of our families got places at St Michael's Primary School this year and one older child secured a foundation place at the Lady Margaret School for girls.

Another early initiative was hosting the **Lent Course** in the vicarage, 11 March – 15 April, which was attended by thirteen people, including newcomers to St Barnabas. We looked at the Apostles' Creed, with books by Ben Myers and Francis Friendship acting as support material. The evenings involved lots of discussion and were a great opportunity to explore issues of faith in an open and hospitable setting.

Another important initiative in 2025 was the **Flourish Campaign**, which was led by Jennie Allen and Krista Ovist in the Summer and Autumn of 2025. This had the aim of taking St Barnabas from a church that was just about getting by, still in recovery from the Covid pandemic, into a more sustainable and flourishing place with volunteers and giving. We have seen a small increase in financial giving and a great increase in our volunteering via the creation of a number of WhatsApp groups in various areas: Welcoming; Hospitality; Readers; Intercessors; Altar Servers; St B. Singers; Children and Youth Team; Gardening; Home Visiting and St B's Street WhatsApp to promote events. Growing and supporting teams in these different areas of our life is an ongoing priority, but the **increase in volunteering** has been an area of great encouragement. Part of the Flourish Campaign involved the purchase of two new **CollecTins** to make giving via bank cards much easier.

We have greatly benefited from the **Hospitality Team** providing refreshments at key services and Sundays where we have Sunday School. We hosted two community meals: one for our Patronal Festival on 14 June and one for Harvest Festival on 19 October. These opportunities for growing our social life together continue to be an ongoing priority.

The other area that is vital to our flourishing at St Barnabas is **music.** We have benefited from having Sandy May as our regular organist alongside Robert Stewart and were glad to add James Hendy to our list of regular organists at the end of 2025. Greg Skidmore has continued to lead the St Barnabas Choir in providing an outstanding level of singing at our monthly Choral Compline services and our Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We have also enjoyed the St Barnabas Band, led by Dominic Knollys, playing at three services during 2025: our Patronal Festival, Harvest Festival and the Nativity Service. In order to build the relationship between the choir and the regular Sunday congregation, I hosted a meeting of Sandy, Greg, Krista, Dom and Katie Ault at the vicarage on 30 June. This has resulted in the creation of a St B. Singers WhatsApp group to encourage singing on Sunday by sharing links to hymns and occasionally planning for a scratch Sunday morning choir. Rebecca Lea and Katie Ault paired up to provide a beautiful aria for our Remembrance service. Greg led us in an informal 'Caroling on the Grid' on 19 December, which finished in the local pub and was an enjoyable musical and social occasion.

Establishing a **regular Tuesday morning team meeting** with the church wardens, myself and the Parish Administrator has been an important underpinning for all our work together and for planning key projects and areas of work. Svenja Taylor was a key person in the team whom we were very sad to lose, and I was very relieved when we recruited Rachel Chandler at the end of 2025 to replace her. Ian Shaw started to join our Tuesday team meetings in the Autumn of 2025 in anticipation of his becoming a churchwarden in 2026, and Krista and I are very grateful for his support, especially with the interview process for finding a new administrator. Ian began working with me and Krista on a **new St Barnabas website for 2026** at the end of 2025.

Another priority has been **Safeguarding.** Early on this involved working with Suzanne Ross on the Safeguarding Audit that the Diocese of Southwark required us to do, updating risk assessments, and writing a new GDPR policy. Suzanne needed to step down from this role, and I am incredible grateful to Rebecca Lea and Tash Gourlay for stepping into this role in the Autumn of 2025.

Writing this report, I am reminded again how much has been accomplished in this first year of my incumbency. Jennie and Krista both played a vital role in inducting and supporting me in my first months at St Barnabas. I want to offer heartfelt thanks to Jennie for all her work as Churchwarden before and during these early days and, although it was hard to let her go in the role of Churchwarden in 2025, Jennie has continued to oversee

the Night Shelter, Garden Team, Flower Rota and to serve in many other areas of our life. With my dual role of being chaplain to Bishop Martin, the part-time nature of my role as Vicar of St Barnabas would not be possible without the incredible support and work of Krista Ovist. I want to finish this report by expressing my gratitude and the debt St Barnabas owes to her enduring reliability, patience, grace, intelligence and good humour, without which St Barnabas would not be the community we are.

Achievements and Performance – Rev'd Vanessa Elston (see also the Vicar's Report)
We conducted 13 baptisms. Vanessa officiated at 6 funerals: 2 were held entirely at Putney Vale Crematorium, and 4 entailed services at both Putney Vale Crematorium and St Barnabas. One young member received her first communion. St Barnabas hosted 200 plus pupils from St Cecila's Secondary School for a service of worship in the community on Ash Wednesday 5 March; all the year groups of Riversdale Primary School celebrated Harvest on 14 October with a special visit to the church.

