



The Parish of
**Swindon
New Town**


Annual Meetings 2026

Annual Report and Accounts 2025

**The Parish Office
S. Aldhelm's Centre
Edgeware Road
Swindon
SN1 1QS**

The Report

We hope that you will enjoy reading this Annual Report. It is a composite document prepared collaboratively by the officers and members of the PCC, in line with the Charities Act 2011. We hope that it gives a clear picture of the life of the churches and the way in which the PCC have administered the task placed upon them as trustees of the Parish of Swindon New Town.

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Fr Toby Boutle SSC
Rector and Parish Priest

16th April 2026

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The Churches of the Parish

S. Mark's, Church Place, Swindon, SN1 5EH
S. Luke's, Broad Street, Swindon, SN1 2DS
S. Saviour's, Ashford Road, Swindon, SN1 3NS
S. Aldhelm's Chapel, Edgeware Road, Swindon SN1 1QS

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held at
S. Mark's Church
on
Tuesday 19th May 2026
at
7.20pm

The agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect the churchwardens and the deputy churchwarden.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting of the 22nd May 2025
4. Any matters arising
5. Nominations for Churchwardens
6. Nominations for the Deputy Churchwarden
7. Election

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Thursday 22nd May at 7.20pm in S. Mark's Church

The meeting opened with prayer

Present: Fr Toby Boutle (Chairman), Fr Tim Davies, Tom Dumbell (Community Worker), Dominic Veveris (Pastoral Assistant) plus twenty-seven parishioners

Apologies: Mike Jell, Ed Jell, Rosemarie Schofield, Carol Simmons, Carrie Tiller

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024

These were agreed with one amendment (correction of a date). There were no matters arising from the minutes. Fr Toby signed them as a true record.

Nominations and election of two Churchwardens and one deputy churchwarden.

Nominations had been received for Sue Carvell, Pat Gordon and Carole Green.

Pat Gordon and Carole Green were elected as churchwardens and Sue Carvell as deputy churchwarden. Fr Toby welcomed them to office and thanked them for their work and contributions to the life of the parish. He continued by thanking John Bishop who was standing down after nineteen years as either churchwarden or deputy churchwarden.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm

The Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2025
3. Election of three lay members to the Deanery Synod
4. Appointment of the Licensed Reader to the PCC
5. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council
6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2026-2027
7. Electoral Roll Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Treasurer's Report and the Presentation of Accounts
10. Churchwardens' Fabric Report
11. PCC Report and the activities of the parish generally
12. The Rector's Report
13. Any other business (the Chairman or Secretary to be notified 24 hours in advance)

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.30pm in S. Mark's Church

Present: Fr Toby Boutle (chairman), Fr Tim Davies, Tom Dumbell (Community Worker)
Dominic Veveris (Pastoral Assistant plus twenty-seven church members)

Apologies: Mike Jell, Ed Jell, Rosemarie Schofield, Carol Simmons, Carrie Tiller

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024

These were agreed and there were no matters arising. Fr Toby signed them as a true record of the meeting.

Elections and Appointments

Election of lay members to the Deanery Synod

At the present time, there are two vacancies. There were no nominations for these positions. The parish will continue to be represented by Lynn Trigg and Helen Watt.

Election of six members to the Parochial Church Council to serve until 2028

Nomination forms had been received for: Alan Bradley, Greta Davies, Sarah Hornsey, Linda McEntee, Kai McWhirter, Sandy Steele-Davis, David Stephenson and Kenneth Viegas.

All were elected. Kai McWhirter will serve until 2026 and Linda McEntee until 2027.

Fr Toby thanked all PCC members for their work and continued support of the parish.

To set the number of PCC members to be elected at the 2026 APCM

Fr Toby spoke of adopting a new system, where in 2026 all PCC members would be elected and serve for one year. Lynn Trigg commented that this would be a more efficient use of Safeguarding practice. Greta Davies commented that this system would be the same as that for electing churchwardens.

Fr Toby proposed that all PCC members would be elected and serve for one year at and from the 2026 APCM. This was seconded by Lyn Trigg and carried unanimously.

The numbers to serve on the PCC would be discussed and decided at a future PCC meeting.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2025 – 2026

John Bishop proposed that Monahans should continue, as their service has been thorough and efficient. This was seconded by Sandy Steele-Davis and carried unanimously.

Annual Reports

The Electoral Roll

There had been a complete revision of the ER this year and John Bishop (Electoral Roll Officer) presented the new Roll. In total there are now 167 members on the Electoral Roll. (S. Mark's 71, S. Saviour's 39 and S. Luke's 57)

John thanked Pat Mortimer, Greta Davies, Lynn Trigg and Linda McEntee for their help in this Electoral Roll renewal.

Fr Toby commented on a realistic Electoral Roll and that he was really encouraged by the addition of 46 new members, which reflects the growth of the parish. It was noted that it had been harder at S. Luke's to ensure that members of the congregation were entered on the Electoral Roll and that this did not necessarily reflect in their attendance numbers.

The Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC

Fr Toby drew attention to this on pages 5 -15 in the Annual Report. This had been approved by the PCC and was now received at the APCM.

The Financial Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

This could be found on pages 15-22 in the Annual Report. It had been approved by the PCC and was now received at the APCM.

Fr Toby thanked John Bishop (treasurer) for all his work with the accounts throughout the year, which is very much appreciated. In turn, John thanked all who had assisted him and especially his wife for her patience as he undertook so much time-consuming work!

David Stephenson (chair of the Finance Committee) spoke of the need to reduce the stewardship deficit, which was already reducing, rather than rely on other accounts. For the first time for many years a working budget has been set for 2025.

John spoke of the £96,000+ which is paid to the diocese annually as Parish Share. Fr Toby spoke of the importance of this and of giving generously. It is especially important for when the diocese decide clergy staffing levels.

The Independent Examiner's Report

This could be found on page 23 in the Annual Report and was received by the meeting. The parish's gross income is in excess of £250,000 per annum. This is due to funding received for the Mission Project.

The Deanery Synod Report

This could be found on page 24. It had been prepared by Revd Sally Robertson (Area Dean) and was received by the meeting.

Annual Fabric Report 2025 under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

This could be found on pages 24 and 25 of the Annual Report.

Fr Toby thanked the churchwardens for their continuing work and care of the buildings.

Sue Carvell commented on the new system at S. Luke's for managing illegal car parking. Flashpark have been contracted to do this and, although there is some expense to the parish, it is very successful.

Fr Toby thanked the churchwardens for their hard work in caring for the churches. He also thanked everyone for looking after the buildings, which reflects the love shown to them.

Fr Toby concluded this agenda item by thanking John Bishop for all his hard work as churchwarden and deputy churchwarden over the last 19 years, for his work across the parish especially in overseeing building projects, and for his generosity of time

Report of the Parish Priest

Fr Toby referred to his written report to be found on page 25 in the Annual Report.

He highlighted the Year of the Eucharist, the Eucharistic Festival and the quality of participation. In particular, the procession through unloved areas of the town and our Lord's sacramental presence in this. This has led us into the Year of Discipleship, and he drew attention to the series of talks on lay discipleship to be held at S. Mark's and entitled 'Grace at Ground Level'.

The need to sustain ministry. Fr David Woodhouse has now retired, and Fr Tim Davies has a training post and will sadly leave the parish. Two full time priests would be essential to sustain the growth of the parish.

Fr Adam Burnham will be licensed on the following day, and his appointment will be for three years.

He feels so fortunate to have all the excellent people around him and he thanked all who contributed to the life of the parish.

Any other Business.

None had been submitted.

Sandy Steele-Davis proposed a vote of thanks to Fr Toby for his care and leadership of the parish. 'He has done a fantastic job' and all agreed with this sentiment.

