



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREENHAM DIOCESE OF OXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31 DECEMBER 2025

St. Mary's Church  
Upper New Road  
Greenham  
Berkshire RG19 8RZ  
[stmarysgreenham.org](http://stmarysgreenham.org)

## VICAR'S REPORT

Hello and thank you for taking time to read this. Our church community exists to share the love of God in Greenham; to make Jesus known in the world and to get to know him better ourselves. This report shares some of the ways we've done that during 2025.



After a very long wait, I arrived at the Vicarage in August 2025 along with my family and was immediately struck by how friendly and caring the church family are. A bag of essentials and treats was waiting for us and after the vans left the people arrived to help unpack. By the end of Day 1 we had a functioning kitchen, Wi-Fi, TV and bedrooms. And then we were left blissfully alone to catch our breath and settle in.

In September some of our friends and family were able to join us for a truly marvellous service where I formally began my ministry here; it was absolutely joyous and for me the joy hasn't stopped. I am continually struck by the blessings God pours out, such as:

- A church family who truly love the Lord Jesus and really want others to know that love.
- A forward-looking PCC who are eager to embrace our vision of turning out towards the world and yet patient enough to ensure all the right foundations are laid.
- A church community who desire to use their gifts and talents to serve God, God's church and God's world however they can.
- Beautiful buildings in a glorious setting.

In the few months of this year, we have already done so much:

- A new pattern of services, including All Age Communion.
- A new pattern for PCC meetings.
- Soup Sundays.
- A Christmas season spent as a new family, celebrating together with joy (and chocolate).

I have spent my time getting to know the area and the people. My personal highlights have been:

- Taking part in the Beating of the Bounds on Greenham Common and blessing the Common and all who use it in October.
- Pet Service and Baby Loss Service - these services connect.
- Blessing the Tree of Hope, planted at Greenham Common in November.
- Sharing a Champagne Communion on Christmas morning.

But there have been sadnesses too; the deaths of Martin and Pat being the sharpest. Long-standing members of a family leave a deep wound when they are taken from us and this is certainly true for us. Even the knowledge that they rest safe in the arms of Jesus only dulls it and so we give thanks Jesus is with us as we grieve their loss together.

In 2026 we plan to focus on building solid foundations. We are working hard on making sure that our teams are well structured and make best use of all the gifts and treasure that God provides, that our church family is well cared for, that our buildings are safe and fit for purpose and that our governance and administration supports our work. I plan to get to know

more of our local community, getting out and about to better understand how God is at work and how we might join in.

In October we will celebrate 150 years since the church was consecrated, giving thanks for all that God has done in this place and praying for all that is yet to come - we would love you to join us!

Rev'd Gail Minter



### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

For 2025 through to mid-September, the Leadership Team consisting of Chris Simons, Rob Brautigam, Brian Jones, Martin Cawte, Sam Mackwell and Wendy Sanders. As a team we had two main tasks:-

The first task for the team was to keep the church running smoothly through the vacancy. There were some occasional offices, funerals, over the period of the vacancy where Chris Simons liaised with John Toogood to find cover for these events. The other part of the team's responsibility involved planning our patterns of services and series of sermons.

Over 2025 our sermon series have included covering some of the main parables, the Easter Story, Walking with the Spirit and over the summer Messenger training, which looked in detail at Luke 10:1-11. A highlight of the period was the series on Women in the Bible, which took place between Easter and Pentecost, where women in our congregation prepared and presented sermons on six key women in the bible who resonated with them.

The second task for the Leadership Team was acting as the link to ensure the selection process took place and involved some of the initial planning for the various meetings and interview day that took place in March 2025. This was then followed with the planning for Gail and family to move to Greenham. Again, Chris Simons shouldered a lot of responsibility in trying to ensure the vicarage was prepared for their arrival.

As the responsibility of the Leadership Team was supporting the church through the vacancy, that role ended with Gail's Collation and Induction on September the 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. At which point she legally took on the role of our vicar and our various roles have changed as we move forward into this next phase of our life together.

As members of the Leadership Team we deeply miss the wisdom of Martin Cawte who died in October and continue to hold Jill Cawte and the family in our prayers. We would also like to honour the work that Chris and Pat Simons have put in over a long period, holding Chris and the family in our hearts and prayers after Pat's death in December and with Chris' own health issues.

Brian Jones & Sam Mackwell

## **PCC REPORT**

### **Background**

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for the Church Centre.

### **Legal Structure**

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members:

Clergy:	Gail Minter (from September 2025)
Wardens:	Chris Simons, Rob Brautigan
Deanery Synod Lay Representatives:	Liz Jones
Lay Representatives:	Tricia Brautigan, Becca Clayton-Wherity, Sam Mackwell, Rachel Oxley (Treasurer), Celia Pay (PCC Secretary), Pat Simons (until December), Doug Smith, Daphne Washbrook, Wendy Sanders
Co-opted Chaplain:	Brian Jones

### **Meetings**

The PCC has met monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, with the exception of August and December. Since November it has been trialling meeting less often, currently on a six weekly basis.

## PCC 'Wows'

### June 2025

- The Women in the Bible series sermon talks by 'our' women was fabulous! Very interesting and varied talks. Sam remarked they should be invited to speak again.
- Appreciation for Brian and Sam how well they are holding us with service planning, preaching and leading. We are very blessed to have them.
- Appreciation for all who work on the grounds, including Colin. It was agreed to display a thank you poster on the church noticeboard, highlighting all the voluntary work that goes on to keep the grounds maintained. Liz will action.
- All the work that Chris Simons does which includes a huge amount of admin and chasing around.

### July 2025

- Rachel and all she does.
- Chris, Rob and Doug and all they do.
- Geoff and Celia keeping the churchyard well maintained.
- Colin going up the ladder to change lightbulbs in the church. He has insurance to work at height.
- Joseph and Martha being confirmed and the service was excellent.
- Liz and all she does with the weekly notices and rotas.



### September 2025

- Wendy commented on how blessed we are to have so many people in the church and in the community with the many different skills that they bring.
- Daphne engaged in conversation with a till operator in Sainsburys about becoming a Christian and encouraged folks to be ready to witness with people we meet about our

faith. She suggested having a copy of Word for Today or other simple tool to give out if the opportunity arises.

