

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Gosforth

Registered Charity number: 1131094

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH

Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

All Saints' Parochial Church Council

Structure, Governance, and Responsibilities

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Andrew Shipton, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, including pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical work within the parish. The PCC also has responsibility for the maintenance of All Saints Church, the Church Centre, the Green, and two properties adjacent to the Centre.

During the year, the Vicar, assisted until the end of June by the Assistant Curate, the Revd Miriam Jones, also had responsibility for the neighbouring parish of St Hugh's, Gosforth, which has its own PCC. Miriam Jones completed her four-year licence in the diocese at the end of June and moved to the Vale Benefice in the Oxford Diocese in August.

The PCC consists of 17 members. The Standing Committee, which sets the agenda for PCC meetings, includes the Vicar, the Vice-Chair, two Churchwardens, and the PCC Secretary. Much of the Treasurer's work during the year was undertaken by this group with support from the Parish Administrator. A more business-like "next steps" approach continued to be used in PCC meetings.

The work of the PCC was supported by a number of subcommittees, including Fabric, Eco, Safeguarding, Youth, Social, and Communications, all of which reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC operated within an agreed framework of policies agreed in 2024, including a Trustee Conflict of Interest Policy, a Data Protection Policy, and an Internal Risk Policy agreed in January 2025.

Objectives and Public Benefit

The PCC, working with the Vicar, seeks to guide the life of the church in its mission, ministry, witness, and service. Responsibility is held for the care of all people within the parish, not only those who attend services. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at All Saints and to become part of the parish community.

In planning its activities, the PCC has had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The vision of the church remains to place All Saints at the heart of the wider community, aspiring to be vibrant, inclusive, compassionate, and outward-looking, with a thoughtful and sensitive approach to faith. Central to this vision is worship and the expression of the merciful love of God in all that the church does. Maintaining the fabric of the church and the Church Centre is essential to enabling this mission and remains an ongoing responsibility of the PCC.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Throughout 2025, the PCC remained committed to sustaining a rich and varied programme of worship. On Sundays, at least three services with addresses were held, alongside services during the week. Almost all services were livestreamed on YouTube, with each service receiving an average of

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35 views in the week following. Worship opportunities were promoted through the church website and a weekly newsletter, and invitation cards were delivered to homes across the parish to advertise Easter and Christmas services.

There are currently 159 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, including a number of non-resident members. Average Sunday attendance during the year was 94 adults and two children, with numbers increasing significantly at festival times. On Christmas Eve, the church welcomed 1,014 worshippers.

The devotional life of the church was enriched through a Lent course and full programmes for Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. The final hour on Good Friday was led by the Revd Adam Romanis. A dedicated group of volunteers planned services for Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christmas, and Good Friday, with particular attention given to involving younger members in worship. Although the choir lost some long-standing members during the year, new members joined and the choir continued to make an important contribution to worship.

Occasional Offices

During the year there were seven funerals held in church, fourteen funerals conducted solely at crematoria, and twelve services for the burial of ashes. There were three weddings and one wedding blessing, nine baptisms, and one confirmation conducted by the Bishop of Berwick.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Clergy visited parishioners and church members who requested visits, including those in hospital. The Pastoral Care Group maintained regular contact with those who were unwell and met to ensure that housebound members were followed up appropriately. Monthly Home Communion was provided for six individuals unable to attend church because of illness or age, and the sacrament was administered monthly in a local care home.

Fellowship lunches were held monthly on Sundays in the Church Centre and provided valuable support for those who were alone. A range of weekday activities continued to flourish, including Coffee and Conversation on Mondays, Sing at the Centre on Tuesdays, and the Sew, Knit and Natter group on Wednesdays. An occasional gardening group helped maintain the church grounds, and during August church members opened their gardens on Sunday afternoons to offer hospitality. The Mothers' Union, Film Club, and All Saints Reading Group continued to meet monthly. A Men's Group was established during the year. Bible study continued at Eothen Care Home, and a house group met for Bible study during the autumn.

Children, Young People, and Schools

The Youth Committee met throughout the year under the chairmanship of the Curate and later the Vicar to review progress and set objectives. Events and services were planned to welcome and engage young families. In July, Archbishop Runcie First School held an afternoon concert in the church. Throughout the autumn, the Vicar welcomed hundreds of children through school visits from Newcastle School for Boys, Gosforth Junior Academy, and Archibald School, and led assemblies weekly at Archbishop Runcie School and monthly at Regent Farm and Archibald Schools. The church oversaw School Easter Services and Harvest services

Following the departure of the Curate in June, Faith at 4 came to an end and Messy Church began in September as a monthly service for younger children held in the Parish Centre. A monthly teenage

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film club was also launched. Art classes were offered earlier in the year, and the weekly pre-school “Little Saints” group continued to be well supported.

Clergy regularly visited schools to lead worship and teach RE. Four Schools were welcomed into church for their Christmas carol services. The Vicar and two PCC representatives serve on the Governing Body of Archbishop Runcie Church of England School. During the year, the school governors at Archbishop Runcie School decided to remove church attendance at All Saints as a criterion for admission. Uniformed organisations continued to flourish, including Scouts, Guides, Brownies, and the Rainbow Group.

Engagement with the Wider Community

Support for a nominated charity each month continued, alongside ongoing support for Kenton Food Bank. A group of church members worked with Tyneside Welcomes to oversee the support for a Syrian refugee family, a project which came to an end during the year. The Amnesty Group continued its correspondence on behalf of those unjustly imprisoned but no longer monthly. The church hosted four well-attended Farmers’ Markets during the year, offering live music and hospitality within the church building. The Green was used during the summer to host the Handlebards’ production of ‘Much Ado About Nothing.’ A number of professional classical music concerts were held, including World Organ Day and a visit from the Northumbria Chamber Choir.

