Gift Aid Report for Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th April 2026 (APE 31st December 2025)

To Gift Aid any donations made to church is an excellent way to receive tax back from HMRC direct into the church's bank account without having to do anything apart from fill out a Gift Aid Declaration. The Declaration authorises me, as the Gift Aid Secretary, to claim back 25% tax on your donations, which actually means, you are increasing your donations to church without lifting a finger.
Therefore, if you currently pay tax and do not Gift Aid your donations to church can I please encourage you to consider doing this and speak to me to fill out the simple declaration form and get more information, and I will do the rest.

During 2025 there were 33 people gift aiding their donations. Unfortunately, at present there are only 31.

We received 3 Gift Aid Repayments from HMRC during 2025, 2 (11th February 2025 and 24th June 2025) which were specifically on donations made to the Bell Fund totalling £395.87 and the main repayment on 28th April 2025 for £6108.53, of which £5951.03 went direct to church funds and £157.50 was restricted to St Aidan's Kitchen. This was an increase on last years claim.
The claims covered donations made between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024 for regular donations and between 6th April 2024 and 5th April 2025 for the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

If there is anyone who would like to increase their donations, set up a standing order or start the Giving Envelopes then please speak to me.

Can I please remind everyone that you need to pay tax to Gift Aid your donations. Also, if your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax or you have changed your address, you need to let me know immediately.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their valuable donations throughout the year. Without your support we would be unable to meet the running costs of our churches which is a constant challenge.

Helen Rochester
Gift Aid Secretary
13th April 2026

Fabric Report

St Aidan's

This report covers the condition and maintenance of the fabric, furnishings, and ornaments of St Aidan's Church from April 2025 to date.

In May, we received a final report on the Bell Refurbishment Project from Andrew Frost, our Tower captain; advising that the work had been completed and everything was back in the Tower. However, additional work had been identified. The PCC requested further information so that consideration could be given to the work required. Our thanks to Andrew, the bell ringers, Pembleton's and everyone who has helped with this Project.

All electrical appliances underwent Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and passed.

A door handrail was added to the inside of the toilet door, so that people in wheelchairs could close/open the door easier; Martin kindly fitted the handle in consultation with Patricia Watson regarding the height required.

In June, the report on the further work required to the church bells was received, from Pembleton's, in which they indicated that the work was not urgent.

Kathrine met with our organist Rob and an organ builder and tuner. The organ was found to be very much out of tune, with two broken reservoirs, and it was identified that wind was leaking from somewhere. A report and survey was requested so that we could look at costs and apply for grants. This could mean that the organ is out of use for up to six months.

Due to safety concerns of the current chairs in the kitchen area, we identified and bought some new sturdier chairs, to replace them. Members of the congregation acknowledged the difference.

In July, the organ report was received which detailed the work required, for the PCC to consider.

In September, following further discussion and consideration, we decided that we would move forward with the required organ work, and it was noted that grant funding would be required for the Organ project.

Enquiries were made regarding an acoustic noticeboard for the children's area. Alternative noise reduction solutions were also considered.

The five-year electrical inspection, which had been due in 2024, required urgent action and we agreed for it to be undertaken.

The latest quinquennial, from 2023, was discussed, and items identified as requiring attention.

In November, all fire safety equipment was checked, and certificates were provided.

In December, the organ was tuned in the week prior to Christmas.

The kitchen boiler, covered by an annual service contract, was repaired.

In January, the hardwire electrical inspection was undertaken by Lightfoot's, and an issue was raised which required the involvement of Northern Power.

The PCC were asked to consider replacing the dishwasher with a second freezer. The broken freezer will be replaced, and a new fridge is to be installed.

Two issues with the heating boiler were dealt with as a matter of urgency.

New, up to date First Aid kits are held.

In March, Northern Power returned following the electrical inspection and confirmed that all cabling outside our property is up to date and safe.

Andrew Frost had previously informed us that he intended to step down as our Tower Captain. However, he advised that due to an improvement in his health, he has asked to continue in the role.

The PCC is in the process of replacing the gates at the main entrance to the church. An Archdeacon's certificate was applied for, so that the gates could be replaced.

The grass at the north and east of the building was cut from Spring and continued through the summer, and the garden was maintained. Thank you to all those who make the garden look so lovely.

All furnishings and ornaments are in good repair.

