

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2025**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**The Parish Office
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5NY**

Bankers:

**Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB**

Independent Examiner:

**Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY
jpritchard1001@gmail.com**

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report	2
Annual Report	3-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Accounting Policies	10-11
Supporting Notes and Break Outs	12-21

Pages 1 to 9 form the formal statutory Accounts for the PCC.

Pages 10 to 21 are supporting notes which provide the detail supporting the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedure laid down in the annual direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) of the Charities Act, and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements provide a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

I 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.

Signed



Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire

PROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, 9 Swan Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. SG7 5NY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

During the 12 months to 31 December 2025, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd. Chris Campbell (Chair)	
Churchwardens	Julia Mitchell John Chilton	
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton Jo Adams	Treasurer and Asst Churchwarden Asst. Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer
Elected members	Stephen ten Hove Ruth ten Hove Gaye Rowlands Melanie Dawson-Dew Jonathan Fisher John Hare David Richards (From April 2025)	
In attendance	Bernard Allen	Secretary

In June 2023 we welcomed the Rev Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilshire into the benefice as a curate. She was priested in June 2024.

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2025 amounted to £10,470.

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees or connected persons were paid any monies with the exception of reimbursement for items purchased on behalf of the PCC. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

Payment to a Connected Person for Services

A relative of a trustee was paid £190.50 for taking occasional services in the church. Another relative of a trustee was paid £180 for relief organist duties.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2025 part 9. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 85 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2025, down from 96 in 2024. Average weekly attendance was 69 up from 63 in 2024, and the number of children is increasing. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who are unable to get to church, with around 5 people regularly making use of this facility. These numbers increased significantly at Easter, Christmas and other Festival services, and this year over 500 people attended the various Christmas services and 190 people over Easter, both up from last year.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 9 times during 2025. The meetings were chaired by the Revd. Chris Campbell.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 17 March 2026 and signed by the Revd. Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the Churchwardens, and the Safeguarding Officer.

Mission Action Planning

The PCC remain committed to Mission Action Planning, as a tool to help the church grow spiritually, numerically and in its presence and witness in the community. In the Summer of 2022, we held an away day, in which we agreed a vision of being a welcoming community, sharing God's love, and a number of goals to help us achieve this. This plan has been reviewed regularly and promoted by the Mission and Discipleship Committee. In July 2025 we held another awayday to review and revise the plan. The updates plan was approved and adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 18 September 2025.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Sub Groups and Committees

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music, co-opted), Peter Eaglesfield (Organist, co-opted), Juliette Shackleton (co-opted), Ruth ten Hove (Chair) and Ann Mallinson (co-opted). In 2024/5 the Music Committee developed and implemented the plan to replace the old heavy 1960s Choir stalls with modern moveable furniture which is much more aesthetically pleasing.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, John Chilton (to June 2025), Jonathn Fisher (from April 2025) and John Rowlands (co-opted).

Employment Committee

Provides oversight of the terms of employment of staff who are paid by the PCC for various services and ensure compliance with Employment Law, Charity Commission and Church of England guidelines. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Stephen ten Hove (Chair) and Julia Mitchell.

Youth and Children

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Jo Adams, Sarah Talks and Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilsher.

Fabric Committee

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property, including health & safety requirements. The membership comprises David Richards John Chilton (Chair to mid 2025) Mark Eaton, Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer, co-opted), David Richards (Chair from mid 2025) and Julia Mitchell.

Mission and Discipleship Committee

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our outreach teaching. The Group has been progressing the Mission Action Plan and oversees House Groups and the Advent and Lent Courses. The membership comprises The Rector (Chair), Mark Eaton, Rose Cooper (co-opted), Jo Adams and Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilsher (curate).

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parish's mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Mark Eaton, Julia Mitchell (Chair), Christa Bosch (AVN Editor, co-opted) and Jo Adams.

Safeguarding

This is handled by the Rector and Jo Adams. Jo Adams and Sarah Talks form a Safeguarding Standards subgroup.

Social & Events

Melanie Dawson-Dew oversees these occasions with Ruth ten Hove and Gaye Rowlands.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2025, on restricted and designated funds there was a surplus of £28,504. This surplus was due largely to the receipt of a generous legacy of £40,000 from the estate of the late Judy Catterick.