In November Uniformed, schools and community groups contributed to the Angel Festival, filling the church with hundreds of angels suspended in the nave. The Christmas Fair was once again a major success, both as a fundraiser and as a community event. Theatre visits, parish meals, games evenings, a nature prayer walk, and seasonal brunches were all well supported.

A group trained in community organising carried out one-to-one listening conversations within the church community. Since November 2024, the Vicar has participated in a scheme ran by the church of England based on community organising model. The aim has been to encourage church growth through relational culture and community engagement.

Buildings, Fabric, and Environment

Following an assessment that repair was no longer cost effective, a new boiler was installed in the church in October, after greener alternatives had been explored. After an initial pump failure, it was necessary to replace the pump.

The PCC explored proposals to develop the All Saints Church Centre and engaged an architect to bring forward plans. Costings were received from RNJ Partnership, with projected costs rising to approximately £160,000 including VAT and inflation. A PCC Away Day planned to consider the future development of the Centre was postponed and rescheduled for January 2026.

A contract was signed with NE Community Forest, with Northumberland Wildlife Trust to undertake tree planting on church land which is to happen in 2026.

Wider Church and Diocese

Four members of the PCC represented the parish on the Deanery Synod. Following discussions with the Archdeacon of Northumberland, housing on the St Nicholas site became part of the parish from September. In June, it was confirmed that further diocesan funding would be required before progress could be made towards establishing a House for Duty post at St Hugh’s.

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Church Community Life

During the year, the church community mourned the loss of several faithful members, including Charles Foister, Muriel Dart, Marjorie Forster, Edith Davison, and Ian Stuart. Their lives and contributions were remembered in Keeping in Touch, the quarterly parish magazine.

In November, Katherine Vacher-Day, a final-year student on the Lindisfarne Course, joined the parish.

Financial Review

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds (funds that are not subject to restriction regarding their use) comprise of two funds, the General Fund and a Legacy Fund which is credited with legacies and gifts in memoriam and used primarily for major repairs or capital projects.

General Fund: Income for the year amounted to £228,342 (2024, £210,197). The increase in surplus is due to a £20,000 legacy and a £2,000 grant being received and last year there were large repairs which have not been replicated this year.

Voluntary donations, excluding legacies and grants, amounted to £142,558 (2024, £142,527). Planned giving at £94,107 was slightly down on last year (£97,247) with a net increase in scheme membership of 7 people. Other voluntary donations of £24,687 came in 32% ahead of last year (£18,649) with the receipt of eleven individual gifts of more than £300 accounting for most of this increase together with an improvement in card donations. Income tax recovered of £23,764 (202, £26,631) also benefitted from the increase in other voluntary donations.

Activities for generating funds provided £51,151 (2024, £48,791). Church Centre lettings of £22,934 improved by 25% over 2024 (£18,403) with income from uniformed groups linked to the church a contributory factor. Rental income of £20,540 from the two residential properties adjacent to the Church Centre was broadly in line with 2024 (£20,569) with both properties fully occupied throughout the period. Fundraising was strong with good contributions from musical concerts, farmers markets and the annual Christmas fair.

Income from investments amounted to £4,358 (2024, £3,801) with improved interest rates largely offsetting lower investment levels to maintain the overall income level.

Total expenditure charged against the General Fund amounted to £209,594 (2024, £249,988). The reduction in the Dicesan Share was £25,000 less than last year.

Overall, the PCC incurred a surplus (before investment gains/(losses)) on the General Fund of £18,748.

Legacy Fund: Income for the year amounted to £20,000 (2024, £6,763). During the year, the PCC received one legacy amounting to £20,000 (2024, £2,000). Grants received under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme provided £nil (2024, £4,763). Dividend income amounted to £1,108 (2024, £1,053). There was no expenditure this year. Overall, the PCC incurred a surplus (before investment gains/(losses)) of £20,000 compared to a deficit of £25,861 in 2024.

Restricted Fund Income

Restricted income amounted to £593 being dividends received from the MacMahon permanent endowment. Expenditure amounted to £379.

Valuation of Fixed Assets

A valuation review of the Verger's House and the Old Clergy House carried out at the end of the financial year indicated a market value for each house of £290,000, the same as at 31 December 2024.

Outlook

The reduction in the Parish Diocese share of £25,000 has improved the cashflow of the PCC this year, with the PCC recording a surplus of £18,962 over all funds.

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Reserves

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free or unrestricted reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £54,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year-end was £100,962.

Investment Policy

Central to the PCC's longer term investment policy is to place funds in investments offering a good level of distributions and long term protection from inflation. The PCC's sole investment rests with The CBF Church of England Investment Fund where the fund aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and distributions. The PCC currently invests £59,464 in this fund.

The PCC will from time to time make short term deposits up to a maximum of two years with UK based banks authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. As of 31st December 2025, the PCC held £86,275 with Cambridge and Counties Bank.

Risk factors

The trustees have reviewed the risks to the Charity's assets and income and are satisfied that adequate controls are in place.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, co-opted members appointed by the PCC and members elected by those of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of All Saints. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance of the parish, including deciding on how funds of the PCC are spent.

The PCC has nominated officers responsible for Health and Safety (including disability discrimination issues) and Safeguarding (of children and vulnerable adults) who receive training and information from the diocese and cascade this to the wider PCC as appropriate. These issues are standing items on the agenda of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 78%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees dealing with a particular aspect of parish life as follows:

The Standing Committee
The Fabric Committee
The Safeguarding Committee
The Youth Committee
The Social and Events Committee
The Communications Committee
The Eco Committee

There is also a group of volunteers that help look after the gardens and green.

The Standing Committee comprises of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer (vacant) and Secretary. The Standing Committee deals with routine operational issues, provides advice and information to the PCC and has the power to transact business of their behalf between its meetings.

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Administrative information

All Saints Church is situated in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. It is part of the Diocese of Newcastle within the Church of England. The correspondence address is, All Saints Parish Office, West Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4ES. Registered Charity number 1131094.

