The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

Registered Charity Number 1207978

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Accounts for financial year ending: 31st December 2025

Trustees Annual Report

Prepared on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington
by Susan M Heap FCG MBCS
PCC Secretary

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April 2026

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Meeting of Parishioners 2026

Required at the Meeting of Parishioners will be the election of Church Wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

Required at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will the election of Parochial Church Council Elected Members & Members of the Deanery Synod

Contact:

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1. Introduction to the Trustees' Annual Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington presents its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2025, together with an overview of the year ahead.

The PCC is required to:

- report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM. A new roll was prepared in 2025 (the next full renewal will be in 2031). As this was a revision year, anyone wishing to have their name included on the Electoral Roll was required to complete a new application form and submit it during the advertised review period.
- report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ending 31 December preceding the meeting.
- make available the financial statements for the year ending 31 December preceding the meeting.
- report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the churches within the parish.
- report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod and other matters of parochial or general interest.

Purpose of the Report

The preparation of the written Annual Report, like the preparation of the financial statements, is the joint responsibility of the whole PCC. The report places the PCC's financial statements within the wider context of the parish's life and mission. It reviews the past year and links financial planning to the parish's vision for the future.

Although legally a separate document, the Annual Report and the Financial Statements (including the Independent Examiner's Report) are presented together within the same publication.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

A Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of a Church of England parish, responsible for the overall governance and administration of the parish. It manages the financial affairs of the church and maintains its assets, including church buildings and halls. As a corporate charitable body, the PCC ensures compliance with both charity law and ecclesiastical law. All PCC members are charity trustees.

Charity Registration

- The PCC of the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington has been officially registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 23 April 2024 (standard registration).
- The official title is: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stockport and Brinnington – Registered Charity Number 1207978.
- The governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

3. Aims and Purposes

3.1 **Mission and Responsibility**

The PCC works in partnership with the Rector and others to promote, within the ecclesiastical parish of Stockport and Brinnington, the whole mission of the Church — pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

3.2 **Buildings and Assets**

The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for:

- St Mary's, Stockport
- St Luke's, Brinnington
- St Andrew's, Stockport (a closed church now used for other purposes)
- St Thomas', Stockport (presently closed for public worship but available for hire until formal transfer to the Diocese)

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Worship and Community

The PCC is committed to the growth and flourishing of the parish, enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of our parish community.

4.2 Partnerships and Outreach

The PCC continues to explore partnership initiatives, community development opportunities, and ways of working with families, young people, and children. This includes the promotion of environmental concerns and care for God's creation.

4.3 Engagement and Belonging

The PCC actively engages with the local community, addressing concerns, fostering a sense of belonging, and organising events and activities that support the church's outreach and mission.

5. Rector's Report

The Parish of Stockport and Brinnington has provided public benefit during 2025 in the following ways:

5.1 **Spiritual Life**

5.1.1 Services have continued to grow, though not as rapidly as in 2024. Typical Sunday attendances might be: 9.30am in St Luke's c.10, 11am in St Mary's c.60, 2pm Cantonese service c.30 (which service became a weekly offering during 2025). We continue with a pattern of more traditional communion at St Luke's and more informal services at St Mary's. It is my opinion that the worshipping community of St Mary's is growing but that the temperature in the building has resulted in less frequent attendance during the winter months and therefore the appearance of slower growth – warmer weather this year will show whether this is correct or not!

5.1.2 Following the Alpha Course in 2024, in February 2025 we held immersion baptism services on Sunday at both English and Cantonese services with 8 people baptised followed by Confirmations with Bishop Sam in March. Those attending have either gone on to join the weekly Bible study group (Thursdays 10.30am or 7.30pm) or rejoined our 3rd Alpha Course (introduction to Christian faith) which started in September with attendance at one stage reaching 40.

5.1.3 Our weekly term time youth club for Years 4–6 continued with attendance up to 15. As members of the congregation were getting married, we ran The Pre-Marriage Course. In order to promote integration across our services and congregations, we hold weekly shared lunches between English and Cantonese services and we ran 4 events at the Rectory (2 summer BBQs, bonfire night and mulled wine and mince pies) which were well attended – not counted, but maybe 80 at some events.

5.1.4 November saw the start of an initiative to plant a new congregation in Brinnington. For four Sundays in November members of any churches across Stockport were invited to come and pray into the idea of a new mission. An encouraging about 25 people attended each evening. This has since been followed up in the new year by starting a 5–6pm informal evening service with a focus on welcome, outreach and prayer – more on this in next year's report.

5.1.5 Contributing to wider Stockport spiritual life, as Rector of this parish I am Patron to St Thomas, High Lane and St James, Gatley and was involved in recruitment processes for new vicars for both parishes.

5.2 **Schools' Work**

5.2.1 Regular weekly assemblies have continued at St Thomas', St Paul's and Vernon Park Schools, with additional input through our "Who Moved the Stone" Easter workshop for Years 5–6 and school services held in church for St Thomas and Vernon Park.

5.2.2 Governance has continued as I sit on the board at both St Thomas and St Paul's.

5.2.3 I also have regular input at Stockport Grammar School, being invited to take assemblies once per term and to host the Year 7s for their Founders Day event. We have also hosted church visits from Bridge House and Castle Hill schools.

5.3 **Civic Life**

5.3.1 St Mary's plays a key role in the civic life of Stockport, so once again we hosted a September Civic Service and in December the Mayor's Carol Service. We also run a joint carol service with Beechwood Cancer Care which is becoming established in a slightly altered format which is proving popular.

5.3.2 I have also served as Mayor's Chaplain for both Mayors of Stockport who served during 2025 and have been called on regularly to lead prayers at the opening of council meetings.

5.4 **Stockport's Heritage**

5.4.1 The parish has had very good news with regards to preserving, maintaining and opening Stockport's heritage to all in that we were awarded a large National Lottery Heritage Fund grant in July. The grant awarded is c.£300k for the "development phase" of the overall project with an anticipated c.£3m for the complete project. The aim will be to repair the stonework, roof and guttering of the Georgian nave; to replace both main doorways and the heating system; and to establish an arms-length heritage organisation to operate the cafe, new heritage escape rooms and a new tower tour as well as other heritage activities and tours. Since the award date we have achieved their "permission to start" and have tendered for the project manager role. Once the appointment has been made, we anticipate much greater progress in 2026.

