THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALFOLD AND LOXWOOD
Annual Report and Financial Satements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	113,432	10,195	-	123,627	138,284
Income from charitable activities	4,995	-	-	4,995	5,578
Other trading activites	6,843	-	-	6,843	6,910
Investment income	651	3,251	-	3,902	3,561
Total income	**125,921**	**13,446**	**-**	**139,367**	**154,333**
Expenditure (Note 3)					
Expenditure on charitable activities	131,814	6,514	-	138,328	134,890
Total expenditure	**131,814**	**6,514**	**-**	**138,328**	**134,890**
Net income / (expenditure resources) before unrealised gains / (losses) on investments	**(5,893)**	**6,932**	**-**	**1,039**	**19,443**
Gains / (losses) on investments - unrealised	(1,985)	(1,644)	(1,703)	(5,332)	2,851
Net movement in funds	**(7,878)**	**5,288**	**(1,703)**	**(4,293)**	**22,294**
Total funds brought forward	88,202	75,542	42,592	206,336	184,042
Total funds carried forward	**80,324**	**80,830**	**40,889**	**202,043**	**206,336**

Represented by the following funds - carried forward:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2025 £	2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	**80,324**	**-**	**-**	**80,324**	**88,202**
Resticted funds					
Fabric fund - Alfold church	-	5,326		5,326	5,017
- Loxwood church	-	47,741		47,741	49,880
Bell fund - Alfold church	-	1,196		1,196	1,359
Hardship fund	-	1,647		1,647	1,866
Youth work fund	-	21,250		21,250	13,750
Garden of Remembrance	-	2,500		2,500	2,500
Churchyard maintenance	-	1,170		1,170	1,170
Accumulated income fund	-	-		-	-
Total restricted funds	**-**	**80,830**	**-**	**80,830**	**75,542**
Endowment funds	**-**	**-**	**40,889**	**40,889**	**42,592**
Total funds carried forward	**80,324**	**80,830**	**40,889**	**202,043**	**206,336**

The attached notes on pages 3 to 8 form part of these accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALFOLD AND LOXWOOD
Annual Report and Financial Satements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 6)	3,988	5,425
Investments (Note 7)	122,421	127,754
	126,409	**133,179**
Current assets		
Stocks and work in progress	641	492
Debtors	4,296	7,061
Short-term deposits and cash at bank (Note 8)	86,258	73,726
	91,195	**81,279**
Liabilities		
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(15,561)	(8,122)
	(15,561)	**(8,122)**
Net current assets	**75,634**	**73,157**
Net assets - total assets less liabilties	**202,043**	**206,336**
Represented by the following funds - carried forward:		
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	**80,324**	**88,202**
Resticted funds		
Fabric fund - Alfold church	5,326	5,017
- Loxwood church	47,741	49,880
Bell fund - Alfold church	1,196	1,359
Hardship fund	1,647	1,866
Youth work fund	21,250	13,750
Garden of Remembrance	2,500	2,500
Churchyard maintenance	1,170	1,170
		-
Total restricted funds	**80,830**	**75,542**
Endowment funds - (Note 10)	**40,889**	**42,592**
Total funds carried forward	**202,043**	**206,336**

The attached notes on pages 3 to 8 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of the financial statements
The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice and Reporting by Charities (SORP2015).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and laibilites for which the PCC is responsible for at law.

Funds
Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is used as restricted income funds.

Restricted funds represent (a)income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the year end must be carried forward as a balance in that fund.
The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are income funds, which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources
Planned giving, donations and collections are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets
Consecrated and benifice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Various items of movable furniture are vested in the churchwardens for the use and benefit of the parishoners and cannot be disposed of without a faculty. These assets are regarded as "inalienable" property held on special trust on behalf of the PCC and are not accounted for in these accounts. Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

The organ in the Loxwood church has been depreciated on a straight-line basis over 10 years. Printing and electronic equipment is depreciated over 5 years on a straight-line basis.

Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date.