Advisors: The Independent examiner for the Annual Report and Accounts 2025 was Craig Henderson, S&W Audit, 17 Queens Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 until the date of this report are:

Ex officio members:

Incumbent	The Reverend Canon Andrew Shipton (Chairman)
Wardens:	Mr Nick Glover until 11 th May 2025 Mrs Dana Corso Mrs Joyce Jennings
Assistant Curate	Revd Dr Miriam Jones until 30 th June 2025

Observer

Assistant Priest	Revd Ruth Birnie
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Deanery Synod members:

Mrs Joyce Jennings
Mrs Rosamund Place
Mrs Pamela Taylor
Mrs Diana Lavin

Elected Members:

Ms Alison Wilson
Mrs Marian Coulson-Cave
Mrs Felicity Shoesmith
Dr Helen Fraser from 11th May 2025
Mr Lee Best from 11th May 2025
Mrs Francine Bain until 11th May 2025
Mrs Pauline Gallacher
Mrs Valerie Hedley until 11th May 2025
Dr Claudia Newbegin from 11th May 2025
Mr Michael Whickham from 11th May 2025
Mrs Lesley Ogilvie until 13th May 2025

Co-opted for one year:

Safeguarding Officer	Ms Kath Davies
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Dr Alison Charlewood

This report was approved by the PCC on ^{26 April 2026} and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Shipton
Vicar and Chair of the Council

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of All Saints
Church, Gosforth
For the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity’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 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 charity 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Craig Henderson FCCA
S&W Audit

Chartered Accountants

.....
Date
17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
Note		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary income	2(a)	164,558	—	—	164,558	150,138
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	51,151	—	—	51,151	48,791
Income from investments	2(c)	5,466	593	—	6,059	5,433
Income from church activities	2(d)	7,167	—	—	7,167	4,653
Other incoming resources	2(e)	—	—	—	—	1,761
		<u>228,342</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>228,935</u>	<u>210,776</u>
TOTAL INCOME			<u>593</u>	<u>—</u>		
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3(a) 3(b)	208,594 1,000	379	—	208,973 1,000	248,088 3,500
Cost of generating funds		<u>209,594</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>209,973</u>	<u>251,588</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>379</u>	<u>—</u>		
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	7	18,748 (1,604)	214	—	18,962 (2,457)	(40,812) 1,334
Net (losses)/gains on investments		17,144	214	(853)	16,505	(39,478)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		—	—	—	—	80,000
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>17,144</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>(853)</u>	<u>16,505</u>	<u>40,522</u>
Total funds brought forward		692,585	56,994	21,342	770,921	730,399
Total funds carried forward		<u>709,729</u>	<u>57,208</u>	<u>20,489</u>	<u>787,426</u>	<u>770,921</u>

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BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	6	580,000	580,000
Investments	7	59,464	60,814
		<u>639,464</u>	<u>640,814</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	8	10,023	7,788
Short-term deposits		86,275	85,000
Cash at bank and in hand		59,216	46,562
		<u>155,514</u>	<u>139,350</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	9	7,552	9,243
NET CURRENT ASSETS/LIABILITIES			
		<u>147,962</u>	<u>130,107</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURENT LIABILITIES			
		787,426	770,921
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year		—	—
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
		<u>787,426</u>	<u>770,921</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Endowment	10 & 11	20,489	21,342
Restricted	10 & 11	57,208	56,994
Unrestricted	10 & 11	137,257	120,113
Revaluation Reserve	10 & 11	572,472	572,472
		<u>787,426</u>	<u>770,921</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Shipton
Vicar and Chair of the Council

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Basis of financial statements

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations Act 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, and under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Going Concern

The members of the PCC have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the PCC is a going concern. After making reasonable enquiries, the members of the PCC do not consider there are any material uncertainties about All Saints' ability to continue for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approving these financial statements.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are funds that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds are funds held on specific trusts under charity law. The specific trusts may be declared by the donor when making the gift or may result from the terms of an appeal for funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Permanent endowment funds are restricted funds which represent monies or other assets given with the specific instruction that only the income from them may be spent and that the capital must be retained permanently.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Income tax recoverable on donations is recognised when the donations are received. Legacies are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount is quantifiable and its receipt is reasonably certain.

Trading activities

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised on an accruals basis when the Church is entitled to the rent.

Income from investments

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. It includes dividends and interest. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at the balance sheet date.

Expenditure

Church activities - The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when paid. Mission Giving and donations are accounted for when paid or when awarded if that award carries a binding obligation on the PCC. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by Chapter 2, Section 10 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 for as unalienable property unless consecrated. In the case of unalienable property acquired prior to 1 January 2001 there is insufficient information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings: individual items under £2000, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises are normally depreciated on a straight-line basis over three years. Individual items of equipment with a net cost of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

The properties are held at fair value in the accounts. The most recent valuation was held at 31 December 2025.

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at their market value on 31 December 2025.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at the balance sheet date in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less a provision for any amounts which may prove uncollectable.

Pension fund

All Saints participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of All Saints and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections, the Defined Benefits Scheme and the Pension Builder Scheme which has two subsections, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year are the contributions payable (2025: £1,386, 2024: £1,232).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2025, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 2.7% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation was due as at 31 December 2025 and will be updated shortly.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, All Saints could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Cash flow statement

The PCC have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by FRS 102 to dispense with the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement as the income is less than £500,000.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

2. Income and endowments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	94,107	—	—	94,107	97,247
Other donations	24,687	—	—	24,687	18,649
Tax recoverable	23,764	—	—	23,764	26,631
Legacies	20,000	—	—	20,000	2,000
Grants	2,000	—	—	2,000	5,611
	<u>164,558</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>164,558</u>	<u>150,138</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Church Centre lettings	22,934	—	—	22,934	18,403
Property rental income	21,540	—	—	21,540	20,569
Fundraising	6,677	—	—	6,677	9,819
	<u>51,151</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>51,151</u>	<u>48,791</u>
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends on CCLA Investment Fund	1,108	593	—	1,701	1,632
Bank Interest	4,358	—	—	4,358	3,801
	<u>5,466</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,059</u>	<u>5,433</u>
2(d) Income from church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,167	—	—	7,167	4,653
	<u>7,167</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7,167</u>	<u>4,653</u>
2(e) Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	1,761
Other Income	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,761</u>
Total income	<u>228,342</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>228,935</u>	<u>210,776</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

3. Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church activities					
Ministry					
Diocesan parish share	86,500	—	—	86,500	111,500
Clergy and staffing					
Clergy housing and expenses	7,825	—	—	7,825	9,775
Support staff	29,090	—	—	29,090	25,861
Church					
Altar requisites and vestments Church running expenses:	887	—	—	887	1,091
Cleaning and general maintenance	19,248	139	—	19,387	6,046
Energy costs	4,701	—	—	4,701	4,136
Insurance	10,254	—	—	10,254	9,662
Printing, stationery, supplies	5,508	—	—	5,508	6,185
Other	3,588	—	—	3,588	4,022
Major repairs	—	—	—	—	33,677
Music (organ, organist, music)	7,724	240	—	7,964	7,541
Centre and Grounds					
Centre running costs Major repairs:	25,576	—	—	25,576	21,545
Independent examination costs	2,400	—	—	2,400	1,848
Old Clergy and Verger House	3,936	—	—	3,936	4,146
Mission and education					
Youth Work	—	—	—	—	720
Mission giving shortfall	1,357	—	—	1,357	333
	<u>208,594</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>208,973</u>	<u>248,088</u>
3(b) Cost of generating funds					
Stewardship costs	—	—	—	—	—
Fund raising costs	1,000	—	—	1,000	3,500
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,500</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>209,594</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>209,973</u>	<u>251,588</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

4. Mission giving

The PCC continues to dedicate open plate collections to the chosen mission of the month

	Special Collections £	Church Funds £	Total 2025 £
Monthly donations:			
St Pauls	146	151	297
Tyneside Welcomes	138	159	297
Friends of Murambinda Hospital, Zimbabwe	257	40	297
Church Mission Society	284	13	297
US	193	104	297
Cornerstone	221	76	297
Mission to Seafarers	46	251	297
Practical Compassion for Destitute Children	407	—	407
Linda Norgrove Foundation	187	110	297
Operation Noah	219	78	297
MACS	419	—	419
West End Refugee Service	262	35	297
	<u>2,779</u>	<u>1,017</u>	<u>3,796</u>
Other donations			
Christingle	44	—	44
British Red Cross - Christmas Eve	908	—	908
Save The Children - Christmas Day	107	—	107
Other	<u>2,653</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,653</u>
Total for 2025	<u>6,491</u>	<u>1,017</u>	<u>7,508</u>

Notes

The amounts listed above are considered to be direct income for the charities concerned and only pass through All Saints' bank account for recording purposes. Therefore, these amounts are not included in either the income or the expenditure in these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

5. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	27,716	24,630
Social security costs	—	—
Pension costs	1,386	1,231
Organists' fees	6,500	6,500
	<u>35,602</u>	<u>32,361</u>
Average number of employees	2	2

The PCC employed one part-time administrator and one part-time caretaker throughout 2025. Fees paid to organists are also shown.

6. Fixed assets

	At 1 Jan.	Revaluation	At 31 Dec.
	2025		2025
	£	£	£
Properties at fair value	580,000	0	580,000
	<u>580,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>580,000</u>

The properties comprise of two houses, the Verger's House and the Old Clergy House. The Verger's House and the Old Clergy House are both valued at £290,000 with both properties similar with respect to floor area and number of rooms.

The title to the land on which the All Saints Centre and the two houses are situated is vested in the Newcastle Diocesan Society.

All office equipment is fully depreciated or in the case of individual items costing less than £2,000, was written off on acquisition.

7. Investments

	2025
	£
Market value at 1 January 2024	60,814
Additions	1,109
Unrealised gains /(losses)	<u>(2,457)</u>
Market value at 31 December 2025	<u>59,464</u>

These comprise 2,630 shares (2024 - 2,630) in the Central Board of Finance of The Church of England Investment Fund and are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Their cost was £18,231 (2024 - £18,231).

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

8. Debtors and other amounts receivable

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	2,772	2,716
Gift Aid	3,003	2,931
Other debtors	3,002	2,141
PAYE and National insurance contributions	1,246	—
	<u>10,023</u>	<u>7,788</u>

9. Creditors and other amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors for goods and services	4,818	5,443
Accruals	2,734	3,649
PAYE and national insurance contributions	—	151
	<u>7,552</u>	<u>9,243</u>

10 Summary of assets by fund

	Endowments	Restricted	Unrestricted Legacy	Unrestricted General	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments	20,489	—	38,975	—	—	59,464
Net current assets	—	57,208	83,035	7,719	—	147,962
Properties	—	—	—	7,528	572,472	580,000
	<u>20,489</u>	<u>57,208</u>	<u>122,010</u>	<u>15,247</u>	<u>572,472</u>	<u>787,426</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

11. Statement of funds

	Fund balances b/f £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances c/f £
PERMANENT ENDOWMENT						
MacMahon Fund	21,342	—	—	—	(853)	20,489
	<u>21,342</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(853)</u>	<u>20,489</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
Gloria Smith (Youth Work) Fund	54,189	—	(379)	—	—	53,810
Older Persons Activities	1,979	—	—	—	—	1,979
Church Christmas Lights	296	—	—	—	—	296
Income from permanent endowment	530	593	—	—	—	1,123
	<u>56,994</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>(379)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>57,208</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
Revaluation Reserve	572,472	—	—	—	—	572,472
General Fund	18,103	208,342	(209,594)	—	(1,604)	15,247
Legacy Fund	102,010	20,000	—	—	—	122,010
	<u>692,585</u>	<u>228,342</u>	<u>(209,594)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(1,604)</u>	<u>709,729</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>770,921</u>	<u>228,935</u>	<u>(209,973)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(2,457)</u>	<u>787,426</u>

MacMahon Permanent Endowment Fund

Under the Will of Alice Mary MacMahon, who died on 6 April 1966, this fund is held on trust to apply the income of the fund in the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the fabric of the church and the churchyard.