Compared to last year, other income was stable. The large proportion of our incoming resources was from our regular donors, to whom we are very grateful and who together contributed over £80,000 to the church, including tax recovered under Gift Aid. We also benefited from a range of fundraising events such as the Music Festival, Ashwell at Home, the Flea Market, and the Christmas Fair. As well as this, the Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Sale of Ashwell Mugs and Bags (organised by Julia Mitchell) and Christmas Cards (organised by Mark Eaton).

In 2025 we completed the replacement of the choir stall using the anonymous donation of £27,500 received in 2024 and other funds raised by the Music Committee.

Sadly, we lost a number of long-standing members of the congregation and community, which resulted in a rise in funeral fees and Special Collections from their services (the majority of which was passed, at the relatives' request, to other charities).

Rental income from 8 Swan Street was fully restored to its full level, following the refurbishment completed last year.

The Parish Share remains the church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the church receives from the Diocese and helps to support those parishes in the Diocese in need. The Diocesan Board of Finance is conscious of the financial pressures on parishes and working to contain costs and minimise increased in Parish Share. We are commended by the Diocese for the fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full.

Other expenditure was well contained and despite some increases in tariffs for electricity and gas both for the church and the Parish Room. Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity, and during 2025 we committed to choosing greener Energy Tariffs, as part of our Eco Church initiative.

Aside from the purchase of the new choir stalls (£20,080 in 2025), a total of £30,789 was spent on repairs and restoration work in the church. Much of this was the defrassing of the stonework on the tower (removing loose material) for which we received a Repair Grant of £5,655 from the Diocese.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on *funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach*. The PCC continues to keep its approach to external giving under review.

We continue to consider our own fundraising strategy for how we maintain this medieval building and having been advised that the criteria for applications for large projects has changed, the PCC will focus now on a smaller application for up to £250,000 where the criteria are more straightforward. The Quinquennial Inspection in 2024 indicated that there is urgent work required to re-roof the tower and the north side aisle. In early 2026 we are undertaking urgent remedial

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

work on the roofs but the need for substantial expenditure remains. We still hope to commence work in 2026 on improving accessibility to the church, funded by a generous donation we received in 2022. Work on this has been slightly delayed, due to both the urgent remedial repairs to the roof and the resignation of our Church Architect, thus needing to recruit a new one before we could progress the Access Project.

In 2025 the PCC, in partnerships with the Garden House Hospice and Ashwell Surgery established a Wellbeing Hub for older people in the area. This meets weekly providing an exercise class, focused on balance and mobility, and a time for refreshments and fellowship. The church agreed to manage the finances for this and £1,254 was collected in donations and contributions from the participants and some grants were received from the local authority, paying to the fitness instructor directly. Training for volunteers and Safeguarding clearance was undertaken by the Garden House Hospice. Sadly for 2026 the Garden House Hospice has had to pull out of this venture because of their funding crisis and the PCC has agreed to sustain the venture by taking total responsibility for it for the coming year.

The Parish Church Room (PCR) is set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. It is considered as a separate restricted fund, with the PCC retaining responsibility it's financial operation. In 2024 we undertook a significant refurbishment project, redecorating the room and replacing the carpet tiles with a much more practical wood effect floor. This has been much appreciated by users. In 2025 we replaced the chairs, using an anonymous of £1,500 received in 2024. In 2025 we were grateful to receive a grant of £3,500 from the Ashwell Show Committee which will be used to refurbish the toilets early in 2026.

On its current account the PCR continued to operate at a deficit. We hope the refurbishment might attract more hirers. As a service to the local community, the PCC continues to provide accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room. Regrettably Post Office Ltd has decided to restrict the hours it will subsidise for the mobile post office service and as a result this will be reduced from three sessions per week to two.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2025 have increased to £133,541 compared with £78,877 at the close of 2024, due in the main to the Catterick bequest. We are considering how to make use of this on a project or projects which would be close to Judy's heart.

The church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities. Likewise, with annual costs averaging £105,000 we know we could not operate without the very generous support of all our donors, to whom we are very grateful and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the Church of England and the guidelines issued by the House of Bishops. No incidents were reported in 2025. All church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England, and complete Basic and Foundation Safeguarding Training.

Signed on behalf of the PCC



.....
Rector 19/03/26.

