

**Parish Report and Review**  
**for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**



**South Downs**  
**Gateway**  
**Churches**

St Mary's  
Twyford

To be presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026, after the  
11am Service in the church

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# South Downs Gateway Churches

Morestead, Owslebury,  
Twyford & Colden Common

Learning, Praying, Serving, Caring



*For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.*

Galatians 3:26-29

## Greetings!

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report and Review for St Mary the Virgin, Twyford.

It is also available in pdf format at <http://www.sdgateway.org.uk/Downloads/>

*George Medd, editor*

# 1. Agenda

## Agenda – Vestry Meeting

for the meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) to be held on  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 12.00 following Morning Service

1. Election of Churchwardens for the ensuing year
2. Re-Appointment of Assistant Churchwarden(s)

## Agenda – Parochial Church Meeting

for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held immediately afterwards.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes.
4. To receive the following Reports from the PCC:
  - a. The Vicar's Review.
  - b. The Churchwardens' Report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.
  - c. The Electoral Roll Officer's Report.
  - d. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC, and of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.
  - e. The Treasurer's Report and approve the independently-examined Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025
5. Elections
  - a. To elect PCC Members (four vacancies).
  - b. To elect two Representatives to the Deanery Synod.
6. Appointments: To appoint an Independent Examiner.
7. Any other business (to be emailed to the Vicar at least seventy-two hours before the meeting).

## 2. Governance

### 2.1. The Vicar's Review

#### Galatians 3:26-29

*For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.*

Dear Friends

As I look back on our shared life across the Benefice this year, my heart is full of gratitude. To every one of you who has offered your time, your prayers, and your steady commitment to our church family: **thank you**. Your kindness and hard work are truly the heartbeat of our mission, and I pray that God's blessings rest on you and yours in the year ahead.

#### **Growing in Faith and Fellowship**

At its core, our church is about coming together in worship. Whether in the quiet, prayerful tradition of our morning services or the joyful energy of our modern gatherings, we strive to be a home for everyone.

#### **The Power of Prayer**

Underpinning all of this is our commitment to prayer. Our three dedicated prayer groups,

**Saturdays in Owslebury, Wednesdays in Twyford, and our Friday online gathering**, are the spiritual foundation of our church life. These groups are where we lift up our community and one another, and I cannot overstate how vital they are to our health as a Benefice. I would warmly encourage everyone to join one of them, whether in person or online, your presence in prayer is a gift to us all.

**Signs of Growth:** It is particularly heartening to see our attendance numbers rising again. Following the 'Covid dip' that affected so many churches, our special services, **Christmas, Easter, and Remembrance**, have seen a wonderful increase in attendance, serving as deeply moving moments of connection for our villages. We are also seeing God move in new ways through our music and families:

- **Voices and Vision:** Our 'Rock' choirs, **Trinity C4** in Colden Common and the new **St Andrew's Voices** in Owslebury, now flourish with over sixty members. They are a wonderful bridge into our wider community and a welcome boost to our resources.
- **Youth and Families:** The **360 children's church** in Twyford continues to thrive with over forty children and parents monthly. In the spirit of **Galatians 3:28**, where we are reminded that "there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus," we are

especially proud of our inclusive, nurturing environment for those with additional needs.

### **Practical Faith in Action**

I am so inspired by the practical ways you've lived out your faith this year:

- **Community Care:** Our Christmas food hampers reached over eighty families, and your continued support for local food banks remains a vital lifeline.
- **Eco-Initiatives:** Owslebury Church has continued to be instrumental in the Eco life of the whole village and is continuing to see success in the village repair café.
- **Sharing Wisdom:** Morestead's annual lecture was a highlight, with Douglas Skeggs sharing fascinating insights into J.M.W Turner.

### **Our Team and Transitions**

**Stefan Wilmot**, as our administrator, has settled in beautifully and made our 'behind the scenes' work much smoother.

I also want to say a huge thank you to the 'engine room' of our Benefice, our **PCCs, churchwardens, and volunteers.**

In truth, it is almost easier to say who I am not thanking rather than who I am, which is no one! You all play such a significant and unique part in the work of the church.

However, I must offer a specific word of thanks to **Ed Rothead, David Owens, Sara Jane Roope, Jane Roots, George Medd, Barbara Crabbe, Belinda Smith, and David Bartholomew** for their tireless support in leading some of our Sunday Services. I also want to highlight **Helen O'Sullivan**, whose wisdom and quiet generosity have been such a constant source of strength.

### **Stewardship and Challenges**

Ministry has its hurdles; church maintenance remains a 'never-ending' task (usually involving the heating packing up at the worst moment!).

Yet, we have much to be thankful for. All four parishes met their **Common Mission Fund** quotas this year. To keep this momentum, I'd encourage you to consider the **Parish Giving Scheme**. It is the most effective way to support our future ministry and helps us plan with confidence.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we journey forward into 2026, we are guided by the promise that we are all "children of God through faith" and "heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:26, 29).

With this in mind, a key focus for the coming year will be exploring together what it truly means to be an Inclusive Church. Our goal is to reflect on how we welcome and value every person, regardless of background, disability, or life story. As we grow in this understanding, my hope is that we will be in a position to formally add our name to the Inclusive Church Register.

Our focus remains clear: to deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and reach out to those in need. We will keep looking for fresh ways to grow as disciples, ensuring our worship stays vibrant, meaningful, and open to absolutely everyone.

May we continue to walk this journey hand-in-hand, seeking God's guidance at every turn.

With every blessing.

*Revd Damon Draisey*

## **2.2. Churchwardens' Report**

We have continued to facilitate regular **Worship** at St Mary's, Twyford, throughout the year. The usual pattern of Services is 11am Sung Eucharist on the first and second Sundays, an 11am Service of the Word on the third Sunday, and participation in the cycle of Benefice Services on the fourth Sunday of the month. Benefice Services were held at St Mary's on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September, which was also our Patronal Festival Service. In months with five Sundays, a Service was held. The 360 Services are held on the second Sunday of the month at 4 30pm with a growing interest and more variation in Worship, as well as their pastoral function.

Our **Services** were all under the leadership of our Incumbent, Damon Draisey, and the Lay Ministry Team of Jonathan Harber, George Medd and David Owens, supported by the Revd Helen O'Sullivan. We thank them all for their commitment and enthusiasm. We also thank most sincerely all those Worshipping Community members who support all our Services as Welcomers, Readers, Intercessors, and coffee makers, led by Shila Lees. Services and Worship would be so much less meaningful without their willing, cheerful and committed help.

Our **Church Music** is provided first and foremost by our regular Organists, Anthony Burns-Cox, Christopher Tolley, and Andrew Smith, supported by our faithfully committed Sunday Robed Choir.

The fine eight **Church Bells** are rung before regular and additional Services as often as possible, and at Weddings and Funerals by arrangement. They are also increasingly popular with visiting bands of Bellringers from around Hampshire and beyond. We thank Angela Forder-Stent, the Tower Captain, Jennie Richardson, the Bellringers Secretary, and our enthusiastic band. The bells, clock and tower are kept in order by Pete Wild, Roy Le Marechal, and Bruce Greig as the Steeple Keeping Team, whom we thank.