- Chris feels that God is bringing people to us for a reason and Brian reported that when he is up at the church people passing by seem to be drawn to come in when they see the church is open.
- Liz expressed her appreciation for Rachel and all she does.
- The CCTV - being installed by Paul Davey & Steve Brautigam as we speak! Thanks so much to them and to Sam for getting this set up so quickly.
- Rachel extended a vote of thanks to Paul Davey and all that he is stepping up to do including organising the guest list and coordinating the service booklets for the collation, his work on Hubb church, EasyWorship, fitting the CCTV and helping the Churchwardens with tasks.
- Our wonderful Churchwardens Chris and Rob.

### **October 2025**

- Gail ! Wonderful to have her with us and 'well worth the wait'!
- Wendy felt Sunday's service was incredible and Gail has a lovely singing voice.
- Rob and Doug, all their time and planning to get the maintenance and repairs underway.
- Gail declared 'Everybody!' and that they have felt fully welcomed and loved as a family.

### **January 2026**

- New families coming to church
- UCB Station mentioned Pet Services – we have already had one
- Christmas Services
- Repairs on Church Centre boilers so that we have heating
- New Kitchen door lock so we can lock it from the inside.





## **ST MARY'S VALUES**

**Following Christ Together by being:**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>True to the Bible</b>     | We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, having power to challenge us and change our lives.               |
| <b>Open to the Spirit</b>    | To live as God intends we need the presence of the Holy Spirit active in our lives and empowering us to follow Jesus.   |
| <b>Fervent in Prayer</b>     | To follow Christ we need to keep in close relationship with the Father through prayer as we seek His will and His help. |
| <b>Reflecting God's Love</b> | As we receive from God we desire to demonstrate and share His love with our friends and the community.                  |

***Following in the footsteps of the Son, living in the Spirit's power, to show the Father's love.***

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 when the roll closed:

3 names were removed

5 new names were added

There were also some changes due to corrections to residency.

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
The number on the roll	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>
The number resident in the parish	39	40
The number non-resident	26	23

Elizabeth Jones  
Electoral Roll Clerk

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

As a church we are fully committed to adhering to the Oxford Diocese's guidelines for safeguarding and safeguarding training. We are in the process of ensuring that everyone who needs training is up to date, having undertaken the appropriate courses for their voluntary role.

During 2025 there have been several safeguarding concerns raised which our vicar, Gail, and I have discussed. We will usually contact the Safeguarding Team at Church House in Oxford for advice although we have also decided in some cases that just pastoral care is the appropriate way forward. Gail and I meet regularly to update each other regarding those we are supporting to decide if the situation has changed and needs further advice from outside agencies and to ensure that the pastoral support we are giving is adequate. We take very seriously the concerns raised by our congregation and parishioners so please feel you can speak to our Parish Safeguarding Officer and Gail about any matters.

Steve Brautigan is our DBS officer and can be contacted regarding those enquiries. During 2025 the diocese were advised of a data breach at APCS, the company we used for DBS checks. Due to this there was a temporary change to another company, 31:8 and after due diligence they have recommended a change to Verifile and we will undertake our DBS checks through this company from March 2026.

Liz Jones  
Parish Safeguarding Officer



## **CAFÉ CHURCH**

This year has been an exciting season for Café Church as we've watched it develop and flourish in ways we hadn't anticipated. Attendance has kept growing, and it has been especially encouraging to welcome a growing number of families with younger children. The atmosphere has felt vibrant and intergenerational, with people of all ages finding a place to belong.

We have experimented with a few different formats—trying out new ways of shaping worship, conversation, and activities—and it has been wonderful to see how those ideas have taken root and helped Café Church grow into the lively, welcoming space it is becoming.

As Café Church has grown, it has been a blessing to see how it brings people together—worshipping, laughing, chatting, and sharing life. And of course, the home baked goods, quizzes and table chat, giving everyone time to slow down and enjoy one another's company.

Café Church continues to be a place where faith, friendship, and hospitality meet, and we're excited to see how it will keep evolving in the year ahead.

Sam Mackwell

## **YOUTH & CHILDREN**

### **All Stars**

Over the past year we've continued to enjoy a small but consistent group of children each week, ranging in age from 4 to 14+. We've been encouraged not only by the regulars who come faithfully, but also by the many visitors who have joined us—and by several children bringing their friends along. We were also really excited to see Martha and Josef confirmed and a huge thanks to everyone who came along to support them.

All Stars has followed the same teaching material as the main church, which has proven hugely popular, with many crafts and prayer activities to supplement the teaching. Parents and children have loved being able to share what they've each learned during their respective times together, creating a lovely sense of connection across the whole church family.

At present we continue to meet on two Sundays each month, and often meet in the baptistry which has been really helpful to ease the transition for new parents. We have seen a reduction in helpers and leaders and it would be lovely for more people to assist so we are able to run it more often and continue building on the momentum of this past year.

Sam Mackwell

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

Throughout the year, the Worship Team has served St Mary's church by leading in musical worship across a variety of services. We have explored different forms of worship this year, including recorded/video songs and signed worship, discovering fresh ways to express our praise in Sunday services.

We have also facilitated attendance at external events, such as New Wine Women's Day in February and New Wine Worship Night in March, providing further opportunities for our church community to engage deeply in worship.

The Wednesday night choir has been a vital training ground for singers, who have flourished and continue to serve the team faithfully, with joy and enthusiasm. It has been my greatest delight to see how all members of the Worship Team, regardless of their length of service or role, are open to growing and developing in this ministry.

It has been a year of significant change, culminating in the formal commissioning of the team in February 2026. This marks a new chapter as we build on St Mary's rich sung/musical worship tradition and look forward to what lies ahead. We have lots of plans – watch this space...!

Becca Clayton-Wherity



### CHOIR

It hardly seems possible that we are in our third year. We have enjoyed learning how to improve our voices as we become more confident under our excellent musical lead, Becca.

We meet once or twice a month on Wednesday, and each term prepare a song that we then 'perform' in a service (e.g. carol service/Easter Sunday).

We have enjoyed singing to the congregation on a number of occasions and it has been a joy to welcome new members to the choir. We pray that we will be blessed, and be a blessing, as we continue to joyfully praise the Lord with our voices.

Daphne Washbrook



## PRAYER MEETING

### **Church Prayer Meeting**

St Mary's church prayer meeting normally takes place, in the church, on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet at 7.45pm for about one hour.

We start with a short time of worship and then spend time seeking the Lord through reflection and listening. To aid our thoughts, there is often a themed to reflections around the church which can include actions such as lighting candles or using wooden hearts.

We then come together and share the things the Lord has put on our hearts and also pray for the needs of the church and the world before closing with another song.



