

PCC OF
ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH, GLASTONBURY



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2025

1 Aims and purposes

Although St Benedict's is an independent parish church, with its own Parochial Church Council (PCC), we are part of a Benefice, known as the "Abbey Parishes", with the parishes of St John the Baptist, Glastonbury and St Mary's, Meare. With them we share clergy and resources, and worship together from time to time.

With our Benefice incumbent, our PCC works to promote the whole mission of the Church here in Glastonbury, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. We are also responsible for the maintenance of our church building in Benedict Street.

2 Objectives and activities

Our PCC is committed to living out and witnessing to the love of God in our community by offering practical service, pastoral care and a warm welcome in our church. We wish to be open to our richly diverse local community and to enable the many groups that live in our parish to make use of our beautiful church space.

We believe in a Church which is scripturally faithful, which seeks to proclaim a Gospel for each generation and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, expresses the love of Jesus Christ in both action and worship.



St Ben's is in the [Inclusive Church](#) network. We therefore affirm that we do not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, age, race, or sexuality. We welcome and serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ, expressing his love in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish, suggesting how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. We are open to a wide variety of worship, both traditional and experimental, within the forms authorised by the Church of England.

3 Achievements and performance

Worship

In 2025, St Ben's regular pattern of worship was disrupted by the closure of the church from July for the rectification of the floor and heating system. The PCC and congregation very much appreciated the hospitality offered by St John's in accommodating us to hold our services of Celtic Communion and Healing and Wholeness each month, and the warm welcome extended to us at St Mary's Meare.

Between January and June, our monthly pattern continued as in 2024. After July things changed. On typical numbered Sundays of the month we had:

1. Café Church. From July we joined St Mary's Meare for their monthly service of Holy Communion.
2. Shared worship with or at Glastonbury United Reformed Church (URC). From July, the URC hosted all the shared services.
3. Service of Healing and Wholeness. From July, this was held at 4pm in St John's.
4. Celtic Communion. From July, this was at 11.30am in St John's.
5. Benefice Service (location varies)

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In St John's we met in the chancel, in the round for Celtic Communion and in rows for Healing and Wholeness.

Before July, Café Church was losing momentum. From July onwards it was good instead to take the opportunity to support the small congregation of Meare in their once a month service on first Sundays.

Third Sunday services of Healing and Wholeness on Sunday afternoons in St John's were attended by only a few, but were valued by those who went. The relocated Celtic Communion services on fourth Sundays continued to be well supported with only a small reduction in attendance from the change of time and location.

Whether in our own church building or St John's, our services included our familiar range of worship songs and traditional hymns, accompanied by our pianists, John Musgrove and David Chapman. In St John's we were able to make use of their salon grand piano by wheeling it close to the chancel.

The St Ben's Christmas Eve Carol Service, which has filled our building for several years, was relocated to St John's. We were delighted to have a good sized and enthusiastic congregation in the alternative venue.

Until July we held regular weekday services of Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 9am on Wednesdays and a Celtic form of morning office was held in St Margaret's Chapel on Fridays at 9am. Also, a short service of Common Worship Holy Communion was held in St Ben's chancel on Fridays at 10am.

From July onwards, the St Margaret's Friday Celtic morning office was stopped to allow the Friday Holy Communion in St Ben's to be moved to St Margaret's at 9.30am. In September, our Celtic Communion replaced the Common Worship Communion, fitting in well with the particular atmosphere and spirituality of that location. The service is much loved by its regular worshippers, including several who do not otherwise attend services in the Benefice; attendance is often boosted by visitors and pilgrims of various nationalities.

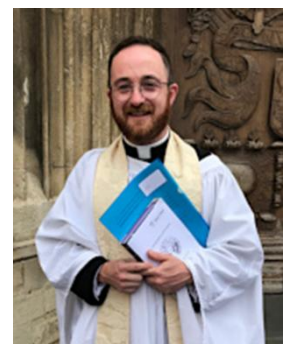
Ministry at St Ben's



Our Benefice started 2025 in vacancy, our vicar having moved on in September 2024. The process of finding a new Vicar of Glastonbury was under way, and continued through the first half of 2025, making quite a lot of work for quite a lot of people. Interviews in June resulted in an offer being made to Revd Alice Watson, who was licensed in September. You can read Alice's words about her first months as our vicar in the next section. We have warmed to her as she has to us, and we look forward to flourishing under her ministry.

Our curate, Fr Kieron Rowley, continued to carry the heavier load of a Benefice in vacancy until he had completed his curacy with us. He left in April to move to a parish in London, with his final service in St John's on Easter Sunday.

Kieron's ministry to us at St Ben's was much appreciated and we miss his insights and understanding of Church matters which were particularly valued by the PCC. We wish him all the best as he steps onwards in service to God and his new congregation.



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Revd Pamela and Di by the altar at St Mary's Meare

Revd Pamela Hezell is a Self-Supporting Minister with Permission to Officiate (PTO) anywhere in Bath and Wells Diocese. Living in Glastonbury, she exercises her ministry mainly in our Benefice. Already carrying more than usual in our vacancy, there was even more for her to hold after Kieron left and before Alice arrived. We continue to be greatly blessed by her ministry with us which is one of prayer and love realised practically. Having listened to the Holy Spirit for many years, she has an intuitive sense of our needs, providing sensitive support to us both individually and collectively. Thank you Pamela.

In St Ben's we have two Readers, Di Greuter and Philippa Chapman. Both are licensed to the Benefice and minister also in St John's and St Mary's, Meare. Both are members of St Ben's



Philippa

PCC. We value Lay ministry and it enables us to offer regular Sunday services at St Ben's.

There are many more ministries than leading worship. In St Ben's we recognise and celebrate the varied ministries of lay people – hospitality, creativity, welcoming, music, organisation, and many other less tangible gifts.

Revd Alice writes



I was licensed in St John's on a warm September Evening in a service full of joy, which has set the scene for how these first few months have unfolded: beautiful music, and excellent and warm welcome, and a church full of the weird and wonderful things Glastonbury has to offer. I have loved settling into this role, and I am grateful to you all for making that such an easy thing to do.

The first thing to say in this report, which covers just 3 and a half months at the end of 2025, is thank you to all who worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm to keep the parish running during the vacancy. To those who took services, especially Rev Pamela, and our readers Di and Philippa, to the wardens, the

PCC, and to the many volunteers who have done so much. Thank you, one and all.

It was a strange time to begin as vicar of a church whose building was closed! Many months went by, and I saw only building rubble, or walked past the church from the outside. Huge thanks must go to Liz, John, and especially David for their management of the project. But what struck me about those first few months is the spirit of St Ben's and how distinctive and special the worship and community was, even without a church building. I have loved presiding at Celtic Communion, and getting to know the congregation, being able to discuss scripture openly together, and as a long-time lover of Taizé, I felt instantly at home.

Two further highlights to round off this brief first report as Vicar – the soup kitchen, and St Margaret's Chapel. The Soup kitchen is probably the warmest place in Glastonbury – thanks

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to Liz and the whole team who, even in the Town Hall, make it feel like a family gathering each week. And St Margaret's quickly became my favourite place to worship. Early morning Friday services, with tourists, pilgrims, and regulars, looking out into the beauty of the gardens is a really sacred time.

Turning to the future, I am excited to continue to watch for what God is doing in Glastonbury, and, just as one watches a garden to see what might appear, to continue to watch for signs of God's new creation, and to begin the slow work of joining in, and reaching out – to our communities, to pilgrims and visitors, and to all who seek God. I chose a reading from Revelation for my licensing and the vision Bishop Michael shared in the service, of a great river of God flowing down the High Street, radiating light, has stuck with me. I pray that we as a church can reflect the light of Christ to our town and bring healing and joy to all.

