Elmdon Church

Sharing the Love of Christ

Annual report for 2025

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Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to be held on Tuesday 28th April 2026, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church.

Church Information

Address	**Elmdon Church, Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ**
Rector	**Revd Bekah Clark**
Licensed Readers	**Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews**
Churchwardens	**Cheryl Doyle, Sue Kimber**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met seven times in person during 2025: six regular meetings, and one meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

PCC members

Revd Bekah Clark — Chair

Churchwardens:

Cheryl Doyle (from May 2025) — ex officio member
Sue Kimber — ex officio member

Reader appointed by the APCM:

Karen Matthews

Deanery Synod members, to serve until APCM in 2026:

Christine Arnsby — ex officio member
Cheryl Doyle — ex officio member
Vacancy

Elected Members during 2025:

To serve until APCM in 2025:	Anne Milne (until May 2025)
To serve until APCM in 2026:	Sarah Leckie (resigned January 2026)
	Vacancy
	Vacancy
To serve until APCM in 2027:	Lesley Huss
	Lynda Bird
	Richard Salt (from May 2025, resigned March 2026)
To serve until APCM in 2028:	Alan Doyle
	Martin Hewings (resigned January 2026)
	Ann Davis (from May 2025)

Co-opted to serve until APCM in 2026:
Jean Davies (from July 2025)

Officers appointed by the PCC, 2025 - 2026

Safeguarding	Lesley Huss
PCC Treasurer	Alan Doyle
PCC Secretary	Christine Arnsby
Lay Vice-Chair	Sue Kimber
Parish Identify Verifier	Lesley Huss
Electoral Roll Officer	Richard Huss

PCC and Diocese

Rector's Introduction

At the end of the book of Habakkuk - the sermon series with which we began 2025 - the prophet prays, 'yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour' (3.18). These words feel to me a fitting summary of the life and witness of Elmdon Church during the past year.

The series was entitled 'Faith in Troubled Times' and whilst 2025 was not without challenges, it feels to me that we became more deeply rooted both in prayer and the joy of the Lord. Despite ongoing building-related needs, financial pressures and a continuing sense that 'the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few' (Matthew 9.37), we were nevertheless able to build on the previous year's progress and develop our ministry and mission.

Following Habakkuk, our Sunday preaching explored a range of themes: rest (The Rest is Worship), 'You will be my Witnesses... in all Judea and Samaria' (Acts 1-6.7), 'Only Jesus' (Luke 9), 'You will be my Witnesses... in Jerusalem' (Acts 6.8-13.3), Contending for the Faith (Jude) and 'The Church' (Family Services). Both our Sunday service and 'Tuesdays at 2' welcomed newcomers and visitors throughout the year, with signs of gentle growth in average Sunday attendance.

Our Christmas services were especially well attended, which was a great encouragement to us, and we hope and pray, a blessing to all who came. Our first 'Relaxed Carols' - for those with additional needs - was attended by over 60 people from local day centres, and our Christmas Eve Carol Service was attended by 127 adults and 10 children.

We once again held an Easter event and Light Party for families, and an Annual Memorial Service to which we invited the loved ones of those for whom we'd taken a funeral or burial of ashes service during the past 12 months. We also welcomed children from Damson Wood and Valley schools to church to participate in our 'Encounter Christmas' trail. Additionally, Damson Wood Year 2 came for an Easter workshop, which was a great success and looks set to become a regular feature in the school and church calendars.

On 8th May, the beacon was lit to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and we were pleased to be able to host a civic service beforehand. It was exciting to be featured on ITV Central's coverage of the event, where I was interviewed alongside the Mayor of Solihull. In June, it was a joy to once again welcome the Fisherman's Mission to Elmdon Church for a time of fellowship and worship as part of their biennial conference, held at a hotel within our parish.

In September, we ran the 321 Course for the first time, offering space to explore questions of life and faith. Following participation in the 321 course, one person was confirmed and one person has been baptised, with others considering confirmation in the future. September also saw the introduction of Zoom Morning Prayer on a Monday morning for 20 minutes, with around 6 of us gathering to pray each week. This has become a valued rhythm, allowing us to pray intentionally for the week ahead, and it has been a particular encouragement to see prayers answered, for which we can give thanks.