Over a large proportion of the last year a continued focus for our prayers has been the process of change as we have been seeking a new minister at St Mary's. We prayed for those supporting us through the vacancy, for the various stages of selection process and those

involved. Once the decision was made on who our next minister would be, our prayers included praying for Gail and the family as they made the transition to join us.

Prayer is about coming into the presence of the Lord and hence listening for his word into our lives, with a quiet heart as a starting place, is something I hope we have managed.

As Psalm 139 says

<sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.

<sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

Then to listen to His heart and His desire for St Mary's and the world and to offer those desires as prayer can be the deepest richest prayers of all.

Brian Jones

## **HOUSEGROUPS**

### **Tuesday Evening Housegroup**

The homegroup continues to be a fun, thought-provoking, and prayerful space, with leadership and hosting shared among the group. This year we followed mostly the same material being explored on Sundays, giving everyone the chance to dig deeper into the themes and wrestle with some of the more challenging questions. However, we also took an occasional detour enjoyed working through the *Embrace the Middle East* Lent course together, studying the book of Titus (including trying to do a memory verse) and having a summer of digging into the various animals of the Bible!

Alongside the study and discussion, the group regularly makes time for socials—moments to relax, laugh, and enjoy one another's company. The competitive quizzes have become something of a highlight too, adding plenty of energy and good-natured rivalry.

The group continues to grow and newcomers are always warmly welcomed, and there is a real sense of community forming as we journey, learn, and pray together.

Sam Mackwell

### **Wednesday Morning House Group**

The Wednesday Morning house group meets at 10.15 am on Wednesday mornings either at Liz Jones' home or at Doug and Chris Smith's. We have 11 members who meet in person with three who are involved via WhatsApp and we also pray for each other this way. One of our 'off shore' members is Rohi who joins us in spirit from her new home in Sweden.

We began the year studying the book of Jonah. It was very interesting how much we could learn from this Old Testament book of just 4 chapters over eight weeks! During Lent both house groups used the *Embrace The Middle East's* 2025 course 'Hope'. After Easter our

studies were on various women in the bible using the book 'Ten Women of the Bible' by Max Lucado. In the Autumn we looked at what God want to teach us through 'The Sermon on the Mount'. We ended the year with two Christmas studies.

Each week we pray for the needs of the group and others who have asked us to pray for them. As usual we celebrated Easter, summer and Christmas with social events centring on food and chat.

We support in practical ways as well as in prayer. We always thank God for the opportunity to meet together in His name.

Liz Jones, Chris & Doug Smith

### **TEA, TOYS & TOTS**

I thank God for another encouraging year for Tea, Toys and Tots. Our numbers average between 10 and 20 parents each week and we continue to see new mums, fathers and grandparents nearly each week.

Highlights of the year include our Teddy Bear Picnic last summer for our last meeting in July. We said goodbye to several children starting school and nursery last September. Other highlights were the children decorating a Church window for Harvest and our Christmas party and the children coming into Church to hear the Christmas story.

Our main highlight of the year has been the arrival of Gail, our new Vicar, and we are very grateful that she is visiting the group regularly and telling the children a story from the bible during our song time. Recently, Gail kindly came and explained the meaning of Candlemass, and the children were all given a battery candle to remind them that Jesus is the light of the world.

Many thanks to all the helpers who help run the group, your support is greatly appreciated, and we couldn't run Tea, Toys and Tots without you!

We are encouraged that a few mums from tots attended the Crib Service and a few mums have also started coming to Cafe Church and the Sunday Services.

Please pray for the gift of faith for each parent/carer and baby or child who comes to Tea, Toys and Tots. Thank you to everyone in the Church for your support and prayers.

Jill Cawte





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## **THE NEST**

### **For Foster and Adoptive Families**

The Nest is a small monthly group for foster and adoptive families. Each month we host between two and eight families at The Nest, where a warm welcome, a safe, non-judgemental space, coffee and doughnuts are the order of the day. We have a committed team of leaders and helpers from across the Thatcham and Newbury churches, and this year a former Nest parent (who's child is now at school) has come back to help as a volunteer as she found the group so valuable.

We are grateful to St Mary's Greenham for providing the space free of charge, and to our volunteers who donate refreshments — it means we can now run without a grant. Huge thanks to our church communities for their invaluable prayer support for The Nest.

Rev Angela Brennan  
St. Mary & St. Barnabas, Thatcham

## SOCIALS

Another year has passed and the church socials continue to be enjoyed by those participating in them. Instead of taking place monthly they now take place six times a year. We continue to enjoy talent shows, quizzes, beetle drives, parties and games evening and we are open to any other suggestions.

There is a small team who help to organise and pull together the events. The socials wouldn't be able to take place without this group of volunteers. Their time and input is very much appreciated.

A number of attendees have commented how good it is to be able to meet together with time to chat and get to know each other in a social setting.

Chris Smith



## **MEN'S GROUP**

Although there have been various groups for men over the years, this group began meeting in November 2025 after I got chatting to people after church. We began with coffee and bacon sandwiches in November and then Mince Pie Tasting in December when we discovered they are very rich and aiming to taste 6 was over ambitious!

The aim of the group is fellowship; a time when we can have deeper conversations than after church and include those who don't currently share our Christian faith and to date we've had some great conversations, getting to know one another and deciding what we want to do next year.

Our plans for next year are to get to know one another better, to share more food and to think about the role the Men's Group will play in the life of the church. We are especially keen to get the Railway going again so watch this space.

Tony Minter

## **OPEN VINE FELLOWSHIP**

The Open Vine is a group for women of all ages supporting each other through friendship. We meet on Thursday mornings during term time sharing our faith through bible reflections and social activities. We were so pleased to welcome new members during the year and now there are often 15 of us around the tables.

Our year ended very sadly with the death of Pat Simons who was the joint chair of the group. We miss her so much.

We start our meetings with coffee and chat followed by a short time of reflection. It has been great that Gail is now leading this once a month as well as speaking at our Carol Service.

The reflection is followed by the subject of the day. We began the year with our annual New Year's party, had an AGM and celebrated our 37<sup>th</sup> birthday! We visited a number of places without leaving the room: Italy, Yorkshire, Rutland, Oxford, Cornwall, Lichfield and Silverstone Museum were some. We learnt about growing up in London after WWII and fashions of the past: we read Spring poems, shared our favourite ornaments and walks. We welcomed Councillor Phil Barnett to tell us about local matters and held a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. In between all this we learnt crafts and flower arranging, had quizzes, bingo sessions and beetle drives. If that wasn't enough we went out for coffee and enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Two Watermills.