Gloria Smith (Youth Work) Fund

This represents the monies raised less expenditure to date for youth work in the parish and community of All Saints.

Old Persons Activities

This represents funds for the provision of social and pastoral care of older people within the parish and community of All Saints.

Income from Permanent Endowment

Income from the MacMahon fund is credited to this fund. Costs in connection with maintenance as defined above are charged against it to the extent that the available income allows.

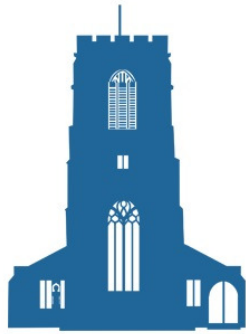
Legacies Fund

This fund is credited with the value of legacies and gifts in memoriam received with or without specific instructions as to their use and provides funds primarily for major repairs or capital projects associated with the Church or Church Centre.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

12. Related Party Transactions

Expenses payable to the Revd Canon Andrew Shipton and the Revd Miriam Jones amounted to £745 (2024, £2,053). The Revd Canon Andrew Shipton has occupied a house attached to his appointment since September 2014. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with the Vicarage during 2025 totalled £4,712 (2024 £4,404). The Revd Miriam Jones has occupied a house attached to her appointment as Curate since September 2022. Costs borne by the PCC in connection with her house during 2025 totalled £2,367 (2024, £3,319). No allowances for expenses incurred in the course of work for the church were paid to any other member of the PCC during 2025.



All Saints Gosforth

Papers for the Annual Meeting

10th May 2026 at 11.00am

These papers are the documents prepared ahead of this year's annual meetings. Included is the report for the charity commission. It gives a short summary of the work of All Saints and a more detailed picture of its finances. Alongside the agenda and other papers for discussion, you will find reports here that summarise the governance and behind-the-scenes work of All Saints, including an update on buildings and fabric, pastoral care, our mission giving, and our participation in deanery and diocesan structures.

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THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will take place in ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL
on SUNDAY 10th May 2026 at 11.00am

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Appointment of clerk

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1 Election of Churchwardens

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1 Apologies for absence (to be recorded on attendance sheet)

3.2 Minutes of Annual Meeting on 11th May 2025 – for approval

3.3 Matters Arising

3.4 Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report

3.5 Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 – *for approval Dana Corso & Alison Charlewood*

3.5.1 Questions and comments on the accounts

3.5.2 Approval of the Accounts

3.5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

3.6 Report on the changes in the Electoral Roll since the last APCM.

3.7 Elections and appointments

3.7.1 Scrutineers

3.7.2 Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
Candidates must be over 16 and be on the church electoral roll.

3.7.3 Election for Deanery Synod

3.7.4 Appointment of sidesmen and sideswomen

Those currently serving as a sidesperson are listed at the back of this Report.

3.8 Renewing our approval of the Parish Safeguarding Policy

3.9 Vicar's Report

3.10 Declaration of election results

4. Time for comments, questions and discussion of matters raised by parishioners.
(Individual comments and questions should be expressed briefly to allow plenty of time for discussion.)

5. The Centre Development

The Blessing

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Held on SUNDAY 11th May 2025

Present: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton, Alison Charlewood, Fred Carr, Yvonne Carr, Karoline Wellbourne, Peter Mitchell, Enid Mitchell, John Nutt, Joyce Nutt, Pam Taylor, Rosamund Place, Rev Miriam Jones, Ann Downey, Marian Cave, Diane Henderson, Stuart Henderson, Felicity Shoesmith, Diana Lavin, Rev Ruth Birnie, Dana Corso, Lee Best, Margaret Patteson, Peter Brown, Stuart Henderson, Felicity Shoesmith, Alex Armitage, Marion Steadman, Diana Lavin, Lesley Atkinson, Joyce Jennings, Francine Bain, Michael Whickham, Millie Peacock, Ann Kendell, Karoline Wellbourne, Glenys Simkins, Mike Simkins, Kathleen Hodgson, Ann Cross, Yvonne Cairns, Lorna Robinson, Ann Round, Luke Williams, Pauline Gallacher, Valerie Farthing, Lionel Sainsbury, John Telfer, Victor Spong, David Bland, Sheila Smithson, Sue Finkill, Judith Robinson, Judy Riseborough, Sheila Peart, Valerie Hedley, Tony Champion, Marilyn Champion, Margaret Hudgson, Pat Spong, Ray Smith, Frances Smith,

Opening Prayer led by Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (AS)

1. Appointment of clerk: Alison Charlewood was appointed clerk to the meeting.

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2.1. Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the positions of churchwardens: Dana Corso, proposed by Valerie Farthing and seconded by Felicity Shoesmith. Joyce Jennings, proposed by Felicity Shoesmith and seconded by Dana Corso. Both were elected unanimously.

Joyce was introduced to the meeting. AS thanked Nick Glover for his service. He is currently away but will be given a gift later in May.

3. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3.1. Apologies for absence were received from: Sue Glover, Nick Glover, Christine Willoughby, Andrew Cole, Chris Bolland, Helen Fraser, David and Lesley Ogilvie, Paul Cross, Paul Wilkinson, Jean Buckley.

3.2. Minutes of Annual Meeting on 28th April 2024 – their acceptance was proposed by Peter Brown and seconded by Yvonne Carr and agreed nem con.

3.3. Matters Arising: none were raised.

AS updated all with regards to ABRS, and their decision that church attendance is no longer an admission criterion.