In November, it was announced that the decision had been taken to bring the plurality with St Mary's Hobs Moat to an end, with my remaining as Rector of Elmdon, but no longer the Vicar of Hobs Moat. In the face of this significant news and change, prayer and trust in God's purposes have been our posture as we've adjusted, and I give thanks to God for how we have navigated this transition. Earlier in the year, I had invited Bishop Esther, Suffragan Bishop of Aston, to preach at the end of November, and her visit felt like another moment of us leaning into the 'joy of the Lord'.

Towards the end of the year, we connected with the co-chair of Christians @ JLR, which was an answer to prayer. We are looking forward to developing this partnership as we seek to share the love of Christ across our parish, including with the 9,000-12,000 people who work at JLR Solihull.

As I reflect on 2025, it is clear that whilst there were things we had hoped to achieve but did not quite manage, we have achieved a great deal - corporately and collectively - and there is much for which to give thanks. We've reached a little further with the love of Christ, and to return to Habakkuk, it feels like there are indeed buds on the fig tree and grapes on the vine (3.17). If Habakkuk teaches us to rejoice when everything appears to be failing, how much more should we rejoice when there are signs of new fruit?

I've highlighted some specific 'events' in this introduction, but so much of our ministry and mission happens in individual conversations, hidden acts of kindness, and faithful service unseen by many. One of my greatest sources of joy is sharing in leadership and ministry with others. But the greatest joy of my life is knowing Jesus, the Lord of life. That joy leads me to thanksgiving - for the privilege of ministering alongside the people of Elmdon Church within the parish of Elmdon, and above all to God, 'for his indescribable gift!' (2 Corinthians 9.15)

'This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (2 Corinthians 9.12-15)

Bekah Clark

PCC Secretary's Report

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members. In addition, our Rector, Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members any Readers appointed by the APCM, and any co-opted members serve on the PCC.

In April 2026, no current elected PCC members come to the end of their term of office. At last year's APCM we carried over two vacancies, and during the year three elected PCC members resigned. At the APCM we therefore intend to elect five PCC members. One member was co-opted to the PCC during the year, to serve up to the 2026 APCM.

In 2026 all Birmingham Diocese Deanery Synod members must be elected. We therefore also intend to elect three Deanery Synod members for a new three-year term of office.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its membership since 2025 PCM were Cheryl Doyle (Churchwarden), Sue Kimber (Churchwarden and Lay Vice Chair), Revd. Bekah Clark (Rector), Alan Doyle (Treasurer) and Christine Arnsby (Secretary).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

Christine Arnsby, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll

Following this year's revision, there are now 62 names on the church electoral roll. Of these, 27 live within and 35 outside the parish boundary.

This compares to 58 names on the roll this time last year. Since the 2025 APCM, one member of the roll sadly died, and five names have been added to the roll.

Richard Huss, Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted and complies with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy, Promoting a Safer Church (2017), and the practice guidance issued by the Church of England and Birmingham Diocese.

Elmdon Church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting those with any responsibility for the under 18s and vulnerable adults within the church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

Training
We currently have thirty volunteers serving in a variety of ministries within the church, all of whom have completed the level of safeguarding training appropriate to their role. Refresher training is undertaken by all volunteers every three years.

Domestic Abuse Contact
Sarah Leckie resigned as Domestic Abuse Contact in late 2025, and the work and care Sarah has given to serving in this role over the last two years has been greatly appreciated. We are in the process of appointing a new person to the role.

Governance
The PCC complies fully with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance in relation to safeguarding. The PCC provides policies on Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse, which are available on the Elmdon Church website and are displayed on the church noticeboard. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church family. If you have a concern about anything, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, even if you are not sure whether it is a safeguarding issue or not.

Lesley Huss, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator
safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org

Fabric & Buildings

There have been no major works done to the church fabric during 2025. However we have had several roof repairs to contend with leaks. Monitoring these is unfortunately ongoing until the roof can be replaced. We are continuing to dialogue with the diocese over this but, it seems they are unhappy with a pitched roof so we are investigating replacing the flat roof covering and upgrading guttering and insulation along with the plan to relay slabs and improve drainage around the front of the church.

There have been some minor works to the sound system including the replacement of the headsets. A movement sensor light has been put in the boiler room and a delay switch to the car park lights reinstated.