During 2025 the team members were Vera Barnett, Hazel Brightman, Eileen Cross, Chris Smith with Pat and myself chairing the group. We look to invite new people to the team very soon.

New members are always welcome. Just come along at 10.15 am on a Thursday morning. We meet in the main hall.

Liz Jones

## **CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

I feel I must begin this report by giving a big thank-you to Chris and Pat Simons for all they have done for countless years. As you are no doubt aware they were both taken ill at the end of last year and very sadly Pat passed away and Chris is gradually recovering. Both Chris and Pat have worked tirelessly in so many areas of our church life and their contribution is going to be greatly missed. Chris had hinted that he intended to resign as church warden this year. Please join me in praying for his recovery.

However, the good news is that last September, we welcomed Gail Minter as our new vicar. Please pray for and support Gail and her family as she takes our church forward.

Moving on to the buildings. The Church Centre is looking drab and tired and is in need of refurbishment. I know Gail has ideas for this. Much work is going on in the Centre. Last summer we had a break-in and as a result a new security camera system was installed. New cupboards to replace damaged ones from the break-in were purchased, paid for with an insurance payout. Problems with the heating system have now been put right. A new kitchen door lock has been installed and a key safe for one time hall users fitted. Paper towel dispensers have been fitted in toilets and kitchens to replace the use of hand towels which improves hygiene and the extra work of regular laundering.

The church building too, has problems. The recent, particularly inclement weather has resulted in the boiler room becoming flooded and requiring frequent bailing out. I shall be looking into possibly purchasing a pump or constructing a removable roof to cover the steps going down. The steps at present have a plastic sheet over them. The leak in the vestry is also being investigated and an upgrade of the electrical system to meet present standards is also being dealt with.

The graveyard and paddock are as usual being looked after by a loyal group of volunteers. The graveyard plans are being digitized, so that they can be incorporated into the new church hub.

I would like to thank all those who have come forward to assist in the many tasks needed to be done. You know who you are!

As you can see there is much going on and much to accomplish. It will not happen overnight. So please be patient.

Rob Brautigam

## PARTNERSHIPS TEAM REPORT

The Partnerships Team members at our November 2025 meeting were Liz Jones (chair), Rachel Oxley and Pat Simons with apologies from Lis Lawrence. We met to discuss the allocation of the church's giving for 2025.

It was suggested at the October PCC meeting that as a church we should give to fewer organisations than previously so that we can forge stronger ties with each. The members of the team had prayed before the meeting with this in mind and had come with a Bible verse or word. Words and passages shared were the word 'world' and **Psalm 9: verses 7 – 10** which speaks of the Lord's righteousness, equity, refuge for the oppressed and a stronghold in times of trouble. **Matthew 5 verses 14-16** 'You are the light of the world' and that our good works should lead people to glorify God. **Isaiah 58 verses 6 & 7** which speaks of the chains of injustice, setting the oppressed free, breaking every yoke, sharing food with the hungry and not turning away from our 'own flesh and blood'. We also were given the words 'Fight fear with faith' which links to verse 10 of Psalm 9 'Those who know your name'.

We had a time of prayer praying that God would guide us to the right partners to support from the words He had given us.

### **Allocation of 2025 Tithe**

At the October PCC meeting RO recommended that we should give £5,000 to our Partnership charities. PCC gifts already given would not come out of this tithe this year. After the discussion the team agreed to recommend to PCC that the church's tithe this year should be distributed as below. Three organisations are international and three are local.

|                                                                              |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Embrace The Middle East</b> – Partners with Christians in the Middle East | £1,000        |
| <b>Open Doors</b> – Persecuted Christians                                    | £1,000        |
| <b>Tear Fund</b> – Helping Worldwide Emergencies                             | £750          |
| <b>COINS Trust</b> – Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools                   | £750          |
| <b>West Berkshire Foodbank</b> – emergency food provision                    | £750          |
| <b>Yeldall Christian Centre</b> – Rehabilitation for Drug Users & Alcoholics | £750          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                 | <b>£5,000</b> |

### **Partnerships Engagement**

With the change to supporting fewer charities but in more depth, we look forward to hearing about their work during the year.

### **Team**

With Pat's death we will look to invite another member of the church to join the team.

Liz Jones



## TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been an interesting year on the finance front. The main General Account started the year with a projected deficit of £8,400 but ended up with an excess of £7,700! This was primarily due to some very generous donations from a number of people in the fellowship giving extra one-off gifts on top of their usual planned giving.

We also had a generous donation from our Choir who wound up their fund that had amounted over the years and decided to give their 'earnings' of £1,246 to the church – a big thank you to all the choristers past and present, and to Daphne who arranged it. We have increased costs in the music ministry with the new EasyWorship software subscription, the ongoing music licence and the need for new microphones and other resources, so the donation is very timely. Thank you also to Open Vine for their gift of £100 towards general funds.

There was also an uplift of £2,300 of planned giving compared to the previous year. I do believe all this is an answer to prayer and it is interesting to note that since Ray has joined me as an assistant, the power of two praying instead of one seems to have made all the difference! We pray at each meeting for the finances and our planned givers. Thank you Father God for providing the budget to not only be filled but to overflowing, according to the Treasurer Team's petitions.

There is a long list of important, urgent (and expensive!) work that needs to be done on the church building. The main area is the leak in the vestry roof. Guttering needs repairing and clearing. The electrical system needs bringing up to date and we need a new projector system to replace the failing AV equipment. There is currently £15,800 in the Building Repair Fund, but that could all be blown by the above, and in fact the balance is a 'reserves policy' amount for emergencies.

So we need to keep the overflow flowing! If you attend regularly and are not yet giving in a planned way, can I encourage you to really think about it. The best way is through the Parish Giving Scheme – there are forms at the back of church to connect and sign up and/or you can speak to me about it, (and anything about giving in general).

Can I also encourage every planned giver to prayerfully consider their giving on an annual basis. The Parish Giving Scheme is helpful in this way as you can choose to have your giving increased by inflation each year (opt out any time). Consider that £30 twenty years ago is only worth £16 today. *If your income in this earthly kingdom increases by inflation, then ought not that be reflected in your contribution in the heavenly kingdom?*

That said, we do also have two hardship funds which can be used to help folk that are struggling with a financial need. Applications for aid can be made by speaking with Gail or myself.

The Church Centre did not fare so well this year. It made a loss for the first time. It is now incurring extra costs with needing to pay a cleaner for the downstairs which amounts to £2,340 per year. There also seemed to be more gas used than usual. Lettings income was also down by £700 compared to the previous year. There are a great deal of maintenance

and health & safety issues that need addressing which is going to further impact its financial viability. Gail and the PCC have plans to address the problems and to get the Centre 'back in the black'. This will mean everyone getting involved, mind! And a key person to step up as Centre bookings administrator.

