DIOCESE of Oxford,
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THE PARISH OF Winnersh
ST CATHERINE ~ ST MARY

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

AGENDA
Annual Meeting of Parishioners
27th April 2026

Apologies for absence
Dwelling in the Word
Items to be raised under any other business

1. Opening Remarks - Revd Patrick Mukholi
2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Appointment of Secretary
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Minister's Report – Patrick Mukholi
4. Financial Statement – Treasurer
5. Reports – see attached
   - 5.1 PCC Annual Report – Alison Vacher
   - 5.2 Churchwarden's Report St Catherine's - Debbie Brunt
   - 5.3 Churchwarden's Report St Mary's – Anne Warner
   - 5.4 Electoral Roll – Samantha Robson-Hurst
   - 5.5 Deanery Synod Report – Area Dean
   - 5.6 Fabric & Churchyard Report – Mark Rendle
   - 5.7 Hall Committee Report – Alison Vacher
   - 5.8 Social Committee Report – Samantha Robson-Hurst
   - 5.9 St Mary's Explorers Report – Alison Vacher
6. Safeguarding – Emma-Jean Wells
7. Data Protection – Alison Vacher
8. Election to Deanery Synod
9. Election of PCC members
10. Terrier and inventory
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner
12. Any other business

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, held on 28th April 2025

In attendance:
Revd Patrick Mukholi, Jinny Rendle, Eve Wynn-Jones, Geoff Marsden, Mark Rendle, Anne Warner, Sue Laney, Jon Robson-Hurst, Alan Hall, Derek Manning, Debbie Brunt, Jules Knight, Hilary Underwood, Wendy Laine, Irin Kurikesu, Alison Vacher

Opening Prayers by Patrick Mukholi

Opening Remarks by Patrick Mukholi
My thanks to all who had worked to keep the parish running during the long period of vacancy.
In the Parish Profile it had been stated that the parish wanted new beginnings - often when new initiatives are tried the response is "we don't do it that way" and expressed his hope that the parish would be open to new ideas. The Profile also alluded to the need for growth and sustainability; growth is not always easy and can be painful and sometimes a contraction is needed before growth can be achieved.
There is a lot going on in the parish and it is heartening to meet with people who are eager to learn, discuss and bring ideas.
I am not here with a magic wand. We have to work together. I am not an expert in everything, but I have confidence in my spiritual gifts. We may disagree at times but that is part of going forward and I hope that we can disagree in an agreeable manner.
I thank you for this opportunity.

Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Brenda Bowring, Christine Ransom and Emma-Jean Wells.

Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received for:
Debbie Brunt (St Catherine's)
Jinny Rendle (St Catherine's)
Anne Warner (St Mary's)

All elected unopposed

Alan Hall raised the issue of Churchwardens having to stand down after serving two 3-year terms. Patrick advised that we do have leeway. It was proposed that the fixed term of office for Churchwardens be extended indefinitely.

Proposed by Anne Warner, Seconded by Jules Knight. All in favour.

Minutes of the APCM held on 28th April 2025

1. **Appointment of Lay Chair**
   Jinny Rendle agreed to continue as Lay Chair

2. **Appointment of Secretary**
   Alison Vacher agreed to continue as PCC Secretary but added that this would be her final year in this role.

3. **Minutes of last meeting**
   The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
   Proposed by Mark Rendle, Seconded by Jon Robson-Hurst. All in favour.

4. **Financial Statement – Treasurer**
   The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
   Geoff Marsden queried the figure given in the report for the 10% discount during vacancy. The figure of £132.05 given in the report is the amount of the monthly discount i.e. 10% of the parish share amount of £15,846 ÷ 12.
   Acceptance of the Accounts was **proposed by Anne Warner, Seconded by Jules Knight. All in favour.**

5. **Reports**
   All reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

   PCC Annual Report
   Churchwarden's Report St Catherine's - Debbie Brunt
   Churchwarden's Report St Mary's – Anne Warner
   Electoral Roll – Samantha Robson-Hurst
   Deanery Synod Report – Area Dean
   Fabric & Churchyard Report – Mark Rendle
   Hall Committee Report – Alison Vacher
   Social Committee Report – Debbie Brunt
   St Mary's Explorers Report – Alison Vacher

   Patrick queried the role of the Social Committee, and it was explained that this committee organised the main fundraising events for the parish.

6. **Election to Deanery Synod**
   A nomination for Alan Hall to represent the parish on Deanery Synod had been received and he was elected unopposed. It was noted that Debbie Brunt also attends Deanery Synod on behalf of the parish.
   Derek Manning confirmed that the parish pays £35 per representative to the Deanery Synod.

7. **Election of PCC members**

   Alison Vacher advised that when the Parish was established in 2012 it was decided that the PCC should consist of the minister, the churchwardens, the Deanery Synod representative and 6 members from each church. It was also agreed that married couples would not be allowed on the PCC to preserve balance. It was proposed that the ruling regarding married couples be rescinded.
   Proposed by Patrick Mukholi, seconded by Alison Vacher. All in favour.

Nominations for the PCC had been received for:

Derek Manning	proposed by Anne Warner seconded by Brenda Bowring
Irin Kurikesu	proposed by Alison Vacher seconded by Anne Warner
Jon Robson-Hurst	proposed by Virginia Rendle seconded by Debra Brunt
Roberta Tweedy	proposed by Debra Brunt seconded by Virginia Rendle
Mark Rendle	proposed by Debra Brunt seconded by Roberta Tweedy
Jules Knight	proposed by Virginia Rendle seconded by Debra Brunt
Emma-Jean Wells	proposed by Alison Vacher seconded by Anne Warner

It was proposed that the above be elected en bloc.
Proposed by Eve Wynn-Jones, seconded by Anne Warner. All in favour.

8. Safeguarding – Emma-Jean Wells

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
Patrick Mukholi noted that Emma-Jean is also the Health & Safety officer for St Mary's. Mark Rendle is the Health & Safety officer for St Catherine's.

9. Data Protection – Alison Vacher

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Patrick Mukholi enquired about contact details for parishioners and was advised that this is maintained by the Parish Office. If parishioners have provided their contact details no further permission is required for the minister to contact them.

10. Terrier and inventory

Anne Warner confirmed that this is up to date for St Mary's.
Debbie Brunt confirmed that these need updating for St Catherine's.
Alison Vacher enquired whether this could be maintained digitally. Alan Hall advised he had used a digital form some 5 years ago and will provide this to the churchwardens.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Derek Manning confirmed that Vince Pearson is happy to continue as the Independent Examiner, and it was proposed that he be re-appointed.
Proposed by Derek Manning, seconded by Mark Rendle. All in favour.

Alison Vacher is to write a letter of thanks of behalf of the PCC.

12. Any other business

Geoff Marsden raised the issue of the bells at St Catherine's. The bells were inspected in December 2024 and some repairs are required. Geoff is currently the only bellringer and whilst some members of the congregation have expressed an interest, he is concerned that there is a health and safety issue and asked if monies would be made available for the repairs.

This issue will be taken back to the next PCC meeting which will be held after the Standing Committee has met with the architect to discuss and prioritise matters arising from the Quinquennial inspections.

3. Minister's Report & 2026 Projections

Presented to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Winnersh
The Revd Patrick Mukholi, Priest in Charge

3.1. Opening Reflection

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
As we enter 2026, we give thanks for the grace of God that has carried us through a year of joy, challenge, rebuilding, and renewed hope. God's faithfulness has been made real among us — in the laughter of our children, the prayers of our elders, the generosity of volunteers, and the quiet courage of those who carry unseen burdens.

With deep gratitude, we honour all who sustain our shared life:

- Our churchwardens for their steadfast service
- PCC members for their wisdom and commitment
- Volunteers who pour time, energy, and love into every corner of parish life
- Musicians, readers, intercessors, welcomers, flower arrangers, and children's leaders
- Every member of the congregation who prays, serves, gives, and encourages
- Our Hong Kong brothers and sisters whose fellowship and partnership enrich our community

My prayer for the year ahead is simple:
That we continue to grow as a parish where every person — from the youngest to the oldest — knows they are seen, valued, and held in the love of God in Christ.

