

The Parish Church Council of

St John the Divine,
Menston with Woodhead

Annual Report for the Parish Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Presented at the APCM on
Sunday 26 April 2026

*Incorporating the financial statements of the
Parochial Church Council*



Bank: HSBC Bank, 33 Park Road, Leeds, LS1 1LD

New account: Co-Operative Bank - registered office: 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M4 4BE

Independent Examiner: Linda P Nelson FCCA, Nuvo BFE Brays,
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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025**

1. **Welcome:** Reverend Joanna Glenwright took the Chair and welcomed people to the meeting.

2. **Nomination of Minutes Secretary:** Amy Elliott was appointed secretary for the Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2024:** The minutes of the Vestry meeting held on 28 April 2024 were unanimously agreed as a true record. Proposed by Reverend Andrew Howorth and seconded by Marilyn Banister.

4. **Election of Churchwardens:** There were nominations for the post of Churchwarden:

Julie West – proposed by Dominic Hall, seconded by Hilary Feathers.

Dominic Hall – proposed by Elizabeth Leopold, seconded by Judith Knaggs.

There being no further nominations, and were duly elected unanimously to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.

5. **Any Other Business:** There was no further business and the Annual Vestry Meeting was declared closed.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025**

1. **Welcome:** Reverend Joanna Glenwright welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the congregation that only those on the Electoral Roll are eligible to vote.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Jonathan Gadd, Philip Moore, Rita Zigmond, Sallie and Gordon Finch, Janet Hawkyard, Diane Beaumont, Ros Wilkinson & Jane Moulton.

3. **The Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held on Sunday 28th April 2024 were accepted as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Reverend Andrew Howorth and seconded by Wendy Thornhill. This was unanimously agreed. There were no matters arising.

4. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll:** The Electoral Roll of 79 names was received and explained as detailed in the Annual Report.

5. **The Parochial Church Annual Report:** [which was printed and made available to all members of the church prior to the meeting].

5.1 **Review of the year:** Reverend Joanna Glenwright reflected on the year. The review outlined the work of the church and the Parochial Church Council during 2024. It highlighted the steadfast work undertaken by the Wardens and clergy throughout the year, also the dedication of the PCC and army of volunteers. Of note was the interregnum, and how the church continued to run faithfully during this time. A particular thanks to those who led and stepped up, as well as those who did extra work that comes with an interregnum.

5.2 **Safeguarding:** Catherine Meakin reflected on Safeguarding and what measures were taken in 2024 to ensure a safe church, including training courses, DBS checks and updated paperwork. Reverend Joanna Glenwright gave thanks to Catherine for her role as Safeguarding officer.

5.3 **Fabric Report:** Hilary Feathers reported that no major repairs were needed, with the church and Parish Room remaining pretty trouble free. As per the report, the churchyard is now officially closed to new burials, and the council have taken over future maintenance. They are responsible for grass cutting apart from the memorial garden, while walls, paths, flowers, trees, rockery etc. are still with us. Thanks were given to the team who plan, plant and maintain these areas.

5.4 **Deanery Diocese Report:** Marilyn Banister spoke to the Deanery Report, further explaining what was written in the report. Reverend Joanna Glenwright then shared the importance of ecumenical friendships - not only in diocesan, deanery and chapter meetings, but also locally with Reverend Cameron Stirk of Menston Methodist Church. It aids worship and builds relationships with our brothers and sisters in this village.

5.5 Questions: Reverend Joanna Glenwright opened the floor to questions - Peter Wilbraham asked (in terms of St John's & ecumenical friends) whether we have contact with the Catholic church in Menston. He suggested that Pope Francis' prayer for peace might be appropriate for the Parish Magazine (a nod towards ecumenicalism). In reply, Reverend Joanna Glenwright noted she had not met with the Catholic priest for a few reasons. One being geography. Another being the main meeting is on Saturday. Lastly, the Priest is in charge of multiple churches. Reverend Joanna Glenwright remarked that it was a great prompt and reminder to get in contact - suggesting Remembrance 2025 as a good opportunity.

5.6 Presentation of the Annual Accounts: The treasurer Iain Johnson spoke of the accounts for 2024 on behalf of the church council as presented in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

- i) He particularly noted a fall in giving from previous years. The resultant deficit is not sustainable and is being addressed by the PCC. Also resulting in a lower Parish Share.
- ii) Reverend Joanna Glenwright offered a chance for questions - none received.
- iii) It was noted that the Independent Examiner, Linda Nelson, reviewed the accounts and agreed that they were presented in order and in good form.

5.7 Churchwarden report: Dominic Hall thanked the Parish Administrator and deputy wardens who stepped up, especially during interregnum. Special thanks were given to Hilary Feathers for all her hard work as she ends her term as warden.

5.8 Clergy Report: Reverend Andrew Howorth, Associate Priest, reported 2024 was a challenging yet rewarding year. He thanked all who stepped up and offered ministry and gifts, particularly in Zest which now has a fantastic team of worship leaders as a result of the interregnum.

Proposal: To accept the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council and the accounts. Proposed by Dominic Hall and seconded by Peter Wilbraham. All unanimously agreed.

6. Elections: [Reverend Joanna Glenwright thanked all who served on the PCC during 2024 and especially Marion who is stepping down. Gifts were presented to Hilary Feathers as thanks for wardening, and also to David Mercer for the previous year. Plus Iain Johnson for all his work as treasurer. Peter Wilbraham also thanked, on behalf of the congregation, Reverend Joanna Glenwright for her energy and fresh approach which is appreciated by everybody. Peter commented that she embodies the spirit of what the church is.]

- a. Deanery Synod: no new nominations received.
- b. PCC Vacancies: Hilary Feathers to stand for three years. Proposed by Dominic Hall, Seconded by Judith Knaggs. All in favour.
- c. Ex-officio members of PCC: Wendy Thornhill was nominated as LLM and ex-officio member of PCC. Proposed by Reverend Joanna Glenwright, seconded by Sheila Glennie. All in favour.

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- d. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Mrs Linda Nelson was elected to the role of Independent Examiner. Proposed by Iain Johnson, seconded by Marilyn Banister. All unanimously in favour.

7. **Any Other Business:** no comments.

8. **Vicar's Comments:** Reverend Joanna Glenwright gave a big thanks to everyone for all they offer in prayer, time, financial resources, advice and energy to build up this community of faith. Note the first meeting of the new PCC is 13th May – Tuesday at 7:45pm. The next APCM will be on Sunday 26th April 2026 (three weeks after Easter).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St John The Divine, Menston with Woodhead, is situated in Burley Lane, Menston. It is part of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE OF THE PCC - JANUARY 2025 TO DECEMBER 2025

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Meetings attended out of a possible 6 during 2025 are in brackets; # indicates members of the Standing Committee.

Ex-officio Members of PCC

(6:6) Rev Joanna Glenwright # *Incumbent*
(4:6) Rev Andrew Howorth *Associate Priest*
(5:6) Julie West # *Churchwarden*
(5:6) Dominic Hall # *Churchwarden*
(4:6) Wendy Thornhill *Licensed Lay Minister*

Co-Opted Members of PCC

(3:6) Iain Johnson *Assistant Treasurer*
(6:6) Catherine Meakin *Safeguarding Officer*
(2:6) Thomas Needle *co-opted 23/09/2025*

Representatives on Deanery Synod [and PCC]

(6:6) Marilyn Banister *until APCM 2026*
(5:6) Sally Smith # *until APCM 2026*
2 Vacancies until APCM 2026

Elected Members of PCC

(* indicates that a PCC member is serving a second term of office and is not eligible for re-election for one year following completion of their second term).

(5:6) Dorothy Slater *until APCM 2026*
(6:6) Judith Knaggs *until APCM 2026*
(5:6) Hannah Needle* *until APCM 2026*
1 Vacancy until APCM 2026

(6:6) James Sheppard # *until APCM 2027 - Treasurer*

(6:6) Jan Woodland *until APCM 2027*

(3:6) David Mercer *until APCM 2027*

(6:6) Roger Banister* *until APCM 2027*

(4:6) Hilary Feathers *until APCM 2028*

2 Vacancies until APCM 2028

PCC Secretary – *role vacant*

(0:6) Menston Methodist Representative

The PCC operates with a Standing Committee, which also functions as the Finance Committee. The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, if this is deemed appropriate, subject to any direction given by the Council.