Fr Toby closed the meeting with prayer at 8.00pm

Administrative Information 2025

The Trustees

The Trustees of the Parish of Swindon New Town are the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Members can be co-opted in accordance with the same rules. Members who served in 2025 are:

Rector: Fr Toby Boutle SSC (Chair)
Mission Priests: Fr Ross Copley SSC *until February 2025*
Fr Adam Burnham SSC *from May 2025*

Assistant Curate: Fr Timothy Davies

Licensed Reader Carol Simmons

Churchwardens: Pat Gordon and Carole Green

Deputy

Churchwarden: Susan Carvell

Members of the Diocesan Synod

Alasdair Skeil
Eliana Pretorian *until November 2025*

Members of the Deanery Synod

Lynn Trigg (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Helen Watt *until October 2025*

Elected members:

John Bishop (Treasurer)	Pat Mortimer
Alan Bradley	Vicki Pepper
Christine Cox	Rosemarie Schofield
Greta Davies (Secretary)	Alastair Steele Davis (Vice Chair)
Sarah Hornsey	David Stephenson
Linda McEntee	Caroline Tiller
Christine McKinlay	Kenneth Viegas
Kai McWhirter	

Address

Parish Office
S.Aldhelm's Centre
Edgeware Road
Swindon SN1 1QS

Banks

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Ave.
West Malling ME19 4TA

Santander
Bridle Road
Bootle L30 4YY

Independent Examiner

James Gare
Monahans
Hermes House
Firefly Avenue
Swindon SN2 2GA

Registered Charity Number: 1131070

The Annual Report and Accounts

Introduction from Fr Toby

There is so very much to thank God for in the life of our parish as we look back on 2025. The year saw further growth and a deepening of our renewal. It was the third year of our Mission Project, funded through Innovation Funding and with the generous support of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. We kept 2025 in Swindon New Town as the Year of Discipleship. Highlights included welcoming Fr Adam Burnham SSC, our gifted new Mission Priest, and the fact that we had so many new people coming to church that we needed two confirmation services in the year.

This Annual Report for 2025 contains contributions from many parishioners on different aspects of the life of the parish. These give glimpses of our shared joy in the Lord – and I give thanks for the so many ways that people follow Christ through actively offering their gifts in the service of the Church in our parish.



Worship

The Eucharist is the beating heart of our parish – of our worship, our service and our lives. The Mass is celebrated daily (or more often) in the Parish. With the Konkani Vigil Mass and the new 7.30am Mass at S. Mark's, we now have five Sunday Masses across the parish. At all the churches, we have welcomed new people. At S. Mark's there has been considerable growth, especially among young adults and children, with the congregation at the 10.30am Sunday Mass sometimes exceeding 90 on a normal Sunday and with up to 20 children. The Easter and Christmas attendances in 2025 were the highest in many decades. On Good Friday we had over 110 children in church across the Parish, including our Messy Church at S. Saviour's. Our Christmas attendances were up 56 per cent on 2024 at S. Mark's and up 25 per cent at S. Luke's, with lots of families at our Crib Service at S. Saviour's.



Sacred music is significant across the parish, and the choral tradition at S. Mark's has been further renewed, and our liturgy greatly enriched, by the work of Dr Tom Edwards as Director of Music. Feasts significant to the Goan community have been marked with Masses in Konkani and lay-led prayer novenas at S. Luke's; over 130 people came to our celebrations of the Feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni. And, as Tom Dumbell's report highlights, our Eucharistic Messy Church at S. Saviour's has continued to attract new families, with exciting plans for music and evangelization ahead. We marked Corpus Christi with a joyful eucharistic procession around the GWR park.

Our Bishop, the Rt Revd Paul Thomas SSC, was with us five times in 2025 – a testament to the loving episcopal care we receive from him. Members of the parish joined our brothers and sisters at the Oswestry Chrism Mass in Bristol, the Glastonbury pilgrimage, our Regional Festival in Weston-Super-Mare and the licensing of Fr Simon Clark as the new vicar in the Society parishes in the city of Bristol. We were also joined by Bishop Neil, the Bishop of Swindon, who licensed Fr Adam at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul



Discipleship

The particular focus for our Year of Discipleship was on how following Jesus should shape the whole of our lives. A real highlight were the *Grace at the Ground Level* series of talks – these involved lay parishioners speaking personally about how they live out their faith. There were talks from Gavin Jones on being a Christian tattooist, from Dominic Veveris on his time with the Mission to Seafarers in Japan, Carol Simmons on lay ministry as a Reader, and Matt Winbow on walking the Camino. These attracted people from within and outside the church community. A further series is planned for 2026.



Our Lent course, *Faith on the Frontline*, used material from the LICC to help us think about how to live out our faith in our daily lives. We held an Alpha course at S. Aldhelm's and began a Farsi Alpha course for new Iranian parishioners. Four parishioners joined the Diocese of Bristol's PREPARED course for leaders in urban mission. We now have four men in the discernment process (one of whom is exploring the permanent diaconate) and a former PCC member, having been recommended for training, began studying at Wycliffe Hall. Cameron Stannard joined us as our new pastoral assistant, with funding from the Cleaver Trust and the ACOCF, for which we are very grateful.

Twenty parishioners (about half of whom for the first time) came on our pilgrimage to Walsingham and three young people joined the Society of Mary pilgrimage to Lourdes. We ended the year with an Advent course considering the theological virtues through art.

Fourteen people were confirmed in the parish in 2025 in June and December. So we held both adult and children's confirmation preparation sessions twice. A total of 50 people have been confirmed in the parish over the past four years – a great cause of joy and thanksgiving for us all.

Social action

Our social action programmes (which Tom Dumbell writes about further), such as the Welcome Spaces, our Free Shop run in conjunction with Swindon Borough Council, the toddler group and youth group are an important part of our Mission Project. Social action is not just one more thing among many that the Church might or might not do, but part of who the Church is.

Opening up our churches to our communities in this way has helped form us in our identity in Christ. It has broken down barriers. It makes us a more visible sign of God's love, especially his love for those who are poor or marginalized.



And we have seen people come to faith, come to be baptized, confirmed and join in the Eucharist, through first coming to our social action projects and receiving a loving welcome there. With plans to renew S. Aldhelm's as a centre for social action in our town centre put forward to the DAC in 2025, we hope to further extend this work in the years ahead.



Sustaining our ministry

It has been a joy to have Fr Timothy Davies with us as Assistant Curate since 2023 – he brings great gifts, especially pastorally and liturgically. His presence has, no doubt, helped inspire vocations to ordained ministry within the parish. As he is serving his title, Fr Tim will at some point in 2026 or 2027 move on to another post.

With no retired clergy now active in the parish, we have been exploring with the Diocese how to sustain our priestly ministry over the long term, which is essential if we are to keep our congregations growing as Eucharistic communities. Fr Adam's post is generously funded by the ACS for the next two years. We currently have a significant operating deficit, although that has reduced slightly this year and we hope to reduce it further in 2026. So many parishioners give with great generosity to the life of the parish financially and through their time and devotion. To make our financial position sustainable and to secure the Mission Priest role in the long term will only be possible by our congregations continuing to grow and through sacrificial financial giving – and this must be a focus for us in 2026.

We secured in 2025 funding to allow our Mission Project to continue in 2026. For this we are extremely grateful to the No. 1 Trust, the Bernard Mizeki Trust (part of the Fellowship of St John Trust Association) and Ascot Priory. This will sustain the employment of Tom as our Mission Worker, Messy Church, Welcome Space and help us renew our Music Club, to make that a focus for evangelization and extend the reach of Messy Church

My priestly ministry is sustained daily in this parish by gifted lay and ordained colleagues. I would like to thank the whole PCC for their share in supporting our ministry, and particularly Pat Gordon, Carole Green and Sue Carvell for serving as churchwardens or assistant churchwardens, and John Bishop who in 2025 stepped down after 19 years as churchwarden or assistant churchwarden. May God continue to bless us and strengthen us for his service.

Fr Toby Boutle SSC
Rector and Parish Priest

PCC Report

Aims and Purposes

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 has the responsibility of working with the rector, Fr Toby Boutle, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the church.

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

(PCC Accountability. The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC)

Structure

The Standing Committee (the only committee required by law) has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. Members are the clergy, churchwardens, officers and representatives of the whole PCC. In addition, the PCC has four committees, which are: Finance, Fellowship, Property and HR. These groups meet between PCC meetings and report back to the full PCC at its meetings.

Meetings

The full PCC met six times in 2025. On the agenda of every meeting was Safeguarding (to emphasise the importance of this within the parish) and Finance. Progress with the Mission Project was also regularly discussed as also was the fabric and condition of the church buildings.

