



**Annual Parish Meeting
To elect Churchwardens**

Sunday 10 May 2026

11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 11 May 2025
4. Matters Arising
5. Election of Churchwardens
6. Any other business

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens

Sunday 11 May 2025

Present: Revd Canon James Shakespeare (Vicar, Chair)
Revd Ceri Payne (Associate Vicar)
Liz Hurst (PCC Secretary)
Julia Margretts (Churchwarden)
Joseph Philip (Churchwarden)

38 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.46 am with prayers from James.

1. Apologies:

Catriona Ball, Roger Lilley, Susan Philip, Chris Plunkett-West, Duncan Richards, Fiona Richards, Joseph Saunders, Liz Tavner, Peter Tavner, Jacqui Watkins.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 19 May 2024:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.

3. **Matters arising:** none

4. Election of Churchwardens

James expressed tremendous thanks to the two retiring Churchwardens, Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip and presented them each with a gift. Julia was also thanked for her work as volunteer church administrator, which would continue for another couple of months.

Julia reassured everyone that there would be a stable transition period as things were handed on to new Churchwardens, and Joseph said he would continue with his other roles in the church. He particularly thanked Julia and Michael Fincham for their support to him as Churchwarden.

James also thanked the whole team, including the Duty Wardens.

Two Churchwarden nominees were proposed:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Miles Baillie	Julia Margretts	Michael Fincham
Elizabeth (Liz) Radice	June Huntsman	Dawn Ridley

Both were unanimously elected and James thanked them for taking up this role.

5. **Any other business:** none.

The meeting closed with the grace at 11.53 am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 10 May 2026

11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting, Sunday 11 May 2025
3. Matters Arising
4. Vicar's Report [page 8](#)
5. Presentation of other Statutory Reports:
 - a. Electoral Roll [page 9](#)
 - b. Report of PCC meetings [page 9](#)
 - c. Treasurer's Report, and St John's Financial Statement for 2025 [page 10](#) [page 23](#)
 - d. Churchwardens' Report [page 11](#)
 - e. Safeguarding [page 13](#)
 - f. Deanery Synod [page 15](#)
6. Presentation of other Reports
 - a. Associate Vicar [page 15](#)
 - b. Homerton College Charter Choir [page 16](#)
 - c. Children's Church [page 16](#)
 - d. Toddle Along [page 16](#)
 - e. St John's Church Choir [page 17](#)
 - f. Facilities [page 18](#)
 - g. Community Lunch [page 18](#)
 - h. Gardens [page 19](#)
 - i. Mission Committee [page 19](#)
 - j. Parish Communication [page 20](#)
 - k. Activity Groups: Book Group, Men's Group, Walking Group [page 21](#)
 - l. Fairtrade [page 22](#)
7. Elections
 - a. Election of lay representative to Deanery Synod
 - b. Election of lay members to the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Sidespeople – for appointment by the PCC
 - d. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Any other business

Closing prayers



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 11 May 2025

Present: Revd Canon James Shakespeare (Vicar, Chair)
Revd Ceri Payne (Associate Vicar)
Liz Hurst (PCC Secretary)
Miles Baillie (Churchwarden)
Liz Radice (Churchwarden)

38 Parishioners

The APCM began at 11.55 am directly following the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens.

James opened the meeting with prayers.

- 1. Apologies:** Catriona Ball, Roger Lilley, Susan Philip, Chris Plunkett-West, Duncan Richards, Fiona Richards, Joseph Saunders, Liz Tavner, Peter Tavner, Jacqui Watkins.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 19 May 2024:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
- 3. Matters arising:** none.

4. Vicar's Report

James drew attention to parts of his written report, particularly those about changes in the ministry team, saying farewell to Revd Nell Whiscombe and welcoming Revd Ceri Payne, and the new Chaplaincy arrangements for the Charter Choir of Homerton College. He thanked the wider ministry team including Kate Aylmer, Revd John Hillier, Jane Gardiner, Anne Rigby, Suzanne Barton, Sian Binley, Dan Krawczyk and Revd Dr Muthuraj Swamy.

He also thanked Elizabeth Trenchard, Director of Music, and said the choir continues to thrive. He thanked Michael Fincham for his work as caretaker and Liz Hurst for her work as Communications Officer. He also thanked Roger Lilley as Treasurer and Janet Tankard for her wonderful work as PCC Secretary.

Highlights during 2024-2025, alongside the major festivals, had been the Eco-Festival, concerts, home groups, courses including for the admission of baptised children to Communion and the youth Confirmation course, plus outreach to schools, mission links and Children's Church.

He thanked everyone for all they do as part of the church.

5. Associate Vicar's Report

Ceri referred to her written report. Questions were invited but there were none.

6. Presentation of Reports

a. Electoral Roll Report

This year the Electoral Roll was completely renewed, as required every 6 years. There are now 140 on the roll, of whom 59% are resident in the parish. The roll remains open to join.

Although this is a drop in numbers, this is to be expected over a 6 year period, with several people having died and some moving away. Cherry felt that the roll is now more accurately representative of St John's. Ceri pointed out that the number of people on the E-news circulation list exceeded those on the roll. Roll numbers do not affect our financial obligations to the Diocese.

b. Report of PCC Meetings

Liz referred to her written report. She thanked Janet for showing the way with the PCC Secretary role and asked people to bear with her as she settles in to it.

c. Safeguarding Report

Questions were invited on Jacqui's written report. There were none. James expressed thanks to her for taking on this important role.

d. Treasurer's Report

James referred to Roger's written report and the accounts, which had been approved by the PCC. He thanked Michael Fincham for his work on managing bookings for the Church and Centre, which were not only part of our outreach but also generated income.

Ceri explained that it helps with administration if people give through the Parish Giving scheme and for that reason we encourage people to use it. We are, of course, extremely grateful whatever method people choose to use. Joseph said a letter or email was about to go out to everyone currently using standing orders, inviting them to consider switching to Parish Giving. He said he is happy to carry on processing Gift Aid donations as long as this is needed.

It was asked whether there is still an annual Gift Day. James said there is, during October, although sometimes it is a challenge to get the paperwork out early. The Gift Day is a good time to think more generally about stewardship.

