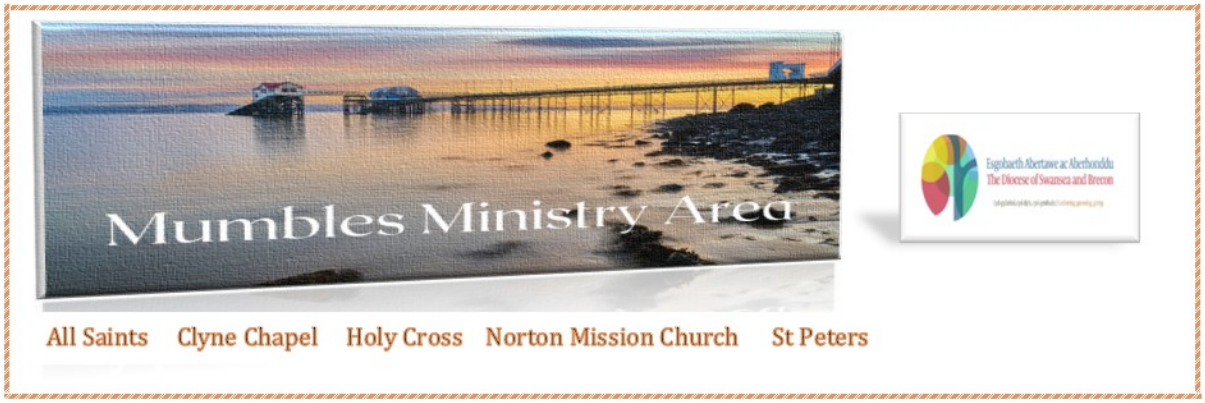


ANNUAL REPORT 2025

MUMBLES MINISTRY AREA











MUMBLES MINISTRY AREA

Mumbles Ministry Area Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity Number 1208529 (In the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon)

All Saints Church, Oystermouth; Clyne Chapel, Blackpill; Holy Cross Church, West Cross; Norton Mission Church, Norton; St. Peter's Church, Newton.

Annual Vestry Meeting of the Mumbles Ministry Area will be held on Thursday 25th June in St Peter's Hall, Newton, commencing at 6.00pm.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Chairman's Introduction
4. Receive and Approve the Minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting on 31st July 2025
5. Receive and Approve the Annual Report of the Ministry Area
   Receive and Approve the Annual Accounts for the Ministry Area
6. Receive the nomination of the representative of each of the five churches.
   All Saints' – April Beynon
   Clyne Chapel – Tracy Richards
   Holy Cross Church – Kathleen Boyce
   Norton Mission – Carl Richards
   St Peter's Church – Mathew Joyce-Brown.
7. Receive and Vote upon Nominations for the 2 Ministry Area Churchwardens – one present incumbent, Mathew Joyce-Brown is eligible and offers himself for re election.
8. Receive and Vote upon Nominations for Ministry Area Council Officers – Kimberley Littlemore, Secretary is eligible and offers herself for re-election.
9. Any other Business to which the meeting gives assent. Items for consideration should be notified to the Ministry Area Administrator, in writing, no later than noon on Friday 19th June 2026.
10. Closing Prayers

Mathew Joyce-Brown
Chairman
4th June 2026

An introduction and overview from Canon Chris, Ministry Area Leader

We continue to be greatly blessed in our ministry area by the remarkable range of people who work together in service of the Church and our communities. Among our trustees and volunteers there is such a valuable mixture of wisdom, experience, enthusiasm and fresh energy, all of which strengthens our shared life and mission.

The responsibility entrusted to us is considerable. Together we care for five churches, four church halls and a house, alongside the financial responsibilities, historic trusts and administrative demands that accompany them. Yet we should recognise that, compared with many ministry areas across the diocese, we remain in a relatively strong and manageable position. It is, however, with sadness that we have here to thank Kate Richard, Stuart Batcup, Matthew Braddock, Bob Wigley and Dirk De Neve - all founder members of the ministry area council, as they stand down from being trustees.

One of our greatest strengths is the closeness and cohesion of our ministry area. Our geography, shared traditions and common outlook provide firm foundations for deeper cooperation, allowing us to pool resources, support one another and face challenges together rather than in isolation.