Worship and Prayer – Rev'd Vanessa Elston
The focus has been on maintaining consistency with the inherited liturgy in 2025, along with providing occasional creative all-age worship services and specially written liturgies for church festivals and seasonal observances. Renewing catholic worship has included restoring the gospel procession, the final blessing taking place from the back of the church, and the congregation gathering on all three sides of the carpeted dais for receiving communion, with children receiving a blessing. Vanessa has played recorded choral music during communion to enhance the experience of receiving communion. A significant development has been the inclusion of families and children within the catholic tradition of worship at St Barnabas. Helping children feel at home with the provision of their activity table and toys has enabled families to feel truly welcome at the 10.30am worship services. Numbers have increased at our regular 10.30am worship services and now regularly exceed 50 adults and children.

The 9am Eucharist service was reinstated after Easter in 2025 and has a regular and loyal attendance of between 5-10 people.

In March we introduced a new weekly service of Morning Prayer on Tuesday mornings 9-9.30am in the Lady Chapel. This service is attended by 4-6 people and provides prayerful grounding for the team meeting on Tuesdays.

Advent and Christmas saw both innovation and continuity in the worship experiences we offered. Once again Greg Skidmore and the Choir of St Barnabas gave Southfields a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols that made Christmas happen with a joyful noise. Because many of our young families were planning to be away over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Vanessa provided an all-age worship on the last Sunday of Advent for which she wrote a

liturgical drama about Mary and Joseph and directed a Nativity Tableau. Even with many of our regulars dispersed for the holidays, our Nativity Service and Midnight Mass were well attended and raised money for the Children's Society.

An Advent Spirituality morning was held on Saturday 6 December at which participants explored the practice of Lectio Divina together.

Mission, Evangelism and Church Life

The Compline Choir is a key missional activity of St Barnabas, as it brings people from outside and at the edge of St Barnabas together with core members of the church. Numbers attending this service have slowly been growing over 2025, and the refreshments after the Compline provide an important social time for conversation, connection and building relationships within this wider group.

In April Charlotte Wright, a talented flautist among us, collaborated with pianist Lydia Newlands to stage a recital that was at once a fundraiser for us, a cultural and social event for Southfields, and an invitation to all to cross the threshold into the house of God.

On 6 May St Barnabas hosted freelance author Lamorna Ash in conversation with Bishop Martin and Rev'd Vanessa as part of the promotion of Lamorna's book about a new generation's search for religion: *Don't Forget We're Here Forever*. The event was well attended by over 80 people.

St Barnabas hosted Bishop Martin's Eco-Pilgrims overnight on 10 June, which included an evening gathering of local Southfield green groups to celebrate all the green activities that take place in Southfields and host a 'conversation about how we sustain local action on climate and nature.' Katie Ault spoke about the process of creating the St Barnabas triptych, and local writers Sue Chin and Jill Hopper shared poems and stories along with Wendy Rose. An outcome was a follow up presentation by Greg Harris on 1 July at which he presented his research on grassroots green activism across Southfields and Earlsfield.

Other key community events were the annual Southfields Harvest on 27 September and the Christmas Fair on 29 Nov. Both events were well attended and valued gatherings for local producers, makers and families. The Christmas Fair raised over £3000 for St Barnabas thanks to the hard work of Charlotte Dunlop. This year the SGRA hosted the Quiz Night in the church with Jennie Allen providing the bar to raise money for St Barnabas.

The SGRA continue to use St Barnabas for their annual general meeting at which Rev'd Vanessa was invited to speak, and their regular featuring of St Barnabas in the *Grid News* underpins the importance of this relationship.

Another significant Community event attended by many members of the Monday Club and wider community was the tree-planting ceremony in memory of Peter Jackson. This took place on 7 April with a special liturgy prepared by Krista Ovist.

Deanery Synod – Krista Ovist and Chloe Jones

Chloe Jones and Krista Ovist remained within their three-year terms as our two Deanery Synod Representatives. Elections for Deanery Synod Representatives will be held again at the 2026 APCM. The Wandsworth Deanery Synod met three times in 2025:

4th February at St Michael and all Angels, Southfields
12th June at Holy Trinity, Roehampton
11th November at St Anne's, Wandsworth

Social and racial justice were themes that connected the work and presentations of all the invited speakers at these meetings. In February, the Rev'd Canon Roxanne Eversley, the Diocesan Dean of Cultural Diversity, challenged Deanery Synod reps to discuss the concept of diversity in small groups and to reflect on how that term might apply to all of us. In June, participants in Bishop Martin's November 2024 trip to Matabeleland, Zimbabwe shared their experiences of this visit and asked Synod members to promote financial support in their parishes for church-led education and development in Matabeleland. In November, we heard from two speakers: Edward Woods of the relief NGO Medair and Reg Ampoah, the Racial Justice Training Resources Officer. The former sought to build relationships between Medair and congregations in order to make up for recent international aid cuts, and the latter made us aware of how we might organize unconscious bias training in our churches and work to implement the national church's Anti-Racism Charter.

