



**2025 Report and Accounts for the
Parochial Church Council of
St. Oswald's Church,
Methley with Mickletown**

2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Church, Methley with Mickletown

Aims and Purposes

St Oswald's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Team Vicar, the Reverend Terry Williams, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Margaret's Hall, on Main Street in Methley.

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 community at St Oswald's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commissioner's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospels; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Oswald's and St Margaret's Hall.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

Following Reverend Lisa Senior's interim post coming to an end in April 2025, Reverend Mandy Rhodes became Team Vicar with pastoral oversight of St Oswald's, Methley and Christ Church, Lofthouse. Reverend Mandy settled into her new role at St Oswald's quickly. The pattern of worship was implemented and was well-received. However, Reverend Mandy's time as our vicar was short as she decided to take early retirement in July 2025. All churches joined together for an emotional farewell service at Christ Church, Lofthouse. We wish Reverend Mandy well in her retirement as she spends more time with her family across the Pennines.

The surprise news of Reverend Mandy's retirement brought us into a state of unease. We were now in an interregnum. Reverend Mark Umpleby became responsible for all 4 churches in the benefice. Reverend Diane Flynn, and all the licensed lay ministers in the benefice, rallied around to support Reverend Mark and ensured that services could go ahead in all 4 churches. A special thanks to Reverend Diane Flynn for her great support during this time. Following a consultation with Archdeacon Paul Ayres, we advertised for the role, however this didn't bear fruit. We put our faith in God that he would call the right person to the role. We advertised again after the summer holidays and this time it bore fruit. Reverend Terry Williams was appointed as Team Vicar for St Oswald's, Methley and Christ Church, Lofthouse and was licensed into the role on the 28th January 2026.

In August 2025, Peter Bloodworth announced that he would be stepping down as assistant church warden and PCC member. We thank Peter for his many years of service as church warden.

The Christmas season was once again heralded by the star shining out from the tower of our church. Once again we were "sold out" for the Christingle services. This year saw the arrival of Blake and Philip Stevenson (guitarist) who was joined by Ellen Fawcus (keyboard) and Aidan Downess (drums). This event continues to bring people from many generations together whilst raising £1,000 for the Children's Society. At the Festival of the Nine Lessons and Carols, the choir stalls were packed with members of the Melodia Ladies Choir and the Holy Trinity Rothwell choir.

A Christmas concert was given by locally based Scherzo Strings and Let's Sing 26 ladies choir. The Clueless Chorus, community choir, continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis.

Other events which were hosted in our church or churchyard included the Arts & Crafts Festival, the Methley Scarecrow Festival and the Heritage Open Days, once again with the added attraction of the Towton re-enactment group, the Frei Compagnie. The church continued to be open to visitors every Sunday afternoon throughout the year and on Wednesday afternoons through the warmer months, thanks to a rota of faithful volunteers.

We continue to hold an Inclusive Sunday service once a year as part of our registration with Inclusive Church.

Monthly Messy Church meetings have continued throughout 2025 and new families have been welcomed. This continues to be our major outreach to young families. Our thanks to Emma Hilton, Laura Bartlam and all the volunteers involved who supervise and provide food.

Every Tuesday a said service of Holy Communion or Service of the Word was held in St Margaret's Hall, typically attended by 10 communicants. This was followed by refreshments as a welcome opportunity to enjoy fellowship.

All-age services are well received. We have an all-age planning team consisting of Reverend Diane Flynn, Charlotte Taylor, Joanne Taylor, Jackie Davis, Stuart Davis and Brenda Wilby who meet regularly. As the all-age service is for everyone, the music is mixed to appeal to everyone. There are some more traditional hymns, some action songs for everyone to be involved in and some more contemporary songs enabled by the worship lyric videos.

Members of the congregation continue to take part in our services by reading the scriptures and leading us in the Intercessions. Our thanks to Elaine Williams for preparing the rotas to ensure our services run smoothly.

The church continues to engage with the wider community through social media and the live streaming of services. These platforms enable us to reach not only local residents but also a broader audience, including former village residents living abroad. After each service, the recordings are uploaded to our YouTube channel for those without Facebook accounts, and the most recent service is posted on our church website for easy access. We regularly post updates about services events and activities on our social media platforms.

Facebook continues to be our most popular platform for communicating with social media followers. Since last year the number have risen from 1,600 to 1,800. Instagram has also been popular with an increase in following from 1,351 in 2024 to 1,994 at the end of 2025. Since X has changed ownership a number of church and other bodies have stopped posting on the site. We have maintained a presence but communication is minimal. We have also used the recently developed Threads and Bluesky which has a small following.

The website has been expanded to include more pages about the church and we have seen increased communication via Get in touch particularly regarding marriages and baptisms. We have also increased the number of updates, including videos and documents placed on the site.

