

# Church Council of Christchurch, Parracombe

## Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### **Aim and Purpose:**

Christchurch's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector, the Reverend Miles Welborn in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church of Christ in Parracombe

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Mission and outreach work. To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Parish Church.

### **Achievements and Performance:**

#### ***Worship and Prayer.***

Sunday services were held at 9 am the first and third Sunday of the month. The celebration of the Eucharist lies at the heart of the life of our parish but we also enjoy the opportunity for less formal worship facilitated by a monthly Morning Worship service, which were often led by members of the congregation.

At present there are 24 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The average Sunday attendance at the 9 am Service on Sundays was 10.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There has been one baptism and one funeral and one burial of ashes.

#### **Deanery Synod:**

The first meeting I attended was on 22nd April 2025 at St Mary's Lynton.

This included a presentation from Sally-Ann Lee and Khadeja Alamaray. Both are Caseworkers with the Pickwell Foundation and spoke about the work of the Pickwell Foundation and Khadeja's personal journey to the UK. The Pickwell Foundation supports charities in the UK that are working with displaced people and with those addressing the climate emergency. They also work locally in Northern Devon to provide support to refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

The second meeting I attended was on 9th October 2025 at West Buckland Village Hall.

The Speaker was Sophie West, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Secretary. She presented a thorough and detailed explanation of the possible Parochial Governance options going forward. This was followed on by a LVMC Future Governance Meeting in the morning on 28th January with Archdeacon Verena Breed and Sophie West to discuss things further.

Father John Roles retired in January 2026 as the Diocesan Representative. Revd Miles Welborn has taken on the role of Diocesan Representative.

**Esther Bray** (Deanery Synod Representative).

### **Church Fabric:**

Visitors to Christ Church often comment on its beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Maintenance continues throughout the year.

In the village community there are people who regularly help with the graveyard and Church maintenance. There is regular cutting of the grass. The grass cutter retired at the end of the year and we now have a new grass cutter starting in 2026. Also the Church clock is wound weekly. We have a Rota of cleaners, and flower ladies who do the most beautiful displays.

### **Mission and Evangelism:**

The legal formalising of the Lyn Valley Mission Community has provided the impetus for structured reflection led by members of the Ministry and Mission Diocesan team, towards the creation of a shared MAP. School/church relationships are strengthening further with a shared emphasis on exploring spirituality. Church members are well represented on other community bodies, serving for the common good of the village.

Throughout the year Christ Church supports various charities through collection and fund raising. This year we have supported, The Red Cross,, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. The Royal British Legion, Devon Historic Churches, Calvet Trust and Friends of Exeter cathedral.

### **Financial Review:**

The accounts for 2025 have been completed and audited, and a copy of the signed accounts provided.

- As of 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026, our General Fund stands at £1432.89 from which the annual levy will need to be paid, although we have yet to make a contribution for this year.
- We were able to pay 50% of the common fund assessment for 2025, a total of £1850
- Our single largest expense is still insurance; this amounted to £2300 for 2025 which is an increase of £215 from the previous year.
- Our General C of E Deposit Account now stands at £4363 with another £1078 in the restricted account.
- We received donations of £582 and gifts/bequests of £759 as well as a donation from the Parish Council of £120. Donations from the use of the car-park provided another £220 of income.
- Charitable giving amounted to £310 for the year (British Legion (£65), RABI (£100), Devon Historic Churches (£15), Calvert Trust (£120) and Friends of Exeter Cathedral (£10)).
- Electricity remains an issue as we have not received any bills for 2025 despite numerous requests to SSE and through the SSE business manager..
- In order to maintain the fabric and grounds of our church we have continued to have the grass cut at a cost £500 ( £88 down on last year)
- Fund raising amounted to £988 and regular Sunday collections amounted to £1301

Opening Balance 2025	£2,997.98	
Income 2025	£5,342.62	
Expenditure 2025	£6,907.71	
Balance at 1/1/2026	£1,432.89	Shortfall for year £1,565.09

**Safeguarding:**

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

Linda Highton is Christ Church Parish Safeguarding Officer.

**Volunteers**

For the life of the parish to flourish, the PCC depends on volunteers who work so hard to support the Church in a myriad of different and often hidden ways in the church this year.

**Structure, Governance and Management:**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. As a result, the full PCC met 4 times during 2025. As a small Parish, the PCC has not set up any sub-committees.

**PCC members who have served up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Rector. Chair.** Revd. Miles.

**Churchwardens. Vice Chair.** Mrs. Esther Bray.

Deanery Synod. Mrs Esther Bray.

**Electoral Officer.** Mrs Janet Petherick.

**Secretary.** Mrs Linda Highton.

**Treasurer.** Mr David Brunner.

PCC Members:

Mrs Carol Brunner.

***Approved by the PCC on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026***