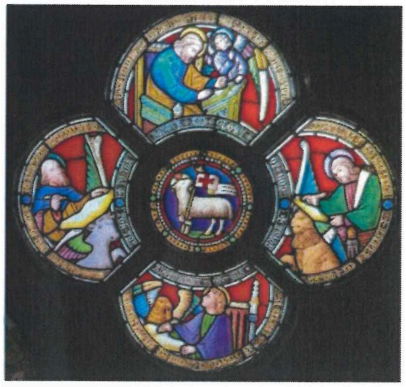


The Parish of St Bartholomew and St Bosil's Church Tweedmouth

Address for correspondence: 1 West End, Tweedmouth, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, TD15 2HE

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2025

Lay Chair (January to September 2025): Professor Alastair MacPherson
Incumbent (September to December 2025): Reverend Richard Cornfield

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner:
RM Bennett FCA,
Greaves West and Ayre,
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors,
17 Walkergate, Berwick-Upon-Tweed

Our website: www.besst.org.uk

St Bartholomew & St Boisil's Parish Church is one of three parishes within a benefice:
The *Benefice embracing Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth* (BeSST)
The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity: 1210890
(From 11th November 2024)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST BARTHOLOMEW AND ST BOISIL'S TWEEDMOUTH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Aim and Purpose

St Bartholomew and St Boisil's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, or elected lay chair, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures. These are:

The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and church representation rules that came into force on 2 January 1957 - This defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".

The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

The PCC is responsible for maintaining the Church building and also the Church Hall.

Objectives

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Priorities

At the end of April 2024, the parish went into vacancy on the retirement of the existing incumbent, Reverend Rachel Hudson. As the vacancy unfolded, and continued until September 2025, the PCC reassessed its priorities, in conjunction with the church's sister parishes within the benefice.

- To further develop the spiritual life of the church – leading, equipping and encouraging the congregation to be a power for Christ in the community.
- To continue to build the fellowships established through our homegroups.
- To build on the existing mission and outreach in our schools and care homes – to be present and approachable in our community.
- To reach further into the community, especially to those harder-to-reach individuals and families.
- To further develop our environmental presence.

Activities and achievements

Information is provided in the following areas to illustrate what has been achieved in 2025 in pursuit of our aims, purpose, objectives and priorities:

- Lay Chair's report (Prof Alastair MacPherson)
- Incumbent's report (Rev'd Richard Cornfield)
- Safeguarding report (Ani Johnson)
- PCC Secretary's report (Judith Jennings)

- Fabric report (Karen Strachan)
- Children and young people's report (Ros Richardson)
- Deanery Synod report (Phil Rowett)
- Mission report (Judith Jennings)
- Technology report (Dr Stuart Miller)
- Eco Church report (Ros Richardson)
- Administrative information (Judith Jennings)
- Treasurer's report (Philip Jennings)

LAY CHAIR REPORT 2025

Covering the Period 1 January – 18 September

Last year I included in my report a fervent wish for God to answer our prayers as we searched for a new Vicar and Children and Young People's leader. As the months progressed from December onwards all three parishes' representatives worked hard to work through all the various steps required by the Diocese as we prepared our brochures advertising our Benefice. With the guidance of our Archdeacon and Bishop Mark we steadily ticked off each of the steps in a long and we hoped ultimately fulfilling process.

At the APCM in mid April I was able to describe our progress to the meeting and in mid May we were able to conduct the interview for our vacancy. It was with great pleasure that we were able to offer the post to Richard Cornfield. To my great relief, Richard accepted the post, and, as I write this, has now been in post since September 2025. Once again, I would like to record the heartfelt thanks of the parish representatives to all the others from all three parishes who contributed so much to our search for a Vicar.

Sadly, our advertising for the CYPL failed to attract a suitable candidate, and reluctantly we withdrew our advertising for the moment. The group of people who worked so hard on this will be looking at the post description and will be crafting a (we hope) enhanced version for release at a future date.

During the months leading up to Richard taking up his post, we had services led by Catherine Sourbuts-Grove, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, the area Dean Sarah Hills and Bishop Mark as well. All commented on the many positive aspects of our Benefice activities and it seems that we were very fortunate in appointing a new Vicar so quickly. Indeed, during the process we learnt of churches where an interregnum of several years was by no means unusual.

Otherwise, I feel blessed that as a Parish within the "BeSST" Benefice we have continued to carry out so many diverse activities while we awaited our new Vicar. Looking at the calendar, I count no fewer than eighteen different types of events that we have held. While the inevitable funerals have taken place, for the first time in several years we have also had a wedding and a baptism as well. The efforts of our hospitality team must not go unrecorded, and the welcome refreshments after our services as well as the monthly lunches offer much opportunity for fellowship. The AV team led by Stuart has steadily enhanced our ability to produce services with content that deepens and broadens our relationship with God.

In the vacancy, the Ministry team, under the leadership of Rev'd Mic Johnson, met monthly to discuss the minutiae of services, their composition and timing. We have now held to a number of fifth Sunday services in 2025.

As always, our Treasurer Philp, has maintained a steady grip on our finances, and I hope I have not been too much of a trial for him during my period as PCC Chair. I know Richard will benefit from his sage advice.

There was a number of events worth mentioning in the run up to Richard's installation as Vicar; Sea Sunday, Salmon Queen's service, Civic service, Lifepath, a concert, in addition to religious festivals. All showed our continued support for our community whom we serve in God's name.