- 3.4. Comments and questions arising from the Annual Report (p3-7): none.
AS mentioned some of those no longer with us, who were present last year.
- 3.5. Financial Report and Presentation of Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024:
- 3.5.1. Questions and comments on the accounts:
Andrew thanked Chris Bolland for his hard work over the last year and in preparing these accounts. He mentioned that we currently have no treasurer and thanked Alison, Felicity, Dana & Nick for their work in covering short term. Fred Carr asked how the valuation of the rental properties was reached and AS explained that they had been valued and we had taken advice from the auditors. A correction was required under 'Investments' on page 17 . The last line should read 'market value at 31st December 2024'.
AS drew attention to the fact that we have reduced our Parish share in order to balance our books.
- 3.5.2. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Felicity Shoesmith and seconded by Dana Corso. Agreed unanimously.
- 3.5.3. Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor: The use of S&W (previously Haines Watts) was proposed by Ros Place and seconded by Diane Henderson. Agreed unanimously.
- 3.6. Report on the changes in the Electoral Roll since the last APCM, which has been renewed. There are currently 159 people on our electoral roll.
- 3.7. Elections and appointments
- 3.7.1. Scrutineers – these would be the church wardens, should an election take place.
- 3.7.2. Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council (must be over 16 and on the Parish electoral role):
Alison Charlewood read out the nominations of the current PCC members willing to continue in their roles and of the new people nominated to serve on the PCC.

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Marian Coulson Cave	Diana Lavin	Paul Wilkinson
Diane Henderson	Raymond Smith	Sue Finkill
Alison Wilson	Diana Lavin	Paul Wilkinson
Felicity Shoemith	Joyce Jennings	Nick Glover
Alison Charlewood	Felicity Shoemith	Diane Henderson
Kath Davies	Felicity Shoemith	Paul Wilkinson
Helen Fraser	Alison Charlewood	Nick Glover
Lee Best	Joyce Jennings	Dana Corso
Pauline Gallacher	Dana Corso	Joyce Jennings
Claudia Newbegin	Dana Corso	Nick Glover
Michael Whickam	Nick Glover	Dana Corso

The approval of the nominations was proposed by Lesley Atkinson and seconded by Pam Taylor and agreed nem con.

3.7.3. Election for Deanery Synod: The current people sitting on the Deanery Synod are Ros Place (proposed by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Alison Charlewood), Diana Lavin (proposed by Nick Glover and seconded by Stuart Henderson), and Pam Taylor (proposed by Diana Lavin and seconded by Diane Henderson). There is one vacancy and Andrew asked if anyone was interested but there were no volunteers.

3.7.4. Appointment of sidepersons. Andrew drew attention to the back of the report, where those currently serving as a sidesperson are listed. These were affirmed at the meeting. Proposed by Peter Brown and seconded by Karoline Wellbourne and approved.

3.8. Renewing our approval of the Parish Safeguarding Policy: Andrew explained that our policy needs to be approved annually. The acceptance of the policy was proposed by Yvonne Carr and seconded by Karoline Wellbourne. Agreed unanimously. The safeguarding report for 2024 was also noted

3.9. Vicar's Report:.

One of the places I often go to find peace and inspiration is Ashburton Cemetery. It's quiet and tucked away, contains the graves of Roman Catholic nuns and priests—many of whom likely left Ireland to serve the people of Tyneside. Their lives were a generous response to God's call.

That spirit—sacrificial, faithful, and joyful—is what we are also called to live out as a church. In worship, we encounter the living God, and we're drawn into a new way of seeing and being. It's not an easy way, but in Worship we catch a glimpse—an alternative way of life shaped by love.

This calling is practical. It's expressed in how we welcome others—in our website, yes—but especially in the way we receive people when they walk through our doors. Research tells us that people decide within 30 seconds whether they feel they belong. It's not the sermon or the music—it's the smile, the warmth, the welcome.

Hospitality is at the heart of the Gospel. We must avoid cliques and remember that everyone who joins us is taking a brave step. Let's not quiz them or let them stand alone at the end of a service. Let's notice, listen, and invite. We must be able to welcome all ages which includes children. This is a particular challenge to us.

Demands for our ministry is growing. Just 10 days ago, we received in half an hour, two burial requests for our garden of remembrance from unknown parishioners and a wedding blessing celebration. A new toddler group leader at St Hugh's needed support. We've had three funerals this past week and we're preparing to welcome Archibald school and NSFB into the Centre on Saturdays over the next month. These are real needs—but also real opportunities to live out God's love.

Whether its school visits, concerts, the Farmer's Market or just how we care for our grounds—our church is a visible expression of God's love. People often stop me and say, "There's a lot going on at your church!" That's a good sign.

We are not a business, but we are a complex organisation. I was reminded, when I was licensed here, that I'm not the managing director—I'm called to think of the Good Shepherd, helping make faith visible and credible. But we do need help. We need more hands on deck, especially as we look for a new treasurer to work with QuickBooks. St Hugh's remains a joyful challenge.

We are grateful for all who serve. Thank you to:

The Standing Committee chaired by Felicity who have worked so hard. Alison has played a key role in facilitating changes in how the Standing Committee and PCC work.

Lesley Ogilvy, Francine Bain, and Valerie Hedley for their work on the PCC as they retire

John and the choir, Yvonne and the bell ringers, the Flower Team and Pat.

To our sub-committees of the PCC:

Social (Ann)

Fabric (Christine)

Youth (Miriam)

Communications (Dana)

Safeguarding (Pauline)

For the commitment To Louise and Tricia.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Nick Glover for his three years of dedicated service as Churchwarden. Our sincere gratitude also goes to Ruth for her faithful commitment, to Miriam for her vital work—which will need to be handed on soon and to Dana for her dedication over the past year.

A special thank you to Louise for taking extra finance duties over the year.

While we may have had n £18,000 deficit, we still managed to pay our entire parish share of £111,500. That is truly remarkable.

And to Chris Boland—thank you for his continued service until recently, even after stepping down.

Through all these gifts and contributions, we see the grace of God at work. Thank you, each one of you, for being part of it.