James thanked Roger as Treasurer, and Joseph as Gift Aid Officer.

d.1 Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed by the meeting that Professor Martin Dove be asked to continue as Independent Examiner of the accounts in the coming year, if he is happy to do so.

e. Churchwardens' Report

From her written report, Julia highlighted the new PCC committee structure with the Executive, Employment, Mission, Site Management and Standing committees. The Site Management committee was addressing some long term issues, including ordering new flexible bollards for the car park. Membership of the committees was not only for PCC members and anyone with relevant interest or expertise would be welcome to come forward. It was clarified that children and youth work came under the Executive committee.

It was agreed to circulate the new committee structure, showing the remit of each committee, with E-news.

f. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report

James reported on clergy vacancies in the Deanery, many of which were now filled. There were no questions.

g. Annual Activity Reports

James referred people to the written report covering a wide range of church activities.

Arising out of this:

- Liz invited feedback on the church's communications and encouraged anyone who used social media to interact with the church's posts.
- Ceri encouraged people to come along to the Charter Choir Evensong on Tuesdays in term time. It was a lovely service but few attended.

There followed a discussion about whether there were any plans to re-introduce the Church Magazine. Much more information, for example sermons, was now on the website and, for those not online, paper copies of E-news were provided each week at the back of church. It was recognised that the magazine filled a gap for a non-digital audience but the main issue was finding the volunteer capacity and commitment to regularly generate, edit and produce a magazine. Cost also needed to be considered.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the PCC for consideration.

6. Elections

a. Deanery Synod Representatives

Amanda Taylor agreed to continue as our lay representative on Deanery Synod.

b. PCC Members

The following were appointed unanimously to the PCC:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Stuart Banbury	Jane Gardiner	Sian Binley
Michael Brown	Stuart Banbury	Don Simpson
Jonathan Pott	Alastair Wilkinson	Joseph Philip
Tabitha Smith	Elizabeth Dignum	Catriona Ball

James thanked all of the above for being willing to join the PCC. Its next meeting will take place on 2nd July 2025.

c. Sidespersons

All current Duty Wardens and Sidespersons were reappointed and James thanked them for their work.

Harmony Hiew was added to the Sidespersons rota.

7. Any Other Business

Alastair thanked James for his inspiring leadership and teaching. In turn, James thanked colleagues who would be covering during his forthcoming sabbatical, and in particular Ceri for all she is contributing to St John's.

James closed the meeting with prayers at 12.35pm.



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

Annual Report 2025-2026

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 10 May 2026

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

St John the Evangelist Vicar's Report, 2025-2026

2 025-2026 has been another full year in the life, mission and ministry of St John's Church, Cambridge, as we seek to be a '*transforming Christian presence*' in south Cambridge, witnessing to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and serving our neighbours.

I continued as incumbent, for an eighth year, supported by the Revd Ceri Payne, our Associate Vicar and Homerton College Charter Choir Chaplain. Revd Dr Peter Heslam continued to lead our fortnightly Wednesday evening online small group and looks forward to being resident again in our parish, as well as continuing to lead 'Faith in Business'. Revd Dr Muthuraj Swamy remained as Associate Priest. He was present – as representative of Anglican Communion Office – at Canterbury Cathedral for the installation of new Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally. Finally, Revd John Hillier, with Permission to Officiate, continues to minister faithfully, in retirement.

Otherwise, our lay ministry team continued to thrive. Anne Rigby oversees our monthly Community Lunch, and leads the weekly pre-school Toddle Along, which benefits so many families. Kate Aylmer, among other pastoral roles, co-leads our Tuesday morning small group, as well as pains-takingly organising our readers and intercessors' rota. Jane Gardiner preaches and officiates regularly, alongside her chaplaincy work at Addenbrooke's, and now being a trained spiritual director. Suzanne Barton, alongside a busy teaching career, and member of St John's Choir, regularly leads All Age worship.

As for ordinands, this year we bade farewell to Daniel Krawczyk, who was ordained deacon in Norwich Cathedral and is now serving as curate at North Walsham. In the autumn we welcomed two new ordinands from Westcott House, Edoardo Fanfani – who is from the Diocese in Europe, and is a citizen of Rome – and Sarah Fagg, from the Diocese of London. Sian Binley is in her final year of ordination training, with E.R.M.C., and will be ordained at Ely Cathedral this summer, to serve her curacy in the Anglesey Group. It has been a great blessing having Sian ministering amongst us, these past 3+ years, in training, as well as our other Westcott ordinands.

I am grateful to our parish and to the Diocese for allowing me to experience a welcome, renewing and inspiring 3-month sabbatical (study leave) during 2025. This included a group pilgrimage to Assisi, home of St Francis; a retreat with the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield (West Yorkshire); a study break at Cuddesdon Theological College (outside Oxford) and at the Royal Katherine Foundation, East London. I also visited a number of cathedrals, including York, Canterbury, Norwich and Ely; and spent time in Rome on my way to a family break in Amalfi, Italy. 26 years into full-time ministry, this experience has been deeply transforming.

Our worship and teaching-cum-small group activities at St John's continued to be a blessing, offering a rich spiritual diet of wisdom and inspiration. St John's Choir, as reported elsewhere, and ably led by Elizabeth Trenchard, who recently marked a milestone of 25 years in post, continued to thrive, including good numbers of Trebles. Children's Church continued to grow, with our experienced leaders joined by several new team members; and St John's Youth Group returned to more regular sessions, led by James, with assistance from our ordinands. It was a blessing, in 2025, to lead a Youth Confirmation course, culminating at a Deanery Confirmation at St Bene't's Cambridge, with Bishop Dagmar.

St John's Eco Fest, in September 2025, was a great success, generously organised by Erica Lowry, who sadly passed away just before Christmas after a heroic struggle with cancer. Erica's vision, hard work and leadership will be much missed, and a moving memorial service was held for her in March, celebrating her many talents. We also benefitted from an inspiring Eco lecture, around the time of the COP30 Conference, led by Dr Jo Depledge and Prof Michael Grubb.

Finally, St John's Church and Centre continued to attract a marvellous array of concerts, festivals, group bookings and other activities, supported with great dedication by our Facilities Manager, Michael Fincham.

It really is a lively centre of our local community, as well as a centre for Christian witness and outreach. Homerton's Charter Choir remained a steady fixture, in term-time, supported by Revd Ceri Payne, and their Director of Music, Dr Daniel Trocme-Latter.

At our APCM in 2025 our two Churchwardens, Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip, stepped down - although they remain generously embedded in supporting our Parish Office. And we elected two new Churchwardens, Liz Radice and Miles Baillie, both of whom have marvellously risen to the challenge of leadership, providing great support, alongside of the clergy, lay ministry team, Choir, Roger Lilley our Treasurer, and our many other volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone!