PCC members also attended a Strategy Day held at S. Mark's in June. The topics discussed were:

- Growth and First Fruits, (Reviewing the Mission Project so far)
- The Quiet Revival, (Reasons to be optimistic about Christianity in Britain today)
- Sharing our Faith (Our own experiences of Christ's love)
- Coming to Church (Evangelisation in our parish)
- Pastoral Care in our parish
- Where might the Lord be leading us? (Discerning and sharing ideas and priorities)

Parish Statistics

The usual Sunday attendance across the parish in 2025 was: 179 adults and 28 young people under sixteen years of age.

The usual Saturday attendance at S. Aldhelm's was 9 adults (no Sunday services)

Within the parish, 11 candidates were baptised, 14 candidates were confirmed. There were 2 weddings and 7 funerals.

External Funding

The PCC would like to formally recognise and thank the following organisations for their continuing financial support for 2026 to further the Mission Project.

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

The No.1 Trust and Bernard Mizeki / The Fellowship of St John Trust

(Mission Worker, Messy Church, Music Club and Welcome Space)

Ascot Priory (Mission Worker employment costs)

Cleaver/ACOCF (Cameron Stannard's placement as Pastoral Assistant)

The Society of the Sacred Mission (Ricky Whitefield's placement as Mission Intern)

Diocese of Bristol – LinC Funding (paid in lieu of rental income for the Mission Priest's house)

The Additional Curates Society (paid directly to the Diocese to fund the Mission Priest post).

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, PCC members look forward to continuing their work to support the people of the whole Parish of Swindon New Town

Swindon Deanery Synod Annual Report 2025

Our Deanery Synod meetings took a slightly different form for much of 2025 as we were able to combine 2 of our meetings with Pioneering Parishes training provided by the Diocese of Bristol and delivered by Church Mission Society. This allowed Synod members to meet with others from across the Deanery to discuss ways of taking church more deliberately into our communities.

In February and October, we met at Pattern Church and were led by Tina Hodgett and Greg Bakker from Church Mission Society as part of the Pioneering Parishes initiative. In February, we engaged with the need for a culture shift, lamenting our losses to allow newness to emerge; emphasising our values and how to discern them through honest conversations and developing an abundant mindset, through seeing our contexts differently. The presentations and discussions were fuelled by an excellent buffet from Trenchers in Kembrey Park. In October, Tina and Greg led us in open conversations which encouraged us to discuss the questions we are grappling with around mission in our contexts and modelled ways of encouraging self-reflection through the help of perceptive questioning by others.

Each of these meetings was preceded by a short business meeting. In February we appointed Gill Leighburn and Tracy Mason as lay members of the Deanery Leadership Team and in October we elected Nick Orman from Wroughton and Wichelstowe as Lay Chair. In October we also heard from Stephen Sheridan, the Finance Director for the Diocese who is the member of senior staff in Diocesan Support Services (DSS) linked to our deanery.

The date set for the May meeting clashed with the end of the Pioneering Parishes course following on from the February meeting, so synod members were invited to come to Holy Trinity, Shaw and engage in prayer stations, focussing on Swindon, local schools, and peace among other topics.

July was our annual synod barbeque and as well as networking with other synod members, those attending this synod at The Well in Abbey Meads also had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation about the appointment of the new Bishop of Bristol by answering questions on flip charts.

Lynn Trigg and Helen Watt have been our parish's lay Deanery Synod reps over the past year, please ask them or the clergy if you would like more information. Helen will be very much missed on her retirement as Deanery Secretary, and we all wish her well for the future.

Sally Robertson
Swindon Area Dean

A deanery is a geographical area within a diocese, comprising the parishes in that location. In the Diocese of Bristol there are a total of seven deaneries, each led by an Area Dean.

Deanery Synods are the governing bodies for each deanery, a legal collection of local parishes.

Deanery Synods bring together the thinking of the church's life in the deanery.



SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Safeguarding is of the utmost importance to the PCC. We want our church communities to be safe and welcoming spaces so to this end we have adopted our own safeguarding policies in line with the Diocese of Bristol and the Church of England nationally. These are revised by the PCC annually and they are available to be viewed on the parish website.

Safeguarding is discussed at each PCC meeting where the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) updates the PCC about progress, including via the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

Those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults as well as PCC members (who as trustees have oversight of safeguarding in the parish) have had DBS checks and regular safeguarding training provided by the Diocese of Bristol.

In August 2025 the Bristol Diocese Safeguarding Team carried out a review on the safeguarding information on parish websites. In October we were gratified to receive feedback on the review of our website which said, "We're pleased to let you know that your website not only met but exceeded the minimum requirements. Your commitment to safeguarding is clearly reflected in the quality and clarity of the information you've provided."

Clear and accessible information is always key in safeguarding and to this end information and points of contact are displayed prominently at all our churches. Our hiring agreement for organisations using any of our premises contains express safeguarding provisions.

Each church has a safeguarding officer, and Lynn Trigg is the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Lynn Trigg
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Church of England. We have robust Codes of Practice, policies and training in place to promote safeguarding as everyone's responsibility.

[Alexander Kubeyinje](#), National Director of Safeguarding

The PCC of the Parish of Swindon New Town has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. (This is the duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Churchwardens' Report

S. Mark's

During 2025 several minor works have taken place. The fire extinguishers have been checked and replaced where necessary to meet the legislation. The gutters have been inspected and cleaned with a few recommendations.

There were several water leaks which have now been repaired. The electrical safety checks have been carried out on a regular basis, and the boiler has been serviced. The boiler timer has been activated, and several people now know how to adjust the settings.

Areas of the hall and toilets have been repainted and the main church door fitted with a soft closing mechanism.

Tom Edwards has carried out extensive clearance and re-organisation of the Song School, and we thank him for all his work.

The maintenance of the churchyard continues, and a great deal of work has been done in clearing overgrown areas.

I would like to thank all the sides people and everyone who reads for helping me out throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Carole Green

S. Saviour's

During this year 2025 we have continued to carry out general maintenance and repairs to our church and hall as required:

Church

- Cleaning of pipe work and repainted
- Broken roof tiles removed and replaced.
- Removal of a strip of broken wooden baton and replaced
- Organ tuned
- Gutters checked cleared and required workers carried out
- Gullies unblocked and shrubbery cut back at rear of the church

Hall

- Lock fitted to the youth club room
- New curtain poles fitted and damage curtains repaired
- Replaced tap cartridge to hot and cold water taps in kitchen

Main heat detector replaced

Gas safety checks carried out

The car park cleared and overgrowth cut

Our hall continues to be well managed and looked after by Linda McEntree.

I want to say a big thank you to all our volunteers in whatever capacity that have been able to support the church and our parish

Pat Gordon

S. Luke's

During 2025 general maintenance and repairs continued to be carried out as required; in addition, the following work was completed:

- The Boiler providing heating and hot water to the church hall complex required attention as it stopped working on two occasions. It has now been repaired; however, we have been advised that it is coming to the end of its working life. As a result, investigations are under way to source/fund a replacement system.
- The organ was tuned and the organ pump doors were replaced at the back of the Church.
- Fire extinguishers checked and removed where no longer required.
- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was carried out on eligible equipment.
- All gutters have been inspected and cleaned.
- FlashPark have been retained to allow inappropriate use of the car park to be managed.
- New gas and electricity meters have been installed following a change in suppliers.
- New handles have been fixed to the entrance door from the lobby into the hall and the area under the stairs has been tidied.
- The cleaner's cupboard has had the light repaired and shelves added to allow for better storage of cleaning items and equipment.

My thanks go to all those involved in the life of S. Luke's who have supported me since becoming churchwarden.

Sue Carvell

S. Aldhelm's

The building generally is in a 'tired condition'. However, plans for its refurbishment and alterations continued during 2025. The DAC gave advice supporting the proposed works, Swindon Borough Council granted planning permission for the necessary exterior work to the building and a Faculty application was progressed. This planned work will provide a new entrance to the chapel, and general hall improvements. Grants will need to be secured for this building work, and the parish will be working with the Swindon Food Collective to secure funding.