The year saw 9 baptisms, 4 weddings, 11 funerals held at church, 4 funerals held at crematoriums and 6 burial of ashes.

As at the date of the annual meeting, there were 59 people on the electoral roll following a full revision of the electoral roll. Thanks to Jackie and Elaine for their hard work.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Deanery Synod

The South West Leeds Deanery Synod met twice in 2025.

The Deanery Synod met on 20th May 2025 at Christ Church, Upper Armley. There was a discussion on issues for General Synod, including safeguarding. Also Canon Jude Smith spoke about the Compass Initiative which supports key areas: mission, future, leadership and witness.

The Deanery Synod met on the 24th September at St. John's, Lower Wortley at which there was a presentation and discussion about the work of the Mother's Union and an update from Bishop Arun on racial justice.

The Leeds Episcopal Area Forum planned to meet on Wednesday 19th March at St. George's Church, Leeds, unfortunately this had to be cancelled.

On the 19th November the Leeds Episcopal Area Forum met at St. George's Church, Leeds. Speakers included Bishop Arun, and representatives of the Leeds Jewish and Muslim communities.

The Church Building

All necessary checks have been completed and passed.

In 2025 we established a policy on the use of the under pew heating and the boiler to ensure a balance between costs and maintaining an ambient temperature that was conducive to comfort and health and safety. It has been noticeable that we only need the boiler on for a much shorter period before it reaches an ambient temperature.

The reordering was placed on hold in 2025 due to the vacancy and in acknowledgment that the overall costs for the entire plan had increased significantly beyond what we had estimated and budgeted for.

In 2025 we began replacing some of the lighting with LED.

We have installed Bluetooth in the church which helps with connectivity for services, and reduces the need for wires.

A loyal group of volunteers have continued to maintain the churchyard to a standard which attracts compliments from visitors and passersby. Meeting people as we work is an important witness to the life of the church. Sadly our mowing and strimming machinery was stolen again in 2025, we also had them stolen in 2024 but fortunately returned. This time we have not been able to recover anything. A funding campaign has been planned for a new ride on mower, and we have purchased new strimming equipment. Options for future storage have also been discussed.

We have contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and submitted an application for a CWGC plaque on the main gate. The Diocese have given their approval and installation will happen in the next 12 months.

Ladybirds Nursery (now owned by a large Dutch group Partou) continues to thrive. The lease has yet to be renewed and expired in 2025, this is now being pursued with the Diocese.

St. Margaret's Hall

St. Margaret's Hall employs a part-time caretaker, bookings officer, and cleaner to manage its day-to-day operations. The hall successfully hosted the annual Scarecrow Festival over a weekend during the summer, attracting local participation. Monthly Messy Church activities continue to be run from the hall.

Coffee mornings are also used as a venue for our local councillors to meet and engage with villagers and for charitable fund raising.

Since the solar panels were installed there has been a noticeable reduction in utility bills through 2025.

Since the last APCM the PCC has implemented a increase in the hall booking fees in April 2025. We have also invested in WiFi for the hall. Both of these has contributed to an increase in hall hire income by over 30%

This report outlines the key activities, community involvement, and improvements at St. Margaret's Hall, reflecting the ongoing commitment to serving the community and fostering sustainability.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team have been offering home communion to members of our parish. A few times this year a team of volunteers that have visited the Cedars Nursing Home to deliver a service of prayers and hymns. The prayer list is updated regularly.

Mission and Evangelism

Church members hosted monthly coffee morning in the hall with funds raised for the Methley Brownies and Rainbows as well as Castleford Guides, and a range of charities including the Stop Methley Quarry, British Legion Poppy appeal and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The PCC sought nominations from the congregation for additional charities to donate to in 2025. The following charities were nominated and received donations; Pancreatic Cancer UK, Community Awareness Programme, The Principle Trust Children's charity, Martin House Hospice, St Gemma's Hospice, Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Second Chance Headway, Caring for God's Acre, Prostate Cancer UK and Leeds Autism Services.

Facebook continues to be updated regularly. Thanks to Stuart Davis for producing the notice sheets every week. These are sent via email and are included on social media.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Oswald's is a member of Churches Together with the Methley Methodists. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to partake in a joint service with the Methley Methodists as they renewed their covenant promises.

Eco Church

In 2025 the Eco Church Group supported a number of activities through the year: Big Butterfly Count, World Bee Day, Leeds Go Purple litter pick (with a focus on plastics) and the first of a very well attended Guided Bluebell Walk.

We were pleased to engage with the RSPB at St. Aidan's Nature Reserve. A representative came to St. Oswald's to advise on the work we are doing to attract more wildlife. They also very generously donated a number of extra bird boxes for the churchyard.

Messy Church group joined Eco Church in the summer for activities in the churchyard during Churches Count on Nature week. Services during Creationtide included a focus on caring for God's creation. The Solar Panels at St. Margaret's Hall were installed as part of our Zero Carbon commitment. Monthly Eco Tips have been published through the year.

