Annual Report for the Year Ending 30.12.2025

About St Mary the Virgin, Upton Scudamore

Aim and purposes
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is required to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities
The specific objective of St Mary's is to be a witness to the Christian faith within the Church of England, drawing people into the worship of God through sacramental teaching and practice, in particular, through its threefold ministry of worship, hospitality and prayer.

Structure, governance and management
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The members of the PCC, who are its trustees in law, have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The PCC held Six meetings during the year including the meeting to approve the Annual Report and Accounts, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") and the formal meeting to elect its officers. The public minutes of all meetings are available on request:

Under normal circumstances St Mary's PCC is made up of 6 elected members, the Chair (Incumbent) and the Treasurer. There is also provision for a Standing Committee to deal with urgent business between meetings. Following the resignation of all elected members of the PCC in April 2025, there was no alternative but to continue to govern with a PCC comprised of the Chair (Reverend Susan Foster, a Treasurer (Mrs Claire Sharp) and a Minute Taker (Mr John Acton) which is the minimum allowed.

The number on the Electoral Roll announced at the APCM in 2024 was 60.
The combined number of 'usual weekly attendees' is about 12.
Compliance with the Diocesan safeguarding policy is led by Philip Short.
Safeguarding procedures are reviewed on an annual basis.

Legal and administrative information
The full name of the parish is St Mary the Virgin. The address of the church is St Mary's, Upton Scudamore, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 0AH.
Correspondence should be sent to the Rector, Revd Susan D Foster at The Rectory, 5 Church Street, Warminster, BA12 8PG or the Benefice Office, Minster Church, Warminster, BA12 8PQ.

The life of the Church

Parish Plan
Work on the fabric of the church continues to be the focus of the PCC. Following mistakes made during the Autumn and Winter of 2023 which led to the purchase of incomparable materials, the PCC will proceed with caution. During the year reports have been commissioned on the state of the wooden floor blocks determining the reason for the accelerated deterioration.

Volunteer Help
The work of St Mary's could not be realised without the help and support of a its willing volunteers for services and for many of the additional 'behind the scenes' tasks.

Community Engagement
We continue to seek new ways to engage with our community and support the groups who use our Church building.
The regular coffee mornings are a real positive fixture in our parish landscape.
A revised version of the ever popular Church Guidebook, written by Ken Welch was warmly received.
St Mary's Choir continues to be an active group of versatile singers supporting the monthly Village Service as well as many community events.

Pastoral Care
The clergy and lay ministers continue to minister to the sick and housebound, celebrating communion with them at home or in hospital.

Children and Youth
Although young people do not form a regularly part of St Mary's, the very popular Crib Service attracts many, young and old, to the church.

Rector's Report

2025 started well with the visit of Bishop Andrew, it was a beautiful service with so much positivity, very sadly this did not last. Unfortunately, St Mary's has not had the benefit of Churchwardens or PCC members. This is not a good way to govern. However, St Mary's is not lacking in support and behind the scenes are a whole host of people, from those opening, closing and keeping an eye on the building and Churchyard, those who make sure all is ready for the services, others offering hospitality, flower arranging, and many, many others contribute to keep St Mary's ticking over. Please know, you are all appreciated for, without you, our community would be the poorer.

With the help of our wonderful PTO clergy, LLM's and LWL's, we have been able to maintain a pattern of weekly services throughout the year, which is not always possible in small rural communities. Together with the volunteer St Mary's has maintained a host of Events - evidenced through the Calendar of Events included in this Annual Report.

We as a church, a benefice and across our deanery, are facing many challenges, not least financial challenges. None of the parishes of our Benefice paid the Parish Share in 2025, please note, the shortfall is carried forward to the current year. Please would you pray for the finances of our Church and, if you can contribute towards a solution, either as a one-off donation or consider increasing your regular giving, you will make a difference.

St Mary's is also facing some additional challenges, governance for one and the fabric of the church building in particular. Please consider how you may help.

Thank you again for all that you do in the service of Christ and His Church
God Bless you all,

This report was approved by the PCC on 8th May, 2026, and signed on its behalf by:

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Reverend Susan D Foster
Rector and Chair

St Mary The Virgin, Upton Scudamore
(Registered Charity No 252124)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2025			2024		
	Total	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Total	General Fund	Fabric Fund
INCOME	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and collections	12,871.48	12,871.48	0.00	11,564.70	9,847.70	1,717.00
Other voluntary income	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Fund Raising and events	15,798.48	15,798.48	0.00	5,795.18	3,177.00	2,618.18
	0.00					
Interest and Investment income	1,445.71	1,170.92	274.79	2,535.20	2,535.20	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	**30,115.67**	**29,840.88**	**274.79**	**20,145.08**	**15,809.90**	**4,335.18**
EXPENDITURE						
Parish share	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Insurance	1,908.58	1,908.58	0.00	1,855.80	0.00	1,855.80
Heat, Light, Water	2,438.00	2,438.00	0.00	2,779.32	2,779.32	0.00
Church Maintenance (inc cleaning)	11,459.88	11,459.88	0.00	50,423.30	0.00	50,423.30
Upkeep of Churchyard	0.00	0.00	0.00	312.58	312.58	0.00
Administration	1,142.37	1,142.37	0.00	786.72	786.72	0.00
Books and Guides	137.00	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macmillan Coffee Morning	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.05	506.05	0.00
Fund Raising costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.30	0.00	70.30
Sundry costs	811.14	811.14	0.00	627.43	627.43	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**23,896.97**	**23,896.97**	**0.00**	**58,361.50**	**6,012.10**	**52,349.40**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	6,218.70	5,943.91	274.79	-38,216.42	9,797.80	-48,014.22
FUNDS SUMMARY						
Balance at 1st January	**35,321.45**	**4,926.89**	**30,394.56**	**33,347.87**	**19,573.01**	**13,774.86**
Surplus/(deficit) for year	6,218.70	5,943.91	274.79	-38,216.42	9,797.80	-48,014.22
Transfers between Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-25,000.00	25,000.00
Transfer from Trust Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00
Balance at 31 December	**41,540.15**	**10,870.80**	**30,669.35**	**35,131.45**	**4,370.81**	**30,760.64**
The Jim Payne Memorial Fund .						
Balance at 1st January	0.00	*Money used for organ*		190.00		
Organ Tuning/Repairs	0.00	*service (£288)*		0.00		
Balance at 31 December	**0.00**			**190.00**		
TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE	**41,540.15**			**35,321.45**		
Represented by						
Lloyds Bank - Current	10,870.80			4,926.89		
Lloyds Bank - Deposit	30,669.35			30,394.56		
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	0.00			0.00		
Petty Cash	0.00			0.00		
	41,540.15			**35,321.45**		