2 Analysis of income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2025	2024
Donations and legacies	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aid - Planned giving	9,329			9,329	9,224
Gift Aid -Parish giving scheme	58,246			58,246	56,662
Gift Aid - Other giving	5,940	6,150		12,090	22,809
Non- Gift Aid - Planned giving	16,460			16,460	11,762
Loose plate collections	2,291			2,291	3,691
Giving through sumup and church boxes	693			693	51
Donations	3,028	2,520		5,548	9,839
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	16,045	1,525		17,570	22,446
Legacies	-			-	1,000
Recurring grants	1,400			1,400	800
Total income from donations and legacies	**113,432**	**10,195**	**-**	**123,627**	**138,284**
Income from charitable activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,803			2,803	3188
Flower festival	-			-	0
Beer and carols	1,187			1,187	895
Auction of promises	-			-	0
Youth activities	-			-	0
Breakfast fellowship	859			859	1161
Book sales	146			146	140
Church hall letting - objectives	-			-	194
Total income from charitable activities	**4,995**	**-**	**-**	**4,995**	**5578**
Other trading activities					
Bazaars and fetes	1,500			1,500	2051
Church hall lettings	230			230	560
Parish magazine - Advertising income	3,339			3,339	2931
- Sales	1,774			1,774	1368
Total income from other trading activities	**6,843**	**-**	**-**	**6,843**	**6910**
Investments					
Dividends	304	3,251		3,555	3469
Interest from bank / building society	347			347	92
Total income from investments	**651**	**3,251**	**-**	**3,902**	**3561**
Total Incom	**125,921**	**13,446**	**-**	**139,367**	**154,333**

3 Analysis of expenditure	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Raising funds					
Cost of fetes and other events	-			-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Giving to missionary societies (note 5)	6,298			6,298	6,417
Hardship fund donations	-	220		220	23
Home mission	782	400		1,182	51
Diocesan parish share	85,888			85,888	80,653
Employment costs - parish staff	11,736			11,736	9,763
Working expenses of incumbent	26	292		318	441
Working expenses of clergy	-			-	-
Rectory expenses	-			-	-
Curate expenses	703			703	7,447
Parish training and mission	968			968	1,770
Insurance	3,933			3,933	3,483
Church office expenses	873			873	881
Youth activities	100			100	185
Organ / piano tuning	278			278	293
Church maintenance - minor repairs	3,411	163		3,574	551
Major works - Alfold (note 4)	-	-		-	4,446
- Loxwood	-			-	-
Upkeep of services	800			800	593
Upkeep of Churchyards and Garden of Remembrance	2,420	3,385		5,805	5,475
Utilities	7,235			7,235	4,191
Magazine expenses	322			322	16
Printing stationery and computer	1,861			1,861	2,086
Cost of books sold	432			432	270
Bank Charges	101			101	47
Website Costs	278			278	237
Broadband and Terminals	268			268	12
H & S and Safeguarding	1,973			1,973	1,361
Other expenditure	1,128			1,128	1,674
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**131,814**	**4,460**	**-**	**136,274**	**132,366**
Depreciation	-	2,054		2,054	2,524
Total expenditure	**131,814**	**6,514**	**-**	**138,328**	**134,890**

4 Major works

	2025	2024
	£	£
Alfold -		
Plastering of Porch paid for by Friends of St Nicholas Church Alfold	-	4,446
	-	4,446
Loxwood -		
	-	-
	-	-
Total major works	-	4,446

5 Missionary giving and donations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Paul Mansaray Theophany School of the Gambia	6,298	6,417
	6,298	6,417

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Loxwood organ	Church equipment	Parish office equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2025	17,625	23,112	4,385	45,122
Additions		1,359	-	1,359
Disposal	-		-	-
At 31 December 2025	**17,625**	**24,471**	**4,385**	**46,481**
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	17,625	18,435	3,637	39,697
Charge for the year		2,515	281	2,796
Disposal			-	-
At 31 December 2025	**17,625**	**20,950**	**3,918**	**42,493**
Net book value at 31 December 2025	**-**	**3,521**	**467**	**3,988**
Net book value at 31 December 2024	**-**	**4,677**	**748**	**5,425**

Church equipment comprises computer equipment, the projector system at Loxwood church, a laptop for the incumbent and chairs in Loxwood church, The PCC owns the Alfold Church Office building for which the Diocese acts as Custodian Trustee. The building was gifted by Edith Cammell in 1929 and has an estimated value of of £200,000 to £250,000.