Vestments and linens are also in good repair.

The Church Logbook is kept in the Parish Office and is available for inspection, tonight if required.

Jane Spears

Churchwarden

St Columba's

A new burglar alarm and CCTV system were installed, as the previous system could not be repaired. Key holders were issued with a key fob for the alarm.

In May, all electrical appliances underwent Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and passed.

In June, the building experienced an ant infestation, which was treated, and the situation was monitored.

Additional cleaning of the building was identified due to the building being used more.

Further work was required to the CCTV system following failure of an electronic transformer.

The Fire Alarm System and service of the Emergency lights were undertaken.

In July, plans were made to remove the large noticeboard from the end of the building, with the intention of a new noticeboard, being installed in due course.

There were no recurrences of pest issues identified.

In September, one of the toilets stopped flushing and the matter could not be resolved; so, a contractor fitted a new toilet.

Concerns raised were raised regarding the external paintwork, in that it was requiring attention, and it was agreed that we will review the matter in the Spring.

The latest quinquennial, from 2023, was discussed in items identified as requiring attention.

In October, consideration was given to the re-organisation of the vestry, as it was proposed to move the Food Store Warehouse to St Columba's.

In November, all fire safety equipment was checked, and certificates were provided.

In January, all electrical works identified following inspection were completed.

A new electrical socket was installed to support the move of the Food Store Warehouse, so that a chest freezer could be placed into the store cupboard, where it was to be housed.

The silver and registry safe was moved from the store cupboard into the vestry.

New, up to date First Aid kits are held.

The grass around the building has been cut and maintained, from Spring and continued through the summer.

All furnishings and ornaments are in good repair.

Vestments and linens are also in good repair.

The Church Logbook is kept in the Parish Office and is available for inspection, tonight if required.

Jane Spears

Churchwarden

Food Store Warehouse

The Food Store Warehouse remains in good working order, thanks to Clair.

In May, all electrical appliances underwent Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and passed.

In November, all fire safety equipment was checked, and certificates were provided.

Plans were made for the Food Store Warehouse to relocate to St Columba's from January/February 2026; as we had decided to give notice for financial reasons.

Arrangements were made for the transportation of food and the dismantling, transportation, and re-assembling of the shelving at St Columba's, this was so that the warehouse, could be cleaned and handed back to the Landlord.

In February, as indicated in the Treasurer's report, the warehouse was formally closed and handed back to the Landlord.

Thank you to all involved in the transfer of food and equipment.

Special thanks to Claire and Kathrine for the work undertaken in the return of the warehouse.

Finally, I would like to conclude my reports, by saying on behalf of the Churchwardens and PCC, thank you to everyone who has helped and who continues to help, in the upkeep of our buildings, the fabrics and gardens.

I would especially like to thank Kathrine, Helen, Martin, and anyone else who has met contractors/visitors who have undertaken the specialist jobs.

Thank you also to Martin for the DIY jobs that he has done.

Jane Spears

Churchwarden

Deanery report for St Aidan's AGM

The Deanery Synod only meets twice a year in the Hartlepool deanery (unlike other areas I have known that have three or four or more). I joined as deanery rep after the last AGM however I can report from the Thursday 13th of February 2025 as I was there as the Mission Enabler serving tea and coffee.

St Aidan's : Thursday13th February 2025 at 7:00pm

Speaker Amy Burns Spoke about the Transformation Fund saying it now had to be bid and spoke about what growth outcomes they were looking for. They were now looking at Shaping the whole Diocese rather than specific projects in specific places.

A deanery visit to Durham Cathedral was planned for Saturday 13th September 2025.

All Saints, Stranton, 17th November 2025 7:00pm

The discussion was around the Vacancy Audit Process and impact on Deanery Planning. The moving on / retirement of priests was discussed including Rev. Lou leaving Seaton? The importance of being missional as a parish was discussed with small group discussions about what our church was doing regarding mission.

St Luke's 16th February 2026 7:00 pm

Anwin and the cover DDO gave a talk about growing leaders and vocations pathways

Rev John also brought up the issue of communion by extension and there was a discussion regarding what had been proposed at the wings for worship course but this seems to have been incorrect given church rules.

Patrick Reeve

Report of St Aidan's Memorial School 2025-2026
St Aidan's Church AGM

St Aidan's School is an Academy Trust School administered by the Durham and Newcastle Learning Trust.