*Revd Canon James Shakespeare
Vicar, St John the Evangelist Cambridge*

Electoral Roll Report 2025-2026

During the last year, the Roll has lost three members: two (Erica Lowry and Marjorie Jackson) have died, and a third has moved away. Eight new members have been added, and the total number on the Roll now stands at 145. Of these, approximately 57% are resident within the parish.

Cherry Hopkins, Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC meetings 2025-26

The PCC is made up of clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Its principal function is 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission and its members are trustees of the charity.

St John's PCC membership, 2025 – 2026

Ex-officio

James Shakespeare	Vicar
Ceri Payne	Associate Vicar
Miles Baillie	Churchwarden
Elizabeth Radice	Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Representative

Amanda Taylor	2024 to 2027
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Co-opted / Invited Members

Jane Gardiner	Licensed Lay Minister
Revd John Hillier	Clergy with PTO
Roger Lilley	Treasurer
Elizabeth Trenchard	Director of Music

Elected PCC Members

Stuart Banbury	2025 to 2028
Michael Brown	2025 to 2028
Brian Heap	2023 to 2026
Hilary Pennington	2023 to 2026
Jonathan Pott	2025 to 2028
Joseph Saunders	2023 to 2026
Tessa Segaren	2024 to 2027
Don Simpson	2023 to 2026
Tabitha Smith	2025 to 2028
Jacqueline Watkins	2023 to 2026
Alastair Wilkinson	2023 to 2026

The PCC has met six times since the APCM in May 2025. The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the noticeboard in the lobby in advance. Do take a look and raise any questions with the churchwardens or clergy. The minutes of meetings are also displayed there, once available.

Regular matters on the agenda include reports on ministry, church building and financial matters. There are always specific reports on safeguarding and health and safety, as well as on the deanery and diocese. The PCC also discusses one-off items and this year these have included the parish magazine, various policies and procedures, and energy supply planning.

Six lay members of the PCC come to the end of their term of office this year. We are extremely grateful to them for all the expertise and time they have given to support our church life.

We are currently entitled to twelve elected members on the PCC, so have seven vacancies for members to be elected at the APCM on 10 May 2026. We are also entitled to one additional deanery synod representative, although we are already well represented on the synod by our existing representative, Amanda Taylor, our Vicar as Rural Dean, and our Treasurer who is also Deanery Treasurer.

*Liz Hurst
PCC Secretary*

Treasurer's Report 2025

A very big thank you to the increasing number of those who are managing the bank account, invoices and payments for the church. This has made the processing faster as well as providing increased oversight of income and expenditure. Thank you also to all those who continue to handle money, such as collections, so carefully that I rarely have any questions to ask.

Finally, a thank you to those who keep track of the payments we receive by card; such payments are very welcome and have greatly increased over the last few years, but require an additional level of record keeping which falls on those manning our office.

2025 was a year that ended with a significant deficit, almost £16,000, but could have been so much worse had not the congregation of St John's responded in its typically resilient and generous manner when we were faced with major repairs to our gas supply in the autumn. The total cost of around £23,000 was covered by donations in a matter of weeks and enabled the church to continue functioning as the weather got colder.

However, the deficit tells the story of a church where we are losing the battle with inflation and need to take urgent action now if we are to both avoid ongoing financial shortfalls as well as plan for inevitable major expenditure ahead.

Regular congregational giving on a monthly basis, either through the Parish Giving Scheme, or direct to the church, is our key source of income and has remained static over at least the last two years. Meanwhile our contribution to the wider church, our energy bills, salaries, have all increased at the rate of around 4% per year. This is the main underlying reason for our deficit.

In addition we have to find funds for essential repairs. You have shown your generosity as a congregation more than once recently but the PCC may find it increasingly difficult to ask for such funding on an ad hoc basis in the future.

There is also the looming need for a major overhaul of our aged heating system at a time when we are under great pressure to move to an environmentally sustainable alternative.

If we are going to be able to face all these issues, there is an urgent need to devise a fundraising strategy that will provide for the short, medium and long term needs of the parish. We need a major increase in regular giving from our congregation in the order of at least 10%, just to keep pace with inflation. We need to ensure that we can raise funds for essential repairs as they are required without the need to draw on our core income. Finally we must quantify how much we need to raise for a major overhaul of our energy supply to protect against future failure as well as to fulfil our environmental responsibilities.

Such a strategy is not in place yet, as I write this in April.

We have been granted a small reprieve in the unexpected recent payout from our insurers for the repairs to the gas supply. This is a one-off bonus that may help us break even at the end of this year, 2026, but will only mask the growth of the underlying deficit unless something is done in the meantime.

Such is the challenge that faces the new PCC as they take the reins in 2026!

So I present this check list to you all:

- Have you revised your regular giving to St John's in line with inflation or are you still giving the same as you were, perhaps, five or ten years ago?
- Could you move your means of donation to the Parish Giving Scheme if you wanted, making our job of collecting Gift Aid much less onerous and far more efficient?
- Have you thought about how you could impact the life of St John's by creating a legacy in your will?

As always, I am happy to talk about any of these matters with individual members of the congregation.

Roger Lilley
Treasurer

Churchwardens' Report 2025-2026

This year saw new Churchwardens coming into office: we are most grateful to Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip for all that they have done in the role (and indeed the considerable amount they both continue to do) – also for giving their time and skills so generously and for their patience during the handover.

In many ways 2025-26 has been good for St John's. We have had strong congregational attendance throughout the year, with packed-out big services like the Carol Service and Remembrance Sunday, while the calendar of concerts and other events has also been extremely full, especially over the December period. We are most grateful to Michael Fincham for all he continues to do to handle our bookings, to make sure hirers have what they need from us and to make them feel welcome.

Nonetheless it has also been a year in which serious concerns are emerging, deriving from our weak financial position, which is impacting worryingly on our ability to keep up with essential maintenance (see below), and planning our energy strategy for the years ahead in view of our 'Net Zero' commitment. The congregation rose marvelously to an emergency appeal around our last October Gift Day, but it would make a great difference to have an energetic focus on fundraising now.

Gas Pipe Emergency

On 2 September Michael Fincham reported that replacing the old meter with a smart one had revealed a leak in our gas supply, which meant the gas had to be cut off and we were issued with a 'Do Not Use' notice. There followed two anxious months before we were able to ask Labrum Engineering to carry out the replacement work (beginning on 22 October). Michael is to be warmly thanked for his success in finding not only an appropriate firm but one whose charges were described by our insurers as 'very reasonable'.