Contributors to this report:

Rev Joanna Glenwright

Sally Smith

Rev Andrew Howorth

Catherine Meakin

Jan Alexander

Elizabeth Leopold

Majorie Boddy

Jennifer Sheppard

Marilyn Banister

Dominic Hall

Julie West

Iain Johnson

James Shappard

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll is the parish's register of electors who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC.

The Electoral Roll should be revised annually. Every sixth year the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The latest occasion for the preparation of a new roll was 2025.

Following the new Church Representation Rules, names no longer need to be removed from the roll during the course of the year; this only happens at the annual revision. Names can continue to be added to the Electoral Roll throughout the year.

There are 82 names on the revised Electoral Roll. The numbers can be broken down into the following groups:

Females 57

Males 25

Residents 64

Non-residents 18

Individuals 50

Family Units 18

If your name is not on the Roll, please ask for a form to complete and return to our Electoral Roll officer, Elizabeth Leopold.

The average usual Sunday attendance (across both services) during 2025 was 50 adults & 15 children.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The year of 2025 has been a year marked by growth, planning, and renewed energy in mission, for St John's, Menston. As at the end of 2025 we have around 100 people in our regular worshipping community (15 aged <18, 30 aged 18-69 and around 55 aged 70+) with 79 people on our electoral roll. St John's is a lively and faithful community, but we have capacity for growth and we long for more people in our village to know the love of Jesus for themselves and become active members of His Church, being blessed themselves and being a blessing to others.

In March, the PCC gathered for a full day to develop a Mission Strategy for 2025 and 2026. The outcome of this day was a strategy with six areas of mission focus: **Community Engagement, Children and Families, Access, Inclusivity, Discipleship** and **Financial Sustainability**. Over the year we sought to bring energy and resources to these six priority areas in the belief that through them, we will grow in number, commitment to God and service to our community.

Children and Families work and **Community Engagement** have been particularly active areas of mission. We have developed our offering for youth with events such as the popular Silent Disco night and new monthly church groups Ignite and Fireworks. We have developed our offering to local families through development of our Zest at Kirklands Specials (including donkeys and alpacas!) and half term activities. We have strengthened our connection with Menston Primary through reception class visits to church, offering a new starter meet up, and an advent assembly. We continue to support our local Scout group with a place to meet, and a Christmas session led by our Vicar.

We have also offered quiz nights, music concerts, and brick (Lego) church. We have also sought to be a visible presence and support at community events such as our vicar giving the talk at VE day celebrations and leading the community Remembrance Day service, Bless the Station and supporting the Light Up Menston event with Christmas jumper swap and our new Christmas Star light.

Alongside this St John's conducted a number of occasional offices (6 baptisms, 2 weddings, 9 funerals and 2 interments) for our parishioners, meeting with and leading them through the milestone moments in their faith and life.

Discipleship and **Inclusivity** and **Access** have also been active areas of mission. We ran Lent groups jointly with our Methodist friends on the theme of Wild Bright Hope, and Advent groups following a book by Rev Rachel Mann – a trans-woman priest entitled "Do not be afraid". In the summer of 2025, we also ran some Summer Conversation groups around the theme of Everybody Counts. We also began to consider what becoming an official "inclusive" church could look like. In a small effort towards this we re-badged the accessible toilet for use by everyone, not male only.

We have partnered with Kintsugi Hope to offer well-being groups in 2026, so we can offer Christian-based mental wellbeing support. In June we ran a 24 hour "Bible Bash

and Prayer Slam” where the Bible was read by 38 different people continuously over 24 hours, and church was open for prayers that whole time. We also established a pattern for meeting for Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 9:15am in church to follow the daily office. This offers clergy and anyone who is available the space to pray together, hear from God and hold up to Him the needs of the parish.

Our September Generosity and Gratitude season was also an opportunity for us to reflect on our discipleship and what it is to live generous and grateful lives.

Access continues to be an issue due to our position on the hill. We have been considering access in the broadest sense. 2025 saw conversations about lighting, step free access and hearing systems. We committed to seek an architect’s advice on access improvements that could be made. We also established a new monthly Home Communion service at the Spindles (local residential care), alongside continuing our monthly service at The Beeches, and our rota for individuals to receive in their home.

A significant project of 2025 was to plan and approve the Parish Room refresh to ensure this space was versatile and as welcoming as possible and would enable a space for ministry and mission to many groups to take place in the future.

Financial sustainability is a priority and requires a continued determined effort. In 2025 we agreed a new financial strategy that was developed by the Financial Strategy Group. Through our Generosity and Gratitude season we shared the financial concerns and needs with the congregation as well as giving thanks for all we have and all that is faithfully offered to support the worship and mission in Menston. By December 2025 we have seen a 14% increase in regular planned giving - this really is encouraging. We also received a number of one-off specific financial gifts including some to offset costs of missional activity such as hire for donkeys and alpacas and Stay and Play equipment.

In 2025 we contributed 74% of our regular unrestricted income towards the Parish Share Request from the Diocese. This represents 80% of what they asked for. Traditionally St John’s has offered 100%, but in recent years we have had to manage our finances by offering a reduced proportion instead. This does undermine the future provision of clergy as Parish Share funds the training and deployment of clergy; we hope to increase our offering as finances allow, in recognition of this and our desire for clergy in the future, both here and in our neighbouring parishes.

Overall, we finished the year in relatively good financial health although the pressure on resources is evident. In 2025 we also applied for a new online charity bank account with the Co-Op, going forward this will improve our ability to manage our finances efficiently.

The above summarises a parish actively strengthening its mission, deepening its discipleship, enhancing its spaces, and expanding its presence in the community whilst seeking financial sustainability. God is good, and he has continued to be faithful to us here in Menston, we seek to be faithful to Him and to serve this place and his people well, today and for the future.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC is a Public Benefit Entity. The members have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements under the Charities Act 2011.

The public benefit from St John's, Menston comes in different ways. Firstly, there are many benefits obtained from being part of a prayerful, multi-generational, lively and supportive church community. We are connected to others, cared for and encouraged to lead a good life, keep faith and have hope. As well as the personal and church community benefits of this, this in turn positively impacts our wider social engagements and our involvement in the village of Menston and wider society, benefitting all.

Secondly, St John's is part of Menston's heritage and integral to the village's identity and connection to the past. This is evidenced by the local people who support and appreciate St John's without being regular attenders at worship services. It is further evidenced by the numbers who join us for Christmas services. We can see that we are an important part of village life. Further we provide a safe, non-anxious presence in an anxious world, and we are needed here to encourage confidence and be a beacon of hope. This year we were also able to welcome a group of Iranian asylum seekers from a sister church in Bowling, helping them engage with the heritage of their refuge city and share the beauty of this place.

Thirdly, the church and the Parish Room buildings are available to the public at large. Our special position on the hill affords beautiful views and our churchyard benches are regularly frequented by people looking for a quiet spot to enjoy the view. Our church building is open during daylight hours Monday to Saturday in addition to Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday services. This provides a spiritual retreat for people in the village, or those passing by. Our visitor book and our 'Prayer Pebble Pool' indicate St John's provides a special space for many. We also continue to inter ashes in our Garden of Remembrance, which is an important pastoral offering for the village, and mourners regularly visit the garden, with its beautiful view and its opportunity to reflect.

In 2025 we hosted two music concerts in the building as the Church building provides a wonderful acoustic space for music. This enables local talent to enjoy performing, sharing their gifts and fundraising for good causes, as well as the opportunity for fun and social connection for all who attend. The Parish Room is utilised by church and local groups to build and facilitate community life from the Scouts to fitness classes, from our own Stay and Play group to funeral wakes. We have invested in this space as a facility for the village to benefit from, and they do.

Finally, St John's seeks to support other charities and churches that align with our charitable objectives, but who do work we cannot do ourselves. We do this through considering what financial support we can offer and by directly seeking donations at key times of year like Harvest and Christmas. In 2025 we specifically supported the wider Diocese of Leeds, Christian Aid, and InnChurches.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

ZEST

Zest is St John's all-age service, held at 9.30am every Sunday. We have had a busy year and Zest has continued to evolve. The Zest team bring new ideas to our worship to help keep it fresh and relevant to our all-age congregation. We have a regular monthly communion, which is done in a way that involves the children and young people. Our children and young people also regularly give bible readings, lead prayers and are always excited to explain the different ways they have been exploring the Bible reading, from painting to Lego.

