PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



wantage parish

We are a charity serving our local community
Our churches are open to all
... for prayer & worship
... for learning & spiritual development
... for warmth, food & a listening ear
... for art, music, heritage & beauty
... for fellowship & fun

VICAR'S FOREWORD



Welcome to the Annual Report for 2025! We have slimmed down the report a bit this year, but that doesn't mean there's less going on in the parish or less to celebrate - quite the opposite. Although the statistics which initially gave rise to reports of a Christian revival in the UK have since been withdrawn, the sense of revival is absolutely real. 2025 has been a positive year for the Parish, in spite of a challenging outlook nationally and globally, and I'd like to invite everyone in the Parish to consider what they can contribute of their time, talents, or financial resources, to build on that for 2026.

FABULOUS FIRSTS

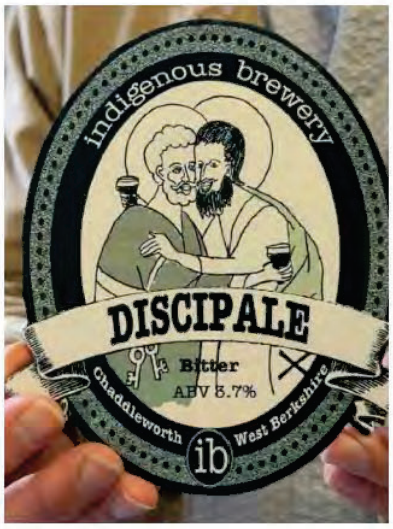
2025 saw a number of new initiatives, both for nurturing our life of faith and for reaching out to our local community.

- A new **home group** and **book club** were launched in January, part of our response to the growing number of people new to faith or seeking to deepen their discipleship. Big thanks to Caroline and Andrew Haines for opening their home, and to David Richardson for 'Fully Booked'. We also started two online **prayer groups** and a new **discipleship group**.
- In May, our curate Frances Caroe, together with Simon Hunter, led eighteen people on **pilgrimage** in the Footsteps of the Northern Saints.

- Our first **Parish Ale Festival** in June welcomed well over 100 people over the Pentecost holiday as we debuted our very own 'DiscipAle' brew (again thanks to the brainwave of David Richardson).
- **AlfredFest** in October was bigger than ever, with the Town Council for the first time deciding to close off the Market Place and make it a whole-town event – with thanks to George Roe of the Alfred Companions, and Janet Kingdon who designed and co-ordinated our Alfred Wreath.











FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The priority of the Parish is to build the church: both figuratively, in growing the living 'temple of the Lord' as a community of all ages, but also literally, in that we need to ensure the 800-year-old Parish Church building can continue to support the mission of the Christian community into the future. Both these aims received a significant boost in 2025.

In September we received the good news that the post of **Children and Young People's Minister**, currently held by James Clarke, has received funding from the Diocese of Oxford Development Fund. This will pay 50% of salary and related costs up to 2030. Significantly, this has enabled us to launch a new congregation in 2026, based at Holy Trinity, aimed at families with young



children and reaching out to those who live on the Kingsgrove housing development.



The Parish Church Improvement Project group, with the approval of the PCC, has **commissioned architects** to prepare a 'feasibility study' of options for how we might be able to achieve what we need. This is a very long-term project (think several years) but in the meantime we will be getting on with smaller improvements, some of which are already making an impact. These include our much-improved **new noticeboard** outside the Parish Church.





Of course, as well as planned new developments, every year brings unplanned changes and challenges. Towards the end of 2025, our much-celebrated food project **Around Table** faced a significant risk with the departure of chef James Hart who had been with the project from the beginning. The Parish was always committed to continuing the project but for a few weeks it wasn't clear how we would be able to do so. The other volunteers rallied round very quickly to put everything in place in time for Christmas, taking on significant extra responsibilities, and as we move through 2026 Around Table is not just continuing to thrive but has opened up exciting opportunities for a closer friendship with **Fitzwaryn School**. Massive thanks are due to all the volunteers for their commitment, and especially to the cooks.

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES

As ever, 2025 brought some changes for members of the Parish. Our curate **Frances** was priested and celebrated his first mass. Former Parish Assistant **Rosi Bartlett** started training for ordination in Oxford, and university also beckoned for organ scholars **Tom** and **Amelia**. **Robert and Jane Haine**, who have been our barman and barmaid at many events, have retired from this role – many thanks to them. Several new people have joined the congregation, including nine **baptised and / or confirmed** at Eastertide 2025. Very sadly we said a final farewell to **Mary Cunningham Corran**, a member of our choir, as well as **Angela Darke**, a long-standing member of the Holy Trinity congregation. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. For our Patronal Festival we celebrated the life of

Heléne Lister Cheese, who died in 2024, with an **exhibition of embroidery** in her honour.









Finally, there have been some changes for me personally. In 2025, I stepped down from my role as a Vocations Adviser in the Diocese and took up a new role as a Curacy Assessor (still assessing people for ordained ministry, but at a different stage in the process!). I was Associate Area Dean through 2025 and have taken up the role of Area Dean from the start of 2026. In November 2025, I handed in my doctoral thesis and I am looking forward to (finally!) graduating in 2026. Thank you to everyone for your support and kind words.

FACING THE FUTURE

My priority for 2026 is to continue to strengthen the church to weather the years ahead, whilst also responding to the invitation of God in all the circumstances that may arise. The Parish Church Improvement Project will take a significant amount of attention from me and the churchwardens. Other priorities are: supporting our Children and Young People's Minister as he takes forward our long-term plans for this area of ministry; providing for the growing number of people seeking baptism or needing to be nurtured in their new faith; and making sure that our excellent programme of services and outreach events reaches the widest possible audience through our communications. None of this can be done (sadly) without money, and we do need a renewed and realistic focus on how we can put the Parish on a more sustainable financial footing.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report and be heartened and inspired by all the things God has been doing amongst us! I hope also that if you are one of the very many people who has contributed time, energy, or money over 2025 that you will take this as a very big thank you and appreciation for everything you do. Please do hold the Parish in your prayers, and please have courage to listen to how God might be calling you to get involved.



TRUSTEES' REPORT

ENCOUNTERING AND SHARING GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE

The Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC") is pleased to present its annual report for 2025. Our mission as a Parish is summed up in the phrase ***Encountering and Sharing God's Transforming Love***. There are many ways in which we live out this mission, as you will read in this report. It reviews the life of the Church of England's Parish of Wantage in 2025 and is accompanied by the accounts of the PCC for the year. As well as everything that takes place in our two churches (Holy Trinity Church in Charlton and the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in the centre of Wantage), we reach out into the wider community, sharing the Gospel of Christ in the Market Place, in local schools and care homes, and in people's day-to-day lives.

