

Brinsley with Underwood PCC

Annual Report for the year 2025



Brinsley with Underwood Learning to Follow Jesus Together

This booklet contains a report of the activities of the church in the parish of Brinsley with Underwood as we have sought to learn to follow Jesus together during the calendar year 2025.

Editors: Paul and Rachel Lake, May 2026.

Overview

Vicar's Report

Rev David Stevenson

I want to begin by saying a very big thank you to all those, especially Pat & Julian and the team here, who made my sabbatical last year possible. After a very busy and difficult few years it was good to be able to step back from ministry for a few months and to recharge my physical and spiritual batteries.

I also want to say a very big thank you to you all for your prayer support, especially when Di was ill, and it looked as though the trip to Australia was going to have to be postponed. What an amazing miracle it was that we were able to continue with our plans. I have certainly felt the benefit of that time away, and it was great to be able to finally meet Di's aunty Pat for the very first time.

Encouragements

Once again, it is encouraging to see that God continues to be a work amongst his people here, as Jesus promised, I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Matthew 16

We continue to have a good reputation as a warm and welcoming church. It is encouraging to see new people joining us and starting out on their journey of faith. I am very much looking forward to the two adult baptisms that we have got booked for 17th May.

While others continue to grow in their faith and look for new opportunities to serve the Lord. I am really please that Peter is now an authorised preacher. Thank you to those who stepped up to help out while Peter was recovering from his operation, and it is good to see him walking about pain free.

A Big thank you to our team of LLM's headed up by Paul and Rachel, who do so much across the parish without you my ministry would be impossible. I'm very pleased that Gayna's licence was renewed last year, and that Gary is benefiting from his training. He will make a valuable addition to the team when he is licensed. Please pray for him as he is currently waiting for much needed surgery. As a result, You will have noticed that I am not as visible now on Sundays, but I do remain very active in the Parish during the week.

I want to say a big Thank you for your continuing generosity which has meant that between us and Eastwood we have once again paid our full ministry costs. You may be surprised to learn that we are one of only a handful of parish share paying units across the whole of the Diocese to do so. If you did not share me with Eastwood then we would not be able to pay our full parish share, which last year was over £99K. individually neither parish could afford to pay in full.

The diocese remains committed to maintaining the number of stipendiary clergy for as long as possible and has been blessed by a number of grants from the church commissioners for revitalisation projects and there are increasing signs that this is bearing fruit.

There are lots of other encouragements that I could mention. After a lot of hard work and numerous delays it is great to see that work on the shed has finally begun. We look forward to that project getting up and running. It's great to see the community cafés continue to be so well supported. I'm also pleased to report that we were successful in applying to the diocese for some growing disciples funding, some of the money has been spent on upgrades to the Av equipment.

Disappointments/ Frustrations

Many of us have been praying for 5 people to come to faith for some time now. It would be good to hear some stories about what God has been doing. But I want to encourage you to persevere even if it appears that nothing has changed. Praying for someone to come to faith in Jesus is a prayer that God loves to answer, but his timing is always perfect.

It has been very disappointing that we have been turned down for a couple of grants for the reordering project at St Michaels. It is evident that this work is becoming increasingly urgent. The longer we leave things the more things deteriorate. We have made the decision to split the project into two sections. Please make it a matter for prayer that money is released for this vital work. Paul and Rachel shoulder so much of the burden of fundraising it would be good if someone else could support them in this role.

I want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to you all for all that you do to support the ministry of this church in building God's kingdom in this place. It is impossible to name you all. You might think that what you do goes unnoticed but be assured we do appreciate all that you do, so thank you.

Finally, it is no secret that I am coming up to retirement age. While we are beginning to make plans for the future, currently no final timetable has been set for this. Over the coming months we will start to put plans in place for the interregnum. In the meantime, I remain fully committed to continuing to serve God and you, wholeheartedly.

Ministry Development

Paul and Rachel Lake continue as Local Missional Leaders in the Parish leading activities with the encouragement and support of Rev David Stevenson. Our Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM) in the parish are Paul and Rachel Lake and Gayna Hall. We have been blessed Peter Fletcher receiving Bishop's Authorisation to preach, and by Gayna Hall and Peter Fletcher being authorised to take home communion to people who are unable to get to church. We continue to support Gary Willis through his final year of LLM training.

Jackie Smith, Jane Ellis and Di Stevenson continue to serve as LLMs In Eastwood. As is normal all LLMs in Rev David's parishes are licensed to both parishes.

