

The Parish of Bleadon, Saint Peter and Saint Paul



The Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus, c.1370, Porch

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2025

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oPG

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The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

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Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM

1. A new electoral roll was prepared in 2025. As at the APCM on 12th May 2025, there were 48 members. The number now stands at 48, of whom 39 are resident in the parish.

Proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish

PCC Structure

2. The PCC Members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

- Incumbent: Revd Tim Erridge 1st January – 3rd August.
- Churchwarden: Sue Arnold.
- Churchwarden: Sara Hughes.
- Secretary: Sue Boddington.
- Treasurer (until Feb 2026) and Lay Vice Chair: David Hughes.
- Treasurer (from Feb 2026): John Leddy.
- Electoral Roll Officer: Lorna Kent.
- Safeguarding: Sara Hughes.
- Deanery Synod: Valerie Minett and Gill Williams.
- Fiona Kelly
- George Scott
- Reyn Badger: 1st January – 12th May.

3. The PCC met 8 times in 2025, including after the APCM, and the Standing Committee 7 times. To facilitate urgent electrical work, the PCC gave ex-committee approval on one occasion.

4. In Summer our Rector Tim Erridge retired after 10 years, so for the last five months of the year his post was vacant. Our Archdeacon and Area Dean both met with our churchwardens and their opposite numbers from St Andrews to explain the way forward. Sue Arnold stepped in to manage organizing our regular services, including booking visiting preachers, but also to be the point of contact for occasional offices (baptisms, weddings, and funerals).

5. In November we held a Stewardship Workshop to tease out some ways we could enhance our assets. Among the ideas put forward were some like running an Alpha which we hope will bear fruit in 2026.

Worship

6. From adversity comes opportunity, and our Rector's retirement led to an unexpected variety in terms of worship leaders, delivery and content. We thank all those clergy and lay leaders who helped us.

7. The numbers attending our regular Sunday services remains around mid-twenties on average, but it is encouraging to see new faces becoming a valued part of our community, although sadly we have lost some members.

8. The Easter services were well attended with a total of 51 over Good Friday and Easter Sunday. An outdoor service was held in the churchyard on 4th May to coincide with Bleadon May Fayre as starter for the day.
9. A service of thanksgiving was held for Tim's retirement, attended by over 50 people, to give thanks for all the hard work and support Tim and Heather gave to the parish community over the years.
10. Some 50 people attended our Remembrance Sunday service, made up of local parishioners, local groups and organisations were also represented. For Advent we invited individuals and local groups to create displays on the theme of Christmas, with many beautiful trees arrayed along the North wall.
11. The Christmas services continued to be a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ. Two Christmas carol services were held by Moose International and Bleadon WI, and 86 attended our wonderful crib service, always a firm favourite with families. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, attendance was 33.
12. During the year we held:
 - a. one marriage blessing and one marriage
 - b. six funeral/ash burial/memorial services
 - c. one confirmation for 4 people, and
 - d. one baptism.
13. We held two joint services with members of Uphill, Bournville and Milton churches.

Safeguarding

14. The PCC continued to comply with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. The mandatory requirements of all the relevant Safeguarding and Safer Recruiting regulations were met. Our score on the Parish Safeguarding Database has remained consistently quite high and Safeguarding was highlighted as an agenda item for every PCC and Standing Committee meeting.

Groups, Events and Outreach

15. In the absence of sufficient volunteers to put on our own Harvest Meal, we returned once more to Riverside Holiday Village to avail ourselves of their Carvery. Locally based volunteers from our chosen charity, The Farm Community Network, gave a talk on the challenges our farmers face, and holiday park residents joined in donating to the cause.
16. Our usual Church Groups have continued as in previous years, as follows:
 - a. Craft & Chat in the Church Room on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except Dec when only the first one). Usually led by two Group Leaders. Often something is available to have a go at but really the group is an excuse to get people out and being social, having a chat and light refreshments. There are usually between 10 and 16 attendees.
 - b. Community Craft in the Church Room on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month is usually led by a Church Group Leader. Often, but not always, we make Dog Bed