Our church buildings are kept clean by our regular cleaner, Amanda Garrett, supported by volunteers on a rota organised by Annie Hibberd. Flowers and window decorations are skilfully arranged by Valerie Roberts and Pauline Payne. We thank them all.

Additional **Special Services** were held in 2025 as follows: 360 Harvest Service on 14<sup>th</sup> September, St Mary's Harvest Festival on 5<sup>th</sup> October, Twyford

Remembrance Day Service on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 360 Christmas Service on 14<sup>th</sup> December, Twyford Carol Service on 21<sup>st</sup> December, Christingle Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December, with a Christmas Day All Ages Holy Communion Service. We thank all those who contributed to and helped make these memorable and enjoyable occasions, especially Helen O’Sullivan, David Hall and Vicky Feldwick. Both Twyford St Mary’s Church of England Primary School and Twyford Preparatory School held special and regular Services in St Mary’s Church.

During 2025, there were three **Funeral Services** for much-loved Twyford Parishioners: Madeline Wyard on 24<sup>th</sup> February, Waine Lawton, former Chairman of Twyford Parish Council, on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and Colette Battye, a member of the Roman Catholic Church, on 12<sup>th</sup> November. On 4<sup>th</sup> April, following a Service of Thanksgiving, the ashes of Catherine Waring were interred in the grave of her sister. The Burial of Ashes of longtime Twyford Parishioner Peggy Maslin took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

The **Wedding** of Karen Lee and Alexander Birmingham took place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, that of Serena Cooke and Jeremy Gardiner on 6<sup>th</sup> September, and Amber Collinson and Calvin Smith on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Joyful occasions for all concerned. There were four **Baptisms** in 2025, being: Ava Rose Wilson and Toby Honeyman, both on 6<sup>th</sup> April, Harry Warner on 1<sup>st</sup> June, and Jonathan Richards on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Throughout 2025, it was not only a duty but also a pleasure to support Damon and the Ministry Team. The success of St Mary’s owes much to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and particularly its Officers, Nigel Close (Treasurer) and Ros Medd (Secretary). We are indebted to George Medd for his work as Electoral Roll Officer and in preparing this Annual Report. The cooperation of our fellow Churchwardens in the South Downs Gateway Benefice is much appreciated, and the support of the Benefice Administrator, Stefan Wilmot. We thank them all most sincerely and look forward to 2026 positively.

*Linda Snoswell and Andrew Brooks, Churchwardens*

### **2.3. Church Building & Fabric Report**

In the calendar year of 2025, a number of projects were completed or undertaken to maintain and improve the fabric of St Mary’s Church, Twyford. In addition, regular servicing and mandated safety checks were carried out on the gas boiler, lightning conductor, and organ blower, together with the tuning of the organ, twice.

A Faculty was granted by the Diocese of Winchester on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to enable the replacement of the gas-fired heating system in the **church rooms, kitchen and toilets** with a more ecological and efficient electrical system, including infrared heating panels. The gas supply was capped, resulting in one less meter and standing charge. The plumbing, water heating and lighting in the toilets were improved. These rooms, and the **south door vestibule** and door, were redecorated. All the work was carried out to a high standard by competent

professionals. In removing the gas boiler and vent, it was necessary to replace fifty decorated tiles on the south-facing roof at the west end, adjacent to the flat roof over the **south porch**.

The **carpet** in the church rooms, laid in 1998, was replaced with new carpet tiles in a matching colour under a List B Application. Another List B Application allowed the hanging of a heavy, blue material **curtain** from a natural **wooden beam** across the Arch at the west end of the **north aisle**, with similar material in the apex of the arch. This arrangement has added protection from cold draughts during Services from the vestibule of the main **north door** when drawn across.

The **great ancient yew tree** on the north side of the Church is a very well-known feature of St Mary's Church and Churchyard. It had not received attention since 2014/15. The generosity of an active member of the worshipping community of St Mary's paid for work on the tree. Permission had to be obtained from the Diocese (Archdeacon's List B) and the South Downs National Park authority. On 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, after a survey by the same person who had seen the tree in 2014, crown lifting and clipping back into shape were carried out by Christopher Hoare Tree Services, who had carried out the earlier work. The tree has now been aged between 800 and 1,000 years, rather than the 400 years previously estimated. Limited work was also carried out on the smaller **yew tree by the south porch**. In June 2025, this tree suffered wind damage, which was promptly dealt with by the same company.

The seating/bench around the base of the ancient Yew tree had become damaged over the years, and it was replaced by a free-standing **new bench** on the west side of the tree with a westerly view. This work was paid for by the Brunt family, who had the original seating made in memory of their late mother. Much of the timber was recycled from the previous seat, and the work was carefully done by local man, Andy Roberts.

Attention has been given to the **material fabric** of the **chancel altar frontals** and that of the **Lady Chapel**. In-house repairs are being undertaken by Juliet Hawkes. In the Lady Chapel, it has been necessary to renew the side **curtains/valences of the altar**. Being on the sunny south side, this area was in particularly poor condition. Juliet was able to find a very suitable matching material. This repair work does not require Diocesan approval and is ongoing.

Following servicing of the **church clock**, specialists Smith of Derby advised us to have the electric mechanism renewed and updated to an automatic mechanism, which will restart accurately and change from GMT to BST and vice versa. This was because of the unreliability of the clock. The work was supported by grants of £750 from Twyford Parish Council and £250 from Hampshire County Council through their local Councillor grant scheme, for which we are most grateful. Unfortunately, a fault has been found in the very old wiring system to the ringing

chamber in the Church Tower, where the clock power supply is located. This needs to be remedied before the clock starts daily.

Andrew Brooks, Churchwarden

## 2.4. Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report

### Membership:

<b>Members serving <i>ex officio</i></b>		
Damon Draisey (Vicar and Chair)		
Andrew Brooks (Churchwarden and Vice Chair from April 2025)	Linda Snoswell (Churchwarden from April 2025) Juliet Hawkes (Deanery Synod Rep. from 2023)	
<b>Members elected for three years</b>		
<b>2023-2026</b>	<b>2024-2027</b>	<b>2025-2028</b>
Jade Pain Chris Hill Ron Pont	Anthony Bateman Vanessa Eales	Andrew Brooks Nigel Close
<b>Co-opted</b>		

<b>Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representatives (PCC members <i>ex officio</i>)</b>
2023-2026 Andrew Brooks and Juliet Hawkes
<b>Standing Committee</b>
The Vicar and Churchwardens ( <i>ex officio</i> ), the Treasurer, the Secretary (all elected by the PCC).

### Advisory Group Membership and Chairs:

The Fabric and Finance Advisory Groups continued to support the Churchwardens and Treasurer, while also informing and advising the Council as a whole. Their year's work is reported elsewhere in this Review.

<b>Finance</b>	<b>Fabric</b>
Nigel Close	Juliet Hawkes
Juliet Hawkes John Hibberd Sheila Lees Adam Pizzey	Andrew Brooks Anthony Bateman Martin Locke Chris Pope

### **Foundation School Governors:**

Damon Draisey (ex officio), Carola Breuning (Sept 2022 – Sept 2026), Jane Roots (September 2023- 2027).

