St Francis Church
Valley Park

ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET 2025



Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the

Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of
St Francis' Valley Park
and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park
Annual Report 2025

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through the following objectives. These will be expanded with reports from ministry leads to follow.

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;
- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, GP Chaplaincy, Community café, activities to support health and wellbeing
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

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Worship and prayer

Lead Ministers Report

This has definitely been a year of change for St Francis. Starting the year in vacancy, we looked ahead both practically, as we sought to recruit, and prayerfully. I had the privilege of being licensed as the new Lead Minister of St Francis in September 2025, and it has been a joy to see and discover the many different and amazing things St Francis does in mission and ministry in Valley Park. The following reports will explore many of these areas in more detail.

Carrying a church during a vacancy is not easy, and I would like to express my thanks to all those who helped, whether in small or large ways, during this season. Much of this will not be noted in the following reports, but it is no less appreciated and has made a significant impact on the life of St Francis going forward. We pray that 2026 will be just as fruitful, if not more so, than 2025.

Revd PJ Brombley
Lead Minister

Children and Families Ministry Report for 2025

Junior Church

Junior Church remains a lively space where our young people age 4-11 gather to explore faith. Thanks to the wonderful commitment of our fantastic volunteer team, we met weekly throughout 2025 (with the exception of our All-Age Services and the Summer holidays), welcoming between 6 and 15 children to each session.

Our journey through 2025 was defined by a variety of themes. We spent the Spring diving into the Parables, uncovering the layers of the clever stories Jesus used to teach us about God's Kingdom.

Moving into Summer, we followed the Life of Jesus, exploring the miracles and milestones of His ministry...our homemade strawberry and cream sandwiches were undoubtedly a seasonal highlight!

To close the year, the Autumn sessions mirrored the main church sermon series, focusing on the loyalty found in the story of Ruth and the prayer life of Jesus.

Each session follows a familiar and fun pattern, beginning with free play with the activity box before moving into games and storytelling to delve deeper into the day's theme, always looking for a practical application so the children can see how the teaching fits into their everyday lives. The children throw themselves into discussions and bring unique insights and vibrant inquisitiveness to the topics!

Creativity is at the heart of what we do; through various crafts and activities, the children have opportunities to express their individual creativeness.
None of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers who lead, nurture and inspire our young people every week. We are so grateful for your time and commitment to this ministry!
Please join us in praying that Junior Church continues to flourish, creating a space where every child can truly discover, embrace, and grow in their personal journey with Jesus.

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to be a vibrant space of celebration and creativity, where conversation, laughter, and faith are shared over plenty of cake and fun.
Reflecting on 2025, we enjoyed 11 lively sessions exploring broad themes, from the loyalty of Naomi and Ruth (March) and the comfort of the Good Shepherd (October) to the life-changing promise of hope in Jeremiah 29:11 (November). We celebrated being "fearfully and wonderfully made" in July (Psalm 139:14) and discovered that, like those on the Emmaus Road, we can find Jesus in the most surprising places (May). Of course, we celebrated Easter, Pentecost and Christmas too!
Each service kicks off with an hour of hands-on crafts where washi-tape, paint and food-based activities are always a hit before we move into the Celebration which is a time of teaching and worship. Whether we are using the Storyteller Bible videos, acting out the story or conducting science experiments, we aim to keep the message relevant and engaging. We always sing, pray and finish with plenty of homemade cake and chat!
The Calm Zone remains a peaceful retreat for gentle sensory stimulation or some quiet time. In 2025, we saw lovely growth in families with younger children and an increased crossover with our Footprints community.
None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers—from the bakers and creatives to the tidy-up crew. We are so grateful for your time and dedication!
We ask for your prayers that Messy Church strengthens family bonds with God and creates opportunities for new journeys of faith to begin.

Hannah Hiscock

Children & Families Minister

Crèche

We are delighted to say that in 2025 we have seen more children in the crèche, and have seven little ones who come regularly. We have adapted our mornings to meet their needs. There are also many visiting children who we are pleased to see.
Our primary objective is to welcome them into our church family and to help them feel safe and secure as we build relationships with them.