7 Investments - mainly restricted or endowment

	Units	2025 £	2024 £
CBF Church of England investment fund	4,289.73	95,225	99,190
COIF Charities inverstment fund	1,407.54	27,196	28,564
		122,421	**127,754**
Of which the following investments were:			
Restricted		38,391	40,035
Endowment		40,889	42,592
		79,280	**82,627**

8 Short-term deposit, bank current accounts and cash

	2025 £	2024 £
Deposits:		
Bank current accounts	55,235	42,713
CBF church of England deposit	898	888
Bank deposit account	30,114	30,114
Cash in hand	11	11
Total short-term deposit, bank and cash	**86,258**	**73,726**
Of which the following deposits and current accounts were:		
Restricted	43,497	28,328
Unrestricted	42,761	45,398
Total short-term deposit, bank and cash	**86,258**	**73,726**

9 Analysis of net assets by fund

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,934	2,054	-	3,988	5,425
Investment assets	43,141	38,391	40,889	122,421	127,754
Current assets	50,155	41,040	-	91,195	81,279
Current liabilities	(14,906)	(655)	-	(15,561)	(8,122)
Net assets	**80,324**	**80,830**	**40,889**	**202,043**	**206,336**

10 Restricted and endowment funds

The Fabric funds represent accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance and improvements and can only be spent for that purpose in the respective churches.

The Hardship fund represents donations and appeals during the Covid 19 pandemic given to provide grants for individuals needing financial support.

The Alfold Church Bell fund accumulated donations is restricted for expenditure on the maintenance of the church bells.

Endowment fund investments are held in trust, the income from which is only to be spent on prescribed purposes:

CBF Church of England Investment Fund
596 units in a Loxwood Churchyard Trust
435 units in a G Whitmore Gift for beneficial purposes in Loxwood parish
811 units in A Cardale Trust for beneficial purposes in Loxwood parish

These investments give rise to the Endowment Trust income which is shown in the Accumulated Income fund.

Movement in Endowment and restricted funds

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment revaluation gains	2025 Closing balance	2024 Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Fabric fund - Alfold church	5,017	309	-		5,326	5,017
- Loxwood church	49,880	1,559	(2,054)	(1,644)	47,741	49,880
Bell fund - Alfold church	1,359	-	(163)		1,196	1,359
Hardship fund	1,866	-	(219)		1,647	1,866
Church growth fund	13,750	7,500	-		21,250	13,750
Garden of Remembrance	2,500	-	-		2,500	2,500
Churchyard maintenance	1,170	2,295	(2,295)		1,170	1,170
Tyndale book fund	-	400	(400)		-	-
Accumulated income fund	-	1,381	(1,381)		-	
Total restricted funds	**75,542**	**13,444**	**(6,512)**	**(1,644)**	**80,830**	75,542
Endowment trusts	**42,592**	**-**	**-**	**(1,703)**	40,889	**42,592**
Total - Restricted & Endowment funds	**118,134**	**13,444**	**(6,512)**	**(3,347)**	**121,719**	**118,134**

The Hardship fund will be used at the Rector's discretion to assist anyone considered to be in need of financial help

The Church Growth fund is intended to be used to further the gospel and growth of church ministry within the Parish

11 Trusts

The Guildford Diocese holds shares in trust for the use of the residents of Loxwood parish, administered by the Smallpeice Bequest Trust.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF

ALFOLD & LOXWOOD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

a) Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is appropriate.

It is my responsibility to

(a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
(b) follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
(c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

b) Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes the consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

c) Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or
   (b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met: or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jim Jewell
Trehenny
Spy Lane
Loxwood

Date: 3.03.2026

Rector's Report

For Jesus. **For Our Villages.** **Forever.**

In 2025, we refreshed our church vision. It was a collaborative process over several months, drawing on the wisdom and experiences of many in the church family. The church had not been in short supply of vision and drive before. But the exercise of trying to express what we want to be and do on a single sheet of paper was immensely helpful in bringing clarity and shaping our priorities for the years ahead.

The result (which you should be familiar with by now!) are our plans and prayers for the decade ahead. I'm excited about it. I hope you are too!

We are:
For Jesus. *We live to worship Him because He is the God who saves us.*
For Our Villages. *We exist to share the good news of Jesus with everyone in Alfold and Loxwood.*
Forever. *We've worshipped God here for 900 years, and we give our lives to passing the gospel onto future generations.*

At our Vision Dinner in September, I drew our attention to this wonderful passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

[20]Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, [21]to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20&21

The irony was not lost on me, that as I presented our new vision, Paul tells us straight away that God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (v20). Somewhat making a mockery of having a vision at all!