5.4.2 During 2025 we have continued to host Stockport Heritage Trust, who open when our cafe is open (Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10.30am–1.30pm) providing access to their extensive library of historic photos and, amongst other things, assistance with queries such as ancestry tracing.

5.4.3 The church bell tower has been regularly used throughout the year by both Manchester Cathedral bell ringers and the Chester Guild of bell ringers for practices and competitions.

5.5 **Cultural Life**

5.5.1 The parish contributes to the cultural life of Stockport by making St Mary's available for many events run by others including Live at St Mary's (gigs), Mercury Climbing (Stockport Music Festival), Totally Stockport (community Ceilidh) and Eat Good West (Asian food festivals) amongst many others.

5.5.2 The cafe, run by volunteers in St Mary's, means that the church, its heritage and the quiet space it provides for prayer is always available to all on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10.30am–1.30pm. And the cafe run by volunteers in St Luke's Brinnington means there is always a place for community, a preloved sale and affordable refreshments on Thursdays between 10am–12 noon.

5.6 **Environmental**

5.6.1 During 2025 we replaced all of the nave lighting in St Mary's with low energy LED bulbs. We also started the process of registering with the A Rocha eco-church scheme (which has been completed with a bronze award in early 2026).

6. The Parochial Church Council 2025

6.1 **Membership:**

Rector:		*Rev Chris Blunt*
Curate:		*Rev Andy Crook*
Churchwardens:	*St Mary's (2)*	*David Birch*
	St Luke's (2)	

PCC Elected Members (max 9))

John Cichocki (2025/2026/2027) - St Mary's
Pat Hamilton (2025/2026/2027) - St Luke's
Sue Heap (2023-2024-2025) – St Mary's
Linda Mather (2023-2024-2025) – St Luke's
Catriona Smith (2024-2025-2026) – St Mary's

Co-opted members — *Rachael Wright (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)*

Deanery Synod Members (NEW max2) — *Linda Mather / Adam Pinder [resigned]*
Appointed –

6.2 **PCC Appointments**

Secretary:	Sue Heap
Treasurer:	vacant
Electoral Roll Officer:	Catriona Smith
Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	Rachael Wright - appt Nov 24
Environmental Officer	Pat Hamilton

6.3 **The duties of the PCC**

The members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the "persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity" (Charities Act 2011, s177)

The trustees are entrusted with the PCC's funds – and must:

- Always act responsibly;
- Ensure that all decisions are taken for the benefit of the PCC;
- Always act in accordance with the governing documents, principally the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Ecclesiastical Measure 2015;
- Not seek personal benefit (commitment to the cause must be the main reason for serving as a trustee).

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of a treasurer. While it may delegate some if its duties (as appropriate) this does not remove its legal responsibilities – including:

- Keeping "proper accounting records", which include the annual financial statement, and which must be preserved for at least six years from the end of the financial year to which they relate. The records must:
    - Show and explain all the PCC's transactions
    - Disclose the PCC's financial position at any time with reasonable accuracy;
    - Enable the required statutory accounts to be prepared
    - Show on a day to day basis all receipts and payments and what they were for
    - Record all assets and liabilities.

- Ensuring that the finances of the PCC are under its control and decision making is only delegated if the PCC can ensure that its wishes will be followed.
- Arranging for a suitable independent examination or audit of the financial statements.
- Preparing the Annual Report and Accounts (financial statements) which must be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Church Representation Rules

6.4.1 Method of appointment to the PCC / Membership

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 – amended 2022 – latest amendments 2025
- Within the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington membership of the PCC consists of:
    - the Rector, Curate and where appropriate Ordinands are invited to attend as part of their training experience.
    - Ex-officio members includes the Churchwardens [elected annually], Licensed Reader(s) [as/when assigned to the Parish], Representatives of the Deanery Synod (max 2) if not an elected member [whilst in that position]
    - Elected members [the allowance being based on number of persons listed on the electoral roll – see SECTION 9 below)
    - Co-opted membership is allowed (maximum of 2) if required [for a period of one year only].

- The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

- During 2025 meetings were held as and when required for the conduct of important issues and where formal resolutions needed to be recorded. Other issues (as appropriate) dealt with via email.

7 Report of the Parochial Church Council Secretary

7.1 PCC Meetings

During the year, the Parochial Church Council met regularly to conduct the business of the parish.

Attendance was as follows:

- 27 January 2025 – Membership 10 – all present
DB, CB, AC, PH, SH, JK, LM, AP, CS, AW

- 14 March 2025 – Membership 10 – 9 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, AC, PH, SH, JK, LM, AP, CS, AW

- 7 April 2025 – Membership 10 – 9 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, AC, PH, SH, JK, LM, AP, CS, AW

- 27 April 2025 (Post-APCM) – Membership 10 – 8 present / 2 apologies
DB, CB, JC, CC, AC, PH, SH, LM,AP, CS

We welcomed new members John and Clair, and expressed our thanks to outgoing members Jim and Ann.

- 9 June 2025 – Membership 10 – 6 present / 4 apologies
DB, CB, JC, CC, AC, PH, SH, LM, AP,CS

- 8 September 2025 – Membership 9 – 8 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, JC, AC, PH, SH, LM, CS, RW

Membership change noted.

- 3 November 2025 – Membership 9 – 8 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, JC, AC, PH, SH, LM, CS, RW

- 17 January 2026 – Membership 9 – 8 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, JC, AC, PH, SH, LM, CS, RW

- 8 March 2026 – Membership 9 – 8 present / 1 apology
DB, CB, JC, AC, PH, SH, LM, CS, RW

7.2 National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

A major focus of the year was the preparation and submission of the first-round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The successful award has enabled us to progress to the next stages, including the appointment of a professional Project Manager.

Our thanks go to Peter Breedon for joining the team and taking a leading role on behalf of the parish. The PCC agreed to hold parish funds available to underwrite match-funding requirements at this stage.