“and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2)

With love and every blessing as we continue this journey together,
Alice.

Hospitality

Until July, the church continued to remain open between 10am and 4pm, six days a week. The various use that use our building continued to do so until July. Where she could, Liz helped them to find other places to meet after our building closed.

This year became the year the church floor and underfloor heating was replaced. It's been a long time negotiating everything but the work finally began in September but this meant no soup lunch in St Ben's. Thankfully we were able to secure the town hall large hall and kitchen and this enabled us to continue providing the usual lunch every Thursday. It took a while for everyone to find us in a new venue but we soon began seeing more of our regulars and also attracted the Town Council staff!



Christmas Lunch tables ready in the Town Hall atrium

In September we served a takeaway soup from the back door of the church for 3 weeks and then transferred to the Town Hall. In December we offered our traditional Christmas lunch meal to 60 people including a Christmas Bingo game and donated gifts. Revd Alice and SCC councillor Ewan Cameron volunteered on the day. One guest said it was the best Christmas lunch he'd ever had! Two guests couldn't get to town due to sickness so we delivered meals to them in the Travelodge.

Thanks go to the Somerset Community Foundation and the Glastonbury Town Council for their generous financial help this year. We are delighted that we were able to keep the service going but with food prices rising their financial support was vital.

Our Gardens



The front garden has inevitably been neglected in the second half of the year as the space has been given over to our building contractors. We have been pleased to note the respect with which the contractors have treated the established plants. We will make renewal of this area a priority once the works are completed. The back garden has continued to be maintained by volunteers, and provides a peaceful haven both for wildlife and for humans.

Glastonbury Tots Toddler Group



The group continued to provide a vital support to local parents of children from birth to 4 years until the church closed in September. The URC generously allowed us to move all our toys, mats etc to their hall and we started the group there in September. It was slow and some didn't find us at the new location. This was followed by the news that Ella was expecting her 3rd child so we took the decision to close the group in December until we're back in St Ben's.



Eco Church



We remain proud of our Silver Eco Church award from 2024, but we would like to improve on it if we can.

We expect the new heating system to be more efficient with the new stone floor conducting and holding heat better than the wood it replaces.

The plans to replace our gas boiler with a larger one had to be shelved because of cost, but that makes an earlier move to a heat pump, or a hybrid gas and heat pump system more feasible, provided grant funding can be obtained. The new heating system was designed with the larger bore pipes needed to work with the higher volumes and lower temperatures delivered by heat pumps.

The main roof space is ideal for solar panels which will be invisible except from above, and with the support of battery storage, it can contribute significantly to reducing our energy costs and external demand.

Plans are in place to follow up on this with the Diocesan Buildings Advisor after the church reopens in 2026. Thanks go to Chris Craig for ensuring that the PCC continues to pay attention to Eco issues.

Deanery Synod

We have not had a representative attending Deanery Synod this year but John Musgrove attended one meeting, and Liz Pearson intends to represent St Ben's in 2026 until the APCM, at which point we need two volunteers to be elected as Deanery Synod Reps.

Recent initiatives included *Treasure*, a programme inviting us to care for our environment and to consider how this is influenced by our faith.

The *Thrive* programme continues to be a success and has resulted in our Benefice working more closely together, supporting each other and sharing new ideas for engaging with our communities.

Revd Dr Jane Durham attended the National Rural Conference where one of the key themes relevant to our Benefice is the theme of Pilgrimage.

Fundraising

We could not run our usual big event – The Frost Fayre, as the church was closed. Other events both regular and occasional had to be suspended during the closure but we helped regular groups to find alternative accommodation and encouraged them to come back in the new year.

Our monthly Sacred Cinema sessions continued to run until April, serving both as a fundraiser and a platform for mission. Films shown in 2025 were *Seven Years in Tibet*, *Calvary* and *Mary Magdalene* (a repeat of a very popular film). The Autumn season of Sacred Cinema was relocated to Glastonbury URC. Thanks go to Chris Craig for selecting the films and organising and running the events.

Community Use of St Ben's

The hiring of St Ben's by local groups from the wider community was suspended mid-year due to the closure. We have kept in touch with some of our groups and given progress reports as the work proceeded. Many groups have offered to hold a fundraising concert/event for us when we re-open which is encouraging and testament to the strong links fostered with the community.

Financial Context

Income from bookings and the generous giving of our congregation are essential but they still do not fully cover our running costs. 2025 was especially challenging with the church closure resulting in no income from hiring and no Frost Fayre (our largest contributor).

Plans for a Stewardship Campaign have been discussed and will be activated as soon as we are back in the church. We are also discussing ideas for fundraising events in 2026.



A bouncy castle in St Ben's for a community event. When was church ever this much fun?

Safeguarding

Helen Roper has been as Benefice Safeguarding Officer throughout 2025. The PCC thanks her for her patience and attention to detail in helping us to make St Ben's a safe environment for everyone. She writes:

The term safeguarding can possibly seem confusing and even a little frightening but it simply means making sure the church is a safe place for children, young people and adults and knowing what to do if you think someone is at risk of, or is, being harmed or abused.

Safeguarding is therefore the responsibility of everyone in the church community. If you see something that worries you or 'just doesn't seem right', you should report it. The easiest way to report is to tell Helen Roper, the Parish Safeguarding Officer. You can do this face-to-face (her photograph is on a poster in the church, in case you are not sure who she is), by calling [07436 856451](tel:07436856451) or emailing safeguarding@stbens-glastonbury.uk.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility but some people within the Church Community, such as the Clergy, Readers Church Wardens and the PCC, have an especial duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the church community and to ensure that Church policies and practice promote a safer church for all. They complete specific, mandatory training in order to understand their safeguarding duties. The Parish Safeguarding Officer monitors that this has been done.

During 2025, the Parish Safeguarding Officer received 9 safeguarding referrals. Each was discussed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and appropriate responses agreed.

The PCC has demonstrated "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding but areas for development have been identified.

We are aware of the importance of creating an ethos of safety for all who come into our church, children, young people and adults alike, and that all of us can be vulnerable in some circumstances. We require that all office holders, members of the PCC and volunteers undertake the Safeguarding Training set out in the Church of England's [Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework](#).

St Margaret's Chapel

St Margaret's Chapel and the Royal Magdalene Almshouses is a beautiful, sacred space in the centre of Glastonbury. It continues to offer free access and is cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers. Visitor numbers increased again in 2025 to 38,000, excluding the many groups that use the chapel for private visits after 4.30pm. The shop has also been

extraordinarily busy resulting in high income. Visitors like the unique souvenirs made by volunteers. A new SumUp card machine was introduced to enable receipts to be printed.

The exhibition telling the story of the garden continued in 2025 and we were successful at the RHS In Bloom event.

Our highest award was Gold for the best garden in the South West in the Heritage category.



St Benedict's School

The PCC is very pleased that Helen Roper is a Foundation Governor of St Benedict's School. She provides valuable updates about the school to PCC meetings. She writes:

2025 was a very full year for the school in so many respects. The school continued to offer a "broad and balanced" curriculum, packing in a wide range of extra-curricular activities to bring learning to life. Part of this work was recognised when it received a Heritage England award for its history curriculum from Historic England.

The school was just 3 pupils short of its maximum capacity. Governors were delighted as this is the largest cohort for a very long time and bucked the national trend of falling roles. They were also a little embarrassed as they had to turn down an application for a place from Revd Alice and her family.

The school is very grateful for its links with St Ben's. Not all schools are as lucky to have such regularly opportunities to hold collective worship at their local church. It would also like to thank St John's for stepping in to host special services and events while St Ben's floor was repaired. It is very fortunate to have first Revd. Kieron and now Revd. Alice regularly leading collective worship.