3.2. Vision & Values (Reaffirmed)

Our parish vision remains rooted in five commitments that shape our worship, our relationships, and our mission:

- **Belonging** – A church where all generations find a home.
- **Hospitality** – A community that welcomes with warmth and dignity.
- **Discipleship** – Growing as apprentices of Christ through worship, Scripture, learning, and shared life.
- **Safeguarding** – A culture of safety, trust, and transparency.
- **Service** – Loving our neighbours in practical, joyful ways.

As part of this calling, we continue to offer generous hospitality and practical support to our migrant resident Hong Kong community. Through shared worship, Cantonese services, and fellowship gatherings, this partnership has become a God-given opportunity for mission, friendship, and mutual flourishing.

3.3. Review of 2025

In 2025 our church family explored new ideas, deepened relationships, and grew in confidence as we worshipped, served, and learned together. Volunteers of all ages played a vital part in this journey. Their creativity, kindness, and willingness to "have a go" have been a quiet engine of renewal across parish life.

3.3.1 Worship & Apprenticeship (Discipleship)

- Intergenerational worship strengthened as we gathered as one family in Christ.
- Attendance became steadier and gently increased, especially among families.
- Fresh liturgies used pictures, symbols, simple actions, and child-friendly motifs.
- We celebrated baptisms, weddings, an animal-blessing service, and funerals with warmth and dignity.
- Spoken-word reflections and motif-based teaching helped all ages connect with the story of God.

3.3.2 Community Life

- The Spring Fare, Summer Fete, and Christmas Market brought long-standing members and new families together.
- St Mary's 60th anniversary was a joyful highlight, supported by a generous £100 gift from our Hong Kong community.
- Partnerships with Bearwood, Winnersh, and Wheatfield schools deepened through assemblies, RE support, church visits, and pastoral presence.
- Safeguarding strengthened through increased training and clearer communication.
- Shared meals and social gatherings nurtured belonging and joy.
- Cantonese services and fellowship enriched our worship and widened our cultural understanding.

3.3.3 Pastoral Care

- Home visits, hospital visits, and bereavement support resumed in 2026.
- We continued to walk alongside those facing difficult seasons with prayer, listening, and gentle support.

3.3.4 Buildings & Fabric

- The PCC committed to responding faithfully to the Quinquennial Inspection Report.
- Essential maintenance was completed thanks to our dedicated wardens.
- Accessibility improvements were explored and costed.
- Eco Church work progressed through energy-efficiency checks and small environmental actions.

Missional Use of the Building

- QI priorities will be integrated into our 3-year budgeting cycle.
- Grant funding, diocesan support, and local fundraising will be explored.
- As new initiatives grow — including Hong Kong partnerships, intergenerational worship, and volunteer-led outreach — we will consider how our buildings can better support these ministries.
- Future development proposals will be shaped by QI recommendations and our long-term vision.

3.3.5 Finance Overview

- Income and expenditure remained broadly balanced, though with pressure points.
- Giving patterns reflected national trends: faithful regular giving alongside rising costs.
- Stewardship conversations began, laying foundations for 2026.

2025 was a year shaped by courage, creativity, and community. As we look to the year ahead, we give thanks for all who pray, serve, give, and encourage — and we continue to grow as a parish where every person knows they are seen, valued, and held in the love of God.

3.4. Projections & Priorities for 2026

3.4.1 Worship & Formation

- Deepening intergenerational worship with new motifs and tactile elements.
- Developing a simple discipleship pathway for newcomers and families.
- Strengthening music ministry and exploring new liturgical creativity.

3.4.2 Strengthening Music Ministry

Our music ministry remains an area of both blessing and challenge. Without a consistent organist or regular musician, we have relied on the generosity of Richard and Catherine Whittaker, Lorna, and Gillian, who have supported worship with skill and kindness.

Looking ahead, we recognise the need to strengthen this area so that our worship remains joyful, confident, accessible, and transformational. The PCC will explore:

- improving or replacing existing music equipment
- digital or hybrid accompaniment solutions
- developing a small team of volunteer musicians
- training for those willing to learn
- integrating music planning more intentionally into liturgical preparation

This will be a key area for growth in 2026.

3.4.3 Children, Youth & Families

- Deepening school partnerships.
- Creating booklet-ready, child-friendly festival and teaching resources.
- Enhancing safeguarding visibility and communication.

3.4.4 Community Engagement

- Building bridges with new housing developments.
- Offering spaces of welcome for those experiencing isolation, including refugees and migrants.
- Developing seasonal outreach events with clear invitations and publicity.
- Strengthening partnership with the Hong Kong community through shared worship, pastoral support, and collaborative events.
- Exploring joint festivals, discipleship opportunities, and community outreach.
- Continuing to offer our buildings, time, and hospitality as a sign of God's welcome.

3.4.5 Buildings & Environment

- Prioritising accessibility improvements.
- Continuing Eco Church progress with achievable, measurable steps.
- Planning for medium-term fabric needs.

3.4. Finance & Stewardship

- Presenting a clear, realistic 2026 budget.
- Encouraging sustainable giving.

- Exploring grant opportunities for mission and fabric.

3.5. Risks & Opportunities

What We're Watching & Where We See Hope

Risks – Things We Need to Pay Attention To	Opportunities – Places Where New Life Is Growing
Changes in our local community affecting attendance and volunteer capacity	New families joining our church family with fresh energy
Rising costs and financial uncertainty	Strong friendships with local schools
Increasing pastoral needs as more people face pressure or loneliness	A growing appetite for creative, accessible worship
	The chance to shape a culture of belonging and joy
	Deepening mission opportunities with our Hong Kong brothers and sisters

4. Financial Reports

Finance Report for the year ended 31-December-2025

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) is presented in the required standard format in Appendix 1. This report presents more detail and explanation of the income and expenditure of the various funds.

2025 Year End Fund Totals

The end of year figure for each of the funds is shown in the following table.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
General Fund	29,475	13,613	19,899	21,411	25,591	22,254	16,921	22,796	22,796	52,964	75,296	84,305
Incumbent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	163,300	212,995
Buildings	5,897	5,955	5,996	15,246	6,094	6,094	6,094	6,094	6,094	6,094	6,094	0
St Catherine's Development	5,398	6,014	6,589	7,414	8,259	7,523	7,748	17,313	17,313	17,329	12,171	22,583
St Catherine's Churchyard	956	711	1,134	1,696	1,210	1,763	2,158	2,234	2,234	2,701	4	715
St Catherine's Organ	0	0	0	400	588	0	40	230	230	3	78	0
St Catherine's Choir	961	311	390	616	784	912	912	922	922	1,022	1,022	0
St Mary's Development	24,492	24,598	1,894	185	274	538	450	274	274	274	274	694
Parish Hall	7,957	20,525	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hall Investment	0	0	2,500	3,872	5,611	7,126	5,445	4,301	4,301	6,578	8,117	10,449
Parish Office	6,968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	150	80	230	380	530	680	680	980	900	490
Totals	82,104	71,728	38,551	50,920	48,642	46,591	40,298	54,844	54,844	87,946	267,256	332,232

Review of funds:

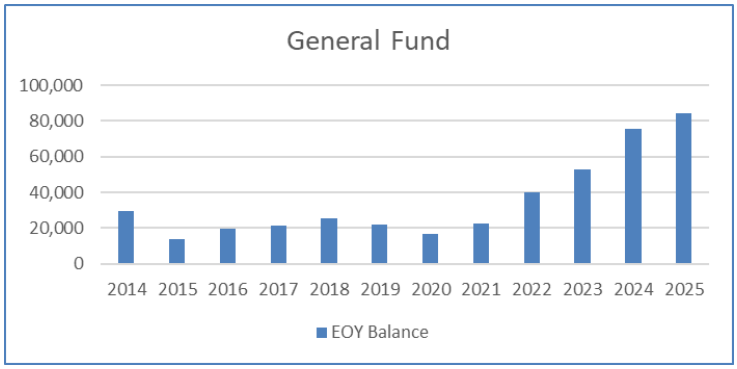
Towards the end of the year the Finance committee held a review of the funds to look at reducing them to a more manageable and relevant number for 2026.

The Organ, Choir, and Buildings funds came from St Catherine's when the new parish of Winnersh was created, and it was decided to close these and transfer the monies to the St Catherine's Development fund and at the same time rename this to the St Catherine's Fund.