Two additional events made our inter-parish relationships within the Wandsworth Deanery and Archdeaconry especially palpable and mutually uplifting: the Collation and Induction service for Vanessa on 26 January, in which several Deanery clergy played an active liturgical or ceremonial role, and the farewell service for the Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth at St Barnabas, Clapham Common on 7 May. These milestone celebrations made our shared life in Christ joyfully visible.

The Church Garden – Jennie Allen

St Barnabas has quite a large and somewhat "wild" garden that plays host to a multitude of insects, birds and, doubtless, other small creatures. As part of our eco-church ethos, we will continue to look after this precious green space in a sustainable way, but are endeavouring to get on top of some of the more vigorous plants, such as brambles, that have a tendency to take over. Our Gardening Group is slowly acquiring new members and we now convene at around 10.00am on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings of each month. With the help of local professional Tara Osman, we have developed a two-year

plan to get the garden into shape as a lovely environment for both humans and wildlife. Contact Jennie Allen on 07720731735 if you'd like to join us and/or be added to the group WhatsApp.



The Church Halls – Krista Ovist

We have four spaces available, and during 2025 they were used by various fee-paying groups such as Southfields School of Ballet, Cygnet Players, Teddy Tennis, Monkey Music, Osteopathy Pilates, Southfields Sings, Sing and Sign, Minijam, Whizzy Wonders, Perform, and Alcoholics Anonymous. This year we were especially pleased to agree a contract with a major new hall user, Southfields Physio, headed by Irene Albertson. With this addition to our regular users, our halls booking calendar is at near capacity, and the halls income stream is stronger than ever. Margaret Brett continues to coordinate the Monday Club, a weekly get-together for senior members of the community. As well as serving our regular users, we also provide competitively priced space for about 50 one-off parties and events every year. And we are proud to host events such as Southfields Harvest, the Southfields Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe and the Southfields Arts Festival. We seek to maintain all our facilities in a good state of repair so that they can be a long-term community asset.

Our Church Office – Krista Ovist

In her second year as our part-time Parish Administrator, Svenja Taylor maintained her previous work hours of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8.30am-12.30pm. She continued to manage our hall bookings, health and safety inspections, maintenance visits, and parish record keeping with exceptional care, efficiency and good humour. Her support in all these areas was especially valuable as Vanessa began her ministry with us. Particularly commendable was Svenja's oversight, with the help of then Churchwarden Jennie Allen, of our mandatory 5-year lighting inspection, which took place over three days at the end of April. She followed this up by booking all the required remedial work flagged in the resulting inspection report.

Svenja's people skills were highlighted by the dedication and responsiveness with which she built a rapport with a major new hall hirer, Southfields Physio. Owing to Svenja's patient work to bring SP on board, this new client has settled in well to our facilities despite a complex booking schedule and the need for specialized equipment (e.g. fixed ballet bars) and storage space. We have benefitted not only from the significant new income generated but also from a switch to this client's trusted cleaning service. As of

August we have been engaging DNK Cleaning Ltd at a lower hourly rate than charged by our former cleaners, allowing us to contract for more cleaning hours. This arrangement is a boon to us all.

On a volunteer basis, Krista Ovist continued to assist Svenja with other administrative tasks such as preparing the weekly pew sheet and occasional Orders of Service, postering, photocopying, managing banns applications, ordering supplies, paying in bank deposits, and organizing volunteer rotas.

Late in the year, we were very sorry to have to say good-bye to Svenja. During her two years of exemplary performance with us, she had been balancing her work at St Barnabas with a second part-time administrative role at Riversdale Primary School. With sincere regrets, she left us to take up a full-time position as Chief Financial Officer at Riversdale: a reward for her outstanding work but a set-back for us. Svenja gave us official notice of her resignation at the beginning of November. There are no flies on Vanessa, however, and by the end of the year we had hired Rachel Chandler in time for Svenja to train her successor before moving on. What seemed a disaster at first turned into a remarkably smooth transition.

Pastoral care – Rev'd Vanessa Elston

Two significant funerals at St Barnabas this year were those of David McCollum and Chris Brett, both held at the end of September 2025.

Vanessa has made some home visits, but due to the part-time nature of this post is aware that this area has not been as resourced as she would like. A new group for home visiting gathered on 7 September to consider how better to provide pastoral care to those who can't attend church, but this requires follow-up work in 2026 to be fully realised.

Ecumenical Relationships – Rev'd Vanessa Elston

Our historical friendship with the Ahmadiyya Muslin Association was affirmed in concrete ways. Mr Imtiaz Ahmed represented the AMA at Vanessa's Collation and Induction, offering personal words of welcome as part of the ceremony. Vanessa, in turn, accepted his invitation to attend the Big Iftar – the festive end of Ramadan – at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden on 15 March.