The governing body wasn't quite so full as the school. It has been difficult to recruit parent governors and in July, Mike Derbidge, long serving foundation governor stepped down leaving a vacancy.

Other Churches in Glastonbury

Churches Together in Glastonbury is a group in which all Christian denominations are invited to work together for evangelism, outreach, sharing and fellowship. The aim is to promote unity between Christians in fellowship, and to encourage mutual understanding. The most visible event of the Churches Together in Glastonbury year is the Good Friday Walk of Witness, in which a cross is carried through the town. Philippa Chapman continues as St Ben's representative. There is also *Pentecost Praise*, a worship and picnic event held in the Abbey on Pentecost Sunday afternoon.

St Ben's and Glastonbury United Reformed Church (URC) have worshipped together regularly for more than 20 years. With our church building closed, our monthly shared worship was held in the URC each month from July onwards. We were very grateful for their warm welcome and invitations to participate in their worship in various ways. We hope, pray and expect that we will continue to support and encourage each other and find new ways of sharing worship and mission.



Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll officer was Liz Pearson throughout 2025. A new roll had to be compiled for the APCM in May. Our Electoral Roll currently records 20 members of which only one is not currently active.

Music

We have a core group of six singers which leads singing in worship and provides occasional musical items for quiet times in services. Roger Parsons continues to provide the impetus to keep this group together. St Ben's has a heritage of music composed and arranged by former musicians in our church which we feel should be preserved and sung regularly.

During the second half of 2025, with the church building closed, opportunities for rehearsal have been limited; nonetheless the group has continued to enhance our worship with a more limited repertoire, and has also made a welcome contribution to services at Meare, where we have been worshipping once a month.

Following its repair last year, one of our pianists, John Musgrove, has been making increasing use of the organ in our services, either in solo music or to support the singing of more traditional hymns. Renewed use of the organ in worship has been welcomed by long-standing members of the congregation. The organ is also used for special occasions such as funerals.

Bellringing

The bells have not been rung during the year, precluded by a number of problems. Details are in the Fabric Report below.

Despite the above, a bell is rung before services when there is someone available who can safely operate the prayer bell.

Housekeeping and flowers

Lynda continues to undertake the weekly cleaning of the church, usually early on Friday mornings. During the summer closure period she suffered a fall and was unable to work for some time.

The level of clearing and tidying required following events continues to vary considerably. In view of this, consideration may be given to introducing a deposit for larger bookings to help cover any additional cleaning costs where external assistance is required.

As the church remained closed during the latter half of 2025, routine cleaning and flower provision were largely unnecessary. Nevertheless, Liz continued to visit regularly to maintain the kitchen and WC facilities and to ensure rubbish was removed. The workmen in the church also helped significantly by keeping the premises clean and tidy throughout the closure period.

FABRIC REPORT

General

In 2025 attention has mainly been on the floor and heating system, and the tower, as detailed below.

Ancillary to the major works, we have been able to install two outside taps, which will facilitate garden maintenance without the need for access to the kitchen.

We have been working with our architects to address problems with the maintenance hatch on the tower downpipe which was installed in 2024.

Smaller items of routine maintenance are addressed by our volunteers. The church is cleaned once a week with additional cleaning taking place as required.

The Terrier and Inventory were checked during the year and updated where necessary.

The Floor and Heating System

The faculty (the church equivalent of planning permission) for the new floor and heating system went through the consultation process with various bodies that had a right to comment without difficulty and, to the relief of all concerned, the faculty was granted.

Our heating consultant then prepared the detailed design and specification of the underfloor and additional heating system and our architects prepared the tender pack for potential main contractors.

The tender pack was sent to three contractors in May. Ellis & Co., who had recently done work on our roof, guttering, downpipes and tower roof, came back with the best price for the work by a clear margin, and were selected. Having had a good working relationship with them previously, we were very pleased to be able to have them do this major work for us.

Given the informal cost indications we been given in 2024, the price of the project was not expected to be nearly as high as it turned out to be. In fact, we had to find ways to save around £25,000 to be able to afford it, even using most of our reserve. We were also hit hard by the 2025 cap placed on VAT recovery through the Listed Places of Worship scheme, meaning that some £35-£40,000 of VAT could not be claimed back. We looked at whether VAT zero-rating was possible, but the rules had changed since our reordering project of 2013-14 was zero-rated.

The savings were made by simplifying the control system and not replacing our boiler with one of higher capacity. We realise this may leave us short of heat during the worst cold snaps of winter. It does, however, open the door to an earlier move to a more eco-friendly solution as mentioned in the Eco Church section above.

In June, we were given to understand that work might start in August, so the decision was taken to close our building at the start of July to give us time to prepare. However, it turned out that work could not be started until the end of September.

Once under way, Ellis made excellent progress. By early December, the sub-contractors had laid the underfloor heating pipework and much of the supporting plumbing was in place. The new stone finish started to be laid and more than half was down before work finished for the Christmas break.



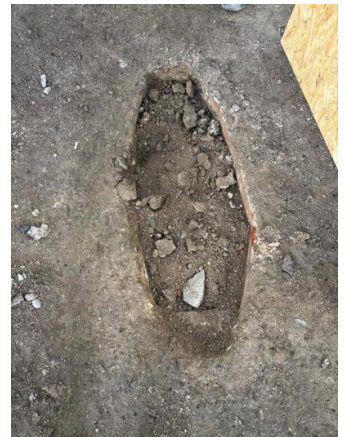
The picture above shows the first area laid around the font in the South Aisle on 5th December. To the left is the north side of the nave on 20th December.

The year ended with every indication that the work could be completed on or slightly ahead of the scheduled finish date of 28th February.

Under the floor

In the process of preparing the floor for underfloor heating, more earth needed to be excavated. This revealed an unexpected very small, brick lined tomb. The archaeologist explained that it was unusual because it was clearly created for a child, indicating that the family must have been wealthy as children would not normally be buried in this way.

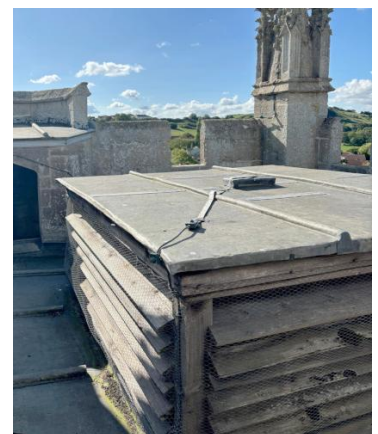
When the work was finished and we were cleaning we noticed an engraved brass plaque on the wall. This states that Sarah Ann Fry Holman was born on 15th October 1818 and died on 31st October 1818 - just 2 weeks old. When the tomb was revealed, Revd Alice came and said prayers over the site and blessed it before it was covered over. The Holman family are prominent in St Ben's as all the memorial plaques are dedicated to various members of the family. It would be good to try and create a family tree at some point.



The Tower and Bells

We have an ongoing problem with leaks in the tower roof, although these have been lessened considerably by lead repairs and other patches in recent years. As a longer-term solution we intend to remove the “lantern”, the structure on the tower roof designed to let out the sound of the bells at the tower top. These structures were installed in a number of churches around 60 years ago and have proved to be problematic in causing leaks.

This year we secured faculty approval to go ahead with this work, drew up specifications with our architects and invited tenders to complete this work alongside the work on the floor and heating



The lantern on the tower roof

detailed above. In the end we were not able to go ahead with his work owing to the higher-than-expected cost of the floor and heating work; we intend to complete this work at a later date following a dedicated fundraising effort.