But I took us there because I wanted to set our eyes on where our real focus should be... God's glory (v21). That is what we are all about. And that is what underpins each of our 'for' statements. We want God to be glorified in our own lives and worship (For Jesus). God to be glorified in our villages as people come to know and love him (For Our Villages). And God to be glorified in the future, as our children and grandchildren take the gospel baton from us and run with it (Forever).

One of the great benefits of having a clear vision is having a benchmark against which to measure success and failure. And so, for this year's APCM report, and probably for many in the future, I am going to reflect on the year passed under those three banners. For Jesus. For Our Villages. Forever.

For Jesus. We live to worship Him because He is the God who saves us.

It could be easy, when Sunday Worship feels like a given for any church, to move on from it too quickly, and to miss what God has been doing among us. But let's pause and give thanks for our regular, Sunday by Sunday worship. In some ways it looks very ordinary, but there is nothing 'regular' about it. It is an amazing privilege to meet together and worship the living God. He promises to be with us by his Spirit. He promises to speak to us through his word. He promises to hear us as we pray. And he promises to feed us as we gather at his table. Each Sunday this year, God's people have gathered in the heart of these villages that he loves, and we have declared his praises. Extraordinary.

We have had good times this year in our preaching series through Genesis, Luke's Gospel, and Colossians. The message of Colossians, The Gospel + Anything = Nothing. The Gospel + Nothing = Everything, has particularly struck a chord. The Sunday preaching has been well supported by our Pilgrim Groups, ably led by Richard Allan. Many of us have enjoyed going deeper into Sunday's passage midweek and thinking about how God's Word connects to the reality of our lives. Pilgrim is the primary place for pastoral care within our church, and we rely on the smaller group for prayer and all-of-life support.

Alongside the preaching of God's word, I think our sung worship is improving. I'm grateful for Andy Beattie leading the team, and together they are trying to work more collaboratively so that at every service we have a blend of music styles. Andy is hard at work gathering new musicians into the team, and it was a joy to see some of our kids taking part on the drums recently.

The key step change for us in our worship of God, has been the Year of Prayer. As we worked through the Vision process, we mapped out every activity that our church does. Let me tell you, it was a lot! I left that meeting thinking that we were a bunch of activists and wondering what could be done about it. The answer was the Year of Prayer.

From 9am-midday, every Monday since September, we start the week on our knees in prayer and trusting in God's power (not our own) to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine. I picked a deliberately long amount of time, at a deliberately awkward moment of the week to prevent my own activism. Where before I would have been planning, doing emails, and getting a start on sermon prep, now I am forced to slow down, pray, and trust God to do his work.

And I'm loving it. Without wanting to steal thunder from the 'For Our Villages' section, we have seen more people come to faith since September 2025, than we have in my previous two years of being here. We pray every week for new people to walk through the door. And on all but five Sundays guess who has walked in? God answers prayer. Let me urge you if you've not been before, come and be a part of it. Join me in my battle against trying to do God's work in my own strength!

Back in March 25, we ran our first Lent Course in a good few years, entitled 'A Better Story'. The topic: Human Sexuality, was not the one I would have chosen to open with but was made necessary by debates running throughout the Church of England. It was and is a potentially divisive topic, and I was immensely grateful, both to God and to the church family, for the compassionate, gracious, and grown-up way in which we treated one another throughout it. I think we heard the challenge to be faithful to God's word and trust his good designs for love sex, and marriage. Whilst also hearing the Biblical call to welcome everybody, and to share our wonderful gospel with all, regardless of their sexuality.

I've been delighted that we've been able to add to the ministry team over the past year. Andy Beattie graduated from his Caleb programme and was Ordained Deacon at Guildford Cathedral back in September. He has been a great addition to our Clergy Team, and we are loving watching him grow in his preaching, leading, and pastoral care. Sarah Taylor also joined the team a day or so a week, as the glamorously titled 'Under 5's Coordinator'. I must think of a better name! She has been doing a wonderful job with our Crèche Team and with Little Angels midweek.

It's a hard question to answer... have we grown in living to worship Jesus this year? The answer will be different for each of us. But my sense is that collectively we have. I believe I can see growth in discipleship and in devotion all around the church. And we keep praying for more!