Imtiaz welcomes Vanessa

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2025 – Helen Hotten (acting Treasurer) and Alison Lambert (Independent Examiner)

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2025	**2025**			**2024 (Restated)**		
	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted and designated funds**	**Total**	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted and designated funds**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Income						
Planned giving	27,140		27,140	28,662		28,662
Income tax recoverable	5,767		5,767	7,166		7,166
Collections	1,779		1,779	7,202		7,202
Donations	4,823		4,823	3,562		3,562
Total giving	**39,509**	**-**	**39,509**	**46,592**	**-**	**46,592**
Grants	-	1,500	1,500	-	2,000	2,000
Fund raising	3,063		3,063	4,004		4,004
Banns	948		948	1,244		1,244
Fees	1,670		1,670	228		228
Hall lettings	69,956		69,956	56,362		56,362
Interest received	-		-	-		-
Sundry receipts	8,137		8,137	50		50
Other income	83,773	1,500	85,273	61,888	2,000	63,888
Total incoming resources	**123,282**	**1,500**	**124,782**	**108,480**	**2,000**	**110,480**
Expenditure						
Home mission	-		-			
Diocesan assessment	(45,000)		(45,000)	(45,000)		(45,000)
Clergy expenses	-		-	(1,065)		(1,065)
Utilities	(10,981)		(10,981)	(8,882)		(8,882)
Insurance	(7,955)		(7,955)	(8,179)		(8,179)
Music and organist	(7,005)		(7,005)	(7,951)		(7,951)
Church Sundries	(1,080)		(1,080)	(352)		(352)
Hall cleaning	(7,521)		(7,521)	(5,859)		(5,859)
Hall administration	(169)		(169)	(317)		(317)
Church administration	(12,606)		(12,606)	(9,532)		(9,532)
Office and stationery	(1,767)		(1,767)	(3,845)		(3,845)
Communications			-	-		-
IT	(2,102)		(2,102)	(1,155)		(1,155)
Building/major equipment repairs and maintenance	(16,910)		(16,910)	(3,029)	(6,975)	(10,004)
Church mission and donations	(857)		(857)	(448)		(448)
Bad debt provision				(5,808)		(5,808)
Other expenditure	(6,263)		(6,263)	(1,480)		(1,480)
Total resources expended	**(120,217)**	**-**	**(120,217)**	**(102,902)**	**(6,975)**	**(109,877)**
Surplus/ (deficit) of income over expenditure	**3,065**	**1,500**	**4,565**	**5,578**	**(4,975)**	**603**
Funds brought forward	19,292	26,897	46,189	13,714	31,872	45,586
Transfers	-	-	-			-
Funds carried forward	**22,357**	**28,397**	**50,754**	**19,292**	**26,897**	**46,189**

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2025	Restated 2024	2024
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Amounts due to PCC					
Income tax recoverable	2	11,118		11,030	
Church hall debtors		337		-	
Other debtors/accrued income/prepayments		-		-	
			11,455		11,030
CCLA deposits	3				
CCLA Building Project		394		358	
CCLA - Altar Fund		3		3	
CCLA - Capital and Building Fund		12,497		11,353	
			12,894		11,714
Cash at bank	4				
Main account		11,473		7,212	
Church Hall Account		5,267		8,970	
SFDS account		3,043		3,043	
			19,784		19,225
Fixed assets			6,621		6,621
Total current assets			**50,754**		**48,590**
Creditors amounts due from PCC within one year			-		(2,401)
Creditors				(2,401)	
Accrued expenses		-		-	
Total net assets			**50,754**		**46,189**
Represented by					
Designated funds	5				
Fabric fund			19,006		19,006
Ninds Trust Fund			1,500		-
Total designated funds			20,506		19,006
Restricted funds	5				
Hall garden fund			2,500		2,500
Piano/organ fund			3,555		3,555
Area Dean funding			-		1,836
Total restricted funds			**6,055**		**7,891**
General fund			24,193		19,292
Total equity			**50,754**		**46,189**

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Year ended 31 December 2025

Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with the
Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners and under the historical cost convention

Funds

The PCC's reserves have been divided into restricted or designated funds, where income has arisen with restrictions as to its
uses and an unrestricted general fund available for the general purposes of
the PCC.

Income tax recoverable

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Note 2 Amounts due to PCC	**2025**	Restated **2024**
	£	**£**
Income tax recoverable	11,118	11,030
Church hall debtors	337	0
	11,455	11,030

Income tax recoverable represents unclaimed Gift Aid of £11,118 which realtes to 2025 and 2024. In the year ended 31 December 2024 an amount of £5,808
was written off in the Statement of Financial Activities, as bad debt provision, in relation to amounts recognised but cannot be collected from HMRC.

Note 3 CCLA Deposit Accounts

The cash held in CCLA deposit accounts is available for PCC's general use.