In preparation for the proposed building work, books in the 'library' were sorted out (giving more storage space to the Food Collective) and most moved to S. Mark's to create a new Reading Room.

Problems with the area at the back of S. Aldhelm's continued and these affected the building considerably. It has been established that this alleyway belongs to Swindon Borough Council and appropriate representations were made to them.

All our churches are much loved and well cared for, and they provide safe and welcoming spaces to all who enter within their walls. The churchwardens would like to thank everyone who has looked after them in any way throughout the year, and who will continue to do so. We are grateful indeed to be custodians of such beautiful buildings, which enables worship to continue both now and for the future years.

THE GUILD OF S. THÉRÈSE

A New Parish Ministry

One of the fruits of The Mission Project has been a visible and significant increase in the number of young adults who have begun attending church in the parish of Swindon New Town. Many of these young men and women were new to the faith, or returning after a significant absence. Our Catechesis in the parish has enabled many to understand and own their faith, and dozens have been baptised and confirmed in the last three years.



This exciting growth presented a need and an opportunity. How can we continue to encourage and teach The Faith to this key demographic in a way that takes into account its unique stage of life and its challenges and potentials? Our answer, after consultation with our young adults, was to launch The Guild of S. Thérèse: a young adults group placed under the patronage of S. Thérèse de Lisieux. S. Thérèse was a teenager when she gave her life to Christ as a Carmelite nun, and a young adult when God brought her into her Heavenly Reward. She was made a Doctor of the Church for her important teaching on the spirituality of her “Little Way”. A helpful and easily applicable understanding of how we can attain to sainthood through the small and daily tasks, duties, and challenges that God places before everyone of us.

Our first act was to take a number of parishioners to ADOREMUS, the Shrine of OLV’s annual young adults pilgrimage. Its theme focused on The Theological Virtues, and growing in holiness. We next had an official launch on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, beginning with Evening Prayer at S. Mark’s, before having a meal and short lecture on the aims of The Guild. Guild cards have been produced that contain a Guild prayer, taken from S. Thérèse herself, addressed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We have continued to meet monthly with Evening Prayer and a time for socialising afterwards. The Guild numbers approximately 20 and has plans to grow both the catechetical aspects of its meetings, as well as social ministry within Swindon. Our prayer is that encouraging the faith of our young adults, will act like leaven, producing a deeper holiness and devotion to Christ across the entirety of our parish family. Deo Gratias!

Fr Adam Burnham SSC



Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the yearly parish pilgrimage to Walsingham, which is a village in Norfolk, known as "England's Nazareth". Central to the site is The Shrine Church, which contains the Holy House. This is a model of the Holy House of Nazareth, within these walls is the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, which is dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus.

This was my first experience of a pilgrimage or retreat of any kind. I recall my first visit to the Holy House, standing in awe of the incredible Shrine, and feeling completely connected. My five-day pilgrimage included many other highlights. There was a mile long walk with Rosary to the Slipper Chapel, thankfully a bus was offered for those who would find the walk difficult. I participated in the sprinkling of holy water, Benediction and Healing Ministries. I also enjoyed the Stations of the Cross and the Candlelight procession. We had the chance to attend the Guild of All Souls Chapel service, where we could remember and pray for our departed ones.



On reflection it was a wonderful opportunity to meet other pilgrims, build and strengthen my Church family and without any of the background noise of normal life I was able to focus on my faith, and as a result grow in my commitment.

Debbie Banner

Youth Ministry

S. Saviour's Church

The group of eight enrolled is well established; most have attended church with their families from a young age. The attendees are aged between 10-18 with all the young people confirmed and the elder two Noah and Ethan serving in church.

The pattern of worship offered includes a bible reading usually based on the gospel and a mass sheet both read by the young persons. We join the mass for the consecration and communion and return to the hall for a bible-based game at the end. We serve in church on the second Sunday of the month where we fully embrace the roles of servers, acolytes, sides persons and assist with the readings and prayers.

I am ably assisted by Vicky Silvester my deputy, and Debbie Tucker.

S. Mark's Sunday School

The young person's group at St. Mark's has been running for just three years and the age range attending is between 3-13 years. Four of our group are confirmed. We have welcomed 20 youngsters through our doors over the year. However, there is now a settled group of seven children who attend most weeks and numbers have continued to grow steadily over the year.

The pattern of worship is simple with a Bible story usually based on the gospel read to the group with pictures and various worksheets to complete, drawings to colour and craft. The children receive a blessing or communion at the altar rail.

I am ably assisted by Joe Maglia and Katy Royle. Tom Dumbell and Greta Davies have deputised for me in the past year.

Vicki Pepper

The Lay Mission Worker writes:



WELCOME SPACE
A social space for the whole community
Every Monday 1pm-4pm
in the Parish Hall of S. Mark's Church,
Church Place, SN1 5EH
Free refreshments
Board games, arts & crafts
Time for a chat

The poster features a blue background with a white teacup and saucer, a yellow teapot, and several colorful pushpins. There are also some papers and a small gift box.

Welcome Space

Welcome Space continues to attract people from both our church family and the wider community. Sadly, two of our most regular members died this year, and for a short time we had problems with the boiler and with declining numbers at St Luke's. I'm happy to report however that Welcome Space is currently flourishing across both sites, with the numbers at S. Luke's up considerably since Christmas. Both sites now each attract over 20 people most weeks.



WELCOME SPACE
A social space for the whole community
Every Tuesday 1pm-3pm
in the Parish Hall of S. Luke's Church,
Broad Street SN1 2DS
FREE SHOP open 1.30-2.30pm
Free refreshments
Board games, arts & crafts

The poster features a yellow background with a white teacup and saucer, a yellow teapot, and several colorful pushpins. There are also some papers and a small gift box.

Our format of tea, coffee, cake and chat is now well established, but we also have different themed days. Over the last twelve months we've had a Christmas party, pancake day lunch, a quiz and bingo at St Mark's and recently had ploughman's lunches at S. Luke's. A hard-working and growing team of lay people help with setting up, making tea and coffee, serving lunches and chatting to people. A big thank you to you all. We are currently planning to relaunch Welcome Space at S. Luke's on 14th April with an Eastertide afternoon tea. Please come along and join us!



Toddler Playgroup
Every Monday 9.00am - 10.30am
At S. Mark's Church, SN1 5EH
(opposite the GWR Park)
Connect with other parents / carers over coffee and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, playtime, healthy snacks, books and more. Suggested donation of £2

Contact: tom@psnt.uk
07376317543

S. Mark's
Swindon New Town Parish www.swindonnewtown.co.uk

The poster features a light blue background with illustrations of a girl holding a teddy bear, a boy with a ball, and a girl with a cake.

Toddler Group

Toddler Group is now a year old! We have a committed team of volunteers and a regular number of families who come. Twelve families attend Toddler Group, with an average of five or six families per week. Recently, with Christine McKinlay's hard work, we've started to keep the birthdays of the children who attend.



ASHFORD ROAD YOUTH CLUB
FRIDAYS FROM 7.30 - 8PM
S. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH HALL,
ASHFORD ROAD SN1 3NS
A new club for young people aged 11-17.
Games, activities, food and a place to hang out at the end of the school week.
Contact Tom at tom@psnt.uk for more information.

The poster features a dark blue background with a white banner at the top. Below the banner are illustrations of three young people: a girl standing, a boy sitting on a chair, and a girl standing with a drink.

Youth Club

Youth Club started a year ago and has really grown in that time. When we started, we had a small number of children all of whom were from church going families. Now we regularly get 12 or 13 children and most of the children who attend are from outside our church community. We have a range of different activities – computer games, pool table, arts and crafts, football and a tuck shop. We have also gone to the park, had a film night, made our own pizzas and had a superhero evening. Please pray for this work going forward – we're thinking of ways to gently encourage these non-churchgoing families into the life of faith.

Messy Church



We have had a fun year at Messy Church with lots of different themed sessions throughout the year. For the first time in September, we had a Walsingham themed session where our young people learned about the Holy House. We have grown our Messy Church family over the past year, and around half of the people that come are new to our parish. A big thank you to everyone who helps make Messy Church possible – helping lead an activity, helping

to set up and put away, serving at Mass, organising the food or just being there to chat. Although we have grown over the last year, we would like Messy Church to become a better tool for growth. In April we're hoping that lots of our uniformed organisations will come to help us celebrate St George's Day and we hope to do some exciting things with music over the next year.