We thank our wonderful congregation too, for their great generosity in the way they responded to our emergency appeal for funds for that purpose on Gift Day. As a result of what they gave we were able to proceed with the work within about a fortnight of the go-ahead coming through from Ely Diocese.

The experience has focused our thinking on what life at St John's might be like should our elderly gas boilers fail, and what measures (if any) we should take to anticipate such an event. This is complicated by the fact that our current electricity supply is "single phase" (more suited to a house than a large building) and therefore could not power heaters in both the church and Centre, even temporarily.

Health and Safety (H & S)

We have reviewed and revised both the Health and Safety policy and the Emergency Fire Procedures. These last have included training, a review of escape routes and more formal guidance for Fire Officers and Stewards, and we are most grateful to the Duty Wardens and Sidespeople for undertaking these roles in services when they are on duty. We held a fire practice during the 10am service on 26 October, with the site evacuated in 1 minute 45 seconds. Chris from Camfire (now TVF), supplied a wet chemical extinguisher to add to our provision in the kitchen and serviced all our extinguishers on 12 January.

Other H&S maintenance since May 2025 included:

- Freeing the door from the Vicar's Vestry to the outside, so that this is now available as a fire exit at the East end of the church (15 September).
- Remedial work in the Vicar's Vestry by D S Electrical, as identified by UK Safety Management during the full fixed wire testing in February (10 April).
- PAT testing completed (UK Safety Mgt) (5 November).
- The extractor fan filters and three ovens in the Wilkinson Room kitchen were cleaned, the filters by Michael Fincham (17 November) and the ovens by Ovenu (16 December). On 9 December Malco came to quote for cleaning the extractor fan ducts, but said it was already 'spotless' and didn't need doing.
- Towards the end of 2025, Alan Marshall, who has serviced our gas boilers for a long time, most unfortunately found himself unable to continue, so this work passed to Nick and Dave from Gas 365. They serviced all our gas appliances, including the kitchen boiler, the Centre boilers, the church boiler and the instant water heater (20 January).
- Steven Ridley (Cam Handyman) re-sited the manhole cover in the car park which was presenting a trip hazard above the surrounding tarmac (4 February).

Michael Fincham has continued to carry out regular monthly checks on the:

- Smoke alarms
- Fire Extinguishers
- Emergency lighting
- Carbon dioxide detectors

We are most grateful to him for this monitoring and for organising necessary maintenance work.

First Aid

Christine Kerr and Nat Segaren have very kindly undertaken the role of First Aid officers, and it has been good to know that one of them was in attendance at the very heavily attended services. Our first aid boxes have been replaced or restocked periodically through the year. There are now first aid boxes in the Wilkinson Room kitchen, the corridor to the toilets, the upstairs kitchen by the office, and the Vicar's Vestry.

Site Management Committee

The Site Management Committee meets quarterly. Before each meeting two members go round the site checking for H&S hazards and for other maintenance work that we can see needs doing – we try to ensure it is not the same two people each time, since different eyes see different things.

In addition, the Committee Chair and the Caretaker will from June carry out a similar quarterly inspection programme themselves.

H & S Concerns

There is a concern over how best to replace lightbulbs that are high up in the church, towards the roof. This needs such a long ladder that moving it from one bulb to the next without it swinging out of control is more difficult than is really safe. We are looking into possible alternatives – any suggestions would be extremely welcome.

Major Building Works

Response to the Quinquennial Report:

In May 2025 our expectation was that the first phase of work in response to the report would happen last summer, carried out by Lodge and Sons. This would have needed scaffolding and included treating and repainting the gutters and rainwater goods, checking the roof for possible leaks and investigating the soakaway drains along the north side to see if there is a blockage or silting up. They would also have repointed some of the brickwork, at a total price for the north side only (in January 2024) of £18,762.65 (presumably plus VAT). Unfortunately, they had serious staffing problems and proved unable in the end to commit to doing any work for us last year, despite a number of promises. We therefore asked English Building and Restoration to do as much of the Quinquennial work as they could, in particular the repointing repairs which had to be done with lime mortar – something relatively few builders offer. This work was done from 23 to 27 February, for £4,940. In addition, Lander & Linsey have done repairs to the porch roof, gutters, broken tiles etc such as they could reach without a scaffold.

Work outstanding and waiting until we have more funds thus includes:

- investigating the drainage on the north side
- refurbishing the guttering generally.

In January 2024 Lodge's quote for the scaffolding came to £27,341.02 (presumably plus VAT) in total; that for the West side was markedly cheaper than for the other three, that for the Chancel, the most expensive.

In addition (not connected to the Quinquennial Review) outstanding maintenance work includes particularly:

- Removing the moss from the roofs. Moss needs removing because it can threaten the drainage. This also would require scaffolding. Two builders came to quote. Neither produced anything in writing but one gave an oral suggestion of £30,000, so that too is on hold.
- Repainting the outside windows on the South side of the Wilkinson Room, as indicated in last year's APCM report. At the time of writing this is awaiting approval to proceed from the PCC.

Organ: As usual, the organ has been tuned three times this year by Norman Hall and Sons, most recently just before Easter.

Garden: The church gardens continue to be most attractively kept by Clare Donovan and her team. They give great pleasure and we are grateful to everyone who contributes to keeping them looking so good.

Miles Baillie and Liz Radice
Churchwardens

Safeguarding Report – 2025-2026

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Church of England's Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Church Representation Rules: Part 9, Section A, APCM, M5(3) Business; reports etc,

Importance of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development.

Proverbs 31v 8 says:

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise our calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised, protecting all from abuse.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

This time last year, St John's Church's safeguarding dashboard showed that we were compliant with 97% of mandatory safeguarding actions. Although we reached 100% compliance during the year, new expectations have come into force which mean we are currently 97% compliant.

Over the past year, the PCC has:

- Re-read, and indicated their understanding of, the C of E Code of Safer Working Practices & Safer Environments.
- Re-approved the recommended 'Responding to Allegations and Concerns' policy.
- Approved safeguarding action plans.
- Approved Behaviour Policies recommended by the Ely Diocese.
- Approved the lists of Church and non-church activities.
- Discussed how to encourage those in leadership to better promote the welfare of vulnerable groups.