Over the past year, one of my greatest joys has been hearing people speak so warmly after shared services and ministry area events. Time and again, people have commented on how enriching it is to worship alongside fellow Christians from across the ministry area and not simply within the boundaries of their own congregation. As our Bishop has often reminded us, there is far more that unites us than divides us. In many ways, we are simply drawing together neighbouring churches which already share the same faith, liturgy and heritage. We record our thanks to all those who have assisted the ministry area clergy in leading worship especially our retired priests, Fathers Robert Jones, Alex Pye and Arthur Howells. We also celebrate the priesting of our ministry area curate Sister Sonia in June this year.

Yet this coming together is not an end in itself. Rather, it is the beginning of something greater. As we grow in unity and confidence, we become better equipped to fulfil the calling given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ: to go out together as one family and share his unconditional love with the world around us. It was this spirit of unity, compassion and courage which enabled the early Church to transform society, breaking down barriers and proclaiming the saving love of Christ revealed upon the cross.

Rev Canon Chris Darvill
-Mumbles ministry area leader

Aim and purposes

For the public benefit, the advancement of religion in accordance with the doctrine, practices beliefs and worship of the Church in Wales from time to time, including by promoting in the Ministry Area the whole mission of the Church in Wales, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

In line with the priorities of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, of which it is a part, the Mumbles ministry area is continually working towards ensuring that all that we do facilitates an encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ.
In planning our activities, one of our objectives is to follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with particular reference to the specific guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. We wish to support our congregations in the proclamation of the gospel and in the making and nurturing of new disciples.

Therefore, we seek to encourage the transformation of existing congregations through **discipleship, by developing our worship and welcome** and by making better use of our wonderful church and hall

buildings. We see this as being a springboard for missionary and outreach work and for fostering community and well-being for all within the area irrespective of whether they presently attend church. We are committed to working within our community to transform it by meeting the needs that we find locally, through **pastoral care and social outreach and mission** conducted in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Such work is of course facilitated by our commitment to implementing and upholding the Provincial and Diocesan rules for safeguarding (our ministry area safeguarding officer's report follows) and the maintenance of all our buildings (overseen by the property sub-committee, whose report follows).

The formation of the ministry area of Mumbles was confirmed by the bishop's decree in June 2023 as part of the re-ordering of the diocese of Swansea and Brecon in line with the changes made to the constitution of the Church in Wales by its Governing body. It has been a matter of priority for us to bring the three former parishes, comprising five churches, together into this new entity and to find ways for the churches and their congregations to grow together and support each other in order that the resources and good practice may be shared and our challenges faced together in this way using the changes of governance to enhance our fulfilment of our aims and objectives.

Discipleship, worship and welcome

The five churches that comprise the ministry area, despite having some small differences, all use the Church in Wales liturgy and enjoy regular services every Sunday and on weekdays. Despite the national fall in congregation numbers occasioned during and just after Covid, the number of all our congregations has now risen back towards pre-Covid levels, and we were pleased to welcome new faces this year. We acknowledge, however, that there is the need for a wider variety of services at times other than those already offered

There is also the need to encourage and foster families and young people to attend. We are making efforts to do this through involvement in messy Church, choirs, parent and toddler groups, and children's activity events, such as developing our new softplay facility.

Our churches are also used regularly for concerts by local choirs and thus are a venue for supporting the arts and social interaction in our community. Community choirs are also based in three of our churches where they meet and rehearse on a weekly basis.

The ministry area service booklet has been welcomed and is popular as a means of helping new churchgoers negotiate the service easily and providing news of all the events across the ministry area. It is used in the majority of our churches. We are fortunate in each of our five churches to have members of the congregation dedicated to supporting and welcoming all who attend.

As well as regular services we are very much part of our community in the celebration of the rights of passage. The beauty of our church buildings, particularly Clyne and All Saints', leads them to be frequently used for weddings. We are privileged in all our churches to provide a focal point in funeral services for the community to come together to grieve the loss of loved ones and in baptisms to welcome the arrival of new ones. We also lead Remembrance Day observance for the community and act as chaplain the local lifeboat.

Our commitment to discipleship leads to our Advent and Lent courses, which are well attended across the ministry area. We now have the new regular discussion and prayer group on Wednesday afternoons as well as the more meditative and descriptive services which take place regularly on weekdays.

Pastoral care and social outreach and mission

Our churches and halls are very much part of the different communities within Mumbles that they serve. Norton Mission is a multipurpose building combining Church and Hall. Holy Cross church is adjoined to its hall and the Church Rooms and St Peter's Hall are adjacent to All Saints' and St Peter's Church respectively. All of these halls provide a slightly more neutral meeting ground for the community and run a wide range of courses, classes, events and parties, some arranged specifically by the church and others by people hiring the facilities. They are, therefore, vital parts of the community: for Norton Mission and Newton are the only halls within the surrounding area apart from the pubs. They are the centres of community life.