The school has approximately 350 pupils with an age range of 2 to 11.

Staffing Levels of Teachers and Teaching Assistants and Administrators is 35.

Its last OFSTED inspection the School was rated good in January 2023 and will be due an inspection soon.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report this was inspected in November 2023, and The inspection findings indicate that St Aidan's Church of England Memorial Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

The school operates a breakfast club for those pupils in need of a meal before the start of a school day, also it supports the pupils with a clothing exchange of school uniforms.

The school regularly monitors and measures the school performance in the following academic subjects:

- Phonics.
- Reading
- Writing.
- Maths.
- Science.
- History
- Geography.
- Religious Education.
- Spots,
- SPAG (Practice for Spelling, Punctuation and Gramma in preparation for KS1 & KS2 tests).

The school links with the church are:

- Open the Book.
- Term Time School Masses in the Church.
- Ash Wednesday Service in school.
- Preparation for Holy Communion of the Pupils.
- Easter Service with walk from school to church.
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Service
- Christmas Services.

This year the school at Loyalty Road celebrates in centenary which was dedicated those pupils and staff who died during world war one. Plans are in progress to mark this special year these include, creating a new library and reading space, in July each year group will mark a decade of the school life has part of the celebration.

Brian Hays
Academy Councillor

St Aidan's Kitchen 2026

St Aidan Kitchen is now based up at St Coumba this is due to the cost off the old food store witch we wear unable to afford. By doing this we had now enough money to get us to 2029.

We also have a mix of volunteers some church, some non church and some from other countries all giving up there time to help us support our community.

We are also seeing guests as well as old faces our numbers change each week for between 70 to a100 guests.

St Aidans on the go will start up at St Columba on Thursday the 14th of May after St Aidan's kitchen there are still something to sort out but these will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

I would also like to thank all the other groups out side of St Aidans for their support, Narsir mosque, Mind body and soul yoga, Morrison/Tesco/Lidl/fare share. But most of all I like to thank all of our volunteers for there hard work and all there do for the kitchen.

Clair Barker
Food Store Manager

(Report typed up - taken from screenshot provided)

Annual Parish Meeting – 20th April 2026

Safeguarding Report

The House of Bishops guidance for this report is that the PCC should state whether St Aidan's and St Columba's is complying with the code of practice issued by the House of Bishops as far as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is concerned.
The PCC is complying with the requirements imposed by the code under Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, which assigns the following responsibilities to the PCC:

1.Adopt the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy and Statement'. This policy is in place. It can be viewed on the Safeguarding section of noticeboards in church.

2. Appoint at least one appropriately experienced Parish Safeguarding Officer. My working life as your Parish Administrator ensures that I have completed all the Church of England training modules identified for the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer.

3. Safely recruit, support and train all church officers who work with children and vulnerable adults, including all volunteers. Our recruitment process includes, but is not limited to, DBS checks, the completion of a Confidential Declaration Form and the taking up of references where appropriate. All leaders and helpers with activities for children and young people are now required to complete the Basic and Foundation safeguarding training modules during their induction period. As all members of the PCC are trustees of a charity that works with children, young people and vulnerable adults, they are DBS checked and need to complete the above-mentioned safeguarding training.
All safeguarding checks and training for all voluntary roles and employees within the church are currently up-to-date.

4. Display appropriate information, such as contact details for designated safeguarding officers, information about the parish's safeguarding policy, contact details for specialist support organisations and guidance on how to report concerns. These can all be found on noticeboards and other places around the buildings.

5. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting, which at some meetings takes the form of training or a detailed discussion of an area of safeguarding.

6. Create a respectful environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised. This is at the very heart of safeguarding and, in my view, there will always be more to do as we strive to achieve and maintain this aim. There will never be room for complacency. I would like to thank the many people who have played their part in supporting safeguarding here in the parish of St Aidan and St Columba.

The Church of England's Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub are used to adopt and review safeguarding policies and procedures, including safer recruitment and management of people. Specify, recruit and train people to key safeguarding roles. Create DBS and training requirements for all church roles that require them and ensure people are suitably checked and trained for their role. Clearly display safeguarding information and contact details of people and organisations who can be contacted with any safeguarding concerns.