Cushions for a local Dog Rehoming charity called Dogs Friends. We replace the dog cushions because when a dog is rehomed it will take its bed with it. There are usually 4 to 8 participants.

c. Out To Lunch on 1st Wednesday of each month. We meet at the Riverside Holiday Village where they look after us very well. This is another social occasion for people to come to and have a chat over food. Sara (the Lay Pastoral Assistant) tends to phone around a day or two before to find out who is coming and, perhaps more importantly, who is not and checking they are okay and do not need support of some kind. There are usually between 16 and 24 attendees. We do an extra 2 meals over at Riverside each year-one for Christmas and another, which occurs after our Harvest Service.

d. Lent Lunches in the Church Room from 12 till 2 pm. In 2025 we did 4 soup and bread lunches, each one for a different charity as chosen by the soup maker. The meal is free and attendees are asked to donate to the charity. These are reasonably well attended and it's a way of meeting folk who may not come to church but do come to these events.

e. Bleadon Market: the church has a book and jigsaw stall for church funds but it is also a way for us to be in touch with our parishioners and keep up with who is not so well, waiting for test results, recently bereaved etc. and could some gentle support.

17. All these events and more are shared with regular churchgoers as Church Notices in our regular Sunday Services, in our weekly newsletter and on notice boards etc. Some events are publicised on Facebook Events locally and on Bleadon News websites but the best way to get people involved, we have found, is to invite them to come along and join in.

18. We continue to take seriously our role as stakeholders in Locking Deanery Housing Society Ltd, the sole property of which is Clarence House in Weston-super-Mare.

Eco church

19. We began the year by changing our energy supplier to E.ON Next, with no effective change in cost but being able to specify a green tariff in furtherance of our Eco Church wishes. We also sought and received a 90% grant from our Diocesan NetZero Quick Wins Program to purchase heated pew cushions. The Craft Chat group, with the help of other members of the congregation, also made blankets which, together with the heated cushions, meant we continued to worship in Church from November rather than retreating to the Church Room.

Social Media

20. Taking advantage of free resources through the Church of England, we ceased our paid website in favour of enhancing our existing presence on A Church Near You (see link on page 2). We also welcomed a further member to our Social Media team, increasing engagement on our church Facebook page and raising the number of followers.

Financial Review

21. In terms of Income, 2025 was a good year for the parish, with income rising by 55% to £45,417. Correspondingly our expenditure also rose by the 43%, mainly due to an increased Parish Share contribution, leading to us finishing the year with a deficit of £1,151.

22. Church Activity in 2025 was a mixture of ups and downs compared to 2024. Church collections continued to grow, which is positive, along with income from activities but other areas like weddings and funerals, hall income and bookstall income suffered a reduction in takings. We were fortunate to receive a very kind donation of £8,000 during the year, along with a grant of £3,875 from the Diocese, which contributed to the increase in our income.

23. Unfortunately, we did not submit a Gift Aid claim for 2025 which did reduce our possible income amount. Measures will be put in place during 2026 to rectify this position.

24. Church expenditure in 2025 remained consistent from 2024. Notable exceptions were clergy expenses, utility costs and church maintenance. Church Maintenance increased due to the purchase of the heated cushions and restoration work to the church that took place during the year. The cost of the cushions was offset by the grant from the Diocese. With the Vicar retiring during the year clergy costs increased as we paid for clergy support during this period. One positive point was the reduction in utility bills.

25. There was one expense that was outstanding at the end of 2025. We still had to pay the Diocese the Parochial Fees collected during the year. This position will be corrected in 2026.

26. The increased income this year meant we could pay more to the Common Fund in Parish Share. We ended the year paying £25,263, which is still down on our requirement of £30,401 but better than in 2024. This represented a payment of 83%

27. A positive year overall, which was better than expected.

Risk Review

28. The PCC regularly review matters of potential risks, with risk assessments carried out when required. The parish maintains comprehensive policies of insurance for the Church and Church Hall issued by Ecclesiastical Insurance which adequately cover any foreseen costs relating to the possible loss of one or both.

