

**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2025**

Parish	St Anne's Church, Fence-in-Pendle
APCM date	17 th May 2026, 11am
Incumbent	Revd. Lesley Hinchcliffe
Treasurer	Simon Parker
Independent Examiner	Gemma-Louise Wells
Address for correspondence	Shelley Verran PCC Secretary, c/o The Refectory, St Anne's Church, Wheatley Lane Rd, Fence, BB12 9EE.

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2025**Aims and Purposes**

St Anne's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings.

Vision 2026

St Anne's embraces Vision 2026 as it seeks to grow healthy churches that will transform communities. The four guiding principles:

1. Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
2. Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ
3. Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ
4. Inspiring Children and Young People

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from the registering with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. 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).

Current membership of the PCCEx-officio

Incumbent:	Revd. Lesley Hinchcliffe
Churchwarden	Clare Turnham and 1 x Vacancy
Deanery Synod Reps.	Cynthia Huckin

Members

1. Simon Parker (Treasurer)
2. Cynthia Huckin (Safeguarding Officer and Deanery Synod Rep.)
3. Kathryn Clarke
4. Jenny Yerkess (Electoral Roll Officer)
5. Phil Turner
6. Andrew Chamberlain
7. Rosemary Hartley
8. Eileen Coulton
9. Janet Grierson

PCC Committees

The PCC has a Standing committee. This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any direction by the Council. The Standing committee comprises of Reverend Lesley Hinchcliffe, Clare Turnham, Simon Parker, and the PCC Secretary.

Churchwarden report

Thank you for taking the time to read our report for the year ending 2025. I have decided to stand again for my sixth year, and after being a lone warden for the last three years I am confident the vacant position will be filled at our APCM. We also have a couple of spaces vacant on the PCC. If you feel this is something you would like to be a part of, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. Alternatively, you can print one off from the attachment sent with the newsletter.

The PCC meets a few times a year usually on a Wednesday evening. I am very proud of the great team we have achieved. Our focus is on mission and growing our community through the resources we have available.

This year we have made use of the refectory for many events. The Mother's Day Afternoon tea is always very well supported as is the valentines/snowdrop lunch, sports quiz evening and All things Christmassy. In 2025 we introduced the Roaming Nativity which we are hoping to do again. This event got a lot of positive feedback. Fence gate Lodge, Fence nursery and Scout hut also got involved as well as plenty of volunteers. Thank you to all involved in making this event so enjoyable.

Along with the mission we do so well Reverend Lesley, Simon Parker and I started the Parish Renewal Scheme. This is a course that spans over a year to help us with mission and growth and will take us through to September 2026.

Weekly Coffee and Conversation has continued this year along with the monthly Songs of Praise, Essence and Friday Faith and Fun. These are all doing well and will continue into 2026.

I do take down the parents' names on a Sunday for school applications and for Friday Faith and Fun as this fits the criteria for church attendance.

In October we tried something new by having a Music Bingo night at Pendle Forest sports club. This was to try and engage with the village as well as with our church family. The evening was a great success, and we will hopefully be using the sports club facilities for other fun evenings.

In closing I would like to thank all our volunteers and PCC who spend a lot of time keeping our church, grounds and refectory looking beautiful. Likewise for the time spent planning and carrying out our events and groups. We have a fantastic team here at St Anne's.

Clare Turnham (Churchwarden)

Treasurer's report**Bank account and fund balances**

As at the 31st December 2025 we have £6,405 in our Virgin Money bank account. This includes £4,945 in our General Fund for everyday income & expenditure, and £1,460 which is set aside in other Funds for specific purposes, as follows:

