



The
DAMASCUS
Parish

Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon



2025 Report and accounts for the DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council

St Peter's, **Drayton**
St Peter & St Paul's, **Appleford**
St Blaise, **Milton**
All Saints', **Sutton Courtenay**
St Michael & All Angels', **Steventon**

Nurturing faith, bringing hope, and sharing love

Introduction to the DAMASCUS Parish

The DAMASCUS Parish is a single parish, formed from the five, growing, semi-rural villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon in 2017. We are continuing to enable one another to flourish and grow together. The Parish is situated between Abingdon and Didcot with boundaries abutting both towns. There are considerable numbers of professional people in the area, with Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University, Harwell, Culham, Didcot Power Station and Milton Park Enterprise Zone all in the locality. The easy access to Didcot Parkway Station means that many parishioners commute to London, Oxford, Reading, Swindon and beyond

Aim and Purposes

The DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Helen Kendrick, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the churches of St Peter's Drayton, St Peter and St Paul's Appleford, St Blaise Milton, All Saints' Sutton Courtenay and St Michael and All Angels' Steventon and St Michael's Hall Steventon.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is to be a living Christian presence at the heart of our communities, nurturing faith, bringing hope, and sharing love.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. 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, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community 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.
- Missionary and outreach work.
- To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the five churches in the parish.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

Through 2025 the number of regular worshippers across the Parish has remained stable. Main Sunday services take place at 9.30 or 11.00, except for the fifth Sunday when there is a DAMASCUS Parish service in one of the five churches. Mid-week services are held in two churches on different days of the week. All five churches are open during the day every day for our local community and visitors to enjoy and use for private prayer. During 2025 there were 155 people on the Parish Electoral Roll.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey of life. In the DAMASCUS parish we have celebrated 26 baptisms, 7 weddings and 40 funeral services in church, 4 funeral services at crematoriums, services held at Sutton Courtenay can, on request, be live streamed. In 2025 we had three confirmation candidates who were prepared for confirmation by the Reverend Canon Dr Phillip Tovey, Mike Blanch, the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and the Reverend Dov Whittle.

Remembrance Sunday Services were well supported. Three of the five churches participated in the government's Warm Spaces scheme and offered a variety of opportunities for individuals and families to benefit from free hospitality and activities with the benefit of a grant from local government.

We focused on sharing faith through various prayer and study groups which were hosted in the River Room, in homes, and/or online and open to all. There are now two Home Groups running in different locations in the parish and the online prayer group has continued this year. A Lent Group ran in the River Room using the Bishop of Oxford's Come and See Material. This was well attended by people across the parish. An Advent Course, hosted in the River Room for the whole parish, was based on the book O come Emmanuel which led to good discussion.

In 2025 a new Children and Families group was begun, led The Reverend Dov Whittle, with representatives from each church. The purpose of the group is to support the PCC and Ministry team to discern the role of DAMASCUS Parish in the mission of God for Children and Families. Over the year the group began family fun afternoons to bring together families from the five churches, ran craft and social events during the Easter and summer holidays and began to plan for family service and worship activities.

We would like to thank our Rector, The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick, our Associate Ministers - The Reverend Phil Sutton (who retired in September 2025), The Reverend Rosie Bruce, our Curate The Reverend Dov Whittle, The Reverend Dr Phillip Tovey (retired PTO), The Reverend Peter Templeman (retired PTO), and The Reverend Ann Templeman (retired PTO) and all the Licensed Lay Ministers for their hard work leading, nurturing, inspiring and teaching us during this year.

The following paragraphs present points about worship and ministry specific to each of the five churches in the parish.

Drayton

The Worship team continues to meet regularly to plan the Thursday morning service rota and the leadership of the monthly Praise Services. Members of the team usually lead one service per month on the Thursday rota. The Praise Services continue to provide interesting topics with music provided by Kay Davies and her team. Reverend Rosie Bruce supports the group, along with the congregation. One member of the team organises the organist's rota, while another plans the hymns for each Sunday service.

The virtual prayer meetings continue to be held each Monday. The group usually meets in person on the 4th Monday of the month. Healing Ministry also continues to be supported at St Peter's. The team meet up on the Saturday evening before the healing service, when prayer requests and cards left on the prayer board are offered for healing prayers. During the services the following morning, the congregation are invited to receive healing prayer by the laying on of hands.

The Comms team continues to connect St Peter's with the village community through different forms of media. They post regularly on the St Peter's Facebook page and the Drayton Village Community page. They also cross-post with Sutton Courtenay. The number of followers has increased during the year many of whom are not connected with the church. Additional posts are made for special occasions, services and events. They update the church noticeboard regularly which attracts a lot of interest. They also put together the church page in the Drayton Chronicle each month.

Pebbles continues to flourish under the leadership of Cheryl Jarvis and Katy Hoyle. It draws in mothers and carers from a wide area. A great number of children moved on to school or nursery at the end of the summer term, however, since September the numbers have increased again. This year the nativity was led by Rev Dov Whittle, who also led the crib service on Christmas Eve, both of which were very well attended.

The Care Team continue to visit people on a regular basis. Phone calls are made to those who have not been seen for a while. Bereavement cards are sent on the anniversary of someone's death and are much appreciated. The group also sends out baptism and wedding anniversary cards.

Appleford

A service is held every week in the church. Breakfast Church on the first Sunday of every month has continued to attract all ages and numbers have grown over the year.

For Mothering Sunday flowers and prayer cards and for Easter, greeting cards and seeds, were distributed to every home in the village. These were very well received and helped to remind people that the church community was still active and praying for the wider community.