From January 2025 to date we had many safeguarding cases; those connected to Thursday Kitchen are cleared within a few days. For the church over the last 6 months and to date we have been on a massive learning curve. Three cases have resulted in the appropriate services of the diocese safeguarding officer and the police becoming involved. Two of these three cases are ongoing.

And finally, Safeguarding is at the forefront of our values as a church, seeking to create a culture where all are safe and able to flourish. Please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for helping to making this happen. If you have any concern about the safety of a child, young person or adult, bring it to the attention of the activity leader, myself, Becky or call 999 if a child or adult is in immediate danger of significant or serious harm.

Kathrine Batty
PSO for St Aidan's and St Columba's

Thursday Cell Group Report 20/04/2026

The Thursday cell group is a group of people who are looking to grow in faith, spirituality and fellowship with each other on a weekly basis. We share our prayers for our needs, concerns and celebration in a fully confidential forum and look to support each other in all our prayers and thoughts.

Over the past year we have met most weeks and our group ranges from 3 to 4 and a maximum of 10 over the period. We start at 7.00pm on Thursday evening meeting in the vicarage, 4 Tunstall Avenue and aim to finish at 9.00pm.

After we have shared in prayer we spend time looking at either scripture, the communion of saints, art (iconic painting) or literature.

We have also studied three dedicated periods over the year on various themes. The first study surrounded 4 paintings from the National Gallery. The second study being an Advent Course based on the gifts of the "Magi" and the third being a Lent Course focused around the film and book "The Shack" which proved to be very interesting and thought provoking.

We were joined by Sam from "Safe Homes" who gave a fascinating presentation about temporary housing of vulnerable children and families to allow them time to reflect and to move on from their times of uncertainty .

Our next topic of discussion is to be one of the works of CS Lewis which will be decided at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the group will be Thursday 23rd April 2026 when we will be reflecting on our journey so far as well as deciding on our next topic of reflection and study.

If this is something that may appeal or be of interest please speak to me and I will be only too pleased to offer more information.

Ray Turner

Mission Project Report for the St Aidan's AGM April 2026.

Back in August 2025 I had to complete an ASD form for the Diocese showing progress against targets for the Central Hartlepool Group Mission Project. It seems that many such similar projects around the diocese / country although doing a lot of good while active, did not leave much in sustainable results once they closed. In this report, Ali spotted the signs of green shoots up at St Columba's and asked us to focus our attention in this area as it had the potential to grow into a church plant.

In February, I was asked to complete a new report using a new system. It was in completing this report I realised just how well we were doing against our targets:

Averages taken over 3 weeks in January / February.

Average weekly attendance: (services added together) **Target 30, Actual 34** (17 different individuals)

Average weekly attendance St Aidan's Friday café Actual 21, Average 11:00 Café service 10.

Kids attendance: Target 5, Actual 4

Youth attendance: Target 2 Actual 0

YA attendance: Target 3 Actual 3

Small group/discipleship engagement: Target 12 Actual 13

New/returned Christians: Target 10 Actual 6

No. Planned Givers: Target 2 Actual 0 but in this 6 month period £607 in donations!

Attendees involved in serving/volunteering: Target 5 Actual 4

No. at Alpha/or similar: Target 15 Actual 9

Other areas of the project are still ongoing, Toddlers at St Mattews, The Dorcas Group at St Luke's and St Columba's, The Pub Theology etc.

The next proposed stage for St Columba's is get Sunday services going with a core team from across the group.

Patrick Reeve

Review of cell/reading group
Tuesday mornings

The reading group became cell group when M Becky was introducing cell groups. We already asked about each other and said prayers so it was really only a name change. Everything discussed at cell group is confidential.
We have five regular members (hopefully soon six). Rachel (Stranton), Heather (St Luke's), Hazel, Mary and myself (St Aidan's and St Columba's).
Our morning begins with coffee (and biscuits) then each person is asked to share what they want to share about their week and give any request for prayers. We pray for each other as well as specific requests and a regular prayer is for the Rift House estate residents.) A prayer is generally said at this stage combining prayer requests. If, however, there are individuals who need more time at this point - prayers are occasionally kept and joined with our end prayers.
From one facilitator we now have four individuals who have led and facilitated on different books of the Bible. Building confidence to do this is due to the encouraging atmosphere created by group members.
Rachel led the Advent 2025 course based on 'A Christmas Carol'
Since the beginning we have read the following books;