	Opening balance	Purchases	Receipts	Closing balance
General Fund	£1,578	-£51,757	£53,623	
Transfer from Walled Garden Fund			£1,500	£4,945
Buildings Fund	£87	-£87	£0	£0
Uganda Fund	£851	-£1,698	£828	-£18
Churchyard Fund	£110	-£97	£208	£221
Choir Members Fund	£699	-£357	£0	£342
Choir/Organ Fund	£130	£0	£103	£233
Hall Fund	£411	-£411	£0	£0
Youth	£130	£0	£0	£130
The Walled Garden	£2,027	-£527	£0	
Transfer to General Fund		-£1,500		£0
Flower Fund	£169	-£435	£820	£554
	£6,192	-£56,869	£57,082	£6,405

General Fund

1. In 2025 our General Fund income exceeded expenditure by £1,866 and we transferred £1,500 from the Walled Garden Fund because this was no longer needed for that project.
2. The Parish Share payable for 2025 was originally £32,087 but we secured a discount of £8,745 in June so the revised amount payable was £23,856 and this has been paid in full. The discount is not treated as a debt to the diocese.
3. Planned giving in 2025 was £3.2K less than 2024 because we have lost six regular givers and gained just one. We have 28 individuals who are contributing to church funds monthly of which seventeen use the Parish Giving Scheme.
4. Our finances continue to be supported through lettings income of £5,395 received from Holgate Funeral Services for the Old Schoolhouse, and income from The Refectory contributed £3,440 to church funds. This year we also received a Warm Spaces grant of £750 from Lancashire County Council.
5. This year we have made payments of £350 to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and £360 to the Children's Society.
6. The boiler in the Old Schoolhouse was condemned in 2024, and the cost of its replacement was prohibitive. Instead, we have fitted three new electric radiators which required a new consumer unit and new circuits. The bill for this work was £2,556 of which £1,531 was funded by the General Fund, the remainder was taken from other Funds.

7. Our gas & electricity contracts expired this year, but we have benefited from a five-year fix. The contracts have been renewed, and we are now incurring above-inflation increases for our energy use.

Reserves

- a) KR Brown legacy for Churchyard - £2,434 in cash held for us on deposit by the diocese but its use is restricted to the Churchyard Fund.
- b) Atkinson legacy for Choir / Organ - Shares held for us by the diocese whose current value is £3,552. The dividends from these shares are restricted for use by the Choir / Organ Fund.
- c) Atkinson legacy for General Purposes - Other shares valued at £4,110 may be used to support general expenditure. The dividends from these shares are put into the General Fund, but the shares could be sold if necessary.
- d) Parochial monies for general purposes

Other shares valued at £1,581 may be used to support General Fund expenditure. The dividends from these shares are put into the General Fund, but the shares could be sold if necessary.

Our free reserves i.e. those reserves that can be used for general purposes are the Atkinson legacy [c] and the Parochial Monies [d] which means that our true reserves are approximately £5,691. Financial statements are shown at the end of this annual report.

Simon Parker (Treasurer)

Safeguarding Report

We use a Safeguarding Dashboard tool which has made the role of Safeguarding Officer easier and reduces a lot of what used to be paper trails. It is an excellent tool and any information we need is obtainable straight away.

Safeguarding has changed enormously in recent years and is likely to keep changing in the future.

Safeguarding guidance needs to evolve in response to changing risks and culture and the Dashboard will only make significant changes once a year in January.

All members of our PCC must undergo training in Safeguarding every three years. If anyone has any questions, please contact me

Cynthia Huckin (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Electoral Roll report

In 2025, the Electoral Roll was fully renewed, as required on a six-year cycle. Our Electoral Roll Officer, Jenny Yerkess, undertook this significant task with great diligence and care. As a result of this process, the number of individuals on the Roll has 37 residents and 15 non-residents (a total of 52).

This revision more accurately reflects those who attend church regularly, or who would do so if circumstances allowed. It is these members who are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting. We extend our sincere thanks to Jenny Yerkess for her dedication and hard work in successfully updating the Electoral Roll during 2025.