The crèche room is well used not only on Sunday morning but for the Wednesday Café children too. We continue to provide a selection of age-appropriate toys and resources. The large noticeboard will be updated, very soon!
Thank you to the members of the church who have stepped up while I recovered from surgery. They enabled the crèche to continue running smoothly and calmly.
We thank God for answering our prayers as we enjoy welcoming children into our crèche. Please continue to pray for us this year, that we can show Jesus' love to each child. Thank you.
Sue Bowles

Sung Worship

2025 was another busy year for our musicians and our team has now grown to 9 musicians and 7 singers, with Elliott Frisby and Loz Warner additionally helping out especially around the Christmas period. We welcomed Emma Locke and Terri Ridge to our singers and Jon Ridge on guitar.
Regular practices have restarted following increased demands elsewhere during the vacancy. We learn new songs to introduce to the church as and when it feels appropriate, iron out technical problems (sometimes AV!) and spend time worshipping together. The focus, whilst playing and singing skilfully is important, is always on lifting our hearts and voices to God and leading others closer to Him. With PJ's arrival we've also thought about the progression between songs, including the links between them.
Thanks especially to Suzanne and Rachael for their work in choosing and leading sung worship and to the whole team for their faithfulness throughout the year.
It is always a joy to play and sing together and I want to thank the church for their encouragement and for their honesty when they have feedback that's less glowing!
Stephanie Barlow

Worship

2025 started while we were still in vacancy and beginning the process of looking for a new Lead Minister. We continued our established patterns of worship, primarily overseen by Revd Nick Grew and Revd Steve Williams.

Regular services include:

- Said Communion weekly on Sundays at 8:30am
- Morning Worship weekly on Sundays at 10am
    - with crèche, Junior Church, and Youth most Sundays
    - with Communion services monthly
    - this service is broadcast on Zoom
- Messy Church monthly on Sundays at 3pm
- Morning Communion monthly on the second Monday
- Services with Communion at Brendon Care residential home
- Home groups throughout the week (see separate report)

Our different services are led by a dedicated Ministry Team, consisting of lay people as well as ordained ministers. In September 2025, Revd PJ Brombley was licensed as the new Lead Minister and took on oversight of our worshipping life.

Revd PJ Brombley
Lead Minister

Youth Group

The youth group continues to grow in number, meeting on Monday evenings and 2nd and 3rd Sunday mornings each month during term time. We use material from Urban Saints and The Bible Project for our sessions and often follow the theme of the whole church teaching. At the beginning of 2025 we ran Youth Alpha which was excellent and generated lots of questions. As leaders we enjoy engaging with the young people, chatting, learning about and discovering Jesus, and living out our faith. In the summer we invited the St Boniface Youth Group to join us for an evening of games and pizza. We then went to them in December for a Christmas party. Please pray for the young people as they grow in their relationship with Jesus and for more adults who may feel called to get involved with youth work.

Fiona, Lou, Phil and Sam

Pastoral Care

Homegroup

What springs to mind when you read the term, 'Home-group' or 'House-group'? I realise it can sound rather vague and 'magnolia'! Some churches adopt different names, such as 'Life-groups', that give a bit more feel about their purpose and importance.

When Jesus called the 12 disciples, Mark says he wanted them to be with him and to be sent out by him [Mark 3:14].

Over the next 3 years Jesus equipped the 12 as his disciples by letting them spend time with him, by being taught by him, and in learning through being given responsibility.

In many ways, whatever you call them, homegroups centre upon being disciples of Jesus and that involves learning together more about God [up], sharing the challenges of our journey together [in], and working out together how to live as God's children among the people we rub shoulders with every day [out].

Currently we have 7 groups in our church with over 80 people in them. Some meet in the evening, some meet during the day. Some only meet face-to-face while others use *Zoom* to a greater or lesser extent. Groups tend to meet weekly or fortnightly. The most frequent focus is Bible study but sometimes they follow a theme such as prayer or worship or politics.

We'd love more people to be in a group, and we'd love to generate more groups with a wider range of styles and formats. For example, the most recent group meets monthly and centres around young families. Are you interested? Do you have suggestions to share/offer? Do get in touch with me or PJ!