4 Financial Review

4.1 Introduction

The following is an overview of the PCC's finances during 2025 – a fuller explanation of individual items is in the Notes following the Accounts (Section 12). The key financial points from the year are:

- The General Fund ended the year at **£17.2k**, down £1.1k on the year.
- Spending from the fund designated for floor and heating rectification was **£236k**.
- Spending from the fund designated for repairs and the tower was **£9.4k**, £8.8k of which was architect's fees.
- Excluding the Park Cottages trust, restricted funds ended the year at **£8.2k**, down £4.9k.
- All the remaining money from the sale of the Jack's Close Flats has been allocated to the floor and heating rectification.

In the following sections, the solid bullet points are the headline figures, with further basic detail provided by the hollow bullets.

4.2 Income and expenditure – General Fund

The General Fund is the pool of money used for day-to-day running of the church and minor items of maintenance. Most donated income goes into this fund. The church was closed for half the year, which has had a significant impact on the numbers.

- Total income for the General Fund in 2025 was **£20.4k**, down £14.3k from 2024.
 - Income from giving was **£8.2k**, down £2.4k from 2024¹, mostly loss of collection plate income and wall box donations.
 - Hiring out our building yielded **£5.8k**, down £4.9k.
 - Other fund raising activities brought in **£0.3k**, £3k down. Not being open for Frost Fayre hit that income hard.
 - Wedding and funeral fees were about the same as 2024.
 - Interest on the capital from the sale of the flats brought in **£5.6k** interest to the General Fund (£5.2k of the interest was retained with the capital).
- Expenditure from the General fund in 2025 was **£17.7k**, down £11k on 2024².
 - We paid to the Diocese **£1.5k** of our Benefice Share of around £15.5k, compared with £3k in 2024.

¹ The 2024 donations figure was £14.2k, but this included £3.6k of VAT recovery which is counted as a grant.

² £5.6k of repairs were paid for using the General Fund in 2024 before the sale of the flats completed. This means that expenditure drop in 2025 is more realistically £5.4k.

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- Our energy costs (gas and electricity) were **£3.6k**, down £1.7k from 2024, not having to heat in the Autumn.
- General Fund income during the year exceeded expenditure by **£2.7k**.
 - This surplus, together with another £1.1k was transferred to the designated fund used for the repairs and tower work, leaving the fund £1.1k down on the year at **£17.2k**.

4.3 The Property Capital Fund – Jack's Close Flats

This fund held the money from the sale of the Jack's Close Flats.

At the start of the year, the fund balance was £189.4k after paying for some of the roof repairs and provisioning for replacing the floor and fixing the tower roof last year.

The quotes for the work required to rectify the floor and heating were obtained mid-year, at which point it became clear that it was going to cost much more than we had been led to expect. It was necessary to allocate all the remaining Property Capital Fund to the Reordering Fund for the work to be financed. With interest added, **£191.5k** was transferred out to close the fund.

4.4 Church Reordering Fund

The designated Reordering Fund was used to manage the finances of the church reordering, now 12 years ago, but it continues to be used while the process of rectifying the floor and heating system continues.

- The year began with the fund balance at **£66.1k**.
 - £191.5k was transferred in from the Property Capital Fund.
- Expenditure was **£235.9k** comprising:
 - £21.1k was spent on consultancy fees for the heating system design and installation supervision.
 - £11.8k was spent on architect's fees for preparing the contract and managing its supervising and execution.
 - £202k was spent of the building and installation work.
 - About £1k on the insurance required while the work is done.
- Income was **£28.1k** comprising:
 - £3.1k interest
 - £25k VAT recovery via the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Scheme – the maximum claim allowed between April 2025 and March 2026.
- The year end balance was **£49.9k**.

4.5 Other Designated Funds

The designated Tagged ("For Specific Purposes") Fund is money separated from the General Fund and put aside for abnormal expenditure. The only activity in the fund at present is the roof and guttering repairs and attending to tower roof leaks.

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- Expenditure in the fund totalled **£9.3k** comprising:
 - Architect's fees of £8.8k for work associated with the tower and completion of the gutter and roof repairs.
 - £0.5k final payment to the contractor following the gutter and roof repairs.
- £3.9k was transferred into the fund to allow this stage of the work to be completed, leaving **£56** at year end.

4.6 The Restricted Park Cottages Fund

This fund holds the capital of the Park Cottages Trust.

- The Charity Commission has given permission for the capital to be used for major work such as reordering and significant fabric repairs. Most of it has now been spent, but the remainder is invested in the CCLA Investment Fund (a unit trust investment) and is managed for us by the Diocese.
 - The units were worth £1,805 at the start of the year and £1,733k at year end (the value fluctuates with the stock market).
 - The units paid dividends of £50 during the year which were put in the General Fund.
- It makes sense to sell the remaining units, wind up the trust and use the money for paying off the retainer on the floor and heating rectification when that becomes due. This is an administrative matter requiring the signature of the incumbent and churchwardens.

4.7 Other Restricted funds

- The Soup Fund started the year with £6.3k and ended with **£2.9k**.
 - Income by donation was £2.1k (including Gift Aid); £1.2k was put in the box when the food was served.
 - £116 was raised from sale of refreshments at a concert.
 - There was a grant of £100 by Glastonbury and Street Lions.
 - Expenditure was **£5.7k**.
- The Community Ministry Fund started the year with £5k and ended with **£1.6k**.
 - It was used to manage a £5k grant from Somerset Community Foundation received in December 2024 to run Warm Spaces and various community activities. No other income was received into the fund this year.
 - Expenditure was £3.4k on heating for Warm Spaces, supervision of Warm Spaces, catering and a band for two Tea Dances, and a bouncy castle hire for a children's event.
- The Toddler Group Fund manages the finances of "Glastonbury Tots Toddler Group" which meets on Monday mornings in St Ben's³. It started the year with £1.5k and ended with **£2.7k**.

³ The Tots met in Glastonbury United Reformed Church Hall for some of the time while St Ben's was closed. We are grateful to the URC for providing storage space for the group's equipment.

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- SCF gave a grant of £2,200 in May.
- Glastonbury Town Council granted £500 in August.
- A collection bowl for parents' donations raised £377.
- Expenditure was £1.8k on leader's pay, hire of the URC Hall and miscellaneous expenses.
- The restricted Tagged Fund is used to deal with money given or granted for specific purposes but which don't warrant an individual restricted fund. It started the year with £330 (all tagged for piano upkeep) and ended with **£905**.
 - New Tags were started for Organ Maintenance and Bell Maintenance.
 - A £250 donation was received for the piano, £300 for the organ and £100 for the bells.

4.8 Cash balances

- The PCC's Current and Deposit accounts, prepay card account and cash in the safe held a total of **£102.6k** at the end of 2024.
- Of this, **£8.5k** is restricted.
- An additional £1.7k of restricted money remains in the Park Cottages Trust investment units.
- Taking into account all amounts we owe and are owed, our balance sheet total is **£77k**, of which **£10k** is restricted.

4.9 Material uncertainty related to Going Concern

The total funds held at the end of the year were £77,059. Total unrestricted funds i.e. free reserves (excluding restricted funds and designated funds) at 31 December 2025 were £17,175.

There has been a delay finalising income from a confidential source of which the Independent Examiner has seen details. At the date of signing these accounts, the PCC is seeking a bridging loan to cover the final stages of the works until the income from the confidential source is received, and is having to monitor cash flow carefully.

The PCC is confident that the confidential income will be received. However, without a loan and receipt of the said income, a material uncertainty exists over whether the charity has sufficient funds to continue and therefore may not be a going concern.