Our Parish is part of the Wantage Deanery within the Diocese of Oxford. As part of the wider Church of England, the Parish benefits from the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Its full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage. The PCC members are the trustees of the charity, responsible for Parish affairs under charity law. In carrying out that role, they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.





WORSHIP & PRAYER

Prayer & worship are at the heart of our church life. Much of the **regular pattern of worship** in our churches continued through 2025. We experimented with two new service offerings on Saturday afternoons starting in 2024, but by early 2025 it had become clear that these were not meeting the needs we had identified. We have taken what we learned from this experiment into the new **Godly Play** initiative launched more recently in April 2026.

During 2025, we moved the **weekday evening Eucharist** at Holy Trinity from Tuesday to Wednesday, when it follows on from our Around Table outreach project (described later in this report). At the same time, the Wednesday morning service at the Parish Church was dropped as there were very few worshippers attending it.

Current regular service pattern

Sunday	8am	Eucharist (Parish Church)
	9.15am	Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)
	10.30am	Choral Eucharist (Parish Church)
	3pm	Godly Play (Holy Trinity) (from April 2026)
	5pm	Choral Evensong (Parish Church) (monthly)
Monday	9.30am	Eucharist (Parish Church)
Wednesday	7pm	Eucharist (Holy Trinity)
Friday	12 noon	Eucharist (Parish Church)
Saturday	4pm	Eucharist or Evening Prayer (Holy Trinity)

The numbers coming to the 10.30am service on Sunday mornings at the Parish Church continued to increase slowly during 2025. The **typical attendance** is now between 100 and 110, often including 10 to 20 children. At Holy Trinity, average attendance at the 9.15am Eucharist held steady at 20 to 25. The 8am service attracts a congregation of between 10 and 15.

Different seasons and events offer opportunities for special services. **Easter and Christmas** services were well attended, with similar numbers overall as in 2024. On Palm Sunday and Good Friday, we joined with other local churches to offer worship **in the Market Place**. For AlfredFest, when the town remembers its most famous son, we were again out in the Market Place for readings and a blessing around the statue of King Alfred.



Large crowds continue to attend the annual ceremonies **at the war memorial** outside the Parish Church to mark both Battle of Britain Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. In May, choral evensong **"in Praise of Peace"** was part of the town's commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



During 2025 we had the joy of celebrating as nine people took the significant step of being confirmed in their Christian faith. There were also 20 baptisms in our churches, as well as six marriages. Our clergy took 27 funerals during the year.





Regular prayer & spiritual development groups	
Contemplative prayer group (online)	Emphasis on Julian prayer
Intercessory prayer group (online)	Reflecting prayer requests & other prayer needs
Teens bible group	Bible study for teenagers
Home group	Conversation, bible study & prayer
'Fully Booked'	Book club
Old Testament bible group	Studying the Old Testament
Discipleship group	Exploring the building blocks of Christian faith





For a week in May 2025, a group of sixteen adults and two children from the Parish made a **pilgrimage** 'in the footsteps of the Northern Saints', visiting Durham (St Cuthbert), Hexham and Heavenfield (St Oswald), Jarrow (St Bede), and Holy Island (St Aidan). Pilgrimage is an ancient Christian spiritual practice and has a long history in Wantage. Returning to this practice after several years offers its spiritual riches to the whole congregation.

Looking forward in our life of prayer & worship, we have plans for further pilgrimage opportunities, as well as developing our ministries of welcome and intercession. The Personal Discipleship Plan resources remain available to support people in their faith journey.



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

2025 was a very significant year for our work with children and young people. Led by James Clarke, our **Children & Young People's Minister**, new initiatives are bringing more children and families into contact with the Parish. Our success and our ambition to build on this were recognised by the Diocese of Oxford, which awarded us a grant from the Diocesan Development Fund to support this work for the next five years.





What an exciting time! We have seen an increase in **children attending church**, with as many as twenty under 16's at our 10:30am service at the Parish Church. James engages with children in the choir and the children's area with seasonal material.



Trinity Tots continues to provide an affordable, friendly and supportive toddler group at Holy Trinity. Attracting new families almost weekly, we have in the region of 30 pre-school children registered, with the majority returning week after week. Each session offers play, crafts, singing, snack time and story time, always with a Christian theme. Tots is facilitated by a small and dedicated team of volunteers whose presence is deeply appreciated.



A new initiative in 2025 was **Forest Church**. Making use of the nearby Betjeman Park and our own churchyard, families experienced



worship, storytelling and activities in the great outdoors. It was such a success that we will be holding sessions every Monday in the school summer holidays in 2026.



Messy Church is one of our main outreach initiatives to share the Gospel with families. Typically, around 75 children and adults attend our Messy Church events. In 2026 there are plans to hold a session every school holiday based on key events in the church calendar, from the story of Palm Sunday to Pentecost, and Harvest to Christingle.



Our engagement with schools continues to grow. Clergy regularly lead collective worship at **Wantage CE School,** and the Open the Book team continue to act out stories from the bible during assembly every Friday morning. We welcomed children from across the school to church for events such as Christingle, the Year 5 Passion Play, and reflection spaces.



Building on the previous year's success, James has increased the engagement with **Stockham Primary School**. In July 2025 we took a prayer and reflection space into the school, with plans to do so again in 2026. Children from key stages one and two visited the Parish Church in December 2025 for a Christingle service where family members were also invited. We also



welcomed **Charlton Primary School** to both our churches for concerts during 2025.

We have started to build links with **Fitzwaryn School**, a centre of excellence for children with special educational needs. The Vicar had an enjoyable visit to the school in October 2025. Since then, discussions have resulted in plans for older children at the school to become involved in preparing food and delivering it to our Around Table project. In 2026, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, students have also started helping to look after the churchyard at the Parish Church and to keep the church clean.

Christingle at Holy Trinity Church and the **Crib Service** at the Parish Church were a great success, attended by more than 450 children and adults.

For the teenagers in our church community, the **Teens Bible Group** meets every Monday after school during term time, reading and discussing different passages from the bible. In 2025 the teenagers also organised a prayer walk around Wantage, and a 'teens social' took place. There are plans to do the same in 2026.

Our next big venture involves **Godly Play**. In 2025 the PCC approved a budget to start a new type of outreach service that teaches, nurtures and expands children of all ages spirituality. Launched in April 2026, Godly Play will be held every Sunday at 3pm in Holy Trinity Church.