Trustees of St Mary The Virgin, Upton Scudamore re Parish Land and Investment Trust assets

The income from these investments is available to the Parish for 'the maintenance of divine service including the lighting, warming and cleaning of the church'.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
INCOME	**£**	**£**
COIF Charities Inv Fund (CCLA)	618.87	946.67
BLK Charities Equity Fund (BlackRock)	552.05	790.77
TOTAL	**1,170.92**	**1,737.44**
EXPENDITURE		
Paid to Church Funds	**1,170.92**	**1,737.44**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Parish Land Assets (Trustee Accounts)

	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Value at 1 January				
COIF Charities Investment Fund	22,134.07		46,518.27	
BLK Charities UK Equity Fund	16,053.76		30,630.02	
0.99 acres of land	1.00		1.00	
	38,188.83	**38,188.83**	77,149.29	**77,149.29**
Funds Transferred during the Year				
COIF Charities Investment Fund	0.00		-25,000.00	
BLK Charities UK Equity Fund	0.00		-15,000.00	
		0.00		-40,000.00
Movement in value during year		970.84		1,039.54
Value at 31 December				
COIF Charities Investment Fund	21,074.56		22,134.07	
BLK Charities UK Equity Fund	18,084.11		16,053.76	
0.99 acres of land	1.00		1.00	
	39,159.67	**39,159.67**	38,188.83	**38,188.83**

COIF shares are shown at their mid market value on 31 December 2025
BLK Charities Equity Fund shares are shown at their Portfolio Value at 31 December 2025
Land is shown at a nominal value to recognize its existence, it is let on short term tenancies.

Funds remain in general (treasurers) account

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7 May 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Reverend Susan Foster

Notes to the Accounts

	2025 Total £	2025 General Fund £	2025 Fabric Fund £	2024 Total £	2024 General Fund £	2024 Fabric Fund £
Donations and collections						
Planned Giving:						
- Covenants	3,290.00	3,290.00	0.00	3,655.00	2,215.00	1,440.00
- Envelopes	1,277.00	1,277.00	0.00	1,300.90	1,300.90	0.00
- Gift Aid	2,255.59	2,255.59	0.00	2,737.20	2,737.20	0.00
Collections general	1,966.89	1,966.89	0.00	1,073.13	1,073.13	0.00
Donations general	3,082.00	3,082.00	0.00	2,292.42	2,015.42	277.00
Legacies	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations restricted (Macmillan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.05	506.05	0.00
	12,871.48	12,871.48	0.00	11,564.70	9,847.70	1,717.00
Other voluntary income						
Parish Council Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Fund Raising and events						
Rent	850.00	850.00	0.00	850.00	850.00	0.00
Church Hire	765.00	765.00	0.00	1,442.50	1,117.50	325.00
Fees for services	1,649.50	1,649.50	0.00	1,089.50	1,089.50	0.00
Fund Raising Events	12,518.98	12,518.98	0.00	2,386.98	120.00	2,266.98
Sale of Guides	15.00	15.00	0.00	26.20	0.00	26.20
	15,798.48	15,798.48	0.00	5,795.18	3,177.00	2,618.18
Interest and Investment income						
Bank deposit Interest	274.79	0.00	274.79	743.41	743.41	0.00
Income from Trust Investments	1,170.92	1,170.92	0.00	1,791.79	1,791.79	0.00
	1,445.71	1,170.92	274.79	2,535.20	2,535.20	0.00
Church Maintenance costs						
Carpets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Stonework repairs	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Electrics	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,576.00		1,576.00
Decoration	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,192.00		6,192.00
Roof and Ceiling repairs	9,847.20	9,847.20	0.00	16,068.56		16,068.56
Floor works	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,925.00		25,925.00
Joinery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Professional and survey fees	417.00	417.00	0.00	2,989.50		2,989.50
VAT reclaimed	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2,519.76		-2,519.76
Sundry maintenance costs	282.68	282.68	0.00	192.00		192.00
	11,046.88	11,046.88	0.00	50,423.30		50,423.30

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Upton Scudamore.

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December

Responsibilities and basis of the report.

As the members of the PCC 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 PCC'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the account as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. the account does not accord with those records.

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

Signed: C A Allinson Date: 23 April 2026

Christopher Allinson

11 Upton Scudamore

Warminster