4.10 Charity Commission registration

St Benedict's PCC is a charity – but like other lower-income churches is an “excepted charity” – meaning that we have to comply with all charity law, except for registering with the Charity Commission.

A requirement for churches to register as charities by March 2021 was delayed by 10 years. All PCC Members have to complete a “Charity trustee: declaration of eligibility and responsibility” form and be registered as Trustees.

5 Reserves Policy

The Annual Report has to explain the PCC's policy on reserves, stating the level of reserves held and why they are held. Statements about the level of reserves may be found in the Financial Summary (Section 4) and the Notes to the Accounts (Section 12).

The minimum acceptable level of General Fund reserve is 3 months' expenditure.

The works to the floor and heating system require the transfer of all designated funds into the Reordering Fund for the works to be completed.

6 Plans for future periods

Plans for 2026 onwards include the following:

6.1 Social and Pastoral

- To value our volunteers and continue to welcome a wide range of our community to the weekly Soup Lunch
- To plan and deliver a calendar of social and fundraising events.
- To continue to develop and maintain our garden as a source of cut flowers for the church and a green and wildlife-friendly area.
- Look for opportunities to encourage the larger congregation of the Celtic Communion services more fully into the life of the church.
- To trial a weekly or monthly service for neurodivergent people.
- To support St Ben's School at their events and host their assemblies, concerts and seasonal events in the church.

6.2 Financial

- To adapt to functioning with much less reserve, including careful management of cash flow and budgeting.
- To plan for a stewardship campaign out into the wider community.

6.3 Fabric

- To commission an update to our quinquennial report from our architects
- To monitor the year-round performance of our heating system in order to inform future plans for replacing the boiler, and potentially for installing a heat pump and solar panels to make our church more sustainable.
- To draw up plans to raise funds for and complete the removal of the lantern and other necessary works on the tower.
- Plan the completion of less urgent repairs.

7 Risk management

As our income is less than 100k per annum, St Ben's is not legally obliged to prepare or publish a Risk Assessment for its normal activities. However, we follow good practice in trying to manage the risks to which we are exposed. Such risks include governance risks (e.g. the competence of the PCC, lack of key skills), operational risks (health and safety, employment, child protection etc), financial risks (loss of income from members, inadequate reserves, misuse of restricted funds, fraud, lack of budgets and forward plans etc), external risks (reputation, demographic changes, etc) and regulatory risks (fundraising, disability discrimination, Inland Revenue, confidentiality issues, lack or loss of records, etc).

St Ben's is mindful of such risks when planning our activities and seeks to mitigate any risks we identify.



Morning sunlight through the East window decorating the chancel floor

8 Structure, governance and management

8.1 Parochial Church Council

The procedures of the PCC are laid out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 as amended in 2022 and 2025.

At St Ben's membership of the PCC consists of our Vicar, any clergy licensed to this parish, two churchwardens (elected for a year's term of office by residents of the parish at an annual meeting), two Deanery Synod Representatives (elected on a 3 year cycle) and six lay representatives (who are elected for a three year term of office by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll, and can be elected for two consecutive terms). All those who attend our services and regard themselves as members of our congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC. It is also possible for the PCC to co-opt members, for example from those who do not live in the parish and are not on the electoral roll.

The members of the PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC has ultimate responsibility for a wide range of matters affecting the parish, including safeguarding, compliance with health and safety, disability discrimination legislation and child protection.

In 2025, our PCC met 6 times and occasionally for single subject meetings. Some of our business was conducted by online correspondence, using the procedures laid out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Rule M29).

Although the PCC is a Charity, subject to charity law, and its conduct is also regulated by The Charities Act, it is currently exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. PCC members are charity trustees.

8.2 Standing Committee

A parish church with less than 50 members on the electoral roll is required to have a standing committee to consist of the minister and at least two other members of the PCC, appointed by the PCC by resolution. The standing committee, which should be appointed by the PCC at its first meeting following the APCM, is accountable to the PCC and reports to the PCC.

Our standing committee consists of not less than five people, Vicar (when not in vacancy), Lay Chair (when in vacancy), Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and usually treasurer. With David Chapman being both treasurer and secretary, one other lay person, Di Greuter, was added.

9 Administrative Information

St Benedict's Church is situated in Glastonbury, Somerset. It is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. The church's correspondence address is St Benedict's Church, Benedict Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9NB.

PCC Members, who are also Trustees, and who served at any time during 2025 are:

Clergy – beneficed or licensed to the Parish

Revd Alice Watson	Vicar & PCC Chair. Licensed to the Benefice on 18 th September 2025.
Fr Kieron Rowley	Assistant Training Curate until 20 th April 2025

Clergy (non-voting)

Revd Pamela Heazell	PTO (Permission to Officiate).
Revd Michèle Kitto	PTO.

Readers – licensed to the Benefice

Diane Greuter	Appointed to the PCC as a Reader by the APCM annually since 2019 until 2024. Elected as Lay Rep APCM 2025.
Philippa Chapman	Appointed to the PCC as Reader by APCM 2019. Elected as Deanery Synod Rep Oct 2020. Elected as Lay Rep APCM 2023.

Churchwardens – elected annually at the Meeting of Parishioners

Liz Pearson	Elected May 2021, May 2022, May 2023, August 2024. May 2025.
Meig Lambert-Shiels	Elected May 2024. Did not join the new electoral roll in May 2025 and thereby immediately ceased to be churchwarden.
John Musgrove	Elected May 2025.

Lay representatives on the PCC – elected for a three year term of office at the APCM.

Iona Eveson	Elected APCM 2022. Stepped down before PCC meeting in March 2025.
Philippa Chapman	Elected APCM 2023.
Chris Craig	Elected APCM 2020. Elected post APCM 2023 by the PCC to fill a casual vacancy.
David Chapman	Elected post APCM 2023 to fill a casual vacancy on ceasing to be churchwarden on 31 st August 2023.
Vivien Griffiths	Elected APCM 2025.
Di Greuter	Elected APCM 2025.

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NOTE: The PCC has 6 places for Lay Representatives. As of December 2025, there was one casual vacancy.

Deanery Synod Representatives – elected for a three year term of office at the APCM

Philippa Chapman	Elected APCM 2020. In post until APCM 2023.
Arwen van Westerop	Elected APCM 2020. Re-elected APCM 2023. Resigned July 2025.

*There has been a casual vacancy since APCM 2023
and two casual vacancies since July 2025*

Other Officers appointed by the PCC

Liz Pearson	Lay Chair, Electoral Roll Officer.
David Chapman	Treasurer, PCC Secretary.
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Not a PCC member.

The Bankers to the PCC are:

Lloyds Bank, 64 High Street, Street, Somerset, BA16 0ED.

The Independent Examiner, appointed by the APCM 2025, is:

Monahans, Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2GA.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 14/05/26 and signed on its behalf by:



Name: Revd Alice Watson **Position:** Vicar and PCC Chair

10 Independent Examiner's Report

To: The Parochial Church Council of St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury, BA6 9NB

I report to the PCC Members/trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 22 to 37.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC Members/trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 have identified a matter of material concern in my report because I have concerns about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. I draw attention to Section 12.1.2 in the financial statements which notes that the Charity is seeking additional funds to aid cashflow to fund the existing building work. As described in Section 12.1.2, the trustees are confident that additional income can be sought, however there still remained a matter of material significance regarding going concern, at the date of signing my examiner's report.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Gare FCA DChA
Monahans,
Hermes House,
Fire Fly Avenue,
Swindon,
Wiltshire, SN2 2GA.