7.3 Quinquennial Inspection

The 2025 Quinquennial Report for St Mary's was received from our architect, Duncan Sanderson. Many items previously identified have deteriorated further, with some additional issues noted. Several elements are incorporated into the NLHF project.

7.4 Parish Share

The parish share contribution was discussed at length. All arrears have now been cleared, and arrangements are in place for regular monthly payments to the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance.

7.5 Church Buildings and Property

Progress remains slow regarding the disposal of church premises and the Diocese's ability to transfer property to new ownership. The closure of St Thomas', temporary hire arrangements, and the pending sale have been regular topics of discussion.

7.6 Finance and Accounting

Financial matters have been a standing concern, including balancing accounts and producing accurate year-end statements. A new Independent Examiner has been appointed. Looking ahead to 2026/27, the parish will need to implement the MyFund accounting system.

With no appointed PCC Treasurer, responsibility currently falls to the Churchwardens (for 2025, David Birch).

7.7 Safeguarding and Policies

Safeguarding and other policy requirements have been reviewed, with appropriate documentation created and adopted, including those recommended by the Charity Commission.

7.8 **Insurance and Risk Management**

Following an inspection by Ecclesiastical Insurance, additional risk assessments were required, along with essential repairs and maintenance to the alarm system at St Mary's. These actions continue into 2026.

7.9 **Environmental Matters**

Our thanks go to Pat Hamilton for her continued role as Environmental Officer. Pat has attended events and seminars (including several online) and has kept the PCC updated on national and international concerns regarding climate change. As we move forward with works at St Mary's, St Luke's and St Andrew's, environmental considerations will remain an important factor — from the transition to LED lighting to decisions about future heating systems.

See below: 11.9 Environmental Officers Report

7.10 **Ministry and Worship**

The PCC has regularly discussed ministry, services, events, and our partnerships with schools and other agencies. Attendance at services continues to show encouraging growth. We also welcome the introduction of Cantonese services and associated activities, alongside Alpha courses, prayer and Bible-study initiatives. It is also worth noting the increase in youth work both within the church and across our local schools, together with the developing work at St Luke's, Brinnington, and the establishment of a new Sunday evening gathering.

7.11 **St Luke's Building Works**

Work continues toward achieving necessary repairs and upgrades at St Luke's, including discussions regarding the release of funds held by the Church Commissioners.

7.12 **Mission Statistics 2025 -** Mission Statistics for 2025 were submitted online within the required timeframe. A brief extract is provided for interest:

- Electoral Roll: 73 (St Mary's 54; St Luke's 19)
- Baptisms: 14
- Confirmations: 6
- Marriages: 2
- Funerals: 12 (6 in church, 6 elsewhere)
- Committal only: 1

7.13 **Closing Note**

This report does not represent the full breadth of PCC activity during the year. Further information can be made available on request. However, in accordance with Church of England guidance, PCC minutes are available for inspection only by members of the Church Electoral Roll. They are not routinely circulated or published, and confidential or sensitive items are always withheld. Copies cannot be issued, but supervised access to the approved minutes can be arranged where appropriate.

8 . Stockport Deanery Synod

Representatives for the parish being Adam Pinder and Linda Mather. Our thanks to Adam and Linda for representing us. TWO new representatives to be elected for the next term of office: 2026 – 2029 at the APCM.

The role of Deanery Synod remains an important link between parish and diocese, and we express our thanks to David Griffiths for sharing his annual report with us.

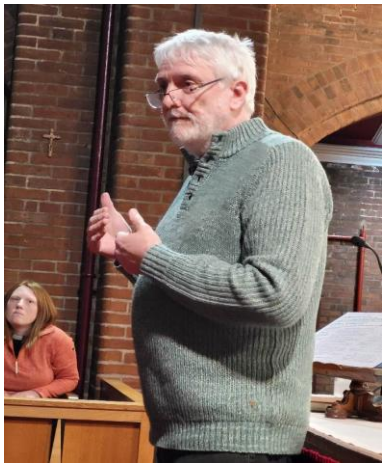
Combined Stockport Deanery Synod Report (APCM)

Covering Meetings: 25 March 2025 • 19 September 2025 • 19 November 2025 • 2 February 2026

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1. Synod Meeting — 25 March 2025
Venue: St Saviour's Church, Great Moor

Minutes
Previous minutes were read and approved.
Thanks, and Updates



- Elaine expressed thanks to Rev Josh Askwith (Norbury) for his work in Stockport and as a General Synod representative. Josh has been appointed Canon Pastor at St Asaph Cathedral.
- Elaine and Peter Hall were approaching retirement from their roles as Rural Dean and Chair.
- Elaine reflected on the joy of serving the deanery and looked forward to the appointment of new leadership.

Guest Speaker: Peter Hall — Bishop's Visitor

Peter outlined the role of Bishop's Visitors:

- Supporting non-clergy spouses following marital breakdown.
- Not counsellors or legal advisers, but signposts to support.
- Each diocese must have at least two visitors, listed publicly for confidential contact.
- Shared insights into the work of *Clergy Support* and the Edward Storey charity.
- Discussed challenges faced by clergy spouses, including loss of home, community, and support networks.
- Noted developments in guidelines since 2007 and the changing profile of clergy families.

Closing Prayer
Led by Rev Chris Blunt, giving thanks for Elaine and Peter's ministry.



A special welcome was extended to **Rev Margaret Lowe** at her induction at St Thomas Norbury by Bishop Sam Corley.

Attendees included: Patron Lord Richard Newton, Deputy Mayor Gary Lawson, Rev Tena Upton, Liz Gadess (HR Director), Rev Jess Piper (Rural Dean), Rev Heidi Munn (Curate), and numerous dignitaries.
The service was marked by warmth, hospitality, and celebration.

2. Synod Meeting — 19 November 2025
Venue: St Alban's Church, Offerton

Also attending: Bishop Sam, Bishop Othniel Gamutu, and Bishop Steven Koete (Acom Solomon Islands).
Worship: Led by Rev Marie Flint.

Summary of Proceedings
1A. Opening Remarks & Diocesan Updates

- Bishop Sam highlighted ongoing collaboration and Bishop Mark's intention to reduce the number of deaneries.