We are hugely grateful to our craft team (Fiona, Catherine, Angela, Jen, Isabel and Sally) for all the fantastic work they do coming up with new and exciting crafts each week. The discussion group allows the adults to dig deeper into the bible readings, ask questions and support each other in faith. Thomas and Jamie regularly provide live worship music in Zest; we are grateful to them both for sharing their gift for music with us and for bringing such joy to our worship.

Going forward, we continue to think of new ways to help us to engage with God and to deepen our faith and understanding. With God's guidance, we would like to grow the Zest congregation further and take our existing attenders deeper in their walk with God. The Zest team meet regularly to review how things are working and to think of new ways to teach and worship. We appreciate the ongoing prayers of St John's as we continue our journey.

11AM SERVICES

At 11am each Sunday we gather for a traditional Holy Communion service. This service has continued to be attended by a strong faithful group, and we have seen one or two new or returning faces over the year. We are grateful to our organist Elizabeth who provides the music to aid our worship at these services and enables us to raise our voices in praise. The 11am is further supported by a large rota of volunteers who cover the intercessions, the readings and the wardening duties. Without their offering of time and gifts the services would not happen, so a big thank you to them.

Our 11am service is well attended yet we are conscious of the demographics of our 11am congregation and the access issues of being a church on a hill. We note that at St John's people may stop coming to church sooner than they otherwise would because of the access to our building. We are committed to improving access and thinking creatively about how we can help people access worship and fellowship. In 2025 we have established a new monthly Home Communion Service at the Spindles (supported flats for older people) which is attended by 12-15 people each time.

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER & THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION

We continue to offer midweek Holy Communion Service on Thursday at 9:30am. This service offers a quiet and gentle time of worship and has a regular and committed congregation of around 8 people.

In 2025 we also started meeting for Morning Prayer in church on a Tuesday at 9:15am, where we follow the daily office.

These two midweek offerings ensure that the parish has regular opportunities for worship and that the needs of the parish can be presented to God in the name of Jesus. It is always good to pray together, and these small and quiet opportunities keep the beacon of faith burning in between our main Sunday worship.

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

In 2025, St John's conducted a number of occasional offices (6 baptisms, 2 weddings, 9 funerals and 2 interments). These services give us an opportunity to engage with a large number of people who don't necessarily come to church regularly, so it is always positive to be able to offer sincere and caring welcome to people who are marking significant transitional moments in their lives. We want them to show them that God cares about them and their lives.

We also supported three members through to Confirmation and welcomed Bishop Toby in May to confirm three faithful women. It was a real spiritual high point of the year, a celebration of faith and an inspiration to all who we were there.

FESTIVALS AND SEASONS

These dates are often the highlight of our Church year and create a framework around which all of the other Sundays come together.

In 2025 we sought to join with our Methodist brothers and sisters through joint lent groups, attending each other's Ash Wednesday service, offering a joint Maundy Thursday service. In Holy Week we also offered a Stations of the Cross service, a Meditation for Good Friday, a dawn service on Easter Sunday with a fire pit, and joined both Zest and 11am congregations together for Easter Communion.

At Pentecost again we celebrated all-together and this was shortly followed by the "Bible Bash and Prayer Slam". We celebrated Harvest together with a community "Bring and Share" lunch afterwards, and our Vicar led the village Remembrance Service at the war memorial, followed by a Remembering Together service in church for all those carrying grief that same evening.

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Christmas 2025 was well-attended by the wider village. Although after bumper numbers in 2024, we saw slightly fewer but still a significant turnout in 2025. We once again included a Longest Night Service for those who find Christmas difficult, as well as our Christmas Eve Nativity service, Midnight Communion and our “Everyone Together” Celebration on Christmas morning. It was a great encouragement to see so many people join us in worship, and we ended the year full of hope for the year ahead and the relevance of our church and the appetite for the Good News of Jesus in this village.

In 2026, we hope to build on this and ensure we offer accessible worship that meets the needs of many, and we continue to invite all of God’s people in Menston to join in.

YOUTH @ ST JOHN’S

This year we have revamped our children and youth group to try and better serve our young people. Our children and young people were fully involved in the process, telling us what they would like to get from the group. They also chose our new name and logo.

We fully launched Ignite & Fireworks in January. We meet as a joint group once a month on a Sunday afternoon in the Parish Room. We break into smaller age-related groups (Fireworks: 6 – 9, Ignite: 10 – 16) to play games, do craft projects and explore the Bible and God’s love for us. We then meet together again to pray and share pizza together. It has been fantastic to welcome Amy and Thomas to our leadership team. We are excited to continue developing Youthwork @ St John’s this year and would love to include more young people from the village. Please pray for this.

INCLUSIVITY

St John’s is a village church which positively welcomes everyone. We recognise that we are on a journey and are keen to explore what being recognised as an ‘Inclusive Church’ would look like locally. Over the Summer months, we held small discussion Groups in the Parish Room and in the Malt Shovel. We had themed sermons around the theme of ‘Everybody Counts’.

There was concern that saying we are a welcoming Church where everyone counts and everybody matters is easier said than done. It needs the whole church family, of all ages, to live with and personally engage with its mission. Over this next year the PCC are going to explore the implications of offering a blessing to same-gender couples, as well as looking at access issues for those less able members of our community.

Please pray about how we make St John’s a welcoming and open church to all God’s people as we engage in discussion around Prayers of Love and Faith, disability, neurodiversity, ethnic heritage, age, wellbeing, and much more.

DISCIPLESHIP

So much of our activity is about growing in our discipleship, from worship to community engagement, following Jesus is the motivator for it all. In all of our worship and teaching and activity we are seeking to grow in the likeness of Christ.

In 2025 we have also sought to specifically grow in our knowledge and confidence of Jesus, so we might better follow him. For example, our Generosity and Gratitude Season was about discipleship and commitment to the mission in Menston as much, if not more, than financial sustainability. This was a key moment of reflecting on how being a disciple affects our life and our choices. We spoke about tithing, and praying for God to guide us, and asking him to make whatever we can offer truly fruitful. We also spoke about not offering more than we can and having confidence to offer less which can be the faithful response. Generous and grateful lives are less about money, time or talents, and more about the motivation of the heart. We seek a heart that is turned towards God and others - that is being a disciple of Christ.

In 2025 we have partnered with Kintsugi Hope to enable us to offer Christian-based mental wellbeing support in 2026. We also sought to engage the church community in the disciplines of bible reading and prayer through the “Bible Bash and Prayer Slam”. We were encouraged that 38 different people engaged with this opportunity. We also established a new pattern of meeting for Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 09:15am in church to follow the daily office, to encourage the clergy and present the needs of the parish before God.

Further, a significant project of 2025 was to plan and approve the Parish Room refresh to ensure this space was versatile and as welcoming as possible and would enable a space for ministry and mission to many groups to take place in the future. We have a vision that if we create a contemporary and comfortable space then we will have an environment that will encourage and facilitate discipleship groups in the future, from Kintsugi, to our new youth groups - Ignite and Fireworks, to mini spiritual retreat days in the future, and hopefully much more.

SUPPORTING WORSHIP - ALTAR FLOWERS GUILD

Thank you to the small group of ladies who helped to arrange the Easter lilies and to decorate the church for Christmas. One of the highlights of 2025 was arranging the Christmas flower in time for the Candlelit Carol Service. Once again candles were included in the arrangements. We were pleased with the impact it had on our worship and hope that it added to the enjoyment of those who attended the service.

During 2025 many people volunteered to arrange flowers by the main altar. The variety of flowers and arrangements have been enjoyed by many. The sign-up process also offers people an opportunity to remember a loved one by sponsoring the flowers on a key anniversary, and provides a key pastoral connection between our personal lives, our fellowship and our worship.

We will continue to support worship with flowers and candles and will encourage new people to get involved in what is a joyful, mindful and creative aspect of our shared life and a way of expressing the faith we have.

SUPPORTING WORSHIP - SACRISTAN

As a traditional Holy Communion service, the 11am service requires the support of the Sacristan team to set up for the presiding clergy. This is a valuable ministry that practically supports the clergy but also enables others to be involved in the special ministry that is offering the sacrament of Holy Communion to our worshipping community. In 2026, we will continue to support St John's Eucharistic ministry and hope to add to our team of three.

SUPPORTING WORSHIP - READING THE LESSON

The reading of the Bible is central to our faith and our worship. In the 11am service, the reading of the lesson is shared across the church community. It is a joy to hear and see many different people speak God's Word aloud to us. The rota is managed by our Organist.

In June 2025 we once again hosted the Bible Bash, a 24-hour marathon of reading the Bible. Thank you to everyone who took part, especially to the core team of Sally and Tessa, who stayed through the whole 24-hour period!