Holiday Club

We had a very successful and fun week last summer when we had a dinosaur themed holiday club at S. Mark's. As well as having dinosaur classes, dinosaur art and craft activities and a hot meal every day, we went to Oxford to go to the Natural History Museum.

Happily, one of the families who came to Holiday Club are now regular and committed worshippers at S. Mark's.



Lourdes Pilgrimage

Last summer we took three boys from S. Saviour's on pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. This was such a wonderful event and really meaningful for those who attended both children and adults. I really hope we can go to Lourdes again next year in 2027.



Rosary Group

Rosary Group meets every other week at 162 William Street for the rosary enriched with readings from scripture and a little bit of singing. We have started to pray for different intentions in our own lives, for people we know and for our parish. In Lent and Advent the parish study group meets after rosary group and rosary group is on every week.

I would like to finish by saying a big 'thank you' to all those who help with the above projects. It makes all the difference in the world to have a committed team of helpers, and I value not only what you do but also the person support that you give me. Without all of you, none of the above would be possible.

My sincere thanks

Tom Dumbell

The Parish Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) writes:

I am grateful to Fr Toby and the Ministry and Mission Teams for their unstinting support, as my vocation to Lay Ministry continues to grow within our parish context, and to the PCC for funding my participation in the Bristol Diocese Course 'Exploring Christianity' (a two year course, which I completed in July 2025) and my attendance at the College of Readers Conference in November 2025. The Conference enabled me to network with other Readers from Forward in Faith/Society parishes.

My role in the parish as Licensed Reader is varied and very busy. It includes a liturgical role, pastoral work, and community outreach. However, for this report I would like to highlight two aspects of my outreach work in 2025

Bristol Cathedral



I serve monthly as a Day Chaplain in Bristol Cathedral. This makes good connections between our Parish and our Diocese. Chaplains mainly offer pastoral/listening support, but also assist at the lunchtime Eucharist, read at Evening Prayer/Evensong and deliver prayers from the pulpit twice during the day, thus reminding tourists that they are in God's House.

S. Benedicts Beer Festival

My main focus in 2025 was the first Saint Benedict's Beer Festival, which took place in the hall and grounds at S. Mark's on 11th July 2025. This was a great opportunity to forge links with local businesses, musicians and other organisations to gain sponsorship and support. We also had local charities present to raise awareness of the work they are doing, and many of the people who attended the festival would not have otherwise set foot on a church site. This was a wonderful opportunity to show the church as 'alive' within our immediate community and beyond. The festival exceeded all expectations, raising £3400 towards the vital Mission Work of the Parish.



Beer Festival photos
© James Booth Photography



2025 was a rewarding year for my ministry and I look forward to 2026 with increased confidence.

Carol Simmons

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The finance subcommittee exists to help the PCC fulfil its role of managing the parish finances. This year we have concentrated on making the complicated parish accounts as clear as possible and trying to highlight what features are most significant and which are under our control. We produced a budget for the year and have looked at which figures differed significantly from our estimates and why they did so. We have also produced a budget for 2026 which should enable us to see which matters need the most urgent attention. We also aim to ease the burden on the parish treasurer and provide a forum where he can explain or discuss things.

We saw a decrease in plate collections, which was down by 3 per cent. Planned giving showed an increase of 8.5 per cent compared with 2024. The income tax refund increased by around 3 per cent. Income from the halls of the four churches showed a small increase from 2024 to £28,870. At the close of the year, the Stewardship Account recorded a deficit of £26,030; this was mainly due to the significant cost of utilities and the fact that hall income remains low by our historic levels. This deficit was met from the General Purposes Fund.

Our payment of Parish Share to the Diocese of Bristol was £97,246. Repair costs for each of the churches continued to increase this year. Our gas and electricity were purchased via the Church of England's Parish Buying Scheme, until the end of September, and then via their Parish Energy scheme.

The PCC held a Beer Festival, as part of Fundraising during the year and netted approx. £3,500.

The amount required from the Unrestricted General Purposes Fund to fund the loss on the stewardship account and capital projects decreased from £58,815 to £56,939 during the year. The PCC has continued to exercise active stewardship of parish properties. The officers have spent time considering both repairs and improvements; the General Purposes fund, which holds the income from rentals and other income, is often called upon to fund this kind of work.

The PCC Finance Committee is actively seeking to balance our budget. A budget for 2026 was produced by the committee and approved by the whole PCC

Banking:

The Parish banks principally with CAF Bank (Charities Aid Foundation Bank) which allows us to conform with best practice for charities (including dual signatories for on-line transaction). The net bank charges incurred in 2025 were £234.00 due to the large amount of cash deposited.

Gift Aid:

The amount recoverable from HMRC in 2025 amounted to £18,024 compared with £17,478 in 2024.

Properties:

121 Victoria Road: Firestorm Games commenced their 10-year Lease in January 2019 with an annual rent of £25,000. The PCC receives one-third of the income and is responsible for the payment of one-third of any additional expenses incurred. The income and expenditure are shared on a 1/3rd basis with Christ Church PCC 2/3rd.

6 Grosvenor Road: This property was bought with the proceeds of the sale of The Old School and the Tin Hut, Maxwell Street, which can only be used for the purchase of investment property. This property is currently being let at a rental income of £1,080 pcm less 10 per cent commission.

Dowling Street Hall – Wessex Squash Club: The rent for the lease is £7,000 pa and a renewal of lease has been finalised.

S. Saviour's Church Land Charity: The car park which has been constructed at the rear of 94 Kent Road provides a resource for users of S. Saviour's church and hall. The property is used to house the Assistant Curate.

3 Briar Fields: The financing of this property is currently - Walter Timbrell Bequest (36.4%), endowment (28.44%) and PCC funds (35.16%).

It is used to house the Mission Priest. From February 2023 the PCC has received from the Mission Project Innovation Fund a payment in lieu of lost rental income. In 2025 this amounted to £11,624.

All our properties listed above with the exception of the Dowling Street hall were revalued at 31st December 2023.

Investments Policy

The PCC invests with the Church Board of Finance (CBF) in Accumulation Shares, and it considers this to be a long-term investment. Our investment of unrestricted funds with the CBF totals £321,923. The value at the close of 2024 was £356,162, less a disposal of £30,000 for parish projects making an unrealised loss of £4,219. In addition to this, the Income Shares invested by the Diocese on our behalf made an unrealised loss of £4,075.

In 1995 the PCC established the Parish Reserve Capital Fund (Designated & Endowment). This fund is maintained in order to fund capital expenditures, in excess of that able to be met from the General Purposes Fund, in the parish without recourse to extraordinary fundraising, and also to balance any other parish fund which from time to time is in deficit. The PCC have reaffirmed that it continues to believe that maintaining reserves of this level is reasonable and prudent. The General Purposes Fund provides a modest cushion in case regular giving in any particular year is not able to meet day-to-day expenses. The Reserve Capital Fund offers a further buffer, which helps to ensure that our buildings are kept in repair and that they satisfy the requirements of current legislation. The level of this fund is defined in the Annual Accounts; note 10.

RESERVES POLICY

Each of our funds is intended to be self-sufficient; however, due to major building works or other capital expenditure, the General Purposes Revenue (Unrestricted - Designated) Fund can go into deficit.

The total unrestricted funds of the Parish are £595,497 made up of £321,973 of investment assets in the Central Board of Finance, £293,664 of investment property, less net current assets of £20,110 held in Designated Funds.

The PCC of Swindon New Town Parish had established a fund known as the Parish Reserve Fund, later re-titled the General Purposes Fund, prior to the 1993 revision of the Charities Act, and the PCC deposits into this fund the income from properties owned by the parish and income from other investments, which is not restricted in any way. This fund stands at £265,004 at the end of 2025 and is held in investment assets, which could be liquidised to fund future large-scale capital expenditure. During 2023 the PCC sought approval from the Charity Commission to allow the capital endowment of the Maxwell Street Trust to be released to allow the capital to be used as income. The Charity Commission approved this proposition, and the funds were released by the Diocese, as Custodian Trustees, to the PCC's funds to be used as an expendable endowment.