Shelley Verran (PCC Secretary)

Fabric, Goods & Ornaments Report

Church Property Register - The register is our inventory of silver, brasses, registers, furniture, panelling & pictures. The Churchwarden has checked the inventory and there are no issues to report.

Quinquennial building survey - The quinquennial was carried out by our architects in May 2021 and is due again in 2026. The condition of the church is generally good, and the works recommended by our surveyor have been substantially completed.

Gardening team - Thanks as ever to David Brown and Andrew Chamberlain for their hard work in mowing the graveyard and for carrying out minor repairs around the church.

Simon Parker (Fabric lead)

Faith, Mission, and Action reports

Essence Group report

We are a group of ladies (men are also welcome) who meet on the first Wednesday of every month. We partake in prayer and different ways of expressing ourselves through various forms of activities all relating to and exploring our Christian faith. It is a lovely evening lasting about an hour and a half and please if anyone wishes to come along you will be made so welcome and guarantee you will go home at the end of the evening feeling relaxed and with plenty of things to reflex on. If anyone wants any more information, please contact me or Rev. Lesley.

Cynthia Huckin (PCC member)

Coffee & Conversation Group report

A friendly group of mainly women of all ages, (though men are most welcome to join us), meeting each Tuesday morning in the Refectory from 10.30am until 12pm, throughout the year.

This well-established group has maintained a regular attendance over the past year, informally discussing a variety of topics, local, national & worldwide, which have been on our minds on the day. Over a cuppa, we shared our views & experiences, listened to each other & enjoyed fellowship together. Jesus has always remained at the heart of our discussions, thinking about how he would view a certain situation & how he might respond. We have chosen & looked at short Bible verses & shared how we feel they 'speak' to us in our busy lives, always ending in prayer.

Come & join us, you will be made most welcome!

Eileen Coulton (PCC member)

Prayer Group report

The group meet each Wednesday morning with Revd Lesley in the Refectory from 10.30am until 12pm, with a mixed age range of people from both St. Anne's & St. John's Churches. Led by Revd Lesley, throughout the year we have shared Bible study courses from our diocese & explored a variety of prayer opportunities using videos & other resources, sometimes looking at specific books in the Bible, to help us better understand them. We also enjoyed a course by Pete Greig, a pastor & bestselling author, on 'How to Pray', where he shared his personal experiences & challenges, explaining how these had tested & strengthened his faith & prayer life.

Each week we have enjoyed fellowship through discussion & sharing our thoughts & personal experiences in a safe & loving space.

Eileen Coulton (PCC member)

Refectory and Café report

The Refectory has continued to be used regularly throughout 2025 by a variety of church groups. The Café remained open on most Saturdays during the year. Whilst weekly footfall varied, anything from six to ten, the café offered a place of Christian welcome to all who attended and also a place for ministry as Reverend Lesley visited and continues to visit most Saturdays.

The monthly Songs of Praise gatherings have remained steady and well supported, with ten to twelve people attending regularly. These sessions continue to be enjoyed by all who participate.

Over the course of the year, several special events were held including a 'Posh Afternoon Tea' for Mothering Sunday, 'Saints and Souls' lunch for bereaved families, 'Remembrance Sunday' lunch, 'Stay Safe Online' sessions, and a 'Snowdrop Lunch'. These events have been particularly successful, attracting an average of thirty attendees and helping to welcome some new faces into the community.

Pendleside Mothers' Union meet in the Refectory once a month and Reverend Lesley finds it a great place to meet with Pendle Deanery Clergy Chapter and to host Deanery Synod meetings.

Sincere thanks are extended to all who contribute their time and effort in supporting The Refectory and also the Refectory Garden, which adds another wonderful place for during Spring and Summer months. Special thanks are given to Rosemary Hartley and Caroline Stansfield, for their dedication in keeping the Refectory a warm and welcoming space for everyone.