This time we began with Matthew's Gospel and aimed to get through the whole of the New Testament. With readers as young as 5, through to people in their 90's, as a Church family we read it verse by verse. By 4am it became apparent that we would sail easily through the book of Revelation in good time. It was around 7.30am that Iain and Fiona read the final Amen in Revelation, and so we began to read the Psalms. By 10.30am we had got through a goodly number of those too!

In 2026 we will continue to encourage the existing team of readers and seek others to support special services.

SUPPORTING WORSHIP - INTERCESSIONS

As a traditional Holy Communion service, the 11am service includes a time of intercession, where we as a church community pray for each other and the world. This time of prayer is led by lay members of St John's, and the rota is managed by our Parish Administrator. The 'Pebble Pool' remains in place, allowing those who have visited church during the week to indicate their need of prayer. We pray for each person who left a pebble, trusting God to know their needs, and also offer the opportunity to pray for world events – such as the war in Iran and the Israel/Palestine conflict – by leaving out material to help guide prayer.

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In June 2025, whilst the Bible Bash was taking place, we also set up prayer stations around the Church encouraging people to pray for everything from the Church of England, our Children's work, our concerns for the planet and the climate, our friends and family, and our invitation to be an open church to all. It was a wonderful weekend and thank-yous must be expressed to everyone who came and read, prayed, supported, or brought food. The whole event was a true blessing.

In 2026 we will continue to be a church that prays, that relies on God first and foremost, rather than our own strength and agenda.

PASTORAL CARE

SAFEGUARDING

Our church must be a genuinely safe place for all and that requires a continuous commitment by all. Keeping each other safe is essential to ensure that each individual made in the image of God is cherished and respected as such. Nothing will undermine that truth like someone doing them harm, intentionally or through ignorance. But together we can build a culture of safety, openness and love that is at the heart of our Christian faith.

Throughout 2025 we continued to follow the guidance issued by the House of Bishops in order to instil a safeguarding culture that would make St John's a safe space for many people and have been working hard to improve our safeguarding records and procedures.

It is important that we acknowledge that the few individuals who are determined to do harm to children, young people or adults will deliberately seek out groups or organisations where they can come into contact with children or other vulnerable people. The church, by its nature, is particularly susceptible to these people and so we must all have an 'it could happen here' attitude in order to care for each other in our church and the wider community.

We have 25 individual church members with up-to-date safeguarding training, which enable them to work safely and consciously with the young or vulnerable and be able to notice any flags for concern. Those involved in ministry with the young or vulnerable have up to date DBS checks. We are grateful to all involved for taking the time for this challenging but vital aspect of our church mission.

During 2025 we updated the role descriptions for many of our volunteers so that they feel confident in carrying out their role and we can all better understand the time and talents that we, as a church, are blessed with. In 2026 we will continue to safely recruit volunteers that give their time to the work of St John's; this will include some retrospective checks for existing volunteers.

For St John's to be a safe and caring community we all need to look out for each other. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding or the wellbeing of yourself or anyone else in our parish, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Catherine Meakin, via email (safeguarding@stjohnmenston.org.uk), phone (07966 847231) or in person. If you believe a child or adult to be in immediate risk of significant harm you should always contact the police by dialling 999, then you should also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor on 0113 3530257 or safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org.

HOME COMMUNION

It is always hard when people have to make the decision that for various reasons they are no-longer able to physically join in with the worshipping life of St John's. Through illness or increasing frailty, people can feel cut off from the community to which they belong. Taking communion to people in their homes, is a real blessing, but also a very real reminder that they do still belong, and we do remember them in our prayers.

In addition, we also take communion to The Beeches (care home) and to The Spindles (retirement home) every month. Communion is ideally a communal activity, so if you can get to either of these places to join the service, rather than receiving alone at home, so much the better.

If you know of someone who would like to receive Communion because they can no longer get to Church, do please let us know, and if you would like to be a part of our valued team of people who take communion out, there is training available. Please speak to either Jo or Andrew.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

In 2025 we continued to send Christmas and Easter cards to members of the congregation of St John's who had moved away to be nearer their families, or had gone into care or nursing homes, to show that they had not been forgotten. We also sent cards on behalf of the church to anyone in the congregation who was ill, bereaved or going through a difficult time. We made visits or phone calls to people who had been referred to us; mainly older members of our congregation, but we also supported a church family with a new baby with meals and connection.

We are aware that we need to recruit more people to help us with visiting and we realise that we need to involve the younger members of our congregation and make them aware that pastoral support is for them too. We intend to connect with Zest and Stay & Play so that younger people and families in need can also be supported by church where possible. It is a blessing that Stay & Play is supported by people from both Zest and the 11am congregation, natural connections and relationships are growing.

In 2025 we gathered a couple of times as a Pastoral Care team for mutual support and encouragement in this important part of our shared life. We will also consider what other support we could offer and any training we needed. We will continue to gather as a team where possible.

In 2026, we will consider in what ways we can support Menston Cares as a parish wide pastoral support service.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our group met monthly during the year, with a mixture of social meetings and church services of a more spiritual nature. We devise many of our sessions ourselves, drawing on friends from church to talk to us, for example about their careers, and we always enjoy a session with Rev Andrew Howorth to his wonderful acting abilities. Our thanks too to our Vicar Jo for supporting us with our church services when requested.

We now have 16 members, losing only one at the start of 2026, which is very encouraging for the continuation of our group. We hope to continue raising funds for our charities, which is expected of us by being part of the Mothers' Union. These are: The MU Overseas Fund, The MU Relief Fund, and Away from it all Holidays, which funds 2 caravans at Primrose Valley for families who would benefit from a free holiday.

Due to our age group, which is mainly 80+ years, we are not physically active but enjoy meeting together and doing what we can to support the Mothers' Union and the wonderful work it does worldwide, supporting marriage and family life, especially those whose lives have met with adversity.

CHURCH SOCIAL EVENTS

As a Church Community, it is always a joy to get together for other fun activities throughout the year. These different events provide an opportunity to get to know each other better, to have fun together, and often to help raise funds for other activities.

In 2025, we held a family picnic, board game afternoons, and had two quiz nights with supper. We also hosted two concerts, with locally sourced musicians coming together for Music in the Air and Time Warp.

Once again, the Eco-team hosted family eco-workshops and quizzes. If you have any ideas about things that you would enjoy doing as part of our Church Family, do share your thoughts. In the pipeline for this next year are movie nights, more quizzes, a summer picnic or maybe a garden party? Watch this space.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

ZEST @ KIRKLANDS

We have held 3 services this year at Kirklands. These took place at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. All three services were well attended, and it was great to welcome both new and familiar faces. We will continue to run our Zest at Kirklands services in the coming year. However, we are going to make a change to the pattern of services and will now hold an exciting new service in Summer. The Kirklands services are a great way of engaging with the wider community and is another way of making St John's visible in Menston, and helping those with little or no church background see what its all about.

STAY&PLAY

Stay&Play has continued to build in size, now welcoming on average 15+ toddlers a week, many of which attend regularly. We have slowly refreshed the toys and equipment during the year including purchasing new hot-drink-flasks and acquiring soft play equipment and new mats. The changes to equipment, and the redecoration of the Parish Room, has been really welcomed by our users.

At the last session of the academic year, where some of our children left for school in September, we gave out a handmade bear wishing them luck from St John's (thank you to Angela). Another memorable session was our last before Christmas, where we had a special visitor in red handing out gifts (thank you to Andrew!). This session welcomed over 25 toddlers and their grown-ups.

In 2026, we're now planning to give out Easter eggs at the last session before school term ends for Easter, which have been kindly donated by the Mothers Union.

As well as our regular sessions, we ran several BIG Stay&Plays this year; three sessions during the summer and one in each half term in October and February. These sessions are popular, seeing around 25 children and adults through the door. We plan to do more of these in the future as an important way to continue to serve a need in our Parish. We also ran Collage Club in February half term, which had great feedback and was attended by over 15 families. We'd like to do more of these in the coming school holidays.

Advertising our Kirklands specials at Stay&Play has resulted in a few families regularly attending these events. It has been such a wonderful experience seeing more engagement with other parts of church life coming from Stay&Play.

Stay&Play's purpose is to be witness to Gods love through service and make church and faith accessible. As a non-teaching outreach, we see Stay&Play as a gateway to church and we pray that God will open the hearts of our attendees, and the wider church family will be here to welcome them.