The purpose of this fund is to enable large-scale expenditure for the maintenance and upkeep of the churches and other buildings of the parish, without the necessity of recourse to fundraising.

The PCC aims to hold at least six months' running costs (in the region of £85,000 pa) in reserve. The value of reserves is subject to the rise and fall in investment market value. Possible works, which may be identified in the Quinquennial Inspections, would cause a further reduction in the level of reserves.

There is a total of £71,445 held in Restricted Funds.

The Reserve Fund has also been drawn upon from time to time in the past to satisfy deficits in the Parish Stewardship Account, the day-to-day operating and running expenses account for the parish.

In certain years it has not been found necessary to expend the whole of the income of the General Purposes Fund; in other years, however, the demands on the fund have exceeded its annual income. In view of the age of the parish's buildings, and the fact that one of them is an important, listed building, the PCC have considered the fund necessary in order to maintain the parish's existing work. In general, the expenditure on buildings in any given year should be limited to the amount of annual income into the fund.

FUNDS HELD ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The S. Saviour's Church Land Charity is constituted by a scheme of the Charity Commission dated 19 February 1993 and is a registered charity, number 1021748. Its trustees are the members of the PCC. Its objects are to promote the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swindon New Town.

The land and buildings included in the Balance Sheet represent 100% of the equity of the house and land at 94 Kent Road, Swindon. The freehold is vested in the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited as Diocesan Authority in trust for the PCC of Swindon New Town, in its corporate capacity. The PCC has created a car park at 94 Kent Road with the funds held in the Charity, for the benefit of the users of S. Saviour's church and hall. The cost of this work has been capitalised and shows in the accounts as an additional asset.

There is no requirement to submit a separate Annual Report to the Charity Commission although there is a requirement to submit an Annual Return and an Annual Trustee Update Form.

Not included in the balance sheet are the land and buildings at S. Saviour's Church and Church Hall, both in Ashford Road, Swindon. The trustees have been unable to obtain records detailing the original cost of this land and buildings. The buildings are approximately 135 years old. Both buildings are used and maintained by the PCC.

MOVEMENT OF FUND

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – for the year ended 31 December 2025

	<u>2025</u> <u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>2025</u> <u>Permanent</u> <u>Endowment</u> £	<u>2025</u> <u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>2024</u> <u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> £
Receipts				
Income	-	-	-	5,225.00
Total Receipts	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,225.00</u>
Payments				
Support costs	-	-	-	5,225.00
Car park security costs	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,225.00</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts ()	-			
Cash Funds at 1 January 2024	-	1,076.94	1,076.94	1,076.94
Cash Funds at 31 December 2024	-	<u>1,076.94</u>	<u>1,076.94</u>	<u>1,076.94</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	<u>2025</u> £	£	<u>2024</u> £
Fixed assets for charity use				
Kent Road		363,580.00		266,416.04
Current Assets				
Debtors		-		-
Central Board of Finance Ltd		1,076.94		1,076.94
Current Liabilities				
Creditors		-		-
Net Current Assets			<u>364,656.94</u>	267,492.98
Total Assets less current liabilities			<u>364,656.94</u>	<u>267,492.98</u>
Funds				
Permanent Endowment			<u>364,656.94</u>	<u>267,492.98</u>

John Bishop
Parish Treasurer

David Stephenson
Chair of the Finance Subcommittee

The Report was approved by order of the Trustees on 16th April 2026 by:



Fr Toby Boutle SSC
Rector and Parish
Priest

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025


NOTES See following pages ↓	Un-restricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Stewardship	Other			2025	2024
	£		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENT FROM:						
2a Donations and Legacies	104,096.61	1,073.02	4,826.91		109,996.54	126,217.71
2b Other trading activities	29,911.11	4,146.34	9,852.19		43,909.64	36,059.31
2c Investment and Rents	144.58	28,147.64	2,687.55		30,979.77	26,500.88
2d Church activities	1,955.40	870.00	91,710.88		94,536.28	86,870.64
2e Other Income						
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	136,107.70	34,237.00	109,077.53		279,422.23	275,648.54
EXPENDITURE ON:						
3a Raising Funds	162.17				162.17	190.09
3b Church Activities	161,975.31	44,612.99	65,962.84		272,551.34	317,551.79
3c Other Expenditure		14,116.87			14,116.87	8,874.57
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	162,137.48	58,729.86	65,962.84		286,830.38	326,616.45
GAINS AND (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENT ASSETS						
4b - on unrealised investments		(4,218.94)		(4,074.75)	(8,293.69)	20,116.85
- on property revaluation		(2,784.67)		(12,555.33)	(15,340.00)	(15,340.00)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(26,029.78)	(31,496.47)	43,114.69	(16,630.08)	(31,041.64)	(46,191.06)
STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT DEFICIT	(26,029.78)					
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS						
Reimburse from the 2023 Fund re: Rental Income (see note 10)		11,623.03	(11,623.03)			
Transfer of Stewardship Deficit	26,029.78	(26,029.78)				
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	----	(45,903.22)	31,491.66	(16,630.08)	(31,041.64)	(46,191.06)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD at 1 JANUARY 2025	----	641,400.62	39,953.52	1,139,628.91	1,820,983.05	1,867,174.11
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD at 31 DECEMBER 2025	----	595,497.40	71,445.18	1,122,998.83	1,789,941.41	1,820,983.05

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

NOTES

			2025		2024
ASSETS			£		£
4a	FIXED ASSETS				
	TANGIBLE				
	Property	767,736.04		783,076.04	
	Equipment	----		----	
			767,736.04		783,076.04
4b	INVESTMENT				
	Central Board of Finance	419,792.78		458,086.47	
	Property	550,000.00		550,000.00	
		<u>969,792.78</u>		<u>1,008,086.47</u>	
	CURRENT ASSETS		1,737,528.82		1,791,162.51
	Stock	622.74		614.08	
6	Debtors	16,173.99		21,822.97	
7	Prepayments	157.85		162.17	
	Short Term Deposits	2,076.94		2,076.94	
	Cash in Hand and at Bank	48,888.26		11,470.79	
			67,919.78		36,146.95
	LIABILITIES				
8	Accruals	<u>(15,507.19)</u>	52,412.59	<u>(6,326.41)</u>	
	NET CURRENT ASSETS				29,820.54
	NET ASSETS		<u>£ 1,789,941.41</u>		<u>£ 1,820,983.05</u>
5	FUNDS				
	UNRESTRICTED				
	Stewardship Fund	---		---	
	Communications Fund	4,144.67		4,144.67	
	Property Fund	293,664.26		296,448.93	
	General Purposes Fund				
	Capital	30,361.24		30,361.24	
	Revenue	(56,938.69)		(58,815.15)	
	Gains on Investments	<u>291,581.43</u>		<u>338,317.97</u>	
			265,003.98		309,864.06
	Mission Fund	151.71		151.71	
	Resources Fund	432.27		432.27	
	District Miscellaneous Funds	31,939.84		30,198.31	
	District Reserve Funds	160.67		160.67	
			595,497.40		641,400.62
	RESTRICTED				
	District Miscellaneous Funds	10,710.12		9,627.68	
	The 2023 Fund	18,337.93		16,614.57	
	Mission Project 2026	29,000.00			
	S. Aldhelm's Fund	13,511.83		13,661.55	
	Churchyard Fund	<u>(114.70)</u>		<u>49.72</u>	
			71,445.18		39,953.52
	ENDOWMENT				
	Property	1,024,071.78		1,036,627.11	
	General Purposes Fund				
	Capital - Permanent	7,181.49		7,181.49	
	Gains on Investments	<u>91,745.56</u>		<u>95,820.31</u>	
			98,927.05		103,001.80
			<u>1,122,998.83</u>		<u>1,139,628.91</u>
			<u>£ 1,789,941.41</u>		<u>£ 1,820,983.05</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7th March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:


 Alastair L Steele-Davis (Vice Chairman)


 John F Bishop (Hon Treasurer)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

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 trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The charity is a Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (as provided for the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956). It is not incorporated under the Companies Act. The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

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

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity has taken exemption from preparing a cash flow statement under the charities SORP (FRS 102), as the charity constitutes a small charity.