Across the All Saints' Church Rooms, St Peter's Hall and Holy Cross Hall are run, on a regular basis, classes in tai chi, Pilates, yoga, dance, flexercise for the elderly, fitness, Italian, German. They also provide facilities for badminton, table tennis, indoor bowls, book clubs, brownies, cinema, gardening clubs and the University of the Third Age.
The rooms in the halls are also used, among other things, for church meetings and meetings of groups arranged by the church like mothers and toddlers, knitters and natters, craft, Welsh conversation groups, and the dementia hub. There are meetings of other organisations, and also children's parties, local counsellor surgeries, funeral wakes, art exhibitions and Mumbles Community Council events, including a Christmas lunch.

The café in St Peter's Hall is open daily and is a registered warm space. It also provides lunches, including free soup over the winter, and is a lifeline for many of the local elderly people. The café provides work, volunteering opportunities and training in a safe and friendly environment, particularly for young people, some of whom have diverse challenges.

This wealth of buildings requires a great deal of work to upkeep but also affords marvellous opportunities for the community and also for the church to work within the community to welcome and support it. It provides excellent opportunities for the clergy to interact with all the parishioners of the ministry area, irrespective of whether they attend church.

When members of the church are unable to attend due to sickness or age, the clergy visit those who wish to celebrate communion with them, either at their homes or in hospital. We also have lay members who are trained as pastoral visitors, all regulated under our safeguarding procedures.

As part of our mission every week, an online service is sent out to 300 people approximately. All of them signed up to receive it during Covid when churches were not open for public worship. The service contains the readings for the relevant Sunday, as well as a reflection and intercessions.

Financial Statements ***Year ended December 31st 2025***

Contents

Ministry Area Treasurer's Statement
Risk Review
Consolidated Annual Financial Return for Mumbles Ministry Area
SOFA containing Balance sheets for Oystermouth, St Peter's and Llwynderw as at 31 December 2025
Independent Examiner's Reports for St Peter's and Oystermouth
Notes to the Accounts

1. Financial Review

Statement by Ministry Area Treasurer

The Mumbles Ministry Area CIO was entered onto the Register of Charities on 4th June 2024.

Attached are the separate Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet for St Peter's and Oystermouth along with respective Independent Examiner's Reports. Also attached are the Income and Expenditure Account for Llwynderw and a draft consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the Mumbles Ministry Area. However, as the Llwynderw accounts and the consolidated Mumbles Ministry Area accounts have not yet been independently examined, I request that the accounts be approved 'subject to examination'.

Areas to note are:

Income:

Income on the whole for the Mumbles Ministry Area has increased by £12,129 (£370,202, compared to £358,073 in 2024) – largely due to an increase in Legacies, with £200 and £8,000 received by St Peter's and Llwynderw respectively.

Planned Giving has remained relatively constant this year, with £118,075 being collected compared to £117,459 last year. Loose Collections has also remained steady with £28,178 being collected as compared to £27,571 last year.

Expenditure:

Expenditure has reduced considerably, from £525,274 to £392,044 due largely to a number of major expenses last year on church maintenance, however, a cost of £14,565 for maintenance of 'other property' has been incurred by St Peter's.

Ministry Share for 2025 was underpaid by £37,149.61, though work is ongoing to settle this.

2. Risk Review

The Ministry Area Council considers the major risks to which the Ministry Area is exposed and establishes polices to mitigate those risks. The principal risks include declining and ageing church membership, the state of repair of the church buildings and the financial requirements to meet day to day administration. The fabric of each church building is continually monitored by the respective Sub-Wardens and reported upon to the Ministry Area Council. No significant spend on fabric is permitted unless the church can demonstrate it has the requisite funding in place.