A big thank you goes to our regular volunteers Hilary, Rita and Marion. They have managed the kitchen with ease and helped enormously in the smooth running of Stay&Play. We are also especially grateful to Jen who leads and runs this group on behalf of church, it is a significant part of our mission and outreach.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The church exists not only for those who already consider themselves members but for all those who could be, that is indeed everyone. St John's is no different and we seek to be a beacon of hope in Menston, enabling people to hear and receive the love of God in Jesus and to take that same love out into the rest of their lives and bless the world.

Therefore, community engagement is integral to that mission. We want Menston to know we are their church, we care for everyone, and we are here for them.

In 2025 we took ourselves and our love out into the village for VE day celebrations, Menston Community Association Event, Light Up Menston, and down to the train station for three cold mornings to serve teas and coffees to commuters (Bless the Station). In 2025, we also ran several events to facilitate community life. For example, Music in the Air, which we have done before, but also some new initiatives such as a Time Warp gig, a summer meet up for Menston Primary new starters, and a Silent Disco reunion for Menston year 7's. The feedback from these new events was very positive, suggesting people felt the church cared about them.

We continue to connect with the Scouts and Menston Primary School and have recently connected with the Railway Children nursery. We are seeking to develop our support of these groups into 2026.

In 2026 we also have plans for broadening the advertising and reach of our special Zest services as we know we have such Good News and such good fun to offer families in the village; we would love to see more of Menston be a part of these special events. We also want to promote and grow our Ignite and Fireworks youth groups and offer a broader range of youth engagement. For example, we are looking at how we can be a force for good at Halloween, with a positive presence in the village on 31st of October.

MISSION PARTNERS

The Outreach Group recommends charities that it considers it would be appropriate to support in the coming year. Christian Aid was chosen as our charity for 2025 and Cal Bailey spoke about his recent visit to Bangladesh in the sermon slot in early October. £1k was raised for Christian Aid which was a great result. A bring and share lunch followed the service which was enjoyed by about 30 people.

Christian Aid works on two fronts: to alleviate suffering in emergencies, and to tackle the underlying reasons for that suffering, through long term work with communities on

transformation, and through campaigning. The Government decision to cut the foreign aid budget threatens essential services, with life- and-death consequences for millions of people already in desperate need.

Donations from the Gift Service in November were sent to Inn Churches, who provide practical support to those that need it most across the Bradford District. Through their activities they try to empower people who are homeless, vulnerably housed, hungry, or cold, helping them to help themselves to make permanent and lasting change with dignity and choice. They work with over 100 other community groups and organisations, and have more than 850 volunteers from 70 churches and the wider community in Bradford.

The Outreach Group would welcome new people to take practical steps to research possible charities for St John's to support and/or running fund raising events - please do consider joining!

PARISH MAGAZINE

In 2025 the number of copies required of the magazine continued its slow decline. However, thanks to the subscribers and advertisers, the magazine still makes a good profit which goes towards church funds. It continues to provide an important connection between church life and those who cannot, or do not attend.

The magazine includes a wide range of topics/information; advertising of church events, reports from PCC and MU; Clergy Letters give us food for thought and spiritual direction; updates on community/environmental matters and wider Church issues help inform; Prayer Points draw our thoughts to many different possibilities for prayer. A View from the Pews is enjoyed by many; quizzes. Contributions from members of the congregation are welcomed – don't be shy!

Magazine profit in 2025 was around £2,000 but of course does not reflect the time offered by those contributing to, editing, printing and collating the magazine. It is a big team effort. Thank you to all involved in the collating and distribution of the magazine.

FABRIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

FABRIC REPORT

There have been no significant developments in the churchyard following its closure in 2024.

New clip-on lights were bought to illuminate the sloping path during the winter months. These were successful and offer an ad hoc solution for those using that route to church.

Discussions are ongoing as to how we can improve access to the church making it safe and secure and encouraging more people to worship in person.

Those responsible for keeping the plants and flowers looking lovely are greatly appreciated. Thank you especially to Chris and Kathy Roberts for maintaining the borders, and to Matthew Smith for cutting the grass of the remembrance garden.

The work required in maintaining and improving a Victorian church on a hill is a challenge, but an exciting one. The cleaners, gardeners, painters, decorators, curtain makers, flower arrangers and ad hoc odd jobs people who have risen to the various challenges are to be lauded and their efforts greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

We will continue in 2026/7 to have a couple of maintenance days where jobs for all abilities will be available as we continue to drive the message on the importance of church as community.

Inevitably, there will be some jobs that, though desirable, money, time and feasibility will make impossible next year. However, the story never ends; through prayer, hope and hard work, we will continue to make our church a warm and welcoming place for all. Our quinquennial inspection is booked for May 2026.

ECO-CHURCH GROUP

During 2025, we once again planted seeds in the pots beside the Parish Room and enjoyed harvesting the potatoes, beetroot etc. in July. We organised an Eco Quiz and Supper in May which was a fun event aimed at all ages with a little bit of eco information thrown in. We held an indoor picnic in July (what happened to the weather?) but had to cancel the walk.

The jumper stall at the Christmas Light Switch On event in December was well supported - 68 jumpers donated and 36 re-homed which was very similar to last year but with more understanding of what we are trying to do: reduce, reuse and recycle!

A recorded Greenbelt talk entitled, 'Enough is Enough' led to an interesting discussion about how the earth's resources could be shared more equally among everyone on the planet.

During the year, we looked back at the environmental report that we obtained in 2016 which recommended secondary glazing, non-LED lighting (done) and installing thermostatic radiator valves (also done). Our current energy consumption is split between gas 97% and electricity 3% so we have some way to go in regard to reaching net zero.

Looking ahead, we will plant more seeds, improve labelling of the recycling bins, run more Greenbelt talks, and consider what energy changes we can make to reach net zero.

We were pleased the PCC chose to open a new bank account with the Co-Op bank which was a conscious ethical choice and one that we hope supports our eco-justice agenda.

BEING PART OF THE WIDER CHURCH

ST JOHN'S WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS

St John the Divine: Menston with Woodhead, is within the South Craven and Wharfedale Deanery, within the Bradford Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds.

We work collegiately within our deanery and across the Diocese, seeking to learn from and support our brothers and sisters in Christ in order to see the Church grow in numbers, commitment to God and service to communities across the Diocese.

Sally Smith and Marilyn Banister continue as St John's elected representatives on Deanery Synod, and our vicar Rev Jo Glenwright and our Associate Priest Rev Andrew Howorth are also members. Marilyn was re-elected in 2023 as lay chair of the Deanery Synod for another three-years.

Here is the Denary Report:

SOUTH CRAVEN AND WHARFEDALE DEANERY REPORT

By Marilyn Banister

The parishes that make up South Craven and Wharfedale Deanery in the Bradford Episcopal Area run from Menston in the south east, up the Wharfe valley to Addingham, then over to Silsden, across to Sutton Cowling and Lothersdale, and include Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley in the Aire Valley.

Sally Smith and I continue as your lay elected representatives on Deanery synod and all clergy in the Deanery are automatically members. Rev Mike Coe from All Saints, Ilkley is the Area Dean, and Rev Mike Green from Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley is the assistant Area Dean.

There is a standing committee which meets prior to each of our meetings and plans the agenda for the Synod. In 2025, we met three times – once on line, then at Kildwick and Ben Rhydding. We have not sent a motion to Diocesan Synod for many years but it is our role to do so if there is a matter that people wish to be raised. Do give it thought.

At our meeting in February 2025, we were treated to a presentation about the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, given by a member of Ben Rhydding. It was very informative and inspiring, and gave all of us a lot to think about. Later in the year, we heard from Rev Canon Sean Robertson, Diocesan Director of Vocations about the routes that people take to ministry if they heed a calling. Rev Steve Proudlove provided information about training opportunities for all and gave an update on the newly designed webpages for the Diocese to make it easier to find all that is available.

As usual I include overleaf information about payments made by churches in our Deanery for the Diocesan share in 2025.

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	Requested share for 2025	Contribution	Percentage offered in 2025.	Percentage offered in 2024.
Diocese of Leeds	15,374,885	11,566,775	75%	77%
Bradford Episcopal Area	2,613,991	2,116,219	81%	77%
South Craven and Wharfedale Deanery	775,633	618,410	80%	83%
St John's -Menston	81,000	64,863	80%	85% (62,652)
Churches that met full request in SC and W Deanery	Addingham, All Saints-Ilkley, and Lothersdale.			