MUSIC

Music plays a really important part in our worship. At both our churches there is a **sung service every Sunday** morning. At Holy Trinity Church, in addition to the hymns, elements of the Eucharist service are sung by the congregation to a number of different settings on a monthly rotation. We are grateful to the organists who play for these services.

At the Parish Church, the singing is led by our very strong choir. With around 35 adult members and 15 children and teenagers, the choir provides **strong support** for congregational singing as well as tackling an impressive range of choral music. Choir numbers were broadly level during 2025. Recruitment of children remains a challenge. A Children's Concert in the spring brought contacts with new families. **Musical outreach** into Wantage CE and Charlton primary schools continued but was less successful than in the previous year in generating new recruits for the church choir. We hope that the increasing number of families and children becoming involved in church life, described earlier in this report, will help.

The children and young people in the choir follow the ***Voice for Life*** training programme offered by the Royal School of Church Music. During 2025, two choristers achieved the RSCM's Bronze and Silver awards, respectively. Five choristers are working towards Bronze, Silver or Gold awards in 2026.







The Parish offers **choral and organ scholarships** to older teenagers and young adults. During 2025 we said goodbye to organ scholars Thomas and Amelia, both of whom went off to university. We have enjoyed watching both of them develop from beginners to very talented organists. Thomas now has an organ scholarship at Lancaster Priory Church, alongside studying medicine, and Amelia is continuing her organ studies in Oxford where she is reading music. We are grateful to the Community of St Mary the Virgin for their financial support of the scholarship programme.





A **workshop day** in October 2025, led by Joanna Tomlinson, a highly respected choral conductor, was an opportunity for the choir to work on musical blend.

The choir strives to produce the highest quality of music **to the glory of God**, enhancing worship in a way that helps faith to thrive. The choir's repertoire has expanded significantly in recent years, providing a wider range of music suitable for all the significant seasons and festivals of the church year. Looking forward, the focus will be more on consolidating previous learning and further improving the quality of performance.





The choir put on a very successful **'Come & Sing'** performance of music by Gabriel Fauré later in 2025. This attracted a large number of additional singers and raised money for Wantage Parish Music Guild, which supports the musical life of the Parish.

Also a money raiser (and great fun) was the **Parish Pantomime** which returned in March 2025 (Oh yes, it did!). Written & directed by Sheenagh Dernie, this story of Dick Whittington showcased the talents of many individuals in the Parish.





Each summer, the choir spends a week singing together **on tour**. In 2025, the choir visited the area around Bergerac in France. The tour began with choral evensong with a local English-speaking congregation and finished with Mass for the Feast of the Assumption in the largest (and packed) church in Bergerac. In between, there were two concerts, with the performance in the historic church at Issigeac a particular highlight.

We are grateful to members of the choir for all that they contribute to our worship and, as an integral part of our congregation, to other aspects of Parish life.



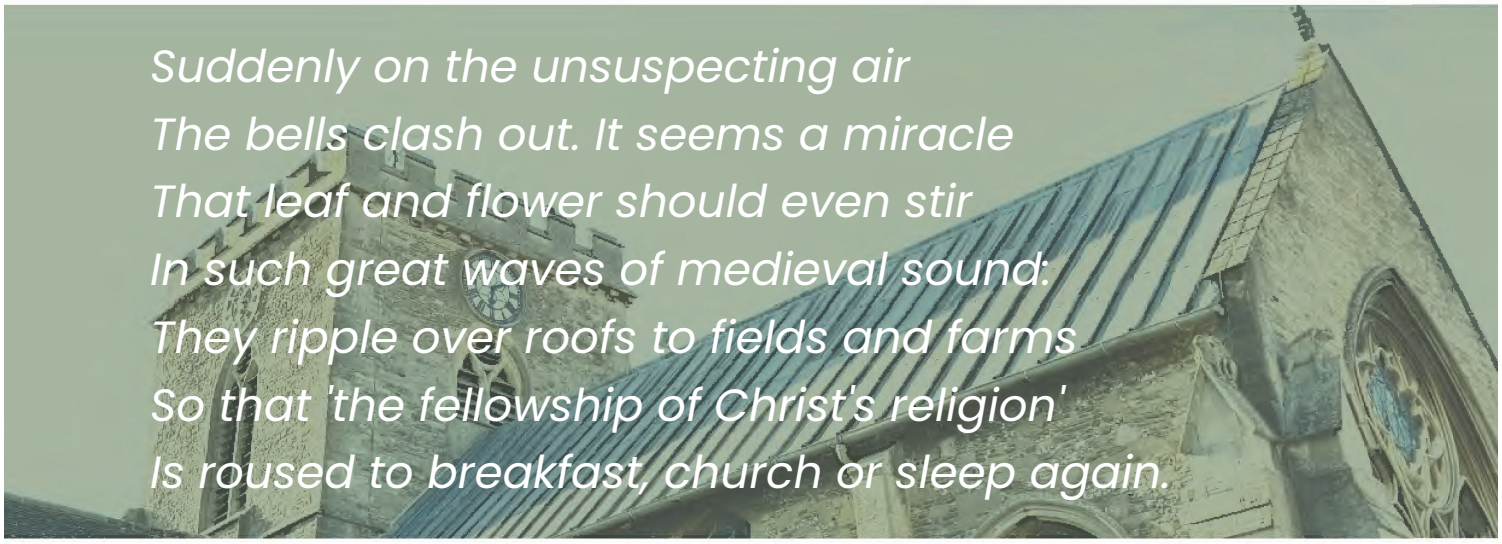








BELLRINGERS



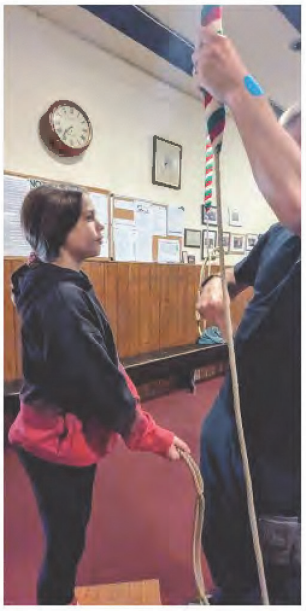
Suddenly on the unsuspecting air
The bells clash out. It seems a miracle
That leaf and flower should even stir
In such great waves of medieval sound:
They ripple over roofs to fields and farms
So that 'the fellowship of Christ's religion'
Is roused to breakfast, church or sleep again.

These words are by John Betjeman, for many years a local resident. Fifty years on from their writing, the **fine ring of eight bells** at the Parish Church continues to rouse the people of Wantage. This sometimes generates comments on Facebook, but there is always a strongly positive response showing how much local people appreciate the sound of the bells.