Following the Centre break in, we claimed on insurance for new storage cupboards in the hall, so at least we didn't have to pay for that (apart from the £250 excess). PCC agreed that CCTV was a priority and Sam Mackwell arranged the equipment along with Steve Brautigan and Paul Davey to get it fitted. This was an extra cost to the Centre of £529, but it would have been much higher if we didn't have our resident handymen to fit it for us! Thank you guys. Thank you to Tea, Toys & Tots for their generous donation of £300 towards it. Vera selling her scrumptious jams & scones also raised £79, and we had a few cash donations as well.

I would like to thank Ray Beard for all his assistance this year, prayerful and practical. It has been helpful to talk things through with him, to fellowship and be a little team. I could be nearing the end of my tenure as Treasurer and would like to expand the team so that someone could be trained up with a view to taking over in due course. Please speak to me if you are interested to find out more. And I am always happy to answer questions about our finances and to explain things in more detail.

At Gail's collation, £223 was raised for the Bishop's Fund. The Harvest service raised £99.70 for the Farming Community Network, and Tots group raised £24 for Embrace the Middle East from Vera's cute little knitted Easter Chicks.

Finally, a great big **thank you** to everyone who has given in donations and regularly throughout the year. May you all be blessed with plenty to live and plenty to give and be fruitful and joyful expressions of God in every area of your lives.

Rachel Oxley



## St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) - Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

| <b>General Fund - Receipts &amp; Payments Account</b>  |              | <b>2025</b>                 | <b>2024</b>                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                        | <b>Notes</b> | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                   |
| <u>Incoming Resources from Donors</u> (see over)       |              |                             |                            |
| Planned Giving - Gift Aid                              |              | 35,188.54                   | 32,878.73                  |
| Planned Giving - Not Gift Aid                          |              | 4,107.84                    | 3,846.92                   |
| Collections at Services (inc. weddings, funerals etc)  |              | 1,711.81                    | 1,193.34                   |
| Income Tax (Gift Aid) Recovered                        |              | 11,101.00                   | 8,665.73                   |
| Grants                                                 |              | 0                           | 11,100                     |
|                                                        |              | <u>52,109.19</u>            | <u>57,684.72</u>           |
| <u>Other Voluntary Incoming Resources</u>              |              |                             |                            |
| Sundry Gifts & Offerings (one-off donations)           |              | 12,436.40                   | 3,134.35                   |
| Tea/Coffee Donations                                   |              | 307.78                      | 262.92                     |
| Donations for Flowers                                  |              | 0                           | 0                          |
| Fundraising                                            |              | 121.50                      | 675.00                     |
| <u>Other Income</u>                                    |              |                             |                            |
| Parish Share Rebate                                    |              | 1,062.00                    | 0                          |
| Fees (Weddings, Funerals)                              |              | 2,605.00                    | 2,988.00                   |
| Receipts from Outreach & Social Events                 |              | 110.50                      | 105.00                     |
| Printing Receipts (private use of photocopier)         |              | 0                           | 13.20                      |
| Chapel Farm Drain Rent                                 |              | 248.00                      | 248.00                     |
| Insurance Claim                                        | 1            | 5,696.98                    | 0                          |
|                                                        |              | <u>22,588.16</u>            | <u>7,426.47</u>            |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                                  |              | <u>74,697.35</u>            | <u>65,111.19</u>           |
| <br>                                                   |              |                             |                            |
| <b>Payments</b>                                        |              |                             |                            |
| <u>Giving</u>                                          |              |                             |                            |
| Partnerships - Gifts to Charity & Christian Ministries |              | 5,000.00                    | 3,855.00                   |
| Specific Giving by PCC                                 |              | 110.62                      | 144.99                     |
| <u>Church Work and Activities</u>                      |              |                             |                            |
| Parish Share                                           |              | 40,331.93                   | 39,441.20                  |
| Annual Membership Subscriptions                        |              | 100.00                      | 100.00                     |
| Clergy & Visiting Clergy Expenses                      | 2            | 304.87                      | 0                          |
| Social & Outreach                                      |              | 10.35                       | 0                          |
| Children All Stars/Little Stars/Pathfinders            |              | 0                           | 0                          |
| Training & Development                                 |              | 0                           | 0                          |
| Resources (Music/Books/Literature)                     |              | 42.32                       | 0                          |
| Flowers                                                |              | 27.10                       | 0                          |
| Tea/Coffee                                             |              | 58.00                       | 3.30                       |
| Sundries for Services (wine, candles etc)              |              | 206.08                      | 106.78                     |
| Miscellaneous Sundries                                 |              | 63.20                       | 0                          |
|                                                        |              | <u>46,254.47</u>            | <u>43,651.27</u>           |
| <u>Management and Administration</u>                   |              |                             |                            |
| Church Utilities (Elec/Gas/Water)                      |              | 6,542.16                    | 6,717.48                   |
| Church Insurance                                       |              | 4,268.62                    | 4,032.90                   |
| Music & Streaming Copyright Licence                    |              | 791.71                      | 714.37                     |
| Office Equipment                                       |              | 131.98                      | 0                          |
| Printing/Photocopying & Stationery                     |              | 357.18                      | 226.90                     |
| Telecommunications (Telephone, wifi, web hosting etc)  |              | 247.80                      | 1,220.32                   |
| Health & Safety/Safeguarding/Governance                |              | 601.37                      | 263.70                     |
| Repairs & Maintenance                                  | 1            | 6,240.48                    | 162.71                     |
| Projects                                               |              | 0                           | 12,321.60                  |
| Banking Charges                                        |              | 54.94                       | 72.82                      |
| Recruitment Costs                                      |              | 1,495.83                    | 0                          |
|                                                        |              | <u>20,732.07</u>            | <u>25,732.80</u>           |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                                  |              | <u>66,986.54</u>            | <u>69,384.07</u>           |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>                |              | <u>7,710.81</u>             | <u>-4,272.88</u>           |
| <br>                                                   |              |                             |                            |
| <b>Transfers from/to other Funds</b>                   | 3            | 5,000.00                    | 250.00                     |
| <br>                                                   |              |                             |                            |
| Current Account at Year Start                          |              | 01/01/2025 6,504.10         | 01/01/2024 10,526.98       |
| Current Account at Year End                            |              | 31/12/2025 <u>19,214.91</u> | 31/12/2024 <u>6,504.10</u> |