Similarly, it was agreed to rename the St Mary's Development fund to the St Mary's Fund

1. General Fund

The General fund is unrestricted and provides for the day to day running expenses of St Catherine's and St Mary's. Income to this fund is from a variety of sources, such as collections, wedding and funeral fees, and fund-raising events, where no restriction is attached.



Income:

Overall income for 2025 increased by **6.2%.** The various headings contributed to this as follows:

Income tax recoverable on gift aid up **2.9%,** donations up **3.5%**, wedding and funeral fees down **18.1%,** collections up **19%,** fund raising down **0.1%**, interest up **50.7%**

Fund raising:

Epiphany gifts	**£200**	Ride & Stride	**£131**
Spring Fayre	**£1,802**	Advent Market	**£942**
Beetle Drive	**£125**	24hr Concert	**£126**
Winnersh Fete	**£266**		

Expenditure:
Regular expenditure each year covers the parish share; church insurance payments; a proportion of the utility, fire extinguisher maintenance, boiler maintenance and electrical testing costs; deanery levies; security alarm maintenance contract; copyright licencing; software licencing; and altar requisites.

Non-regular expenditure during the year included the Quinquennial inspections for St Catherine's and St Mary's **(£1,831**); the provision of priests during the parish vacancy in January; and minor repairs & maintainance.

The payment of gas at St Mary's is spread over the year by equal direct debit payments to British Gas. During 2024 the monthly payments set by British Gas were low so during 2025 they were increased to cover this underpayment as well as the 2025 usage.

At St Catherine's Calor Gas monitor the level of LPG in the tank remotely and make a delivery when it gets low. As a result St Catherine's took two deliveries during the year which happens occasionally.

These two elements together with the cost of the Quinquennial inspections contributed to the expenditure increase of **24.7%** during 2025

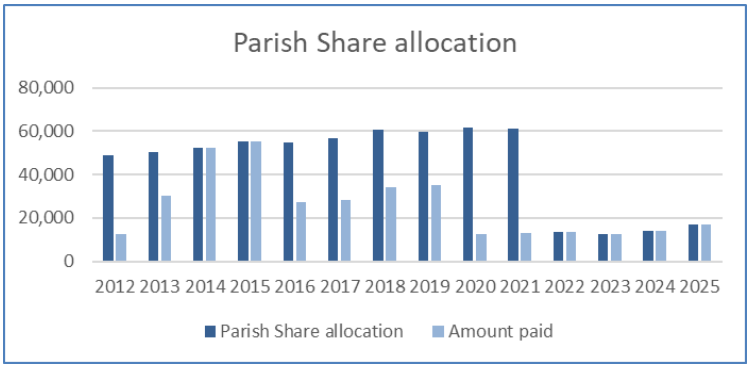
Transfers in:
- **£20,991** the residue from the Parish Hall fund.
- **£377** from the St Catherine's Development Fund

Transfers out:
- **£150** to the Depreciation Fund.
- **£10,867** to the Parish Office Fund.
- **£643** to the St Catherine's Development Fund .

The increase in the General fund for the year was **£9,009** making the balance carried forward **£84,305**.

a) Parish Share allocation

The Parish Share allocation, which pays for the provision of the priest, is one of the largest items of expenditure each year.



The Parish pays the House for Duty allocation which includes support for such things as, Buildings & accommodation, Ministry training, Bishops' and archdeacons' offices, Mission, Safeguarding, Communications, Church Buildings Team, ODBF admin, National Church costs.
It does not include clergy stipend which the Diocese now invoices the parish monthly for, and covers clergy salary, pension and National Insurance contributions.

The 2025 allocation for the Parish in 2025 was **£17,056**. We continued to pay this by direct debit over twelve months, thus receiving 1% discount. This reduced the amount to **£16,885.44** or **£1,407.12** per month, and has been paid in full, with the final instalment in December.

In addition, the Diocese has received **£1,005** from the ODBF element of the statutory fees charged for weddings, funerals, and monuments.

b) *Reserves Policy*

*The Reserve calculated for 2025 was **£22,267**. This money, held in reserve within the General Fund, is the equivalent of two months running costs, and **£10,000** towards the costs of any repair work highlighted in the quinquennial inspection reports, and for unforeseen emergencies.*

2.Incumbent fund

This is a restricted fund created from four large donations specifically given to assist with financing a full-time incumbent for four years. The money is held in a CCLA deposit account with all interest being credited to the fund.

During the year the parish was fortunate to receive two further large anonymous donations to assist with the cost of a full-time priest. The two donations, **£40,000** and **£25,000** were received in May via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and attracted **£10,000** and **£6,250** in gift aid, thus bringing the total to **£81,250**.

The donations were placed in a second Church of England Deposit Fund with Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management Limited and ring fenced with all interest being reinvested in the incumbent fund.

Incumbent Fund	
SOY Balance	163,300
Income	81,250
Expenditure	38,670
Transfer in	7,115
Transfer out	0
EOY Balance	212,995

Income:
Income during the year was the **£81,250** from the two donations. The quarterly interest amounts from the two CCLA accounts totalling of **£7,115** were transferred to the fund.

Expenditure:
Monthly sums totalling **£38,670** were drawn from the fund over the year.
These were paid to the Diocese, which when added to the monthly Parish Share payments detailed above, provided the Diocese with the cost of employing a full-time priest for the parish.

The Balance of the fund carried forward was **£212,995**

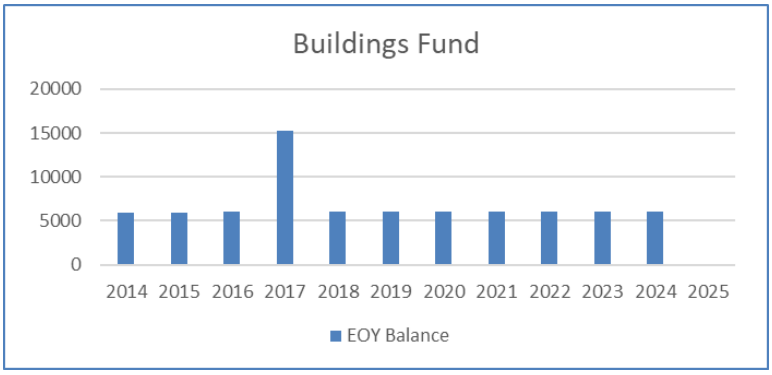
3.Buildings Fund

Money is held in this fund for the future maintenance of the church buildings.

Buildings Fund	
SOY Balance	6,094
Income	0
Expenditure	0
Transfer in	0
Transfer out	6,094
EOY Balance	0

Income:
There was no income during the year.

Expenditure:
There was no expenditure during the year.



Transfer out:
Following a review of the Parish funds the Finance Committee decided to close the Buildings Fund and transfer the end of year balance of £6,094 to the St Catherine's Development Fund.

4.Parish Hall Fund

The Parish Hall fund separately records the income and expenditure directly related to the Hall. At the end of each year, the PCC has agreed that 10% of the net surplus will be transferred to the Hall Investment fund and the remainder, to the General Fund.

Income:
The hall continued to be well used during 2025 with the the number of regular users maintained at 22 and generating income of **£32,006.**
A major contributor to this continues to be the Hong Kong Group who hire both the hall and the church twice a month on Saturdays and also every Sunday.
The Saturday and Sunday single bookings generated income of **£2,873,** slightly down on 2024.

Expenditure:
Regular expenditure consisted of the cleaner's salary and cleaning materials; a proportion of the utility, fire extinguisher maintenance, boiler maintenance and electrical testing costs; and grass cutting.

Parish Hall Fund			
SOY Balance	0		
Income:		**Expenditure:**	
Regular users	32,006	Cleaning	3,740
Single users	2,873	Utility	6,127
		Maintenance	1,689
		Fund transfers:	
		General	20,991
		Hall Investment	2,332
	34,879		34,879
EOY Balance	0		

Non-regular expense included the replacement of four tables **£570**, a new tap for the kitchen **£85**, and a replacement toilet seat **£10**.

Transfers out:
- **£2,332** was transferred to the Hall Investment fund for ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Hall.
- **£20,991** the residue, transferred to the General fund.