Growing Disciples

Paul and Rachel Lake

We have been blessed in the year by a few new people joining the congregation. Perhaps this is our part of the nationally reported interest in Christianity that has been labelled The Quiet Revival?

Eight people attended The Alpha Course during the spring term, and we followed this in the Autumn by running the Bible Course for a similar number of people. This is a pattern that we will likely repeat next year.

Over the summer and through the autumn we worked on creation of a Growing Disciples Plan. This is promoted by the Diocese to encourage planning of facilities and activities that will help people in their journey to, and with, Jesus.

Prayer and discussion led us to summarise our Growing Disciples priorities as follows:

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| Your Vision Statement: | Learning To Follow Jesus Together |
| Missional Outcome 1: | Being renewed by God through inspiring worship , daily devotion and exploring the word together |
| Missional Outcome 2: | To welcome everyone, enhancing diversity , by making the physical and online space more accessible and inviting to all |
| Missional Outcome 3: | Reaching younger. Expanding the visibility and presence of the church across the community by attending community events, sharing faith and building connection with young families, school children and youth. |
| Missional Outcome 4: | Stimulate people to consider how they give of their time and finance, through teaching, modelling and discipleship to encourage generosity. |
| Missional Outcome 5: | Enabling commitment to personal devotion, teaching and fellowship through additional and regular home groups, nurture groups and times of prayer |

The Growing Disciples Plan enabled us to access some funding from the Diocese to facilitate this work. With it and our own funds, we were able to:

Install internet in both St Michael's and St James

Purchase a pan-tilt-zoom camera for St Michael's, giving one in each church.

Upgrade the video switcher in both churches to improve the robustness of video recording, broadcast and distribution within the building.

Replace the sound mixing desk in both churches with a digital sound desk. This reduces the amount of equipment needed in the auditorium, improves sound quality and enables the same setup in both churches.

Purchase a One Licence that gives us access to some new songs for use in worship

Purchase resources for advertising the church more widely in the community

Moorlands service: a small team lead by Gary and Gayna started visiting the nursing home, they hope to make it a monthly event

School visits. We continue to try to facilitate the seasonal Experience Journeys for primary children our grant will help fund craft activities in these. Currently we continue to have a very good relationship with Underwood school and a developing positive relationship with Real Education, we would like to improve our arrangements with both Bagthorpe and Brinsley schools.

Groups and Activities

Hearing Loss Self Help Group

Bid Horne

This group meets on the third Thursday monthly in the Bailey Room at St James. We started in April 2025.

With myself (Bid), Yvonne Derbyshire, and Sue Pike helping, A representative from The Nottingham Deaf Society along with an interpreter attends each month.

We have around 4 regular attendees with others that sometimes drop in.

In October we had a gentleman (Paul Kelly) from social services talk about equipment in the home. He was to return the following month with examples of the equipment, but he became poorly. He was able to attend in MARCH 2026, and details will be included in the next update.

Each month I try to teach some basic sign language. The alphabet, family and some helpful words.

In November, Howard Swinbourne a teacher of BSL attended and helped us have a conversation in sign language about our families including children and grandchildren.

December saw us celebrating Christmas with a party like feel, and a Christmas quiz. Reverend David Stevenson dropped in for an hour.

There are plans for speakers to drop in to talk about themselves and a variety of subjects to help with all aspects of hearing loss and navigating a hearing world.

As I write this, this week (3rd to 10th May 2026) is deaf awareness week. We all need to be aware of people who are deaf or have some hearing loss and how to communicate with them.

Living with Loss

Jane Fletcher

The Living with Loss Bereavement Support Fellowship Group continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month from 2-4pm.

Successes, items for praise

- Regular monthly attendance remains between 10-14 members.
- Those 'living with loss' continue to find support and fellowship being part of the group.
- We give thanks for Nicky Smith's invaluable help and encouragement as well as her creative gifts and talents shared with the group.

- The fellowship and support group continues to be a 'lifeline' for many who regularly attend the monthly meetings.
- Those attending are very supportive of each other's needs.
- Recently one member stated that "I am so glad I came today because I feel much better than when I arrived"!

Items for prayer, needs

- We hope that the leaders can continue to run and support this group.
- It is important to be able to recognise the needs of each other and to encourage other bereaved people, with sensitivity and understanding, to see if they would like to join the group.
- To listen, discern and assess the continuing needs of the group.