My final words regard the occasion we have prayed so much for; on September 18th we welcomed Richard officially as our new Vicar at his Installation Service. A large number of laity and Clergy from all around the Deanery attended, and a great time was had by all. I am sure Richard will be a success and wish him and Jenny every happiness.

INCUMBENT REPORT

Covering the Period from 18 September 2025 Onwards

Although my induction as Vicar took place in September, it would not be quite true to say that my relationship with this role began then. In many ways, I had been living with the job for some time before arriving. Through the application process, interviews, prayer, and preparation, the life of the BESST Benefice, and Tweedmouth in particular, were very much present in my thoughts and prayers. So stepping into ministry here has therefore felt less like arriving somewhere new and more like continuing a journey already underway. That sense of continuity has mattered, because it has allowed me to begin this role attentively, taking time to listen and to understand what is already here rather than rushing to change things.

I want to begin by offering my genuine thanks. Jenny and I have been made to feel truly welcome. The warmth, kindness, and generosity shown to us have been deeply appreciated and have made a real difference as we have begun to settle and find our feet. We are very glad to be here, and grateful for the openness and goodwill with which people have received us.

What I Have Found: Strengths to Give Thanks For

One of the first things that struck me about Tweedmouth is its strong sense of ownership. This is a parish where people care deeply about the church, its worship, its place in the community, and its future. There is a seriousness here, not in the sense of heaviness, but in the sense that people take responsibility seriously and want to do things well.

Tweedmouth is also well organised, with capable and committed people quietly ensuring that church life happens week by week. This organisation does not feel bureaucratic; rather, it supports ministry and enables energy to be directed towards people, worship, and community engagement. There is a shared desire to offer the best we can, and an understanding that how we do things communicates something about who we are and what we value.

Worship is a clear strength. There is good, thoughtful teaching, careful preparation, and a genuine commitment to making every service as welcoming, prayerful, and meaningful as possible. I have been particularly encouraged by the willingness to blend the formal and the informal. This balance is not always easy to hold, and I am grateful to be in a place that is working it out thoughtfully.

This is supported by an excellent technical and AV team, whose work often goes unnoticed precisely because it is done so well. Their contribution makes a significant difference to how worship is experienced and to how accessible it feels, especially for those who may be less confident or unfamiliar with church.

Prayer: The Deep Current Beneath Everything

Prayer is not an add-on in Tweedmouth; it is part of the deep current that runs beneath everything else. Faith and expectation are strong spiritual gifts here. Again and again, I have encountered a quiet confidence that God is at work and that prayer matters. Regular worship, shared prayer, prayer breakfasts, Monday prayers, and benefice-wide prayer rhythms provide a steady grounding. What strikes me most is not just that prayer happens, but that it shapes tone and culture. There is a sense of trust here, and a willingness to wait, listen, and discern rather than rush to action.

As we look ahead, prayer will need to remain central, not only as something we do together in worship, but as the way we approach decisions, change, and growth. The future health of the parish will depend not just on what we do, but on how deeply rooted we remain in prayer.

Pastoral Care: A Culture Rather Than a Committee

Tweedmouth does not have a formal pastoral team, and yet pastoral care is one of its deepest strengths. Care happens through kind and mature people who notice, listen, and respond instinctively. There is wisdom here, born of experience, faith, and attentiveness to others. People look out for one another. Needs are often seen before they are named. Care is offered quietly, without drama or display. This kind of pastoral culture cannot be manufactured, and it should be cherished. As the parish grows and changes, one of our tasks will be to protect and sustain this culture, ensuring that care remains shared and relational rather than stretched thin or assumed.

Life in the Parish: What We Have Shared Together

The past few months have not only been a time of settling in; they have also been a time of real activity and shared life.

The Heritage Open Days were a very positive experience during my first Sunday in the parish. I particularly enjoyed being interviewed that day and being part of an event that welcomed people into the building who might not otherwise cross the threshold, while telling the story of the church in a way that connected our history, place, and values.

The Harvest Festival was great to be part of. Remembrance Sunday was marked with thoughtfulness and honour, and I was grateful to able to be part of the acts of remembrance across the whole benefice.

Christmas was a particular highlight. The Advent and Christmas services were marked by generosity, welcome, and hard work. The Carol Service was a joyful and beautiful moment, with an amalgamation of the Berwick Baroque Players and the Berwick Brass Ensemble coming together to offer something truly special. It was one of those occasions where worship, music, church, and community aligned in a genuinely life-giving way.

These moments matter. They are not "extras"; they are wonderful opportunities for church and community to come naturally together.

Buildings: Presence, Purpose, and Possibility

The church building in Tweedmouth has a wonderful historical story, but it can feel a little hidden away. It is not always obvious, visible, or easy to engage with, especially for those unfamiliar with it. One question we need to explore is how we make the church more visible, more inviting, and more clearly open to people.

Alongside visibility, there are practical and missional considerations. There is a need for quieter, more suitable breakout spaces, particularly for children's work, small groups, and community use. Improvements to lighting would make a real difference to atmosphere and usability. Most urgently, the need for a new boiler must be addressed if the building is to remain welcoming, comfortable, and fit for purpose. We want people to encounter a warm, hospitable, and vibrant space rather than something that feels cold or uninviting.