Signed _____M Joyce-Brown_____ Date ____25/06/2026_____
Chair of Ministry Area Council

Signed _____Rev Canon C Darvill_____ Date ____25/06/2026_____
Trustee

3. Consolidated Annual Financial Return for Mumbles Ministry Area

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2025

Mumbles Ministry Area CIO

Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total of all Funds £
Donations and Legacies	Planned Giving	118075	0	118075
	Loose Collections	28180	0	28180
	Donations	38575	0	38575
	For Mission	9727	0	9727
	Tax Reclaims – Gift Aid	26938	0	26938
	Legacies (no. received) 2	8200	0	8200
	Grants	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	Fees	4252	0	4252
Other Trading Activities	Money Raising	77445	9692	87137
Investments		3845	0	3844
Other		54966	0	54966
	TOTAL	**370202**	**9692**	**379894**

Expenditure/Payments on

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total of all Funds £
Charitable Activities				
Support for Ministry	Parish Share	210799	0	210799
	Parochial Expenses of Clerics	9520	0	9520
	Other	0	0	0
Parish Activities	Maintenance of Services	24866	0	24866
	General Parish Expenses	30958	0	30958
Church Property	Maintenance of Churches	46036	4626	50662
	Maintenance of other Property	14565	0	14565
	Exceptional Expenditure	1590	0	1590
Mission and Grants	Parish	42962	0	42962
	Home/World	5924	0	5924
	Capital Payments	29	0	29
	Cost of Money Raising	168	0	168
	TOTAL	**387418**	**4626**	**392044**
Net Income/Expenditure		**-17215**	**5066**	**-12149**
	Brought Forward 1 January	346163	917910	1264073
	Carried Forward 31 December	**328948**	**922976**	**1251924**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MUMBLES MINISTRY AREA CIO

Charity Number: 1208529
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An independent examination involves reviewing the accounting records kept by the charity and comparing the accounts presented with those records. It also involves consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no audit opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;

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



Signed:	_____
Name:	Philip Prince
Relevant professional qualification or membership (if applicable):	ACA – Chartered Accountant
Address:	The Hall, Mayfield School, David Lane, Sheffield, S10 4PH
Date:	22 October, 2026

4. SOFA containing Balance sheets for St Peter’s, Oystermouth and Llwynderw as at 31 December 2025



5. Independent Examiners Reports for St Peter's and Oystermouth



Approved by the Ministry Area
and signed on its behalf by

_____Mr M Joyce-Brown _____ _____ Tracy Richards _____
Chair of the Ministry Area Council Ministry Area Treasurer

6. Notes to the Accounts

General information

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church in Wales Accounting Regulations.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees of the Ministry Area Council believe that no material uncertainties exist.
Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year are recorded at the settlement amount.

No trustees received remuneration or expenses during the year ended 31 December 2025.

Mumbles Ministry Area Property Sub- Committee 2025 Annual Report

The Church in Wales is unique, and its Constitution is the legal instrument made to facilitate and order its public life. The Constitution was never intended to be a static instrument of church governance, so that its provisions are not 'set in tablets of stone' but it is seen as a living instrument, susceptible to change to reflect current circumstances.
Accordingly, as a result of the seismic change from Parishes to Ministry Areas, their governance is an evolving 'work in progress', and nowhere can that be better seen than in the way in which the Property Sub-Committees are working.

My 2024 Annual Report detailed the way in which our PSC had started its work, and along with the other Property Leads in the Diocese I have been supported in our work by the Diocesan Officers who have

arranged and run regular meetings together, and an Annual Property Training Day open to all. The first was held at Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon on 4th March 2025, and the next is due to take place at the same venue on 19th May 2026.

The upshot of these sessions seems to be that the PSCs are operating within the framework of the Ministry Area Toolkit and Ministry Area Working Agreements without the need for a formal minuted Committee structure. We all seem to be working on an ad hoc basis with the Property Leads gathering appropriate support as needed to fulfil our Advisory role.
In summary, this is what I have been involved with during 2025 and into 2026:

1. Quinquennial Inspection Reports

All of the works required by the Diocesan Inspector in his Reports on the five Places of Worship in the MA dated January 2025 have been completed, and the Annual Asbestos Visual Report for All Saints carried out. Thought is being given to carrying out remedial work in the Boiler Room there.

2. Building Projects

A series of meetings took place between March and September 2025 when Jessica Harrington, an experienced Project Manager addressed a meeting of the Church Officers at Holy Cross Church West Cross concerning the proposed re-ordering of the Church. This led to the submission of an Interim Report to the MAC with a series of recommendations which have been take back to the Church Committee there.

3. Rent Reviews

The only Rent Review outstanding from 2025, is that of the Curate's house at Castle Acre Norton. Gary Hancock is the Agent managing the tenancy of the property for the MA, and having overseen some essential works is hopeful of completing the review with the tenant shortly.

4. 70 Nottage Road, Newton

As reported in last year's Annual Report, the MMA peaceably re-took possession of the building on 29th March 2025. The MA Warden Mathew Joyce Brown is negotiating the release of the Restrictive Covenant affecting this property to assist future developments.