Monday afternoon Fellowship Group

We meet on Monday afternoons at 2 pm for a 2-hour session. Spending time catching up on news, then looking into the Bible, studying the books of the Bible, or people's favourite pieces of scripture, all the time asking what we can learn from these to help our faith today. We also share our faith stories, where we are on our journeys, the highs and lows, as well as bringing people and situations to God in prayer. It is a time of fellowship and a time to be with fellow Christians to share our love of God.

Pie Men

Bob Tyers

We give thanks for several things; in no particular order: -

- During the year we have continued to meet in person and in public. In 2026 we have returned from The Hole In the Wall on 2nd and 4th Thursdays to our original home in the Snug at the Stute or 'Junction' as it is now known.
- We have welcomed several new blokes into our midst from our church, other churches and none.
- Our finances remain good, and we have been able to support several charities.
- Opportunity for community involvement continues to grow, mainly Tools with a Mission and Eastwood Shed

As for needs

- Prayer for the growing number of our members who find it difficult to participate due to deafness, mobility and other health issues.
- The opportunity to formally increase our discipleship input.
- I withdrew my intention to step down as lead of the Piemen as I feared for continuity with so many other activities taking concentration but time does march on and we do need someone to pick up the mantle.

Some facts and statistics: -

- Our finances are generated by free will gifts, mainly when we share food.
- We started the year with an opening balance of £381 and finished the year with £375
- During the year through BwithU Parish benefited by over £109 from our activities and donations amounting to over £300 were given to Christian Vision for Men and Nuthall Christmas Lights
- Our regular Pie and a Pint night on a Thursday keep us in touch with the communities of Brinsley and Underwood. Supper at the Durham Ox in the 3rd week of the month is enjoyed by us and a few regulars and our First Saturday breakfasts seem to be going down well now we have settled on The Hole in the Wall as a regular venue.
- Sadly, we were not able again to arrange a Community Boules Tournament this year, The Christmas sing-along went well for us, Church members, Tuesday Café attendees and the locals

who came along. Several Piemen have helped with church activities. A small group of us have a Local House of Prayer which concentrates on blokes in our community.

- Our relationship with Tools for a Mission continues to grow, we have had several van loads of tools taken away and are still planning to assist with tool refurbishment as well as converting redundant tools into cash for their funds.
- The planning and preparing work for the Eastwood Shed continues and whilst we do not seek to make it part of The Piemen there is a symbiotic relationship and several blokes from the shed are now coming to Piemen events.
- Numbers have held constant at about 14 regulars with a few periodic visitors, but we continue to see growth which gives even more opportunity for discipleship and faith sharing.

Iron sharpens iron.

Place of Welcome Cafe, St James

Karen Hammond

Again, I am delighted to report that the café is thriving and continues to deliver a safe space for the local community to come together, not only for refreshments but also for fellowship, spirited chat and companionship. The number attending generally averages 60 and I am delighted that we continue to attract a good mix of genders and ages.

Further intermittent/regular visitors attend from the wider community, ie Kirkby in Ashfield, Eastwood, Selston etc.

Animals are also welcomed into Church and it is always a delight during school holidays when children are brought along with parents/grandparents/carers.

This year we have been pleased to welcome a regular crafting table which has inspired a lot of people to bring their ideas and expertise and to have a go at a new activity whilst enjoying the atmosphere of the café.

We remain fortunate to receive overspill cakes/pastries/bread from Lidl. Many attendees continue to take some of the produce to friends and neighbours who are unable to attend the café due to age/infirmary and we are grateful to Liz Williamson for collecting these from Lidl on a Tuesday morning when she is able.

Wrapped biscuits remain available every week.

Again, my thanks go to Jane and Peter Fletcher and David Hammond for their help with running the café on a weekly basis and to Nicky Smith and Georgina Allen for stepping in when required. I am truly grateful for their support.

Place of Welcome Café, St Michael's

Sarah Harker

The Church Café remains a valued asset for those who attend, although numbers have reduced a little recently. We faced a critical shortage of help following the temporary departure of Sonya. Currently, the café is running on a skeleton crew, and new volunteers are urgently needed to ensure its sustainability.