/see over page for Notes to the General Account

## St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) - Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

### Notes to the General Account

1. Insurance claim cover for new cupboards in Church Centre following break in. New Cupboards cost £5,946
2. Total expenses paid to the incumbent in 2025: £868.67. A proportion of these expenses have been reported under relevant expenditure headings (eg stationery) to better reflect actual expenditure in these areas.
3. Transfer of £5K from Church Centre was made earlier in the year to cover cash flow in the General Account which was quite low at the time.

|                                                | 2025       |                        | 2024       |                        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
|                                                | £          |                        | £          |                        |
| <b>General Savings - Designated/Restricted</b> |            |                        |            |                        |
| Receipts - Interest                            | 73.98      | <u>73.98</u>           | 86.85      | <u>86.85</u>           |
| Payments                                       | 0          | <u>0</u>               | 0          | <u>0</u>               |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments               |            | 73.98                  |            | 86.85                  |
| Transfers to/from other Funds                  |            | 0                      |            | 0                      |
| Deposit Account at Year Start                  | 01/01/2025 | <u>4,544.68</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>4,457.83</u>        |
| Deposit Account at Year End                    | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>4,618.66</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>4,544.68</b></u> |

Note: This fund holds money restricted for the sound project (£3,493) and £908 designated for Youth & Children. The remaining balance of £217 is interest accrued.

### Building Repair Fund (Restricted)

(CCLA Investment Account - Contains bequests & restricted Chalice Fund)

|                                     |            |                         |            |                         |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                     |            |                         |            |                         |
| Interest                            | 646.09     |                         | 669.64     |                         |
| Investment Income from Chalice Fund | 1,091.60   | <u>1,737.69</u>         | 1,066.11   | <u>1,735.75</u>         |
| <b>Payments</b>                     |            |                         |            |                         |
| Payments                            |            | <u>0</u>                |            | <u>0</u>                |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments    |            | <u>1,737.69</u>         |            | <u>1,735.75</u>         |
| Transfers to/from other Funds       |            |                         |            | -                       |
| Deposit Account at year start       | 01/01/2025 | <u>14,064.43</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>12,328.68</u>        |
| Deposit Account at year end         | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>15,802.12</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>14,064.43</b></u> |

The Chalice Trust Fund accrues interest from the sale proceeds of an Elizabethan Chalice in 1980. The trust stipulates that "income is to be used for repair, maintenance etc of St Mary's Church or any hall, building, fence, hedge etc belonging to the church".

### Legacy Fund - Unrestricted

|                                  |            |                     |            |                     |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                  |            |                     |            |                     |
| Interest                         | 1.22       | <u>1.22</u>         | 1.43       | <u>1.43</u>         |
| <b>Payments</b>                  |            |                     |            |                     |
| Payments                         | 0          | <u>0</u>            | 0          | <u>0</u>            |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments |            | 1.22                |            | 1.43                |
| Transfers to/from other Funds    |            | 0                   |            | 0                   |
| Deposit Account at year start    | 01/01/2025 | <u>75.29</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>73.86</u>        |
| Deposit Account at year end      | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>76.51</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>75.29</b></u> |

## St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) - Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

|                                         | 2025       |                        | 2024       |                        |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
|                                         | £          |                        | £          |                        |
| <b>Churchyard Fund - Restricted</b>     |            |                        |            |                        |
| <b>Receipts</b>                         |            |                        |            |                        |
| Investment Income from Graveyard Trusts | 187.62     |                        | 183.22     |                        |
| Grants (2025 : Greenham Parish Council) | 600.00     | <u>787.62</u>          | 0          | <u>183.22</u>          |
| <b>Payments</b>                         |            |                        |            |                        |
| Churchyard Maintenance                  | 909.00     | <u>909.00</u>          |            | <u>1,002.18</u>        |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b> |            | <b>-121.38</b>         |            | <b>-818.96</b>         |
| <b>Transfers to/from other Funds</b>    |            | <b>0</b>               |            | <b>0</b>               |
| Deposit Account at Year Start           | 01/01/2025 | <u>2,023.51</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>2,842.47</u>        |
| Deposit Account at Year End             | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>1,902.13</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>2,023.51</b></u> |

### **Youth & Children (Y&C) - Designated/Restricted**

|                                                                |            |                        |            |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                                |            |                        |            |                        |
| Tea, Toys & Tots Group Subs                                    | 1,043.25   |                        | 812.45     |                        |
| Grants                                                         | 0          |                        | 0          |                        |
| Social/Outreach Events Income                                  | 0          | <u>1,043.25</u>        | 0          | <u>812.45</u>          |
| <b>Payments</b>                                                |            |                        |            |                        |
| Social/Outreach                                                | 0          |                        | 0          |                        |
| All Stars Expenses                                             | 0          |                        | 0          |                        |
| Church Youth Costs                                             | 0          |                        | 17.86      |                        |
| Tots Group Expenses including Christmas Gifts for the Children | 857.17     |                        | 494.80     |                        |
| Tots Group Giving (See Transfer Below)                         | 0          | <u>857.17</u>          | 0          | <u>512.66</u>          |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>                        |            | <b>186.08</b>          |            | <b>299.79</b>          |
| <b>Transfers to/from other Funds</b>                           |            | <b>-300.00</b>         |            | <b>-250.00</b>         |
| Current Account at Year Start                                  | 01/01/2025 | <u>1,469.63</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>1,419.84</u>        |
| Current Account at Year End                                    | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>1,355.71</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>1,469.63</b></u> |

Notes: 1) 2025 - transfer £300 to Church Centre Fund from Tea, Toys & Tots as a donation towards new CCTV system  
 2) Y&C Fund holds: a) Tots Group balance £500.92 b) Youth & Children balance £854.79