**Safeguarding Officer:** Vanessa Eales [safeguarding@sdgatewaychurches.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sdgatewaychurches.org.uk)

### **PCC Report:**

The PCC met in March, May, July and October, each time following a coming-together of all four PCCs in the Benefice for prayer and discussion on shared issues. Business has included developing and/or supporting initiatives on mission and services, events, facilities, and community involvement. The meeting-by-meeting oversight of both finances and works is highlighted elsewhere in this report. We have also continued looking at Policies and documentation ahead of an Archdeacon's Visitation in 2026/7. A highlight was the visit to the October PCC meeting by Neil Tunncliffe, Head Teacher at St. Mary's Primary School. It was a great pleasure to meet him, and we hope that it was as useful to him and the school as it was to the PCC.

Your PCC members are supportive and interested, and I am grateful for their commitment.

I am required to state the following in this Review: St Mary the Virgin Church is situated at Church Lane, Twyford, Hants SO21 1NS. The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, Church Lane, Twyford SO21 1NT.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure and Church Representation Rules), and a charity, currently exempt from registration with the Charity Commission. Our Bankers are the NatWest Bank.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC is required to acknowledge formally in this Review its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our Safeguarding Officer is Vanessa Eales. Safeguarding is a standing item at all Council meetings. No safeguarding issues were reported in 2025, and the PCC will continue to raise the profile of safeguarding in the coming year. All Council members are required to hold a satisfactory DBS certificate and to have completed Diocesan Safeguarding Training.

*Rosalind Medd, PCC Secretary*

## **2.5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

Last year's report showed that there were seventy-six on the roll, representing fifty-five households. This year, it stands at seventy-three from fifty-four households. The roll is always open, so please let me know of anyone who would like to join.

*George Medd - Electoral Roll Officer (george@medd.org.uk)*

## **2.6. Deanery Synod Representative's Report**

The Winchester Deanery Synod met three times in the calendar year 2025. The first meeting was held on the cold winter's night of Tuesday, 4th February, here in

St Mary's Church, Twyford. Following Worship led by Lay co-Chair Ruth Guy, there was a general presentation on the Review of the Common Mission Fund (CMF) by the Diocese. This was followed by a number of short presentations on the Mission/Outreach activities going on, under the title 'Good News.' These included the work of City Centre/Street Chaplains; a Pilgrimage Journey from St Paul's Church, Stockbridge Road, to the Cathedral, engaging people on the way; and the place of St Bartholomew's Hyde on the newly established Camino Ingles (<https://caminoways.com/camino-ingles>).

The second meeting, on 4th June, was held in St Mark's, Olivers Battery. There was an update to the Diocesan Strategic Development Bid Consultation with questions, comments and suggestions from the Synod. Synod were reminded of the preparations being made by the church for a possible Pan-European conflict and that worship resources would be available soon.

Good news stories were shared, including the Dementia Cafe at St Mark's on the 2nd Thursday of the month between 2 and 4pm. It is open to all people suffering from Dementia attending with their carers. There is no cost, but donations of cakes are always welcome. Contact Geoff Fowler for more information 850479.

The third meeting on 19th November was at All Saints Church, Highcliffe, Winchester where the topics were welcoming the new Bishop of Basingstoke, Right Reverend Kelly Anne Betteridge; that the Diocesan bid to the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) needs revision; and that the Diocese is on track to meet the CMF targets thanks to good contributions to their Parish Share by all Parishes. Notice was given that there will be Archdeacon's Parish Visitations to all Parishes in 2026-27.

*Andrew Brooks and Juliet Hawkes*

## **2.7. Diocesan Synod Representative's Report**

Diocesan Synod may seem far removed from our day-to-day Parish life, but it forms an important part of the governance of the Church of England. Key purposes and responsibilities of a Diocesan Synod include:

**Governance and Policy:** Formulating diocesan policy, discussing matters of religious or public interest, and directing the future mission of the diocese.

**Advising the Bishop:** Acting as a consultative body to the bishop on important matters.

**Financial Oversight:** Approving the annual budget for the Diocesan Board of Finance and reviewing its annual reports and accounts.

**Synodical Structure:** Considering and voting on matters referred to it by the national General Synod.

**Communication:** Sharing information and policies with Deanery Synod. This works both ways. In 2024, a PCC in the Southampton Deanery proposed an amendment to church regulations to introduce a statutory right to a minimum of thirty-six hours rest - a day and a half a week – for clergy office holders, covering

most clergy, which would include an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours. This was supported by Deanery Synod, then Diocesan Synod, and finally General Synod when it became law. The system can work!

As you can imagine, a lot of the energy in 2025 was spent struggling with Diocesan Finances, its longer-term strategy and the appointment of new Area Bishops.

*George Medd*

### **3. Mission and Education**

#### **3.1. St. Mary's Primary School Governors' Report**

Shortly after last year's annual review, we received the results of the Ofsted Inspection, which had taken place in Autumn 2024. Twyford St Mary's were delighted to be rated Good. This is a fantastic reflection of all the hard work, care and planning that goes into the school and is especially impressive as the inspection took place when Neil Tunnicliffe was just seven weeks into his headship. The Inspectors described the sense of community as tangible and noted the enriching range of activities and described the children as having a real love for school.

There was more good news when the May 2025 SATs results were published. Twyford St Mary's received the highest scaled score in Hampshire for reading and the second-highest scaled score for maths.

Life at school continues to have a rich curriculum, and children have been enjoying taking advantage of local opportunities. In recent months, they have taken part in a river study on the Itchen, and Year 5s sang at Winchester Cathedral with the university choir. The Key Stage 2 play, *The Wizard of Oz*, was a highlight for the whole school, with the upper half of the school all involved in some way. Meanwhile, the PTA Twyford 10km run was a great event for the wider Twyford community, as was the annual firework display. We also welcomed our senior teacher, Sophie Keating, and Carly Wilkinson, both back from maternity leave, and Nancy Cardinal has also returned to the school as a permanent member of staff.

We have continued to benefit hugely from the support of the church and the wonderful weekly worship from Damon and Jane, with little drama sketches involving the children really bringing the Bible stories to life. The annual Harvest, Christmas and Easter services were highlights for the whole school community last year, and we were also grateful to use the church building for the summer musical showcase and for the invitation to do the same this year.

Carola Breuning, Jane Roots and Damon Draisey (Foundation Governors)

#### **3.2. House Group**

In October, we were saddened to hear of the death of Colette Battye, who had been a member of our group for many years. She was a Roman Catholic and ecumenical in her views. We valued her friendship and thoughtful contributions to our meetings. We miss her lovely sense of humour.

This year we are using another York Course, ‘Glimpses of God – Hope for Today’s World.’

The course is designed for five sessions, each focusing on a different aspect of finding hope.

- Session 1. The God who hears our cry.
2. The Shepherd who guides and guards his people.
  3. The Son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
  4. The God who shares our pain.
  5. The God who calms our fears.

There are now three members in the group, but as is written in the King James Bible, Matthew 18 v 20, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 10am.