1B. Visit from Bishops of Melanesia
The visiting bishops spoke on:

- The history of the Anglican Church in Melanesia.
- Growth of the Province (10 dioceses across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia).
- The Melanesian Brotherhood and Sisters' work in mission, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.
- Climate change impacts on coastal communities.
- Prayer requests for resilience and mission.



2. Rural Dean's Notices.
(Kindley presented by Rev Paul Cumming acting Rural Dean)

- New Rural Dean expected to be announced by end of December 2025.
- St George's vacancy re-advertised; prayers requested.
- National clergy numbers projected to fall; parishes encouraged to nurture vocations.
- Safeguarding audit ongoing; "Speak Out, Stay Safe" materials temporarily out of stock.
- Diocesan strategy paused for "re-listening"; local clergy collaboration to continue.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

- Previous minutes approved.
- Chris updated Synod on motions to Diocesan Synod regarding funding for lowest-income communities.

4. Finance Report

- Balance: £695
- £100 compensation received from Lloyds Bank.
- No expenditure this period.
- Thanks expressed to the Treasurer.

5. Election of Lay Chair

- One nomination: **Julie Okundaye** — elected unopposed.

6. Diocesan Synod Clergy Vacancies

- Two vacancies; no nominations received.

7. Motion on Diocesan Strategy & Funding

Synod unanimously carried a motion requesting the Diocese to:

- Reprioritise mission funding.
- Apply for central Church of England funds.
- Resume progress on diocesan strategy.
- Improve communication with parishes.

8. Other Business

- Bishop Juli's *Sometimes* booklets made available.
- Secretary David Griffiths announced intention to step down at next cycle.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 March 2026, venue St Alban's at 7.30pm

- **3. Synod Gathering — 2 February 2026**

Venue: St Saviour's (Feast of Candlemas)

Commissioning & Welcome



- Rev Jess Piper was presented by Assistant Archdeacon Lesley Currie to Bishop Sam and commissioned as **Rural Dean of Stockport**.

- Synod welcomed and prayed for **Julie Okundaye**, newly appointed **Lay Chair**, a special thanks to Rev Jess and Julie for standing in support of our deanery.

Prepared by: David Griffiths, Secretary.

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9. Electoral Roll

9.1 The PCC wish to thank Catriona Smith for undertaking the role of Electoral Roll Officer for the parish. To be presented at the Annual Meeting(s) will be the Revised Electoral Roll for the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington as prepared March/April 2026.

10 Safeguarding Co-ordinator

10.1 Thanks to Rachael for undertaking the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Parish. This is a vital role and the work required to keep us in line and our dashboard updated is most appreciated.

Report of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator: **Rachael Wright**

10.2 The PCC recognises its responsibility to promote a safe environment and is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the parish. During 2025 the parish progressed through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, upgrading to Level 3 by the end of the year. This achievement has included reviewing and approving safeguarding policies and risk assessments, and ensuring that those in relevant roles are up to date with DBS checks and safeguarding training. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, who also serves as the parish DBS administrator, oversees these processes and provides safeguarding updates to the PCC throughout the year. A small number of safeguarding concerns were raised and, in each case, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team was consulted and appropriate procedures were followed. The PCC remains committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all.

11 Environmental Officer

11.1 Environmental issues remain a regular item on the PCC agenda, thanks to Pat's commitment to keeping us well informed and for progressing our application within the Church Eco Award scheme. We are delighted to report that the parish has successfully been granted the Bronze Eco Church Award. Also planned, an Energy Audit to be undertaken for St Mary's, St Luke's, and St Andrew's, which will help us identify further steps to reduce our environmental impact.

Report of the Environmental Officer: **Pat Hamilton**

11.2 On 8th May, Sue and Pat attended the on-line CofE Cathedral Buildings team "Major Churches and Net Zero Conference". The Net-Zero programme started at the beginning of 2023 to facilitate the Church's commitment to reaching Net-Zero by 2030. The programme "aims to ensure that parish incumbents, staff, PCC members and volunteers have access at the right time, to high quality guidance and advice in delivering net-zero projects".

11.3 The United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of Parties (COP 30) took place from 10-21 November in Belem, Brazil (in the Amazon). The parish prayed for the successful outcome of the Conference. Christian Aid engaged in the Conference, advocating for climate justice, fossil-fuel phase-out and financial support for vulnerable nations. However, the outcome was considered disappointing as the rich nations were unwilling to meet their financial obligations to fund energy transition away from fossil fuels and help vulnerable communities adapt to a climate crisis they have done nothing to create.

12. St Luke's Parish Centre Manager

12.1 The PCC wishes to thank Linda Mather for her patience, understanding and general support in the running of St Luke's. We greatly appreciate the time and commitment she gives to the day-to-day activities of the church, and we also extend our thanks to Graham for his continued help.

Report of the Parish Centre Manager — Linda Mather

12.2 There have been no major changes this year in the Parish Centre. We have two user groups who regularly hire the centre, Playgroup (now runs as a private group and the Drift car club on Friday evenings.

12.3 We have held community meetings and a few parties as well as being used as a polling station. St Paul's school have visited for an Easter Experience and a Christmas service. We also hosted a community Christingle service as well.
We have had jumble sales and two fairs.

12.4 All necessary safety checks (PAT testing, fire extinguishers, gas and electric checks) have been carried out.

12.5 Thursday morning coffee bar and stalls are still well attended and we have had a lot of new people donating goods and coming to the centre.

12.6 No further news on the fabric of the building as we are waiting , hopefully, for the release of funding held by the Church Commissioners. We need to obtain cost estimates for the work before they will consider releasing the funds.

12.7 The Hong Kong ministry team led by Chris Tam are continuing to use the front room as a base for their Christian Witness.

12.8 In the New Year we are hoping to hold a more accessible and informal Church service at 5 pm on Sundays to try to further our Christian mission in Brinnington.
We are very grateful to St Luke's Holmes Chapel for the ongoing gifts of donations for the stalls and financial support. St Saviour's are no longer able to collect donations for us but we would like to thank them for their kindness to us over the years.