We currently have a team of twelve ringers who ring the bells every Sunday morning, as well as for weddings and funerals (when requested). In June 2025, a **quarter peal** was rung to mark the ordination of curate Frances Caroe as a priest. The bells are rung for special services at Christmas and other times, including half muffled for Remembrance Sunday, and the new year is always rung in. Plans for 2026 include ringing quarter peals prior to Choral Evensong each month.





We were pleased to host events for the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Ringers during 2025, including a maintenance training session and an open day.

OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY



We engage with the wider community in many ways. The Parish Church is a focus for **civic events** such as Remembrance Sunday and the Town Mayor's Carols. As mentioned earlier in this report, we seek to be a visible witness to God's love by taking worship out into the Market Place. Our choir helps to lead **community carol singing** at the annual Dickensian Evening.





Members of our congregation are involved in Wantage & Grove **Street Pastors** – volunteers from local churches who care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets on Friday & Saturday nights. Other church members help with the local **Food Bank**, for which we collect donations.





AROUND TABLE

Started in 2023, our **Around Table** initiative continues to meet a very real need. Each week we serve 100-120 meals to local people in the companiable surroundings of Holy Trinity Church, as well as delivering some meals to homes. The project serves people who are not churchgoers, yet they are coming through the church door and experiencing God's love in action.

Food is sourced as much as possible from local **food hubs** which distribute surplus food from supermarkets and elsewhere. Sometimes we need to buy food, and we are grateful for the generous grants and donations received during 2025 which made this possible.





Around Table depends on a wonderfully dedicated team of **volunteers**. During 2025, chef James Hart decided to leave, and we acknowledge with gratitude all he did from the start of the project. For the future, we are looking forward to an exciting new development as students from Fitzwaryn School become involved.

MINISTRY TO CARE HOMES

We recognise that the provision of spiritual care can be particularly important for those facing the realities of old age, ill health, and death, and their families. We have successfully built up strong relationships with all six local **care homes**.



During 2025 we offered a regular (at least monthly) service in each care home. This may be Holy Communion or a Service of the Word, with hymns, sermons or reflections as appropriate, and fellowship with care home residents afterwards. These services are reaching between **50 and 80 people** each month. We also respond to urgent requests to offer prayers with the dying and anointing.

In order to help sustain this ministry, we have plans to establish a wider **lay ministry group** in 2026, drawn from across the Wantage Deanery.

FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING

Social events provide times for fellowship and fundraising, not to mention fun! They are also opportunities to invite friends, family and neighbours as we welcome in the wider community. Refreshments after the 9.15am and 10.30am Sunday services offer time for a chat and an opportunity to get to know each other. Parish Breakfast follows the Monday



Eucharist every other week at the Parish Church. Taking account of other things going on at Holy Trinity, we felt that the monthly TBar get together had come to the end of its season in 2025. We are grateful to those who organised it.

In June 2025 we launched a new **Parish Ale Festival**, bringing back a tradition from the medieval period when parishes would brew their own beer. Our brew, wittily called *DiscipAle*, was specially created by Indigenous Brewery in nearby Chaddleworth and attracted the attention of BBC Radio Oxford. The event featured a lunchtime talk entitled *'Drunk monks and a lake of beer'* in which Dr Hannah Caroe shared insights into Anglo-Saxon brewing. The evening brought sword- and clog-dancing displays and a hugely enjoyable ceilidh. The PCC is very grateful to everyone who helped make the event a success.

Other events took place over the year, celebrating particular times & seasons:

Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday Holy Trinity Festival Weekend Harvest Lunch
Parish Church Patronal Festival Wantage Wassail at Christmas

















ART IN THE CHURCH



A new departure for the Parish in the last couple of years has been a programme of **art exhibitions** in the Parish Church. Two were put on in 2025, under the guidance of our volunteer Arts Co-ordinator and professional artist, Bahar Murphy.

In the run-up to Easter, ***The Cross*** was an exhibition for Passiontide of art, photos, music & video, including works specially created for the event. The video, put together and narrated by our Vicar, looked at the history and significance of the cross as a Christian symbol.

The summer exhibition of **Embroidery** celebrated the skill and dedication of Heléne Lister Cheese, a parishioner for many years. The exhibition featured examples of her beautiful church vestments and other creations, as well as needlework by other members of our congregation.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



Our two church buildings are public spaces where all are welcome. Visitors to the Parish Church enjoy its special feeling as a **sacred space**, its peace in the centre of a busy town, its beauty and history.

Holy Trinity Church provides a venue for a range of **well-being activities**, from yoga to circle dancing, and tai chi to stress release workshops.

As an historic building, the Parish Church provides a wonderful backdrop for **concerts, talks and other events**. During 2025 we welcomed a range of local groups and schools for thirteen concerts, in addition to talks organised by Wantage Literary Festival and by Wantage Bookshop.

COMMUNICATIONS



In a busy parish with a lot going on, **attractively presented** communications are essential. People are not going to come to things if they don't know they are happening! This is why the work of our parish administrator and volunteer communications team is so important.

Each week, our eNews celebrates what has happened and looks forward to events coming up. For those not on email, a weekly printed newsletter is available in both churches. Three editions of our **Wantage Chronicle** magazine were published in 2025, with articles on a wide range of subjects.

A new **notice board** was installed outside the Parish Church during 2025, with space to display much more information about both regular church services and special events. A similar board will be provided at Holy Trinity Church in 2026. We are developing our website and enhancing our social media presence.

TIME, TALENTS & MONEY

There are many ways in which church members give their time and talents to support different aspects of Parish life. Some are referred to elsewhere in this report, but many are not.

Flower arrangers *Readers & intercessors* *Church watchers*
Servers *Sacristans* *Parish administrator* *Events facilitators*
Those involved in children's work *Communications team* ***..... and many more***

The PCC is enormously grateful to all those who put their time and talents at God's service in the Parish.

We could not function without the financial generosity of church members. We have to raise all the money needed to maintain and run our activities and our two church buildings, as well as contributing our share to Diocesan costs of training, paying and housing clergy.



The Church of England encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the Church and 5% to other charitable causes. We use the Parish Giving Scheme to collect regular contributions. We recognise the declining use of cash in society and have contactless "tap and-pay" devices for donations in both our churches. We are grateful for all the donations received.



BUILDINGS

We have two **beautiful church buildings**. The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, in the centre of Wantage, dates from the medieval period and has a grade I listing because of its historical significance. Holy Trinity Church in the Charlton area of the town dates from the early 20th century.