Wednesday Night Home Group at Nicky Smith's

Peter Fletcher

The group continued to meet with a regular attendance of 6 at Nicky's home on Wednesday evenings throughout 2025 and followed a number of Bible Studies, which always generate much helpful discussion and leads to a better understanding of the Bible and our faith. Home Groups are something I strongly recommend for everyone. We are always very grateful to Nicky for her hospitality.

Our Management Processes

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Andy Palmer

We have held six PCC meetings since our last APCM, all the meetings have been face to face. During the year, the PCC members have submitted many Faculty requests to the Diocese;

Other PCC activities Approved the budget for 2026. Approved the maintenance of 38 Main Road. Agreed on our four charities for 2026, Tools with a mission, Framework, Life words and Acts435.

We currently have vacancies for five general members on the PCC.

We also have the following positions vacant; Two Deputy Church Wardens, Two Vergers, Audio Visual Preparation and IT Technician, Recruiter.

Electoral Roll

Andy Palmer

The Electoral Roll at the last APCM was 56. The revised Electoral Roll needs to be prepared in 2026 for the APCM. One new person joined. The Electoral Roll now is 57.

Newstead Deanery

Portia Newling

Deanery Synod met three times in 2025. We worshipped together and shared all the positive news from around the deanery.

Our first meeting was in March and focussed on Growing Leaders. We heard from Brooke, a busy young leader from St Mary Magdalene in Sutton in Ashfield, and Hilary who stepped into the role of warden for the first time, after many years in different roles.

Our July Synod explored the theme of Nurturing Prayer and explored what 'praying earnestly' from Acts 12 might look like. We discussed how we sustain communal prayer, and the importance of personal prayer.

In October we welcomed Revd. John Allister who challenged us to consider how we welcome people to our churches, if we want to Enhance Diversity. He encouraged us to reflect our communities and consider whether we may inadvertently make people who are different from ourselves uncomfortable.

Ian Boothroyd circulated reports from General Synod and attended meetings to answer any questions and share a flavour of General Synod.

The Deanery Leadership Team continues with Martyn Bowler as interim Lay Chair, also remaining in the post of Treasurer, alongside lay representatives Joanne Parr, Peter Cook and Peter Fletcher. Clergy representatives are- Revds. Trevor Raaf, David Stevenson, Hazel Robinson and Julie Cotterill.

Unfortunately, our contribution toward Diocesan Share fell in 2025 by £33,000, as the target set by the diocese increased. While we raised £664,920, we reached 85.6% of the £776,892 we needed. Nine churches were able to pay their allocation in full, and two were able to cover their full ministry costs. We remain very grateful for all the money which allows our diocese to continue supporting ministry in our parishes.

We were delighted to welcome Revd Jake Hyatt and his family to Kirkby in Ashfield. Huthwaite. New Cross Community Church and St Peter and St Paul in Hucknall remain in vacancy, and were joined by Teversal and Skegby as we said goodbye to Revd. Peter Chantry. At the end of 2025, Revd Kate Byrom was appointed as Head of Ministerial Development and Wellbeing leaving Ravenshead to start a period of vacancy in 2026.

Safeguarding

We are grateful to Adam Summers for taking up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Our thanks to Jen Summers for the several years she served as PSO helping us through the implementation of some new systems.

As the Church of England progressively rolls out new Safeguarding Standards, it has also rolled out improvements to the Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub online. These provide a useful management tool for keeping us on track with people, training and process reviews, although they do also require a fair amount of time to keep them up to date.

On Safeguarding Sunday we considered our roles as individuals to be aware of someone saying something that might indicate they had a concern for safety. Our desire is for all of our church members to take the basic awareness course to help us spot these situations and be able to assist someone to get help when they need it. We will organise this training in person in Underwood and Brinsley in 2026.

Our Buildings

St James the Great

Peter Fletcher

The Good Friday 'Reflections on the Cross' was attended by 22 people.

St James weekend 26/27 July included the Annual Coffin Walk to St Mary's, Greasley on the Saturday morning with around a dozen taking part, including Joanne from Gillots Funeral Directors. Due to my ankle issue, I am pleased to say Revd David Stevenson agreed to lead the walk. The Sunday morning Holy Communion service included a talk by Robert Cleave, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, who remained after the service to give a talk on his amazing fund raising cycle ride around the world.

The Remembrance Sunday Service on 9 November was well attended and included Parish and County Councillors, Brownies, some of the Little Sunshines mother and toddler group and a uniformed bugler.