12.9 Going forward with hope and trust in God's guidance, love and blessings for us all.

13 Fabric Reports

13.1 St Mary's in the Marketplace

As noted earlier, a new Quinquennial Inspection Report was issued in 2025 by our architect, Duncan Sanderson. The findings of previous reports and contractor assessments remain largely unchanged, with additional comments now included. The condition of our Grade I listed building continues to be a significant concern. However, with plans for conservation, repair, and restoration progressing through the NLHF project, we remain hopeful for more positive developments in the years ahead.

13.2 St Luke's

With plans for a full rebuild now halted, the list of urgent repairs remains largely as previously identified, with only some issues addressed to date. A new quotation has been prepared, and efforts continue to secure funding through the release of monies currently held by the Church Commissioners following the sale of the former main church building and land.

13.3 St Thomas'

With the sale of the premises pending, the building will shortly transfer to new ownership. Items previously belonging to the church—such as silverware, brass, and selected furniture not included in the sale—have been moved into storage at St Mary's pending further decisions. The piano and brass eagle lectern have been approved for sale by the Diocese and will remain at St Thomas'. It is anticipated that responsibility for the church grounds (closed churchyard) and the maintenance of the public clock will remain with the local council. Our responsibility for the organ will cease upon transfer of the premises.

13.4 St Andrew's

Although St Andrew's remains on permanent hire to the Rainbow Ridge Day Nursery, ownership of the building—and therefore responsibility for its maintenance—remains with the parish. Repairs have already been undertaken to the boilers and the hall roof, and further work is likely to be required in the near future.

14. Host Café

14.1 The PCC extends its thanks to Catriona Smith and the St Mary's kitchen and café volunteers for running the café service during 2025, particularly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Managing a facility that is now largely a joint-use space shared with other organisations and church groups presents its own challenges, and these will need to be worked through as we plan for a new-look catering hub within the church.

14.2 The introduction of Sunday Lunch has been a welcome addition, held between the end of the morning service and the start of the Cantonese service in the afternoon. Both services continue to see growing attendance, and this shared hospitality has strengthened the link between them and supported this new initiative.

14.3 Looking ahead into 2026, we will be exploring new ways of working, new initiatives and new opportunities. We encourage everyone to "watch this space" and to support us as best they can as these developments unfold.

14.4 Financially, the café element makes a small profit on the sale of food. Specific figures are not included in this report, although general income and receipt headings can be found within the financial statements below.

Volunteers Required

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with the kitchen/café, especially on Saturdays. If you feel able to join the team, we would be very grateful. A Level 2 Food Hygiene certificate is helpful, but please don't let that put you off speaking to us — there are plenty of general, non–food-prep tasks where an extra pair of hands would make all the difference.

15 Financial Overview

Financial information:

Introduction

15.1 It was anticipated last year that the 2024 financial year would be the final set of accounts prepared using Excel spreadsheets, as work had begun to transfer to the Diocese-recommended MyFund accounting system. This system is designed specifically for non-profit organisations and, unlike commercial accounting packages that focus on profitability, fund-based accounting emphasises accountability and ensures that income is used in accordance with its designated purpose, whether restricted or unrestricted.

15.2 Progress has been delayed due to staffing changes at Church House, which have prevented us from completing the required registration and training. As a result, the transition has not yet taken place and this year's accounts have again been prepared using Excel.

15.3 Alongside this, work continues to consolidate our financial arrangements, including bringing all accounts together, establishing online banking for the main accounts, updating bank signatories, and closing those accounts no longer required. Accessing some financial data has been challenging at times, with outdated permissions and login details causing delays. Despite these difficulties, we have been able to produce regular financial statements throughout the year and report to the PCC at appropriate intervals.

15.5 Further complications arose when, for personal reasons, our elected Treasurer was unable to continue in post and subsequently resigned. A new appointment has not yet been made. Under the Church Representation Rules, when no Treasurer is in office the responsibilities revert to the churchwarden(s). Our elected churchwarden has therefore taken on the statutory financial duties, supported by a reduced finance team.

15.6 The Independent Examiner appointed at last year's meeting subsequently decided not to continue once the 2024 accounts were completed. Although the Diocese was supportive of our situation, they were unable to assist directly. We have, however, been fortunate to secure a last-minute replacement willing to undertake the examination of the 2025 accounts.

15.7 Our accounts continue to be prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis rather than on an Accruals basis. While this method is simpler and remains acceptable for our current circumstances, it can cause some confusion for readers, as the timing of transactions does not always align neatly with the financial year. Some payments relating to 2024 were presented to the bank in 2025, and some 2025 payments have been delayed and will appear in the 2026 accounts. The income and expenditure shown therefore does not always reflect the precise activity that relates to the year under review. This is particularly evident in payments to the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance for both parish share and assigned (parochial) fees.

15.8 The layout of the current Statement of Activities is not ideal, as a number of headings are now obsolete and will be removed in future versions. The process of translating figures from individual accounts and supporting documents has also highlighted that slightly different criteria have been used across our cost centres (the individual churches). This has resulted in some minor inconsistencies in the breakdowns shown, although the overall totals remain accurate, balanced, and fully reconciled.

See below the Statements of Financial Activity , Statement of Balances held and Treasurer's Report.

Financial Activities

[Summary of Receipts and Payments 2025]

PCC Stockport and Brinnington Statement of Financial Activity for year ended 31st December 2025