We were pleased to receive a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Gold award for our work in the Quiet Garden and churchyard.

Finally in 2025 the Eco Church group submitted detailed information for Gold Eco Church which was awarded in November 2025. We joined only a handful of churches in the region to receive the gold award, and we intend to promote the Eco Church journey with other churches in the benefice and Deanery.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £74,090 of which £22,774 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £1,407 was from Gift Aid. The School House continues to be rented out and income from this source came to £27,596 including the reimbursement of the insurance premium. This income forms a big part of our receipts and is crucial to the running of our church.

Income from church activities has increased 30% in comparison to last year. This is largely due to the lettings from the church hall income increase following the investments made.

£74,222 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Oswald's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of (£132) on unrestricted funds, which includes a surplus of £4,312 for St Margaret's Hall.

The two large restricted funds are the Fabric Fund and the Outreach Fund. Payments out of Fabric Fund totalled £3,686, this is much less than reported in 2024 due to the work to the reordering report placed on hold during the interregnum. £1,200 was spent against the Outreach Fund.

Total cash and bank balances at 31 December 2025 were £235,108 an increase of £2,531. As the work on church reordering renews into 2026 and beyond the levels of cash held by the church will decrease substantially. At the same time rising day to day costs mean that unrestricted funds will also come under pressure.

Reserves Policy

Whilst the PCC has no formal policy on reserves it holds sufficient balances to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The Fabric Fund will be used as match funding for grant applications during 2026 and the current fund is expected to be fully exhausted. No current commitments exist against the Outreach Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the caring community it is.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Oswald's the membership of the PCC consists of the interim priest, churchwardens, the licensed lay minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

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.

The PCC met on 5 occasions during the year. In addition the PCC communicate by email to receive regular updates from sub-committees and individuals.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include the Standing Committee, Building Committee, and the Eco-group, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, reports of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains an important and constant concern in this parish. A report is given at each PCC meeting by the safeguarding officer. All PCC Members are required to complete a Confidential Declaration Form following the ACPM each year. When new appointments are made, the PCC follow safer recruitment guidelines and several members have completed this training on-line. 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). All members are aware of their obligations under this Act as evidenced by undertaking training, agreeing to DBS scrutiny and signing a disclaimer regarding any previous convictions or cautions. These were inspected by the Archdeacon. All safeguarding information is displayed on the church notice board and our policy is available for scrutiny if required.

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is situated in Methley. It is part of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served any time from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-officio members:

Team Vicar	Reverend Mandy Rhodes (Chair from January 2025 until July 2025)
Team Rector	Reverend Mark Umpleby (Chair from July 2025 to January 2026)
Team Vicar	Reverend Terry Williams (Chair from January 2026)
Licensed Lay Minister	Charlotte Taylor (Secretary)

Warden Peter Bloodworth (until August 2025)
Warden Stuart Davis (Deanery Synod representative)

Elected members:

Pam Hellam
Sally Carrington
Joanne Taylor, Treasurer
Elaine Williams, Electoral roll officer
Shirley Wright
Irene Westmoreland, Deputy church warden
Jacqueline Davis, Electoral roll officer
Jillian Potts, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Standing Committee membership:

Reverend Mandy Rhodes (until July 2025)
Peter Bloodworth (until August 2025)
Stuart Davis
Jillian Potts
Charlotte Taylor
Joanne Taylor

Building Committee (Reordering) membership:

Irene Westmoreland
Shirley Wright
Elaine Williams
Mark Ibbertson
John Wilson
Stuart Davis
Peter Bloodworth
Joanne Taylor

Eco Group membership:

Jacqueline Davis
Lynne Charlesworth
Stuart Davis
Steven Heywood
John Wilson
Peter Bloodworth
Geoffrey Holt

St Margaret's Hall Committee:

Elaine Williams
Irene Westmoreland
Jacqueline Davis
Stuart Davis
Diane Pickering
Anita Bywater
Paul Hewitson

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Oswald's Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's 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:

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

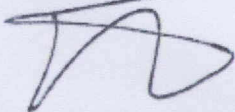
Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come 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 comply with the accounting 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.