Ruth (1st time)
Esther
Hosea
Ruth (2nd time)
Jonah
Nahum
Micah
Habakkuk
James
1Peter
Philemon
John 1
John 2
John 3

The courses
Advent 2024 Women of the Nativity
Lent 2025 Women of Holy Week
Advent 2025 (beginning 18th November 2025) -
A Christmas Carol (for which some of the group attended Billingham Forum)
Lent 2026 The Gospel according to Mark (beginning on Shrove Tuesday)

We read the passages /chapters and discuss them at our level. Most often we read the chapters on a Tuesday morning then discuss. For Lent 2026 we have been reading two chapters at home and bring questions to discuss on the Tuesday as we enjoyed the discussions we found this gave us more time. Although we may do research it is

not an academic study of the chapters but a sharing of views and ideas within a set time.

At 11:55 am an alarm goes to signal end prayers.

Priest's Report

The year from January 2025- December 2025 was my first full year I have spent with you at St Aidan's, so it had lots of firsts.

January started with a last though, rather than a first, as we said goodbye to our lovely reader Linda, who had faithfully led on home communions and other areas of church life while she was with us.

January also gave me a chance to get to know some of our neighbouring churches with daily meet ups for prayer and lunch during the week of Christian Unity in late January. It is a great experience to meet people of other denominations and I recommend it to you.

Also new at the end of January was Patrick, who joined the mission project as a member of staff, and pretty soon we had new things coming on line like his meditation sessions. After a handover period I was able to give up responsibility for the Friday café to Patrick, which I had been covering while Emma Cain was on leave.

In February we ran our regular marriage prep day and welcomed a number of couples who would be tying the knot at St Aidan's. On a less cheerful note we also hosted a number of funerals. Also in February we moved our regular midweek eucharist at St Columba's from Thursday morning to Tuesday morning in order for me to be able to attend the Thursday Kitchen more often.

In March our school contact, Lauren went on maternity leave, and we have missed her as we have continued to work with St Aidan's School, running first holy communion courses, school masses, weekly open the books and offering four members of the church as school govenors. Also in March we ran our Lent Group based on The Way film, which gathered a good group of about 20 people from across the group at St Columba's to discuss and reflect.

As we reached Holy Week things got busy, with evening sessions each day – Stations of the Cross and Meditation at St Columba's and our full Easter Triduum at Aidan's as usual. New last year was the reflective Good Friday morning service at St Columba's based around dramatic monologues, which was a great success and has now become a regular fixture. For me it was a time of lots of firsts- leading my first Easter Vigil, singing, or attempting to sing, my first Exultet, but it was all a great experience, if exhausting.

Moving into May we were making a concerted effort to develop the life and spirituality of the parish. This meant lots of new things starting up, such as our Thursday cell group, which joined the Tuesday one facilitated by Patricia. Wednesday evenings added a new midweek service at St Aidan's, Bread for the Soul, which gained a regular group of people and compline, led by Ray. Pub Theology was our first real outreach into the community, with people meeting on a fortnightly basis to talk about faith and be a witness to the wider community. Towards the end of May I spent a week on a residential course aiming to develop understanding and skills in mission. Although it wasn't as useful as I had hoped it gave me a chance to get to know some more priests from the local area. Having realised that St Columba's was in a very vulnerable position Patrick, Patricia, Hazel, Mary Scott, I and others worked hard to try to develop the life of the

church again, starting a weekly Wednesday drop in and service to pray for the life of the church, the group and the Rift House estate.

In June Patrick and I went away and walked a section of the Camino Santiago which was a great experience, but more challenging than we had expected as we arrived in the height of a heatwave.

In July St Aidan's hosted the deanery confirmation service and we were able to support 6 people from our parish into full membership of the church. Our children's ministry was flourishing, thanks to the hard work of Lesley and we were regularly fielding congregations on a Sunday of 60 -70 people. It was great to be able to welcome Ray back into the position of Local Lay Minister in the parish, and Lesley finished her year long Children's Minister training and also joined our church team on a formal basis.

As the year went on Becca Parkin flew through the discernment process for the priesthood, and in June she was successful in her final panel interviews and was accepted to train in the autumn at Mirfield Theological College in Yorkshire.