Receipts	St Mary	St Thomas	St Luke		Previous Year	Change
Voluntary giving						
Planned giving						
Tax-Efficient planned giving	£ 26,542.14	-	£ 2,239.00	£ 28,781.14	£ 30,398.75	£ (1,617.61)
Other Planned Giving	£ 695.00	-	-	£ 695.00	£ 1,530.00	£ (835.00)
Collections at services						-
Loose cash collections	£ 4,844.63	-	£ 675.41	£ 5,520.04	£ 3,754.40	£ 1,765.64
Other gift Aid	-	-	-	-		-
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)						-
Community Fund / St Luke Building Fund Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Fund / St Luke Building Fund Non Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	£ 2,008.75	£ (2,008.75)
Planned giving other churches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wall Safe Donations	-	-	-	-		-
Candles	£ 949.83	-	-	£ 949.83	£ 905.00	£ 44.83
General donations	£ 8,973.28	-	-	£ 8,973.28	£ 6,706.19	£ 2,267.09
Specific donations	£ 330.00	-	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,330.00	£ 1,201.00	£ 2,129.00
Presentation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shared income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid recovered (planned giving and one-off donations)	-	*£ 14,879.22*	-	£ 14,879.22		£ 14,879.22
Tax recovered on community fund / St Luke building fund gift aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies received (capital value)	-	-	-	-		-
Grants (include recurring and one-off) (DBF Heating)	£ 949.61	-	-	£ 949.61		£ 949.61
Total voluntary giving	£ 43,284.49	*£ 14,879.22*	£ 5,914.41	£ 64,078.12	£ 46,504.09	£ 17,574.03
Activities for generating funds				-	-	-
Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments				-	-	-
Interest	-	*£ 75.57*	-	£ 75.57	£ 96.80	£ (21.23)
Richardson St	-	-	-	-	Excluded	
Total income from investments	-	£ 75.57	-	£ 75.57	£ 96.80	£ (21.23)
Church activities				-	-	-
Fees received by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	£ 3,676.00	-	-	£ 3,676.00	£ 1,036.00	£ 2,640.00
Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hire of church	£ 6,762.60	*£ 25,405.26*	£ 7,637.00	£ 39,804.86	£ 19,628.76	£ 20,176.10
Hire of St Andrews	£ 9,740.00	-	-	£ 9,740.00	£ 13,640.00	£ (3,900.00)
Commercial other	£ 85.00	-	-	£ 85.00	£ 987.00	£ (902.00)
Host Café Income	£ 5,369.26	-	-	£ 5,369.26	£ 5,522.07	£ (152.81)
Parish centre income	-	-	£ 2,625.00	£ 2,625.00	£ 5,732.00	£ (3,107.00)
Total receipts from Church Activities	£ 25,632.86	£ 25,405.26	£ 10,262.00	£ 61,300.12	£ 46,545.83	£ 14,754.29
Other incoming resources				-	-	-
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	£ 12,425.40	£ (12,425.40)
Refunds and Rebates	£ 2,253.90	*£ 609.61*	£ 544.63	£ 3,408.14	-	£ 3,408.14
Fund Tranasfers	-	-	£ 8,000.00	£ 8,000.00	-	£ 8,000.00
Total other incoming resources	£ 2,253.90	£ 609.61	£ 8,544.63	£ 11,408.14	£ 12,425.40	£ (1,017.26)
Totals				-	-	-
RECEIPTS	**£ 71,171.25**	**£ 40,969.66**	**£ 24,721.04**	**£ 136,861.95**	**£ 105,572.12**	**£ 31,289.83**

Payments	St Mary	St Thomas	St Luke	Combined		Combined	Combined
Costs of generating funds							
Costs of fundraising activities	-	-	-	-			-
Total cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-			-
Church activities							
Mission giving and donations	£ 911.50	-	-	£ 911.50		£ 561.00	£ 350.50
Parish Fees (Diocesan Apportionment)	£ 2,369.00	-	-	£ 2,369.00		-	£ 2,369.00
Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 19,709.15	£ 25,115.00	£ 9,854.57	£ 54,678.72		£ 35,161.00	£ 19,517.72
Salaries, wages and honoraria	-	-	£ 6,721.96	£ 6,721.96		£ 5,816.10	£ 905.86
Parish Fee refund	£ 544.00	-	-	£ 544.00			£ 544.00
Curate housing	-	-	-	-			-
Rectory expenses	£ 2,608.29	-	-	£ 2,608.29		£ 2,607.64	£ 0.65
Clergy expenses	£ 357.63	£ 402.68	-	£ 760.31		£ 961.66	£ (201.35)
Total Church Activities	£ 26,499.57	£ 25,517.68	£ 16,576.53	£ 68,593.78		£ 45,107.40	£ 23,486.38
Church expenses							
Mission and evangelism costs, Website / Parish Pump	-	-	-	-		£ 28.78	£ (28.78)
Childrens work	-	-	-	-		-	-
Church running expenses (including governance)	-	-	-	-		-	-
Church insurance	£ 7,502.04	£ 7,793.77	£ 2,263.89	£ 17,559.70		£ 19,977.65	£ (2,417.95)
Church maintenance and repairs	£ 4,154.60	£ 7,867.96	£ 4,826.25	£ 16,848.81		£ 8,878.55	£ 7,970.26
Caretaking supplies / Waste services	-	-	£ 608.10	£ 608.10		£ 224.30	£ 383.80
Organ maintenance	-	-	-	-			-
Altar expenses	-	-	-	-			-
Sundries incl flowers	-	-	-	-			-
Special purchase	-	-	-	-			-
Candles	£ 406.96	-	-	£ 406.96			£ 406.96
St Marys direct costs	-	-	-	-		£ 2,494.32	£ (2,494.32)
St Thomas direct costs	-	-	-	-		£ 59.85	£ (59.85)
Presentation Specific	-	-	-	-		-	-
Presentation shared	-	-	-	-			-
Church Supplies	£ 794.23	-	-	£ 794.23			£ 794.23
Printing, stationery	-	-	-	-			-
postage	-	-	-	-			-
licences	£ 571.81	-	-	£ 571.81		£ 290.72	£ 281.09
Church phone	£ 2,760.07	-	£ 148.47	£ 2,908.54		£ 1,572.37	£ 1,336.17
Parking	-	-	-	-		-	-
Audit fees	-	-	-	-			-
Shared Expenditure	-	-	-	-		£ 1,140.00	£ (1,140.00)
Fund Transfeer	-	£ 8,000.00	-	£ 8,000.00		-	£ 8,000.00
Church utility bills heating	£ 6,130.94	£ 6,808.15	£ 7,033.78	£ 19,972.87		£ 34,226.96	£ (14,254.09)
Church utility bills electricity	£ 4,600.94	£ 1,775.64	£ 3,807.63	£ 10,184.21		£ 14,870.42	£ (4,686.21)
Church utility bills water	£ 1,250.20	£ 582.21	£ 1,089.45	£ 2,921.86		£ 3,495.09	£ (573.23)
Costs of trading	-	-	-	-		-	-
Host Café Costs	£ 3,580.97	-	-	£ 3,580.97		£ 3,289.65	£ 291.32
St Andrew costs	£ 5,206.94	-	-	£ 5,206.94		£ 360.00	£ 4,846.94
Total Church expenses	£ 36,959.70	£ 32,827.73	£ 19,777.57	£ 89,565.00		£ 90,908.66	£ (1,343.66)
Major capital expenditure							
Major repairs to the church building	-	-	-	-		£ 10,994.40	£ (10,994.40)
Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration	-	-	-	-		-	-
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property.	-	-	-	-		-	-
Total Major capital expenditure	-	-	-	-		£ 10,994.40	£ (10,994.40)
Other expenditure							
Other payments not already listed	-	-	-	-		-	-
Redevelopment phase 7 feasibility works	£ 3,312.00	-	-	£ 3,312.00		-	£ 3,312.00
Total other payments	-	-	-	-		-	-
Totals				-		-	-
PAYMENTS	**£ 66,771.27**	**£ 58,345.41**	**£ 36,354.10**	**£ 161,470.78**		**£ 147,010.46**	**£ 14,460.32**