The usual servicing of the heating boiler, roof alarm and fire extinguishers plus PAT testing was carried out but the organ servicing has been delayed until 2026 as it was serviced late in 2024.We also had the 5 yearly electrical conditions report done where everything was found to be in good order.

A Defibrillator has been installed in collaboration with Elmdon Park Support Group. Fund raising for the maintenance of this is organised by EPSG and is ongoing.

The graveyard paths were cleared of moss and algae. The graveyard itself is kept, strimmed, weeded and tidied by a small group of volunteers. Research has been started for new notice boards either side of the old church door and top and bottom of the graveyard near the entrances.

Being mindful of the need to maintain our buildings and grounds we regularly refer to the Quinquennial report to keep on track with this.

Finance and fabric matters are discussed in the Finance and Fabric Group which meets regularly and reports to the PCC.

Our grateful thanks go to all those who help with the ongoing routine jobs such as cleaning teams, refreshment teams, the display team, the gardening team, regular leaf blowing, oversight and upkeep of graveyard plot allocations and records, attending to alarm call outs and meeting contractors etc. Also managing rotas and necessary admin. All your work makes a real difference and our burden lighter.

Cheryl Doyle and Sue Kimber, Churchwardens

Deanery Synod

Elmdon Lay Representatives: Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle. Our electoral roll total qualifies us for three seats until our APCM in Spring 2029.

3rd June 2025 - Christ Church, Burney Lane.
Matt Vaughan, Interserve and Mission Enabler, said he worked with his wife Andrea for Interserve in Pakistan from 2011 to 2019 where he was able to speak the language. His visa was then denied so he worked in Malaysia for a time until his visa was again denied and the family moved back to

England. Three of their children were born in Pakistan, the fourth in England. They are fully funded through Interserve but work in Birmingham Diocese with Christ Church, a parish known as 'ethnically diverse', with 83% of the parish population claiming Muslim faith.

Matt said mission in an ethnically diverse area was not simply competition but leant itself naturally to religious collaboration as people of other faiths were just as concerned and keen to resolve issues like knife crime and violence. Working together was beneficial as it also helped with understanding between faith groups generally.
Matt said that as he and Andrea were not funded by the Deanery or Diocese they were a resource to be used and would love to support other churches in outreach to Muslims. They had some courses available and were happy to preach and go anywhere. They could also help with resources that are sometimes difficult to obtain like Bibles and resources in ethnically appropriate languages.

7th October 2025 - St. Margaret's Church, Olton
PRESENTATION: Bishop Esther - the Diocesan Bid
Bishop Esther said the Diocese had not shaped a vision to attract funding but had shaped the funding application around the Diocese, summarised by the four pillars:

Sustainability. Diocesan reserves, used to cover the shortfall between income from parishes and expenses, were nearly gone. To reduce costs the Diocese would have had to reduce staffing which would have reduced the ability for outreach and growth. The Diocese needed to find a sustainable future together. The successful bid would be a bridge for building a way forward, stimulating growth by allowing for increased staffing and funding for specific projects, the details for which were still being finalised.

Leadership. Flourishing churches need flourishing leaders. The Diocese were seeking applicants for new posts, including more curacies, to reflect the people it served.

Church / Parish Growth. Yes, we want churches to grow; it was important that they grew in numbers, vitality, depth, etc. "Sowing Seeds Funding" would be available for local missional initiatives, being a resource for local imagination.

Church Planting / Revitalisation. Bishop Esther quoted: "Some are ready to give; others are ready to receive" several times and shared a recent example of a new initiative about to start.

Conclusion. The national church recognised that Birmingham had a vision and the successful bid would influence the work and pace of change.

12th February 2026 - Elmdon Church

Canon Dr. Andrew Smith: "How to be an authentic Christian in a multi-cultural and religiously diverse society". Andrew spoke of some very visible changes in our Deanery, including increased religious diversity in Solihull area; the rise of Christian Nationalism, increased polarisation around immigration, flags being hung on lampposts, congregation members' immigration status becoming more precarious, local elections in May 2026 where all Birmingham Councillors must be elected every 3 years with the likelihood of Councillors being elected with views from the far right perspective.

Where many people were tending to panic and forecast society's demise, he had been struck by the possibilities: What an opportunity to show Christ-like light as a contrast to most people's gloomy response; to be positive and speak God's goodness into our communities. With God's strength we could do something different. "This might be", he said, "the most exciting time to be a Christian." Andrew added that when we talked to people of other faiths, it was not to do with the country, it was about Jesus and what we believe in Him.