On 9 May 2026, the Bradford Episcopal Area Forum will be held at All Saints, Ilkley. This is open to everyone, so do come along and meet Christians from across the area.

Bishop Toby is encouraging us all to pray about the share payments that we make to pay the cost of clergy pay and housing. As a Diocese, we are not covering these costs and hard decisions will need to be made. We are encouraged to think about ‘share’ like a shared lunch - we all bring and we all receive! I am also encouraging the Deanery churches to join the Pilgrim Places scheme set up by Faith in the North and hope to hear more from Kildwick who are leading on this.

Do please consider whether you would like to get involved on Deanery Synod. Menston has three places for lay people and elections take place at the APCM. Do ask me if you would like to know more. Deanery Synod members elected this spring will vote for members to join General Synod this summer, so if you want to have your say, think about standing for Deanery Synod or even General Synod!

ST JOHN’S WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS - CONTINUED

In addition to Deanery Synod, the Deanery Chapter (clergy) meet four times a year to pray, support one another and share learning from across the local churches and parishes. For example, Christmas engagement resources, theology of children and Communion, and different approaches to Living in Love and Faith. We also take turns to contribute a written piece for the weekly newspaper the Ilkley Gazette, which gives us an opportunity to share Christian reflections on the world across the Wharfe valley.

The Diocesan vision is for Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities, and the Diocese seeks to support parishes to do this. The range of issues dealt with is vast and there is a huge wealth of expertise that parishes can call upon. In

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2025 we were able to draw on diocesan support and advice. For example, safeguarding advice and support, and children's and young people work, support and resources.

The Diocese trains, pays and provides clergy for parishes. The Parish Share contributes to, but does not cover these costs. The shortfall in parish clergy costs, the administrative costs of the Diocese and the cross-Diocese projects have been met by selling assets and funding by the national Church of England. Whether the Church of England has the balance right between projects and supporting parish ministry is currently being considered. In 2025, St John's offered 80% of the Parish Share request we received, which the Diocese gratefully received, and wrote to us with their heartfelt thanks.

In 2026 we will continue to work collegiately within our deanery and the Diocese and draw on the expertise and support on offer. We will also review our Parish Share contributions, mindful of the missional benefits of enabling well trained clergy to be deployed to parishes that could not otherwise afford them.

ST JOHN'S AND ECUMENICAL FRIENDS

Our Vicar and the minister for the Methodist church (Rev Cameron) have a good working relationship and connection and seek to support one another in our shared Christian mission in Menston. We will continue to support our Methodist friends where possible, with shared promotion of services and events, joint services and groups where appropriate and practical.

Our Vicar led the Remembrance Service at Kirkland's for all and ask Rev Cameron to be involved.

In 2025 St John's Licensed Lay Minister Wendy Thornhill continued to lead the team taking monthly Home Communion to the Beeches Care Home, where most Christian residents are connected to the Methodist Chapel.

As per tradition our Methodist friends joined for St John's for Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve/Day. Our Vicar and the Methodist Minister agreed to start a seasonal service at the Beeches Care Home, and to alternate which one of them leads it.

For 2026 we have plans to continue offering monthly Home Communion and to offer four seasonal services at the Beeches. We also plan to do a "pulpit swap" in the week for Christian Unity, have shared Ash Wednesday services and a joint Maundy Thursday service, but this time at St John's.

Our new Home Communion service in the Spindles retirement apartments, offers access to the sacrament for Anglicans from far and wide, as well as Methodist and Catholic friends.

St John's Menston is committed to being the Parish Church, serving and supporting the whole village.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Foreword from Treasurer – Mr James Sheppard

I suspect that for some people the handling of church money is considered a mysterious art but for me it is a wonderful way to experience the generosity and the mission of the people here at St John's in Menston. This has been my first year as Treasurer for St John's and I have had immeasurable support from previous Treasurer Iain Johnson this year as we have implemented and delivered all sorts of new systems, new technologies and approaches to handling church finances. My thanks go to Iain, Jo and others for their support this year, and to you – the members of St John's for your faith, time, talents and generosity.

OVERVIEW OF 2025 FINANCES

In 2025 our unrestricted income increased from £88,180 to £97,947.47 which represents an increase of approximately 11%. Whilst regular planned giving increased by 2%, the large increase was mostly driven by irregular ad hoc giving, often using the new card-reading device at the back of church. Other contributing income streams such as collections at services and events, occasional offices, magazine sales and advertising, Parish Room lettings and legacies all contributed to this excellent financial performance. In particular, a number of fundraising activities took place including the Christmas Quiz and Supper raising over £800, Matthew's sponsored Abbey Dash raising £370, Music in the Air raising over £400, Time Warp gig raising over £500 and the Christmas jumper swap raising over £100. A huge thank you to all involved for their efforts and commitment.

Our expenditure in 2025 followed the principles set out in the new financial strategy; a set of guidelines developed by the Financial Stewardship Group and approved by the PCC. The strategy sets out the priority for the allocation of expenditure according to the immediate needs of the church and the opportunity to invest for the future. Costs are allocated based on the level of income to ensure that St John's maintains its financial stability going forward and is not committed to spending more than we have.

Each year the Diocese issues a request for funds according to their own need for funding, based on the number of clergy they need to pay, the number of homes to maintain and the requirement for newly trained clergy. As a church that has a vicar that is paid for through the Diocese, we are committed to contribute to Parish Share for what we directly receive, but also so that other churches in our Diocese may also receive what we do. This is why we refer to the Diocese as our first mission partner.

It should be noted that the Parish Share request from the Diocese of Leeds for our church was £81k in 2025, and we were not able to meet that figure given our level of income and other priorities for our funds. However, in 2025 we have:

- Covered our running costs of £28k (total of administrator salary, energy costs, building maintenance, consumables, excludes clergy costs);

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- Maintained reserves of £15k;
- Allocated £8.7k to mission activity in Menston (of which £5k was committed to the 2026 parish room refresh); and
- Contributed £64.8k towards Parish Share (clergy costs), which represents 74% of our income, and 80% of the request from the Diocese.

This may sound like bad news, but for a congregation of our size, to be able to contribute this level of Parish Share, whilst also ensuring running costs are covered, our reserve policy is maintained, and local mission is invested in is incredibly impressive. We hope in the future to meet the needs of the Diocese through Parish Share.

The total expenditure for 2025 was £97,828 (this does not include £5k allocated for the 2026 parish room refresh). And therefore, a small surplus of £146 was generated from 2024. When added to funds carried forward from 2024, this gives us a closing balance for the year of £26,188, which is £11,188 above the reserve value of £15,000.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

In the 2025 Mission Strategy it was agreed that Financial Sustainability would be a priority for St John's. As such the Financial Stewardship Group (FSG) was formed from PCC members with a remit to oversee all aspects of church finances.

In 2025 the FSG developed and delivered:

- The working practises of the CollectIn card-reader machine
- Increased information and support for those wanting to use the Parish Giving Scheme
- The new financial strategy
- A new online bank account – with Co-Operative Bank
- A new cloud-based accounting system
- A Generosity and Gratitude series of church services

In September 2025 we ran a specific Generosity and Gratitude season to remind ourselves that our generosity is part of our discipleship and to recognise that all we have comes from God and of his own do we give Him. We also wanted to acknowledge and give thanks for the resources given to the life of the church and to increase awareness of the resources needed to fund church life and our mission going forwards.

Following this season, by December 2025 planned giving was up by 14%, with many donors making the switch to the preferred method of the Parish Giving Scheme. We note that this is a significant increase in offering from a reduced number of givers – regular giver reducing from 68 to 59. It is so encouraging that people are able and willing to review their giving to support the life of this church. A big thank you goes out to all those who participated, including to those who considered their giving and decided not to give

more, as personal financial sustainability is also essential for wellbeing and discipleship.

In reviewing our regular income position, we note that we are heavily reliant on a few households who give most of what is received. This means our income is sensitivity to changes, and for our finances to be more robust we need every household to give generously, whatever that might look like for them.

- the number of givers reduced again in 2025 from 68 in 2024 to 59, (had been 77 in 2023)
- This corresponds well with an electoral roll of 82 individuals, suggesting most attending households are giving on a planned and regular basis.
- Of the 59 regular givers:
 - 6 people/families are giving between £1 and £20 per month.
 - 15 people/families are giving between £21 - £40 per month.
 - 21 people/families are giving between £41 - £80 per month.
 - 17 people/families are giving more than £80 per month, some significantly more than this.
- Our income is very dependent on the giving of a few households.
- Average monthly planned giving was £85pm, (up from £71pm in 2024)
- Small differences add up. E.g. If all planned givers gave an extra £2 per week/£8 per month that would raise another £6000 per year for church funds.
- Although in 2025 average giving per household is up, we note the loss of regular givers.