FUNDS

General Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These funds include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC are held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The Unrestricted fund has been shown divided between the Parish Stewardship Account, the Rainbow Bookshop Account and those Funds that are Designated for other purposes. Any designated fund can be re-designated, hence it being Unrestricted in its use; see note 11 re Funds.

District Miscellaneous Funds, with the exception of those that have a restriction placed on them as to their use, e.g. the Flower Funds, are shown as Designated, Unrestricted Funds. The Flower Funds being Restricted Funds.

Certain Investments are in the form of Trusts, and whilst the PCC receives income from these investments, the Investments are held by the Diocesan Board of Finance - as Custodian Trustee - and are therefore included in the accounts as Endowment funds whose capital cannot be spent. Other Investments are PCC investments and form part of the Designated, Unrestricted Fund.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of:

- the date on which the charity is aware that probate has been granted;
- the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution of the estate will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Fundraising is accounted for gross. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably, if entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

APPLICATION of EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or not, is written off.

Other land and buildings

Until 2005 other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC was valued at purchase value. Since then, depreciation is charged on functional property only, based on buildings value only, against such properties over 50 years, but any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off as incurred.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Individual items with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

3 Briar Fields and 94 Kent Road, as non-investment property are depreciated at the rate of 2% over 50 years

Investments

Investment Property

The property comprises the land and the construction of a Church car park at the rear of 94 Kent Road. From 2012 non-functional property (not for general Church use) has been transferred to Investment Property (see note 4b).

Investment property is held at market value and relates to 121 Victoria Road at £160k and 6 Grosvenor Road £390k. The trustees confirm they are not aware of any material change in the value of Victoria road and Grosvenor road properties.

Other investments

These are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current Assets

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

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or the bank.

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Creditors are recognised where the charity 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.

STAFFING

The Parish benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not measured in the accounts

During the year the Parish employed 8 persons: the Parish Administrator, a project worker. 4 Cleaners,, a Director of Music and a Gardener, none earning more than £60,000 pa. The holiday and accounting years cover the same period of time; therefore there is no accrual for holiday pay.

TRUSTEES

Total donations of **£30,870** were received from trustees via the Planned Giving or Gift Aid schemes. These donations were given without conditions.

Trustees may also have donated via Church Plate Collections. These donations are not recorded separately.

The Trustees are not remunerated by the charity for their role as trustees. The wife of trustee J Bishop is employed as a "cover" cleaner and earned a gross salary of £350.54.

The trustee, L McEntee, is employed as the Parish Administrator, and also as a cleaner and earned a gross salary of £11,667.11.

There were no Trustees' expenses paid either for the year ended 31 December 2025 or for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The trustees are considered to be the key management personnel of the charity. Remuneration to key management personnel was nil.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Stewardship	Other			2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENT FROM:						
2a Donations and Legacies						
Planned Giving	68,041.63				68,041.63	62,693.28
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	18,024.40				18,024.40	17,478.18
Mission Giving Collections	18,030.58		960.91		960.91	301.98
Legacies		692.00			692.00	23,526.00
Churchyard Donations		262.17	3,070.00		3,070.00	3,010.00
Miscellaneous		118.85	796.00		1,058.17	643.68
	<u>104,096.61</u>	<u>1,073.02</u>	<u>4,826.91</u>		<u>109,996.54</u>	<u>126,217.71</u>
2b Other trading activities						
Fund-raising/Special Efforts	3,526.37				3,526.37	672.75
District Miscellaneous Funds		1,661.34	9,852.19		11,513.53	7,073.00
Hall Donations	26,384.74	2,485.00			28,869.74	28,313.56
Magazine advertising						
	<u>29,911.11</u>	<u>4,146.34</u>	<u>9,852.19</u>		<u>43,909.64</u>	<u>36,059.31</u>
2c Investment and Rents						
Investment & Rental Income 2025		28,101.49			28,101.49	23,699.00
Interest Bank Accounts & Miscellaneous Income		46.15			46.15	35.89
Repair Trusts	144.58		2,687.55		2,832.13	2,765.99
	<u>144.58</u>	<u>28,147.64</u>	<u>2,687.55</u>		<u>30,979.77</u>	<u>26,500.88</u>
2d Church activities						
The 2023 Fund						
Innovation Funding			34,766.84		34,766.84	51,423.64
Grants & Donations			27,944.04		27,944.04	34,220.00
Mission Project 2026			29,000.00		29,000.00	
Events		870.00			870.00	
Magazine donations						
Fees	1,955.40				1,955.40	1,227.00
	<u>1,955.40</u>	<u>870.00</u>	<u>91,710.88</u>		<u>94,536.28</u>	<u>86,870.64</u>
2e Other Income						
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	<u>136,107.70</u>	<u>34,237.00</u>	<u>109,077.53</u>		<u>279,422.23</u>	<u>275,648.54</u>
COMPARATIVE FOR PREVIOUS YEAR	<u>126,506.97</u>	<u>49,878.13</u>	<u>99,263.44</u>		<u>275,648.54</u>	

There were no unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to grants that have been recognised in income; and the charity has not directly benefitted from any other forms of government assistance

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4a TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY PCC	PROPERTY				TOTAL			
Gross Book Value	At 1 January 2025	798,416.04		798,416.04				
	Additions/(Disposals)							
	Transfer from Investments							
	At 31 December 2025	798,416.04	----	----	798,416.04			
Depreciation	At 1 January 2025	15,340.00		15,340.00				
	Disposal							
	Charge for Year	15,340.00		15,340.00				
	At 31 December 2025	30,680.00	----	----	30,680.00			
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2025	767,736.04	----	----	767,736.04			
	At 31 December 2024	783,076.04	----	----	798,416.04			
4b INVESTMENT FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY PCC	UNRESTRICTED FUND		ENDOWMENT FUND		TOTAL			
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£		
CENTRAL BOARD of FINANCE								
Value 1 January 2025	356,161.61	350,843.06	101,924.86	99,644.16	458,086.47	450,487.22		
Additions/(Disposals)	(30,000.00)	(12,517.60)			(30,000.00)	(12,517.60)		
Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	(4,218.94)	17,836.15	(4,074.75)	2,280.70	(8,293.69)	20,116.85		
Value 31 December 2025	A 1 321,942.67	356,161.61	2 97,850.11	101,924.86	419,792.78	458,086.47		
INVESTMENT PROPERTY								
121 Victoria Road	160,000.00	160,000.00			160,000.00	160,000.00		
6 Grosvenor Road			390,000.00	390,000.00	390,000.00	390,000.00		
Value 31 December 2025	B 160,000.00	160,000.00	390,000.00	390,000.00	550,000.00	550,000.00		
Total Investment Fixed Assets	A-B 481,942.67	516,161.61	487,850.11	491,924.86	969,792.78	1,008,086.47		
	1 = 5,190.1458	1 = 5,674.7790	2 = 4,408.00	2 = 4,408.00				
	@6202.96	@6276.22	@ 2,219.83p	@ 2,312.27p				
5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND	UNRESTRICTED FUND		RESTRICTED FUND		ENDOWMENT FUND		TOTAL	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Fixed Assets	615,606.93	652,610.54			1,121,921.89	1,138,551.97	1,737,528.82	1,791,162.51
Current Assets	-4,602.34	-4,883.51	71,445.18	39,953.52	1,076.94	1,076.94	67,919.78	36,146.95
Current Liabilities	-15,507.19	-6,326.41					-15,507.19	-6,326.41
Fund Balance	595,497.40	641,400.62	71,445.18	39,953.52	1,122,998.83	1,139,628.91	1,789,941.41	1,820,983.05
6 DEBTORS								
Tax Refund								
Other								
					16,173.99			21,822.97
					16,173.99			21,822.97
7 PREPAYMENTS								
Other								
					157.85			162.17
					157.85			162.17
8 CREDITORS								
Independent Examination								
Accruals and deferred income								
					2,760.00			2,520.00
					12,747.19			3,806.41
					15,507.19			6,326.41
9 STAFF COSTS								
Salaries								
Employer's Pension Contribution								
					62,362.81			59,239.89
					773.37			739.80
					63,136.18			59,979.69