3.10. Declaration of election results: none

4. Comments and questions from parishioners.

Peter Brown described some of the current thoughts about plans to renovate the centre. The kitchens and toilets would be converted to a new meeting room, the kitchen would be in the Columba room with a hatch to the hall. The PCC are looking at these proposals before they are costed and possibly, taken forward.

There were then general discussions around Lent groups, rubbish bins, opening the church more often, the future of St Hugh's, frequency of Farmers' Market and notice boards.

Pam Taylor expressed thanks to AS for all his hard work on behalf of everyone.

The Blessing was read by Andrew.

Electoral Roll Report

In accordance with Church of England procedure the Electoral Roll has been revised. Since the revision 2 people have died so their names have been removed. 3 people have been added to the roll. The Electoral Roll now stands at 160.

Louise Waugh, Electoral Roll Officer

Report on the Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC met six times (excluding the annual meeting) between May 2025 and March 2026, all of which took place in person. There was also an additional meeting to discuss plans for the centre development.

Our PCC has the following sub-committees; Fabric, Social, Youth, Safeguarding, Communications and Eco.

This year we have been without a treasurer and the finance has been managed by the Standing committee. We are mindful of the need to both fundraise and spend wisely, but have been able to maintain our Parish share this year. We received a small grant to help with organ repairs and also some generous legacies.

Many people have now switched their regular giving to the Parish Giving scheme and we are encouraging everyone else to follow suit, as it simplifies our accounting enormously; Nick Glover is happy to answer questions about this.

Safeguarding remains a standing item on PCC agendas, with the PCC regularly being updated by the safeguarding officer on our progress on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub. Ensuring the safety of everyone is important, and we hope that as many people as possible from our church community will sign up for some basic safeguarding training.

In addition, other matters that came up during PCC meetings and were discussed as follows:

- Fundraising, including events and appeals
- Fabric
- Worship and Services
- Church website
- Christmas Fair
- Farmers' Market
- Prayer, study and nurture
- Social events
- Archbishop Runcie School
- Young people and children
- Plans to develop the All Saints Centre
- St Hugh's

Our vision

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section (5) of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. This duty is to have regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults.

Alison Charlewood

Fabric Committee

This was another busy year for the Fabric Committee as we seek to maintain our buildings and grounds and move forward strategically to meet future needs.

Ongoing maintenance and repair of our buildings continued. Gutters have been cleaned and in the Centre the floor in the main hall was resealed for safety, finger guards replaced and rotten windows made watertight.

The church heating finally gave up in March and it proved difficult to identify the problem, despite help from the heating technician and the Diocesan Adviser. In the end, after exploring other 'net zero' options, a new gas boiler was installed just in time for the Autumn cold. Grateful thanks are due to Dana, Joyce, Lee and Peter for their perseverance in delivering this, learning a whole new heating vocabulary on the way!

We are delighted that our recommendations for alterations to the Centre, to provide more accessible spaces and improve facilities, have been adopted by the PCC and we look forward to working with them to make the project a reality.

A number of volunteers have been helping in the grounds this year. Lawns have been mowed and strimmed, hedge trimmed, leaves raked and our gardens maintained. A WhatsApp group has made it easier to coordinate activities so that people can garden when best for them and also seek other helpers. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Felicity Shoemith who will add your name to the list.

Discussions with the North East Community Forest resulted in the development of a project for 53 native trees to be planted on the green. These include 8 larger trees, interspersed with smaller 'whips' and an extension to the beech hedge. The project is fully funded over the next 10+ years. Planting – led by Northumberland Wildlife Trust and involving over 20 volunteers of all ages – finally took place on one of the only dry days in January. It is a tribute to the green drainage which took place in 2023 that the ground, whilst very damp, was not completely waterlogged after a month of rain.

A wildlife survey of the green is being undertaken under the auspices of the Eco Group and we look forward to working with them to improve our support for nature. New bird and bat boxes have been donated by members of the congregation.

We continue to need additional volunteers to help with gardening, grounds maintenance and 'odd jobs'. If you can help in any way, please do get in touch. Grateful thanks go to all those who continue to devote significant time and effort to looking after our estate.

Christine Willoughby

Christine Willoughby

Newcastle Central Deanery Synod Report including information shared on Diocesan Synod

Central Newcastle Deanery Synod met twice during 2025.

At the March meeting, discussion focused on what motivates people to give to their churches. Reasons included supporting mission and ministry, maintaining church buildings, valuing the church's community role, and personal faith. Giving was highlighted as an expression of Christian discipleship, and PCCs were encouraged to reflect on how their mission and vision are communicated. The *Year of Seeking* theme also invited

reflection on where God is seen at work in everyday life, particularly in community action, nature, and acts of care. Updates were also received from General and Diocesan Synods, including safeguarding developments and a new clergy appointment at St John's Kingston Park.

At the July meeting, a financial update showed Newcastle Central Deanery is performing relatively well in parish share giving, although some parishes remain behind target. Canon Ric Whaite, Director of Ministry, spoke about moving from the *Year of Seeking* to the *Year of Sharing*, with a focus on discipleship, new worshipping communities, and mission. Future diocesan priorities for 2025–2028 include New Worshipping Communities, Buildings for Mission, and Growing Closer to God. Other updates included safeguarding support, diocesan finances, racial justice work, and notice of the Archdeacon of Northumberland's three-month sabbatical, during which Hannah Cleugh will serve as Acting Archdeacon.

Andrew Shipton

Standing Committee

I became the lay chair of the Standing Committee in May 2024 which also means that I am the deputy lay chair of the PCC.

The Standing Committee meets at least monthly and oversees the PCC agenda and actions, finance, health and safety and general coordination of All Saints issues including ensuring that we comply with the Charity Commission regulations. Other members of the Standing Committee are the Church Wardens (Dana and Joyce), Alison Charlewood as the PCC / Standing Committee secretary and Andrew Shipton. In the absence of a Treasurer the Standing Committee have taken on the responsibilities for this role with support from Louise, our Parish Administrator.