LOOKING AHEAD - BUDGET 2026

The budget for 2026 reflects the income position at the end of 2025, with an observed increase in donations which we are optimistic about continuing into 2026. Expenses have been budgeted in line with the principles of the financial strategy and include an increase to the administrator's salary in line with the recommendations for the 'real living wage'. As our reserve value remains at £15,000, we are carrying forward over £11k into this year from last year that should be spent or allocated this year to be in line with best practise for a charity such as ours. Therefore, these funds over the reserve have been allocated to the Mission Fund for this year which leads to a net deficit in year.

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MENSTON PCC - GENERAL FUND - BUDGET 2026

Budget 2026		Budget 2025		Actual 2025
	INCOME			
62,500	Regular Giving	62,000		60,076
4,500	Collections at services	2,000		4,505
14,600	Gift Aid recovered	14,000		15,060
7,000	Irregular Income	4,000		6,915
-	Legacies	-		1,750
2,500	Service Fees	3,700		2,471
1,700	Parish Room hire	2,000		1,642
1,900	Magazine	2,200		1,822
3,000	Fund Raising	2,500		2,923
300	Interest	250		297
500	Other	39		513
98,500	Total Income	92,689		97,974
	EXPENDITURE			
10,000	Running Costs	9,450		9,088
4,000	Utility bills	3,730		3,474
14,700	Administrator salary	13,487		13,694
700	Organist salary	800		672
750	Expenses	250		730
15,138	Mission fund expenditure	13,682		3,713
64,050	Diocesan share	62,082		64,863
-	Mission partner giving	-		1,250
350	Fundraising expenses	250		344
109,688	Total Expenditure	103,731	-	97,828
-11,188	Surplus(-Deficit)	-11,042	0	146

FINANCIAL REPORTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON WITH WOODHEAD, CHARITY NO 1129823 ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 34 to 42.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Linda P Nelson FCCA
Nuvo BFE Brays
Building Society Chambers
Wesley Street
OTLEY
LS21 1AZ

Date: 24 March 2026

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31st December 2025						
INCOMING RESOURCES		Unrestricted	Design'd	Restricted	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	<i>Note</i>					
Donations and legacies	2a	88,305.95	-	2,780.00	91,085.95	78,828.52
Income from charitable activities	2b	4,002.24	-	-	4,002.24	5,071.85
Other trading activities	2c	5,368.91	-	-	5,368.91	5,265.74
Income from investment	2d	297.37	-	42.39	339.76	282.79
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		97,974.47	-	2,822.39	100,796.86	89,448.90
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Mission activities	3a	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	4,454.98
Ministry	3b	70,068.48	-	292.56	70,361.04	65,003
Maintenance	3c	9,735.43	-	-	9,735.43	9,168.37
Support	3d	16,430.15	-	-	16,430.15	14,836.56
Costs of generating funds	3e	344.18	-	-	344.18	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		97,828.24	-	292.56	98,120.80	93,463
NET Incoming/-Outgoing RESOURCES before Transfer						
		146.23	-	2,529.83	2,676.06	-4,014
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS - in						
		-	-	-	-	631.66
-out						
		-	-	-	-	-631.66
NET Incoming/Outgoing RESOURCES		146.23	-	2,529.83	2,676.06	-4,014.11
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD						
at 1st January 2025		26,041.77	586.55	2,884.53	29,512.85	33,526.96
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		26,188.00	586.55	5,414.36	32,188.91	29,512.85
at 31st December 2025						

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026


Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead						
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December 2025						
	Note	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5					-
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	2,942.28	-	250.00	3,192.28	2,319.73
Investments	7	6,868.40	-	-0.13	6,868.27	7,507.45
Cash at bank & in hand	8	16,782.78	586.55	5,414.49	22,783.82	20,330.34
		26,593.46	586.55	5,664.36	32,844.37	30,157.52
LIABILITIES FALLING DUE						
WITHIN ONE YEAR	9	405.46	-	250.00	655.46	644.67
NET CURRENT ASSETS		26,188.00	586.55	5,414.36	32,188.91	29,512.85
TOTAL NET ASSETS		26,188.00	586.55	5,414.36	32,188.91	29,512.85
FUNDS						
Restricted	10	-	-	5,414.36	5,414.36	2,884.53
Unrestricted		26,188.00	586.55	-	26,774.55	26,628.32
		26,188.00	586.55	5,414.36	32,188.91	29,512.85

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2026

and signed by:



Vicar Rev'd J Glenwright (Chairman)



Mr J Sheppard (Treasurer)

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE,
MENSTON WITH WOODHEAD**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the provisions of the SORP applicable to Charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

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

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the PCC consider there is a reasonable expectation that there will be adequate resources for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis is adopted in preparing the financial statements.

FUNDS

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These may include monies designated by the PCC for a particular purpose.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Dividends are accounted for when receivable, and interest is accounted for as it accrues. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. There have been no acquisitions since 1 January 2000.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,500 or on the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

INVESTMENTS

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

CURRENT ASSETS

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents, tax refunds or other income are shown as debtors. Short term deposits are funds held on deposit in The CBF Church of England Funds with CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

LIABILITIES

We have been advised by the Diocese of Leeds that payments toward the Diocesan Share are regarded as donations to the Diocese and there is no liability to pay any shortfall in the future.

Any shortfall should not therefore be recorded as a contingent liability in the accounts.

24 March 2026

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead						
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025						
EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds		
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2025	2024	
3a Mission activities						
Overseas - missionary societies	-	-	-	-		
Overseas - relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	1,469.66	
Home missions and other relief organisations	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	2,985.32	
	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	4,454.98	
3b Ministry						
Diocesan parish share	64,863.20	-	-	64,863.20	62,651.80	
Arrears of parish share paid off	-	-	-	-	-	
Clergy costs	729.64	-	-	729.64	190.37	
Service expenses	3,662.16	-	292.56	3,954.72	1,416.34	
Fees	672.00	-	-	672.00	576.00	
Magazine costs	141.48	-	-	141.48	168.59	
	70,068.48	-	292.56	70,361.04	65,003.10	
3c Maintenance						
Church	2,153.50	-	-	2,153.50	1,606.20	
Equipment depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	
Utilities	3,474.42	-	-	3,474.42	3,496.20	
Insurance	2,670.33	-	-	2,670.33	2,543.26	
Upkeep of churchyard	173.97	-	-	173.97	1,111.38	
Parish Room maintenance	1,263.21	-	-	1,263.21	411.33	
	9,735.43	-	-	9,735.43	9,168.37	
3d Support						
Employment costs	13,693.62	-	-	13,693.62	10,628.65	
Subscriptions and licences	1,134.03	-	-	1,134.03	1,360.64	
Office running costs	1,354.59	-	-	1,354.59	1,145.51	
Office equipment	27.99	-	-	27.99	625.00	
Bank charges	168.92	-	-	168.92	209.27	
Other expenses	51.00	-	-	51.00	867.49	
	16,430.15	-	-	16,430.15	14,836.56	
3e Costs of generating funds						
Fundraising costs	344.18	-	-	344.18		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	97,828.24	-	292.56	98,120.80	93,463.01	

Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

Expenditure cont'd				Total Funds	
				2025	2024
4	<i>Staff Costs</i>				
	Gross Salaries			13,971.72	11,204.65
	Pension contribuitions	Employer		393.90	-
				14,365.62	11,204.65
<p>During the year the PCC employed a part-time organist and an administrator, neither of whom earned more than £60,000 pa. No payments were made to trustees.</p>					
5	FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC				
				Total Funds	
				2025	2024
	COST			-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
NET BOOK VALUE					
at 31st December 2025				-	-