Beyond essential repairs, we have an opportunity to think about refreshing the inside of the building, not to change its character, but to help it better meet our needs and the needs of the community. Buildings are never neutral; they either support mission or quietly hinder it. Part of our task is to ensure that this building supports hospitality, worship, and welcome as fully as possible

Children, Families, and Growing Younger

One of the clearest realities we need to name honestly is that Tweedmouth is an older congregation. This is not a failure. It reflects decades of faithfulness, service, and perseverance, and it deserves respect and gratitude. At the same time, if the church is to be healthy and sustainable in the years ahead, it will need to grow younger over time. This does not mean replacing those who are here, nor chasing trends or becoming something we are not. It means widening the circle so that children, families, younger adults, and those with little or no church background can belong alongside those who have sustained the church for many years.

This connects directly to the challenge of children's ministry. We have children in the congregation, but we do not yet have consistent, sustainable children's work. Addressing this will require leadership, space, patience, and collaboration, both within Tweedmouth and across the benefice. It is not a quick fix, but it is central to the long-term future of the church.

Vision Formation: Learning to See Clearly Together

At this stage, my sense is that Tweedmouth does not need reinventing. The foundations are strong. What is needed now is shared discernment: learning to see clearly together and to take the next faithful steps. An image I have shared with the PCC, and that has stayed with me in prayer, is of rolling out turf to form a garden. The ground is already prepared. The resources are there. But the work cannot be done by one person alone. The more people who take hold of a piece of turf and roll it out together, the richer and healthier the garden becomes.

Vision, in this sense, is not about producing a glossy document. It is about prayer, conversation, attentiveness, and trust.

Six Areas We Can Work On This Year

What I have seen so far leads naturally into six areas that feel vital for our shared future.

1. **Vision and Shared Direction**
   Begin a prayerful process of vision formation for Tweedmouth and the wider benefice, helping us make decisions with greater clarity, confidence, and shared purpose.
2. **Children, Families, and Growing Younger**
   Take practical steps towards sustainable children's ministry and family engagement, recognising this as central to the long-term health of the church. This will include making our Sunday mornings more accessible, welcoming, and engaging for children and families.
3. **Worship, Teaching, and Musical Life**
   Continue to develop Sunday worship so that it is confident, prayerful, and deeply engaging, using our gifts well. This includes exploring Tweedmouth's potential as a teaching hub for the benefice, developing live music within worship, and forming a sustainable music group, so that worship not only reflects who we are, but helps inspire faith, belonging, and growth.
4. **Buildings That Serve Mission**
   Address urgent needs such as the boiler, while also exploring how refreshing the building can better support worship, children's work, and community use, and make the church more visible and accessible.
5. **Exploring Faith Together**
   Pilot an Alpha-style course or similar opportunity for those exploring faith, learning as we go and adapting rather than over-planning.
6. **A More Impactful Presence in the Community**
   Build on existing strengths by becoming more intentional about how Tweedmouth is present, visible, and engaged in everyday community life, especially among those who do not naturally find their way into church.

Moving Forward, Trusting God

These will not be fixed programmes or promises. They are priorities, not a completed vision or a final destination. They reflect the areas that feel most important to attend to now, simply to keep the church healthy, responsive, and afloat in this season. There will be other things too. There always are. But these feel like places where we can begin together, where attention is needed, and where small, faithful steps may help create space for longer-term discernment. My hope is that we try things, pray as we move, learn from what works and what doesn't, and trust God with what grows. As we do that, clearer vision will emerge in time, shaped not by pressure or anxiety, but by faithfulness, relationship, and shared discernment.

As we look ahead, I am mindful of Jesus' words in **Mark 4:26–27**: *"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground... the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how."*

That feels like the posture we are being invited into: faithful, attentive, patient, and trusting God with what grows. I believe God is leading us into a season of gentle but meaningful growth, rooted in prayer, faithfulness, and shared responsibility.

Tweedmouth matters. This church matters. There is much to be thankful for, and real reason to hope for what lies ahead.

I am deeply grateful to share this ministry with you. I am so thankful for everyone who volunteers at Tweedmouth Church and works so hard to make it such a special place to be. I look forward, with real hope, to continuing the journey together.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

I took up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in May 2025, following the retirement of Barbara Donaldson, who dedicated more than twenty years to this important ministry. Barbara's long service has set a remarkable example, and I am grateful that she has kindly continued to offer her experience and guidance as I settle into the role. Looking back at the year, I may have only been in post for 9 months, as I write this, but it's been a very eventful period.

Safeguarding Issues
Any safeguarding concerns raised during the year were managed confidentially and resolved promptly, with support from the Diocese where appropriate.

New Diocese Safeguarding Team
During 2025, a new Diocesan Safeguarding Team was appointed. Comprising a trainer, a casework specialist, a dedicated administrator, and a safeguarding lead with safeguarding experience from secular and ecclesiastical worlds, the team has demonstrated high levels of professionalism. Their approach has been both innovative and practical, and they have shown consistent responsiveness to the needs of parishes.
They have also refreshed the Safeguarding Training Programme, ensuring greater relevance to parish life, and have introduced bi-monthly Teams meetings for PSOs—a valuable space for sharing information, learning from one another, and raising questions.

Diocese DBS Provider Change
After a data leak involving a sub-consultant linked to the Diocese's former DBS provider, Newcastle Diocese has transitioned to a new provider, Thirtyone:eight. Parish accounts are currently in the process of being transferred.

Thirtyone:eight's name comes from Proverbs 31:8: *"Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of all who are vulnerable."* Although they apply for DBS clearance on behalf of many secular sectors and companies, the service and resources they provide to faith-based organisations are legendary, so we look forward establishing a strong working relationship with them.

Training
All role-holders within Tweedmouth Parish Church hold current DBS clearance and have completed the safeguarding training appropriate to their responsibilities, as required by both the Church of England nationally and the Diocese.