For Our Villages. We exist to share the good news of Jesus with everyone and Alfold and Loxwood.

Earlier in Ephesians 3, Paul prays that they might have power to grasp how "*high, and wide, and long, and deep is the love of Christ.*" (Eph 3:18). And it's that infinitely big love of Christ that we want everyone in our villages to know about. He loves them. He came to save them. That's good news!

And so, we have tried plenty this year to share that good news with our villages. Little Angels, our toddler group, goes from strength to strength. We are regularly seeing local families coming along to play, make friends, and hear about Jesus. At every session, they always receive a warm welcome, coffee, and cake, and hear something from God's word. We pray on for growing relationships, and that families might make the transition from midweek to Sunday.

At this point I want to say an enormous thank you to Hugh and Linda Beadle as they 'emigrate' (to Scotland)! Not just for their involvement with Little Angels, for their loving service in so many areas of church life, including on the Parish Magazine. The Mag has been a great way of practically loving and communicating with our villages, and Hugh and Linda have served so faithfully as Editor and Ad Sec for the past 20 years. As they move on, we are planning some changes to The Mag for 2026. But the Beadles will be greatly missed, and we thank God for them.

Women's and Men's Breakfasts are another easy 'way in' for our villages. Running on alternate months, they combine delicious breakfasts with interesting talks aimed to be accessible for everyone in our villages. They are a great first introduction to God's love for our friends and neighbours. Both continue to be popular, and I am grateful for Sharon Brockway stepping up to lead the Women's Team, and Andy Beattie looking after the blokes.

Every Monday night in 2025, we ran Discover at the Onslow Arms. The plan was to take the gospel out of the church building and into the villages. Every week we read a bit of John and chatted it through over a pint. We had a handful of 'regulars,' and a few of our friends came along here or there, but it felt like it never really took off. I liked that there was always an opportunity to explore Jesus through his word every week. But like in the Parable of the Sower, you try things on mission, you sow seed everywhere. Some of it will work, and some of it will not. I am glad we tried.

As ever Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our villages. People still want to come and have the warm and fuzzy feelings associated with a church Christmas. We had 856 people through our doors in December, each of whom heard of Jesus and why he matters. Without wanting to stray into 2026 too far, I was delighted that we had twenty-five people sign up for our January Alpha Course. Not coincidentally, the exact number we were praying for. Some of whom came through our Christmas outreach.

Finally, we had the joy of a couple of people putting their trust in Jesus for the first time in 2025. One, said out loud for the first time in December that they had put their trust in Jesus, and felt an overwhelming sense of peace. The other we celebrated all together at Angus' baptism in November. It was such a delight to hear his testimony and see how God has been at work in his life. Through our Colossians series he heard that the gospel is for everyone, and that the gospel is all you need, and decided to literally take the plunge. The water may have been cold (because plugging in the immersion heater before immersing it is a bad idea), but our hearts were warm!

Forever. We've worshipped God here for 900 years, and we give our lives to passing the gospel onto future generations.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:21, was for God to be glorified *"throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."* For that to happen in our parish, we as a church need to honour what has gone before, steward what we have now, and pass on the gospel to the next generation.

In terms of honoring what has gone before, we as a church are so blessed to have two wonderful church buildings in which God's people have worshipped for hundreds of years. It boggles my mind sometimes to think of the number of communions that have been celebrated in Alfold through the generations. Or to think of all the people who have cleaned and cared for Loxwood over the years. With this in mind, we are as ever thankful to the Friends of St Nicholas who fundraise so enthusiastically to preserve the fabric of Alfold. I'm also grateful to our newly reformed Buildings Committee, reporting to the PCC. Headed up by Roger Brockway, it's aim is to support the work of the Church Wardens, so that our buildings can continue to serve as a center of mission for our villages.

On stewarding what we have, we ran a giving campaign towards the end of 2025. It was great to have David Senior, the Stewardship Mission Enabler from Guildford Diocese come to preach for us. His zeal for God's generosity to us, and our giving being a response to that was infectious. He encouraged us to think big, and dream about what Alfold and Loxwood could be, and set our financial giving accordingly.
Outcome of Giving Campaign.
Comment on financial picture.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Steven our Treasurer who has worked incredibly hard in his first full year in the role. Along with his Finance Team of Julie Sayers, Richard Badman, Eleanor Lynn, Iain Taylor, and Jim Jewel, who ably support him throughout the year. Thanks to their hard work we are getting an increasingly clear picture of our finances, which allows us to make plans for the future.