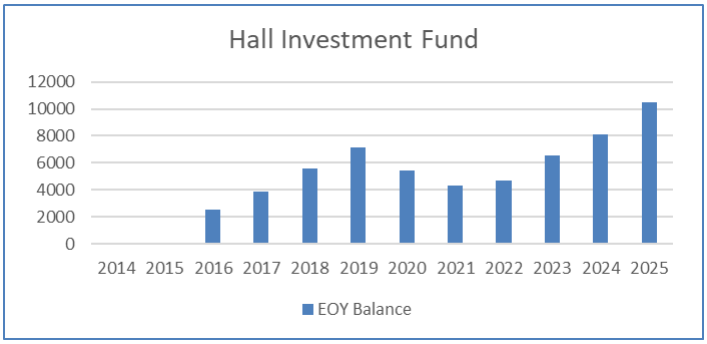
5. *Hall Investment Fund*

This fund has been created to carry the expenses of maintaining and improving the fabric and facilities of the Hall, following the refurbishment. The PCC agreed to set up the fund initially with £2,500, and thereafter to transfer in, annually, 10% of the net surplus from the Parish Hall fund.

Hall Investment Fund	
SOY Balance	8,117
Income	0
Expenditure	0
Transfer in	2,332
Transfer out	0
EOY Balance	10,449

Income:
There was no income during the year.

Expenditure:
There was no expenditure during the year.



Transfer in:
The sum of £**2,332** was transferred in from the Parish Hall fund.

6. *Parish Office Fund*

The Parish Office is funded solely from the General Fund.

Expenditure:
During the year the running costs of the Parish Office increased by **9%**.
This was due in the main to an increase in the administrator salary, and the requirement now to pay employer National Insurance and pension contributions.

Transfers in:

£10,867 from the General Fund.

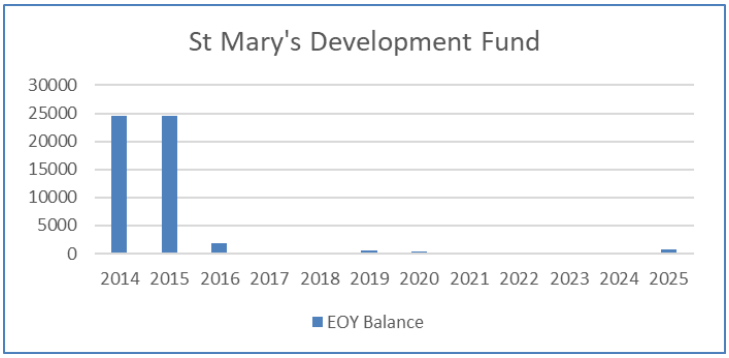
Parish Office Fund			
SOY balance	0		
Income:		**Expenditure:**	
Fund transfers:		Salaries	9,452
General Fund	10,867	Telephone	495
		Software	85
		Website	0
		Printing	305
		Hardware	0
		Consumables	139
		Decoration	0
		Security System	48
		Employer NI	288
		Employer pension	54
		Other	0
	10,867		10,867
EOY balance	0		

7.St Mary's Development Fund

The St Mary's Development fund is restricted. Its source of income is money from donations, legacies and fund-raising events given specifically for use at St Mary's.

St M Development Fund	
SOY Balance	274
Income	565
Transfer in	0
Transfer out	0
Expenditure	145
EOY Balance	694

Income:
Income for the year totalled **£565**. General donations **£100**; Anniversary donations **£150**; Anniversary raffle **£166**, Anniversay quiz **£49**; and the Anniversary Hymms & Pimms function **£100**.



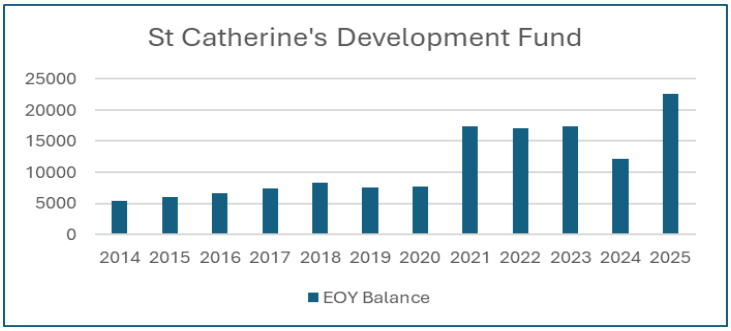
Expenditure:
There was an expense of **£145** for the St Mary's 60th Anniversary celebrations

8.St Catherine's Development Fund

The St Catherine's Development fund is restricted. Its source of income is money from donations, legacies and fund-raising events given specifically for use at St Catherine's.

St C Development Fund	
SOY Balance	12,171
Income	3,816
Expenditure	0
Transfer in	7,838
Transfer out	1,242
EOY Balance	22,583

Income:
During 2025 the fund increased by **£3,685** from donations; and **£131** from Ride and Stride.



Expenditure:
There was no expenditure during the year

Transfer in:
- **£6,094** from the Buildings Fund.
- **£78** from the Organ Fund.
- **£1,022** from the Choir Fund.
- **£643** from the General Fund.

Transfer out:
- **£865** to the Organ Fund.
- **£377** to the General Fund.

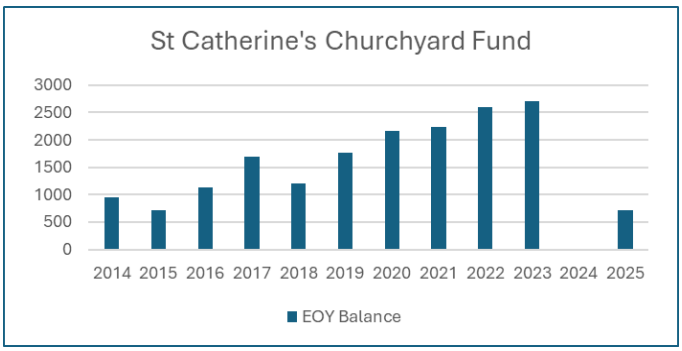
9.St Catherine's Churchyard Fund

The St Catherine's Churchyard fund is restricted and carries the expenses of grass cutting, machinery repair and replacement at St Catherine's. It derives its income from grants, and donations made specifically for this purpose.

Churchyard Fund	
SOY Balance	4
Income	1,201
Expenditure	490
EOY Balance	715

Income:
During the year there were donations totalling **£1,201.**

Expenditure:
Total expenditure of **£490** consisted of **£38** for new equipment, **£169** for strimmer and mower repairs, and £**283** for materials.



10.St Catherine's Organ Fund

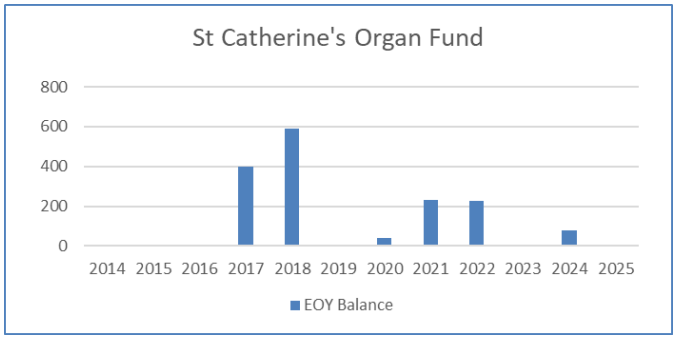
The St Catherine's Organ fund carries the expense of organ tuning and minor repairs to the organ. It derives its income from fees charged for the use of the organ at weddings and funerals.

Annual income has always been variable, being dependent on the number of weddings and funerals taking place each year.

Organ Fund	
SOY Balance	78
Income	0
Expenditure	865
Transfer in	865
Transfer out	78
EOY Balance	0

Income:
There were three funerals and two weddings during the year, none of which required a choir.

Expenditure:
There were two vists during the year for repairs and tuning amounting to **£865.**



Transfer in:
As the Organ fund had insufficient monies to cover this expense at the time, **£865** was transferred in from the St Catherine's development fund.

Transfer out:
The fund generates little income now as weddings and funerals tend to use cds for their music, which means any repairs/ tuning of the organ must come from the St Catherine's Development fund. For this reason, the Finance committee decided to close the fund and transfer the end of year balance of **£78** to the St Catherine's Development Fund.