Date: 15 May 2026

11 2025 Financial Statements

11.1 Balance sheet

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Balance sheet (Separate funds)

As at: 31 December 2025

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
<i>Fixed assets</i>						
Investments	—	—	£1,733	—	£1,733	£1,805
Fixed assets	—	—	£1,733	—	£1,733	£1,805
<i>Current assets</i>						
Debtors	£853	£27,056	£163	—	£28,072	£9,210
Cash at bank and in hand	£17,795	£76,347	£8,479	—	£102,621	£286,300
Current assets	£18,648	£103,403	£8,642	—	£130,693	£295,509
<i>Liabilities</i>						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	£1,474	£53,473	£421	—	£55,368	£2,980
Net current assets less current liabilities	£17,175	£49,930	£8,221	—	£75,326	£292,530
Total assets less current liabilities	£17,175	£49,930	£9,954	—	£77,059	£294,335
Total net assets less liabilities	£17,175	£49,930	£9,954	—	£77,059	£294,335
<i>Represented by</i>						
<i>Unrestricted</i>						
Unrestricted - General fund	£17,175	—	—	—	£17,175	£18,342
<i>Designated</i>						
Designated - Church Reordering	—	£49,874	—	—	£49,874	£66,149
Designated - For specific purposes	—	£56	—	—	£56	£5,535
Designated - Jack's Close Flats (capital)	—	—	—	—	—	£189,402
<i>Restricted</i>						
Restricted - Soup Lunches	—	—	£2,974	—	£2,974	£6,286
Restricted - Toddler Group	—	—	£2,732	—	£2,732	£1,462
Restricted - Community	—	—	£1,610	—	£1,610	£5,023
Restricted - Church Reordering	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted - For specific purposes	—	—	£905	—	£905	£330
Restricted - Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	—	—	£1,733	—	£1,733	£1,805
Restricted - Agency collection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Funds of the church	£17,175	£49,930	£9,954	—	£77,059	£294,335

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 14th May 2026 and were signed on their behalf by:



Name: Revd Alice Watson Position: Vicar and PCC Chair

11.2 Statement of Financial Activities

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from :</i>						
Donations and legacies	£8,222	£25,000	£6,473	—	£39,695	£32,116
Income from charitable activities	£6,204	—	—	—	£6,204	£10,973
Other trading activities	£338	—	£116	—	£454	£4,914
Investments	£5,623	£5,245	—	—	£10,869	£9,579
Other income	£52	—	—	—	£52	£185
Total income	£20,440	£30,245	£6,589	—	£57,274	£57,768
<i>Expenditure on :</i>						
Raising funds	£180	—	—	—	£180	£17,452
Expenditure on charitable activities	£17,527	£245,302	£11,470	—	£274,299	£84,141
Total expenditure	£17,707	£245,302	£11,470	—	£274,479	£101,593
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	(£72)	—	(£72)	£742
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	£2,733	(£215,056)	(£4,953)	—	(£217,276)	(£43,084)
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	£195,408	—	—	£195,408	£107,191
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£3,900)	(£191,508)	—	—	(£195,408)	(£107,191)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(£1,167)	(£211,156)	(£4,953)	—	(£217,276)	(£43,084)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward	£18,342	£261,086	£14,907	—	£294,335	£337,419
Total funds carried forward	£17,175	£49,930	£9,954	—	£77,059	£294,335

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

11.3 Statement of assets and liabilities by fund

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund) 1/2

As at: 31 December 2025

		Balance	Previous balance
Investments			
6431: Park Cottages Units - Asset			
Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	Restricted	£1,733	£1,805
		£1,733	£1,805
	Investments	£1,733	£1,805
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Lloyds Bank current account - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£2,395	£5,067
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£554	£1,328
Toddler Group	Restricted	£232	£1,612
Community	Restricted	£11	£2,734
Church Reordering	Designated	—	£731
For specific purposes	Designated	—	(£2,417)
For specific purposes	Restricted	£185	£198
		£3,379	£9,254
6505: Equals Money Prepay Cards - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£23	£53
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£98	£178
		£121	£230
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£15,235	£12,086
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£2,500	£4,500
Toddler Group	Restricted	£2,600	—
Community	Restricted	£1,598	£2,736
Church Reordering	Designated	£76,291	£65,418
For specific purposes	Designated	£56	£5,600
For specific purposes	Restricted	£700	—
Jack's Close Flats (capital)	Designated	—	£186,097
		£98,980	£276,437
6555: Cash in Safe - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£142	£330
Soup Lunches	Restricted	—	£49
		£142	£378
	Cash at bank and in hand	£102,621	£286,300

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

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St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund) 2/2

As at: 31 December 2025

	Balance	Previous balance
Debtors		
Z05: Accounts receivable - Asset		
General fund Unrestricted	£853	£3,021
Soup Lunches Restricted	£143	£232
Church Reordering Designated	£27,056	—
For specific purposes Designated	—	£2,520
For specific purposes Restricted	£20	£132
Jack's Close Flats Designated (capital)	—	£3,306
	£28,072	£9,210
Debtors	£28,072	£9,210
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year		
Z04: Accounts payable - Liability		
General fund Unrestricted	£1,474	£2,215
Soup Lunches Restricted	£321	—
Toddler Group Restricted	£100	£150
Community Restricted	—	£447
Church Reordering Designated	£53,473	—
For specific purposes Designated	—	£168
	£55,368	£2,980
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	£55,368	£2,980
Grand Total	£77,059	£294,335

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

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11.4 Fund movement by type

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Fund movement by type

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted							
General fund	£18,342	£20,440	£17,707	(£3,900)	—	—	£17,175
Sub-totals	£18,342	£20,440	£17,707	(£3,900)	—	—	£17,175
Designated							
Church Reordering	£66,149	£28,140	£235,923	£191,508	—	—	£49,874
For specific purposes	£5,535	—	£9,379	£3,900	—	—	£56
Jack's Close Flats (capital)	£189,402	£2,105	—	(£191,508)	—	—	—
Sub-totals	£261,086	£30,245	£245,302	£3,900	—	—	£49,930
Restricted							
Soup Lunches	£6,286	£2,403	£5,715	—	—	—	£2,974
Toddler Group	£1,462	£3,081	£1,811	—	—	—	£2,732
Community	£5,023	—	£3,413	—	—	—	£1,610
For specific purposes	£330	£1,105	£530	—	—	—	£905
Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	£1,805	—	—	—	(£72)	—	£1,733
Sub-totals	£14,907	£6,589	£11,470	—	(£72)	—	£9,954
Totals	£294,335	£57,274	£274,479	—	(£72)	—	£77,059