This year, those requiring refresher training were able to attend a training day hosted in Tweedmouth by Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer John Hulse. Covering Basic Safeguarding, Foundation Safeguarding, and Domestic Violence Awareness, the day was both informative and engaging. Twenty-one participants

attended, representing the churches at Tweedmouth and Spittal, along with members of the Anna Chaplaincy Team.

Policies

Both the Safeguarding Policy and the Recruitment of Offenders Policy have been reviewed and updated. These will be presented to Tweedmouth PCC at its next meeting (March 2026) for approval or further amendment.

PCC SECRETARY REPORT

The **statutory annual meetings** were held on Sunday 13th April 2024 when church officers were elected and reports received. The following people were re-elected to serve as Church Wardens: Karen Strachan and Alastair MacPherson; Stephen Barringham stepped down from his role as Church Warden and was thanked for all his service. Three people had completed a three-year term on the PCC: Phil Rowett, Anne McCreath and Philip Jennings. Anne McCreath and Philip Jennings were duly re-elected to the PCC and agreed to serve. Phil Rowett was elected to the Deanery Synod and agreed to serve. The following people stepped down from PCC and were thanked for their service: Mike Innes and Issy Giles.

Routine **PCC meetings** were held on: 15th January, 12th March, 14th May, (at which the appointment of officers and representatives was made), 9th July, 10th September and 12th November. All usual items were covered – finance, safeguarding etc, but increasingly there was a necessary focus on the administration of the recruitment of both an incumbent and a Children and Young People's Leader. A Whistleblowing Policy was adopted on the advice of the Diocese and note was taken of the new Church of England requirements for the safe retention and disposal of church records. Most matters were dealt with in a reasonable timeframe with the exception of three items postponed for future consideration:

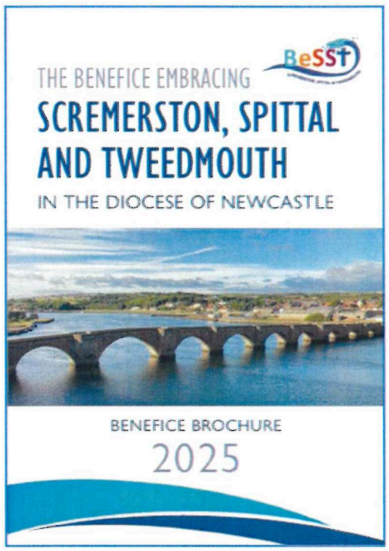
- A lettings policy
- The chancel floor
- The gallery screen

Additionally, meetings were held jointly with the other two parishes within the benefice as follows:

13th January 2025: Section 12 Meeting

- Archdeacon Catherine Sourbutt-Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne Archdeaconry, presided. Elisabeth Bryant, the Mercers' (our patrons) representative, was in attendance.
- Discussion and decisions focussed on the required paperwork (Parish Brochure, Role Description and Person Specification) and the recruitment process to be followed.

In addition to the usual administration connected with the regular meetings, much has been required to ensure the smooth running of the joint meeting and the production of the key documents associated with the recruitment processes for both the incumbent and the Children and Young People's Leader. (The Steering group comprising Ros Richardson, Karen Strachen, Barbara Donaldson and Philip Jennings, worked hard on the latter.)



The production of the Parish Statement was very much a PCC initiative, capturing as it did the necessary information required by the diocese to be included in the statement. The production of the Benefice Brochure was delegated to a small team comprising Alastair MacPherson, Gordon Chapman, Audrey Maclaren, Jennie Ritchie, Phil Rowett and Judith Jennings. A priority for the group was to combine a sense of who we are as a benefice, with clarity about what makes each parish distinctive.

27th September 2025: A joint meeting of the PCCs of the benefice on the appointment of Rev'd Richard as new incumbent.

Communication, prayer and fellowship. These remained important aspects of church life in 2025.

- The monthly newsletter to the whole benefice was very helpful in keeping people up to date in terms of progress through the vacancy and the recruitment of our new incumbent. This has also been a valuable vehicle through which Rev'd Richard has been able to introduce himself to the community since his arrival. The newsletter contains an uplifting article each month produced by Mic Johnson, Linda Chapman, or latterly Richard Cornfield, valuable information about events ahead and the monthly prayer calendar produced by Anne McCreath. (The newsletter is also available as a paper copy.)
- There is a weekly email which serves as a reminder of immediate and longer-term events and provides links to other information, such as the fortnightly Diocesan Newsletter and appropriate events in the community.
- The Church website and Facebook page remain valuable tools within and beyond the church community.
- The noticeboard in the church entrance is kept up to date and important information relating to the PCC, including past minutes, once approved, is kept on the shelving within church.
- Three home groups meet regularly across the parish, providing the opportunity for fellowship, bible study and prayer.
- A weekly prayer meeting is held in the church each Monday to pray for the needs of the church and wider community. There is also an active, confidential prayer network which underpins prayer and pastoral support in the church community. Additionally, two prayer vigils have taken place this year, to pray for the town and surrounding villages.
- Regular ministry team meetings were held to ensure proper provision of services across the benefice.

Training. During the course of the year Anne Wadey was accepted for and completed, her ALM training and required Leadership level Safeguarding. Members of the PCC also completed Safeguarding Training as required. In June an excellent First Aid Course was held, delivered by Richard Armstrong; several members who had been unavailable for the training offered in 2024 were glad to attend. Training equipment was purchased to facilitate this and future such courses. As there were no new members elected to the PCC, no trustee training for new members was required in 2025. PCC members are regularly provided with information for the development of their role through the PCC Secretary from the Charity Commission and from the Church of England – Parish Resources.