Nick Grew

Mission & Outreach

Café

Both Monday and Wednesday cafes are busy with church family and those from the wider community. Mondays seem to host mostly adults, although children sometimes come when the schools are closed and there are plenty of things to keep them entertained. On Wednesday the cafe opens early and provides a welcoming space for parents and carers to catch up with each other straight after the school drop off.

There are crafts for younger children which Margaret organises and these are very popular. On both Monday and Wednesday mornings there is a quiz which is put together by Dave. It is extremely popular and gets quite competitive! We are always looking for more volunteers to make and serve drinks and chat to our visitors, so if you think this may be you then do let us know.

Footprints

As we look back on 2025, Footprints has blossomed into a established community. Throughout the year, we've had the joy of welcoming new families while also saying fond farewells to those moving on as parents returned to work. We made the most of the summer sunshine and held sessions in the garden which was a lot of fun!

A particular highlight since April has been welcoming a Complex Needs Health Visitor, Ceri, once a month, providing invaluable professional support and saving our families, and Ceri, multiple home visits.

Footprints remains a dedicated, safe space where children with additional needs can play without barriers. We've been delighted to watch a powerful sense of community take root; our regulars have formed their own WhatsApp group and often meet up during the week to share resources and support. While Footprints isn't a formal faith-based group, its core values are deeply rooted in love and care, and we've seen a wonderful cross over of families coming to Messy Church.

The group wouldn't be the same without our eight fabulous volunteers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make every session happen. They do everything from setting up the play resources and supporting the children in their games to offering a compassionate, listening ear to parents and carers. Whether they are making drinks, leading crafts, reading stories, getting elbow deep in shaving foam, singing songs, or operating the bubble machine, they are the friendly faces that make everyone feel they truly belong.

We are so excited to see what our third year has in store! We would love for you to join us in praying that this group continues to thrive and that every family in need of our community finds their way to our doors.

Hannah Hiscock
Children & Families Minister

Mission Partners (MPs)

A team tasked with identifying which charities would be supported by SFVP was set up in 2023/24. It was agreed that we would financially donate at the end of years 2024, 2025 and 2026. The following charities were chosen and if you wish to know more, do speak to the respective Reps.

1. **Fledge** is a local charity nurturing vulnerable and homeless young people by providing a home environment, offering long-term support and encouraging healthy relationships info. For further up-to-date info, speak to ***Ian Clarke***

2. **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** is a UK based charity specialising in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty. It also provides job clubs for those seeking employment, life skills groups to help people live well on a low income, and money coaching workshops to equip people with essential budgeting skills. Our closest CAP office is in Eastleigh. For further up-to-date info, speak to ***Caroline Gough***.

3. **Eastleigh Basics Bank was** set up in May 2011 by the churches of Eastleigh to support those experiencing financial difficulty and needing short term support through the provision of food and other essentials such as toiletries. Several people from SFVP volunteer their time to help at Eastleigh Basics Bank. For further up-to-date info, speak to ***David Gurr***.

4. **Through the Roof (TTR)** is a Christian charity for disabled people. It supports churches to be more aware and inclusive of those with disabilities through its Roofbreakers programme, which we are part of. In addition, they have overseas missions distributing reconditioned wheelchairs to developing countries and also take their inclusivity training to churches abroad. For further up-to-date info, speak to ***Christine Grew***.

5. **International Justice Mission (IJM)** is a global organisation that protects people in poverty from human trafficking, modern-day slavery, violence and police abuse of power. They work with local justice systems and social services around the world to rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, support survivors, and build safe communities. For further up-to-date info, speak to ***Katie Warner*** *and* ***Rogerio Ramos***.

6. **A Rocha** is a global family of conservation organisations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise. Its starting point is to help us examine how we are doing as a church in caring for creation and how we can improve. For info relating to our new eco lighting and solar panels, speak to Jonathan Estabrook. For further info about A Rocha, speak to ***Christine Grew***.