He said some believed the opposite of commonality was division. It was not. The opposite of commonality was diversity and difference. The Church needed to recognise that fact and actively look for diversity which made our lives and worship so much richer. We were surrounded, he said, by people who were entrenched in their own views when what we needed was dialogue.

Andrew spoke from 2 Kings 5 of the slave girl who didn't hold back in pointing her foreign master Naaman, to God by suggesting he should visit the prophet in Israel who would heal him of his leprosy. She wasn't to know that not only would Naaman listen to her and go, but that God would work in Naaman's life and raise up his faith in the true God of Israel, rather than the man-made gods of Naaman's master, the king of Aram. "We should expect God to do stuff", he said. Perhaps as we repeat the gracious words Elisha spoke to Naaman, to the people of other faiths that we meet, "Go in peace", God will do amazing things.

Our next meeting will be held on 3rd June 2026 in St. Helen's Church, Solihull.

Life at Elmdon Church

Kids in Christ

Kids In Christ continue to meet on the first and third Sundays in the month. We have three leaders, six helpers and eight children on the register. Jean Davies was welcomed to the group in 2025, bringing us her guitar skills. A reward chart has been given to each child. The children, on completing three sessions, can choose a book about Jesus. A bible will be awarded and presented to them in church when they have twelve stickers on their chart.

We have also introduced a prayer tree for the children. During a quiet time of prayer, the children can add a leaf to the tree with the name of someone or something they wish to pray for. We would like to help more children to learn about Jesus and pray that our small friendly group will grow bigger in time.

Lynda Bird, Kids in Christ Leader

Music

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things" - Psalm 98.1

Music is so important to church life, and I'm really grateful to those who help to lead our sung worship at church, and who select the music for each service. Our aim is always to pick songs that are singable by our congregation and that will help us all to express our faith and our praise of God joyfully and musically, fitting with the theme of the service and Bible reading, whilst keeping the church familiar with a core repertoire of music in a variety of styles.

People keep on writing new songs (including, in 2025, one written here!), which is good and in keeping with the instruction in Psalm 98. Yet this is also a challenge as we can't possibly learn all the suitable new songs that are coming out! There are currently around 320 songs in our repertoire, which is probably a bit too many for a church of our size and musical resources. A task for 2026 will be to try to get a handle on our existing repertoire, alongside looking for manageable numbers of new songs to try out.

In 2025 we were able to use live music in church almost every Sunday, and to use our band on a monthly basis. On those Sundays when use recorded music, this is normally because our musicians are required to be serving elsewhere instead. Everyone involved with the music also serves on other teams within the church.

Please do get in touch if you'd be interested in finding out more about how you can help with our music and what would be involved in joining us.

Richard Huss

Connect Groups

Connect groups are small groups which meet during the week for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. There were 3 Connect groups during the year with around 20 members, two on Zoom and one face to face (currently taking a break). There was an opportunity to meet both in the evening and the daytime.

Connect groups are a place to share life's ups and downs with other Christians in a deeper way than is possible on a Sunday and to be supported and encouraged as a disciple of Jesus. Being a member is one of the best ways to feel part of the church family and current members recommend it as an opportunity to share news, ask hard questions and pray in a safe space.

Each group follows its own programme and in 2025/6 Bible studies covered included Isaiah, Jude, Matthew, Mark, Psalms as well as looking at Sunday's teaching in more depth.

New members are always welcome so please speak to Sue or Bekah if you would like to try out a group.

Tuesdays at Two

During 2025 'Tuesdays at Two' continued with a variable attendance of 6-7 people each week.

The group discussion relating to the Bible reading and sermon from the previous Sunday is appreciated by all who attend.

We usually start with a welcome followed by a hymn chosen by someone present, an opening prayer and reading of the scripture to be discussed. The discussion leads into a time of prayer when members can bring their concerns for themselves, family, friends or any other issues they may have. We also include requests on the Prayer Tree which is reviewed periodically. Any requests with no further relevance being removed and burnt. Gathering our prayers together with the Lord's Prayer, we conclude with a final hymn and the words of The Grace, followed by refreshments.