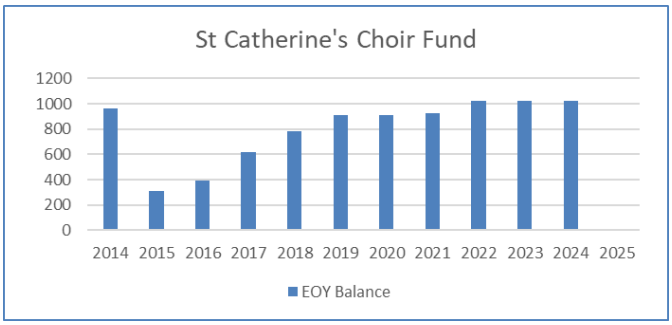
11.St Catherine's Choir Fund

The St Catherine's Choir fund carries the expense of the purchase of music and Choir expenses such as the cleaning of robes. It derives its income from fees charged for the choir at weddings and funerals.

Annual income has always been variable, being dependent on the number of weddings and funerals taking place each year. A set fee is charged for providing a choir, and income to the Choir fund is the surplus after payment of the choristers.

Choir Fund	
SOY Balance	1,022
Income	0
Expenditure	0
Transfer out	1,022
EOY Balance	0

Income:
There were three funerals and two weddings during the year, none of which required a choir.



Expenditure:
There was no expenditure during 2025

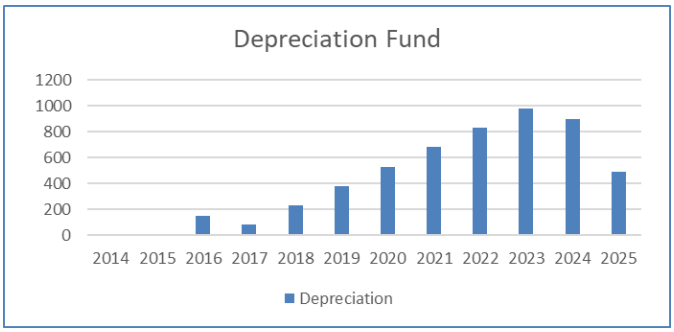
Transfer out:
As the Parish can no longer provide a choir, the Finance committee agreed to close the fund at the end of the year and transfer the balance of **£1,022** into the St Catherine's Development Fund.

12.Depreciation Fund

This fund was created initially to cover the cost of replacing office computing equipment. The PCC has agreed to transfer in £150 a year from the General Fund towards future replacement costs.

Depreciation Fund	
SOY Balance	900
Income	0
Expenditure	560
Transfer in	150
Transfer out	0
EOY Balance	490

Expenditure:
The purchase of a new computer for the Parish Office came to **£560.**
Transfer in:
At the end of the year the agreed annual sum of **£150** was transferred in from the General Fund.



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 PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	
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 31/12/2025.

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 did not exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination.

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:**	4th March 2026
Name:	Vincent Richard Denis Pearson		
Relevant professional			

qualification(s) or body (if any):	
Address:	15 Sadlers Lane, Winnersh
	Wokingham
	Berkshire RG41 5AJ

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.	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £	2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2[a]	28,381	86,067	114,449	189,409
Other voluntary incoming resources	2[b]	4,758	465	5,223	7,698
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2[c]	40,289	0	40,289	43,549
Other ordinary incoming resources	2[d]	0	0	0	0
Income from investments	2[e]	4,257	7,115	11,372	4,371
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		77,685	93,647	171,332	245,028
RESOURCES USED					
Grants	3[a]	313	0	313	20
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3[b]	60,672	39,160	99,832	59,489
Fund-raising and publicity	3[c]	78	145	223	30
Church management and administration	3[d]	5,988	0	5,988	6,178
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		67,051	39,304	106,355	65,717
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		10,634	54,343	64,976	179,310
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
- realised		-	-	-	-
- unrealised		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,634	54,343	64,976	179,310
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2025 (2024)		153,557	113,699	267,256	87,946
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD at 31 DEC 2025 (2024)		164,191	168,042	332,232	267,257

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL WINNERSH

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECMBER 2025
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

		2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS	Tangible fixed assets	1	1
	Investment assets	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS	Debtors	0	0
	Short term deposits	308,343	234,223
	Cash at bank and in hand	24,189	33,133
		332,532	267,356
LIABILITIES:	**AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**	300	100
NET ASSETS		332,233	267,257
FUNDS	General Fund	84,305	75,296
	Incumbent Fund	212,995	163,300.12
	Buildings Fund	0	6,094
	St Catherine's Development Fund	22,583	12,171
	St Mary's Development Fund	694	274
	St Catherine's Churchyard Fund	715	4
	St Catherine's Organ Fund	0	78
	St Catherine's Choir Fund	0	1,022
	Parish Hall Fund	0	0
	Hall Investment Fund	10,449	8,117
	Parish Office	0	0
	Depreciation Fund	490	900
		332,232	267,256

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on __ March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

PCC Member

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.
They have been prepared on the accruals basis using the model set of accounting policies from Chapter 14 of the Church of England's guidance for PCCs (Third edition)

2 **INCOMING RESOURCES**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2025	2024
2[a]	*Incoming resources from donors*				
	Gift Aided planned giving	12,027	0	12,027	13,061
	Other planned giving	750	0	750	920
	Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,178	16,250	21,428	37,773
	Collections	7,799	0	7,799	6,552
	Gift days / Special Appeals	513	0	513	245
	Donations	2,114	69,817	71,932	130,858
		28,381	86,067	114,449	189,409
2[b]	*Other voluntary incoming resources*				
	Grants (Local Authority & Deanery)	1,497	0	1,497	4,196
	Legacies	0	0	0	0
	Fund-raising events	3,261	465	3,726	3,502
		4,758	465	5,223	7,698
2[c]	*Income from charitable and ancillary trading*				
	Magazine advertising & sale of items	200	0	200	0
	Hire of Hall	34,879	0	34,879	36,631
	Verger,Organist,Choir fees	300	0	300	529
	ODBF Fees	1,297	0	1,297	1,981
	Wedding, Funeral Fees	3,613	0	3,613	4,409
		40,289	0	40,289	43,549
2[d]	*Other ordinary incoming resources*				
	Insurance claims	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0
2[e]	*Income from investments*				
	Interest on deposits	4,257	7,115	11,372	4,371
		4,257	7,115	11,372	4,371
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	77,685	93,647	171,332	245,028

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 **RESOURCES USED**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2025	2024
3[a]	*Grants*				
	Donations to Charities	313	0	313	20
		313	0	313	20
3[b]	*Activities directly relating to church work*				
	Diocesan quota	16,885	38,670	55,555	14,103
	Clergy expenses	2,547	0	2,547	5,880
	Church - running expenses	14,719	0	14,719	8,768
	Upkeep of churchyard	0	490	490	4,619
	ODBF fees	1,214	0	1,214	1,030
	Office - running expenses	10,867	0	10,867	9,949
	Verger,Organist,Choir fees	180	0	180	75
	Utility costs - Church	7,883	0	7,883	3,925
	Utility costs - Hall	6,127	0	6,127	2,537
	Major works - Church	0	0	0	6,874
	Major works - Hall	0	0	0	1,730
	New works - Church	0	0	0	0
	New works - Hall	0	0	0	0
	Honoraria	250	0	250	0
		60,672	39,160	99,832	59,489
3[c]	*Fund-raising and publicity*				
	Cost of fund raising etc	78	145	223	30
		78	145	223	30
3[d]	*Church Management and administration*				
	Governance costs	0	0	0	0
	Costs of Trading - Hall	5,988	0	5,988	6,178
	Costs of Trading - Other	0	0	0	0
		5,988	0	5,988	6,178
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	67,051	39,304	106,355	65,717

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

			Land	Total
5[a]	*Tangible Fixed Assets*			
	GROSS BOOK VALUE	At 1 January 2024	1	1
		At 31 December 2024	1	1
	DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2024	0	0
		Charge for the year	0	0
		At 31 December 2024	0	0
	NET BOOK VALUE	At 31 December 2024	1	1
		At 31 December 2024	1	1

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	2023
Fixed Assets	1	0	0	1	1
Current Assets	75,396	175,749	16,211	267,356	88,346
Current Liabilities	100	0	0	100	400
Fund balance	75,297	175,749	16,211	267,257	87,947

7 DEBTORS

Income tax recoverable	0	0	0	0	0
Prepayments and accrued interest	0	0	0	0	0
Other debtors	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accruals and deferred income	0	0	0	0	0
Creditors for goods and services	0	0	0	0	0
Other creditors	100	0	0	100	400
	100	0	0	100	400