The last speaker we had was in January 2025 by Jonny Goodchild of IJM who gave an enthusiastic and informative description of IJM's work. Until recently we had a designated Mission Partners Board. This has now been replaced with general church notices but there are thank you letters from some of the charities we support.
A further assessment concerning which MPs to support will need to take place in 2026.
Christine Grew

Working with St Francis C of E Primary School

Throughout 2025, we welcomed St Francis school into the church once a month for collective worship, exploring Bible stories that align with their core school values. The children consistently engage with these sessions with great enthusiasm and a wonderful readiness to participate!

Our seasonal services with St Francis School have been particular highlights of the year, starting in April when Christian Voice led an expressive service for pupils and parents, using poetry and vibrant colourful banners to share the Easter story. In November, we gathered for a dedicated Remembrance service. To close the year, Christian Voice retold the Nativity story during our Christmas worship, bringing the story to life for the whole school community.

Beyond these services, in July, I spent several afternoons assisting St Francis School Year 3s with a sewing project; this provided a valuable space for informal conversation and building rapport with the children.

In October, I visited Knightwood School to talk to both the Year 3 classes about The Bible as part of their curriculum topic on Special Books. The children asked brilliant questions and enjoyed looking at a variety of Bibles, The Minecraft Bible was a particular hit!

We remain very grateful to both schools for their ongoing support in promoting our church-led family events.

Hannah Hiscock
Children & Families Minister

Healing & Wholeness

GP Chaplaincy

The GP Chaplaincy service provided for St Francis Surgery on behalf of St Francis Church continues and is now in its seventh year!

Looking back at last year's report has made me realise with huge thankfulness how many of the things I flagged up and asked for prayer **(in bold type below)** have come about.....

The individuals seen and listened to.....
Numbers of referrals of patients from the GPs and Social Prescriber at the Surgery to GP Chaplaincy have been increasing steadily recently and I've continued to meet people in many different situations: bereavement, redundancy or retirement, long term illness, life-threatening diagnosis or end of life, as well as anxiety, depression, isolation or loneliness and loss of wellbeing..... and so often an underlying searching for meaning and purpose or hope.

The staff at St Francis Surgery as they continue to work there in very challenging times to support local people.....
I've been able to build closer links with the new Social Prescriber, some new GPs and doctors replacing those who've retired, and a new Admin Assistant who enables referrals to GP Chaplaincy.

For people to want to know more and for more "pray-ers" and potential GP Chaplains to join the team....
This has been one of the most exciting parts! with two people from our congregation exploring the possibility of getting involved with GP Chaplaincy and/or other types of chaplaincies, and a new link with Chandlers Ford Chaplaincy, a local charity exploring linking up with our GP Chaplaincy. I've met some of their Trustees, including one whose specific role is to support local chaplaincy work with prayer.

For a new minister to be supportive of the GP Chaplaincy here at our church and its potential for the future.....
It's been tremendously encouraging to have conversations with PJ, who has also met with Chandlers Ford Chaplaincy, and be aware of their enthusiasm for the potential for GP Chaplaincy and other types of chaplaincies in Valley Park and wider Chandlers Ford.

A new Chaplaincy Network has also just started up in our own (Winchester) Diocese area, and I've been able to link up with and have mutual support with people in Winchester city centre looking to start up GP Chaplaincy there. The strong links between GP Chaplaincy and our own church have continued, particularly with people from GP Chaplaincy being so warmly welcomed if they come to the Monday or Wednesday Café. We have so many opportunities to meet and support local people, especially people travelling through loneliness and bereavement.

For me to keep listening, learning, loving, hoping.

"**Hoping**" has been encouraged so much through support I've received this past year, through some challenging times in my own life and family life as well as through hearing about the painful journeys of many local people in GP Chaplaincy. Hope has been fed by support from God, from our house group, wider church and church council and ACGP, the national charity for GP Chaplaincy, all of which have helped keep me going.

"**Learning**" has happened through opportunities to expand my involvement with ACGP (including starting to lead some of the Book Group sessions with colleagues and starting a new role in helping as a trainer on the Foundations Course for potential new GP Chaplains), as well as what I learn from patients' amazing openness.