Musical accompaniment to the hymns continues to be provided by two members. We continue to offer hospitality to any who may come into the church hall where we meet. During the year a group of family and friends came in following an internment of ashes in the churchyard.

Early in 2026 we are aiming to find another venue with a view to taking the church out into the community within the boundaries of the Parish.

Margaret Thomas, Leader of Tuesdays at Two

Open Church

The church is open every Sunday afternoon between 2 and 3.30pm in the winter time to coincide with the council's closing of the Park gates and 2 till 4pm in the summertime.

We are open to anyone for refreshments, facilities or just to look around. It provides a welcoming atmosphere for regulars as well as those attending for training, to see our Vicar, or for small meetings. The occasional event might be taking place in the main part of the church but refreshments etc are always available to that.

Numbers of visitors varies from a handful to a couple of dozen. We make no charge but rely on voluntary donations only to enable all who come to have a cup of tea and a chat. The kitchen is manned by a dedicated few without whom this ministry would not be able to continue.

Cheryl Doyle

Mission Support Group

Crosslinks - Rodrigo Salas
Crosslinks is an Anglican missionary society which enables partnerships with all churches, denominations and networks which share its convictions. Crosslinks also supports and enables the training of pastor/teachers and evangelists in less well-off countries, through their BEST (Bursaries Enabling Strategic Training) programme.

Our support of Emi and Tore Fernandez having been completed, our current contact under the BEST programme is Rodrigo Salas of Santiago, Chile who is studying the Bachelor in Theology course at the Centre for Pastoral Studies, Santiago. Following his graduation in December 2027 he will use his theological and ministry training in pastoral care, Bible training, discipleship and church leadership in a local parish of the Anglican Church of Chile.

Please uplift Rodrigo, his wife, Ingrid, and son, Elias, in prayer.

Wycliffe Bible Translators - Gift and Kathryn Asiku
We also partner with Gift and Kathryn Asiku, working for Wycliffe Bible translators in Uganda. Gift serves as Language Programmes Coordinator and Kathryn as Literacy Coordinator, supporting Wycliffe's vision through overseeing and facilitating Bible translation and literacy activities in local languages.

They send us regular prayer and news updates, and in turn they pray for us as a church here in Elmdon.

Highlights of 2025 include:

- **Old Testament translation projects** completed translation of several books

- Gift and Kathryn were able to attend two **Scripture dedication events**, the translation projects for which Gift was responsible – the launch of the reprinted **Lugwere New Testament** plus some Old Testament books; and some books of the **Old Testament in Lunyole**.

- Under the **literacy project Let's Read Together**, twenty new children's reading groups were started, giving around 300 more children the opportunity to learn to read in their mother tongue and empowering them to read the Bible in their own language. New volunteers were trained to run the reading groups, assisted by existing group leaders who were enthusiastic about reading and the benefits of the project.

- Kathryn has been supervising an intern who is leading on **Scripture Engagement**, promoting access to and engagement with the Scriptures in communities where translation work is going on. His internship is for two years.

Ripple Effect
Ripple Effect works alongside small farmers in rural Africa. The charity is creating a ripple effect of positive change in rural Africa. It starts with bringing farmers together to learn new skills and share knowledge, so they can improve their livelihoods and thrive. As a church we have raised many thousands of pounds over the years we have been involved with the charity, by collecting small change and from occasional donations. Thank you to all who have given so faithfully and who continue to do so. For those new to Elmdon Church, there is a basket in the Wilberforce Hall where you can leave your small change. For further information, please speak to Eli Malkin. Also visit www.rippleeffect.org where you can find some uplifting stories about the farmers who have benefited from their association with Ripple Effect.

Helping Hands
Renewal Helping Hands, based at Renewal Church Centre, has a ministry of giving food, toiletries and other essentials to the most vulnerable in Solihull and neighbouring areas of Birmingham.

Their Community Officer Rachel says that they are currently providing around eight deliveries each day to individuals in need who are referred to them through local agencies. This equates to approximately 45 deliveries each week and an average of 180 deliveries per month.

Recently, they have seen an increase in repeat referrals. In response, they are looking to work more closely alongside other support agencies to ensure that individuals receive a wider package of support, recognising that a food parcel alone cannot fully address the challenges people may be facing.