The Carol Service on 7 December was very well attended with over 90 people, including the Charlotte Menldy and her Community Choir and a number of Place of Welcome Café regulars. Mulled wine and mince pies were served at the end and a small gift presented to Charlotte and the choir.

There were 4 Funerals and 2 Baptisms during the year and a very special wedding of Harriot Thomas-Mee and Edward Dowler.

The Church was once again open on Saturday 13 September, 9.30am until 1.00pm for the Notts. Historic Churches Ride & Stride, stewarded by Jane Fletcher and Chris Smith. Disappointingly only 2 people visited.

The Place of Welcome Café continues to open from 10.00am until 12.00 noon each Tuesday morning, led by David and Karen Hammond and continues to be well supported with around 60 attending, mostly non-church local people. The Brownies and the 'Little Sunshines' Mothers and Toddlers group continue to meet weekly and a new Children and Adult Kick boxing group now also meet weekly. Also, the 'Moonlight Stitches' craft group meet a number of times in the Bailey Room.

The PCC has decided to review the Church Hire Rates in 2026, having been previously increased in 2024.

Severn Trent contractors were on site 11 March 2025 jetting out the sewer in front of the lychgate, which regularly blocks, lifting the manhole lid. They returned on 5 December 2025 and discovered the drain had collapsed downstream of the manhole and are due to repair it.

During the year we sadly had a spate of vandalism in the new churchyard, with a number of small memorials and vases broken or stolen. The police were informed and as a result we had a couple of visits from 2 CPSO's.

The organ was tuned and some repairs carried out in June at a cost of £1,320, which was thankfully paid through donations, the largest being a surprise but very welcome £800 from ATFA Brinsley FC's fundraising event.

An Electrical Installation Condition Report was carried out on 14 February 2025, 3 items required improvement, 2 for immediate attention and one for further investigation once the A/V installation is completed.

The fire alarms were tested on 15 May 2025.

The Faculty for the siting of the Eastwood Shed on the former Church Hall site was received on 6 March 2025 and Civil Planning Permission was granted the same date, subject to acceptance of a Bio Diversity Net Gain Plan and a 30 Year Maintenance Plan.

The Eastwood Shed Making Sessions continued for much of the year on a fortnightly basis. Part of the activity included shortening a couple of the surplus pews to make them more saleable, which was agreed to be in lieu of paying a hire charge.

Broxtowe Borough Council condemned 57 headstones in the closed churchyard and placed yellow warning notices on them, unfortunately without contact details, leaving a number of people to assume it was the PCC's action. The Diocese are in discussions with Broxtowe BC regarding the way forward.

A Quinquennial inspection was carried out on 6 October 2025 and on 7 October the central heating boilers were serviced.

A new gas meter was fitted on 18 December 2025.

Rachel Lake produced a draft Accessibility Plan for St James, which is still in progress.

I give thanks for:-

- The continuing time and effort Paul and Rachel Lake have been putting into fitting the internet, TV's and A/V equipment.
- The continuing local support for the 'Place of Welcome Café'.
- Sue Pike and Chris Smith for organising the church flowers.
- Jane for her continued 'deputising' for me and support in a number of areas.
- The late Vaughan Price, who sadly passed away on 22 June 2025, for all the work he carried out in the new churchyard.
- Revd. David Stevenson for leading the Annual Coffin Walk and gravelling the base of the removed memorial wall at the front of St James.
- David and Karen Hammond for leading the Place of Welcome Café.
- David Hammond for cutting the front hedge.
- Andy Palmer for his help with church cleaning during my enforced absence.

Points of need:-

- A second Churchwarden.
- A Verger.
- More people currently viewing services on-line to take the step of attending services in church to support our 'in person' worshipping community.
- Increase in number of community bookings.

- Volunteers to assist with basic cleaning.
- Volunteers to assist with after service refreshments.
- Volunteers to assist with basic d.i.y. and churchyard tidying.
- Volunteers to manage bookings, including opening up and locking the church.

St Michael and All Angels

Sarah Harker

2025 has been a year of significant activity, balancing the stewardship of our historic building with a vibrant program of community outreach and school engagement. While we have faced challenges regarding volunteer numbers and building maintenance, the church remains a central hub for the village of Underwood.

Churchyard and Fabric

The maintenance of our grounds and building remains a primary focus.