"**Listening and Loving**" has continued as the bedrock of the times I spend with patients and where I sense that GP Chaplaincy has so much for us to offer as a church to our local community**. So what I'd like to flag up this year as things to ask for prayer about are in this area, highlighted by three specific things:**

One is what a chaplain friend said about chaplaincy being like "**Jesus in the neighbourhood".**

The second is what one of the patients said about not just being signposted to sources of help but "**having somewhere to land".**

The third is what I heard on a chaplaincy course about "**homefulness**".

Please pray for those three things to flourish this coming year, for GP Chaplaincy and us as a church to be people and places where local people feel noticed, respected and free to be themselves, truly valued, "landed" and at peace, and loved even in the midst of their storms, in the same way that God continues to provide those things for us.

Katie Warner
Voluntary GP Chaplain

TakeTime

Our small group continues to use material provided by TakeTime to hear and meditate on sections from the gospels. It is, and has always been, a wonderful oasis in the busyness of life, encouraging quieting minds and seeking after God.
We have 4 regular members and others join us on an ad hoc basis, often arriving when they've really appreciated the peace and calm at tricky moments in their lives.

Stephanie Barlow

Structure, governance and management

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of St Francis Church has been revised, with revision completed on April 11th 2026. On that date the Electoral Roll had 138 members.

1 person has left the roll as they are not resident in the parish and have not regularly attended worship. 7 extra people have joined the roll.

Linda King
Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

As required by Winchester Diocese I can report that the Church Council has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy and Practice guidance. We renew our safeguarding policies annually.
The Council receive a summary of actions completed and outstanding on a monthly basis.
We have 58 volunteers from the congregation and 1 employee who have up to date safeguarding training. DBS certificates and training renewal dates are constantly monitored and recorded on the diocesan safeguarding hub.

Role Descriptions are in place for all activities where necessary and are currently being reviewed and reformatted for storage on the safeguarding hub. Risk assessments are in place and are currently under review. Safer recruitment processes have been improved and are followed for our volunteers. All volunteers have been encouraged to read sections of the Church of England Safeguarding guidelines that are relevant to their role. We continue to monitor our practice regarding the use of filming and photographs. Thanks to all our volunteers for their willing compliance.

Linda King
Safeguarding Officer

Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations:

The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers.

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council*.

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro-(Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members.

Our annual Church meeting took place in April, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP operating in 2025 comprised 132 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2025, in April at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships:
St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester*.

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the southeast. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making.

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet through 2025. St Francis is no longer represented at these meetings due to a lack of volunteers.

St. Francis' Church *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) rep has been unable to attend meetings.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. Fiona Grove is our representative.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2025, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board. Linda King has continued in this position, having been appointed in March 2022, and oversees the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building.

The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

	Names	**Notes**	**From**	**To**
Incumbent				
	Rev PJ Brombley		Sept 2025	
Church Wardens				
PCC	Fiona Grove		APCM 2025	APCM 2026
PCC	Peter Rhodes		APCM 2025	APCM 2026
Deanery Synod Representatives				
PCC	Brian King		ACCM 2023	APCM 2026
PCC	Peter Rhodes		APCM 2024	APCM 2026
Elected P/ECC Members (8 +1 PCC)				
ECC	Natasha Dean		ACCM 2025	ACCM 2028
ECC	Dunni Ajayi		ACCM 2025	ACCM 2028
ECC	Jon Estabrook		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Mike Flack	*URC rep*	APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Liz Frisby		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
PCC	Andrew Grove		APCM 2024	APCM 2027
ECC	Katie Waterman		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Olutayo Akinbobuyi		ACCM 2023	ACCM 2026
ECC	Caroline Gough		ACCM 2023	ACCM 2026
Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above):				
Vacant Position	Methodist rep			
Vacant Position	Methodist rep			

Financial Overview

Treasurer's Report on 2025 year-end figures

Our overall income in 2025 was £200,715, up over £28,000 on 2024. This was largely thanks to a positive, prayerful response from the church family to our giving appeal early in the year. A big thank you to everyone who increased/started giving in 2025. This made my job as treasurer much less stressful.