Other events of note:

- A day of Prayer and Fasting for all churches in our benefice, was held on 8th February to pray for a Children's Worker and for a new incumbent.
- Members joined a Berwick Churches Together community event – Walk for Witness on 9th February
- Christian Aid was supported financially during Christian Aid week 11-17th May.
- Sea Sunday was celebrated with an outdoor event on 13th July; this was welcomed by the community. Funds raised were donated to the RNLI.
- Church of England "Generosity Week" was observed 28th Sep – 5th October. The treasurer gave a presentation on church finances and encouraged members to review their giving. This coincided with our Harvest Service, after which, practical gifts and cash were donated to the local foodbank.
- Participation in Heritage week. Tweedmouth hosted heritage events over the weekend of 12-14th September.
- The Deanery Confirmation service was hosted for candidates from around the Deanery on 16th November.

- A seminar was hosted in church, on 28th November, led by Dr Keetie Roelen, entitled "The Empathy Fix" – on the subject of poverty and justice.
- The church has become a popular place for concerts; several events have been held including an excellent community Christmas concert on 28th November.

FABRIC REPORT

The Church

Regular visual inspections were carried out in 2025 on interior and exterior aspects of the church. The general condition of the church fabric is good, but there are several areas where remedial work will need to be carried out in future.

Some flaking paint on the walls and future decoration will require stripping of the walls and use of a breathable paint finish.

Servicing and maintenance checks on our boiler were carried out in January 2025. It was pointed out that in the near future the boiler would require replacing.

Repairs to broken/ missing tiles on the porch roof, clearing downpipes and reaffixing window mesh/screen in the transept.

Loose channel and alter floor required fixing.

The annual checks on the fire equipment and the annual PAT Testing were carried out.

Movement indicators – there is a little change in one of the two movement indicators. Further investigation might be worthwhile in 2026.

The Church Hall

A visual inspection of the roof was undertaken early in the year. The main hall roof was pronounced sound, but the roof above the northern wing and mis-aligned guttering was allowing rainwater to run down the outside walls causing damp. This was rectified with 2 weeks of minor works in the early summer, to replace two rows of pantiles with slates, and re-alignment and reconditioning of the existing cast iron guttering.

At the same time a 3 metre by 3 metre platform of decking material was constructed in the garden as a play area. The Rascals Nursery paid for the materials.

A full Electrical Installation Condition Report was carried out in November, there being no evidence that one had been undertaken since 2020. This now complies with safety regulations. Remedial works are continuing.

Finally, a washing machine was installed as a mark of the Church's appreciation of the work conducted by the staff of Berwick Rascals Nursery.

The Vicarage

During 2025 the vicarage was occupied by a tenant obtained by the diocese through a letting agency. The tenant vacated the property in July 2025 in anticipation of occupancy by the new incumbent.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPORT

There has been much to encourage us in the work with children and young people in the benefice.

The Open the Book team continues to go into Prior Park, Scremerston and Tweedmouth West which, in September, began the process of changing from being First Schools to becoming Primary Schools in line with reorganising educational provision in the town. Children have become increasingly confident and enthusiastic about participating in the simple reenactments of Bible stories, and teachers have commented on how the stories often reinforce the topics and themes being covered in the RE syllabus.

The team has been strengthened by a new member who has brought her gifts of creativity to the process of creating costumes and props.

The partnership between church and schools continues to develop, with requests for leading events to celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest. A peripatetic music teacher has requested a slot in some of these events to allow children to play ukuleles or recorders, building wider community connections.

The wider church family continues to show its support of what the teachers do in our schools, by providing cake which is hugely appreciated.

Once again, members of the congregation volunteered for the annual Lifepath event at Brinkburn Priory. The enthusiasm of past volunteers encouraged more volunteers to participate. Year 4 pupils from all three of the schools in which we present Open the Book were able to attend: Tweedmouth Church's offer to pay the not inconsiderable cost of transport to the venue was much appreciated and once again, both children and staff returned enthusing about their experience of the life of the Celtic monks.

Members of Tweedmouth Church continue to be heavily involved in Coffee, Chat and Play, Teatime Church and Youth Group, all of which take place in Spittal Church which benefits from a large and welcoming space. Behaviour and attitudes encountered with youngsters who often have SEND issues has necessitated some re-evaluation of what is offered, with input from the Diocesan Youth Team. The new Incumbent has been much involved in the relaunch of Teatime Church and Youth Group.

The current layout of Tweedmouth Church does not lend itself to activities with children, but a group of children from the Berwick Rascals Nursery which uses the Church Hall throughout the week, enjoyed a simple version of the Nativity, a foretaste of future possibilities for making space in the church available to groups in the community, as we consider ways to improve the layout and facilities.

A small steering group met regularly during 2025 to attempt to make progress with the process of appointing someone to lead the work with children and young people. A second round of advertising in the late spring again failed to attract any suitable candidates, so once again it was deemed appropriate to pause. With the arrival of the new Incumbent in September, the search gained new momentum with a broadening remit to develop more involvement with the wider community. The intention is to launch a new advert at the start of 2026, with a sense of hope and expectation that God will show us the way forward as we seek to make his love more widely known throughout the benefice.

NORHAM DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Deanery Development Group (DDG) has been relatively busy: producing the Deanery website; developing pilgrimage trails; re-assessing the future of our various churches; though the lay training element has stalled slightly as we look for the final announcement on the plans for this across the Diocese.