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

11.5 Analysis of income and expenditure

11.5.1 Income and Endowments

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Income and endowments	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
0101 - Bank receipts - Gift Aid	£5,030	—	£460	—	£5,490	£6,230
0301 - non-GASDS loose plate collections	£50	—	—	—	£50	—
0302 - GA loose plate collections	£194	—	—	—	£194	£430
0305 - GASDS loose plate collections	£607	—	—	—	£607	£1,097
0501 - Sundry Gift Aid gifts	£5	—	£750	—	£755	£181
0502 - Sundry non GA gifts	£459	—	£142	—	£602	£3,112
0502G - Sundry GASDS donation	£7	—	—	—	£7	£44
0506 - Donations for Vicar's Discretionary	—	—	—	—	—	£727
0507 - Donations for use of church	—	—	—	—	—	£98
0508 - Donations for Coffee etc.	£19	—	—	—	£19	£74
0508F - Donations for food at events	£128	—	£1,198	—	£1,327	£2,347
0508T - Donations at Tots Group	—	—	£377	—	£377	£356
0509 - Wages not taken	£170	—	—	—	£170	£80
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£1,301	—	£290	—	£1,591	£1,892
0610 - Tax recoverable by GASDS	£252	—	—	—	£252	£553
0801 - Recurring grants	—	—	£455	—	£455	£336
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	£2,800	—	£2,800	£8,100
08A2 - VAT recovery via LPW Scheme	—	£25,000	—	—	£25,000	£6,460
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	£8,222	£25,000	£6,473	—	£39,695	£32,116
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	£321	—	—	—	£321	£262
1102 - Heating for Weddings&Funerals	£80	—	—	—	£80	£40
1230 - Hire of church facilities (normal)	£5,803	—	—	—	£5,803	£10,671
<i>Income from charitable activities Totals</i>	£6,204	—	—	—	£6,204	£10,973
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
0901 - Fund raising	—	—	—	—	—	£1,487
0903 - Fund raising - teas	—	—	—	—	—	£580
0905 - Fund raising - Alcohol sales	£91	—	£116	—	£207	£1,473
0906 - Donations at Sacred Cinema	£247	—	—	—	£247	£566
0910 - Rummage sales etc	—	—	—	—	—	£808
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	£338	—	£116	—	£454	£4,914
<i>Investments</i>						
1001 - Dividends	£50	—	—	—	£50	£103
1020 - Bank and building society interest	£5,573	£5,245	—	—	£10,819	£9,476
<i>Investments Totals</i>	£5,623	£5,245	—	—	£10,869	£9,579
<i>Other income</i>						
1320 - Surplus - sales of fixed assets	£52	—	—	—	£52	£185
<i>Other income Totals</i>	£52	—	—	—	£52	£185
Income and endowments Grand totals	£20,440	£30,245	£6,589	—	£57,274	£57,768

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11.5.2 Expenditure

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Expenditure	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
<i>Raising funds</i>						
1705 - Costs of fund raising	£180	—	—	—	£180	£70
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	—	—	—	—	—	£220
2394 - Refreshments for sale	—	—	—	—	—	£513
2550 - Rental property maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	£240
2557 - Rental Property Services	—	—	—	—	—	£1,661
2560 - Rental property admin	—	—	—	—	—	£558
2565 - Property sale and purchase costs	—	—	—	—	—	£14,190
<i>Raising funds Totals</i>	£180	—	—	—	£180	£17,452
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>						
1850 - Home mission	—	—	—	—	—	£150
1872 - Discretionary Grants	—	—	—	—	—	£980
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	£1,537	—	—	—	£1,537	£3,000
2010 - Musicians fees	—	—	—	—	—	£30
2101 - Abbey Parishes Central	£5,333	—	—	—	£5,333	£4,200
2110 - Visiting ministry expenses	—	—	—	—	—	£44
2301 - Church running - insurance	£3,397	£835	£455	—	£4,687	£3,158
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	—	—	£75	—	£75	£890
2330 - Church maint and minor repairs	£453	—	—	—	£453	£919
2331 - Church Cleaning	£713	—	£33	—	£746	£1,406
2340 - Upkeep of services	£316	—	—	—	£316	£1,167
2345 - Church flowers	—	—	—	—	—	£18
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	£40	—	—	—	£40	£3
2382 - Tots group leader fees	—	—	£1,250	—	£1,250	£1,600
2384 - Tots group building hire	—	—	£285	—	£285	£450
2386 - Warm Space Assistants	—	—	£1,038	—	£1,038	—
2390 - Catering and entertainment	£188	—	£4,158	—	£4,346	£4,399
2391 - Catering equipment	—	—	£567	—	£567	£224
2395 - Support/equipment for community work	—	—	£539	—	£539	£275
2396 - Cooking	—	—	£2,290	—	£2,290	£1,248
2401 - Church running - electric	£1,310	—	—	—	£1,310	£1,528
2410 - Church running - gas	£2,281	—	£753	—	£3,034	£5,256
2420 - Church running - water	£654	—	—	—	£654	£623
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	£1,240	—	—	—	£1,240	£1,369
2602 - Bank and card charges	£64	—	£27	—	£90	£142
2610 - Interest on loans	—	—	—	—	—	£203
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	£548	—	—	£548	£35,395
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	£202,165	—	—	£202,165	—
2714 - Architect's fees (major work)	—	£20,633	—	—	£20,633	£13,953
2716 - Heating consultancy	—	£21,120	—	—	£21,120	£1,512
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</i>	£17,527	£245,302	£11,470	—	£274,299	£84,141
Expenditure Grand totals	£17,707	£245,302	£11,470	—	£274,479	£101,593

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

12 Notes to the Financial Statements

12.1 Accounting Policies

12.1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the PCC and are displayed rounded to whole pounds only.

There are no significant areas of judgement or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

12.1.2 Material uncertainty related to going concern

The total funds held at the end of the year were £77,059. Total unrestricted funds i.e. free reserves (excluding restricted funds and designated funds) at 31 December 2025 were £17,175.

There has been a delay finalising income from a confidential source of which the Independent Examiner has seen details. At the date of signing these accounts, the PCC is seeking a bridging loan to cover the final stages of the works until the income from the confidential source is received, and is having to monitor cash flow carefully.

The PCC is confident that the confidential income will be received. However, without a loan and receipt of the said income, a material uncertainty exists over whether the charity has sufficient funds to continue and therefore may not be a going concern.

12.1.3 Legal status of the PCC

The PCC is an incorporated entity under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is also a charity under the Charities Act 2011, but is exempt from registering with the Charity Commission until 31st March 2031.

12.1.4 Funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the PCC.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the PCC. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

The PCC currently has no endowment funds.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in these notes below. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of charitable groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

12.1.5 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised 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, interest is accrued. Rent is normally accounted when it is received. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

12.1.6 Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

12.1.7 Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Payments received on behalf of third parties (e.g. fees for funerals due to the diocese, vergers etc) are accounted as agency payments and are post-boxed through the current bank account.

12.1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2)(c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated, listed in the church's terrier, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

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

12.1.9 Investment property

The PCC currently holds no investment property.

12.1.10 Other investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

12.1.11 Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

12.1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

12.1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the PCC has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

12.1.14 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

12.2 Fund details

12.2.1 Fund identification

The names and purposes of the funds within St Benedict's accounts are shown in the table below. Where a fund has "Unrestricted", "Designated", "Restricted" and/or "Endowment" parts these are effectively separate funds. The resources of a fund may be located in more than one bank account, asset or liability. Sub-sections below give further details where further explanation is appropriate.

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Fund name	Type	Purpose
General	Unrestricted	All activity not in other funds.
Jack's Close Flats (Capital)	Designated	The residual left from the sale of the Jack's Close Flats after taking out contingencies against larger expenditure. This was transferred in its entirety to the Reordering Fund when the cost of the corrective works to the floor and heating were known.
Reordering	Designated	Holds the money for completing the corrective works to the floor and heating system.
Soup Lunches	Restricted	A fund to account for grants and donations which are received specifically to set up and run the ministry providing soup lunches, and expenditure of that money. The historic name of "Friday Soup Lunches" was changed during the year.
Community Ministry Fund	Restricted	A fund to account for grants and donations which are received specifically for work in the wider community, and expenditure of that money.
Tagged (<i>aka</i> For Specific Purposes)	Designated	For putting unrestricted money aside for specific purposes which don't warrant separate designated funds. This covered various ongoing repair work, now completed.
Tagged (<i>aka</i> For Specific Purposes)	Restricted	For tracking donations made for specific purposes which don't warrant separate restricted funds and expenditure of those donations.
Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	Restricted	Current categorisation of the capital left from the sale of Park Cottages less that withdrawn to part-fund the reordering and repair works.
Toddler Group	Restricted	A fund to manage grants received to run a Parents and Toddler Group.