They are very grateful for our regular giving, which enables them to continue meeting the demand for referrals and supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Occasional donations
On the recommendation of the Mission Support Group, the PCC made a donation of £250 to ReSource, an organisation supporting local churches in spiritual renewal, with a particular focus on "little, local, ordinary" churches and their leaders.

Richard & Lesley Huss, Eli Malkin and Rob Dean, Mission Support Group

Finance

Treasurer's Report

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle, who also oversees a separate fabric fund account.

Income

Most of our income usually comes through stewardship, primarily the Parish Giving Scheme but also standing orders, bank interest on our reserve funds and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus occasional legacies, social events and hire fees for use of the Church hall.

Although our bank balance is now quite healthy largely owing to the sale of our Gaydon Road site there are a number of maintenance and improvement projects at our parish church that need to be undertaken and we must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. The 2025 accounts show only a minor deficit for the year owing largely to the interest received on our cash reserves, this will of course reduce as the required improvement work is carried out and paid for.

To ensure our ongoing financial viability we need to be cognisant of the need to increase giving from our existing generous members but perhaps more importantly look for ways to increase membership numbers. Our long term aim is to keep our current Church up to date and fully functioning to attract new members whose generosity and prayers will help us to maintain our presence in the community and help others who may be in need.

A "Giving Station" device is installed in the Church allowing donations to be made by card and information about all the methods of supporting the church are available at church and on our website.

Fees paid for church work

In 2025 the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. Where required a verger received a fee for duties carried out at these services. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of ashes.

Financial Reserves Policy

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings.

Alan Doyle, Treasurer

Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

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.



Jeremy Kitson FCA
Prime Chartered Accountants
Corner Oak
1 Homer Road
Solihull
B91 3QG
Date: 01/05/2026

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving	5	42,750		41,982	
Loan received		-		-	
Collections and Donations		5,454		8,134	
			48,204		50,116
Receipts from Activities for generating funds					
Sundry Income		2,399		120	
			2,399		120
Receipts from Church Activities					
Grants		-		7,330	
Wedding and Funeral Fees		6,374		6,948	
			6,374		14,278
Receipts from Investments					
Investment Income	6		20,445		23,586
Total receipts			77,422		88,100
Payments					
Church Activities					
Apportionment	7	50,320		52,584	
Building repairs		7,267		6,848	
Charities	8	2,355		5,846	
Church running expenses		482		105	
Church and Churchyard	9	9,005		13,208	
Loan repayments		-		-	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,370		1,257	
Large Display Screen		-		1,066	
Sundry Expenses	10	9,022		5,565	
VCC planning fees		-		-	
			79,821		86,479
Governance costs					
Accountancy			2,190		2,100
Total payments			82,011		88,579
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			-		-
(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments			- 4,589		- 479
Bank Balances 1 January			418,612		419,091
Bank Balances 31 December			414,023		418,612

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Collections and Donations		384		1,171	
			384		1,171
Receipts from Activities for generating funds					
Sundry Income		-		-	
			-		-
Receipts from Church Activities					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		3,952		5,603	
			3,952		5,603
Total receipts			4,336		6,774
Payments					
Church Activities					
Church running expenses		1,650		2,329	
English Class Grant		-		7,081	
Total payments			1,650		9,410
Transfer from general funds			-		-
(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments			2,686		-2,636
Bank Balances 1 January			23,867		26,503
Bank Balances 31 December			26,553		23,867

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT – FABRIC FUND

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		500		-
Transfer from Funds		150		545
Sundry income		-		-
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		60		67
Total receipts		710		612
Payments				
Church Activities				
Transfer between funds	-		-	
Music Fund	-		265	
Sundry Expenses	71		-	
Bank charge	41		5	
Wedding fees costs	-		-	
Total payments		112		270
(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments		598		342
Bank Balances 1 January		4,324		3,983
Bank Balances 31 December		4,922		4,324