Finally, we need to pass on the gospel to the next generation. I've been delighted to see slow but steady growth in our Crèche and Lionhearts, Sunday by Sunday. Some of that growth is biological – were having quite a lot of babies at the moment! But some have been new faces, coming to us for the first time from nearby. They are well loved by our enthusiastic team of volunteers, who work so diligently to prepare fun and faithful bible teaching for all ages each week.

We still have work to do. Particularly in how we reach and pastor teenagers. And we are still looking for a Children's and Youth Pastor to spearhead our efforts with the local school. But we trust our God that his timing is perfect, and we keep praying.

I want to encourage us in 2026 to keep that 'Forever' target in mind. Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:14 that we are to *"guard the good deposit entrusted to us."* Normally when you guard something, you lock it away someplace secret to keep it safe. But the way you guard the gospel is by bringing it out into the open and shouting about it for all to hear.

We have made a good start on that. And I believe our vision of For Jesus. For Our Villages. Forever. will keep us heading down that same path. Our task for 2026 is to keep going. All whilst trusting the God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Rev James Forward

Safeguarding Report for Alfold and Loxwood 2025

The direction of safeguarding is constantly evolving. Over this past year there have been several changes along with helpful training opportunities in the diocese.

Safeguarding remains rooted in our mission and theology. It is everyone's responsibility as an out working of God's blessing. James in his epistle writes "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." This exhortation to care for the vulnerable is something we all wish to take seriously and our desire at Alfold and Loxwood is that safeguarding will be a golden thread within our parish.

Our new Archbishop, Dame Sarah Mullaly, has said Safeguarding is a fundamental, non-negotiable responsibility sharpened by our past failings and shaped by the work we still must do. She is committed to bringing an approach of seriousness and focused direction to matters relating to safeguarding in all contexts in the church. This approach must be trauma-informed, putting victims and survivors at the heart of all we do. She reminds us to be wholly committed to listening to victims and survivors, and to be willing for light to shine on our actions and decisions.

In response to the widely published safeguarding failures, the National Safeguarding Team of the Church of England modified and further developed five standards which I included in the report last year. These have now been implemented in our parish. At PCC, with the help of worksheets available on the parish dashboard we have discussed some of these standards to allow us to reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding and to understand the impact on our safeguarding activity.

It is greatly encouraging on a parish level that Dame Christine Ryan, who brings extensive experience in education, regulation, policy, and safeguarding, has been appointed Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Program Board. She has assured PCCs that safeguarding procedures, though delivered locally, will meet national standards on a consistent basis. She promises simpler processes which is most welcome.

This year we have faced two challenges.

The DBS administrator for the diocese, APCS, experienced a significant data breach in July. This affected nine volunteers who had entered into a criminal record check application, their name, address, passport details, and other personal data. I am grateful for each volunteer who graciously received the concerning news of this data breach with appropriate action.

Employment of APCS was discontinued resulting in considerable difficulty with the management DBS applications over the later part of the year.

Our second challenge relates to the more onerous requirements for the recruitment of volunteers. The Church of England has instituted a new Safeguarding Code of Practice:
Safer Recruitment and People Management. I am very grateful for the time and outstanding support that James has provided as we have worked through this mandate. I also wish to thank the volunteers for their willing compliance with a more cumbersome process.

With the increasing complexity of the role of PSO, the diocese team have instituted invaluable monthly online safeguarding surgeries. In addition, they have offered further development opportunities, which have expanded my knowledge and understanding, further equipping me in my role. I attended a breakfast hosted by Bishop Andrew which focused on Domestic Abuse as well a study day on "Understanding men who sexually harm children." This was shocking yet illuminating. Both training days have deepened the need for the adherence to safeguarding standards in our parish.

I had the privilege to be invited to join the team which developed the diocese safeguarding campaign, Abuse, Hidden in Plain Site: See it, Hear it, Report it. This was launched at church on Safeguarding Sunday in November and new posters have been placed on our noticeboard. It was terrific to join churches across the country on that day, joining with many singing the safeguarding song and praying for safeguarding.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to our Rector, James, who supports me so very faithfully and for all our volunteers who take their safeguarding responsibilities seriously.

Ruth Allan PSO
February 2026