As we look forward to next year, additional volunteers are always welcome and appreciated

Shelley Verran (PCC Secretary)

Incumbent's Report for Year ended December 2025

St Anne's Fence

2025 has been a year of continued and sustained growth. The plateauing of church attendance seen in 2024, halted and in 2025 we saw growth. We are blessed with people in our church family who are enthusiastic and joyful in service to Jesus Christ. Age is no barrier and it is wonderful how people step forward and contribute to all our activities.

The Refectory is our greatest asset. We continued to hold a regular weekly timetable of events and activities alongside social events such as 'Snowdrop Lunches', Posh Afternoon Tea', September Summer BBQ, and the Saturday café. Thank you to Rosemary for her lead and management, ably assisted by Caroline.

The Refectory bridges the gap between the familiar secular world and the world of church, with its ritual and liturgy. Lent and Advent Bible study courses were held, as were 'Thy Kingdom Come' and Prayer courses. The 'Coffee and Conversation' group was steady and hungry for the Word and Bible reflections and prayer were introduced. In line with Vision 2026 objectives, new disciples of Jesus were made and new leaders grown, exercising ministry in management of the church grounds, record keeping, leading prayer, welcoming people to church and supporting The Refectory. I extend thanks to our PCC who were always ready to welcome and accept new ideas from me as we lead our church.

We acquired a TV screen for the Refectory, that offered flexibility for quizzes, Bible Study and worship.

In January 2025 we embarked on intentional prayer, using the Mission Prayer at every service and praying for our church and community at the weekly Prayer meetings held on Wednesday mornings at The Refectory. It was and remains encouraging to have people from our congregation / PCC attend these meetings regularly.

In September 2025 the PCC were invited to join the Diocesan Renewal Programme (DRP). This is a 12month programme to equip and assist churches to grow in numbers, to have a powerful witness in the communities they serve and to increase spiritual commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The DRP requires commitment from myself, our Church Warden and our PCC. It is a well-structured programme that has proven results in other parishes. Clare, our Church Warden and Simon our Treasurer began to attend monthly meetings with myself, and I as Incumbent attended additional training days. We reported back to our PCC, and mission and outreach were, and continue to have, a dedicated 1 hour of our PCC meetings, as it is our priority. We look forward with excitement to the Annual Report for 2026, when we will see the fruits of our labours.

Our mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to bring people to church, to know Him. The DRP drew our attention to how well we already do this and encouraged us to develop more opportunities. We did this in December 2025, holding our first 'Roaming Nativity' which was a great success, uniting our church with the Fence Gate Lodge, the

Nursery next door, the Methodist church and wider village community. We also used the Refectory to host a Christmas lunch and entertainment for Village pensioners, with food cooked by Tom Parker, the Michelin Star chef of the White Swan.

The DRP support extended to a significant reduction in our Parish Share for 2025. Thank you to Simon Parker, our Treasurer for his work and presentation to the Diocesan Board of Finance to secure this. I am immensely grateful for all the support from the Diocese and our PCC as we journey on to build the Kingdom here in this place.

The Friday Faith and Fun group continued to meet monthly on Fridays in the Refectory and were joined by the Pizza and Praise group at St John's for parties at the end of summer term and Christmas. I extend thanks to Helen Parker for her help with resources and Clare Turnham for providing the suppers.

Essence thrived in 2025, with new faces joining us. We expressed our faith, our feelings and fears, and our joys through art and craft and always with prayer and a cuppa!

We have been richly blessed in 2025, and I encourage us to remain close to Jesus, stepping out in faith and trust; to tell our own stories of how knowing Jesus helps us live our lives.

Looking to 2026, we must continue steadfast in prayer and stay close to the Lord, who I know will provide for us in this place.