Mr Mark Ibbertson

Date

6 March 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST OSWALD'S, METHLEY WITH MICKLETOWN
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary receipts					
Planned Giving		14,122	0	14,122	14,268
Collections at services		5,587	0	5,587	4,601
Collections at weddings, funerals, baptisms		883	0	883	1,705
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	2,181	1,896	4,077	3,026
Gift Aid recovered		1,407	0	1,407	5,023
		24,181	1,896	26,077	28,624
Activities for generating funds	5b	3,396	0	3,396	6,707
Investment income	5c	27,000	3,952	30,952	33,216
Church activities	5d	19,513	1,700	21,214	16,101
Total receipts		74,090	7,549	81,639	84,647
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Diocesan parish contribution		32,525	0	32,525	32,174
Clergy and staffing costs		712	0	712	274
Church running expenses	5e	22,046	4,886	26,932	33,337
Hall running costs		8,507	0	8,507	16,874
School House running costs		587	0	587	335
Mission giving and donations	5f	9,430	0	9,430	2,701
		73,807	4,886	78,693	85,695
Costs of generating funds		415	0	415	1,196
Total Payments		74,222	4,886	79,108	86,891
Excess of receipts over payments		-132	2,662	2,531	-2,243
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		80,762	151,815	232,577	234,822
Bank transfers		0	0	0	0
		80,631	154,477	235,108	232,579
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		88,554	154,570	243,123	242,236
Bank Reconciliation					
Receipts recorded 2025, banked 2026					
Hall lettings		650		650	
CBF Deposit Fund		0	56	56	
Funeral/Wedding Fees		633		633	
Total Receipts		1,283	56	1,339	
Payments recorded 2025, banked 2026					
Notice sheets		16		16	
School House rent refund		4,500		4,500	
Church giving		4,000		4,000	
Staff wages		514		514	
Christingle materials		0	148	148	
Expenses		176		176	
Total Payments		9,206	148	9,355	
		80,631	154,477	235,108	

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
(a) All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations	2,181	1,396	3,577	3,026
Legacy	0	500	500	0
	2,181	1,896	4,077	3,026
(b) Activities for generating funds				
Coffee mornings	2,573	0	2,573	3,034
Grants	823	0	823	3,673
	3,396	0	3,396	6,707
(c) Investment income				
Dividends on CCLA Investment Funds	0	1,173	1,173	710
Bank and CCLA Deposit Funds	0	2,779	2,779	5,506
Rent – school house	27,000	0	27,000	27,000
	27,000	3,952	30,952	33,216
(d) Church activities				
Reimbursement of costs	596	1,700	2,296	574
Fees for weddings	1,362	0	1,362	1,061
Fees for funerals	5,853	0	5,853	5,776
Lettings for St Margarets Hall	11,702	0	11,702	8,690
	19,513	1,700	21,214	16,101
Payments				
(e) Church running expenses				
Costs of services	3,268	1,200	4,468	4,453
Printing and stationery	230	0	230	325
Church building running expenses	11,610	0	11,610	10,355
Upkeep of churchyard	1,099	0	1,099	2,375
Church repairs and maintenance	5,840	3,686	9,526	15,829
	22,046	4,886	26,932	33,337
(f) Mission giving and donations				
Cancer Research	0	0	0	190
CAP	600	0	600	0
Caring for God's Acre	600	0	600	0
Castleford Guides	410	0	410	0
Christian Aid	850	0	850	0
Disasters Emergency Committee	0	0	0	187
Leeds Autism Society	600	0	600	0
Martin House Hospice	600	0	600	0
Methley Rainbows & Brownies	310	0	310	0
Pancreatic Cancer UK	600	0	600	0
Prickly Edge Hedgehog Rescue	0	0	0	155
Prostate Cancer UK	600	0	600	0
Royal British Legion	500	0	500	500
Second Chance Headway	600	0	600	0
St Gemma's Hospice	600	0	600	0
Stop Methley Quarry	194	0	194	0
The Children's Society	1,000	0	1,000	1,482
The Principle Trust Children's Charity	600	0	600	0
Wakefield Hospice	0	0	0	187
Yorkshire Air Ambulance	600	0	600	0
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	166	0	166	0
	9,430	0	9,430	2,701

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Current Assets					
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	87,011	150,615	0	237,626	236,739
Deposit funds	1,543	3,954	0	5,497	5,497
Total Current Assets	88,554	154,570	0	243,123	242,236
Fixed Assets					
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund	0	36,440	0	36,440	37,973
Assets retained for church use	13,121,387	0	0	13,121,387	12,755,971
Total Fixed Assets	13,121,387	36,440	0	13,157,827	12,793,944
Total Assets	13,209,941	191,009	0	13,400,950	13,036,180

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
- Fixed assets retained for church use (building sums insured) are:

St Oswald's Centre	1,515,119
St Margaret's Hall	361,198
St Oswald's Church	11,245,070
- Separate bank accounts are not maintained for the General, Fabric, and Outreach Funds.
- Shares in the CBF Investment Fund are valued at market value as at 31 December 2025.
- The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Fabric	121,832	7,549	3,686		125,694
Outreach	26,029		1,200		24,829
	147,861	7,549	4,886	0	150,523

The fabric fund represents accumulated donations and income from investments, and is to be spent on fabric maintenance.

The outreach fund is to be spent on outreach projects. The fund is maintained through transfers from the General Fund