We started August with a very successful group barbeque in my vicarage garden- thank you to everyone who helped with arrangements and who came to eat food. The sun shone, and it was wonderful to see the garden full. Through the summer John Bell and I met regularly with the area dean, Janet, to think about the future of the group and the mission project. We also further developed the life of our parish by starting to offer morning prayer 3 times a week, on a Monday at the Vicarage, a Tuesday at St Columba's and a Thursday at The Kitchen. Having struggled to pull together a regular home communion team, I was very grateful when Ray and Carole took on this important ministry.

September brought planning about the group and the mission project to a new stage- I stepped back from leading midweek services at St Luke's and St Matthew's, to attempt to rebalance the share of work in the group between John and I. An annual review of the work of the mission project with the Diocese lead led to a change of direction for the coming year, which is the mission project's final year. Since our efforts at St Columba's were going so well, it was suggested that we focus the work of the mission project in Columba's for the remaining year it had to run, to try to plant a regenerated community there. Attempts to launch a welcome and nurture group for new church members failed to launch due to problems with venue and availability but our other initiatives continued to flourish including the Dorcas Prayer shawl group running at St Columba's.

In October St Aidan's hosted a Churches Together prayer morning service, where we were joined by Christians from across Hartlepool. Our Kitchen was blessed by generous donations from schools at Harvest time and we welcomed Harvest school visits to St Columba's and contributed to a special assembly at St Aidan's School and Rift House.

Our growing relationship with Communities Together, Durham, who have been very impressed by the work of our kitchen, brought extra funding in November, and we hosted a Beyond Foodbanks evening for them at St Aidan's. We also worked in

combination with the mission project to develop new relations with Rift House School. We marked All Soul's Day with our usual service at Aidan's. Our longstanding good relations with the Nasir Mosque, who generously provide food for the Kitchen, led to an invitation for me to speak at their Annual Peace Conference, where I addressed the issue of the flags which were then appearing all over our town.

Plans to develop the life and community at St Columba's led to Patrick and I speaking at services across the group about this, and we also held a vision evening in November and an away day about this in December. In November we launched a weekly Family Wellbeing evening at St Columba's, run by Hayley and Patrick and with food cooked by Liz.

At the start of December we again held a Darkness into Light service at Aidan's to mark the start of Advent. This was not very well attended but was a beautiful time of reflection for those who were there. Ray launched his monthly Service of Remembrance as a provision for our funeral families and anyone else who is missing a loved one. Ray lead an inspiring Advent course for us at the Vicarage in place of our regular cell group, as did Patricia at St Columba's. December was a whirl of Christingle services for schools and families, carol concerts and services, school nativities and special events. For the first Christmas in a long time St Columba's was full of life with a Christmas Tree festival, Father Christmas grotto, Christingle, Christmas Day service and a very well attended Carol service. Patrick and I posted more flyers than I could count through doors on the Rift House estate and we celebrated every new person through our doors.

Running throughout December alongside all this was the extra work and stress caused by St Aidan's becoming the host parish of the mission project. This was needed as David Craig wanted to step down from his role in the mission project and so Stranton Church were unwilling to remain as the host parish. Many thanks to everyone who was involved with this process, especially Tony and Kathrine Batty who shouldered much of the work that this caused. I also stepped into role as the lead clergy for the mission project, releasing John Bell to spend more time on parish development, and Kathrine kindly took on the lead role for HR and health and safety.

Throughout the year I have been receiving regular pastoral supervision, which is a space where I can reflect on any issues or concerns. This acts as a safety valve which protects parishes from priests losing perspective or mishandling safeguarding issues. I have also had regular zoom meetings with the Reconciling Mission course which the Diocese put me on, which looks at how we can develop mission and outreach. Much more useful than this, have been the regular coaching meetings I have had throughout the year with John Cottey, Roz, Ali and Annwen from the Diocese Growing Churches mission team, which continue to happen.

Looking back on the year as a whole, it feels like we have been putting down good roots and have established a number of successful additions to our life together, like Bread for the Soul and Pub Theology, which have both gained a solid group of people attending. We were blessed with a rapidly growing church in the first half of the year, but

have had to say goodbye to a fair few people which has caused our numbers to finish the year at a lower level.