- **Grounds Maintenance:** We have successfully addressed several long-standing issues, including the removal of some fallen trees in the wild patch (with thanks to James North) and the completion of faculty-approved tree works. After some delays with council shredding, we have now secured a garden waste bin to streamline future maintenance.
- **Infrastructure:** Ashfield District Council assisted with patching potholes on the approach path and boundary hedge cutting. We are currently monitoring the health of an Oak tree and 3 self-set Ash trees on the Westbourne Road boundary following the loss of further limbs.
- **Building Repairs:** Key maintenance tasks completed this year include:
 - Addressing draught points in the vestry and nave to improve thermal efficiency.
 - Servicing the boiler and blower fans.
 - Installation of high-speed internet, providing both private and guest networks.
 - Ongoing pest control and localized woodworm treatment.
 - Repairs to the kitchen door mechanism and ongoing efforts to repair guttering above the Smalley window.

School and Community Outreach

Our relationship with Underwood School continues to flourish, despite the news of Mr. Baxter's retirement. We were delighted that Ms Thorne was appointed as the new Headteacher. Highlights of the year included:

- **Services:** Hosting the Nativity, Easter, Harvest, and Christingle services, as well as the Year 6 Leavers' service.
- **Educational Visits:** "Experience Easter" and "Discover Harvest" events brought many children into the building for interactive learning.
- **Creative Collaborations:** The school's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat was a summer highlight, alongside a community photography competition and a joint concert with the Eastwood Male Voice Choir.

The Scarecrow Festival and Ride and Stride continue to be vital connection points, with the former successfully introducing new worshippers to our congregation.

Music and Events

St Michael's has enjoyed a harmonious year with several successful fundraising concerts:

- **Rock'n'Soul Singers:** Two major performances, including a March concert that raised £400 for the Church Reordering Fund.

- November Concert: A collaborative event in November featuring Pye Hill MVC, Mansfield Singers, and VJSD Singers.
- Note for 2026: To protect our volunteers, the PCC has advised better spacing of events to avoid "volunteer burnout" during the busy Christmas period.

Upcoming dates for your diary include the Scarecrow Festival (April 2026) and the return of the Rock'n'Soul Singers in May.

My thanks especially to John Grayson who has begun assisting me on Sundays. We continue to pray for the appointment of a second Churchward and/or Assistant Churchwarden.

St Michael's Refurbishment

The PCC remains committed to the Reordering Project. Despite some limited external feedback regarding the pews, the project has Diocesan approval and is essential for the future flexibility and mission of the church.

The journey through the year for the project has been very slow. The Government cancelled the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme that enabled us to reclaim VAT on the costs. This effectively wiped out a grant of about £100,000 towards the project. That led to a need to separate the project into two phases just after we had our initial quotes. We are now awaiting the updated quote for the first phase.

The first phase will concentrate on:

- Making the building watertight through essential maintenance of the roof and parapets at the ends of the roof (they currently leak and cause significant stone-chip and sand shedding inside the building,) and renovating the sumps in the tower to stop water running down the walls.
- Installing essential accessibility changes. New entrance with steps and a ramp, new wheelchair accessible entrance doors, level access into the toilets, an accessible toilet, and removing one step into the Chancel.
- This Phase will also make some necessary changes inside as we install a new wood floor throughout, replace pews with chairs, move the kitchen into the nave and mount TV's on the walls. These will increase the space available for activities and, we hope, increase the number of people coming into the building.

38 Main Road, Underwood

Peter Fletcher

The tenants are looking after the property very well and appear to be happy to remain for the long term. They have carried out a number of improvements, including installing a pair of French doors at their own expense.

In January, James Dye carried out the annual gas inspection and fitted a new expansion tank and pressure relief valve (Cost £230). In April all 8 radiators were replaced plus a wireless room thermostat for the sum of £1,744.80.

Financial Review

Unrestricted funds

A note as I start. The Budget column we create from a combination of the previous years actuals and some educated judgement. As I go through this report I'll compare last year's actuals with either the budget or the previous year's actuals. I'll try to make that clear as I go.

Receipts of unrestricted funds, the General Fund, totalled £62,542, which was a decrease of £10,596 from 2024, which is quite a considerable sum. The most notable decrease was in service fees (that is the set fee we get for Weddings, Funerals, and interment of ashes.) which dropped from over £15,000 in 2024 to £8,287 in 2025, this represents around a 45% drop and accounts for most of the losses to church receipts. In 2024 we received grant support in the sum of £5,850, but in 2025 we only received £1,960 in grant funding. £400 in grant funding was received from Nottinghamshire County Council, which was earmarked for St James' organ repairs. We received £1,560 earmarked for mission from the Diocese Growing Disciples Fund, of which we had only spent £129 by year end.