Reserves Policy

29. It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cashflow and to meet emergencies.

Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Fabric

30. The general condition of our Grade 1 listed church is good. 2025 is the first year for some considerable time that we have spent money on reports of its condition and some roof repairs.

31. In 2024 we had been advised by our church Architect to get a Tower Survey done and, following a tender process, involving 3 abseiling teams, we chose James Preston Conservation Ltd (JPC Ltd) to do the survey in 2025. We had also put out a tender for various roof repairs (to 5 companies) but only 2 replied and their bids were poles apart as the most expensive one needed scaffolding. JPC Ltd bid for the roof repairs as well, and, since he considers our church to be a low church-and roof repairs doable using ladders-he was much cheaper.

32. The Tower Survey Report and Spreadsheet listed various repairs required to the tower roof, flagpole, the tower parapet and the window surrounds in order of urgency. At the same time as the survey was done so were 2 urgent tower top repairs.
33. The roof repairs, some of which were caused by Storm Darragh in Nov 2024 (and subject to a storm damage insurance claim) were done alongside some other roof tile repairs listed in our latest quinquennial report in 2022, in November 2025. The weathercock (circa 1850's) was blown in the same storm and was badly damaged-he is currently in the vestry on the floor.
34. The 5 year EIC electrical report was done for the Church Room. It needed 2 larger circuit breakers to make it compliant, but we had our new certificate issued in mid Dec 2025.
35. Our church organ required some maintenance to keep it in good working order, in particular to the fan blower. Related electrics were upgraded to current IEEE standards.
36. Unfortunately, the condition of the bell frame remains in the same state as previously reported, the cost of repairs being prohibitive owing to our dwindling church funds. This could be a conversation to have with BPC going forward for a possible fundraising exercise.
37. We are grateful that Bleadon Parish Council maintain not only the clock but also the churchyard. In the Summer they dealt with an infestation of flies in the clock motor, and the rebuilding of part of the churchyard wall (during which ancient remains were discovered and reverently re-interred).

Inventory

38. We, the churchwardens had one major attempt at sorting out the church inventory on 22nd August 2025. We have not attempted to do the Church Room inventory at all as it has not been re-written since the Church Room was renovated in 2020. We will ensure that it is completely redone during 2026.
39. We are satisfied that everything is in the church that should be and have no concerns about things being lost, stolen or broken. The issue is simply that the whole Inventory document needs rewriting as it is almost impossible to follow with so many amendments made in the margins!
40. We have added the 30 heated pew cushions, 3 battery charging power-packs and 12 knee blankets to the inventory this year as part of an Eco-church project about heating the people and not the space.
41. It was noted in the Ecclesiastical Insurance Review we had in 2025 that the Inventory should be done on a computer and saved carefully with a printed copy kept in a safe in the church. We will make this happen in 2026.
42. The Inventory also states that 2 effigies (circa 1350) are in the Bier House but the Bier House is not on the Terrier. We had taken the time and trouble to clear the brambles and weeds from the Bier House plot during 2025 and then dispose of the dead Christmas trees, old car tyres, rusty wheelbarrows, wood-wormed trestle tables, etc. from the stone and brick-built building with a free-standing stone wall built in the middle making 2 sections. At the bottom we found two recumbent stone statues, one male and one female, that were apparently in the church at some point and probably moved in the 1950's. An expert from the Diocese has been to see them and suggests they should be returned to church as soon

as practical. They are not in the best of condition and the lady has lost her head but it might be in the Bier House amongst some of the dressed stone that used to be an arched window before the organ loft was put up!

The Terrier

43. We had cause to look at the Terrier in some detail towards the end of 2025. Someone in the village drove into the Church Room carpark wall (alongside Rectory Lane). The Terrier clearly states that the Church Room carpark is Diocesan property alongside the Rectory and its gardens.

Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

44. Recognising that there is considerable diversity among the Churches in our Deanery, Synod decided to send out a Questionnaire to gather understanding, opinions and ideas from one another. This information could form a framework for future Deanery Synod meetings.