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead						
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025						
6	DEBTORS		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	Income Tax recoverable		2,212.38	250.00	2,462.38	1,826.94
	Prepayments		729.90	-	729.90	492.79
			2,942.28	250.00	3,192.28	2,319.73
7	SHORT TERM DEPOSITS		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	held in CBF Church of England Funds					
	Choir		0.13	(0.13)	-	75.40
	Churchyard		-	-	-	139.27
	Donations		-	-	-	188.18
	Fabric		-	-	-	533.70
	General Purposes		6,868.27	-	6,868.27	6,570.90
			6,868.40	(0.13)	6,868.27	7,507.45
8	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	HSBC Main Account		17,358.83	5,414.49	22,773.32	20,319.84
	Office Cashbook		10.50	-	10.50	10.50
			17,369.33	5,414.49	22,783.82	20,330.34
9	LIABILITIES		Unrestricted	Agencies	2025	2024
	amounts falling due within one year					
	Agency Collections		-	250.00	250.00	250.00
	Accruals		405.46	-	405.46	394.67
	Other creditors		-	-	-	-
			405.00	250.00	655.46	644.67

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, Menston with Woodhead							
Notes to the Financial statements for year ended 31st December 2025							
10a	FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY						
		Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/	Total Funds	
		Resources	Resources		Losses	2025	2024
	Fabric Fund	24.15	-	-	-	44.26	20.11
	Choir Fund	3.41	-	-	-	13.49	10.08
	Churchyard Fund	6.31	-	-	-	25.27	18.96
	Altar Flower Fund	280.00	292.56	-	-	590.84	603.40
	Donations Fund	8.52	-	-	-	196.70	188.18
	Mission Fund	-	-	-	-	(1.00)	(1.00)
	Churchyard Planting Fund	2,500.00	-	-	-	5,131.35	2,631.35
	General Fund	97,974.47	97,828.24	-	-	26,188.00	26,041.77
		100,796.86	98,120.80	-	-	32,188.91	29,512.85
11	Contingent liabilities						
	We have been advised by the Diocese of Leeds that payments toward the Diocesan Share are regarded as contributions to the Diocese and there is no liability to pay any shortfall to the Share request in the future.						
	Any shortfall should not therefore be recorded as a contingent liability in the accounts.						

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

Extracts from the Financial Statements 31/12/2025					
Charitable Donations					
	2025	2024			
Mission Giving			Parish Room	Inc	Exp
ZARACH	625	-	Lettings	1,642	
Homeless not Helpless	625	-	Utilities		1181
Roche ECO Church	-	46	Cleaning		-
Medecins Sans Frontieres	-	1,470	Maintenance		1,263
Samaritans	-	1,470		1,642	2,444
Wheatfields Hospice	-	1,470			-802
	1,250	4,455			
% of unrestricted income	1	5	<i>Utilities estimated at 34% of Church utility bill</i>		
Collections (Big Jar)					
Christian Aid	957	-	Magazine	Inc	Exp
Inn Churches	581	-	Sales	1,245	
ZARACH	0	467	Adverts	577	
Homeless Hampers	0	57	Production/distrib costs		321
Sudanese Diocese	0	538		1,822	321
	1539	1062			1,501
Utilities					
	2025	2024			
	kWh	kWh			
Use Gas	21,036	22,320			
Electricity	3,592	3,908			
Change in gas usage	-6%	-2%			
Change in electric usage	-8%	16%			
Change in gas costs	-18%	-6%			
Change in electricity costs	34%	18%			

CHURCHWARDENS & CLERGY REPORTS

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

The year in the life of our church could best be summed up in two words; consolidation and renewal.

The upheaval of the previous years – mentioned in last year’s report – has mercifully been largely in the rear-view mirror. This does not mean it has been an uneventful year.

Jo has consolidated her approach to leading us in worship, marking her first anniversary in September. As wardens, we are blessed to have an enthusiastic and supportive vicar. There is a strong collegiate feel to life here at St John’s. Different teams have been holding regular meetings to ensure that projects are closely managed and communication and support are always available. Hilary took the decision to step back from full warden duties last year but, we have welcomed Julie as a wonderful replacement.

Changes to some of the paperwork and keeping tabs on everything administrative has meant that Amy’s job has been a little more challenging. She has, as ever, been incredible in her support – not least in taking the minutes for the PCC meetings in lieu of a PCC secretary.

Our big project for the year has been planning the refurbishment of the Parish Room. Debates about colour schemes, clearing out some of the old furniture, updating the technology and buying new sofas has been quite the challenge. However, there was a clear vision and I am pretty sure that we will all be pleased with the end result. It will make for a warm and welcoming community space – perfect for social events and regular get togethers. In 2026, we plan to host film screenings, discussion groups, meetings and of course Stay&Play. It is our hope that the year ahead will encourage others to use the space for their events and place St John’s where it should be, in the heart of Menston.

The work in and around the church never stops. We continue to hold ‘clean up’ days where all our welcome to come along and spend a couple of hours with friends tidying the church grounds, polishing the silver and deep cleaning the church and the Parish Room. These will continue and everyone is always welcome to come and arm yourselves with secateurs, hedge trimmers, chamois leathers or feather dusters – whatever floats your boat!

The regular cleaning and gardening groups make sure we have a welcoming space every week. Those in charge of the flowers help further to bring the colourful joy of creation into our church. It might often be unspoken but their efforts most certainly do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Whilst Julie and Dominic are the ‘official’ wardens we are, in effect, a team of six with skills and experience that all help to get the job done. David, Hilary, Judith and Matthew

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

do invaluable work and help to ensure the church runs smoothly. If you don't notice us too much, then we are doing the job well!

Church attendance remains good. The figures show we are still a popular church with good congregations at Zest and the 11am services. The inclusion of the Longest Night Service and the special services in Holy Week proved popular and welcome additions to our church year. The carol service was, once again, a full house and the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards gave the church an essential community buzz.

This year we have said goodbye to a number of the faithfully departed but alongside this it is joyful to see the Zest children grow and develop individual personalities, and for us to meet the new people God is sending our way.

Who knows what the next year will bring? Whatever challenges we face, whatever joys or difficulties present themselves, Julie and I and all the warden team are so grateful for the support of the people at St John's. We look forward with determination and joy to continue making this church, the true heart of Menston.

Dominic Hall -Church Warden

CLERGY REPORT – REVEREND JOANNA GLENWRIGHT: 2025

I have been Vicar of this parish 18 months with 2025 representing my first full year. I still feel very called to this place and very blessed to be here.

Thank you for having me and my family.

In 2025, we have said goodbye to a number of people, either for pastures new or to be with Our Lord in Glory. We remember them and we are changed by our time together.

We have also been blessed by the advent of others, from a new baby to those seeking connection, hope and a spiritual home.

We are a community with an age range of a few months to 95, with people who have been attending for over 80 years to those who've been here a few months, from those who know Christ deeply to those just beginning to wonder.

Thanks be to God for this time and this place and the people he has called together here at St John's. May we love Him and one another faithfully, ready to receive whoever he sends this way next, and encourage one another on the journey.

For 2025, we had a number of priority mission areas: Community Engagement, Children and Families, Access, Inclusion, Discipleship and Financial Strategy.

And specifically, we said we wanted:

- St John's to be a visible presence and genuine support to the village – **we were!**
- To provide opportunities for young people in Menston to engage with church and faith – **we have!**
- To explore becoming an "inclusive" church – **we've started!**

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MENSTON - APCM REPORT – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026

- To run introduction to Christianity, parenting and inclusion – **we are ready for Kintsugi Hope in 2026**
- To take a decision on offering Prayers of Love and Faith – **we are taking a decision at PCC March 2026**
- To obtain professional advice on site and service improvements to increase accessibility, review proposals and take a decision on what should be done – **we've started!**
- To explore feasibility of a monthly Home Communion Service at Kirkland's for those who cannot access St John's – **we have established Spindles Service and are considering additional options!**
- To have specific teaching on generosity and gratitude – **we did this!**
- To develop a Finance Strategy that supports the above as well as setting out key financial considerations and objectives – **we have!**

So, we can see there is much we have progressed and moved on.

2025 has been a busy and determined year. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for, and there is much for us to take forward.

As I reflect on 2025, I am humbled by the faithful commitment of large number of volunteers, who offer significant time and energy to this community. I am also humbled by the long-standing faithful who have given so much over the years, and continue to support the community with their presence, moral support, example and prayers. We also continue to be supported by our excellent parish administrator who does much to keep us functioning, and who enables the half time vicar post to be feasible by covering much of what would be for me to do otherwise.

To each and every one of you, thank you for being here, we wouldn't be the same without you.

For 2026, I pray that we build on the above, remain committed to Jesus and our mission priorities and thus as a church community would:

1. **go deeper** in our personal walk with Christ;
2. **draw closer** to one another in fellowship; and
3. **reach out** wider into our parish.

Blessings to you all,

Jo

Reverend Joanna Glenwright