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

9 **MOVEMENT BY FUND**

	General	Buildings	St Mary's Development	Parish Hall	Hall Investment	Parish Office
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	(i)	(ii)	(ix)	(x)	(xi)	(iv)
SOY Balance	75,296	6,094	274	0	8,117	0
Income	43,068	0	565	36,370	0	30
Expenditure	43,766	0	145	13,047	0	10,897
Transfers in	21,367	0	0	0	2,332	10,867
Transfers out	11,660	6,094	0	23,323	0	0
EOY Balance	84,305	0	694	0	10,449	0

	St Catherine's Development	St Catherine's Churchyard	St Catherine's Organ	St Catherine's Choir	Depreciation	Incumbent	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(iii)	(xi)	
SOY Balance	12,171	4	78	1,022	900	163,300	267,256
Income	3,816	1,201	0	0	0	88,365	173,415
Expenditure	0	490	865	0	560	38,670	108,439
Transfers in	7,838	0	865	0	150	0	43,419
Transfers out	1,242	0	78	1,022	0	0	43,419
EOY Balance	22,583	715	0	0	490	212,995	332,232

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINNERSH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

(i) ***General fund***
This fund is unrestricted and provides for the day to day running expenses of St Catherine's and St Mary's. Income to this fund is from a variety of sources, such as collections, wedding and funeral fees, and fund raisng events, where no restriction is attached.

(ii) ***Incumbent fund***
This is a restricted fund created from four large donations specifically given to assist with financing a full time incumbent for four years.
The money is held in a CCLA deposit account with all interest being credited to the fund.

(iii) ***Buildings fund***
Money is held in this fund for the future maintenance of the church buildings.

(iv) ***Depreciation fund***
This fund was created initially to cover the cost of replacing office computing equipment.
The PCC has agreed to designate £150 a year to the fund.

(v) ***Parish Office fund***
The Parish Office fund was created to record the set up and running costs of the Parish Office, funded for the first two years by grants from the Deanery.
It is funded each year by an amount transferred from the General fund to be agreed by the PCC.

(vi) ***St Catherine's Development fund***
The St Catherine's Development fund is restricted. Its source of income is money from donations, legacies and fund raising events given specifically for use at St Catherine's.

(vii) ***St Catherine's Churchyard fund***
The St Catherine's Churchyard fund is restricted and carries the expenses of grass cutting, machinery repair and replacement at St Catherine's.
It derives its income from grants, and donations made specifically for this purpose.

(viii) ***St Catherine's Organ fund***
The St Catherine's Organ fund carries the expense of organ tuning and minor repairs to the organ.
It derives its income from fees charged for the use of the organ at weddings and funerals.

(ix) ***St Catherine's Choir fund***
The St Catherine's Choir fund carries the expense of the purchase of music and Choir expenses such as the cleaning of robes.
It derives its income from fees charged for the choir at weddings funerals.

(x) ***St Mary's Development fund***
The St Mary's Development fund is restricted. Its source of income is money from donations, legacies and fund raising events given specifically for use at St Mary's.

(xi) ***Parish Hall fund***
The Parish Hall fund separately records the income and expenditure directly related to the running of the Hall. At the end of each year the PCC has agreed that 10% of the net surplus will be transferred to the Hall investment fund and the remainder to the General fund.

(xii) ***Hall Investment fund***
This fund has been created to carry the expenses of maintaining and improving the fabric and facilities of the Hall following the reburbishment.
The PCC agreed to set up the fund initially with £2,500, and thereafter to transfer in 10% of the net surplus from the Parish Hall fund.

5. Reports

5.1 PCC ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

The PCC met 5 times during 2024 and passed the following resolutions:

PCC Meeting held on 20th January 2025

That a finance committee be set up with a representative from each church so that there is contingency planning and continuity.
That the PCC confirm the adoption of the Safeguarding policy
That the Church will follow the national guidelines for social media
That the Safeguarding Action Plan be adopted by the PCC
That the risk assessment for St Mary's Sunday School be approved.
That a new computer be purchased for the office.

PCC Meeting held on 24th March 2025

That the audited accounts be accepted by the PCC for presentation to the APCM.
That the PCC Annual Report be accepted by the PCC for presentation to the APCM.

PCC Meeting held on 23rd June 2025

No resolutions passed

PCC Meeting held on 22nd September 2025

That an application be made to the Diocese for a grant to cover the cost of a survey relating to the structural repairs at St Catherine's

Parish of Winnersh PCC Members 2025

Debbie Brunt	- ex officio (Church Warden St Catherine's) elected 2025
Anne Warner	- ex officio (Church Warden St Mary's) elected 2025
Alan Hall	- ex officio (Deanery Synod representative) elected 2025 for 3 years
Christine Ransom	- elected 2023 for 3 years
Derek Manning	- elected 2025 for 3 years
Eve Wynn-Jones	- elected 2023 for 3 years
Roberta Tweedy	- elected 2025 for 3 years
Alison Vacher	- elected 2023 for 3 years
Jon Robson-Hurst	- elected 2025 for 3 years
Emma-Jean Wells	- elected 2025 for 3 years
Jinny Rendle	- elected 2025 for 3 years
Brenda Bowring	- elected 2023 for 3 years
Mark Rendle	– elected 2025 for 3 years
Jules Knight	– elected 2025 for 3 years
Irin Kurikesu	– elected 2025 for 3 years

5.2 Churchwarden's Report – St. Catherine's, Bearwood

Safe in the knowledge that the Parish would soon be welcoming the arrival of a long-awaited Vicar and with Christmas stored away for another year, the congregation turned their thoughts to the necessary preparations required for such an occasion.

On 2nd February at 11am, a service for the Licensing and Welcome of the Rev'd Patrick Mukholi as the priest in charge of the Benefice of Winnersh took place at St Catherine's. The Archdeacon of Berkshire, The Ven Stephen Pullin, accompanied by The Rev'd Julian Bidgood, Area Dean led the service at a packed church witnessed and shared in a ceremony of Dedication, Worship and Celebration. A wonderful spread of refreshments, provided by Ruth Giles, was offered afterwards and was enjoyed by all. All in all, a perfect way to celebrate the start of what promised to be a positive future for our parish.

Soon after, we were preparing for Lent. Following a short service on Shrove Tuesday, some freshly cooked and delicious pancakes, expertly prepared by Jinny and Mark Rendle, were consumed with relish.

A Lent Course was run by Patrick and offered in both churches. 'A Meditation on Historical Art and Paintings' was well received and was an opportunity to discuss some famous depictions.

There was a wedding on the 8th of March and a 'Spring Clean' on the 15th.

On the 17th of March, years 3 and 4 from Bearwood Primary School visited the church. The children were well behaved and engaged.

In April, Mark Rendle supervised some students from Reddam House undertake work in the churchyard as part of Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

In May, following a visit from some local Bell Ringers, it was suggested that the bells undergo an Inspection. A thorough inspection was carried out later in the year and a full report was given to the Fabric team.

On Sunday the 8th of June we were lucky to witness the baptisms of John and Tracey Giles and Jimmy Rawlings who, along with Christine Rawlings, went on to be confirmed that evening at All Saints Church.

The introduction of a new service for pets and their owners - 'All Creatures Great and Small' on 29th June proved to be successful and is likely to be repeated next year.

On Saturday 5th July a clock was fitted at the back of church which enables us (and Patrick!) to keep an eye on the time.

In August, while Patrick was on holiday, we were fortunate to have cover for services from The Reverend's Colin Bass, Keith Knee-Robinson, Vincent Perricone and Graham Theobald.

In September, St Catherine opened for the ` Heritage Day' affording an opportunity to showcase the building and churchyard. A free short concert was given by The Chorate Chamber Choir.

A much-loved member and supporter of St Catherine's, Gladys Matthews, died on 6th September. An opportunity to remember, reflect and say 'Goodbye' took place on the 25th of September at her funeral service, which was packed with family and many friends, including those from church. She is and will continue to be, missed.

A new safe was fitted in the Vestry on the 4th of October. An electrical inspection took place on the 22nd of November. In November also - a full diary of special services and festivals viz: -

All Souls
Remembrance Sunday
Armistice Day
Advent Sunday
St. Catherine Patronal

In December children from the local Primary School were invited to the church for an Assembly.