Safer Recruitment

Over the past year, I have focused on ensuring that safeguarding procedures – DBS checks, references and requisite safeguarding training - for volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults are carried out in a timely manner. An induction pack for new volunteers has been created; this includes:

- Job description
- Induction checklist (including details of supervision)
- Code of Safer Working Practices
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safeguarding Training information
- Social Media Guidance
- Health & Safety Policy

Safeguarding Policies

We continue to have Safeguarding as a standing agenda item for all PCC meetings and regular safeguarding reports have been made to the PCC.

Safeguarding Training

I ran Basic and Foundation safeguarding training courses for PCC members who were not able to complete the training on-line. All members of the PCC are up to date with their training.

In January 2025, the Church of England directed that all volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults should complete Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. I ran this training in January 2026 for those who had not completed the training on-line.

A Safe and Protective Environment

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not because 'we have to', but because we care.

Mark 12:30-31 says:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Jacqui Watkins

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Cambridge South Deanery Synod Report 2025-2026

I continued to service as Rural Dean, as well as the Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality. There were several vacancies and new appointments to benefices in our South Cambridge Deanery, including St Barnabas, Mill Road, and St Mary & St Michael, Trumpington. Our neighbouring 'Three Saints' parish of St James, Wulfstan Way remains vacant, following the departure of Revd Steven Rothwell, to take up a full-time post of Clergy Development Officer for our Diocese.

Diocese-wide, as is well known, a new Bishop was appointed for Ely, the Rt Revd Sarah Clarke, presently Bishop of Jarrow and Acting Bishop of Durham, and we much look forward to her installation at Ely Cathedral, in the summer of 2026. Furthermore, our present Acting Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Dagmar Winter, has been appointed as Bishop of Edinburgh, in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and is set to be licensed there in late May 2026. Dagmar has contributed massively to our Diocese, and she will be much missed. It is of course also a blessing, as noted in James' report, to welcome the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, as our new Archbishop of Canterbury, as of 25 March.

Revd Canon James Shakespeare
Rural Dean

Associate Vicar's report

With the vicar on sabbatical in February, June and July, 2025 was a particularly busy year for me as Associate Vicar. I have been very grateful for the tremendous support from all our Churchwardens, both from Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip as the outgoing Churchwardens, and from Miles Baillie and Liz Radice as our new Churchwardens, and for the wise advice of our ministry team.

Since 2025 marked the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed being adopted, our annual group for inquirers took the Christian faith as set out in the Nicene Creed as a framework for considering questions about faith, the Church, and the Bible. Three out of the four people who attended one or more sessions decided to be baptised.

In the summer of 2025 we baptised three babies, using a new format for baptism preparation. In addition to meeting families individually, all three families and their babies met together to share the experience of preparing for their babies' baptisms and to be encouraged by one another.

Enabling families to remember their loved ones in thanksgiving services is always a privilege, and there have been a few such services in the past year. I was also delighted to help two of our Choir members, Chris and Suzanne Holmes, to joyfully celebrate their marriage in St John's, with wonderful music from the Choir.

Together with our Three Saints partners at St Andrew's Church, Cherry Hinton and St James' Church, we offer monthly communion services in the residents' lounge of the Heathlands care home. With excellent support from June Huntsman, Revd John Hillier and Anne Rigby, we are gradually building relationships with the residents and the staff and are witnessing the creation of a worshipping community. In August, with special permission from Acting Bishop Dagmar, we were delighted to be able to have a service of baptism in the residents' lounge for one of the residents, with the regular worshipping community being joined for this service by several generations of her family. The offer to cover additional services whilst St James' Church is in an interregnum has been much appreciated.

The churchwardens and congregation at St Mary and St Michael, Trumpington, have also appreciated the generosity of St John's in allowing me to cover several of their services, including Midnight Mass, whilst the previous vicar has been on sabbatical and, latterly, during their interregnum.

Revd Ceri Payne
Associate Vicar

Homerton College Charter Choir

Homerton College's Charter Choir continues to go from strength to strength, and the new Organ Scholar has made an excellent start to his time in Cambridge. The Charter Choir and both Organ Scholars rose magnificently to the challenge of singing with several different guest conductors during the Lent term, whilst Director of Music Dr Daniel Trocme-Latter took a research sabbatical.

The Charter Choir sings Evensong at 6.30pm on most Tuesday evenings during the University term. In addition, the Charter Choir gave us a beautiful rendition of Gabriel Faure's Requiem Mass at a Remembrance Eucharist (which they reprised at St Margaret Patten in the City of London on a subsequent Saturday evening), as well as offering a mass setting with a jazz feel, arranged and played by former Charter Choir member Nat Jobbins, for the St John's Ash Wednesday Eucharist. The Charter Choir regularly sings new music, and in April the Charter Choir is recording music at Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden, including a new piece by Daniel Trocme-Latter which was premiered at St John's in March.

The regular music recitals in Homerton College's Great Hall at 1.20pm on Monday evenings during University term are a delightful way to spend 30 minutes in the company of the College's very talented musicians and singers.

As I aim to become a more familiar presence around the College, I am also enjoying getting to know the fellows and other members of staff at Homerton.

Revd Ceri Payne, Chaplain to the Charter Choir

Children's Church

We have been thankful that God has answered our prayers that the Children's Church team would be joined by some new people. Team leaders Mel Boyle and Philip Wood have been joined by Kate Dove and Flavia Mancini; Nat Segaren continues to help when he can; and we are very grateful for the assistance given by Jenny Zhang, Revd John Hillier, June Hunstman, and Beth Christie.

The strengthening of the team means that for two Sundays in the month the children can now be in two parallel sessions. On the third Sunday in the month, the oldest ones meet in the Cavendish Room with two of the team. Once a month, on either the second or the fourth Sunday, we divide up the Wilkinson Room so that Flavia Mancini and another team member can lead a teaching session tailored towards the needs of the younger ones, incorporating puppets and story-in-a-box resources, whilst the older ones have teaching more appropriate to their age with two other team members.

In addition to the regular Epiphany party, the children have also greatly enjoyed going on a punting trip in the summer and a trip to Go Ape in Thetford Forest in the autumn.

Revd Ceri Payne

Toddle Along

Toddle Along continues as a friendly, relaxed group for mums, dad's, grandparents and children ranging from babies to 4 years. Our little weekly service consists of song and stories.