5. Faculty Applications

A Faculty application was submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in December 2025 for the installation of 24 electric Choirstall Lamps in the Chancel at All Saints. It is the first such application from the MA to go through to completion, but the delays built into the process are frustrating.

Other schemes which might need faculty approval include the Restoration of the Second World War Memorial in All Saints Churchyard about which we are in touch with the War Memorials Trust concerning the availability of Grants. Car parking in All Saints has been put on the back burner pending decisions by the Swansea City Council and the Mumbles Community Council over the future use of the tennis courts opposite our Drangway.

6. Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

All Saints has benefited greatly from this Scheme over the last decade as it has enabled us to recover the VAT payable on any work done to the Grade 2 Listed Building and helped create a fund to support the future of the Organ. That support was unceremoniously withdrawn by the Government in January and will need us to budget a further 20% to the cost of the schemes currently in play, and for the future.

As this will be my last Report before stepping back from fifty years of commitment to Parish, Ministry Area, Diocese and Province, it only remains for me to wish you all well for a thriving future.

Stuart Batcup
PSC Chair May 2026

Mumbles Ministry Area Ministry Area Safeguarding 2025 Annual Report

In 2025, there were no Disclosures made in the Ministry Area.
All Church in Wales requirements were implemented, with safeguarding posters with contact details of key personnel displayed in all churches.
Safeguarding Audit reports were presented to each Ministry Area Committee, detailing training and DBS compliance. Where individuals had outstanding training attendance, these were rigorously followed up and continue to be monitored.

Following a data breach, the Church in Wales engaged a new DBS provider. After a settling-in period, this has been working well. DBS checking also forms part of the audit presented to the MAC and checks were promptly carried out as required.

The Ministry Area was in the spotlight in 2025 due to the trial and subsequent sentencing of Tony Pierce, with the Diocese responsible for handling the media.

I continued to attend Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer liaison meetings convened by the Diocese, either in person or via Teams. These meetings are often where new initiatives and requirements are communicated. For instance, the requirement for Risk Assessments was introduced for implementation in 2026.
Safeguarding Sunday was marked in each church in its own way, featuring the respective Safeguarding Officers. Sadly, there has been no Safeguarding Officer at Holy Cross for over a year, despite ongoing appeals for volunteers. Liaison with the Safeguarding Officer in St Peter's is excellent.
The support of the Ministry Area Administrator has been fundamental to the smooth running of the safeguarding responsibilities. All interrogation of the My Church People database is conducted by the Ministry Area Administrator to ensure continuity through a single access point.
Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Ministry Area Committee.

Katrina Guntrip
April 2026

Finance Sub Committee - not yet formed
It was formed by the working agreement to include the treasurers of the 3 former parishes. This will meet in 2026.

Reference and administrative details

The Ministry Area Council met 5 times in 2025, following a proposal in January to look at the number of occasions the council would meet.

The charities for All Saints' and St Peter's were successfully merged earlier this year. In keeping with Mumbles Ministry Area being the first to register as a CIO, we were also the first to complete the charity merger process.

As noted in 2024, the Ministry Action Plan has remained an ongoing area of work throughout 2025. This continues to require collaboration among the clergy to strength relationships across the Ministry Area and to foster a sense of belonging as one church family. The action plan remains under active consideration by the Ministry Area Council.

Zoë Gilbert
Ministry Area Administrator.

Ministry Area Clergy

Revd Canon Chris Darvill MAL
Revd Hywel Griffiths
Revd Canon Hugh Lervy
Revd Biddy Wigley
Revd Sister Sonia Parkin

Ministry Area Officers and Trustees

Bob Wigley (MA Chair & Diocesan Conference Representative / DBF Representative)
Kimberely Littlemore (MA Secretary)
Tracy Richards (MA Treasurer, Finance Sub- Committee Chair)
Mathew Joyce Brown (MA Churchwarden & Diocesan Conference Representative)
Kate Richard (MA Churchwarden & Diocesan Conference Representative)
Dirk De Neve (Standing Committee Representative & GDPR Officer)
Stuart Batcup (Building Sub-Committee Chair)
Matthew Braddock (Diocesan Conference Representative)
Carl Richards (Diocesan Conference Representative)

People supporting the Ministry Area Council

Zoë Gilbert (Ministry Area Administrator)
Katrina Guntrip (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)

Exemptions from disclosure
We have not sought any exemptions

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others
None