### **St Mary's Centre - Designated**

|                                               |            |                         |            |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |            |                         |            |                         |
| Centre Income                                 | 8,057.00   |                         | 8,764.90   |                         |
| Interest                                      | 636.37     |                         | 826.97     |                         |
| Donations                                     | 531.00     |                         | 191.28     |                         |
| Fundraising                                   | 79.00      | <u>9,303.37</u>         | 0          | <u>9,783.15</u>         |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |            |                         |            |                         |
| Utilities Electricity/Gas/Water               | 5,214.49   |                         | 4,465.08   |                         |
| Insurance Cover                               | 1,037.09   |                         | 1,184.85   |                         |
| Cleaning & Sundries                           | 2,311.50   |                         | 246.59     |                         |
| Maintenance/Health & Safety                   | 944.18     |                         | 2,861.21   |                         |
| Banking Charges                               | 57.05      |                         | 74.07      |                         |
| Telecommunications (wifi for Church & Centre) | 462.53     | <u>10,026.84</u>        | 505.28     | <u>9,337.08</u>         |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>       |            | <b>-723.47</b>          |            | <b>446.07</b>           |
| <b>Transfer to/from Other Funds</b>           |            | <b>-4,700.00</b>        |            | <b>0</b>                |
| Current & Deposit Account at Year Start       | 01/01/2025 | <u>19,905.92</u>        | 01/01/2024 | <u>19,459.85</u>        |
| Current & Deposit Account at Year End         | 31/12/2025 | <u><b>14,482.45</b></u> | 31/12/2024 | <u><b>19,905.92</b></u> |

Notes: 1) Transfer of £5,000 was made to the General Account early in the year to assist with cash flow.  
 2) Transfer of £300 was received from Tea, Toys & Tots as a donation towards new CCTV system.  
 The cost of the CCTV system was £529.55 which is included in Maintenance/Health & Safety

## St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) - Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

|                                         | 2025                            | 2024                            |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                         | £                               | £                               |
| <b>Organ Fund - Restricted</b>          |                                 |                                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                         |                                 |                                 |
| Interest                                | 35.00 <u>35.00</u>              | 38.98 <u>38.98</u>              |
| <b>Payments</b>                         |                                 |                                 |
| Maintenance Tuning                      | 0 <u>0</u>                      | 0 <u>0</u>                      |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b> | <b>35.00</b>                    | <b>38.98</b>                    |
| Deposit Account at Year Start           | 01/01/2025 <u>773.39</u>        | 01/01/2024 <u>734.41</u>        |
| Deposit Account at Year End             | 31/12/2025 <u><b>808.39</b></u> | 31/12/2024 <u><b>773.39</b></u> |

### **Martha Smith Fund - Restricted (Hardship Fund for Parish)**

|                                         |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                         |                                   |                                   |
| Interest                                | 49.70 <u>49.70</u>                | 55.35 <u>55.35</u>                |
| <b>Payments</b>                         |                                   |                                   |
| Gifts Distributed                       | 0 <u>0</u>                        | 0 <u>0</u>                        |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b> | <b>49.70</b>                      | <b>55.35</b>                      |
| Deposit Account at Year Start           | 01/01/2025 <u>1,098.25</u>        | 01/01/2024 <u>1,042.90</u>        |
| Deposit Account at Year End             | 31/12/2025 <u><b>1,147.95</b></u> | 31/12/2024 <u><b>1,098.25</b></u> |

### **St Mary's Hardship Fund - Restricted**

|                                               |                                 |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |                                 |  |
| Transfer of balance from dormant bank account | 307.98 <u>307.98</u>            |  |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |                                 |  |
| Gifts Distributed                             | 0 <u>0</u>                      |  |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>       | <b>307.98</b>                   |  |
| Deposit Account at Year Start                 | 01/01/2025 <u>0</u>             |  |
| Deposit Account at Year End                   | 31/12/2025 <u><b>307.98</b></u> |  |

Note: This fund was previously operated by past incumbents as a separate, discretionary Vicar's Hardship Fund. The fund balance has been transferred from a dormant bank account into PCC funds and will be administered jointly by the incumbent and PCC.

### **Open Vine Fellowship Fund - Restricted**

|                                         |                                 |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                         |                                 |                                 |
| Tea/Coffee Donations                    | 281.30                          | 259.51                          |
| Christmas Lunch Receipts                | 577.90                          | 497.00                          |
| Donations (Macmillan Coffee Morning)    | 170.00                          | 140.00                          |
| Bring & Buy Stall                       | 7.00                            | 0                               |
| Cards                                   | 2.00 <u>1,038.20</u>            | 0 <u>896.51</u>                 |
| <b>Payments</b>                         |                                 |                                 |
| Groceries (for Tea & Coffee)            | 14.40                           | 12.19                           |
| Gifts/Cards & Expenses                  | 15.99                           | 28.95                           |
| Prizes                                  | 27.25                           | 26.40                           |
| Christmas Lunch                         | 577.80                          | 514.00                          |
| Christmas Gifts                         | 18.00                           | 25.39                           |
| Misc.                                   | 7.20                            | 0                               |
| Donation to St.Mary's PCC               | 100.00                          | 100.00                          |
| Donation to Embrace the Middle East     | 0.00                            | 50.00                           |
| Donation to Macmillan                   | 170.00                          | 140.00                          |
| Demonstration Costs - Flowers           | 9.28 <u>939.92</u>              | <u>896.93</u>                   |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b> | <b>98.28</b>                    | <b>-0.42</b>                    |
| Cash at Year Start                      | 01/01/2025 <u>141.37</u>        | 01/01/2024 <u>141.79</u>        |
| Cash at Year End                        | 31/12/2025 <u><b>239.65</b></u> | 31/12/2024 <u><b>141.37</b></u> |

## St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) - Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2025

### Statement of Cash Assets for the year ending 31st December 2025

|                                                                                     | 2025                    | 2024                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted Funds</b>                                                           | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                |
| General Fund                                                                        | 19,214.91               | 6,504.10                |
| Legacy Fund                                                                         | 76.51                   | 75.29                   |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                                                             |                         |                         |
| General Savings                                                                     | 4,618.66                | 4,544.68                |
| Church Centre                                                                       | 14,482.45               | 19,905.92               |
| <b>Restricted Funds</b>                                                             |                         |                         |
| Building Repair Fund                                                                | 15,802.12               | 14,064.43               |
| Youth & Children                                                                    | 1,355.71                | 1,469.63                |
| Organ Fund                                                                          | 808.39                  | 773.39                  |
| Churtyard Fund                                                                      | 1,902.13                | 2,023.51                |
| Martha Smith Fund                                                                   | 1,147.95                | 1,098.25                |
| St Mary's Hardship Fund                                                             | 307.98                  | 0                       |
|                                                                                     | <u><b>59,716.81</b></u> | <u><b>50,459.20</b></u> |
| Open Vine Fellowship -<br>Fund administered separately<br>under the auspices of PCC | <u>239.65</u>           | <u>141.37</u>           |
|                                                                                     | <u><b>59,956.46</b></u> | <u><b>50,600.57</b></u> |

The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

#### Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to three months' unrestricted payments (£15K) to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of unrestricted funds at the year end was £19,290 which more than meets the policy criteria.

