Annual Report AND Financial Statements for St David's Church, Ashprington Year Ending 31st December 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1193081
Contact Address: Morlanda, Ashprington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7UL
Website: https://www.ashpringtonchurch.org/
Independent Examiner: Mike Read, 6 Frogmore Farm, Ashprington, Totnes, TQ9 7UL

Background.

St David's serves a population of over 400 adults from the village of Ashprington, the hamlet of Tuckenhay, and the settlements of Painsford, Yetson, Sharpham Barton and Sharpham House. It is uniquely positioned with distant and panoramic views across the South Hams. There is seating capacity for about 100-120 people.

The fabric is now in a good state of repair, major refurbishment works having been done in 2025 – see below.. Previously, the tower was refurbished in 2009/10 and nine church windows restored during 2017.

Our Objects and Public Benefit Statement

To provide a place of worship, pilgrimage and prayer which is open during daylight hours, seven days a week to anyone who wishes to attend the services or visit the building. In addition, the church is used for concerts and other cultural gatherings.

- **Growing in prayer**

We want to abide in Christ and live our lives close to God. This means taking risks as we become more honest with ourselves and more honest with God. Prayer opens up deep places within us to God's grace, which is why it is such a life-giving activity. Going deeper in prayer is essential if we are to witness to God's Kingdom and grow into the people God is calling us to be.

- **Making new disciples**

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ. With Christ as our companion and guide, we can travel through life differently and invite others to share in the adventure. We want to be more faithful in our discipleship and allow God to shape our priorities and values. The gospel is good news but, if we are to bring more people to Christ, we need to find new ways of telling the story, of explaining our faith and giving a reason for the hope that is in us.

- **Serving the people in our community with joy**

We want to be ambassadors for Christ, making a difference in the world and witnessing to God's love and justice, especially in the communities where we live and in our schools and workplaces. Working in partnership with others who are transforming lives, we seek to address the global issues confronting our generation so that all may flourish. We seek to fulfil our calling to love God and serve the people of our community. St David's Church should speak of God's compassion and love, and ensure a Christian presence in our community.

Our Vision

To keep St David's as a vibrant and living Church that shares the Gospel of Christ by virtue of its welcome, worship and fellowship. We recognise the role of the Totnes Mission Community as providing its congregations with a range of skills and gifts from both stipendiary and lay people for the greater glory of God.

Our Mission

To offer weekly worship and celebrate the major festivals of the Church. We see St David's as being inclusive and receptive to all parishioners and visitors of all ages, without exception, and a venue for concerts and other secular activities.

Objectives and Activities.

Average participation in worship varies significantly depending on liturgy and format offered. There is no regular representation from younger people. There are twenty one individuals who are on the Electoral Roll, some of whom do not attend church services on a regular basis but choose to serve the Church by undertaking many and varied tasks. We are very grateful to them all.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have complied with the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).
The majority of PCC members attended the Domestic Abuse Training in June 2025.

Worship. The pattern of services throughout 2025 was: 1st Sunday – Sung Holy Communion led by a stipendiary priest, 2nd Sunday - Village Worship / Community Gathering led by a lay member of the congregation, 3rd Sunday - Sung Holy Communion led by a stipendiary priest and on the fourth Sunday we join the congregation at St Peter's Cornworthy.
255 people (116 in 2024), attended special services during Advent, 26 (26 in 2024) attended on Christmas Day and 44 on Easter Sunday (38 in 2024). On average, twelve people attend the Eucharist services.
The Remembrance Day Service at the war memorial was attended by about one hundred people, of whom some sixty came up to the church for the subsequent service. We are grateful Stuart Greaves who invited a piper, bugler and local horse riders to complement the occasion. Liz Waterson led the acts of worship.

St David's PCC is pleased to report as follows:

- Thanks to the substantial unrestricted legacy left to St David's church in September 2024, by Simon Grierson (shareholdings £86,871 and house valued at £230,000) the cash account balances of the St David's Church amounted to £136,693 on 31st July 2025. This enabled the refurbishment works to be undertaken during the year.
- Le Page Architects of Plymouth were appointed in June 2025. Charlotte Shobrook was their nominated representative and she was interviewed by the PCC. Charlotte will revisit our account on her return from maternity leave.
- As a gesture to the community, the PCC endorsed the suggestion that a £1,000 raised at St David's Coffee mornings, should be given to support the new play equipment on Ash Meadow.