As a result of income received, we have been able to tithe a total of £15,133 this year. This is comprised of £169 supporting people in need in the local area, £10,800 shared between our six designated charities and the remainder to the Methodist and URC churches, our LEP partners. The lines in the Financial Statement to which the tithe relates are identified with an X for clarity. The other income lines are excluded as they relate to income lines matched by expenditure such as verger or musician's fees at funerals. In these instances, we are merely collecting a charge which we then pay out. It would not be appropriate to tithe this income as it would generate a net expense to the church each time.

As we have always done, we have been able to pay our Common Mission Fund request in full which is greatly appreciated by the Diocese. For 2025 the Common Mission Fund increased by £12,612 to £83,818. This was a much bigger than usual increase and it was a great relief to all on the Church Council that the generosity of the church family enabled us to meet this important commitment to the wider church.

Our overall operational expenditure is up around £10,000 on 2024 largely due to the increase in the CMF. Our main expenditure in the year was the much anticipated replacement of our lighting. This was funded in part by a grant and partly by the generosity of the church family who stepped up to the challenge of the 'Give To Go Green' matched funding campaign. Thank you to all who took part in the campaign.

Utility bills were an area of concern in 2025. However, I am pleased to report that these issues are now resolved. During the year the electricity supply was switched to Octopus on a pay as you go basis so we will no longer be in a position of the provider allowing arrears to build up and ignoring our requests to increase our payments. Next year I will be looking to move the Gas supply to a better provider. In addition, our utility bills have been greatly reduced following the decision by the school to move their Wrap Around Care Clubs back into the school. We should see a further reduction in electricity use following the installation of the LED lighting and, in 2026, the solar panels.

We maintain several funds for specific items. The main one is the Maintenance Fund which is where our general surplus is held. This stands at £34,958. In addition, we have several restricted funds including The Special Appeals fund which is used for sustainability projects such as the planned solar panels. All the fund statements are shown below the Financial Statement.

I would like to thank all the church family for their generosity. Without you the church could not function.

Andy Grove
Treasurer

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP and make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Charity's trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit disclosures.

This report and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Approved by the Trustees on 11/SEPT 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

A. GROVE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 23 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

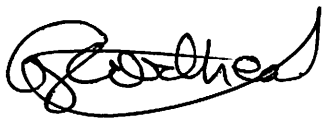
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do 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.



C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 11 September 2026

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	3	128,959	56,866	185,825	151,773
Charitable activities	3	13,181	-	13,181	18,260
Investment income	3	1,709	-	1,709	2,092
Other income	3	-	-	-	150
Total income		**143,849**	**56,866**	**200,715**	**172,275**
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	141,356	34,472	175,828	165,714
Total expenditure		**141,356**	**34,472**	**175,828**	**165,714**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		**2,493**	**22,394**	**24,887**	**6,561**
Transfers between funds	11	330	(330)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**2,823**	**22,064**	**24,887**	**6,561**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2025		49,786	51,834	101,620	95,059
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025	11	**52,609**	**73,898**	**126,507**	**101,620**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity number: 1165677

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	2,726		2,111	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	125,948		101,556	
		128,674		103,667	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:	10	(2,167)		(2,047)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			126,507		101,620
TOTAL ASSESTS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			126,507		101,620
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		15,691		14,443
Designated	11		36,918		35,343
Restricted	11		73,898		51,834
TOTAL FUNDS			126,507		101,620

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

A. GROVE

Trustee

Date: 11/9/26

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue. The charity is a public benefit organisation.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions as to their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and the details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 11.

(c) Income

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

- **Donations and legacies**
  Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
  Planned giving receivable under pledge is recognised only when received.
  Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
  Grant and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

- **Charitable income**
  Funds raised from church events are accounted for when receivable.
  Income is deferred when received for the purpose of funding missions to be carried out in the future.

- **Investment income**
  Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

- **Other income**
  Other income is accounted for when receivable.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is allocated to the activity for which it relates.

Charitable Activities
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable.
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.
All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned between activities in line with their respective proportion of income received.

(e) Tangible Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Website	Straight line over 5 years
Fittings and Equipment	Straight line over 3 years

(f) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

(g) Pensions

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions in respect of this scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable. Timing differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end.