12.2.2 The Tagged fund

At the end of 2024 the designated Tagged (*aka* "For specific purposes") Fund contained £5,535 of money put aside towards ongoing work on the tower roof. This had to be topped up from the General Fund with £3,900 to fund the work, including professional fees, which cost £9,379. A nominal £56 is left at the end of 2025.

The restricted Tagged (*aka* "For specific purposes") Fund at the start of the year contained £2,836 in various separately tagged "sub-funds" outlined below. It would have been

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impractical to have a separate restricted fund for each grant. At year end only #2200 had any remaining balance. The transactions were labelled with hash tags as follows:

- #2200 Piano maintenance
- #2205 Grant for St Margaret's Chapel Insurance
- #2501 Organ maintenance
- #2502 Work on the bells

Tag	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward	Note
#2200	£330	£250	£75	£0	£505	
#2205	£0	£455	£455	£0	£0	
#2501	£0	£300	£0	£0	£300	
#2502	£0	£100	£0	£0	£100	
TOTAL	£330	£1,105	£530	£0	£905	

12.2.3 The Community Fund

Having been boosted by a £5,000 grant from the Somerset Community Fund around the end of 2024, this fund started the year with £5,023. The fund was used to contribute to heating bills for Warm Spaces, pay for help with Warm Spaces, and fund Tea Dances and a children's party including a bouncy castle. Expenditure was £3,413 leaving £1,610 to carry forward.

12.2.4 The Reordering (Designated) Fund

The fund started the year at £66,149, having been topped up by proceeds of the sale of the flats in order to cover costs of rectifying the floor and heating. The figure of £66k was based on an initial estimate given by Ellis and Co, plus a further sum for additional work and professional fees, minus the agreed amount of the mediation settlement.

In the middle of the year, the actual cost of the corrective works became available when tenders were received, at which point the remainder of the Flats (capital) fund had to be transferred in to provide the money required.

The work was started in the Autumn and £235,923 had been spent by year end. Income of £28,140 was taken in the fund during the year comprising £3,140 interest and money to be received from a maximum £25k VAT claim from the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) scheme.

12.2.5 The Jack's Close Flats (capital) Fund

The name of this fund was retained although the flats were sold in May 2024. The fund held money not allocated to any specific purpose and constituted reserve. It was transferred in its entirety to the Reordering Fund when the cost of the corrective works to the floor and heating were known. The fund is now closed.

12.2.6 Fund analysis

The "Fund movement by type" table (FMT) shows the basic financial activity within and between all the funds of different types. The transfer figures relate directly back to the SoFA.

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There were 2 fund transfers during the year:

- £3,900 from the General Fund to the “For specific purposes” (*aka* Tagged) designated fund for work on the tower roof.
- £191,508 from the Jack’s Close Flats (capital) designated fund to the Reordering (designated) fund as explained above.

12.3 Creditors

The £55,368 of accounts payable (Creditors) comprises:

- £50,499 to Ellis & Co
- £2,014 to B2 Architects
- £960 to BJP (heating consultants)
- £284 to British Gas
- £100 to Eloise Price (Toddler Group leader)
- £340 to Elizabeth Pearson for food and other purchases
- £1,170 to Monahans (accrual estimate for 2025 accounts)

12.4 Debtors

The £28,072 money owed to the PCC at year end comprised:

- £121 GASDS tax unclaimed from 06/04/25 to year end
- £895 Gift Aid tax to be claimed from 01/06/25 to year end
- £2,056 interest on the CCLA deposit account.
- £25,000 reclaim of VAT on architect’s fees and repairs via the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) scheme

12.5 Transactions with PCC members

PCC Members receiving payments, or who are related to those receiving payments, are excluded from decisions and votes concerning those payments.

Donations received from PCC members during the year amounted to £3,468 net of Gift Aid. PCC members may also donate via church plate collections and boxes. These amounts are not recorded separately. PCC members claim for items purchased on behalf of the Church from time to time, for which they provide receipts and are reimbursed.

Apart from the above there were no transactions with PCC members in 2025.

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12.6 Comparatives

12.6.1 Movements in Funds 2025

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Fund movement by type

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted							
General fund	£18,342	£20,440	£17,707	(£3,900)	—	—	£17,175
Sub-totals	£18,342	£20,440	£17,707	(£3,900)	—	—	£17,175
Designated							
Church Reordering	£66,149	£28,140	£235,923	£191,508	—	—	£49,874
For specific purposes	£5,535	—	£9,379	£3,900	—	—	£56
Jack's Close Flats (capital)	£189,402	£2,105	—	(£191,508)	—	—	—
Sub-totals	£261,086	£30,245	£245,302	£3,900	—	—	£49,930
Restricted							
Soup Lunches	£6,286	£2,403	£5,715	—	—	—	£2,974
Toddler Group	£1,462	£3,081	£1,811	—	—	—	£2,732
Community	£5,023	—	£3,413	—	—	—	£1,610
For specific purposes	£330	£1,105	£530	—	—	—	£905
Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	£1,805	—	—	—	(£72)	—	£1,733
Sub-totals	£14,907	£6,589	£11,470	—	(£72)	—	£9,954
Totals	£294,335	£57,274	£274,479	—	(£72)	—	£77,059

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

12.6.2 Comparative Statement of Assets & Liabilities by Fund – 2025

St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Comparative Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund) 1/2

As at: 31 December

		This year (2025)	Last year (2024)
Investments			
6431: Park Cottages Units - Asset			
Park Cottages (Unit Trust Investment)	Restricted	£1,733	£1,805
		£1,733	£1,805
Investments		£1,733	£1,805
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Lloyds Bank current account - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£2,395	£5,067
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£554	£1,328
Toddler Group	Restricted	£232	£1,612
Community	Restricted	£11	£2,734
Church Reordering	Designated	—	£731
For specific purposes	Designated	—	(£2,417)
For specific purposes	Restricted	£185	£198
		£3,379	£9,254
6505: Equals Money Prepay Cards - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£23	£53
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£98	£178
		£121	£230
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£15,235	£12,086
Soup Lunches	Restricted	£2,500	£4,500
Toddler Group	Restricted	£2,600	—
Community	Restricted	£1,598	£2,736
Church Reordering	Designated	£76,291	£65,418
For specific purposes	Designated	£56	£5,600
For specific purposes	Restricted	£700	—
Jack's Close Flats (capital)	Designated	—	£186,097
		£98,980	£276,437
6555: Cash in Safe - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	£142	£330
Soup Lunches	Restricted	—	£49
		£142	£378
Cash at bank and in hand		£102,621	£286,300

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

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St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury

Comparative Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund) 2/2

As at: 31 December

	This year (2025)	Last year (2024)
Debtors		
Z05: Accounts receivable - Asset		
General fund Unrestricted	£853	£3,021
Soup Lunches Restricted	£143	£232
Church Reordering Designated	£27,056	—
For specific purposes Designated	—	£2,520
For specific purposes Restricted	£20	£132
Jack's Close Flats Designated (capital)	—	£3,306
	£28,072	£9,210
Debtors	£28,072	£9,210
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year		
Z04: Accounts payable - Liability		
General fund Unrestricted	£1,474	£2,215
Soup Lunches Restricted	£321	—
Toddler Group Restricted	£100	£150
Community Restricted	—	£447
Church Reordering Designated	£53,473	—
For specific purposes Designated	—	£168
	£55,368	£2,980
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	£55,368	£2,980
Grand Total	£77,059	£294,335

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown



St Ben's lit by moonlight and streetlight with our Advent and Christmas star atop the tower.

**Front cover: a close-up of one of the windows in the Lady Chapel.
The "God is Love" wording is very unusual in stained glass.**