Our themes this past year have been: *Children in the Bible; Heroes in the Bible; Stories Jesus told and Life's little lessons.*

I extend my thanks to James and Ceri who attend the session in turn and to the lovely ladies who provide the refreshments. This year we have Bridget, Gill and Cathy added to our team. I thank them and Katie and Liz who continue to help. My thanks go also to Monica who continues to provide wonderful crafts for the children. I pray for the continued success of this group.

Anne Rigby, ALM (Pastoral Care)

St John's Church Choir

St John's church choir had a fantastic year in 2025. We sang at many community events and supported the worship of other churches in addition to leading the music at St John's.

We are delighted to build on our chorister recruitment campaign and currently have eleven under 18s singing on both the treble and tenor lines. Having the new children in the choir has boosted our energy and enthusiasm levels. James T was appointed as head chorister. Throughout the year the children have continued to follow the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme. Lottie T achieved the RSCM silver award (one of only two candidates in the Ely Diocese). We have also welcomed back Geoff on the back row.

The choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services. We stretched our repertoire this year by singing more 8 part music (including Stainer's "I saw the Lord") and dedicated a whole month to sacred music by female composers.

Outreach and Community

We hosted our first international visiting choir this year when we sang evensong together with the Skalholt Cathedral choir from Iceland. We were delighted to join our partnership church choirs at St James' for Ascension Day this year. We joined Revd Will Lyon Tupman (former ordinand) to sing choral evensong together as he prepared to complete his curacy at St Mary's, Sawston. We participated in the Diocesan Choir Festival in King's College Chapel where Hannah L read the first lesson and Lottie T was awarded with her RSCM Silver award. We hosted the preliminary rehearsals for this event at St John's. We were glad to host the RSCM chorister exams and welcomed candidates from Kettering, Bury St Edmunds and Leighton Buzzard.

A highlight of the choir year was the privilege of singing at the wedding of Chris and Suzanne. We had a number of social activities, including post evensong socials, and we are grateful to Ceri and Mike for hosting the summer party in their back garden.

We had a particularly busy season of Advent. On Advent Sunday we enjoyed singing an Advent Carol Service with Revd Andrew Hurst at Grantchester parish church. We then sang Christmas Carols at Wimpole Hall to a very appreciative audience, in glorious sunshine. The following weekend we were not quite so lucky when we got thoroughly soaked singing carols on the punts in association with "Let's go punting". We raised over £1,400 for Little Miracles charity. We ended our year with an evening of carol singing around the parish when we brought Christmas cheer to members of the congregation who enjoyed carols sung on their doorstep. All of this in addition to Sunday services sung morning and evening throughout the year at St John's, a Christingle service and a service of Lessons and Carols!!

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and go on to achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to continuing to host and visit our partnership choirs and choirs from the diocese (who may join our rehearsals for Diocesan events) next year.

We are extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year. We are also grateful to our choir chaperones Jacqui, Suzanne B and Catriona who enable and support our work with young children.

We are truly a choir family and we still have room for new members so do come and join us. If you are aged 7 years or older and enjoy singing please give us a try. We rehearse every Thursday evening and we have lots of fun and laughter as well as leading the worship.

Elizabeth Trenchard
Organist and Director of Music

Facilities

At the end of last year's report, I mentioned the first Open Studios that were due to happen last summer. These went ahead and were a huge success with both local artists, Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas and Muriel Dahan, making a large number of sales over the four weekends of July. It brought a lot of visitors to St John's at a time when usual activities begin to wind down. I am pleased to say that Rikki and Muriel will be returning this July for the first, third and fourth weekends. On a similar theme, Denise Schoenberg, who has been teaching watercolour in the Wilkinson Room for many years now, set up an Art Fair at the beginning of November, where a number of local artists set up stalls selling their works. This was also a huge success for the artists, and the Wilkinson Room filled with visitors keenly looking for Christmas presents. I am expecting there will be another Art Fair this November.

Autumn 2025 was dominated for me by the gas saga. At the beginning of September an engineer came to replace our old gas meter with a smart one, a free service offered by our gas supplier, Regent. After he replaced the meter he ran tests which revealed a gas leak downstream from the meter, ie in the part of the supply which is St John's responsibility. We were issued with a DO NOT USE notice for the gas. No gas means no heating and no hot water. I immediately began looking for someone who could advise us on repair of the pipe. This proved challenging, as we knew so little about the pipe: where it ran, how large it was and how old it was. All we really knew was it led from the outside meter cupboard to the boiler room (for the church boiler) and to the cupboard at the back of the Wilkinson Room (for the two boilers that heat the Centre and a fourth boiler that heats the kitchen and toilet block). I contacted a number of local heating engineers who were daunted by the potential size of the job. It became clear at this point that we would need to employ commercial engineers, and this led to a search for a suitable company to do this sort of largescale work. I was also very conscious that the clock was ticking towards colder weather. I was lucky to find a company from Northamptonshire, Labrum Engineering, who, crucially, were able to take on the work at short notice and complete it before the really cold weather returned. It became clear that trying to dig down to find the source of the leak was not pragmatic. The only feasible option was to dig a new trench and lay a new pipe. What a task that was! And very messy too, but Labrum did a wonderful job, put down a new 3" plastic pipe, connected it all up and tested it, filled the trench in and retarmacked. I wouldn't say you'd never know they'd been but they left the site neat and tidy, and once again the heating and hot water was on, just in time as by then it was getting quite cold.

There was some opposition to us replacing the gas pipe as the Church of England has set an ambitious target for churches to reach Net Zero by 2030. Why replace the gas pipe if we're only going to use gas for another few years? We were advised by a Diocese recommended consultant that, expensive as it was, gas was the only way to restore the heating and hot water for the winter. Any plans to reach Net Zero would require considerable planning and decision making, and a lead-in time beyond what we could afford to get the heating back on for the winter. Work has now started on these plans, and I am sure you will be hearing much more about this during 2026.

Michael Fincham, Operations Manager

Community Lunches

The monthly Community Lunch has continued to be a success. On average we cover about 50+ lunches. As always I am grateful to the regular team who make this possible. I extend my thanks to them all. We almost always cover the cost of the food with the £5 per person charge.

We had our challenges this past year caused by the unfortunate gas leak, which left us with just one oven and the microwave, but we still managed to produce lunches for the 2 months of restrictions.

I pray that we will continue to provide food and friendship to the community, with a lovely atmosphere in which to nurture new and old friendships.