Also, after producing a very comprehensive three-year plan for the Deanery, which was highly commended, we have been asked to do the same again. The next three years will be focused on:

Buildings fit for purpose

Worshipping Communities

Discipleship (including young people)

We will be facing some challenges as some members of our clergy are due to retire over the next two years. However, our successes so far have meant that we are not facing a reduction in clergy numbers while we are hoping to develop the House for Duty role in Branxton.

We, as ever, look forward to walking with the Lord in these challenging times.

MISSION REPORT

Mission has remained an important aspect of the life of the church; there has been significant support financially and practically in this area. A detailed breakdown of mission giving is recorded in the church accounts. Details of mission to young people is included in the Children and Young People's report.



The **Anna Chaplaincy Team**, under the leadership of Mary Higginson, met monthly to plan services for the care homes, which always include themed scriptures, reflections, familiar hymns, interactive aspects and craft. Good relationships have been built up with the activity managers in the homes and the residents enjoy the visits. Clergy supported this important work by leading quarterly services of communion. A highlight was the Christmas service held in each home, with live music provided by Rev'd Richard, Mic Johnson and Larry Budar; our bible story was told through knitted nativity characters. An appeal was launched for donations of toiletries and personalised Christmas cards to give to every resident – the response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Tweedmouth Church continued to support **Andreas and Corinna Joswig** in their work in Ethiopia, through Wycliffe Bible Translators. The Joswigs send regular newsletters which help us to appreciate the scope and complexity of their work. At the start of 2025 Andreas was appointed Grammar Services Coordinator for SIL Global. The role includes offering workshops but also developing a strategy to ensure that the grammar of each target language plays a larger role in Bible translation. Corinna continued to serve as head of SIL Ethiopia's human resources department. Most of the time she worked from Germany, but nevertheless, she always looks forward to travelling to Ethiopia to maintain personal contact with the staff in Addis Ababa and in the project locations. This summer, she taught intercultural communication at a course held at the German Wycliffe Centre for cross-cultural workers from other organizations.

Tweedmouth Church has been pleased to support **Tearfund** for many years now. This takes the form of financial support, support for the Tearfund annual quiz (held in October this year) and prayer support through the monthly prayer diary.

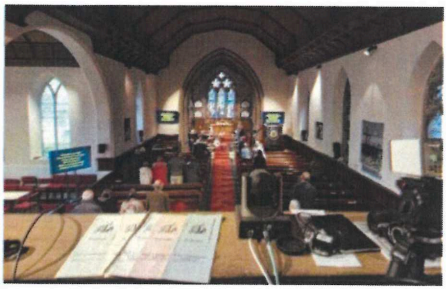
As part of our outreach to the community, it remains an aspiration to develop further links with the seafarers who use Tweed Dock. In 2025, Broadband was installed in the church which we hope eventually will enable seafarers to communicate with their families around the world. Currently the main support remains financial (through the **Seafarers' Mission**) rather than practical.

Also, within the community it was a pleasure to join fellow Christians through Berwick Churches Together, to be part of two "**Shine Your Light**" events in the centre of town. The first was at Pentecost on Saturday 7th June, when a service of song and witness took place on the Town Hall Steps. The second was a "Prayer Walk" on Saturday 13th December.



Extending **hospitality** has long been a priority for Tweedmouth Church and linked to the mission of the church. The smart new servery, the cost of which was generously supported financially by the Mercers' Company, continued to be a hub for various events. Benefice lunches happened every fourth Sunday coinciding with the Communion Service for the benefice. A small team provides a hearty, varied meal, catering for all dietary requirements. All are welcome, including visitors and guests on the day. Usual numbers range from 25 – 40. Several prayer breakfasts were also held during the year; a hearty breakfast is served, followed by a talk or reflection, then prayer. Refreshments continued to be served after each service.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT



At Tweedmouth, technology is used to enhance being both seen and heard. We can take audio feeds from five radio microphones of various types and three wired ones. Other feeds are from a disc player and up to two computers. We can also take feeds from a couple of guitars and a keyboard. All this is controlled by the sound mixer in the balcony, and remote control is also possible from an iPad anywhere in the church.

Dave Hay has been a great help in resetting the basic gain levels of the various microphones to reduce the occurrence of annoying feedback. When Mike is leading worship with his guitar he has a dedicated foldback speaker, separate from the nave speakers, that he has control over to ensure he can hear the guitar over the singing.

Video feeds normally come from two cameras, a computer and a DVD player, although a further camera feed is available. The selected output goes to all four monitors in the nave and a different output can be selected for streaming outside the church. This is all controlled by a video mixer, also in the balcony. A further feed of the PowerPoint is provided to a personal tablet in the church using Screenleap over the internet. This has worked much better now with high-speed broadband installed in the church.

Many of the songs we sing are Automated PowerPoints where the verses have been programmed to change in time with the music embedded in the PowerPoint. We can also use videos, but jazzy or moving backgrounds do not suit everyone. A variety of PowerPoint formats are seen, black text on pale yellow background, yellow on blue, 'Berwick Rangers' gold text on black background or text over a still photo.

Use of the internet and PowerPoint is being continually developed to support worship services, weddings and funerals. This year we have been able to stream a few services to a limited audience but expect to make this more widely available in the coming year.

We are blessed with a team of eight, although on any particular day some may be away, unwell or have other church duties, but we have always found two to share the work. If any others would like to 'learn the ropes' they would be most welcome.