Note 4 Cash at bank	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Main account	11,473	7,212
Church Hall Account	5,267	8,970
SFDS account	3,043	3,043
	19,784	19,225

Note 5 Equity reconciliation

	2025 Brought forward £	2025 Received in year £	2025 Expensed in year £	2025 Transfers in year £	2025 Carried forward £	Restated 2024 Brought forward £	2024 Received in year £	2024 Expensed in the year £	2024 Transfers in year	2024 Carried forward £
Designated funds										
Fabric and hall fund	19,006	0		0	19,006	19,006	0		0	19,006
Ninds fund	0	1,500		0	1,500	4,975	2,000	(6,975)	0	0
Total designated funds	19,006	1,500	0	0	20,506	23,981	2,000	0	0	19,006
Restricted funds										
Designated fund re Hall Garden	2,500				2,500	2,500				2,500
Piano/organ	3,555	0			3,555	3,555				3,555
Area Dean	1,836			(1,836)	0	1,836				1,836
Total restricted funds	7,891	0	0	(1,836)	6,055	7,891	0	0	0	7,891
General fund	19,293	123,281	(120,217)	1,836	24,193	13,714	108,481	(102,902)		19,293
Total	46,190	124,781	(120,217)	0	50,754	45,586	110,481	(102,902)	0	46,190

The fabric and hall fund has been in existence for several years to undertake major repair or improvement projects.
Ninds Trust funds can be used for general building and repairs purposes.
New Piano fund comprises funds raised in 2018 towards the cost of a new piano.
The hall garden fund is a donation from a parishioner to meet the costs of new plants for the church hall garden. We will review the continued holding of this fund, as the garden plants and landscaping were completed several years ago.
The Area Dean Fund has been transferred to the General Reserves as this was linked to the previous vicar and as such is to be classed as general funds.

Structure, Governance and Management

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

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Barnabas the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, co-opted members, and members elected by persons on the Electoral Roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to participate fully in the life of the parish.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

PCC Secretary's Report – Krista Ovist

The PCC met 6 times in 2025 as follows:

14 January
26 March
13 May
2 July
23 September
18 November

Our new vicar, Rev'd Vanessa Elston, chaired all but the January meeting; the latter was was co-chaired by the Churchwardens and focused largely on plans for Vanessa's Collation and Induction on 26 January. The PCC members continued to fulfil their role as trustees. The achievements and challenges facing St Barnabas were considered at each meeting, all large financial items were discussed, and safeguarding was always on the agenda. Our most pressing challenge remains that of covering our own costs through our pledge to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund. We have yet to meet this goal, despite much-appreciated responses to our Flourish! initiative over the summer and early autumn period.

Apart from the acquisition of a new incumbent, there were few changes to the composition of the PCC. Jennie Allen did not stand for re-election as Churchwarden in May but remained on the PCC as a co-opted member. Rebecca Lea stood down as Secretary, and Krista Ovist was appointed as her successor. Suzanne Ross prepared to stand down as Parish Safeguarding Officer by helping Vanessa recruit and train Tash Gourlay and Rebecca Lea to take over in 2026.

Churchwardens' Report (Fabric Report) – Krista Ovist

2025 was a year of renewed energy and will to make significant progress in repairing and improving the condition of our church fabric.

The combined can-do (must-do!) attitudes of Vanessa and Jennie Allen were unstoppable when it came to finally getting to grips with the technology traps and gremlins that had long bedeviled our sound system. First, Jennie tackled the app problem. When Ian Tattum retired, he took away with him the personal iPad on which was kept the sacred Midas M-Air app, which is *the only way* to control the sound system. This is mad, but true: forget those sensible, accessible knobs, dials and buttons of the past; now you need (1) an adequately charged iPad, (2) a passcode for logging into it, (3) a highly-specific app compatible with our equipment and (4) an understanding of how to set the app to receive its own WiFi signal independent of the church's WiFi – just to be able to adjust the volume on the CD player, never mind get the microphones working. Thanks to Jennie, however, these requirements finally came together, and we now have four church members who know how to launch and use the app (more should probably be initiated). Vanessa and Jennie then tackled the crackle – the fizzling static, sometimes accompanied by strange voices – that offended our ears whenever we switched on the system. In April, with the knowledgeable help of new member (and Mr Vicar) Tim Dendy, they consulted specialists at E & G Audio Visual Solutions, who diagnosed the problem: nicks in the cables that connect everything were allowing the system to pick up unwanted background interference. New cables were installed and seem to be doing the trick. It was a long and frustrating journey, but our sound system, which often serves the wider community for public gatherings and musical performances, is no longer a source of anxiety, embarrassment, and poor quality communication. A thousand thank-yous, Jennie, Vanessa and Tim.