45. In June the Revd Tim was thanked for all he had done for the Deanery and was wished a happy retirement.

46. Discussing ways churches in our Deanery give support to the Community, we heard about many initiatives. These include after-school drop-ins; chaplaincy to local Magistrates' Courts supporting relatives, visitors and some who are up before the Magistrate; and our own Craft & Chat and Community Craft groups.

47. For our own Church we have asked the Deanery for good communications to be kept in all matters concerning our vacancy.

Thanks

48. Finally, none of what happens in our church does so without the continuing dedication and effort of many volunteers and benefactors. In 2025 the flag was raised on significant occasions, the clock was maintained, the churchyard tidied to the benefit of flora and fauna, the bins emptied, the doors unlocked, flowers arranged, cobwebs dusted away with a Heath Robinson duster, services arranged, water and wine procured: the list is immense and would fill this Report all over again. Much of what was and is done goes unsung but is very much seen and appreciated.

49. Volunteers and friends in the Parish we serve are priceless to God's work. It is basic to our faith that we are all made after the image of God. For all that you do in our Church: Thanks be to God.

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The Parochial Church Council of Bleadon

**Financial Statements
For the Period ended 31st December 2025**

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF BLEADON

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Bleadon for the 12 months ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of Bleadon PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts, and I am qualified to undertake the examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for Independent Examination it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 unqualified 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:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC of Bleadon as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. 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.

D Low
19 Landemann Circus
Weston super Mare
North Somerset
BS23 2QF

Deborah Low

D Low
15th April 2026

Bleadon PCC
Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31st December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Voluntary Receipts	3a					
Planned giving		17,543	-	-	17,543	14,952
Collections at services		2,281	-	-	2,281	2,402
All other giving		10,381	1,000	717	12,098	1,971
Legacies/Grants		3,875	-	-	3,875	-
Gift Aid Recovered		557	-	-	557	-
		34,637	1,000	717	36,354	19,325
Activities for Generating Funds	3b	2,214	-	-	2,214	673
Investment Income/Interest	3c	212	-	-	212	425
Church Activities	3d	5,753	-	-	5,753	8,416
Other Receipts	3e	884	-	-	884	456
Total Receipts		43,700	1,000	717	45,417	29,295
Payments						
Church Activities						
Diocesan Parish Share contribution		25,263	-	-	25,263	18,000
Salaries, wages & honoraria	4a	760	-	-	760	660
Clergy and staff expenses	4b	1,456	-	-	1,456	849
Mission giving and donations	4c	160	-	-	160	1,036
Diocesan Parochial Fees	4d	-	-	-	-	627
Cost of generating funds	4e	949	-	-	949	582
Church Expenses						
Church Running Expenses	4f	14,787	-	-	14,787	6,742
Church Utility Bills	4g	2,893	-	-	2,893	4,021
Other Expenditure	4h	301	-	-	301	-
Total Payments		46,569	-	-	46,569	32,517
Surplus / (Deficit)		(2,869)	1,000	717	(1,152)	(3,222)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		(2,869)	1,000	717	(1,152)	(3,222)
Cash at Bank & in hand 1 Jan		26,845	181	200	27,226	30,448
Cash at Bank & in hand 30 Dec		23,976	1,181	917	26,074	27,226

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash Funds	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
HSBC Current Account	5a	15,278	1,181	917	17,376	8,740
HSBC Gift Aid Account		-	-	-	-	-
HSBC Reserve Account		8,655	-	-	8,655	18,443
Petty Cash		43	-	-	43	43
		23,976	1,181	917	26,074	27,226
		23,976	1,181	917	26,074	27,226

Notes

1. The receipts and payments reflect the period from 1 January 2025 to the 31 December 2025.
2. The financial statements of Bleadon PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis

3. Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
a. Voluntary Receipts					
Gift Aided Banker's Orders	9,877	-	-	9,877	11,196
Gift Aided Envelopes	650	-	-	650	3,757
Non-Gift Aided Banker's Orders	4,189	-	-	4,189	-
Non-Gift Aided Envelopes	2,827	-	-	2,827	-
One Off Gift Aided Donations	50	-	-	50	-
One Off Non-Gift Aided Donations	9,235	1,000	717	10,952	584
Donations / Appeals	818	-	-	818	1,156
Wall Safe	278	-	-	278	231
Collections at Services	2,281	-	-	2,281	2,401
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	3,875	-	-	3,875	-
HMRC Gift Aid	557	-	-	557	-
	34,637	1,000	717	36,354	19,325
b. Activities for Generating Funds					
Funds Generated from Activities	2,214	-	-	2,214	673
	2,214	-	-	2,214	673
c. Investment Income/Bank Interest					
Bank Interest	212	-	-	212	425
	212	-	-	212	425
d. Church Activities					
Weddings, Funerals etc	3,512	-	-	3,512	5,133
Bookstall, Magazine & Other Sales	1,396	-	-	1,396	1,527
Hall Lettings	845	-	-	845	1,756
	5,753	-	-	5,753	8,416
e. Other Receipts					
Utility Warehouse	24	-	-	24	-
Xerox Financial	360	-	-	360	-
Ecclesiastical	290	-	-	290	-
Refreshment Donation	-	-	-	-	19
Heating Donations	-	-	-	-	25
Easter Sales	-	-	-	-	10
Records Search	-	-	-	-	50
Funeral Duplicate Payment	-	-	-	-	252
Alternative Out to Lunch	210	-	-	210	100
	884	-	-	884	456

4. Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
a. Salaries, Wages & Honoraria					
Organist	750	-	-	750	610
Relief Organist	-	-	-	-	-
Gratuities & Honoraria	10	-	-	10	50
	760	-	-	760	660
b. Clergy and Staff Expenses					
Clergy	1,131	-	-	1,131	758
Other Clergy Expenses	288	-	-	288	-
Reader Expenses	37	-	-	37	91
	1,456	-	-	1,456	849
c. Mission: Giving & Donations					
Missionary Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & Development Agencies	100	-	-	100	-
Home Mission	60	-	-	60	1,036
Secular Charities	-	-	-	-	-
	160	-	-	160	1,036
d. Diocesan Parochial Fees					
Parochial Fees	-	-	-	-	627
	-	-	-	-	627
e. Fundraising Activities					
Fundraising Expenses	861	-	-	861	494
Book Stall	88	-	-	88	88
	949	-	-	949	582
f. Church Running Expenses					
Administration Costs	-	-	-	-	660
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-
Copyright Licence	147	-	-	147	145
Insurance	2,171	-	-	2,171	2,175
Postage & Stationery	233	-	-	233	205
Organ Tuning & repair	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions	15	-	-	15	15
Telephone	479	-	-	479	502
Upkeep of Services	-	-	-	-	286
Web Hosting	-	-	-	-	159
Bank Charges	144	-	-	144	209
Governance Costs	120	-	-	120	-
Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms	689	-	-	689	800
Churchyard Costs	21	-	-	21	-
Church Maintenance	10,768	-	-	10,768	1,586
	14,787	-	-	14,787	6,742
g. Church Utility Bills					
Heating & Lighting Costs	2,559	-	-	2,559	3,720
Water	334	-	-	334	301
	2,893	-	-	2,893	4,021
h. Other Expenditure					
Overpayment of Fees	252	-	-	252	-
Bath & Wells DBF	25	-	-	25	-
Expenses	24	-	-	24	-
	301	-	-	301	-

5. **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
a. Cash Accounts					
HSBC Current Account	15,278	1,181	917	17,376	8,740
General Fund	15,278	-	-	15,278	8,359
Bell Fund Fund	-	-	917	917	200
Maintenance Fund	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
R Lennox Concert Fund	-	181	-	181	181
HSBC Gift Aid Account	-	-	-	-	-
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
HSBC Reserve Account	8,655	-	-	8,655	18,443
General Fund	8,655	-	-	8,655	18,443
Petty Cash	43	-	-	43	43
General Fund	43	-	-	43	43
	23,976	1,181	917	26,074	27,226