New members will be warmly welcomed.

Cynthia English – 01962 713427 (leonard.english6@gmail.com)

### **3.3. Library**

Twyford church library has a good selection of books available as a resource for all four South Downs Gateway churches and for any visitors to St Mary’s church. The books are available to borrow and to simply return on the next visit. Once read and returned, our hope is that you will choose another and feel inspired to leave a short book review.

The bookcase is situated at the back of the church with a book carousel nearby. There are many titles to further encourage Spiritual life or to provide an introduction to the Christian Faith.

There are also some light-reading biographies, poetry and verse and books which relate to Christian life in current times.

A set of Ladybird published books for younger-aged children, following the stories written in the Bible, can be found in the bookcase and are also available for borrowing.

Finally, thank you to those people who have donated suitable books for our church library again this year; there have been a few left in the bookcase to add to our list.

*Carol Anne Pullen and Paul Braithwaite*

### **3.4. Bible Reading Fellowship**

We remain a small group of five BRF members from St Mary’s church.

I currently order New Daylight BRF Bible notes throughout the year and deliver copies to the group members to be read at home. There is often time to comment to each other and our friends who also subscribe, reflecting personally on a daily reading and any relevance to world events, which can encourage discussion,

thoughts and prayer. However, we do not meet formally as a group to discuss our reading of these notes.

The New Daylight publication provides daily Bible readings, the author's reflections/comments and a short prayer as a useful resource to use alongside the Bible.

There is a small charge each year for these publications, which currently helps support the BRF charity.

Past copies are left at the back of St Mary's church for anyone to take and read at home.

*Carol Anne Pullen (St Mary's Church BRF secretary)*

### **3.5. Charitable Outreach**

#### **3.5.1. Christian Aid**

St Mary's supported Christian Aid with two events this year: an annual Lenten Soup lunch and a Plant Sale.

The Lenten Soup lunch was held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March and raised £300, which was split 50/50 with the church. It was advertised, and approximately twenty people came, with several from Colden Common, and we welcome their support. The Plant Sale was held in May and raised a total of almost £1,100, which was again divided 50/50 with the church. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day after weeks of dry weather, but people came out anyway, and we had a good result.

*Juliet Hawkes*

### **3.6. Gateway – The Benefice Magazine**

Thanks are due to all who are involved in the Gateway, most of whom are volunteers. Regular contributors include the Opening Word team: Helen O'Sullivan, Max Bullough, George Medd, Ed Rochhead, Ron Pont and Rev. Damon.

Additional regular contributors are Terry Forder-Stent and Chris Hill as well as Mike Gaskill and Janet Quantick who provide updates from Colden Common.

Contributions are always welcome, especially pieces of local interest. Thanks are due to Chris Corcoran, Chris Pope and David Howlett for their articles. Thanks are also due to Juliet Hawkes who manages the advertising and provides information about upcoming concerts and an endless supply of puzzles for the Children's Pages.

Currently, the magazine has a circulation of approximately 275, ably managed by Judith Lea and Pam Glasspool, who also organise the distribution teams in the four parishes. The Benefice administrator, Stefan Wilmott, does a great job managing the equipment at the Benefice office to print it each month.

*Theo Johnson, Editor*

### **3.7. ECO Church**

St Mary's Church is a member of Eco Church, as are many Churches in the Diocese. Currently, St Mary's has the Bronze level Award. A new survey was sent out by Eco Church at the beginning of 2025, which we have not yet completed. It may be that when it is done, the newly installed Infra-Red Heating system in the Church Rooms will help us move up to the Silver Award in 2026.

*Andrew Brooks*

## **4. Church Groups**

### **4.1. Bell Ringing**

We continue to appreciate our renovated bells, and our visitors are always very complimentary of their ring.

During the year, we have hosted six groups of ringers. Roy LeMarechal, who for many years has supported us on practice nights and when there's a maintenance issue, rang the Christmas peal with his ringers. Adam Greenley from Basingstoke organised the New Year peal. Adam had helped us enormously to manage the project to renovate our bells, giving up many evenings and his expertise freely given.

We rang for four weddings this year; one of them was a Greek Orthodox wedding, which I think must be a first!

The 80<sup>th</sup> commemoration of VE Day was marked by ringing the bells in the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> May.

In October, the annual Bell Ringers supper was much enjoyed at the Bugle, where we raised our glasses to our patrons, William Davies and Andrew Johnson.

We welcome any visitors to our practice on Tuesday evening and are always in need of new ringers.

*Angela Forder Stent*

### **4.2. Church Cleaning**

St. Mary's church is kept clean and tidy throughout the year thanks to a willing band of volunteers. For this, I am extremely grateful. Our numbers, however, are beginning to dwindle for two reasons. Firstly, some people have moved away from the area, and secondly, some of our volunteers are advancing in years and are finding it more of a challenge. We need to find more willing people to help if we are to retain our numbers. My thanks again go to Ann Commander for overseeing the Church Spring Clean around Easter time.

*Annie Hibberd*

### **4.3. Church Music**

Music is thriving in different formats at St. Mary's. The robed choir continue to lead the singing during the Communion service each Sunday and, supported by Ad Hoc members, provides a larger choir for the Carol service at Christmas. This

was expertly led again by Vicky Feldwick and proved to be as popular as ever, with many favourite carols for everyone to join in with.

The Church is also used as a music venue for a variety of concerts during the year. These are normally very well attended and bring in additional income for the church. These have included an organ recital by David Hall, some Mirrorman concerts including David Ford and Martin Simpson, and performances by Courtney Marie Andrews and Plain Song, organised by Oliver Gray.

Do please come along and try some of these concerts, which are very enjoyable, set in our beautiful church building.

*Annie Hibberd*

#### **4.4. Flower Arranging**

Polly and I have continued to arrange the Church flowers, using the silk flowers that were kindly donated by Orchard Close when it closed a few years ago. With them, we use garden greenery, the results of which have been much admired. For special occasions, however (e.g. Easter and Christmas), we use living flowers; this keeps the cost down considerably. Other than this, we have arranged flowers for only one wedding and sadly two funerals, so it has not been a busy year.

In June, Colden Common held a Flower Festival, and I represented St. Mary's Church with an arrangement of a yacht in full sail. I think I came fourth. It was a fun time and lovely to meet other like-minded people.

It is lovely having the music playing in the church, and many people from outside the village visit the church while we are flower arranging. It is delightful to hear their stories of where they have come from and sometimes their family connections to Twyford and the church.

The three schools in the village (the Playgroup, St Mary's, and Twyford Prep Schools) kindly continue to dress the windows for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and it is wonderful to have their support. Last December, I met the children of Twyford Prep in church who had made decorations, and after a photo session, they put their artwork in the windows.

As I write, the Snowdrops in the churchyard are a delight to behold.

Polly and I enjoy our time arranging the flowers. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the church, there are many jobs awaiting you.

*Valerie Roberts (01962 711538)*

## **5. Finance**

### **5.1. Freewill Offering Scheme**

You will have noted from the annual accounts that 2025 was a better year for our finances. Once again, the generosity of our congregation and our regular givers with standing orders has enabled us, with gift aid, to raise more than £40,000.