Gift Aid receipts also decreased to £4,441, some £1,172 less than 2024. This was partially due to the timings of the claims and partially due to HMRC stating that St James had reached the allowable threshold within the financial year 2025 to 2026. This is something the PCC Secretary is looking into.

Receipts from collections and room hire taken across the two churches remain fairly constant. We continue to receive Sundry Donations and the regular £500 donation towards the grass cutting at St Michael's was also gratefully received.

The number of regular planned givers remained at 27, with some new people joining the regular giving scheme and others, sadly leaving. I am pleased to report that planned giving receipts increased to £17,434 for 2025, which was £980 more than in 2024.

Once again, we are so grateful to everyone who has begun to make a regular commitment to giving or increased their giving. Most of our income is from people giving regularly, and costs will continue to rise, whilst other sources of income are falling, so these increases in giving are important to the wellbeing of our finances.

The house on Main Road provided a gross income of £9,920 over the year, but extra repair costs were also incurred.

Payments. Fortunately, since receipts were down, payments from unrestricted funds were also down amounting to £66,056 compared to £71,283 in 2024.

We are very grateful for all that you give towards the mission of the church in the Parish. This has enabled us to pay our Parish Share in full again.

The Parish Share is what we contribute towards the cost of having a Vicar, the Clergy house, and all the Ministry Training for ordained and Lay people that we get. For information, we share the cost of Full Ministry for 1 Clergy with Eastwood, the total cost for this in 2025 was about £99,000. Thank you.

Most expenditure was in line with or less than we anticipated when we were budgeting for the year, but it is worth noting that we spent £9,639 in energy bills, which appears to be a relatively low figure, but this is due to the timings of direct debits by our new energy suppliers, whereby November and December invoices were taken later in January 2026 and will appear in the 2026 figures.

Maintenance at Main Road also increased to £3,205 compared to £1,843 in 2024. We continue to pray that we have covered the maintenance issues here and that this figure will be lower in 2026.

It is our principle to practice the Bible's teaching about giving by giving away to charity a proportion of our income each year. Charity donations were made to Christian Vision for Men £102, Framework £500, Tools with a Mission £500, Lifewords £500, Acts 435 £500. Many charities also continue to be generously supported through the work of the Piemen.

The net result for the year was a difference in receipts over payments of minus £3,514

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in our unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months' payments. In 2025 the target figure would have been £16,514. I have monitored this every two months, taking the information from the financial reports to the PCC. This showed the average balance to be £12,476 which represents about 2 and a quarter month's cash. Our concern is that if this gets too low we may not be able to deal with unexpected events.

Restricted Funds

The summary of restricted funds largely speaks for itself. Of concern is the depletion in the Clock fund with just £280 remaining at year end.

Conclusion

We believe in a Generous God who loves to shower us with gifts. Thank you for what you give – both of your time and your money – towards sharing the Good News of Jesus in Brinsley with Underwood. Thank you.

Note: the Financial Report that follows contains the same information and tables as the formal report, it has been re-formatted to save space In this report so “page numbers 2-4” in the reviewer’s statement on the next page of this report refer to the tables on the following two pages of this report.

TO THE PCC OF BRINSLEY WITH UNDERWOOD CHURCHES

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC are the churches' trustees and are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The churches' trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- c. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter comes to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name *Howard Jones*
Date *15/3/2026*
Qualification *AAT*

PCC OF BRINSLEY WITH UNDERWOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31 December 2025