Felicity Shoesmith

Mission & Giving

Every month, plate donations from our services are given to a nominated charity, as agreed by the PCC at its November meeting. Before this, a small group meets - following an appeal to the congregation for suggestions – to decide on the charities and missions of the month, using a set of criteria. A new charity this year was New to the UK. Combined with donations from Christingle, Christmas, and other contributions, a total of £6,493 was collected and distributed (compared to £9,793 in 2024).

Andrew Shipton

Christians Together in Gosforth

The leaders of the Gosforth churches met every two months during 2025 for fellowship, information sharing, and planning. We were deeply saddened by the loss of Revd Alex Mabbs, the minister at Trinity Church. The Service of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at St Charles Church in January. A United Service of Witness took place outdoors in Trinity Square on Good Friday.

Members of St Charles, the Society of Friends, and others-including one member of our own congregation-continued to support the weekly Thursday “Space to Share” drop-in sessions at the Quaker Meeting House. During the year, we were pleased to welcome new regular attenders.

As in previous years, the ministers took part in the Remembrance Day Service in Gosforth Park, which was attended by hundreds of people and went smoothly. Once again, we were grateful for the much-improved sound system, which greatly enhanced the quality of the service. We also appreciated John Lewis for his playing and the church choir for their singing.

Throughout the year, ministers continued to share and promote events taking place in each other’s churches.

In December, plans were drawn up for the Lent lunches for 2026.

Andrew Shipton

Pastoral and Spiritual Care Group

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Group continues to be concerned with how we care for one another as members of All Saints’ congregations, as neighbours and with those we come into contact with through baptisms, weddings and funerals. We seek to encourage fellowship among members of the congregation and to welcome newcomers. In order to do this effectively good communication is essential and we are dependent on receiving up to date information about anyone needing pastoral and spiritual care.

The group continues to send Christmas and Easter cards to those who are housebound and these are always greatly appreciated and we also send cards to those celebrating “significant” birthdays. On several Sundays throughout the year there are communion services on a Sunday afternoon for those unable to attend services on a Sunday morning.

It is our aim that all members of All Saints should feel that they are valued and that their pastoral and spiritual needs are met. Members of the group are constantly aware of the need to be up to date with current safeguarding requirements in order to carry out their work.

Ruth Birnie

Safeguarding Committee Report for 2025

The Safeguarding Committee has continued to hold meetings on a regular basis during the past year.

In 2025 Enid Mitchell stepped down as Chair of the committee and we thank her for her leadership in this role over many years. We were also grateful for the contribution of Miriam Jones, our Curate, whose work in compiling and agreeing role descriptions was much appreciated. Kath Davies, All Saints Parish Safeguarding Officer, has worked tirelessly to ensure that safeguarding Policies and Procedures are in place and adhered to, and particularly to ensure all training requirements for those who hold a role within the Church have been met. As ever, we are very grateful to Kath for her time and commitment to this role.

In November we welcomed Sharon Devlin, the newly appointed Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, to one of our meetings and were interested to hear more about her role and how the Diocese would be able to work alongside All Saints in ensuring that safeguarding practices are as robust as possible. In January, the new diocesan Training Officer, John Hulse, led a training session on Domestic Abuse Awareness which was well attended and well received.

The work of the Committee – to constantly monitor and implement all aspects of Safeguarding within All Saints Parish – is ongoing, and as important as ever in our commitment to provide a protective and safe environment for all people. We thank the parishioners of All Saints for their support as we carry out this work.

Pauline Gallacher

Policies and Procedures on Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- *To protect children, vulnerable young people and adults who access our services from harm. This includes the children of adults who access our activities.*
- *To provide our staff and volunteers, (as well as children, young people and vulnerable adults) with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and protection.*

Introduction

At All Saints Church, part of the Diocese of Newcastle, we are committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults and creating protective and supportive environments where all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in safety.

We follow the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, and Church of England policy and practice, and have fully adopted The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults.

NB Further information from our Diocese about safeguarding can be found on the relevant part of the Diocesan website. We hope that if you or anyone you know has been affected by abuse within the Church, we will be able to give you the confidence to speak out.

All Saints is committed to putting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within the church and that all those involved will be treated with dignity and respect.

These procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any adult or child who accesses church or any of its functions.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of All Saints and who come directly into contact with vulnerable adults and children.

Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person (the Parish Safeguarding Officer) in respect of safeguarding, or the incumbent of concerns relating to safeguarding.

The designated person (PSO) with the incumbent, must decide if the concerns should be communicated to other relevant organisations.

Policy Statement

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Ensuring a zero tolerance approach to abuse and neglect within the church.

- Caring pastorally and with dignity for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally and with dignity for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

In order to implement the Policy, All Saints will work to:

- Create a safe and caring place for all by promoting good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring.
- Ensure that any allegations, disclosures of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported. Implement processes which enable it to meet the requirements of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Adults policy and Child Protection Procedures
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that a Health and Safety Policy, procedures and Risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of vulnerable adults and children

Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

NB Each person who works within this church community **will agree** to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This PCC appoints **Kath Davies** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (**PSO**)

Incumbent: Revd Canon Andrew Shipton

Church Wardens: Dana Corso & Joyce Jennings

ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH
Sidespeople

Roy Ashton
Francine Bain
David Bates
Linda Bates
Marilyn Champion
Tony Champion
Chloe Cook
Keith Davies
Peter Farquharson
Lynne Farquharson
Valerie Farthing
Helen Fraser
Valerie Hedley
Margaret Hudgson
Ann Kendell
Helen Langley
Edward Quant
Margaret Patterson
Judy Riseborough
Felicity Shoemith
Liz Smith
Sheila Smithson
Joanna Stead
Pam Taylor
Alison Wilson

Present Churchwardens

Dana Corso
Joyce Jennings