The difference with the positive balance to carry forward is that we had a generous legacy. If you are in a position to contribute in this way, please remember us in your will. The legacy was also useful in that it was to the PCC and had no restrictions on how it is to be spent. I can assure you it will be used carefully, but it does give our planning confidence and encouragement.

Once again, I thank all who contribute and again remind you that standing orders help us budget. Also, any contribution of more than £30 given in the Church Sunday collections or in the electronic card reader, which is 'on' all the time, is eligible for Gift Aid.

I personally thank all those who contribute in any way. Please let me know if you would like help with ways of giving.

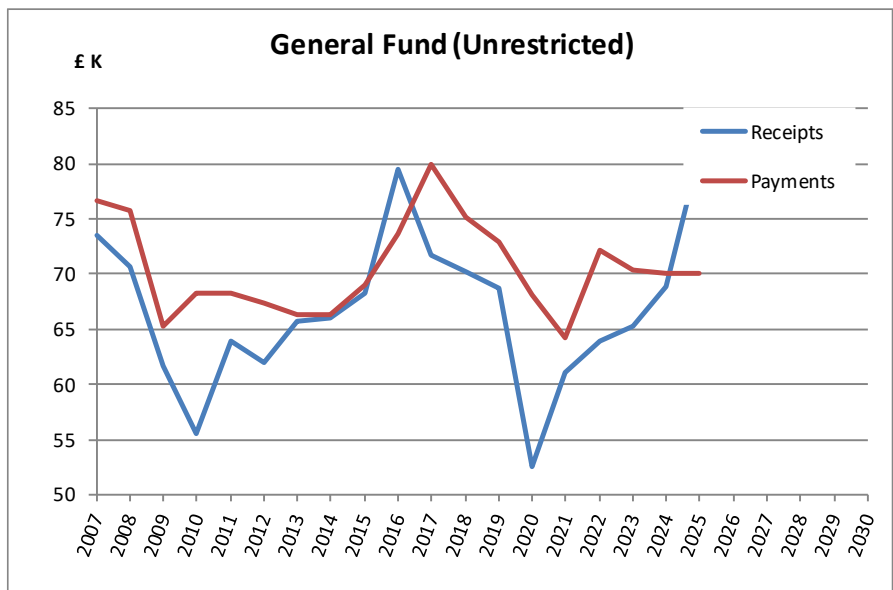
*Sheila Lees 01962 713164 (sheilalees99@gmail.com)*

## 5.2. Treasurer's Report

*I think we might have justification for a small celebration.*

Yes, this really is your Treasurer writing; I admit to being a trifle gobsmacked, but have a look at these results to the end of December 2025.

Instead of the budgeted loss on the unrestricted General Fund of about £1.8k, we've suddenly got a surplus of £10.6k! For the first time in almost a decade, the Receipts line is above the Payments one.



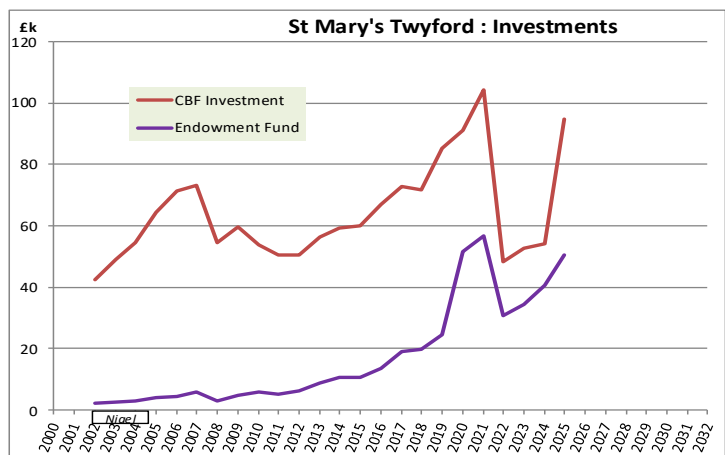
Not only that, but most of the rest are in the black as well.

So, Glory Hallelujah, but how has this happened?

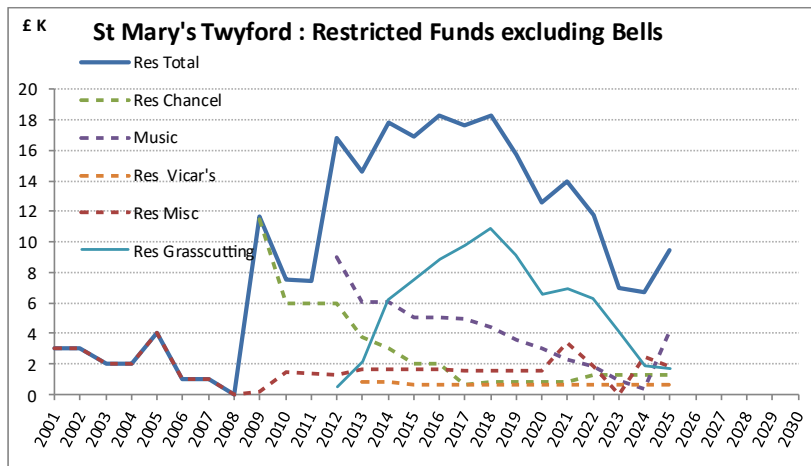
First, there was a surge of substantial Freewill Offering one-off donations in December, which moved us from £2k below budget to £2k above. Thank you to our generous donors.

Second, the very successful autumn concerts meant that we were £3.7k above the (optimistic) budget, while our costs were only £0.4k more than the estimate. Third, other collections and donations were all better than anticipated. And lastly, even the routine stuff did well - fees for weddings and funerals were up, parish magazine sales held up better than expected, and even dividends did a bit better than we thought.

Plus, our expenditure has been held slightly below budget. The first full year in which we employed our Benefice administrator and printed the Gateway magazine ourselves, means that we should look at codes: 1330 Contributions from the Benefice, 2050 Parish administrator, 2110 Office costs and 2501 Magazine expenses as a whole. It turns out that we pay almost £4k as our share, which is a little less than we thought a year ago.



Our investments also show significant upturns. Although the share price of our main investment – the CBF CofE Fund - dropped slightly in 2025, we returned £20K of money taken in 2022 to cover a cash-flow problem with the Bell Appeal and ‘parked’ most of a generous legacy while we decide on an appropriate project.