Chris Campbell (Chair)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025


		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	86,579	4,726		91,305	83,258	1,786		85,044
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	52,545	14,166		66,711	7,708	34,103		41,812
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	21,275	9,247		30,522	17,691	12,515		30,206
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	12,394			12,394	7,751			7,751
Income from investments	2(e)	3,866	61		3,927	4,254	42		4,296
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		176,660	28,199		204,859	120,662	48,446		169,108
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	2,391			2,391	4,062			4,062
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	90,955	56,943	2,564	150,462	85,740	41,074		126,815
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	8,244			8,244	53,678			53,678
Church management and administration	3(d)	14,521	102		14,623	14,398	97		14,495
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		116,111	57,045	2,564	175,720	157,878	41,171		199,049
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		60,548	(28,846)	(2,564)	29,139	(37,216)	7,274		(29,942)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)							397	397
Unrealised	4(a)			(635)	(635)				
		60,548	(28,846)	(3,199)	28,504	(37,216)	7,274	397	(29,544)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(5,884)	5,884			(26)	26		
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		54,664	(22,961)	(3,199)	28,504	(37,243)	7,301	397	(29,544)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		273,312	265,260	22,992	561,563	310,554	257,959	22,595	591,107
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		327,975	242,299	19,793	590,067	273,311	265,260	22,992	561,563

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)		85,000		85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)		194,434		194,434
Investments	4(b)		14,564		17,763
			<u>293,998</u>		<u>297,197</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits		1,117		1,056	
Cash at bank and in hand		294,953		263,311	
CURRENT ASSETS			<u>296,070</u>		<u>264,367</u>
NET ASSETS (see page 18)			<u>590,067</u>		<u>561,563</u>
FUNDS					
	5				
Unrestricted			327,975		273,312
Restricted			242,299		265,260
Endowment			19,793		22,992
			<u>590,067</u>		<u>561,563</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

TREASURER 

M W Eaton 19/3/2026

CHAIR 

19/3/2026

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the PCC 5th edition incorporating SORP 2015 which includes guidance on accounts, reports and scrutiny including the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 by the Business Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England.

prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Funds raised by social and fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore, such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
<i>Planned giving</i>								
Gift Aid donations	64,168			64,168	59,366			59,366
Tax recovered	16,989	4,726		21,715	15,603	1,786		17,389
Specific Donations	2,171			2,171	4,694			4,694
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,251			3,251	3,595			3,595
	<u>86,579</u>	<u>4,726</u>		<u>91,305</u>	<u>83,258</u>	<u>1,786</u>		<u>85,044</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants		5,655		5,655				
Donations and appeals for charity	11,306	8,511		19,817	7,708	34,103		41,812
Legacies	40,000			40,000				
Sundry	1,239			1,239				
	<u>52,545</u>	<u>14,166</u>		<u>66,711</u>	<u>7,708</u>	<u>34,103</u>		<u>41,812</u>
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	4,402			4,402	3,657			3,657
Bookstall, cards and mugs (net of costs)	770	606		1,376	806	49		854
Fund-raising events	5,427	6,861		12,288	4,568	8,982		13,550
Church and room lettings etc.	1,665	1,780		3,445	255	3,485		3,740
Fees	9,010			9,010	8,405			8,405
	<u>21,275</u>	<u>9,247</u>		<u>30,522</u>	<u>17,691</u>	<u>12,515</u>		<u>30,206</u>
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	12,394			12,394	7,751			7,751
	<u>12,394</u>			<u>12,394</u>	<u>7,751</u>			<u>7,751</u>
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	3,866	61		3,927	4,254	42		4,296
	<u>3,866</u>	<u>61</u>		<u>3,927</u>	<u>4,254</u>	<u>42</u>		<u>4,296</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>176,660</u>	<u>28,199</u>		<u>204,859</u>	<u>120,662</u>	<u>48,446</u>		<u>169,108</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Grants								
Missionary and charitable giving: Church overseas:	142			142				
- missionary societies								
Specific Donations	2,249			2,249	4,062			4,062
Home missions and donations from collections								
	<u>2,391</u>			<u>2,391</u>	<u>4,062</u>			<u>4,062</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church								
Ministry: parish share	63,759			63,759	63,218			63,218
clergy expenses								
Church running expenses	6,995			6,995	6,666			6,666
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbis	4,596	50,570	2,564	57,730	3,709	32,563		36,272
Books					358			358
Mission and Outreach	811			811				
Worship resources	1,727			1,727	1,772			1,772
Choir and music	6,506			6,506	4,882			4,882
Church Hall running costs		5,588		5,588		7,775		7,775
Insurance	5,247	784		6,032	4,929	737		5,666
Sundry	1,314			1,314	205			205
	<u>90,955</u>	<u>56,943</u>	<u>2,564</u>	<u>150,462</u>	<u>85,740</u>	<u>41,074</u>		<u>126,815</u>
3(c) Costs of generating funds								
Fees paid	6,084			6,084	5,175			5,175
Purchase of candles	490			490	515			515
Swan Street expenses	431			431	1,467			1,467
Swan Street Refurbishment	1,239			1,239	46,521			46,521
Purchase of goods for resale								
	<u>8,244</u>			<u>8,244</u>	<u>53,678</u>			<u>53,678</u>
3(d) Church management and administration								
Secretarial & office expenses	14,521	102		14,623	14,398	97		14,495
Web site								
Accountancy								
	<u>14,521</u>	<u>102</u>		<u>14,623</u>	<u>14,398</u>	<u>97</u>		<u>14,495</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>116,111</u>	<u>57,045</u>	<u>2,564</u>	<u>175,720</u>	<u>157,878</u>	<u>41,171</u>		<u>199,049</u>