Both churches are inspected every five years by a specialist conservation architect. The **latest inspection** was carried out during 2025. No major immediate points of concern were raised, although the report highlighted that the nave roof of the Parish Church is nearing the end of its life.

It is some 30 years since the last significant work on the interior of the Parish Church. During 2025, we initiated a Parish Church Improvement Project. The PCC appointed architects to undertake a **feasibility study** looking at options for how the church could be improved to meet the current and future needs of the Parish.



Initial consultations with the congregation and the wider community took place in January 2026. The architects will report later in the year. It will be exciting to see the **options** they come up with and how improvements could further our mission in the years ahead.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding remains an important priority for the PCC. Our Parish safeguarding policy emphasises our commitment to:

- promoting a safer environment and culture;
- safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church;
- responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected people;
- caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected people; and
- responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

During 2025, Klara Ignell took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) from Matt Godfrey. We thank Matt for his work in this role. Our PSO liaises as necessary with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies.

The PCC receives a report on safeguarding at each of its meetings. The PSO ensures that checks on staff and volunteers with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) are carried out as required and that safeguarding training modules are completed by people in relevant roles.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

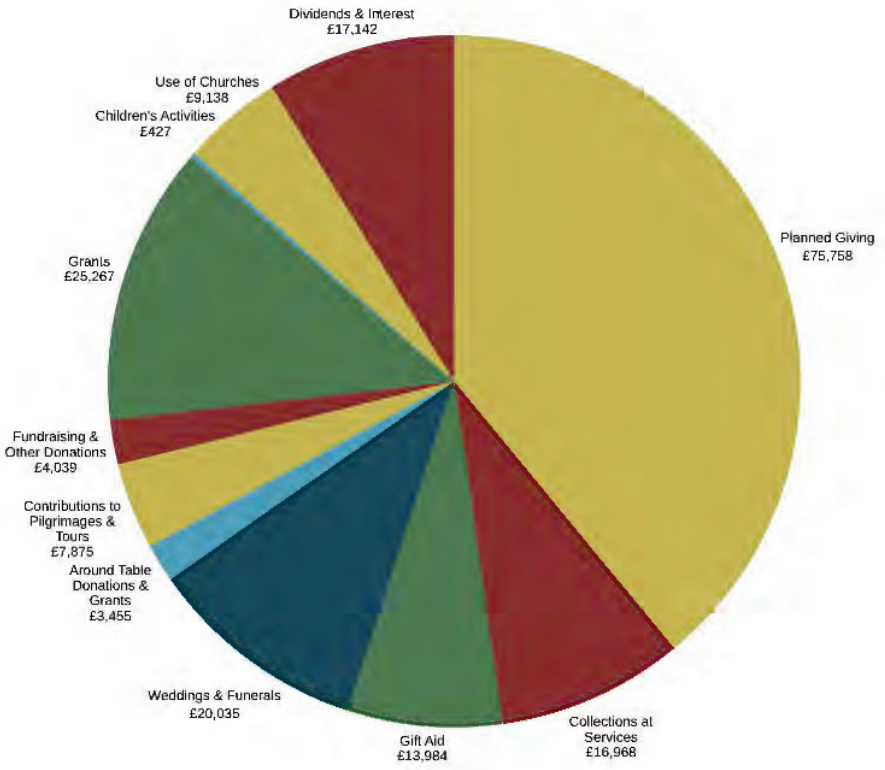
Available with this report are the PCC's Annual Accounts for 2025, which set out our financial performance for the year and our levels of funds going into 2026. These funds comprise:

- unrestricted funds – day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- restricted funds – money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

INCOME

The Parish's income in 2025 was £194,088 (2024: £208,320). The chart below shows a breakdown of how this was generated. Income from giving of various sorts made up 55% of the total for 2025 (2024: 49%).

A further £56,041 (29%) was for restricted uses. These included £3,455 in grants and donations for the Around Table project, and £25,267 in grants towards building costs, music and our work with children & young people. Participants contributed £7,875 to fully cover the costs of the pilgrimage to the North East.



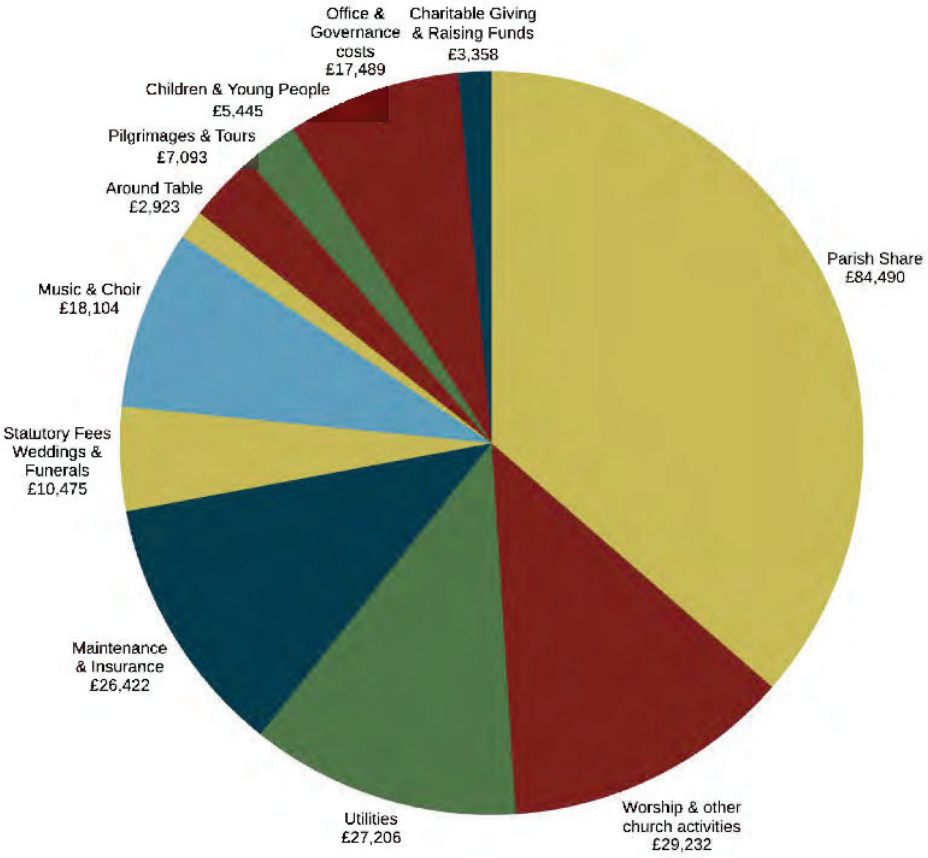
EXPENDITURE

We spent £232,237 in 2025, a reduction from £250,516 in 2024. The chart below shows a breakdown. About a third represents the Parish Share which we pay to the Diocese for clergy salaries, training and other diocesan costs. Running our buildings accounts for 23% of our costs, and 28% is spent on worship, ministry, various Parish initiatives (including Around Table), and external charitable giving.