(h) Basic financial instruments

The church only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors, cash at bank and creditors. These basic financial instruments are measured and transaction price. Financial assets and liabilities classified as due within one year are not amortised.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The charity is unincorporated and was registered on 14 October 2009 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered number is 1165677.

The registered office of the charity is St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, Valley Park, Eastleigh, SO53 4ST.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

3 INCOME	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
DONATION AND LEGACIES				
Gift aided planned giving	86,545	20,463	107,008	79,536
Non gift aid planned giving	5,160	-	5,160	8,632
Collections at Services	12,706	190	12,896	12,690
Children and families minister donations	-	18,058	18,058	20,117
Other donations	-	10,004	10,004	2,550
Income tax recoverable	24,432	8,151	32,583	28,130
	128,843	56,866	185,709	151,655
Fundraising				
Funding sources (Easy Fundraiser)	116	-	116	118
Total income from donors	**128,959**	**56,866**	**185,825**	**151,773**
INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Income from outreach events	2,871	-	2,871	2,376
Statutory fees	249	-	249	1,248
Income from use of church building	9,264	-	9,264	13,719
Income from café	797	-	797	917
	13,181	**-**	**13,181**	**18,260**
INVESTMENT INCOME				
Interest received	1,709	-	1,709	2,092
	1,709	**-**	**1,709**	**2,092**
OTHER INCOME				
Charges for occasional offices	-	-	-	150
	-	**-**	**-**	**150**
TOTAL INCOME	**143,849**	**56,866**	**200,715**	**172,275**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Fundraising costs					
Costs of generating donations (card fees)		48	-	48	45
		48	-	48	45
DIRECT CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
Mission and charitable giving					
Charitable giving - local benevolent		169	-	169	453
Charitable giving - home		9,413	-	9,413	8,525
Charitable giving - overseas		1,800	-	1,800	1,700
	x	11,382	-	11,382	10,678
Parish share					
Parish share - Anglican		83,818	-	83,818	71,206
Parish share - Methodist	x	2,813	-	2,813	2,389
Parish share - URC	x	938	-	938	819
		87,569	-	87,569	74,414
Salaries and honoraria					
Parish administrator		10,992	-	10,992	10,536
Organists and musicians		70	-	70	-
Children and families minister		-	18,618	18,618	16,454
Cleaners		2,454	-	2,454	2,243
		13,516	18,618	32,133	29,233
People-related expenses					
Recruitment expenses		1,575	-	1,575	34
Mileage, telephone and other expenses		508	-	508	964
Education and training of staff and Laity		195	-	195	1,472
		2,278	-	2,278	2,469
Mission and evangelism costs					
Young people's Church		806	-	806	876
Outreach activities		3,779	-	3,779	3,299
Teaching and nurturing		-	-	-	857
Pastoral activities		-	-	-	40
		4,585	-	4,585	5,073
Church running expenses					
Upkeep of services and worship		669	-	669	1,199
Hospitality & catering (including café)		1,134	-	1,134	1,093
Insurance		1,270	-	1,270	1,240
Maintenance, cleaning and servicing		5,005	-	5,005	14,663
Furniture and equipment purchases		5	-	5	-
Administration costs		5,102	-	5,102	5,814
Software and training		138	-	138	484
New works		-	15,854	15,854	-
Church magazine printing		1,140	-	1,140	1,100
		14,463	15,854	30,317	25,593

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE (continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Church utility bills				
Electricity	4,329	-	4,329	8,408
Gas	587	-	587	6,856
Water rates	593	-	593	577
	5,509	-	5,509	15,841
Governance cots				
Bank charges	446	-	446	449
Accountancy	1,560	-	1,560	1,920
	2,006	-	2,006	2,369
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**141,356**	**34,472**	**175,828**	**165,714**

Included within accountancy above are amounts due to the independent examiners in relation to independent examination of £1,000 (2024: £1,000).