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Receipts					
Planned Giving	42,750	500	-	43,250	41,982
Collections & Donations	5,454	-	384	5,838	9,305
Teas	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	2,399	150	-	2,549	585
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,219	-	3,952	10,171	12,551
Investment Income	1,074	-	-	1,074	1,114
VAT refunds/Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and Dividends	19,371	60	-	19,431	22,540
Outside Bookings	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Rents	-	-	-	-	-
Functions	155	-	-	155	80
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-	7,330
Total Receipts	77,422	710	4,336	82,468	95,487
Payments					
Apportionment	50,320	-	-	50,320	52,584
Charities	2,355	-	-	2,355	5,845
Church Running Expenses	482	-	1,650	2,132	2,655
Church & Churchyard	-	-	-	-	3,856
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,370	-	-	1,370	1,257
Sundry Expenses	9,023	71	-	9,094	5,565
Accountancy	2,190	-	-	2,190	2,100
Building Maintenance & Repairs	7,267	-	-	7,267	6,848
Bank charges	-	43	-	43	5
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-
Light & Heat	3,226	-	-	3,226	3,657
Water	815	-	-	815	673
Insurance	3,444	-	-	3,444	3,367
Telephone	1,520	-	-	1,520	1,434
Music fund	-	-	-	-	265
Large Display Screen	-	-	-	-	1.066
English Class Grant	-	-	-	-	7,081
VCC planning fees	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	82,012	114	1,650	83,776	98,259

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Total	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Designated Funds
	£	£	£	£
Monetary Assets				
CBF deposit fund	437,558	412,955	23,217	1,386
Bank current accounts	6,961	89	3,336	3,536
Bank deposit accounts	979	979	-	-
	445,498	414,023	26,553	4,922
Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	39,072	39,072	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	191	191	-	-
	484,761	453,286	4,336	4,922

Other Assets
Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:
St Stephens Church Centre

ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Total	Fabric Fund	Valley Church Centre	St Stephens Hall Users
	£	£	£	£
CBF deposit fund	1,386	1,386	-	-
Bank current account	3,536	3,536	-	-
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-
	4,922	4,922	-	-

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

10/03/2026 and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

Rachel Clark, Chair

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

3. REMUNERATION

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

5. PLANNED GIVING

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift aid receipts	27,732	27,770
Income tax recovered	8,905	6,943
Other giving	6,113	7,270
	42,750	41,982

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
CBF Deposit account interest	-	19
CBF Dividends	1,073	1,047
Interest on Reserve fund	19,372	22,521
	20,445	23,586

7. APPORTIONMENT

	2025	2024
	£	£
Paid Direct	50,320	52,584

8. CHARITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	289	473
Churches overseas	2,066	4,873
Home Missions	-	500
	2,355	5,846

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Maintenance and repairs	-	-
Water rates	815	673
Telephone	1,520	1,434
Light and heat	3,226	3,657
Insurance	3,444	3,367
Sundries	-	3,792
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	-	-
Christian Literature	-	64
Readers' Board	-	-
Visiting Clergy	-	221
	9,005	13,208

10. SUNDRY EXPENSES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	9,023	5,565
	9,023	5,565

MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Held 20th May 2025

Attendance at the annual meetings of Parishioners and Church (25):

Revd. Bekah Clark, Rector
Christine Arnsby
Sarah Baldwin
Lynda Bird
Ann Davis
Jean Davies
Joy Dean
Rob Dean
Alan Doyle
Cheryl Doyle
Martin Hewings
Richard Huss
Pauline Jones
Vera Jacques
Rod Janes
Sue Kimber
Sarah Leckie
Elaine Malkin
Karen Matthews
Anne Milne
Helen Salt
Richard Salt
Joyce Taylor
Margaret Thomas
June Williams

A. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
Bekah welcomed everyone and invited us to sing "To God be the glory".

1. Apologies (1)
Lesley Huss

2. Minutes of previous meeting of parishioners, Tuesday 21st May 2024
Martin Hewings and Anne Milne proposed the minutes be adopted. Motion approved unanimously with four abstentions.

3 Election of Church Warden
Cheryl Doyle was proposed by Sue Kimber seconded by Christine Arnsby. Sue Kimber was proposed by Alan Doyle seconded by Martin Hewings.

There were no other nominations. Cheryl and Sue agreed to stand as Churchwardens for the coming year and were accepted unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Sue Kimber for her service as Churchwarden over the past year.

B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1 Bible reflection
Bekah read Acts 1:1-10, the topic of our recent sermon series "Called, Equipped and Sent out", before opening in prayer.

2 Apologies (1)
Lesley Huss

3 Minutes of the previous APCM held 21st May 2024
Rob Dean proposed and Lynda Bird seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted. Approved unanimously with four abstentions.