ECO CHURCH REPORT

As the process of being in vacancy continued for most of 2025, we felt we should aim to consolidate what had already been started rather than trying new initiatives.

An Eco Church tip has continued to be a feature of the monthly Benefice Newssheet along with specific items for prayer in the Prayer Diary, and members of the congregation seem increasingly comfortable about referencing ecological concerns when deciding on courses of action, whether relating to the heating system in the church or the creation of decorations for the Christmas services. The annual Count on Nature did not take place this year, because our experts were away at the relevant time. However, a few faithful gardeners continue their commitment to maintaining areas in the churchyard as a beautiful green space, much appreciated by many who walk through it. Some members of the public have contributed plants to further enhance the variety of what is grown, reinforcing the sense of it being a community resource for all to enjoy.

In June, members of the congregation again led a Sunday service with a Creation emphasis, developing what had been explored the previous year, with a more specific focus on Water, and projects that recognise ways of using water for the welfare of more people and the environment, both in this country and elsewhere in the world.

We have continued to benefit from the Eco Church group in Berwick Parish Church, with invitations to events, most notably the assessment process which preceded the award of the Eco Church Gold Award, and their offer of help and advice about how we might move forward. With a new Incumbent now in post, our hope is that we can harness the enthusiasm of individuals to create a working group to explore ways of developing specific ways of enabling the parish to become even more environmentally aware.

TREASURER REPORT

Charity Status: From 11 November 2024 charity status was granted with the charity number 1210890 being assigned. Tweedmouth PCC continued its charitable activities until 1 January 2025. On that date the charities merged, and all assets and liabilities were transferred from the PCC to this registered charity, The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew and St Boisil, Tweedmouth, in the Diocese of Newcastle. Therefore, this is the first period of charity accounts as only PCC accounts were previously prepared and reported appropriately to the diocese with all transactions up to 31 December 2024 being recorded in the prior year accounts. For the purpose of these accounts, we have continued on as last year and used merger accounting.

Financial reviews: The treasurer and his assistant continue to benefit from the advice and support of Mike Innes throughout the year. As a small team, meetings are held quarterly to review processes, to plan for regular and unexpected outgoings and to assess financial risk. This collaborative approach ensures clear, structured information is provided for members of the PCC to support budget processes and to aid decision making in the areas of church running expenses, mission giving, buildings maintenance, meeting our Parish Share commitments etc. This informative approach is extended to an annual Finance presentation each October to the whole congregation, outlining the church's financial situation in terms of income and expenditure.

Reserves Policy: The sum of £14K is ring fenced as a reserve, which is reviewed annually. This equates to 14 weeks of all church running costs, the biggest of which is our Parish Share contribution to the diocese.

General information: Numbers attending church services have remained relatively stable compared to 2024 figures. There has been a modest increase in the individual giving of many members of the congregation, whilst understandably, some former members have moved away. The use of the Parish Giving Scheme has increased year on year which is to be welcomed. There were no sizeable one-off donations, as in the previous year. We continue to enjoy two generous financial grants from the Mercers' Company for which we are extremely grateful. These have been directed once again towards our boiler replacement fund and our fabric fund respectively.

Our partnership with the Berwick Rascals Nursery goes from strength to strength, and the income they provided last year allowed us to meet the proposed 10% increase in our parish share income for 2026 as well a significant contribution to our boiler replacement fund. At the same time, we invested a sizeable amount in roof and guttering repairs on the Church Hall, as well as conducting a complete electrical installation condition report.

Whilst we remain firmly committed to maintaining the fabric of our church building we have been prudent over the last year, focusing more on building up our depleted fabric funds which are now looking much healthier. This has been significantly boosted by a substantial refund from our gas supplier after succeeding in a protracted dispute over meter readings. The PCC agreed that the refund should be directed at our fabric fund. Our newly arrived vicar has been establishing priorities for improvement works, and we look forward to rolling these out in the year ahead. Our decision, made over 2 years ago, to save for a replacement gas boiler has borne fruit, and we have a very useful contingency fund for this purpose.

We continue to provide financial support to a range of mission areas, described in the mission report above, as well as resourcing youth activities across the Benefice.

Overall, it has been a steady year in which we have met our Parish Share contribution in full, fulfilled our other commitments, and consolidated our financial position to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In considering the operation, achievement and performance and finances of the charity, the trustees are satisfied that public benefit has been provided in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and

- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Church is situated on Church Road, Tweedmouth and is part of the Deanery of Norham, in the Diocese of Newcastle. The correspondence address is 1 West End, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2HE.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission since November 2024 (registration number: 1210890).

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio		
The Incumbent	Rev Richard Cornfield *^	Chair from18th September '25
Churchwardens	Karen Strachan *^	From 29 Apr '18
	Alastair MacPherson *^	From 23 May '21. (Lay Chair from 28 Apr '24 – 18 Sep '25) (Vice Chair from 18 Sep '25)
	Stephen Barringham	To 13 Apr '25
Deanery Synod Rep	Ros Richardson ^	From 23 Apr '23
	Phil Rowett ^	From 13 Apr '25
Elected Members	Phil Rowett ^	From Apr '08 to 13 Apr '25. Reader, LTO
	Anne McCreath ^	From Apr '12
	Mike Innes	From 22 Mar '16 to 13 Apr '25
	Anne Wadey ^	From 22 Mar '16. Electoral Roll officer. ALM
	Jenny MacPherson ^	From 23 May '21
	Philip Jennings *^	From 10 Apr '22. Treasurer
	Barbara Donaldson ^	From 23 Apr '23. Safeguarding Officer to 13 April '25
	Stuart Miller ^	From 14 Apr '24
	Isobel Giles	From 14 Apr '24 to 13 Apr '25
	Judith Jennings*^	From 14 Apr '24. Secretary

*Denotes member of the Standing Committee
^Denotes Trustee of the Charity

The trustees' report was approved by the PCC, the trustees, on 11th March 2026

J Jennings ..... **Judith Jennings (Secretary)**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1210890

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

R.M. BENNETT F.C.A.