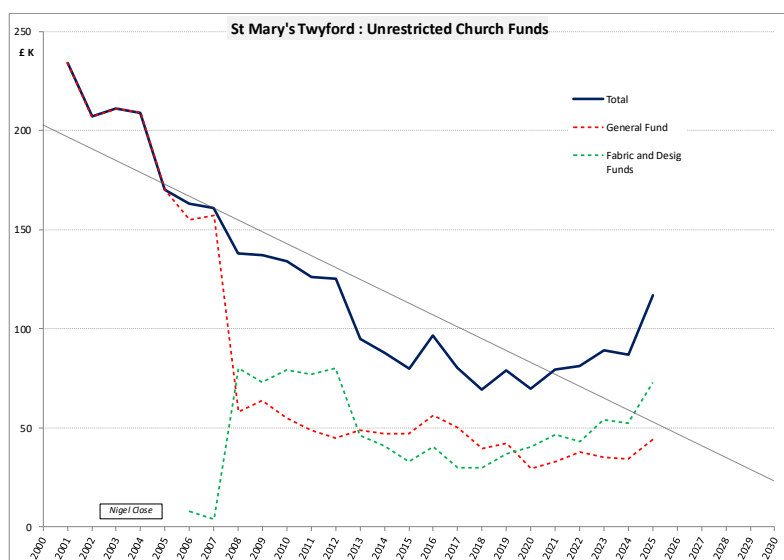


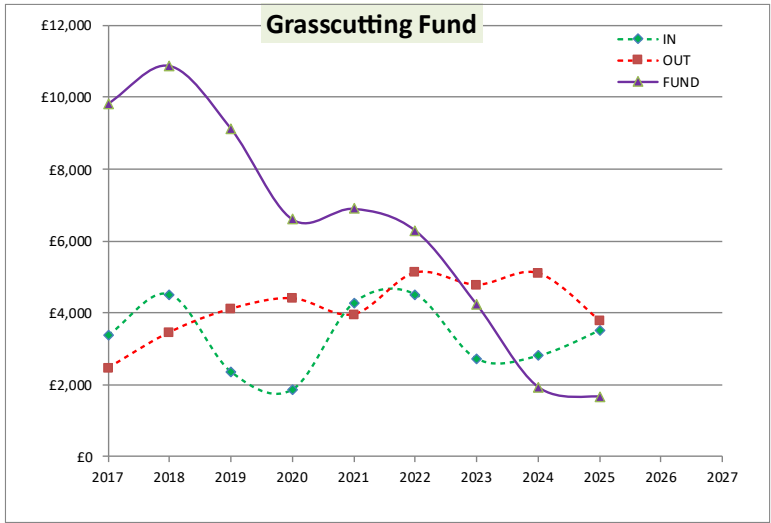
Our Endowment Fund comprises shares in the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust, which have perked up a little this year. However, since we only receive the dividends, the capital value is largely academic. All this means that our total Unrestricted Funds are looking healthier than they have for a while.

The various Restricted Funds (which must be devoted to the purpose for which they were donated) now total less than £10k, as shown here:

I would like to thank all contributors to the Freewill Offering Scheme (FWO) for helping to keep St Mary’s afloat. **Sheila Lees** has worked hard for many years to keep track of the FWO and Gift Aid, and it is right that she should now be able to reduce her commitment. During this year, we hope to migrate all our regular – and occasional – donors to the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**. This is an efficient, free, national service; all money donated goes directly to the parish, and Gift Aid is applied automatically. Do please talk to Sheila or to me if you need more information or would like to join PGS as a new donor.

I am most grateful to Jeff Mardon for once more taking on the important role of Independent Examiner of the PCC finances. It is no small task to learn how the system works, how to drive the accounting software and to scrutinise enough of the year’s records to determine whether the financial controls and reporting are in good order. It has been a pleasure to work with him. Jeff has now moved from the village, so this will be his final year.





Historically, the Grasscutting Fund, set up in 2009 and enthusiastically promoted by a small group of parishioners, has more than covered costs and, indeed, produced a rather embarrassing surplus since the money could not be used for other churchyard work, such as trimming the yew tree. Recently, though, costs have escalated, and funding has reduced. I am relieved to report that this year the

PCC has been more proactive in regulating the amount of work done, so that we ended with a deficit of just under £300. If we can continue to raise donations at a similar rate and improve our control of the contractors, we may hope for a financially and ecologically sustainable future.

So, for the first time in a long while, we are showing a positive result for the year. Let's have a quick 'hooray' before we buckle down to 2026!

*Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer*

**5.3. Finance Advisory Group**

The Finance Advisory Group (FINAG) again met once to discuss various aspects of the finances. It reviewed the annual accounts, set the General Fund Budget and reviewed the parish Financial Policy, which incorporates the existing Reserves Policy.

*Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer*

## 5.4. Independent Examiner's Report

### ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, TWYFORD

This report is on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended **31 December 2025**. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, on the **Receipts and Payments (R & P)** basis. The reporting requirement is for an Account of Receipts and Payments together with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SOAL). This broadly follows the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

#### **Basis of this Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission Act 2011. Charities (including Churches) may use this basis if their gross income is below £250,000.

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 financial statements 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 the Charities Act 2011, and

- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the regulations, 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.....*J.R. Mardon*.....

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Mr J R Mardon. BSc

Bourne Close, Bourne Lane, Twyford, Winchester, SO21 1NX

## 5.5. Accounts for the Year 2025

The accounts for 2025 are shown on the following pages. The Section that follows them, 'Notes to the Financial Statements,' forms part of these accounts.

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY						
Fund	Balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balances carried forward
General fund	34,508	80,869	70,083	0	-1,139	44,156
Fabric Fund	52,305	22,000	7,123	0	-1,230	65,952
Fresh Expressions	1,544	1,304	0	0	0	2,848
Chancel Fund	1,276	0	0	0	0	1,276
Churchyard Fund	1,951	3,444	3,552	0	0	1,843
Grasscutting Fund	1,941	3,506	3,780	0	0	1,667
Music Fund	422	5,000	1,306	0	0	4,116
Andrew Johnson Fund	1,324	0	1,324	0	0	0
Vicar's Fund	623	0	0	0	0	623
Endowment Fund	40,596	0	0	0	9,809	50,405
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136,490</b>	<b>116,123</b>	<b>87,168</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>172,886</b>
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>						

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
<b>Fixed assets</b>						
6440 : CBF CoE Inv Fund Income Shares	25,911	68,819	0	0	94,730	54,099
6450 : Scottish Mortgage Inv Trust	0	0	0	50,405	50,405	40,596
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,911</b>	<b>68,819</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,405</b>	<b>145,135</b>	<b>94,695</b>
<b>Current assets</b>						
6501 : Bank current account 73311324	17,648	3,674	6,555	0	27,878	42,139
6510 : FWO current account 73345547	100	0	0	0	100	100
6520 : CCLA (CBF) deposit account	497	0	0	0	497	497
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,245</b>	<b>3,674</b>	<b>6,555</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,474</b>	<b>42,736</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
6699 : Agency collections	0	0	-724	0	-724	-941
<b>Total</b>			<b>-724</b>		<b>-724</b>	<b>-941</b>
<b>Net total assets</b>	<b>44,156</b>	<b>72,494</b>	<b>5,831</b>	<b>50,405</b>	<b>172,886</b>	<b>136,490</b>
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>						