Total salaries paid in 2025 were £14,358 for The Parish Administrator, the Organist and the Cleaner.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2025	85,000		85,000
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2025	85,000	0	85,000
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2025			0
Charge for the year			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2025	0	0	0
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2025	85,000	0	85,000
At 31st December 2024	85,000	0	85,000

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2025	0
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2025	0
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2025	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2025	0
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2025	0
At 31st December 2024	0

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value estimated by the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

Note 4 Continued

4. (b) Investments	Value 2025 £	Value 2024 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	6,304	6,420
484.19 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)		10,945
372.07* Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,907)	8,259	
	<u>14,564</u>	<u>17,365</u>

*On 23 July 2025, 112.12 shares in the Floodlight Fund were sold to fund the upgrading of the floodlights. The new lights will reduce the electricity used, in turn reducing the Church's carbon footprint and costs. Approval for this sale was sought and granted by the family of the original donor to this Fund.

6. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	14,564	293,998	194,434	85,000	17,763	297,197
Current Assets	133,541	157,299	5,230	296,070	78,878	180,260	5,230	264,367
Current Liabilities								
	<u>327,975</u>	<u>242,299</u>	<u>19,793</u>	<u>590,067</u>	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>561,563</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNRESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2025

	General Fund £	Bequests Fund £	Swan Street Fund £	Choir & Music Fund £	Wellbeing Hub Fund £	Hardship Fund £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Gift Aid donations	64,168						64,168
Tax recovered	16,989						16,989
Collections (open plate)	7,561						7,561
Donations & grants	7,013		1,239	900	1,254		10,406
Legacies		40,000					40,000
Rent on 8 Swan Street	12,394						12,394
Fees	9,010						9,010
Other events & sales	12,265						12,265
Interest	3,866						3,866
	<u>133,267</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>1,254</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>176,660</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Charitable Giving	2,361				29		2,391
Parish Share	63,759						63,759
Fees	6,084						6,084
Church Running Expenses	6,995						6,995
Church Maintenance	4,596						4,596
Books	811						811
Worship Resources	2,134						2,134
Choir and Music	5,353			1,236			6,589
Insurance	5,247						5,247
Swan Street Expenses	431						431
Refurbishment of Swan Street	1,239						1,239
Parish Office	14,521						14,521
Sundry	1,314						1,314
	<u>114,846</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,236</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>116,111</u>
Inter fund transfers	(5,820)			(64)			(5,884)
NET RESOURCES	<u>12,600</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,664</u>
BALANCE SHEET							
Freehold Property	194,434						194,434
Bank current account	72,660	55,409	2,015	105	1,225	1,350	129,419
DBOF deposits							0
FUND BALANCE	<u>267,094</u>	<u>55,409</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>327,197</u>
Net movement	12,600	40,000	1,239	(400)	1,225	0	54,664
Balance b/fwd	255,272	15,409	775	505		1,350	273,311
Balance c/fwd	<u>267,872</u>	<u>55,409</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>327,975</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Note 6 Continued

FUND DETAILS

The Unrestricted Funds comprise the following funds:-

The General Fund

The General Fund represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Other funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The Bequests Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums left to the church be beneficiaries in their wills to be reserved for special projects at the PCC's discretion.