An evening of carols by candlelight on the 14th was a joyous occasion rendered all the more powerful by a large congregation singing lustily and a choir performing some old and new pieces. A Crib Service at 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve is always popular and very well attended and this year did not disappoint. Midnight Mass later, as usual, was joyous!

Nothing much would happen at St. Catherine's were it not for the dedication and love of the whole congregation who each play a part in ensuring the continuation of a special place of worship. It is a place of vitality and a real presence in the community at large and visitors are always welcome.

We are delighted that Roger, Erin, Janet and Jo who came along initially to visit have become regular worshippers and keen to immerse themselves in the life of the church. We are grateful to Roger who is always happy to help in any way and also for providing the technical support needed for music when our organist who shares his time between St. Catherine and St. Mary. Erin is happy to act as a Server and a Reader and offers her support where she can. Janet and Jo are reliable Readers and attend services whenever they can. Thank you so much.

That the churchyard is so well maintained is largely due to the hard work of Mark Rendle. Mark manages to keep a watchful eye on the grounds which, with the help of Geoff Marsden and Ian, a volunteer, are kept well ordered. It attracts many compliments and provides much comfort to visitors of graves. Mark also deals with the fabric of the church and heads up the Maintenance team. Many thanks to him for all his work.

Eve Wynn-Jones offers invaluable support as Sacristan always ensuring that everything is in order for services and the laundering of vestments and cloths is taken care of. Eve also writes and delivers Intercessions. Thank you so much Eve.

Roberta Tweedy sings in the choir and often IS the choir! We thank her for her sometimes solo support with the singing of hymns and leading us usually too. Occasionally she can enlist help from singing groups for special services. She regularly attends Open Church joining in debates and is happy to support church activities. Many thanks Roberta.

We are very grateful to Lorna Monger for her brilliant floral displays which so enhance the church. As well as being a long-time faithful member of the congregation she is now a great addition to the planning of events, such as currently the purchase of new altar curtains. Thankyou Lorna.

Richard Whitaker is thanked for playing the organ for us regularly and for which we are very grateful.
Sue Barrett is a great support at many events and often acts as Server.
Derek Manning is thanked for continuing as Treasurer.

Jinny Rendle is thanked for her many contributions to the church. She organises the rotas for Readers, prepares the lists for services, reads herself and often stands in when needed. In addition, Jinny undertakes work that often requires detailed applications for grants etc. All in all, she is an integral part of the church team. Many thanks Jinny.

5.3 Churchwarden's Report – St. Mary's

January 2025 we were still in Vacancy. Services continued regularly with the support of Rev Colin Bass, Rev Keith Knee-Robinson, Rev Graham Theobald, and Rev Vincent. A huge thank you to them. Average attendance of 22. The Wednesday morning quiet personal prayer time took place with an average of 8. Many thanks to Alan for the work involved in finding Clergy cover at that time.

In February, we welcomed Rev Patrick Mukholi as our incumbent to the Parish of Winnersh with a service at St Catherine's. We are working well with him with thanks for his ministry. Taking on different initiatives the Wednesday quiet prayer is followed by a shortened communion. Thursday evening a Bible study group has started. Congregation numbers have increased slightly and average about 25.

Greatly appreciated are Alison for leading the children's work, and flowers, Richard Whitaker Gillian Money and Lorna for their support with the music, Brenda for rotas and the congregation who help in many ways.

St Mary's celebrated its 60th Anniversary this year. The Foundation stone was laid on 27th June 1965 with the dedication service on 21st December 1965.

To celebrate this, a Beetle Drive was held in June; ' Hymns and Pimm's' with a 60's theme in July and two quizzes with again a 60's theme . The Anniversary weekend 6th/7th September saw a Garden party on the 6th and a Dedication service on the Sunday. Past members were invited and it was good to meet up and share memories. A huge thank you to the 'Anniversary team' for organising these events and those who helped on the days.

The initiative from the Diocese to support the Hong Kong community in the area to use our church for their services still continues, worshiping in their own language of Cantonese. It is under the leadership of Rev Fung and the umbrella of Trinity Church Earley. They hire the premises on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, and on all Sundays. With the agreement of the congregation, we had changed our 9.30am to 9.00am Sunday services to make it possible for them with their other commitment at Trinity Church, Earley. This was a great kindness by our members. The Hong Kong congregation is large, usually about 130 -150. They also hire the Forest School. There is a slow integration with us where they have helped with ground tidy days. We appreciated their help. Storage is still an issue, and we have allowed an extra-large cupboard in the church and also accommodate some of their equipment in the vestry, but we are a small church building, and our available space is limited.

We are also mindful of our own communities who use our church and church hall. St Mary's is a community hub for Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, the WI, Slimming World , dance classes, Pilates classes, and art classes who have been with us for many years. The hall is also used for all Parliamentary and local Elections.

A service of Harvest Festival was held with the congregation bringing items to be blessed and then taken to a food bank. Remembrance Service was observed in November and a Crib Service in December. The numbers were lower this year partly due to illness but the need for greater advertising was noted. All Christmas Services took place.

Fund raising events included the Cheese and Wine Bingo Evening in March, the Spring Fayre in May and the Advent Market in November. A huge thank you to Samantha and Jon for their organising. These are Parish events.

In May and November, the Gratis Choir gave concerts with donations going to 'Promise Inclusive' who support people with learning disabilities and their carers, and 'Blood Bikes' , a rapid response medical transport service to the NHS free of charge. We also supported 'CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS' with the Christmas Card scheme and continue to support SalGOAssist who support 2 orphanages in Bapatla S India.

A wedding at St Mary's is a rare event so we were delighted to have the wedding of Rev Clifford and Elsie take place in November. We wish Mr and Mrs Smith all best wishes for their life together. Clifford, a retired priest and his first wife, became very active and supporting members at St Mary's from 1997.

The Kingfisher Social Group, started in December 2023, for people to drop in for tea and a chat, and board games, etc. meet fortnightly on a Wednesday. This continues to be well supported.

Anne Warner, Church Warden

5.4 Electoral Roll

The number on the Electoral Roll is 47

5.5 Deanery Synod Report

Once again, it has been a year of significant change in Sonning Deanery.

In September 2025, Revd. Julian Bidgood (Barkham) finished serving as Deanery Co-ordinator. We give thanks for his ministry among us, particularly through his support of the many parishes who found themselves in vacancy and his work on our Children and young people's plan which has given us a firm foundation to work from. A thank you was given to Julian before his sabbatical in the summer of 2025.

In June 2025, Deanery Synod also said thank you to John Sutton and Lynne Paine who stepped down as Lay Chair and Treasurer respectively. A huge thanks for all they gave to those roles.

The Bishop of Reading asked Revd. Laura Wheatley Downs (Crowthorne) to serve as Area Dean from September 2025, and she has been working alongside Leigh Welham (Secretary), Anthony Pollock (Treasurer), Anna Pearce, David Horrocks, John Sutton, Revd. Gemma Donnell (Parish of Finchampstead and California) and Revd. Mark Gould (Twyford and Ruscombe) who have served as members of the Deanery Standing Committee and Mission and Pastoral Committee.

Revd Mark Gould was licensed as Associate Area Dean on 1st March 2026. Behind the scenes, advocating for deanery is Peter Wells. Special thanks also go to him for all his work managing our Parish Share allocations.

Over the last year, the remaining three incumbent vacancies have all been filled. It has been an absolute delight to welcome Fr. Sam Tanna-Korn (St. Paul's and Woosehill), Revd. David Chislett (Wargrave and Knowl-Hill) and Revd. Peter Hyson (Owlsmoor). It has also been wonderful to welcome other priests into the parish – Revd. Cathryn Howse as Associate minister in the parish of Finchampstead and California, Revd. Andrea Platt as Associate priest at All Saints and Revd. Robert Wynford-Harris (PTO).

This year, we have also said farewell to Revd Julian McAllen who left the parish of Finchampstead and California in the summer. And farewell and good luck to Revd. John Castle in Sandhurst who has taken up a

new role at St. John the Baptist, Aldenham. He had joyfully served his community for 21 years, and we have been enriched as a deanery through his ministry. We wish him all the best!