Yours in Christ,



Reverend Lesley Hinchcliffe

13th April 2026

GENERAL FUND 2025		
	2024	2025
RECEIPTS		
Incoming resources from donors		
Planned giving	26,001	22,792
Offertory collections	3,491	3,770
Wedding & funeral fees	3,312	3,433
Gift Aid recovered	5,015	5,501
	37,819	35,496
Other voluntary incoming resources		
Sundry donations	4,686	950
Special collections	159	313
Other income (Easy Fundraising & Cashback)	71	64
St John's Higham for vicar's expenses	1,048	969
	5,963	2,296
Income from investments		
Dividend income	161	165
Bank interest received	5	-
	165	165
Income from operating activities to generate funds		
Income from Schoolhouse letting	5,100	5,395
Fund raising events	595	791
Refectory income	5,824	4,964
Miscellaneous income	190	-
Grants received	706	750
	12,415	11,900
TOTAL RECEIPTS	56,363	49,856
PAYMENTS		
Grants & donations		
Special Giving	267	-
Home & overseas missions	357	710
	624	710
Activities relating directly to the work of the church		
Pianist / Organist fees	2,450	2,415
Parish Share (after discount)	33,209	23,855
Vicar's travel expenses & Phone / Broadband	1,181	1,131
Church insurance & repairs	6,162	3,466
Hall insurance & repairs	3,146	3,584
Refectory expenses	2,019	1,524
Gas, water and electricity	7,704	8,460
Miscellaneous expenses	1,771	1,157
Fund raising expenses	204	124
	57,847	45,716
Church management & administration		
Admin expenses and worship requisites	2,086	1,565
Professional fees	-	-
	2,086	1,565
TOTAL PAYMENTS	60,556	47,990
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS	(4,193)	1,866.16
Bank account as at 01 January 2025	5,771	1,578
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(4,193)	1,866
Transfer from Walled garden Fund	-	1,500
Bank accounts as at 31 December 2025	1,578	4,945

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	2024	2025
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ASSETS & LIABILITIES 2025													
	General Fund	Choir/ Organ Fund	Choir Members Fund	Church-Yard Fund	Hall (Refectory) Fund	Uganda Erasmus Fund	Buildings Fund	Youth Fund	Walled Garden Fund	Flower Fund	Totals 2025	Totals 2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	
FIXED ASSETS (historic cost of purchase)													
Church Hall	60,000										60,000	60,000	
INVESTMENTS (market value as at 31.12.2025)													
Mrs Atkinson share legacies (note 1)	4,110	3,552									7,662	7,981	
Parochial Monies - CIF shares (note 2)	1,581										1,581	1,647	
Total	5,691	200									9,243	9,628	
CASH ASSETS													
Virgin Money Bank Account	4,945	233	342	221	-	18	-	130	-	54	6,405	6,192	
K. R. Brown legacy held in Church Deposit Fund (note 3)				2,434							2,434	2,434	
Cash in Hand													
Total	4,945	233	342	2,655	-	18	-	130	-	54	8,840	8,626	
DEBTORS													
St John's share of vicar's expenses for Q4 2025, say											240	296	
Gift Aid for December 2025 from Parish Giving Scheme											251	1,000	
Total debtors											491	1,296	
LIABILITIES													
Energy bills													1,500
NON-MONETARY ASSETS													
Organ, photocopier, lawnmower, sound system, digital piano & carpets													
NOTES													
Note 1 - Atkinson share legacies													
160 CIF shares allocated to Choir / Organ Fund were valued at £3,551.73 on 31.12.2025 (CB3002245)													
185.15 CIF shares allocated to General Fund were valued at £4,110.02 on 31.12.2025 (CB3002246)													
We receive dividend payments into the General Fund and Choir / Organ Fund.													
Note 2 - Parochial monies													
71.23 shares held in CbF Income Fund (CB3002241)													
These shares were valued at £1,581.18 at 31.12.2025													
Note 3 - KR Brown legacy													
CbF Deposit Fund CB3002160 - cash held on deposit.													
£500 was withdrawn in 2024 to fund churchyard expenditure.													
We receive interest on the balance & this is allocated to the Churchyard Fund.													
Cash value in December 2025 was £2,434.35.													