The Hardship Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums given the PCC specifically to support the vulnerable and those in need. Sums (up to £100) to be paid to appropriate recipients at the discretion of the Rector. Larger payments may be made with the agreement of the standing committee. Fund for the relief of hardship using funds donated to the PCC.

The Swan Street Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained from rental income for future use by the PCC for major repairs to the Swan Street property.

Choir & Music Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained by the PCC from income from fees received for the provision of choirs at services.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

7. GENERAL FUND

Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc.	Donations from PCC	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£
HOME				
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		42	42	25
Brave Trust				240
Children Society	272		272	218
Salvation Army (note 1)	40		40	218
Ashwell URC (note 2)	222		222	
Moggerhanger Hospice (note 2)	145		145	
Wellbing Hub	29		29	
Mothers Union (note 2)	113		113	
Life Boats (note 2)				243
Alzheimer's Society ((note 2)				170
Alzheimer's Research UK ((note 2)				263
Garden House Hospice (note 2)				683
Royal British Legion (Ashwell Branch)				611
Sepsis (note 2)				38
Cats Protection League (note 2)				61
Dementia UK (note 2)				255
British Heart Foundation (note 2)				58
Hertfordshire Air Ambulance (note 2)				58
Jimmy's				327
	821	42	863	3,250
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante	120		120	75
Embrace the Middle East	203		203	0
Amnesty International (note 2)	315		315	0
Bishops Harvest Appeal	791		791	737
Christian Aid (note 3)		100	100	0
	1,429	100	1,529	812
TOTAL	2,250	142	2,392	4,062

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collects donations in the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Donation from collection at funeral and memorial services made at the request of the relatives of the deceased

Note 3 Donations from the income from the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

8 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2025

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Parish Church Room £	Development Music Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Gift Aid donations							
Tax recovered	3,664		1,062				4,726
Donations & grants	6,054			4,000	4,111		14,166
Legacies							
Income from Lettings				1,780			1,780
Teas	2,905						2,905
Music Festival	693						693
Other events & sales	3,767						3,767
Interest							
	17,083		1,062	5,780	4,111		28,037
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	21,983				20,080		42,063
Professional fees	8,507						8,507
Running Costs				6,373			6,373
Donation							
Purchase of goods for resale							
Bank Charges	102						102
	30,592		0	6,373	20,080		57,045
NET RESOURCES	(13,509)		1,062	(592)	(15,969)		(29,008)
Withdrawal							
Unrealised gains/(losses)							
Inter fund transfers				3,092	2,792		5,884
	(13,509)		1,062	2,500	(13,176)		(23,124)
BALANCE SHEET							
Freehold Property				85,000			85,000
Bank current account							
DBOF deposits							
FUND BALANCE				85,000			85,000
Net movement	(13,509)		1,062	2,500	(13,176)		(23,124)
Balance b/fwd	29,253	4,883	127,308	86,500	13,476	3,838	265,260
Balance c/fwd	15,744	4,883	128,370	89,000	300	3,838	242,136

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

9 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities.

Development Music Fund

To provide funds for the development of provision of music to support Parish Worship.

The Endowment Funds comprise the following funds:-

Salvage Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

10 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC				
Parish Room		85,000		85,000
Equipment				
Tangible fixed assets - investment				
8 Swan Street		194,434		194,434
Investments				
Sale Bequest		6,304		6,567
Floodlight Fund		8,259		11,196
		293,998		297,197
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short term deposits	General funds			
	Other funds	1,117		1,056
Cash at bank and in hand	General funds	73,438		60,838
	Other funds	221,514		202,472
		296,069		264,366
CURRENT ASSETS		296,069		264,366
NET ASSETS		590,067		561,563
FUNDS				
Unrestricted		327,975		273,312
Restricted		242,299		265,260
Endowment		19,793		22,992
		590,067		561,563

Independent Examiners Report