Sadly, Revd. David Webster died in February. He had continued to minister to those at Suffolk Lodge which was his home toward the end of his life. We give God thanks for his years of faithful service.
One of the most significant beginnings within the Deanery has been the first phase of work on our Deanery plan which has taken up the majority of our time at Synod since September 2025. During this time Synod has been discerning where our deanery priorities lie. A consultation has also taken place in Deanery Chapter and explored through conversations across parishes. The Deanery has reflected on signs of God at work, parish treasures, anxieties, priorities, community needs, required resources, and hopes for the deanery's future.

Out of this work have emerged some exciting key priorities to focus on as a Deanery which will be discussed at our next Synod AGM, alongside our vision and values.
Our next step will be to encourage those with a gifting, passion or skill in our priority areas and other key offices who would like to facilitate informal deanery clusters which meet a few times a year where others who are also interested in collaborating and sharing learning, encouragement and prayer about a particular area can gather together. e.g. safeguarding, churchwardens, children and young people. This already works successfully amongst our Treasurers and our Green team- a huge thankyou to all those involved in that.

We are also in the process of looking for a new Deanery Secretary. This is an important role within the life of the Synod. Leigh has been a fantastic secretary but serves in so many other places- if you want to know more about what the role entails, please do speak with her. We're also looking for a new Lay chair. Again, an important role that enable the voice of the faithful members of our churches to be represented, and to ensure balance in how we work together as clergy and as laity. Please do speak with Laura if you'd like to find out more.

This next year, I would encourage anyone who has a heart to see our churches work together to grow God's Kingdom through any of the roles above or below, to sign up to be a deanery representative over the next 3 years at your APCM. And don't worry, if synod isn't for you- there are plenty of other ways to be involved! I look forward to seeing what God does through us.

Grace and peace,
Revd Laura Wheatley Downs

Supporting
Clergy, individuals and churches to serve their parishes and communities by meeting together, sharing resources and engaging in mission.

Discerning
Deanery Synod is a place where encouragements, concerns and missional ideas from individual parishes can be shared and potentially considered by the diocesan synod, which can then be considered at General Synod. At each of these stages, those involved are seeking to serve God and grow God's Church.

Connecting
People together from different churches across the area in worship, mission and governance. Parishes with deanery, diocesan and national initiatives and vice-verse through the sharing information.

5.6 St Catherine's Maintenance Team Annual Report 2025

Churchyard

General maintenance of the churchyard has taken place during the year. The churchyard exerts a heavy toll on the grass cutting machinery, with consequent heavy machinery maintenance costs.

Grave holders are learning how to separate their rubbish into the approved categories, for composting, burning, or disposal through the borough council collections.

The fencing round the porta-loo has been replaced. This provided the opportunity to establish a flower bed in the same area. Following this, it was decided to convert a few of the old graves, ones with a stone retaining wall, into flower beds. Most of the work for this was done by Duke of Edinburgh award scheme students doing their service requirement. This has inspired the maintenance team to go further. During the autumn many daffodil bulbs were planted.

Proper tool racking was installed in the steel shed, and another DofE student installed racking in the wooden shed.

Four decorative trees, donated to St Catherine's, were planted along the main footpath, with protective fences crafted by a DofE student.

Organ

Bishops were called to check the organ which was making strange noises. They tuned it, but that didn't completely solve the problem, which is now being progressed with Bishops by Richard Whitaker (who can discuss musically with them.)

Church Fabric

The quinquennial inspection report has been received, which indicated lots of work to be done, fortunately none of which was desperately urgent. Minor works are in progress.

The clearing of the gutters has improved drainage of the roofs, with no sign of water pouring down the outside of the walls, and the walls appear to be drying.

The routine inspections by outside bodies took place during the summer. The electrical installation inspector who had carried out the tests for several years retired but recommended a replacement company who have carried out their first inspection.

For the Christmas festivities flood lighting was installed to the car park, to the steps up from the woodland, and, new this year, into the east window, and along the main footpath.

Mark Rendle for Maintenance Team

5.7 Hall Committee Report

Ground tidy up days were held in March, May and November as well as a Church spring cleaning day in February. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this.

Repairs to the disabled access ramp are scheduled for April 26.

Following receipt of the Quinquennial Report, low level gutters have been cleared and ivy cut back. High level gutters will be cleared in 2026, and this is a professional job.

Remedial actions are required to the Electrical cupboard – redundant equipment to be removed and the cupboard re-ordered, however there is asbestos present which needs to be removed professionally. A new fireproof door is also required.

It is proposed to repaint the car park lines in 2026.

Alison Vacher

5.8 St. Mary's Explorers

Explorers meet during the main service each Sunday except for the third Sunday in each month when an intergenerational service is held.

We generally follow the Lectionary and use Roots as our main source of teaching materials. Our usual format is to read the Gospel for the day and then undertake activities based on that.

Attendance is a little sporadic; we have 3 regular attendees.

Alison Vacher

5.9 Social Committee Report.

May- Spring Fayre
Another successful event. Great turnout and a lovely social day for the community and parish. We raised £1800 for our churches.

June-Winnersh fete
Another year of selling our refreshments in the kitchen at Winnersh Community Centre in Sindlesham. There is a lot of competition now, with the HK Group at the Baptist Church giving away cakes and hot drinks and in prime location on the busy arena with lots of activities etc. There is also the ongoing competition from the scouts and the bar too. Our prices are very competitive, and we have faithful locals that do always visit but with our location being so far away from the arena (and getting further away over the years) this event has sadly not been as successful as in previous years.
However, we still raised £260 for our churches, which is always a bonus! We will need to review our advertising and promote our name amongst the community - perhaps having a separate stall on the arena advertising and directing people to the hall for our refreshments. All ideas are welcome for discussion and extra volunteers would also be needed if we were to expand. (These are always very hard to come by!)

November- Advent Market
We tried this in the daytime on a Saturday this year, as opposed to a Thursday evening and this worked much better and footfall increased. It was a great event with lots of stall holders, great raffle and our popular BBQ too. We raised over £900, which was an increase of over £200 on the previous year.

2026
January-Bingo, Wine and Cheese Social evening
This was a fun, well attended evening for our congregation members and friends/family. This wasn't a fundraiser as such, as the importance was covering costs and having a good time. Despite this and due to generosity of donations on the evening, we still raised £276!

2026-Looking Ahead.

May-Spring Fayre
This is due to take place on Saturday 16th May 11am-3pm. Planning is well underway and lots of stall holders have already confirmed.

June-Winnersh Fete on Bearwood Recreation Ground
This is being held on Saturday 20th June 1pm-4:30pm. Discussions are currently in place for this, to determine the best format.

November. Advent Market
This is booked to take place on Saturday 28th November 11am-3pm

Thank you to those of you who are regular members of our little social team! There is a *lot* of work behind the scenes prior to all these events, and I am so grateful to those of you who are there to offer help before *and* during the events!

6. Safeguarding Report

The Parish has adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' as its own safeguarding policy.
'Promoting a Safer Church' is publicised and promoted and all Church Officers have access to it.
The PCC last reviewed its Safeguarding Action Plan on 22/9/25.
The PCC last reviewed its policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders on 19/01/26.
The PCC last reviewed its procedures on responding to concerns or allegations on 19/1/26.
The Parish is following national guidelines regarding the use of social media.
Anyone who poses a risk to children or vulnerable adults is being managed and monitored effectively.
The PCC complies with GDPR and Data Retention guidance.
Arrangements have been made for the secure storage of safeguarding records.
Emma-Jean Wells was appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer on 4/6/22 and has completed the required Safeguarding training.
The Churchwardens are aware of their Safeguarding responsibilities and have completed the required Safeguarding training.
All DBS administration is undertaken by the Safeguarding Officer.
PCC members have completed the required Safeguarding training.
The PCC reviewed the list of Church activities on 19/1/26. Risk Assessments, DBS checks and Safeguarding training are up to date.
A review of non-Church activities, i.e. Hall Users, is to be undertaken.

Emma-Jean Wells

7. Data Protection

There have been no known data breaches within the Parish. However, some PCC members were affected by a data breach at the company responsible for processing DBS checks on behalf of the Diocese. The Diocese has now appointed a new company to undertake this, and the PCC will be asked to confirm agreement of the new arrangement.

Closing Blessing

May Christ, the Light who shines in every darkness, guide our steps into the year ahead.
May our parish be a place of welcome, healing, and hope.
May God bless our shared journey with the Hong Kong community, and may our fellowship together become a living sign of the Kingdom's welcome and hope.
Amen.