The fall in expenditure relates mainly to a reduction in costs for pilgrimages and choir tours (from £21,395 to £7,093) and Around Table (from £10,348 to £2,923). In both cases, these costs are matched by related income, so there is no overall impact.

Buildings costs remain high, with utilities costing £3,000 more than the previous year, and maintenance and insurance nearly £5,000 more. Office and governance costs have also been subject to inflation-linked increases, with an additional £2,000 spent in 2025.

Spending on Children & Young People increased from just £642 in 2024 to £5,445 following the creation of the post of Children & Young People's Minister (replacing the previous Parish Assistant role). This increase is 50% funded by the Diocese and 50% by a designated fund held by the PCC.



Overall, our outgoings exceeded our income by £38,149 (2024: £42,195), before taking account of changes in the value of our investments. Most of this reflects spending out of restricted funds, money which the PCC holds which can be used for particular purposes based on the origin of the funds. This left only £6,584 (2024: £6,161) to come from unrestricted funds. The PCC is committed to seeking ways to reduce the overall deficit, with a particular focus on increasing income from giving by church members and from other activities. In February 2025, the PCC committed to a Financial Sustainability Action Plan which will continue to be delivered and monitored.

INVESTMENTS

During the year, the Parish saw its investments with CCLA decrease in value by £24,004 (2024: increase of £13,495). This was due to turbulence in economic markets and the relatively poor investment performance of the CCLA investment fund. Over the medium to long term, it is expected that this reduction will be mitigated. At the end of 2025, the PCC's investments were worth just over £578,000.

RESERVES POLICY AND FUNDS

It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure. This would amount to approximately £70,000. At the end of 2025 general unrestricted funds were £41,088. As mentioned above, the PCC is seeking to increase income in order to restore unrestricted reserves to their target level.

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased many years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (totalling £566,923) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC and a recent legacy. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for ecclesiastical purposes within the Parish. The PCC keeps under review the Parish's financial position and how these funds can best be used to:

- enable new ministry initiatives;
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church; and
- support Parish activities as work continues to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure.

The PCC currently charges building costs to this fund. In 2025, the PCC also used restricted funds to support the role of the Children & Young People's Minister. In total, £42,546 was used for these purposes (2023: £44,760).

Restricted funds include:

- £37,800 designated for future work focused on children and young people;
- £7,207 for fabric and furnishing of Holy Trinity Church;
- £3,757 for the fabric of parish buildings generally;
- £1,250 for music in the Parish;
- £1,366 collected for external charitable giving;
- £688 for Around Table; and
- £782 of surplus income from pilgrimages, to be held for support for future pilgrimages.

Overall, the Parish ended 2025 with total funds (restricted and unrestricted) of £663,062, a reduction of £62,153 compared with 2025.

GOVERNANCE

The PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). The PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law. The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent.

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish, and the Churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by

church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll. The PCC has the power to co-opt additional members to fill casual vacancies. Co-opted members serve until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting when they may stand for election.

The Electoral Roll was fully revised in April 2025. Everyone on the Roll had to re-apply, the first time this had been done since 2019. Following the revision, the number on the Roll was 175, a small net increase of 11 from 2019. Underlying this, however, is the fact that 64 of those on the Roll in 2019 had been lost. Some will have moved away, others died, and some did not come back to church after the Covid pandemic. Encouragingly, however, there were 75 new people on the 2025 Roll compared with 2019. This means that some 40% are new members of our Parish family. Since the full review in 2025, four have left the Roll and fourteen have joined. As a result, the total at the date of this report is 185.

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve on the PCC from the date of their election and continue in office until their successor is admitted to office by the Bishop following election.

Church members elect up to four people to serve on the Wantage Deanery Synod as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years. The current term runs to 30 June 2026.

There is a maximum of nine other elected PCC members. We encourage nominations from the congregations at both our churches. Trustees serve for terms of three years from the date of election.

The following are the members of the PCC at the date of this report. Except where shown, they served throughout 2025.

Clergy

- Revd Katherine Price, Vicar
- Revd Frances Caroe, Curate

Churchwardens

- Alastair Hunter
- Janet Kingdon

Representatives on Deanery Synod

- Susie Lapwood
- Jan Ralston

Elected and co-opted members

- Andrew Gregory (Assistant Warden)
- Claire Hunter (PCC Treasurer)
- Phil Johnson (from 18 May 2025)
- Peter King
- Ben Mabbett
- Erica Mackay (from 18 May 2025, PCC Secretary)
- Bridget Procter
- David Richardson
- Vince Wilkins (from 18 May 2025)

In addition, the following was a member of the PCC from the start of 2025 until the date shown:

- Ivie Johnson (to 18 May 2025)

The Vicar and the Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions in the Parish. The Standing Committee, appointed by the PCC, consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens and two other members of the PCC. It has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC.

DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod provides a forum to discuss key issues and organise the church's ministry and mission at deanery level. It sits between the parishes, with their Parochial Church Councils, and the diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. It is convened by the Area Dean and Lay Chair and consists of all the licensed clergy in the deanery together with lay people elected by the parishes.

In 2025, Wantage Parish was represented on Deanery Synod by two lay members, Jan Ralston and Susie Lapwood, in addition to our clergy, Katherine Proce and Frances Caroe. Susie Lapwood was also a lay representative on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. At the end of the year, we welcomed the news that our Vicar, Revd. Katherine Price, would be picking up the baton as the new Area Dean in 2026.

Deanery Synod met in June and November 2025. Reports from Diocesan Synod as well as updates from each parish in the deanery enable members to share in joys (such as the pleasing attendance at Easter services and the numbers coming forward for confirmation last year), to learn from each other, and to offer prayerful support around issues of concern for each parish.

Other topics covered at Deanery Synod in 2025 included:

- A proposed project at Deanery level to unite pastoral provision for care homes, introduced by our curate, Revd. Frances Caroe.
- Agreement of the annual allocation of the Parish Share, which is being gradually rebalanced across the Deanery. Pleasingly, our Deanery again managed to pay its Parish Share in full.
- The possibility of regular Deanery online prayer meetings to pray for the needs of the Deanery and parishes, as happens in neighbouring deaneries.
- Continuing discussion around ministry to children and young people, in the light of the recent unsuccessful deanery bids for diocesan funding for schools chaplaincy and youth ministry.