Anne Rigby, ALM (Pastoral care)

The Gardens at St John's

Gardening this year has been dominated by the death in December of Erica Lowry, who was the inspiration for the team known as the Landladies. Even as her health diminished, her interest in our activities and developments never waned.

Summer Plant Sale

Erica was still involved in our annual plant sale last May, when we welcomed the congregation and local residents who were attracted by myriad shrubs, vegetable seedlings and annual and perennial flowers, produced largely by members of the congregation. We were fortunate to be the beneficiaries of left-over plants from the Rock Road Library plant sale the previous weekend, for which many thanks. There were many happy customers and £809.54 was raised for church funds.

The 2026 plant sale will be on Sunday 17 May.

Autumn gardening party

Thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who came along on 8 November, we were able to carry out the annual autumn clearance to prepare the garden for winter. We removed lots of leaves, debris, unwanted plants and weeds, and pruned heavily where necessary.

At the time of writing we are preparing for the spring clearance at the end of April.

Pond

Our mini pond is now very much part of the garden and although challenged by surrounding perennials which shed their leaves we manage to keep the water clean and inviting to wildlife. Occasional visits by frogs and newts are very welcome and we hope to encourage more.

Our thanks go to the bird-food team, the mowers, and the gardeners, particularly Clare Donovan for her hard work and initiatives which make the garden so appealing to all who pass through.

Katie Knapton

Mission Committee

This small committee meets three or four times a year to discuss, mostly, issues concerning our overseas mission partners. Our meetings are conducted by Zoom which we continue to find convenient. We are James Shakespeare (Chair), Katie Knapton (Secretary), Dominic Barton, John Hillier, Anne Jarvis and Matthew Wolff.

The PCC has delegated to the Mission Committee the decisions about charities for the congregation's personal support during Lent each year. By tradition one local and one national/international are chosen. The nominated charities in 2025 were Blue Smile and Friends of the Holy Land and in 2026 the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Médecins sans Frontières. In 2026, following the helpful suggestion of Julia Margretts, we dedicated a single Sunday in Lent as giving Sunday, when the total collection from both services was donated to the two charities. This replaced the system of individuals filling their own giving-envelopes throughout Lent and proved highly successful.

Each year at our autumn meeting we review the four charities which are supported by St John's, financially and prayerfully. In September 2025 we agreed unanimously to continue our support for Bethesda and Great Lakes Outreach, both in Burundi, and the Church Mission Society for their CMS-Partner helping persecuted Christians in the Middle East and North Africa (MEENA). Whereas formerly our fourth support was for the WWF, we unanimously agreed to change with effect from January 2026 to Operation Noah, a UK-based charity which inspires the Church to take meaningful action on the climate and nature crises. These four will be reviewed again in autumn 2026.

Collections at Toddle Along help to offset the regular donations sent to Mary's Meals which now comes under the umbrella of the Mission Committee.

This committee also reviews the recipient charities for big service collections and saw no reason this year to change the following:

Remembrance Sunday – Combat Stress and Blind Veterans

Christingle – The Children’s Society

Christmas – Wintercomfort for the Homeless.

Finally, we liaise closely with the Eco-Church group to encourage work towards obtaining the A Rocha Silver Award. A second and very successful Eco-Festival took place in September 2025.

Katie Knapton

Parish Communications

The year 2025-2026 has been another busy time with plenty to communicate both within the St John’s congregation and to the wider community.

For the congregation, the weekly E-news email is our main channel of communication, with printed copies also available in church. We now have 185 people on the emailing list (up from 168 this time last year) and there continues to be a healthy 75% open rate. This year we have also started to circulate the church calendar with E-news, so that everyone is aware of upcoming church-specific dates for St John’s. The weekly printed pewsheets also includes brief notices, with the addition of the Collect and reading references for each Sunday.

To communicate more widely, posters for our major events and services are created and circulated to local poster sites. I am very grateful to Lyn Guy and Geoff Heathcock for their wonderful help with distribution around the parish, not only of our own posters but also, where possible, those for other public events at St John’s. Events are also forwarded to the Queen Edith’s Community Forum weekly email team, so that concerts, events and special services at St John’s are brought to the attention of people who live locally. At Christmas we also produced and distributed a Christmas card, to make sure that households in the parish received an invitation to our Christmas services. A huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped to deliver those.

There have been a number of bigger events this year which have been promoted through press releases and social media. These include the Eco-Festival in September, the COP30 talk in November and the Retrofitting on a Budget event in January, as well as concerts by Sarah Small and Pavlo Petrychenko.

Our website continues to be an efficient and easy to navigate place to show up to date information about St John’s, both for regular attenders and newcomers. This is the first full year of collecting analytical data, and it shows that from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 there were 9.2k active users, and 9.1k new users. We wait to see how that compares with next year.

Social media in the form of Facebook and Instagram – both @stjohnhillsroad - are very helpful ways to connect with relevant interest groups (eg green issues or church music) for bigger stories and events. We now have 194 followers on Facebook (up from 167 last year) and 202 followers on Instagram (up from 127 last year). By far the most popular post on Facebook in 2025-2026 was Elizabeth Trenchard’s 25th anniversary as our Director of Music. Thanks to interest from the Diocese of Ely, RSCM and other music contacts this post achieved an amazing 5,600 views. Our most popular Facebook post last year reached just 557 views.

Do get in touch, via office@stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org, if you would like to suggest ways in which we can further improve our communications.

Liz Hurst

Communications Officer

Activity Groups

Book Group

The St John's Book Group continues to meet, enjoying a sociable evening of friendship and literary discussion approximately once every two months. A typical meeting is attended by about 10 people.

During 2025 the focus was on fiction, with titles ranging from Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge*, to *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, and *The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain. Each of the six books discussed during the year addressed different issues and themes, prompting thoughtful discussion and varied views.

Thanks go to Miles Baillie, who stepped down as organiser during the year. Miles set up the Book Group and remains an active member of the group. Keren Turton has taken over as organiser, supported by Alison Shakespeare.

The group continues to meet and will be marking 2026 – the National Year of Reading – by reading books including *The Old Ways* by Robert MacFarlane, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and *The Lion and Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Keren Turton and Alison Shakespeare

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets roughly once every two months for a variety of social activities. These include pub nights, which in the past have been either at the Rock on Cherry Hinton Road or the Queen Edith, curry nights which have been at the Taj and, occasionally, a cooked breakfast. Each event is advertised in E-news, generally for three weeks before the scheduled date, and everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have not joined us for previous events and/or feel nervous about doing so but would like to give it a try, I would recommend that you join us for one of the pub nights as you can stay for as long or as short a time as you wish. Also, if you would like to suggest alternative activities for future events, particularly if they might appeal to a different demographic and/or a larger number of participants please do come and discuss these with me or send me an e-mail.