People who we said goodbye to this year include:

Linda Dott, who moved to Durham

Arthur, Juliette and their family who moved to Cumbria

Tolu and her family who moved to Devon

Aneta Bradley and Mabel the dog

Kola, who went off to university in Manchester

Cathy who is attending St Joseph's

Matthew the bell ringer who went to Rutland

Becca, Tom, Bram and Ranulph who went to study in Yorkshire

Mary Douglas, who is now living in Queen's Meadow

Sylvia Williams, who passed away

Charlotte, who now attends drama classes on a Sunday

The life of our church has been supported and made possible by all the hard working people who pitch in week in and week out in so many roles. Thank you so much to everyone who puts in so much effort to make the St Aidan's, The Kitchen and St Columba's the vibrant, well run places that they are. I don't know what the coming year will bring but I trust that as long as we keep listening to God, looking to serve our communities to the best of our ability, and growing together in faith it will be a good year to come.

Independent Examiners Certificate for Ecclesiastical Parish of Hartlepool St Aidan and St. Columba, Charity Number 1185257

I report to the Trustees of Ecclesiastical Parish of Hartlepool St Aidan and St. Columba, for the year end 31 December 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011,

To follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiners statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met
   a) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
   b) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and to account for Statutory Fees correctly

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

Signed David S. Burns Date 29/3/2026

Name: David S. Burns ACA

30 Snowdrop Road, Hartlepool

Ecclesiastical Parish of Hartlepool St Aidan and St. Columba, Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2025 Charity Number 1185257

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities (accounts and reports) regulations 2008 and statements of recommended practice on accounting and reporting by Charities. They have been prepared on an accruals basis. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. The accounts do not include the activities of the Trust Funds held for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham except insofar as income has been received from those funds

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are depreciated over a period generally 10 years estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the asset. The only asset being depreciated is the kitchen in St. Aidans Church.

All other assets are charged to the accounts in the period payment is made.

1c) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value expected to be realised.

1d) Liabilities, Provisions, Deferred Income and Capital Grants

Full estimates are made of income received in advance and liabilities incurred and provisions are made in accordance with relevant financial reporting standards

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARTLEPOOL ST AIDAN AND ST COLUMBA
CHARITY NUMBER 1185257
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Trust funds £	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	6a	6136	0	0	6136	9203
Investment	6b	0	0	81540	81540	78009
		6136	0	81540	87676	87212
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock		0	0	0	0	0
Debtors	7	1088	0	0	1088	0
Prepayments		203	0	0	203	420
Cash at bank and in hand		140094	52689	0	192783	132666
		141385	52689	0	194074	133086
LIABILITIES						
Creditors	8		0	0	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS/LIABILITIES						
Total assets less current liabilities		147521	52689	81540	281750	220298
TOTAL NET ASSETS		147521	52689	81540	281750	220298
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	10	147521			147521	75460
Restricted	10		52689		52689	66829
Trust funds	10			81540	81540	78009
		147521	52689	81540	281750	220298

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARTLEPOOL ST AIDAN AND ST COLUMBA
CHARITY NUMBER 1185257
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Trust funds £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2a	116757	32036	0	148793	96292
Activities for generating funds	2b	563	0	0	563	200
Income from investments	2c	1062	323	3531	4916	4038
Church Activities	2d	13431	0	0	13431	10878
Other incoming resources	2e	958	8634	0	9592	2625
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		132771	40993	3531	177295	114033
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generation voluntary income	3b	0	0	0	0	0
Fund raising trading costs	3c	0	0	0	0	0
Church activities	3a	48851	39895	0	88746	49187
Governance Costs	4	12194	5355	0	17549	18209
Other Expenses	5	575	8973	0	9548	11177
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		61620	54223	0	115843	78573
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES		71151	-13230	3531	61452	35460
Gains on investment assets:						
on disposal		0	0	0	0	0
on revaluation						
		0	0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		71151	-13230	3531	61452	35460
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		75460	66829	78009	220298	
Movement between funds						
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		146611	53599	81540	281750	