5 GRANTS

Grants and donations totalled £11,382 (2024: £10,678). Donations totalling more than £1,000 were made to the following institutions:

	£
Fledge Youth Support	1,800
Christians Against Poverty	1,800
A Rocha UK	1,800
Through the Roof	1,800
Eastleigh Basics Bank	1,800
International Justice Mission	1,800
	10,800

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

6 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	31,288	28,715
Social security costs	-	-
Pension	845	518
	32,133	29,233

The average number of staff employed during the year was 2 (2024: 3). No employee received emoluments of £60,000 or more during this year or the prior year.

No members of key management personnel were paid on an employed basis during this, or the prior, year. The role of Vicar is not paid directly by the church, and the Church Wardens (x2) are unpaid posts.

During the year or the prior year no trustees received any emolument, were paid any expenses or were reimbursed for expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity.

Total pension contributions of £845 (2024: £518) were paid by the charity and are included in the SOFA. There were no outstanding contributions payable at the end of this year or the prior year.

7 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Church Organ	Dishwasher	AV Upgrade	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At beginning and end of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
DEPRECIATION					
At beginning of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
Charge for year	-	-	-	-	-
At end of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
NET BOOK VALUE					
At end of year	-	-	-	-	-
At beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-

8 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	2,726	2,111
	2,726	2,111

9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	20,557	17,873
Deposit accounts	105,391	83,683
	125,948	101,556

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	2,167	2,047
	2,167	2,047

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	25,308	23,115	(18,618)	(330)	29,475
Sustainability fund	26,526	32,111	(15,854)	-	42,783
AV Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Footprints	-	640	-	-	640
	51,834	56,866	(34,472)	(330)	73,898
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	33,564	-	-	1,394	34,958
Youth activities fund	385	-	(134)	1,709	1,960
Benevolent fund	1,394	-	-	(1,394)	-
	35,343	-	(134)	1,709	36,918
Other unrestricted funds	14,443	143,849	(141,222)	(1,379)	15,691
Total funds	**101,620**	**200,715**	**(175,828)**	**-**	**126,507**

The restricted funds are established for the following purposes:

Children and families worker fund	To fund the expenditure of the children and families worker.
Sustainability fund	For expenditure on sustainability projects, for example the installation of solar panels. This was previously known as Special appeals fund.
AV Fund	For expenditure specific to audio visual items such as for our sound desk, projectors and iPads for visually impaired.
Footprints	For expenditure relating to our outreach group set up for children with special needs and their parents/carers

The designated funds are established for the following purposes:

Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	To fund the resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund.
Youth activities fund	Represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Benevolent fund Set up to enable the vicar to make small hardship payments to people in the community. It has been used in the past for things such as paying towards a child's school trip, helping replace a stolen bike and buying a bed.

12 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund balances as at 31 December 2025 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	54,776	73,898	128,674
Current liabilities	(2,167)	-	(2,167)
	52,609	73,898	126,507

Fund balances as at 31 December 2024 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	51,833	51,834	103,667
Current liabilities	(2,047)	-	(2,047)
	49,786	51,834	101,620

13 PRIOR YEAR MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 Dec 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	21,850	20,117	(16,659)	-	25,308
Sustainability fund	20,344	6,182	-	-	26,526
	42,194	26,299	(16,659)	-	51,834
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	38,193	-	(2,629)	(2,000)	33,564
Youth activities fund	685	-	(300)	-	385
Benevolent fund	1,394	-	-	-	1,394
	40,272	-	(2,929)	(2,000)	35,343
Other unrestricted funds	12,593	146,496	(146,646)	2,000	14,443
Total funds	**95,059**	**172,795**	**(166,234)**	**-**	**101,620**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

14 PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
INCOME				
Donations and legacies		125,474	26,299	151,773
Charitable activities		18,260	-	18,260
Investment income		2,092	-	2,092
Other income		150	-	150
Total income	3	**145,976**	**26,299**	**172,275**
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	4	149,055	16,659	165,714
Total expenditure		**149,055**	**16,659**	**165,714**
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(3,079)**	**9,640**	**6,561**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(3,079)**	**9,640**	**6,561**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2024		52,865	42,194	95,059
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		**49,786**	**51,834**	**101,620**