Balances

Cash and investment balances	Value			
Cash and deposit balances	**at 31/12/22**	**at 31/12/23**	**at 31/12/24**	**at 31/12/25**
St Mary current account	£ 8,800.00	£ 8,625.00	£ 15,682.00	£ 18,156.25
St Mary Appeal fund (Nat West)	£ 20,938.00	£ 15,788.00	£ 8,737.00	£ 2,537.64
Interior account (Natwest)	£ 3,170.00	£ 2,291.00	£ 1,967.00	£ 1,967.09
Business Reserve (Nat West)	£ 126.00	£ 126.00	£ 129.00	£ 129.00
Curacy A/c (CCLA)	£ 4,761.00	£ 4,761.00	-	-
Stockport St Mary PCC (CCLA)	£ 688.00	-	-	-
Hallworth (CCLA)	£ 1,781.00	-	-	-
Stipend Account (CCLA)	£ 2,700.00	-	-	-
St Thomas current account	£ 13,732.00	£ 178,422.00	£ 102,799.00	£ 67,135.93
St Thomas deposit account	£ 8,363.00	£ 6,672.00	£ 6,769.00	£ 6,844.46
St Luke current account	£ 4,818.00	£ 10,727.00	£ 6,042.00	£ 2,617.07
St Luke CCLI account	£ 7,835.00	-	-	-
PCC Stockport and Brinnington account	£ 5,947.00	£ 32,434.00	£ 67,475.00	£ 79,403.38
Cash in hand	-	£ 1,998.00	£ 834.00	£ 25.00
St Thomas appeal account	£ 15,172.00	-	-	-
Outstanding Liabilities	£ 9,022.00	-	-	-
				-
Total cash and deposit value	**£ 107,853.00**	**£ 261,844.00**	**£ 210,434.00**	-
Total Movement in Funds 2023-2024			**£ (51,410.00)**	-

Movement on restricted / designated funds	**31/12/2022**	**Receipts/ transfers**	**Interest**	**Payments/ Transfers out**	**31/12/2023**	**Receipts/ tran**	**Interest**	**Payments/ Trans**	**31/12/2024**	**Payments/ Transf**	**31/12/2025**
St Mary - Appeal fund (Nat West)	£ 20,938.00	£ 669.00	-	£ 5,818.00	£ 15,788.00	-	-	£ 7,051.00	£ 8,737.00	£ 6,199.69	£ 2,537.64
St Mary - Interior account (Natwest)	£ 3,170.00	-	-	£ 879.00	£ 2,291.00	-	-	£ 324.00	£ 1,967.00	-	£ 1,967.09
St Mary - Business Reserve (Nat West)	£ 126.00	-	-	-	£ 126.00	-	£ 3.00	-	£ 129.00	-	£ 129.00
St Mary - Stockport St Mary PCC (CCLA)	£ 688.00	-	£ 25.00	£ 714.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Mary - Hallworth (CCLA)	£ 1,781.00	-	£ 65.00	£ 1,846.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Mary - Stipend Account (CCLA)	£ 2,700.00	-	£ 27.00	£ 2,727.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Mary - Curacy A/c (CCLA)	£ 4,761.00	-	-	-	£ 4,761.00	-	-	£ 4,761.00	-	-	-
St Mary - SMBC building fund	-	£ 14,400.00	-	-	£ 14,400.00	-	-	£ 14,400.00	-	-	-
St Thomas - Building fund	£ 15,172.00	£ 1,184.00	-	£ 111.00	£ 16,245.00	-	-	-	£ 16,245.00	-	£ 16,245.00
St Luke - Building fund	£ 6,830.00	£ 2,610.00	-	£ 5,724.00	£ 3,716.00	-	-	-	£ 3,716.00	-	£ 3,716.00
Total Restricted/ Designated Funds	**£ 56,166.00**				**£ 57,327.00**				**£ 30,794.00**	-	-

Movement on St Mary non PCC Funds (not otherwise shown in these accounts)	**31/12/2022**	**Receipts/ transfers**	**Interest**	**Payments/ Transfers out**	**31/12/2023**	**Receipts/ tran**	**Interest**	**Payments/ Trans**	**31/12/2024**	**Payments/ Transf**	**31/12/2025**
Harold Beard - Current account (NatWest)	£ 665.54	£ 10,000.00	-	£ 7,589.57	£ 3,075.97	-	-	£ 960.96	£ 2,115.01	-	£ 2,115.01
Harold Beard - Business reserve (NatWest)	£ 28,445.85	£ 2,580.34	£ 292.57	£ 10,000.00	£ 21,318.76	£ 2,620.44	£ 326.38	-	£ 24,265.58	£ 2,966.82	£ 27,232.40
Totals:	**£ 29,111.39**				**£ 24,394.73**				**£ 26,380.59**		**£ 29,347.41**

Contras not otherwise shown in accounts (Charity Collections):		
	Tear fund	
	Christian Aid	
	Royal British Legion	

16 Treasurer's Report [David Birch]

16.1 The financial year of 2025 was one of movement and transition for the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington, marked by both encouraging signs of growth and some unavoidable financial pressures.