Jennie also spearheaded the completion of the last of the high priority remedial works recommended by our last Quinquennial Inspection of 2021: she engaged R & S Roofing, a local firm with a positive work history for the church, to repoint roofline masonry on the west end of the church as a defense against incoming moisture. This work, which required scaffolding, was completed in late June. It had long been delayed as we awaited response from our architect regarding the proper mortar mix for the job. Our next Quinquennial Inspection is tentatively scheduled for 4 June 2026, pending approval of a new architect.

While Jennie was still in office, our mandatory 5-year lighting inspection was conducted by the original installers, Complete Electrical Services (CES), over three days in April, and Jennie personally replaced as many burnt-out light bulbs as she could reach on an ordinary ladder and for which she could find replacement bulbs. The failed safety night lighting along the Merton pathway into the halls was also repaired at this time, owing to her vigilance. In November, all mandatory remedial works identified by the inspection were carried out by CES.

In May, we engaged local handyman duo Guy Humphries and Andy Tyndale (of Andy-Guy) to improve the configuration of our storage cupboards to meet the needs of new hall hirer Southfields Physio. They installed shelving in the Patio Hall cupboard where the tables are kept and added extra shelving to the hall cupboard outside the Parish Room. These improvements have helped all our hall users keep the cupboards better organized. At the same time, Andy and Guy repaired damage to the halls entrance door and the Patio Hall doors leading out onto the patio.



From one big cavity to neat compartments

In response to our Flourish! call for volunteers, former Churchwarden, band leader and choir member Dom Knollys has completed a variety of handyman tasks that would have cost hundreds, even thousands of pounds to remedy otherwise. Among his gifts to us have been:

- stabilizing a loose wooden tread between the sacristy and the sanctuary (a vital safety measure for anyone carrying a tray of communion vessels between these locations!)
- resetting loose marble tiling in the Lady Chapel and sanctuary
- repairing the wooden scrollwork along the top of the altar screen in the Lady Chapel
- repairing wooden scrollwork on the moveable altar railings
- repairing a broken cupboard door in the Patio Hall kitchen and tightening up the hinges on all the others
- fashioning a new cover for the heating controls in the Patio Hall kitchen
- adding a handy knob handle to the broom closet in the Patio Hall kitchen
- repairing the flushing mechanism to the toilet nearest the Parish Room

This is only a sample of the many small but great cures Dom has performed by laying loving hands on our church. We are in awe, Dom.

Our organ suffered from a cipher (a non-sounding key) in May, which was duly repaired. We have the organ tuned regularly every six months.

During the Great Heat Pump Failure of Winter 2024 (see Annual Report 2025), our relatively new May of Berlin piano suffered damage. Extremely low temperatures caused the hammers to fall out of proper alignment with the strings. Accordingly, in June a technician from the firm A Hanna, our regular piano tuners, carried out extensive invasive repairs. Pianists have since remarked that the instrument plays well. The piano is also on an every-six-months cycle of tuning.

We acquired one new liturgical furnishing. In response to the Flourish! initiative, Alice Poole donated a new Gospel Book, given in thanksgiving for her son Alex. In November we purchased two Collectin card readers which, after the usual tech glitches with set-up, are now increasing the volume of Sunday giving. There were no other significant additions, and no significant losses, to the church's terrier.



Alex elevates the new Gospel Book

In closing it must be highlighted that, even after stepping down as Churchwarden, Jennie Allen has continued to be the driving force behind many projects; without her they just wouldn't have happened. At the same time, Ian Shaw has taken on many responsibilities even before standing for election as Churchwarden. His support in areas such as interviewing candidates to replace Svenja, website consultation, caretaking when someone was needed on site, and WhatsApp group administration has been a true blessing.

As 2025 came to a close, St Barnabas was under a full-scale pigeon incursion, with a pair of trapped birds swooping up and down the barrel vault during our Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. But that's a story for another Annual Report…

GlassDoor Homeless Shelter Report – Jennie Allen

Since 2016 St Barnabas has worked with London-based charity GlassDoor to provide shelter for homeless people once a week over the winter. As part of the Wandsworth circuit of churches, we host around 35 men and women every Friday night from November to the end of March. Volunteers cook and serve a hot three-course meal to the guests before they bed down for the night in our warm dry halls, looked after by trained GlassDoor staff. GlassDoor caseworkers are able to develop relationships with the guests over time and help them with their financial, personal and housing issues. Over 150 of the c. 450 guests who stayed in a GlassDoor Shelter last winter have now been helped into more secure accommodation. We are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who cooked and served, as well as to those who donated or raised money to help us cover our costs (largely gas and electricity), including Green the Grid and flautist Charlotte Wright.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report – Krista Ovist

Between 25 April and 9 May 2026 we conducted the first revision of the Electoral Roll since the complete renewal of 2025. This means that we reviewed the Roll and adjusted the total to be reported to the Diocese of Southwark following the 2026 APCM, taking into account new applications since the last APCM and deletions from the Roll for reasons such as death, non-attendance, or relocation. Please note, however, that we accept applications on a rolling basis throughout the year; the ER Officer must report a figure to the diocese each spring, and for this reason a cut-off date shortly before the APCM is set for counting new applications since the last APCM. Any applications received after the close of a revision will be counted immediately for purposes of the parish records but will not be included in the total reported to the diocese until the following year, providing that year is only a revision year (in renewal year, all names are dropped from the roll).