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARTLEPOOL ST AIDAN AND ST COLUMBA
CHARITY NUMBER 1185257
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Trust funds £	2025 £	2024 £
2 (a) **Voluntary income**					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aid Donations	20413			20413	17061
Tax recovered	5951	554		6505	5306
Other	4134			4134	4694
Collections	2613			2613	2821
Grants		11479		11479	22093
Donations	4846	20003		24849	24317
Bequests	78800			78800	20000
	116757	32036	0	148793	96292
2 (b) **Activities for generating funds**					
Annual Fair				0	0
harvest	0			0	0
Concerts	563			563	200
	563	0		563	200
2 (c) **Income from investments**					
Interest	1062	323	3531	4916	4038
2 (d) **Income from church activities**					
Fees	4306			4306	2601
Rent	9125			9125	8277
	13431	0	0	13431	10878
2 (e) **Other incoming resources**					
Thursday kitchen		8161		8161	0
Sundry Income	958	110		1068	2158
Charity Income		363		363	467
Insurance Claim				0	0
	958	8634	0	9592	2625
2 (f) sequestration				0	
Total incoming resources	132771	40993	3531	177295	114033

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARTLEPOOL ST AIDAN AND ST COLUMBA
CHARITY NUMBER 1185257
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Trust funds	2025	2024
3 (a) Church Activities					
Charitable giving					
Christian Aid		108		108	183
Hospice				0	0
Children's Society		130		130	154
Other		-50		-50	268
	0	188	0	188	605
Ministry: Diocesan parish share	15660			15660	14772
Other ministry costs	3395			3395	1332
Bell Refurbishment		38883		38883	0
Church running and maintenance	16136			16136	14018
Electricity and Gas costs	6907			6907	7845
Chairs and oven	1475	824		2299	5922
Depreciation	3067			3067	3067
Printing and stationery	2211			2211	1626
	48851	39895	0	88746	49187
3(b) **Generation of voluntary income**					
Cost of licence	0	0	0	0	0
Trading expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
3 (c) **Fund raising costs**					
concert/coffee morning			0	0	0
annual fair	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
4 (a) **STAFF COSTS**					
Wages and salaries	12194	5355	0	17549	18209

Expenses of Revd Becky Reeve in relation to her employment as Priest in Charge were met by the PCC

During the year the PCC employed a parish administrator (part time). As the Parish Administrator, Mrs Kathrine Batty, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £9634 (2024 £8694) during the year.

As the warehouse manager Ms Clare Barker who is a member of the PCC was paid £5355 (2023:£6994) during the year.

No other payments or expenses were paid to other PCC members or persons closely connected to them or related parties

5. **OTHER COSTS**					
Professional fees	0	0		0	0
Sundry Expenses	575	412		987	1646
Thursday kitchen		8561		8561	9531
	575	8973	0	9548	11177

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARTLEPOOL ST AIDAN AND ST COLUMBA
CHARITY NUMBER 1185257
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Trust funds	2025	2024
6. FIXED ASSETS					
(a) Tangible	6136	0	0	6136	9203
(b) Investments	0	0	81540	81540	78009
	6136	0	81540	87676	87212
7. DEBTORS					
Invoices issued	1088	0	0	1088	0
8. LIABILITIES					
Sundry creditors	0	0	0	0	90

9. FUNDS

The restricted funds comprise the organ fund and parish hall fund. The endowment funds are the Bolton Trust (to be used for general purposes) the Bulmer Trust (to be used at the absolute discretion of the vicar and Church Wardens) the PCC trust (to be used for ecclesiastical purposes within the parish) and the Wilkinson Trust (to be used for general purposes).

		Organ Fund	Bolton Trust	Bulmer Trust	PCC Trust	Wilkinson Trust
Fund Movements						
Balance at 1 January 2025		32317	8165	37339	29212	3293
resources expended						
Interest received		323	369	1690	1322	150
Balance at 31 December 2025		32640	8534	39029	30534	3443

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Trust funds	TOTAL 2025
Tangible Fixed Assets	6136			6136
Investment Fixed Assets			81540	81540
Current Assets	141385	52689		194074
Current Liabilities	0	0		0
TOTAL	147521	52689	81540	281750

Independent Examiners Certificate for Ecclesiastical Parish of Hartlepool St Aidan and St. Columba, Charity Number 1185257

I report to the Trustees of Ecclesiastical Parish of Hartlepool St Aidan and St. Columba, for the year end 31 December 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011,

To follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiners statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met
   a) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
   b) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and to account for Statutory Fees correctly

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

Signed David S. Burns Date 29/3/2026

Name: David S. Burns ACA

30 Snowdrop Road, Hartlepool