Visiting speakers informed us about various initiatives, inviting further engagement at parish or deanery level:

- The John Ray Initiative (Margot and Martin Hodson): bringing faith and science together to promote environmental sustainability.
- Christian Aid update (Phil Evans, Area Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for Christian Aid).

The PCC is encouraged by progress made in 2025. We look forward in prayerful hope as we seek to build the church in our parish and continue to encounter and share God's transforming love.

This report was approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026.

Revd. Katherine Price
Vicar

Administrative information

Our website is at:
www.wantageparish.com

Address for correspondence:
Parish Office
The Butler Centre
Church Street
Wantage
OX12 8BL

Email for general enquiries:
administrator@wantageparish.com

The PCC's principal bankers:
CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:
A Chapman ACA
Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
OX12 8JY



wantage parish

Charity No. 1181640

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 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.

A Chapman FCA
Chapman Worth Limited
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

24th July 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	General unrestricted funds £	Designated unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total *2024* £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	**2**	103,978	-	6,186	110,164	*108,603*
Charitable activities	**3**	21,238	-	7,875	29,113	*38,484*
Other operating activities	**4**	12,401	-	25,267	37,668	*43,689*
Investments	**5**	430	-	16,713	17,143	*17,544*
Total income		138,047	-	56,041	194,088	*208,320*
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	**6**	934	-	-	934	*3,151*
Charitable activities	**6**	143,697	-	87,606	231,303	*247,364*
Total resources expended		144,631	-	87,606	232,237	*250,515*
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		(6,584)	-	(31,565)	(38,149)	*(42,195)*
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**9**	-	-	(24,004)	(24,004)	*13,495*
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,584)	-	(55,569)	(62,153)	*(28,700)*
Transfers between funds	**14**	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(6,584)	-	(55,569)	(62,153)	*(28,700)*
Fund balances at 1 January		47,672	40,000	637,543	725,215	*753,915*
Fund balances at 31 December	**14**	41,088	40,000	581,974	663,062	*725,215*

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Comparative Figures for 2024	Notes	General unrestricted funds £	Designated unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies	**2**	103,018	-	5,585	108,603
Charitable activities	**3**	17,089	-	21,395	38,484
Other operating activities	**4**	13,211	-	30,478	43,689
Investments	**5**	1,226	-	16,318	17,544
Total income		134,544	-	73,776	208,320
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**6**	3,151	-	-	3,151
Charitable activities	**6**	137,554	-	109,810	247,364
Total resources expended		140,705	-	109,810	250,515
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		(6,161)	-	(36,034)	(42,195)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**9**	-	-	13,495	13,495
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,161)	-	(22,539)	(28,700)
Transfers between funds	**14**	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(6,161)	-	(22,539)	(28,700)
Fund balances at 1 January		53,833	40,000	660,082	753,915
Fund balances at 31 December	**14**	47,672	40,000	637,543	725,215

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	*2024* £	*2024* £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		40,000		*41,212*
Investments	**11**		578,080		*602,084*
			618,080		*643,296*
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	33,749		*13,160*	
Cash at bank and in hand		18,254		*72,989*	
		52,003		*86,149*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(7,021)		*(4,230)*	
Net current assets			44,982		*81,919*
Total assets less current liabilities			663,062		*725,215*
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**14**		581,974		*637,543*
Designated unrestricted funds	**14**		40,000		*40,000*
General unrestricted funds	**14**		41,088		*47,672*
			663,062		*725,215*

These accounts were approved on 17th May 2026

.....
Katherine Price
Vicar

.....
Janet Kingdon
Churchwarden

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2025 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Financial risk

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

1.5 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

1.6 Incoming resources

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Resources expended

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

1.9 Fixed asset investments

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Debtors

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

1.12 Creditors

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

2 Donations and legacies

	General unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving by church members	75,858	-	75,858	*77,628*
Collections at services	9,626	2,596	12,222	*9,561*
Legacies	-	-	-	*5,000*
Other donations	4,510	3,590	8,100	*5,008*
Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid	13,984	-	13,984	*11,406*
	103,978	6,186	110,164	*108,603*
Comparative figures for 2024				
Planned giving by church members	*77,628*	-		*77,628*
Collections at services	*5,976*	*3,585*		*9,561*
Legacies	*5,000*	-		*5,000*
Other donations	*3,008*	*2,000*		*5,008*
Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid	*11,406*	-		*11,406*
	103,018	*5,585*		*108,603*

3 Income from charitable activities

	General unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Fees & contributions for occasional offices	20,725	-	20,725	*16,753*
Publications, quiet days & children's activities	513	-	513	*336*
Fees for choir tours and pilgrimages	-	7,875	7,875	*21,395*
	21,238	7,875	29,113	*38,484*
Comparative figures for 2024				
Fees & contributions for occasional offices	*16,753*	*-*		*16,753*
Publications, quiet days & children's activities	*336*	*-*		*336*
Fees for choir tours and pilgrimages		*21,395*		*21,395*
	17,089	*21,395*		*38,484*

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

4 Income from other operating activities

	General unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Fundraising	3,185	-	3,185	*6,792*
Grants	-	25,267	25,267	*30,361*
Use of churches by other organisations	9,216	-	9,216	*6,536*
Rental income	-	-	-	-
	12,401	25,267	37,668	*43,689*
Comparative figures for 2024				
Fundraising	*6,675*	*117*		*6,792*
Grants	*-*	*30,361*		*30,361*
Use of churches by other organisations	*6,536*	*-*		*6,536*
Rental income	*-*	*-*		*-*
	13,211	*30,478*		*43,689*

5 Income from investments

	General unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Investment income	430	16,713	17,143	*17,544*
Comparative figures for 2024	*1,226*	*16,318*		*17,544*

6 Expenditure

	Notes	Clergy costs £	Church buildings £	Other costs £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Worship & ministry		88,317	55,073	85,141	228,531	*242,351*
Charitable giving	7	-	-	2,772	2,772	*5,013*
		88,317	55,073	87,913	231,303	*247,364*
Costs of raising funds		-	-	934	934	*3,151*
		88,317	55,073	88,847	232,237	*250,515*
Analysis by type of fund:						
Unrestricted funds		88,317	-	56,313	144,630	*140,705*
Restricted funds		-	55,073	32,534	87,607	*109,810*
		88,317	55,073	88,847	232,237	*250,515*
Comparative figures for 2024						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Worship & ministry		*89,411*	*56,554*	*96,386*		*242,351*
Charitable giving	*7*	-	-	*5,013*		*5,013*
		89,411	*56,554*	*101,399*		*247,364*
Costs of raising funds		-	-	*3,151*		*3,151*
		89,411	*56,554*	*104,550*		*250,515*
Analysis by type of fund:						
Unrestricted funds		*89,411*	-	*51,294*		*140,705*
Restricted funds		-	*56,554*	*53,256*		*109,810*
		89,411	*56,554*	*104,550*		*250,515*