16.2 Income Highlights

16.2.1 Overall receipts rose by £31,000 compared with 2024, reflecting a year in which our buildings and ministries continued to serve the wider community in meaningful ways. One of the most notable contributions came from the hire of premises, which increased by £20,000. This uplift was driven largely by the regular use of St Thomas' by Soul City and the Coptic Church, both of whom have brought life, activity, and partnership into our shared spaces.

16.2.3 Planned Giving did fall by £2,500, but this was expected following the closure of St Thomas' congregation and the loss of their regular contributions. Encouragingly, general donations increased by £2,000, showing continued generosity and commitment from individuals across the parish.

16.3 Expenditure and Parish Share

Expenditure also rose, increasing by £14,000 compared with the previous year. The most significant factor affecting the final balance was the timing of the Parish Share. The outstanding amount for 2024 was paid in January 2025, and the full Parish Share for 2025 was also paid within the same financial year. This meant that two years' worth of Parish Share payments fell into one set of accounts.

16.4 Overall Position

As a result, the parish recorded a loss of just under £25,000 for the year. While this headline figure may appear stark, it is important to recognise that it is largely the product of timing rather than a long-term trend of overspending. The underlying financial activity shows a parish that is still attracting community use, still receiving faithful giving, and still investing in its mission and ministry.

17. Independent examiner

The PCC wish to thank Stuart Jones for assisting us finalise the accounts for 2025 and issue the PCC with the required Independent Examiner's Report as required by the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

APPENDIX A

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stockport and Brinnington
Registered Charity Number **1207978**

MINUTES

Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

27th April 2025

Attended: [22]

Andrews David	Andrews Sheila	Ashton Barbara	Birch David
Blunt Chris	Blunt Liz	Breedon Peter	Cichocki John
Clarkson Isobel	Connor Clair	Crook Andy	Hamilton Patricia
Heap Sue	Maguire Crispin	Mather Linda	Pinder Adam
Powell Peter	Shuttleworth Margaret	Taylor Caroline	Taylor Janet
West Ann	Wong Betty		

Meeting of Parishioners

- **Apologies for Absence** – none

- **Election of Churchwardens**

Name	Church	Proposer	Seconder
David Birch	St Mary	Adam Pinder	Sue Heap
Clair Connor	St Mary	David Birch	Adam Pinder

Vacancy x 2 (St Lukes)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Welcome and Introduction – Rev Chris Blunt (Rector)

Apologies for Absence – none

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th April 2024

Accepted as a correct record: proposed Adam Pinder / seconded David Birch – agreed.

Matters arising – none

Constitutional amendment – resolution to re-introduce the "disqualification after six periods of office" rule for churchwardens. proposed Chris Blunt / seconded Chris Maguire – agreed.

Presentation of Electoral Roll - Details as given in the Annual Report.

Electoral Roll The new Electoral Roll contains **72 names**: • St Mary's: 54 • St Luke's: 18 • Living in the parish: 15 (20%)

This reduction means: • PCC elected lay members reduce from 12 to 9 • Deanery Synod representatives reduce from 3 to 2 at the next election

Election to the Parochial Church Council

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Pat Hamilton	James Kitchen	Linda Mather
John Cichocki	Sue Heap	David Birch

Vacancies remaining: 1x 3 years / 2 x 2 years / 1 x 1 year

Presentation of Annual Reports (including Financial Statements)

The Trustees' Annual Report was made available in advance, as required by the Church Representation Rules. It was published on the *A Church Near You* pages for the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington (St Mary's and St Luke's) and circulated by email to those on the Rector's distribution list.

Although the report does not require formal acceptance, it is formally received at the meeting (acknowledged and open for discussion).
Proposed: Linda Mather / Seconded: Chris Maguire / Agreed.

Discussion Notes

The Treasurer presented an overview of the financial position, with full details in the Annual Report. Questions were answered.

The main element to note being that the parish continued to operate at a deficit, which is not sustainable long-term, and that reserves are decreasing.

Specific issues raised:

1. Invoicing for Soul City (St Thomas')

• Incomplete invoicing for utilities and running costs. • Approx. £10k potentially due, which would have reduced the 2024 deficit. • *Action:* Treasurer and Finance Team to identify all re-chargeable expenditure and invoice accordingly, including hire fees and rental clauses relating to sub-letting.

2. Gift Aid Claims

• No claims submitted for two years; both now being prepared for HMRC. • Had they been submitted on time, deficits shown would have been reduced. • Still within HMRC time limits.

3. Planned Giving

• Reduced following closure of St Thomas', as expected. • Increases now appearing at St Mary's and St Luke's. • Recognised "time-lag" between attendance growth and giving growth. • Rector's aspiration: increased voluntary giving and exploration of new income streams.

4. St Andrew's (Hall Street)

• Previous losses now behind us. • Premises now let to a newly registered Day Nursery (Ofsted approved). • Monthly rental agreed, including utilities and running costs. • Regular invoicing required.

5. Mission Budget

• Current deficit prevents meaningful budgeting for mission activity.

6. Parish Share

• All arrears now cleared. • Annual charge increases each year and must be budgeted for. • Covers clergy salaries/on-costs, clergy accommodation (St Mary's Rectory), and Church House services (operations, outreach, DAC, safeguarding, training etc.).

7. Condition of St Mary's

• Ongoing funding bid for repairs and maintenance to this Grade I Listed Building. • Significant conservation work required (falling stonework, gallery windows, etc.).

8. Charity Giving

• Clarification provided on monies collected and passed to charities. • Funds for Christian Aid, Royal British Legion and Tearfund were paid into St Mary's business account and then paid out with gift aid forms. • These are not PCC funds; they appear only for accountability. • Some 2024 receipts were paid in early 2025. • Box collections for the Children's Society and Leprosy Mission have ceased by agreement; individuals may donate directly online. • Christian Aid Week 2026 envelopes will be available.

Appointment of External Examiner / Auditor -

(Subject to her wishing to continue for a further year) **Christine Wrenn** (Treasurer, St Mark's Bredbury) Proposed: Chris Blunt / Seconded: Adam Pinder •/Agreed.

Provisional Date of Next Meeting - **Sunday 26th April 2026**

SMH – April 2025

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