4 Report on the revised Electoral Roll
Richard Huss reported that the revised roll, published 27th April 2025,

contained 58 names, since which a further three names had been added making a total of 61, of whom 28 lived within and 33 outside the parish who mostly lived within 1 mile of the boundary. This was down five on the previous year. Three members had passed away in the previous year, and 12 people had joined the roll for the first time, or rejoined after a gap.

5 **Election of PCC members**

PCC (3 year term):
Alan Doyle was nominated by Lesley Huss and Martin Hewings,
Martin Hewings was nominated by June Williams and Pauline Jones,
Ann Davis was nominated by Cheryl Doyle and Karen Matthews.

PCC (2 year term):
Richard Salt was nominated by Karen Matthews and Rob Dean

Jean Davies had been nominated by Cheryl Doyle and Rob Dean. As she did not yet qualify due to her recently coming onto the Electoral Roll, it was agreed that Jean could be co-opted onto PCC at the second meeting of the new PCC.

There were no further nominations and Alan, Martin, Ann and Richard were duly elected, leaving two vacancies for one year.

Deanery Synod:
There were no nominations to fill the vacancy. Christine Arnsby and Cheryl Doyle remained representatives until the APCM in 2026.

6 **Reader representative**
Members approved the motion that Karen Matthews, Parish Lay Reader, be accepted as member of the PCC.

7 **Receive APCM Reports**
Comments were made regarding the following reports:

Warden's Report. Bekah acknowledged Sue's hard work over the past year as the Church of England was not the most intuitive of set-ups.

Safeguarding. Bekah was asked how often volunteers were required to renew training. She replied that it was currently 3 years at the highest level but requirements often changed. The Church of England Dashboard portal was kept up to date by Lesley and it sent Bekah reminders when anyone's training needed renewing. Lesley had done an effective job of ensuring we were all up to date.

Domestic Abuse contact: Sarah Leckie agreed to continue in the role.

Some other groups were discussed and recommended over a time of celebration in how the Lord was working in the life of the parish.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts. Alan said figures for Planned Giving were up by 5% despite figures suggesting it was down, owing to delayed Gift Aid claims made during the previous year. A grant had been made available for

Jean Nisbett's English Classes. Our income had been raised by using the interest from monies received for the sale of Gaydon Road Hall but this would drop when repairs to the church were complete. The meeting was happy to receive the accounts.

8 **Appointment of independent examiner**
Alan Doyle proposed using the same accountants (Prime Chartered Accountants) for the coming year. Rob Dean seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

9 **Rector's Address**
Bekah thanked by name those who over the past year had blessed Elmdon Church in over 30 different ministries that she had identified. She said that Revd. John Tsipouras had been asked by another church to come and help so he would be worshipping there now.

She shared some statistics from a survey called "Quiet Revival 2020-2024" saying the Church was moving to a younger demographic, with more young men than women. The Church was becoming more ethnically diverse and was shifting from individualism to community; from passive to actively practicing faith; looking for a Church that was distinctive from the world with which they were so disillusioned and, as they have done so, becoming less anxious with better well being.

Bekah reminded us of our current sermon series and Karen's talk on Sunday, that we were Called, Equipped and Sent Out. She encouraged us to remember our calling in Jesus; ask God to move in power; and to pray, seeking God's equipping for the work ahead. The Church could look very different in the future and we should be equipped for change. She said 1 in 3 people are waiting for us to invite them and encouraged us to invite family and friends to church as it could be what people may be looking for. Most people come to Jesus these days because of what we do on our front lines, not some big event at Church.

12. **Any Other Business**
There was no other business.

After singing "Go Forth and Tell" together, Bekah closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time before non-members left the meeting, leaving the PCC to continue.

Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church
Refreshments available from 7pm

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 20th May 2025
3. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Bible reflection and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 20st May 2025
4. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
5. Appointment of PCC Members
    - Deanery Synod Members (3 places, for 3 years)
    - PCC Members (up to 5: 3 places for 3 years, 1 for 2 years, 1 for 1 year)
    - Reader representative
6. Receive APCM reports
7. Appointment of independent examiner
8. Rector's Address
9. Any other business
10. Closing prayer

First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Election of:
1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Parish Identity Verifier
6. Domestic Abuse Contact