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £47,952 in respect of 6 part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2024:* £43,752 *for eight part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,620 *(2024: £1,682*), being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.
- Clergy costs include £88,317 *(2024:* £89,411*)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

7 Charitable giving

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bishops' Outreach Fund	-	813
Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza	-	1,326
Children's Society – Christingle Service	-	68
Sweatbox Wantage	-	1,403
Christian Aid	-	1,403
BeSpace	924	-
Sobell House Hospice	924	-
British Red Cross Gaza Appeal	924	-
	2,772	5,013

8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Frances Caroe lives in the curate's house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Five trustees were reimbursed a total of £1,423 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2024: Five trustees reimbursed £3,651).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £9,359 *(2024:* £11,936*)* during the periods when they were trustees.

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	General unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
	£	£	£	*£*
Revaluation of investments	-	(24,004)	(24,004)	*13,495*
Comparative figures for 2024	*-*	*13,495*		*13,495*

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	40,000	15,036	55,036
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	40,000	15,036	55,036
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2025	-	13,824	13,824
Depreciation charged in the year	-	1,212	1,212
At 31 December 2025	-	15,036	15,*036*
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2025	40,000	0	40,000
At 31 December 2024	*40,000*	*1,212*	*41,212*

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

11 Fixed asset investments

	2025	*2024*
Managed investments	**£**	***£***
Market value at 1 January 2025	602,084	*588,589*
Additions	-	-
Withdrawals	-	-
Income reinvested	35	*40*
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(24,039)	*13,455*
Market value at 31 December 2025	578,080	*602,084*
Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management:		
CBF Church of England Investment Fund	557,271	*601,310*
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	809	*774*
	578,080	*602,084*

12 Debtors

	2025	*2024*
Amounts falling due within one year	**£**	***£***
Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid	*13,482*	*10,670*
Other debtors & prepayments, including grant from Butler Trust	*20,267*	*2,490*
	33,749	*13,160*

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	*2024*
	£	***£***
Other creditors & accruals	7,021	*4,230*

14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £566,631 at the end of 2025 *(2024:* £581,018*)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. Following the successful application for match funding from the Diocese of Oxford, the PCC has agreed to release this funding over 5 years to fund the Children's & Families Minister.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2024: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

14 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2025	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluation gains and losses	Transfers between reserves	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:						
Designated for work with children & young people	40,000	3,000	(5,200)	-	-	37,800
Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish	581,017	16,713	(44,603)	(24,004)		529,123
	621,017	19,713	(49,803)	(24,004)	-	566,923
Other restricted funds:						
Fabric of Parish buildings	3,757	17,268	(17,268)	-	-	3,757
Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church	8,552	-	(1,344)	-	-	7,207
Music in the Parish	1,250	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	1,250
Pilgrimages, choir tours and parish visits	-	7,875	(7,093)	-	-	782
Charitable giving fund	1,542	2,596	(2,772)	-	-	1,366
Children’s activities	270	-	(270)	-	-	0
Around Table	1,155	3,590	(4,057)	-	-	688
	637,543	56,041	(87,606)	(24,004)	-	581,974
Designated unrestricted funds						
Curate's housing fund	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
Long-term organ maintenance fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
General unrestricted funds	47,672	138,047	(144,631)		-	41,088
Total funds	725,215	194,088	(232,237)	(24,004)	-	663,062

14 Funds (continued)

Comparative Figures for 2024

	Balance at 1 January 2024	*Movement in funds*				*Balance at 31 December 2024*
		Incoming resources	*Resources expended*	*Revaluation gains and losses*	*Transfers between reserves*	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:						
Designated for work with children & young people	*40,000*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*40,000*
Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish	*595,964*	*16,318*	*(44,760)*	*13,495*		*581,017*
	635,964	*16.318*	*(44,760)*	*13,495*	*-*	*621,017*
Other restricted funds:						
Fabric of Parish buildings	*5,125*	*22,360*	*(23,728)*	*-*	*-*	*3,757*
Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church	*11,277*	*-*	*(2,725)*	*-*	*-*	*8,552*
Music in the Parish	*5,000*	*-*	*(3,750)*	*-*	*-*	*1,250*
Pilgrimages, choir tours and parish visits	*-*	*21,395*	*(21,395)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Charitable giving fund	*2,002*	*3,703*	*(4,162)*	*-*	*-*	*1,542*
Children's activities	*714*		*(445)*	*-*	*-*	*270*
Around Table	*-*	*10,000*	*(8,845)*	*-*	*-*	*1,155*
	660,082	*73,776*	*(109,810)*	*13,495*	*-*	*637,543*
Designated unrestricted funds						
Curate's housing fund	*40,000*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*40,000*
Long-term organ maintenance fund	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*
General unrestricted funds	*53,833*	*134,544*	*(140,705)*		*-*	*47,672*
Total funds	*725,215*	*208,320*	*(250,515)*	*13,495*	*-*	*725,215*

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted funds	Designated unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 were represented by:				
Tangible assets	-	40,000	-	40,000
Investments	-	-	578,080	578,080
Other current assets/(liabilities)	41,089	-	3,893	44,982
	41,089	40,000	581,973	663,062

Comparative figures for 2024

Fund balances at 31 December 2024 were represented by:				
Tangible assets	*1,212*	*40,000*	*-*	*41,212*
Investments	*-*	*-*	*602,084*	*602,084*
Other current assets/(liabilities)	*46,460*	*-*	*35,459*	*81,919*
	47,672	*40,000*	*637,543*	*725,215*

16 Related party transactions

One trustee (Phil Johnson) is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary and expenses at the end of 2025 of £8,397 (2024: £7,384) under a contract which pre-dates his appointment as a trustee in May 2025. They take no part in the determination of their salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust are the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer who are also members of the PCC. In 2025, the PCC's income included £17,267 of accrued grant from the Butler Trust towards roof repairs and building maintenance and running costs (2024: £19,871). There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2025 or 2024.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2025 and 2024 included one who is also a trustee on the PCC and one who is married to people who were members of the PCC. In 2025, the PCC's income included a grant of £5,000 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist (2024: £5,000). There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2024 or 2025.

wantage parish



www.wantageparish.com

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 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.

A Chapman FCA
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Date: 24/07/2026