Printed applications and a submission folder are always available in church on the Welcome Table. The application can also be downloaded from the website at https://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk/join-st-barnabas/ and submitted electronically.

Notice of the 2026 revision was given as of 12 April 2026: it was posted on the bulletin board inside the Lavenham Road entrance, on a white board at the back of the church signposting an Electoral Roll Application Station, and on the Parish Notices white board behind the Giving Table at the back of the church. It was also highlighted in the weekly pew sheet and announced near the close of the 10.30am Sunday service each week until 3 May. The revision exercise closed on 9 May 2026, and a names-only version of the resulting ER was posted on the bulletin board inside the Lavenham Road entrance two weeks in advance of the APCM.

As of this APCM, the Electoral Roll stands at 77 (up from 67 at the last APCM). Of the 77 persons on the Roll, 54 are resident in the parish and 23 live outside the parish. It is good to see our numbers creeping back up again after last year's total renewal. Don't worry if you missed the revision deadline; you can apply anytime.

Safeguarding Report – Rev'd Vanessa Elston, Rebecca Lea (Safeguarding Officer) and Tash Gourlay (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)

We continue to follow the Safeguarding Policy of the Southwark Diocese, which is displayed as an A3 poster on the bulletin board inside the Lavenham Road entrance. This policy, and all our safeguarding procedures, can be downloaded from our website at https://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk/safeguarding/

New Appointments

Following Suzanne Ross's many years of dedicated service as Safeguarding Officer, Rebecca Lea and Tash Gourlay were appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officers with effect from November 2025. Rebecca is a longstanding member of the congregation who wears many different hats, and Tash brings professional experience as a Designated Safeguarding Lead in a school setting.

Safeguarding Dashboard and Policy

Since our appointment, we have, together with Vanessa, adopted the Southwark Diocese Level 1 Safeguarding Dashboard as our reporting framework. The PCC has adopted Promoting a Safer Church as the parish safeguarding policy, and this has been shared with all church volunteers via our WhatsApp Volunteering groups and has become an embedded feature of Sunday School. Safeguarding is now a standing item on every PCC agenda. Contact details for the safeguarding team are displayed in church, and safeguarding arrangements are visible on the parish website. Rachel Chandler, our Parish Administrator, has kindly taken on the role of keeping track of the DBS checks.

Action Plan

A Safeguarding Action Plan was presented to the PCC for approval at the last meeting on 21 April 2026, along with the procedure for responding to safeguarding concerns or allegations. The majority of required actions have now been completed; the main outstanding area is safeguarding training.

Training

Relevant training is actively in progress for all key roles - Parish Safeguarding Officers, Churchwardens, the DBS Administrator, and PCC members. Leadership-level training has been difficult to schedule due to limited course availability, but bookings will be made as soon as dates are released.

We are grateful to the whole congregation for their patience and support as we continue to strengthen safeguarding at St Barnabas. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any concerns at any time. Our details are on the website and on posters around the Church.

Administrative Information:
St Barnabas Church is located at 146 Lavenham Road, SW18 5EP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Church Office, 146 Lavenham Road, Southfields, London SW18 5EP.
Registered Charity Number: 1163989

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbant: Rev'd Vanessa Elston (from January 2025)

Churchwarden:
Krista Ovist

Treasurer: Helen Hotten (acting, from June 2023)

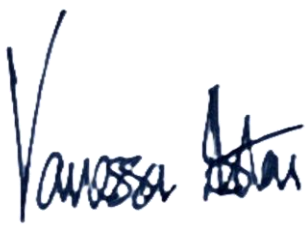
PCC Secretary: Krista Ovist (from September 2025)

Deanery Synod Reps (lay):
Krista Ovist (from April 2019)
Chloe Jones (from June 2023)

Elected members:
Suzanne Ross (from April 2018; Safeguarding Officer, until September 2025)
Pippa Fell (from June 2023)
Rebecca Lea (from June 2023; Safeguarding Officer, from September 2025)
Val Williams-Edwards (from June 2023)
Colin Carus-Wilson (from June 2024)
Bethany Wright (from June 2024)

Co-opted members:
Floyd Easton (2021)

Approved by the PCC on 7 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by
Rev'd Vanessa Elston (PCC Chair)



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A **Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees	St Barnabas Parochial Church Council		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1163989
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you 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 Trust's 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 my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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:		**Date:**	5 August 2026
Name:	Alison J Lambert		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Membership number: 7887760		