| | <i>Budget</i> | <i>General Fund Actual</i> | <i>General Fund Expected</i> | <i>Other allocated or restricted funds</i> | <i>Clock</i> | <i>St James Reordering</i> | <i>St Michael's Reordering</i> | <i>Total Income/ Expenditure</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| Planned Giving | £16,200 | £17,434 | | | | | | |
| Collections - St James | £2,300 | £3,201 | | | | | | |
| Collections - St Michael's | £2,600 | £2,571 | | | | | | |
| Gift Aid reclaimed** | £6,000 | £4,441 | | | | | £126 | |
| Service fees | £14,000 | £8,287 | | | | | | |
| Chatterbox Café - St M | £1,900 | £1,314 | | | | | | |
| Place of Welcome - St J | £3,100 | £3,658 | | | | | | |
| Piemen | £500 | £424 | | | | | | |
| Little Angels | £0 | £0 | | | | | | |
| Donations - St Michael's reordering | | | | | | | £5,900 | |
| Legacy - St Michael's reordering | | | | | | | | |
| Donations - St James' reordering | | | | | | £3,044 | | |
| Donations - sundry | £1,900 | £2,462 | | | | | | |
| Donations - charities | £1,000 | £686 | | | | | | |
| Events | £1,000 | £0 | | | | | | |
| Events - St Michael's reordering | | | | | | | £1,277 | |
| Room hire - St James | £3,500 | £3,710 | | | | | | |
| Room hire - St Michael's | £900 | £1,378 | | | | | | |
| Rent - Main Road | £9,900 | £9,920 | | | | | | |
| Grants | £5,850 | | | £400 | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | £0 | | | | | | |
| Interest | £180 | £176 | | | | | £1,776 | |
| Other Allocated Funds (mission) | | | | £1,560 | | | | |
| Other Allocated Funds (organ) | | | | £920 | | | | |
| Total | £70,830 | £59,662 | | £2,880 | £0 | £3,044 | £9,079 | £74,665 |
| Payments | | | | | | | | |
| Parish share | £34,332 | £34,332 | | | | | | |
| Officers' fees | £1,200 | £442 | | | | | | |
| Clergy expenses | £800 | £492 | | | | | | |
| Training fees*** | £500 | £388 | | | | | | |
| Organist stipend | £1,000 | £1,000 | | | | | | |
| Energy | £12,500 | £9,639 | | | | | | |
| Water | £570 | £596 | | | | | | |
| Insurance | £5,418 | £5,418 | | | | | | |
| Licences - music, website etc | £650 | £692 | | | | | | |
| Maintenance | £3,600 | £2,797 | | | £422 | | | |
| Main Road | £2,000 | £3,205 | | | | | | |
| Printing/stationery | £200 | £97 | | | | | | |
| Charities | £3,000 | £2,988 | | | | | | |
| Charities (In and Out) | £1,000 | | | | | | | |
| Events | £300 | £0 | | | | | | |
| Mission | £2,200 | £2,245 | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | £275 | | | | | | |
| Broadband at St James | £1,000 | | | | | | | |
| Add to Reserves | £560 | | | | | | | |
| Other Allocated Funds (Organ) | | | | £1,320 | | | | |
| St Michael's Re-ordering | | | | | | | £3,511 | |
| St James' Re-ordering | | | | | | £3,445 | | |
| Other Allocated Funds (Mission) | | | | £129 | | | | |
| Total | £70,830 | £64,607 | | £1,449 | £422 | £3,445 | £3,511 | £73,435 |
| Difference Income/Expenditure | | -£3,514 | | | | | £5,568 | £1,230 |
| Summary | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>General Fund</i> | <i>Clock Fund</i> | <i>St James' Re-order</i> | <i>Bank Balance</i> | | | <i>St Michael's Re-order</i> | <i>Overall Bank Balance</i> |
| Bank 01.01.25 | £15,409 | £702 | £3,111 | £19,222 | | | £133,792 | £153,014 |
| Bank 31.12.25 | £11,895 | £280 | £2,710 | £14,885 | | | £139,360 | £154,245 |
| Difference | -£3,514 | -£422 | -£401 | -£4,337 | | | £5,568 | £1,231 |

| PCC of Brinsley with Underwood | |
|--|------------------|
| Financial Statements | |
| For the period ended 31 December 2025 | |
| Restricted Funds | |
| St James' Reordering | |
| Balance b/wd | 3,111 |
| Receipts Donations | 3,044 |
| | 6,155 |
| Payments | 3,445 |
| Balance as at 31 December 2025 | 2,710 |
| Clock Fund | |
| Balance b/wd | 702 |
| Receipts | - |
| | 702 |
| Payments | 422 |
| Balance as at 31 December 2025 | 280 |
| St Michael's Reordering | |
| Balance b/wd | 133,792.0 |
| Receipts Planned Giving | 60.0 |
| Donations | 5,840.0 |
| Interest | 1,776.0 |
| Gift Aid Reclaimed | 126.0 |
| Events | 1,277.0 |
| | 9,079.0 |
| Payments | 3,511.0 |
| Balance as at 31 December 2025 | 139,360.0 |