It is also our policy to hold an amount of £20,000 for repairs and maintenance of our Grade II\* listed church building. Should we receive a consistent excess of receipts over payments during the next two years we will endeavour to make up the £4,000 required to reach the target.

**Independent Examiners' Report  
To the  
PCC of St Mary's the Virgin ( Greenham)**

I report to the PCC's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC of St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

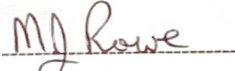
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC of St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)b of the Act.

**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 PCC of St Mary the Virgin (Greenham) as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



M. J. Rowe  
3 Abbots Road  
Newbury  
Berks  
RG14 7QW  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## **MINUTES OF LAST AGM MEETING**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH GREENHAM**  
**Sunday 11th May 2025**  
**(after the 10.30am Service)**

### **Annual Meetings**

34 people attended the meeting.

In lieu of a vicar as chair due to the vacancy, Brian Jones was unanimously elected to chair the meeting.

#### **Annual Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens**

1. Election of Minutes Clerk - Rachel Oxley was elected.
2. Minutes of 2024 Meeting were accepted.
3. Matters Arising - none.
4. Election of Churchwardens - Chris Simons & Rob Brautigan were appointed.

Brian thanked Chris & Rob that they were willing to stand again as a team and for their work over the last year, especially with all the extra responsibilities in this vacancy period.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies – Brue Burnell, Wendy Sanders
2. Minutes of 2024 Meeting – accepted.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Election of Lay Representatives to PCC  
Four posts available – three 3 year posts and one 2 year. Wendy Sanders, Sam Mackwell and Becca Clayton-Wherity were elected for the three year posts. Daphne Washbrook was elected for the two year post.

Jean Kewin stood down from PCC (which gave rise to the two year post vacancy). Thanks were extended to her for serving seven years on PCC.

Jill Cawte stood down from serving as Deanery Synod rep, leaving a one year post available. Thanks were extended to her for serving five years in the post.

Liz Jones is our other Deanery Synod rep. Brian remarked that it is good for us to have a voice at deanery level, and filling both of our allotted posts would be valuable.

Jean & Jill were each presented with a card and gift voucher from PCC in thankful recognition of their service.

5. Leadership Report in Lieu of Vicar

Brian expressed his grateful thanks to everyone who has helped throughout the vacancy period. It has been gratifying to notice that we have not just been 'keeping going', but the church has been growing. God is building this church because of all of you. On behalf of Leadership Team he thanked everyone for their continued work and prayers as we prepare to move to the next stage and welcome Gail when she joins us as vicar in the autumn. God has a plan for each of us and for the church as we work together to see Him powerfully at work - to Him be the glory.

6. Treasurer's Report – Rachel Oxley

Full statement was included in the Annual Report, but just to highlight again grateful thanks to all our planned givers and all who give in various ways.

The main General Account suffered a deficit of £4,272 and £5,000 has been taken from the Church Centre Fund savings account to cover the shortfall.

Rachel advised that we have needed to employ a cleaning company to take over from Chris & Pat who are not in a position to continue with the weekly cleaning of the downstairs areas in the Centre. We are very grateful to them for the many years of hard work. We already have volunteers on a rota basis who clean upstairs and grateful thanks go to them, but we do not have any more manpower to deal with downstairs. Therefore, the small profit that the Church Centre makes will be swallowed up by paying for cleaners at a cost of £2,340 per annum (£45 per week). She therefore warned that the Centre will not be in such a strong position to 'bail out' the running costs of the church.

Rachel extended her thanks to Ray Beard who has kindly stepped up to work alongside her in the Treasurer role. She is very grateful for his help which will aid in her eyesight issues. Having at least one other person who 'knows the ropes' will leave the church less exposed, which has been a long-standing concern.

Thanks were extended to Rachel for her work on the accounts.

7. Budget 2025

Rachel presented the budget for the main General Account showing a projected deficit of £8,403. She pointed out that in the last three years planned giving has dropped by £7,000 which is mainly due to our ageing congregation - faithful givers who have departed to be with the Lord. We have a great need for new planned givers to take their place.

It is helpful that we are receiving a 10% discount on the parish share during the vacancy period, without which the deficit would have been £3,000 higher.

Rachel prayed for the finances, giving thanks to the Lord for all who give, lifting up the budget to Him and asking for the deficit to be filled to overflowing.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Rachel Oxley proposed that John Rowe be appointed for the 2024 accounts with an honorarium payment of £200. This was approved unanimously.

9. Appointment of Electoral Roll Clerk

Liz Jones volunteered to stand again and was duly elected. (proposed by Brian Jones and seconded by Daphne Washbrook). A vote of thanks was extended for her work on this, especially as this year was the preparation of a new roll which requires a lot more admin.

10. Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

Liz Jones was re-appointed. (proposed by Brian Jones and seconded by Daphne Washbrook). A vote of thanks was extended to her.

11. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Chris Simons highlighted the need to have successors to fill the Churchwarden post, as he and Rob are not getting any younger - there will be a time soon when they need to step down. He gave thanks to Pete Perry, assisted by Nick, who have been a tower of strength helping out with things that need more physical strength. They both agreed to stand as Assistant Churchwardens. Chris called for anyone who is interested in learning about the role of Churchwarden to have a chat with him, and emphasised that the more people we have helping and supporting in this role makes the load lighter.

12. Further Reports

**Railway Club:** Chris Simons reported that the club is looking to re-start and a good deal of top soil is needed for the slippage on the embankment so that the trains can run again without the risk of de-railing. If anyone has any spare due to groundworks at their homes, he can arrange to come and collect it. Plans are still in place for a memorial garden in the centre of the railway. He also mentioned that the club is an evangelical outreach as over the years it has included non-church going folk who have since become Christians.

**Worship:** Brian Jones expressly thanked our worship leaders Becca, Chris Edwards, Doug and Jutta for all that they do to bring 'living worship' here at Greenham, along with all our singers. He also thanked those who operate the laptop and sound desk at the back.

13. Questions & Discussions

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church Building:** Ray Beard mentioned that next year 2026 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church and could we perhaps celebrate this with an outreach event. It was agreed that this is something we could discuss with Gail when she is here.

14. Any Other Business

**Gail's Induction:** Leadership and PCC will be thinking about ways we can welcome Gail and how to publicise her arrival in the parish. Please let us have any ideas.

**Thanks to our Leadership:** Daphne Washbrook expressly thanked and acclaimed Brian and the Leadership team for all they have been doing to keep the church going during the vacancy period. This was heartily endorsed by everyone.

The meeting ended in prayer and sharing of The Grace.