- The north vestry has been refurbished with the removal of old cupboards, re-plastering of the south wall and new shelving erected.
- In recognition of our commitment to the Mission Community, the PCC voted to pledge £10,000 to supplement the incomes of St Mary's church and St Mary and St Gabriel Church, whilst both faced cashflow shortfalls during refurbishment of St Mary's Church and The Church House Pub, Stoke Gabriel, the latter being a principal source of income from rent.
- In the Spring, St David's church gave refuge to an itinerant traveller named Ian, who used the church facilities for about six weeks before moving on. The experience was positive for both him and our church community endorsing our Vision of being both inclusive and welcoming.
- The Community choir continues to meet in St David's most Thursday evenings for its practice and participated in the Carols by Candleight service with six musicians from the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.
- Amongst the special services during the year was the Pet Service, Harvest Festival and Christingle Service, organised by different members of the PCC.
- Margaret Wilmshurst continued to update and manage St David's Church excellent website, hosted by Simon Alison.
- Chris & Claire Grimshaw continue to host meals in their home and in the church at certain times to encourage more discussion and interaction amongst the community, exploring faith and fellowship for the wellbeing of all.
- There is a small team from St David's Church which leads 'Open the Book' 'sessions in local Primary Schools.
- There remains a commitment to upkeep the churchyard as an area for walkers, picnickers with benches and a well maintained path. This is complimented by a trail which visitors can follow highlighting interesting graves.

Fabric.

- The PCC, led by Kathi and Laurence Green managed contractors repointing and restoration of the south aisle parapet roof. This involved removing compromised concrete pointing and replacing it with lime mortar, removing compromised plaster and repointing the external south and west vertical walls beyond the south porch. Removal and reinforcing / re- plastering of the internal ceiling above the organ extending back towards the south porch. The ongoing maintenance of this historic grade 1 building remains a costly priority.

Finances.

At the 31st December 2025, the Treasurer, reported that the PCC Bank Accounts contained £?. (2024 - £29,360).a Restricted Trust investments were valued at £? (£19029 in 2024). Unrestricted income for the year was £? (2024 - £20,949), whilst Expenditure totalled £? (2024 - £20,103).

Future plans.

- Some further internal re-plastering is continuing to replace lifting plaster on the south wall.
- Datel is re-wiring certain circuits on the south side of the church and has installed a new circuit board to comply with current regulations .
- A visit by Simon Crosbie from Le Page architects, is supporting decisions to be made as to appropriate new LED unit light fittings.

- The Totnes Team has welcomed Rev Fiona Wimsett as new House for Duty priest at Dartington. A new appointment has made on the same basis at Harberton The individual will be joining the Team after Easter 2026.

Structure, Governance & Management

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2022) statement. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ashprington was registered as a charity on the 12th January 2021. It has nine trustees. They meet at least three times a year and are responsible for all matters relating to the Church, under the overall leadership of the Team Rector, who is Chairman.

PCC Members:

Chairman :	**Fr. Jim Barlow (appointed July 2020)**
Deputy Chairman and Churchwarden:	**Richard Soans (appointed Nov. 1985)**
Churchwarden :	**Laurence Green (appointed April 1976)**
Treasurer:	**Kathi Green (appointed April 1976)**
Secretary:	**David Davies (appointed Jan 2012)**
Safeguarding Officer:	**Jill Davies (appointed Jan 2012)**
Pcc Members:	**Margaret Wilmshurst, (app. Sept 2010)**
	Chris Grimshaw (app September 2010)
	Tim Llewllyn (appointed ?)

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of the PCC is to hold a minimum of £20,000, which is the equivalent of one year's average expenditure.

St David's Ashprington PCC account 67209077

1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025

	Receipts				**Payments**		
Balance at Bank			**3891.93**				
Giving				**Essential**			
	Standing orders	8830.00			Quota	6966.00	
	Collection	971.35			Utilities	1396.19	
	Collect Tin	1643.39			Insurance & safety	3550.89	
	gift aid 2022	3318.01			Totnes Team exp.	276.00	
	Donations	10015.00			organist/organ	820.00	
		24777.75	**24777.75**		maintenance	2020.54	
					Altar requirements	113.12	
	Wedding + Funeral Fees	1274.00					**15142.74**
	Charity	640.91		Repairs		39650.00	
	Trust Investment Interest	528.79		Transfers (CCLA, Savings Acct)		80000.00	
	LPOW vat return	0.00		Charity		3100.00	
	Coffee mornings	2314.00		microphone		829.85	
	CCLA transfer	20000.00		flowers		203.60	
	Majestic glasses return	168.00		Devon Comms		480.00	
	Other transfers	90230.00		printing + website		494.00	
		115155.70	**115155.7**	cleaning materials		129.76	
				Misc		813.68	
							125700.89
							140843.63
					Balance at Bank		2981.75
			143825.38				**143825.38**

Date _____ ***Examiner***_____ ***Treasurer***_____***Churchwardens*** _____

Date _____ ***Churchwardens*** _____ ***Chairman PCC*** _____

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Ashprington PCC

On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1193081

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	27/1/2026

Name:	Michael Read

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body	Fellow of Chartered Institute of Bankers, Qualified Investment Advisor

(if any):	
Address:	9 The Roundhouse, Frogmore Farm
	Totnes, Devon TQ9 7UL

Section B	**Disclosure**
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	All accounts correct