GREAVES WEST & AYRE

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

17 WALKERGATE

BERWICK UPON TWEED

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Total 2025**	**Total 2024**
Voluntary Receipts	£	£	£	£
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	30,916.12	337.50	31,253.62	32,314.16
Collections at Services	2,398.63		2,398.63	4,240.15
All Other Giving / Voluntary Receipts	4,528.10	3,048.89	7,576.99	131,342.00
Gift Aid Recovered	6,399.92		6,399.92	7,912.65
	44,242.77	3,386.39	47,629.16	175,808.96
Activities for Generating Funds				
Investment Income	561.58	1,398.54	1,960.12	1,612.59
Church Activities				
Statutory Fees retained by the PCC	1,263		1,263	1,745.00
Gross Income from Trading	17,464.78		17,464.78	17,985.00
	18,727.78		18,727.78	19,730.00
Other Income	1,371.17	8,270.00	9,641.17	2,005.00
Total Receipts	64,903.30	13,054.93	77,958.23	199,156.55
PAYMENTS				
Church Activities				
Diocesan Parish Contribution	27,240.00		27,240.00	24,750.00
Clergy and Staffing Costs	1,746.72		1,746.72	686.65
Church Running Expenses	26,912.05	5,964.21	32,876.26	23,778.29
Mission Giving and Donations		3,678.00	3,678.00	3,146.00
	55,898.77	9,642.21	65,540.98	52,360.94
Costs of Generating Funds				
Major Capital Expenditure				8,892.00
Other Expenditure	748.61	200.00	948.61	2,709.49
Total Payments	56,647.38	9,842.21	66,489.59	63,962.43
Excess of Receipts over (Payments)	8,255.92	3,212.72	11,468.64	135,194.12
Transfers between Funds	(3,238.00)	3,238.00		
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 January	120,973.62	152,393.31	273,366.93	138,172.81
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 December	125,991.54	158,844.03	284,835.57	273,366.93

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FURTHER ANALYSIS

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts	£	£	£	£
All Other Recurring Giving/Donations				
All Non-Recurring Giving/Donations	528.10	161.32	689.42	124,500.00
Legacies Received				
Recurring Grants				6,842.00
Non-Recurring Grants	4,000.00	2,887.57	6,887.57	
	4,528.10	3,048.89	7,576.99	131,342.00

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Church Running Expenses	£	£	£	£
Mission and Evangelism Expenses		1,191.07	1,191.07	836.33
Church Running Expenses	11,102.16	4,773.14	15,875.30	11,569.20
Church Utility Bills	6,590.43		6,590.43	6,935.90
Cost of Trading	9,219.46		9,219.46	4,436.86
	26,912.05	5,964.21	32,876.26	23,778.29
Mission Giving				
The Joswigs		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Tear Fund		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disaster Appeals		750.00	750.00	750.00
Resound		250.00	250.00	
Seafarers Mission		250.00	250.00	
Other		428.00	428.00	396.00
		3,678.00	3,678.00	3146.00

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
FUND RECONCILIATION

Fund Reconciliation	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers in/(out)	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General	108,973.62	64,903.30	56,647.38	11,238.00	105,991.54
Legacy					
Boiler Fund	12,000.00			8,000.00	20,000.00
	120,973.62	64,903.30	56,647.38	(3,238.00)	125,991.54
Restricted Funds					
Mission	1,328.33	442.50	4,860.83	3,479.00	389.00
Music	1,202.46	296.32	1,039.20		459.58
Discretionary Fund	15,000.00		200.00	(241.00)	14,559.00
Church Fabric	11,510.84	10,887.57	3,234.00		19,164.41
Youth Worker Salary	110,373.75	1,398.54		(4,104.06)	107,668.23
Youth Activities	12,977.93	30.00	508.18	4,104.06	16,603.81
	152,393.31	13,054.93	9,842.21	3,238.00	158,844.03
	273,366.93	77,958.23	66,489.59		284,835.57

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
CASH FUNDS		
Barclays Bank Current Account	60,829.15	52,929.40
Business Reserve Account	57,533.92	41,413.34
CAF Church Community Centre Account	3.40	3.40
Barclays Church Hall Account	42,130.89	55,495.33
Cash in Hand	66.17	173.78
Barclays Youth Worker Salary (Formerly "Projects")	107,668.23	106,269.69
Barclays Youth Activities (Formerly "Worker")	16,603.81	17,081.99
Total Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	284,835.57	273,366.93

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishing held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

4. There were no related party transactions.

Approved by the PCC and the trustees on 11th March 2026

and signed on their behalf

P F Jennings ..... Philip Jennings - Treasurer

J Jennings ..... Judith Jennings – PCC Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS/TRUSTEES OF TWEEDMOUTH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Parish of St Bartholomew and St Bosil's Church Tweedmouth (The Charity) for the year ended 31 December 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 charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

R. Bennett FCA

Roseanne Bennett BSc(Hons) F.C.A.

17 Walkergate
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TD15 1DJ

Dated: 12/3/26