10 Funds that exist within the Parish

	MOVEMENT OF FUNDS					MOVEMENT OF FUNDS				
	2025					2024				
	At 1.1.25	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, gains/losses	At 31.12.25	At 1.1.24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, gains /losses	At 31.12.24
Unrestricted										
Stewardship		136,107.70	(162,137.48)	26,029.78			126,506.97	(157,409.89)	30,902.92	
Other	641,400.62	34,237.00	(58,729.86)	(21,410.36)	595,497.40	668,080.00	49,878.13	(72,101.33)	(4,456.18)	641,400.62
	<u>641,400.62</u>	<u>170,344.70</u>	<u>(220,867.34)</u>	<u>4,619.42</u>	<u>595,497.40</u>	<u>668,080.00</u>	<u>176,385.10</u>	<u>(229,511.22)</u>	<u>26,446.74</u>	<u>641,400.62</u>
Restricted										
Miscellaneous	9,627.68	10,648.19	(9,565.75)		10,710.12	10,971.94	7,683.00	(9,027.26)		9,627.68
S. Aldhelm's Fund	13,661.55	960.91	(1,110.63)		13,511.83	13,918.98	301.98	(559.41)		13,661.55
The 2023 Fund	16,614.57	62,710.88	(49,364.49)	(11,623.03)	18,337.93	(1,931.95)	85,643.64	(55,701.86)	(11,395.26)	16,614.57
Mission Proj 2026		29,000.00			29,000.00					
Churchyard	49.72	3,070.00	(3,234.42)		(114.70)	162.00	3,010.00	(3,122.28)		49.72
Repairs Trust		2,687.55	(2,687.55)				2,624.82	(2,624.82)		
	<u>39,953.52</u>	<u>109,077.53</u>	<u>(65,962.84)</u>	<u>(11,623.03)</u>	<u>71,445.18</u>	<u>23,120.97</u>	<u>99,263.44</u>	<u>(71,035.63)</u>	<u>(11,395.26)</u>	<u>39,953.52</u>
Endowment										
Property	1,036,627.11			(12,555.33)	1,024,071.78	1,049,182.44			(12,555.33)	1,036,627.11
GP Fund - Perm	103,001.80			(4,074.75)	98,927.05	100,721.10			2,280.70	103,001.80
Maxwell St Trust						26,069.60		(26,069.60)		
	<u>1,139,628.91</u>			<u>(16,630.08)</u>	<u>1,122,998.83</u>	<u>1,175,973.14</u>		<u>(26,069.60)</u>	<u>(10,274.63)</u>	<u>1,139,628.91</u>
Total Funds	<u>1,820,983.05</u>	<u>279,422.23</u>	<u>(286,830.18)</u>	<u>(23,633.69)</u>	<u>1,789,941.41</u>	<u>1,867,174.11</u>	<u>275,648.54</u>	<u>(326,616.45)</u>	<u>4,776.85</u>	<u>1,820,983.05</u>

Unrestricted—undesignated funds. This is the Stewardship Account, and the PCC's policy is for it to balance, with any deficits coming firstly from any *District Reserve funds*, secondly from any unrestricted *Legacy or Bring and Buy Funds*, and then finally from the *General Purpose Fund*. If the Stewardship Account is in surplus at year-end the amount of the surplus is first used to contribute towards any Capital Projects paid for by the GP Fund in that District and any remaining balance is then transferred to the *District Reserve Fund* for the district or districts in which the surplus occurred.

Unrestricted—designated funds. These are funds that have been designated by the PCC or by a DCC for a particular purpose. Any such designation can be changed by subsequent action of the designating body or its successors. As a rule these funds cannot be overdrawn. If they are, the General Purposes Fund/Parish Reserve has sufficient funds to make good any losses until such time as the fund returns to a balanced state.

Communications Fund: This has been set up in response to a need for a fund that can be used to provide communications within the Parish and beyond. Expenses will be budgeted for in order to provide a fund which will last for a number of years. The source of its income has come from the estimate of tax refund claimable in the period April 6th to December 31st 2015.

Property Fund: This represents the value at cost of the following properties managed by the PCC as Managing Trustees, the Deeds of which are held by the Diocese of Bristol as Custodian Trustees: a 1/3rd share in 121 Victoria Road and a 35.16% share in S. Luke's Vicarage.

General Purposes Fund: This fund, formerly known as the Parish Reserve Fund, is split into three parts:

Revenue: This has been set up to handle those costs that are not deemed part of the Stewardship Account (day-to-day running costs) and to enable large amounts of Capital Expenditure to be incurred without the need for fund-raising. It also receives income from Rent and Investments that are not restricted as to their use in any way.

Capital: This was set up by the PCC in 1995 to provide for an investment to be made with the Central Board of Finance (CBF) of the Church of England.

Gains on Investments: This represents the accumulated unrealised gains made on the PCC's investments in the CBF.

Resources Fund: This Fund provided funds to maintain book and audio-visual resources for the Resource Centre for lending.

District Miscellaneous Funds: These funds include the following: Bring & Buy, Social and Legacy Funds where the Legacy has no restriction placed upon it.

Restricted funds: These funds have been set up as a result of donations for a specified purpose. These funds, accordingly, cannot be used for any other purpose. As a rule these funds cannot be overdrawn. If they are, the General Purposes Fund will have sufficient funds to make good any losses until such time as the fund returns to a balanced state.

District Miscellaneous Funds: These funds include the following where there is a stipulation as to what the income received can be spent on:

Flower Funds: These exist in all three churches to handle donations received for flowers, some in memory of departed loved ones.

Legacy Funds: These exist in all three churches and stipulations have been made as to what the money may be spent on e.g. Fabric etc.

S. Luke's Hall Refurbishment Fund: This fund exists for the refurbishment of S. Luke's Church Halls.

Organ Repair Funds: These exist in both S. Mark's and S. Luke's Churches.

Churchyard Fund: This fund manages the money given by the local council for the maintenance of S. Mark's Churchyard.

COLW: This fund was set up in 1997 to handle the monies received and spent in connection with the activities of the Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham; the Parish Priest having been the Cell Superior.

S. Aldhelm's Fund consists of individual charitable donations given for specific purposes.

The 2023 Fund is held under the terms of a funding award in 2023. The £11,396.26 transfer between funds relates to funding to cover the loss of rental income at 3 Briar Fields.

The 2026 Mission Fund is funding from (1) the No. 1 Trust; (2) the Bernard Mizeki trust / the Fellowship of St John Trust Association, and (3) Ascot Priory to support the employment of the Mission Worker and the operation of Messy Church, Music Club and Welcome Space.

Endowment Funds: These funds have been set up because money and/or property have been left to the parish with specific instructions as to how the income gained from the money can be spent or how an asset (usually property) can be retained for continuing use by the Parish. The capital sums cannot be touched without Charity Commissioners' approval.

Property Fund: This includes the value, at cost, of the 36.4% share in 3 Briar Fields, as part of the Walter Timbrell Bequest and also the value, at cost of 94 Kent Road, as part of the S. Saviour's Church Land Charity, both less depreciation.

General Purposes Fund: This fund, formerly known as the Parish Reserve Fund, is split into two parts:

Capital: This contains the endowment share value and the balance of the funds in the S. Saviour's Church Land Charity following the purchase of 94 Kent Road (permanent) and the Maxwell Street Trust Fund (expendable).

Gains on Investments: This contains the value of unrealised gains on the Trusts set up, and invested in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England, by the Diocese from which the Parish derives income.

Note on Investments:

The PCC decided in 2011 that an amount be set aside from the normal revenue streams of the two General Purposes Funds, and Capital Funds were created. These funds are matched by an investment in the CBF Investment and/or Deposit funds. The level of investment in the CBF is equal to the sum of the investment values of the two Capital Funds + the sum of the two Unrealised Gain Funds, as shown on page 2 of the accounts.

**Independent Examiners Report to the members of the
Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Swindon New Town
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025**

I report to the church trustees on my examination of the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the church's 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 church'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

Since the church's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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.



James Gare – FCA, DChA

Monahans
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2GA

Date 22 April 2026