Address:	9 Kenilworth Avenue,
	London
	SW19 7LN

Section B	**Disclosure**
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2025

	2025			2024 (Restated)		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted and designated funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted and designated funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Planned giving	27,140		27,140	28,662		28,662
Income tax recoverable	5,767		5,767	7,166		7,166
Collections	1,779		1,779	7,202		7,202
Donations	4,823		4,823	3,562		3,562
Total giving	**39,509**	**-**	**39,509**	**46,592**	**-**	**46,592**
Grants	-	1,500	1,500	-	2,000	2,000
Fund raising	3,063		3,063	4,004		4,004
Banns	948		948	1,244		1,244
Fees	1,670		1,670	228		228
Hall lettings	69,956		69,956	56,362		56,362
Interest received	-		-	-		-
Sundry receipts	8,137		8,137	50		50
Other income	83,773	1,500	85,273	61,888	2,000	63,888
Total incoming resources	**123,282**	**1,500**	**124,782**	**108,480**	**2,000**	**110,480**
Expenditure						
Home mission	-		-			
Diocesan assessment	(45,000)		(45,000)	(45,000)		(45,000)
Clergy expenses	-		-	(1,065)		(1,065)
Utilities	(10,981)		(10,981)	(8,882)		(8,882)
Insurance	(7,955)		(7,955)	(8,179)		(8,179)
Music and organist	(7,005)		(7,005)	(7,951)		(7,951)
Church Sundries	(1,080)		(1,080)	(352)		(352)
Hall cleaning	(7,521)		(7,521)	(5,859)		(5,859)
Hall administration	(169)		(169)	(317)		(317)
Church administration	(12,606)		(12,606)	(9,532)		(9,532)
Office and stationery	(1,767)		(1,767)	(3,845)		(3,845)
Communications			-	-		-
IT	(2,102)		(2,102)	(1,155)		(1,155)
Building/major equipment repairs and maintenance	(16,910)		(16,910)	(3,029)	(6,975)	(10,004)
Church mission and donations	(857)		(857)	(448)		(448)
Bad debt provision				(5,808)		(5,808)
Other expenditure	(6,263)		(6,263)	(1,480)		(1,480)
Total resources expended	**(120,217)**	**-**	**(120,217)**	**(102,902)**	**(6,975)**	**(109,877)**
Surplus/ (deficit) of income over expenditure	**3,065**	**1,500**	**4,565**	**5,578**	**(4,975)**	**603**
Funds brought forward	19,292	26,897	46,189	13,714	31,872	45,586
Transfers	-	-	-			-
Funds carried forward	**22,357**	**28,397**	**50,754**	**19,292**	**26,897**	**46,189**

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	Restated 2024 £	2024 £
Current assets					
Amounts due to PCC					
Income tax recoverable	2	11,118		11,030	
Church hall debtors		337		-	
Other debtors/accrued income/prepayments		-		-	
			11,455		11,030
CCLA deposits	3				
CCLA Building Project		394		358	
CCLA - Altar Fund		3		3	
CCLA - Capital and Building Fund		12,497		11,353	
			12,894		11,714
Cash at bank	4				
Main account		11,473		7,212	
Church Hall Account		5,267		8,970	
SFDS account		3,043		3,043	
			19,784		19,225
Fixed assets			6,621		6,621
Total current assets			**50,754**		**48,590**
Creditors amounts due from PCC within one year			-		(2,401)
Creditors				(2,401)	
Accrued expenses		-		-	
Total net assets			**50,754**		**46,189**
Represented by					
Designated funds	5				
Fabric fund			19,006		19,006
Ninds Trust Fund			1,500		-
Total designated funds			20,506		19,006
Restricted funds	5				
Hall garden fund			2,500		2,500
Piano/organ fund			3,555		3,555
Area Dean funding			-		1,836
Total restricted funds			**6,055**		**7,891**
General fund			24,193		19,292
Total equity			**50,754**		**46,189**

St Barnabas Church Southfields

Year ended 31 December 2025

Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with the
Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners and under the historical cost convention

Funds

The PCC's reserves have been divided into restricted or designated funds, where income has arisen with restrictions as to its
uses and an unrestricted general fund available for the general purposes of
the PCC.

Income tax recoverable

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Note 2 Amounts due to PCC		Restated
	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Income tax recoverable	11,118	11,030
Church hall debtors	337	0
	11,455	11,030

Income tax recoverable represents unclaimed Gift Aid of £11,118 which realtes to 2025 and 2024. In the year ended 31 December 2024 an amount of £5,808
was written off in the Statement of Financial Activities, as bad debt provision, in relation to amounts recognised but cannot be collected from HMRC.

Note 3 CCLA Deposit Accounts

The cash held in CCLA deposit accounts is available for PCC's general use.

Note 4 Cash at bank	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Main account	11,473	7,212
Church Hall Account	5,267	8,970
SFDS account	3,043	3,043
	19,784	19,225