Receipts	General Unrestrict	Fabric Designated	FX Designated	Music Designated	Chancel Restricted	Churchyd Restricted
Freewill Offering (FWO)	37,279					
Loose plate collections	1,928					
Fresh Expressions receipts	30		44			
Electronic donation	1,837		25			
Giving through church boxes	114					
Donations appeals etc	4,932		985			3,364
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,434		250			
Legacies		20,000		5,000		
Recurring grants						80
Non-recurring one-off grants	340	2,000				
Fund-raising	11,770					
Dividends	1,689					
Bank and building society interest	22					
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,486					
Bookstall sales - fund raising						
Church room lettings - objectives	390					
Church room lettings - fund raising	46					
Magazine income - advertising	910					
Parish magazine sales	1,980					
Insurance claims						
Surplus - sale of fixed assets						
Contributions from benefice	3,682					
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,869</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>5,000</b>		<b>3,444</b>
Costs of fetes & other events	-2,560					
Charitable Giving	0					
Common Mission Fund (parish share)	-40,727					
Organist fees	-1,800					
Clerical Registry						
Honoraria	-711					
Parish Administrator	-7,580					
Working expenses of incumbent						
Office costs	-925					
Parish training and mission	-65					
Fresh Expressions						
Church running - insurance	-5,361					
Organ / piano tuning & maintenance	0					
Church maintenance	-4,059	-575				
Supplies	-763					
Upkeep of churchyard	0					-3,552
Grasscutting	0					
Church running - electric	-2,623					
Church running - gas	-2,725					
Church running - water	-184					
Magazine expenses	0					
Bookstall costs						
Governance costs						
Church major repairs	0	-6,548				
Church decorating						
<b>Total</b>	<b>-70,083</b>	<b>-7,123</b>				<b>-3,552</b>
				-1,306		
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>£10,787</b>	<b>£14,877</b>	<b>£1,304</b>	<b>£3,694</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£108</b>

Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
				37,279	34,704	34,027	35,669	39,897
				1,928	1,673	1,862	1,862	1,639
				74	0	2,463		
				1,862	1,232	424	287	445
82				196	301	293	289	129
2,845				12,125	6,325	4,667	12,180	18,249
580				10,264	10,278	11,182	14,128	10,109
				25,000	0	1,000	17,869	1,000
				80	80	80	80	80
				2,340	0	19,034	15,530	3,355
				11,770	10,118	5,145	6,511	2,273
				1,689	1,648	1,620	2,170	2,794
				22	26	19	3	0
				4,294	3,103	3,684	4,244	4,864
				0	28	80	50	20
				390	0	100	0	0
				46	50	50	250	20
				910	955	1,390	1,090	0
				1,980	1,867	2,705	2,450	351
				0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	0	247	4,000
				3,682	1,072	0	0	0
<b>3,506</b>				<b>116,123</b>	<b>73,459</b>	<b>89,826</b>	<b>114,909</b>	<b>89,225</b>
				-2,560	-2,129	-1,486	-2,570	-343
		-1,324		-1,324	0	-100	0	0
				-40,727	-43,705	-49,400	-53,215	-51,711
				-1,800	-2,000	-2,200	-2,035	-1,450
				0	0	-53	-49	-104
				-711	-624	-728	-450	-480
				-7,580	-5,133	0		
				0	0	0	0	-40
				-925	-1,802	-1,524	-2,477	-27
				-65	-128	-323	-150	-440
				0	0	0		
				-5,361	-5,237	-4,957	-4,498	-4,334
	-1,306			-1,306	-423	-1,022	-596	-678
				-4,634	-3,393	-1,184	-693	-2,528
				-763	-799	-1,150	-2,095	-529
				-3,552	-225	0	-242	-144
-3,780				-3,780	-5,100	-4,776	-5,115	-3,955
				-2,623	-2,503	-3,449	-1,518	-1,442
				-2,725	-1,723	-2,747	-1,238	-297
				-184	-93	0	-92	-66
				0	-964	-1,045	-1,040	-1,363
				0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	-39	-29	0
				-6,548	-1,000	-7,184	-69,206	-29,758
				0	0	0	0	0
<b>-3,780</b>	<b>-1,306</b>	<b>-1,324</b>		<b>-87,168</b>	<b>-76,981</b>	<b>-83,367</b>	<b>-147,312</b>	<b>-99,691</b>
	1,306			1,306	230	6,029	91,624	187
				-1,306	230	-6,029	-91,624	-187
				-	-	-	-	-
<b>-£274</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£1,324</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£28,956</b>	<b>-£3,522</b>	<b>£6,459</b>	<b>-£32,404</b>	<b>-£10,466</b>

## 5.6. Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31st December 2024

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICY

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 on the Receipts and Payments (R & P) basis. R & P deals with receipts when the money actually arrives, and payments when the cheque is sent. It trades a more concrete day-to-day picture against a less comprehensive strategic overview. And the bookkeeping is simpler.

The reporting requirement is for an Account of Receipts and Payments, together with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SOAL). The format of these reports is not defined, although they broadly follow the Statement of Recommended Practice SORP 2015.

The accounts have been prepared using Data Developments software, Finance Co-ordinator, V4.62 with reports output to Excel and formatted.

### 2 FUNDS

Charities must clearly distinguish between, and account separately for, various types of fund:

**UNRESTRICTED:** These are ordinary funds for general use in promoting the church's usual purposes; they are unrestricted funds.

**DESIGNATED:** The church may decide to set aside sums in respect of specific projects; these are designated funds. They can always be redirected back to unrestricted funds if the church chooses.

**RESTRICTED:** These are special funds for specific purposes: appeals which the church has made for special and specific objects; funds or grants given to the church by donors who have specified that they should only be used for specific objectives. These are restricted funds and can only be used in respect of the purposes for which they were given. They cannot be added to unrestricted funds without the consent of the donor.

**ENDOWMENTS:** Are funds which are held on trust to be retained as 'capital' funds (i.e. the income from the funds can be spent on either unrestricted or restricted purposes (depending upon the directions of the donor)), but the capital must be retained; it cannot be spent.

In addition to our GENERAL Fund, which is Unrestricted, we have:

- Designated FABRIC Fund:* to cover major works – principally those identified during Quinquennial Inspections.
- Designated FX Fund:* Fresh Expressions of Church (or FX) covers non-mainstream worship such as Messy Church or Gateway 360.
- Designated MUSIC Fund:* for the tuning and maintenance of the organ.
- Restricted CHANCEL Fund:* To preserve and enhance the chancel, including the mural and wall paintings.
- Restricted CHURCHYARD Fund:* To preserve and enhance the church grounds, including the yew tree, graves, paths, benches, walls etc.
- Restricted GRASSCUTTING Fund:* Set up after a public appeal to pay the cost of mowing the churchyard.
- Restricted MUSIC Fund:* Originated by a legacy ‘for the music in church.’ The fund has now all been spent.
- Restricted ANDREW JOHNSON Fund:* From memorial donations ‘to be used for the benefit of Twyford Bellringers.’ By agreement between Andrew’s widow and the bellringers, all the money was transferred to the bellringers in 2025, and the fund will be closed.
- Restricted VICAR’S Fund:* Set up by a donation ‘for use at the Vicar’s discretion.’ The vicar can offer immediate charitable assistance without question.
- Endowment (Capital) Fund:* A legacy of shares, the income from which is treated as unrestricted, but we may not dispose of the capital.
- AGENCY or ‘POSTBOX’ Funds:* In-and-out monies held briefly, then passed on: funeral collections for a charity, Christingle, leaving gifts, etc.

The opening and closing value of each fund is shown in the FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY table.