Mike Payne
mcp1@cam.ac.uk

Walking Group

Our walking group is a small, committed group led by Cathy Davies and Michael and Angela Fincham. We meet monthly at St John's and head off for morning walks in and around the local area. We aim to incorporate a coffee stop and match the walk distance to the stamina of the group members.

In the past year, we walked at Bartlow, Fen Drayton Lakes, Hildersham, Eddington, Babraham and along the Cam. We always welcome new members. Please make contact and join us to get outside for friendship and exercise.

Cathy Davies

Fairtrade at St John's

We continue to raise funds in a small way for Transform Trade, the Fairtrade charity connected to the former Traidcraft. Our residual stock has mostly been sold, though we renew supplies of Christmas, Easter and greetings cards which sell very successfully.

We took a stall at the second very successful Eco-Fest last September, where the many visitors learned about Fairtrade and were persuaded that it wasn't too early to buy Christmas cards. In the run-up to the Christmas and Easter Festivals we sold cards after the morning service

Without some of the usual helpers we felt unable to hold our usual spring Big Brew Coffee Morning. Nevertheless, St John's continues to be a Fairtrade church, for which the certificate is displayed in the lobby. Our Fairtrade status is currently being renewed, supported by our fundraising for Transport Trade and the use of fairtrade tea and coffee at church events.

Katie Knapton



Financial Statement

For the year ending 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

Approved by the PCC on 4 March 2026

Signed: 

Revd Canon James Shakespeare, Vicar

Independent Examiner: *Professor Martin Dove*

Treasurer: *Roger Lilley*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated



19 March 2026

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025

	Notes	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts		89,273	106,119
Church of England CBF Deposit Account		1,308	1,249
Fairtrade St Johns			754
Debtors	7	2,267	1,542
		92,848	109,663
LIABILITIES:			
Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	8	0	0
		0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS:		92,848	109,663
FUNDS:			
		2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Unrestricted			
General Fund Reserves		32,821	34,362
Traidfair			754
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)			
Choir Fund (r)		5,111	4,547
Future Works Fund (d)		54,916	70,000
Total Restricted & Designated		60,027	74,547
TOTAL FUNDS		92,848	109,663

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

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 Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

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.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable 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 Vicar 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. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2025

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2025 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£

VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:

2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS

Parish Giving Scheme	44,341	0	44,341	46,719	0	46,719
Other regular giving	17,087	0	17,087	22,223	0	22,223
Tax recovered and recoverable	19,334	0	19,334	12,913	0	12,913

Total	80,762	0	80,762	81,855	0	81,855
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2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES

Service cash collections	5,325	0	5,325	7,717	0	7,177
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	24,866	0	24,866	3,767	0	3,767
Legacy and gifts <i>in memoriam</i>	10,157	0	10,157	1,500	0	1,500
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	11,981	0	11,981	8,569	0	8,569
Collections for charity	0	2,265	2,265	0	2,880	2,880

Total	52,329	2,265	54,594	21,553	2,880	24,433
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2c MISSION ACTIVITIES

Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magazine (subs & adv.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other income incl. events	798	0	798	256	0	256

Total	798	0	798	256	0	256
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2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME

Letting income (prev. 2a)	26497	0	26497	25,201	0	25,201
Church use of St John's Centre	2300	0	2300	2,300	0	2,300
Other income (prev. 2a)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total	28797	0	28797	27,501	0	27,501
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2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES

PCC fees	1,083	0	1,083	460	0	460
Service fees	916	0	916	623	0	623
Letting income (church)	9,870	0	9,870	10,594	0	10,594
Interest	29	0	29	32	0	32
Fund raising events	4,268	0	4,268	8,104	0	8,104
Choir Fund	0	594	594	0	284	284
Sundry income	1,136	0	1,136	1,662	0	1,662
Residentials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairtrade St Johns	1,715	0	1,715			

Total	19,017	594	19,611	21,475	284	21,759
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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2025

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2025 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a THE MINISTRY:						
Clergy expenses incl. Travel	3,277	0	3,277	1,908	0	1,908
Total	3,277	0	3,277	1,908	0	1,908
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:						
Property charges (Church)						
Gas (50%)	4,424	0	4,424	4,957	0	4,957
Electricity (20%)	443	0	443	501	0	501
Water (20%)	575	0	575	16	0	16
Insurance (50%)	2,403	0	2,403	2,510	0	2,510
Repairs & maintenance	11,307	0	11,307	8,106	0	8,106
Total	19,152	0	19,152	16,090	0	16,090
Property charges (St John's Centre)*						
Gas (50%)	4424	0	4424	4,957	0	4,957
Electricity (80%)	1772	0	1772	2,004	0	2,004
Water (80%)	2302	0	2302	66	0	66
Insurance (50%)	2403	0	2403	2,510	0	2,510
Repairs and maintenance	3418	0	3418	2,491	0	2,491
Total	14319	0	14319	12,028	0	12,028
Salaries and fees (Church)						
Salaries	13,629	0	13,629	11,535	0	11,535
Choir	334	0	334	272	0	272
Total	13,963	0	13,963	11,807	0	11,807
Salaries (St John's Centre)*						
Salaries	5,678	0	5,678	4,776	0	4,776
Total	5,678	0	5,678	4,776	0	4,776
Service overheads						
Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)	873	0	873	1,279	0	1,279
Youth work incl. Children's Church	0	0	0	407	0	407
Service fees	744	0	744	525	0	525
Organ & piano	375	0	375	375	0	375
Choir Fund	0	30	30	0	65	65
Total	1,992	30	2,022	2,586	65	2,651
Mission overheads						
Youth work incl. Messy Church	0	0	0	0	0	0
Events	2,200	0	2,200	1,822	0	1,822
Other expenses incl. printing	172	0	172	0	0	0
Total	2,372	0	2,372	1,822	0	1,822

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road Cambridge					
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)					
For the year ended 31st December 2025					
7 DEBTORS		2025		2024	
		£		£	
Income tax recoverable (estimated)		2,267		1,542	
Outstanding receipts		0		0	
Total		2,267		1,542	
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
		2025		2024	
		£		£	
Outstanding payments		0		0	
Total		0		0	