### **3 FREEWILL OFFERING (FWO)**

Regular giving provides a stable, vital base of funding, and most of it attracts a 25% bonus through Gift Aid. I am very grateful to Sheila Lees for the not-inconsiderable task of administering the scheme, tracking donations and claiming tax.

#### **4 GRANTS**

A recurring grant of £80 from the War Graves Commission appears in the Churchyard Fund.

We received a £340.17 grant to cover VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Twyford PC gave us grants of £1, 000 and another of £750 towards the repair of the clock. HCC also gave a grant of £250 towards the clock.

#### **5 FEES**

Statutory and other fees for weddings and funerals. Other disbursements (to the Diocese, organists, vergers, and bellringers) are Agency payments.

#### **6 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AND TO THE BENEFICE**

The Benefice employed a salaried Administrator. Twyford operates the payroll on behalf of the whole Benefice and then claims from the other parishes in an agreed proportion. We do the same for any Vicar's expenses, clergy from the Clerical Registry, and also the rental of the new printer/copier used to print the Benefice magazine. Twyford pays its proportion of the other costs of the Benefice Office in Colden Common and other Benefice expenditure (recorded under code 2110 Office Costs). Payment from our fellow parishes appear under code 1330 Contributions from Benefice.

#### **7 COMMON MISSION FUND – CMF (or PARISH SHARE)**

Our contribution pays for the costs of clergy - their salaries, accommodation, pensions and training together with Mission funding and diocesan services. Our relatively affluent village with its reasonably well-attended church means that our payment is substantial.

#### **8 FRESH EXPRESSIONS (FX)**

The Vicar suggested that any donations from the all-age Gateway 360 should be partly reserved for their use and partly put to general use, so the FX Fund was created, to which is allocated half of any such money.

#### **9 RESERVES**

Current PCC policy is to maintain a Working Capital reserve in the General Fund of £16k and an Emergency Building Work reserve in the Fabric Fund of £30k.

#### **10 FIXED ASSETS**

The share price of the CBF CoE Investment Fund dropped slightly over the year. However, our total investment increased substantially for two reasons: (1) £20k of the money withdrawn from the fund to cover a cash flow need for the Bell project in 2024 was returned. (2) an unrestricted legacy of £25k was received, of which £23k has been invested. This means that the historical equal split between General and Designated invested money is now about 27% to 73%.

Revaluation of the CoE Investment Fund and of the shares comprising the Endowment Fund due to share price fluctuations is shown in the Fund Movement Summary under Gains and Losses.

## 11 BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

The total shown in the SOAL for our main account (£27,878) includes historical unreconciled payments of three items (totalling £204) and one receipt of £62. The actual bank balance on 31st December was therefore £28,020.

*Nigel Close*  
*PCC Treasurer*

**Approved** by the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Twyford  
and signed on its behalf.

*Andrew P. Brooks*  
.....(signed)  
(ANDREW PHILIP BROOKS)

*11 February 2026*  
.....(date)

## **6. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025**

*Held in church on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May following Holy Communion.*

### **Vestry meeting**

#### **1. Welcome**

Damon welcomed twenty people to the meeting.

#### **2. Election of Churchwardens**

Damon thanked Andrew Brooks and Linda Snoswell for their year's work, of which he would say more later.

The meeting re-elected Andrew Brookes as Churchwarden following a proposal by Hazel Williamson, seconded by Ann Commander. The meeting re-elected Linda Snoswell as Churchwarden following a proposal by Judith Lea, seconded by Simon Harcourt Williams.

The meeting unanimously supported Nigel Close and Jade Pain's willingness to continue as Assistant Churchwardens, proposed by Annie Hibberd and seconded by Vanessa Eales.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Damon opened the APCM with a reading and prayer.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Nigel Close (Treasurer), Bruce and Sheila Lees, Jenny and Ian Streat, Chris and Graham Hill and Cathy Pope.

#### **2. Minutes of the APCM held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

No amendments to the Minutes were suggested: their adoption as a true record was proposed by Jade Pain, seconded by Chris Pope and agreed unanimously. They were signed by the Chair.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising from the Minutes were raised.

#### **4. Reports**

##### **a. The Vicar's review of the year**

Damon's full report had been printed in the Annual Review, but he expressed his special gratitude to those in every role making the community work well. He finds support and inspiration in the people of the Benefice. The continuing mix of traditional and contemporary worship ensures that our services are welcoming and accessible to all; our special services have seen increasing numbers this year. Outreach across the Benefice continues with Christmas hampers, soup lunches and the flower festival, school services and two community choirs. Seven people enrolled

on the Alpha course, from which one Baptism resulted. Stefan Wilmot, our Administrator, continues to make a significant difference. Damon gave thanks for the increased financial support for our mission together, this being the first year that all Benefice Churches have paid their quota in full, and he praised and thanked those who have stepped up to support the Benefice in the wake of Peter Lippiett's move to Winchester. Everyone's contribution is deeply appreciated.

An Alpha course is planned again for the autumn, and Prayer Groups in the coming year. Damon invited individuals to contact him with questions or proposals, or for the chance to discuss anything. There were no questions from the floor.

## **b. The Churchwarden's Report**

Andrew Brooks drew attention to his and Linda's report in the Review and added their thanks to all those who make their job easier. He mentioned Sheila and Nigel in their financial roles, neither of whom was able to be at the meeting. Working with Damon is not just a duty but a pleasure.

### **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

George Medd, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there are seventy-six members on the Roll from fifty-six households.

### **The Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC, Diocesan and Deanery Synods**

The meeting received, in a formal sense, the Annual Report, which had been published and circulated in advance. The PCC Secretary and Synod Representatives had no further comments to add. On the subject of **Safeguarding**, Vanessa Eales spoke about training, suggesting that the Administrator include a link to training in the pew sheet and offering her support to those who need to complete the Diocesan certification to the required level. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the board near the entrance to the Church Rooms.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew Brooks spoke on behalf of Nigel Close, our Treasurer, as he was unable to attend the meeting. The Report and Accounts are available in the Review, but he drew attention particularly to the graph on Page 15, which indicates that we have more nearly balanced income and expenditure this year, thanks to parishioner generosity and support, and we hope to continue this trend if at all possible. There being no questions, the meeting proceeded to:

## **Adoption of the Accounts**

A motion to adopt the approved Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was proposed by George Medd, seconded by Cynthia English and passed unanimously.

## **5. Elections**

### **PCC Members**

Andrew Brooks and Nigel Close were elected unanimously to continue to a second term on the PCC.

## **6. Appointments**

### **Independent Examiner**

Jeff Mardon had kindly offered to continue as the Independent Examiner. His re-appointment was proposed by Jade Pain and seconded by Isabel Gray. It was agreed unanimously, with gratitude.

## **7. Any Other Business**

It was noted that this year sees the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the West Window in 1965. Commissioned by the PCC from the artist Moira Forsyth as an anonymously funded gift, it was learned years later to have been paid for by Archdeacon Benyon, then Vicar, and his wife Mildred. It was suggested that this should be written up for the Benefice Magazine.

*Ros Medd, PCC Secretary*