The Street Nativity was extremely well attended and once again a donkey was supplied by The Donkey Sanctuary. The Appleford Community Project paid for the donkey and provided refreshments in the farmyard at the end which was much appreciated by all who attended.

Milton

The typical attendance at the main Sunday service is 12 adults, but for family services typical attendance is 17 adults and seven children and the young people have been very willing contributors within the service. One Sunday each month we have had a lay led service, Faith Conversations, this is a café style service and has been led by a variety of members of the congregation and a wide range of topics have been discussed.

We have monthly joint services with Milton Methodists; the Palm Sunday procession began at St Blaise and walked to Milton Methodist church for the service. We were pleased to welcome some members of Milton Methodists to our service celebrating St Blaise Day and on Remembrance Sunday and on Christmas Eve. We enjoyed the Methodists covenant service and their harvest service. Through the year we have experienced the variety of service styles in each church.

For Remembrance Sunday, the knitted poppy cascade was fixed around the porch entrance and in church there was a display of information about those whose names appear on our war memorial, this was much appreciated by the Milton community.

We had a successful Christingle service, and the children (and adults!) enjoyed making their Christingles during this service. The nativity play performed by the young people was particularly well supported and very much enjoyed by the congregation. After the success of the carol service in previous years, we again held a Christmas Eve carol service by candle-light with a mix of traditional, contemporary and performance readings and music. The congregational singing was enhanced by the support of the Milton AHA Choir. The church was beautifully decorated and very full; everyone appreciated this lovely service.

Sutton Courtenay

This year we have averaged a congregation of 36 adults and 8 children. The pattern of services has remained the same with a Family Service on the first Sunday, Holy Communion on second and fourth Sunday and Morning Worship on the third Sunday. The major festivals have been well attended.

During Holy Week the Maundy Thursday service followed by a Lamb Supper was open to the whole Parish and was appreciated by all who came. On Good Friday we had a successful Family service which was the culmination of the children and families creating Easter Gardens at workshops around the Parish. This was followed by Hot Cross buns and refreshments for the families in the River Room. The church was left open for private prayer and reflection. The Easter Day Family Eucharist was very popular. The children enjoyed their annual Easter Egg Hunt around the graveyard.

Harvest Festival Service with food donations going to the Abingdon foodbank and donations going to Farm Africa. This was followed by a well enjoyed Harvest Lunch.

Christmas Services again were well supported. The traditional Nine lessons and Carols Service was very popular, with a candle lit church and an excellent choir who led the singing. Christmas Eve started with the Crib Service focusing on the story 'The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas'. This was attended by 164 adults and children with a lot of the children

joining in with the story and the Nativity tableau plus a member of the congregation in an owl suit. The Torchlight Procession this year attracted nearly 1300 people. Midnight Mass returned to All Saints' this year having previously been held in Appleford. Our crafters created Christmas trees this year which were bagged up with the 'Joy booklet and hung around the village for the community Christmas tree hunt. The Family Communion on Christmas day was attended by 95 adults and children which was slightly down from last year.

Steventon

The size of the congregation at each Sunday service has remained the same. The monthly service of Evening Prayer is continuing to be offered as a Book of Common Prayer service.

End of term school services, village Christingle and Crib services, other occasional services including Harvest, All Hallows and Remembrance all attracted large congregations.

For Christmas in conjunction with Friends of St Michael stars were put up from the church along the Causeway and a crib tableau was displayed by the Village Hall.

Social and fund raising

Many of the social activities provide outreach and mission opportunities within the village communities. Thanks to grant support we were able to offer a warm space and free activities and refreshments in some of our churches in January, February, March, October, November and December for a few hours each week. This has helped many who are struggling with heating and eating.

Drayton

The annual plant sale in May went well and raised £564. The Christmas Cracker event in November raised £1,000 and drew in many people from the village. Homemade cards are on sale in church throughout the year and add to the fund raising.

The monthly Knit and Natter sessions not only provide an opportunity to make garments for charity, as well as knitting for yourself, but provide a social gathering. Several people who attend are not church goers and numbers have increased during the year.

Appleford

Monthly coffee mornings continue to be held, courtesy of Richard and Linda Payne, and are well supported by villagers and people from further afield. They provide an invaluable point of social contact and are much appreciated. The money raised goes to the Appleford Fabric Fund. The Appleford 100 Club continues to run and bring in some much-needed income. The draw is held at the monthly coffee morning.

Milton

Our twice monthly tea, chat and craft afternoons and offer an opportunity for companionship particularly for older villagers and these have run regularly through most of the year. The crafters in the group enjoyed planning and making items for the Christmas craft fair.

In January we had an enjoyable wassailing event and the harvest of apples in Milton in the autumn was very good.

On Shrove Tuesday we held a pancake event with many pancakes and a variety of competitions and races. The young people had a great time and were probably surprised at how competitive parent and grandparent races can be! Lots of pancakes were made, tossed and consumed. Donations at this event went to our Lent Charity.

In May we held the Milton Duck race. The rain held off and lots of villagers turned up to support their duck and to share tea and cake in the church after the racing. We raised over £1000 for church funds, and it continues to be a popular community event.

Working in partnership with the church, MICE (Miltonians in Community Events) have led in the promotion of a 100 Club and other events from which the 'church' benefitted, both financially and socially. In July MICE joined the church in running a food stall at TRUCK over a warm weekend. They sold out and raised over £1500 for church funds and a similar amount for BeSpace.

The craft and jigsaw fair in November, featuring several talented village crafters as well as the church stall. This event was well supported raised over £700 which was split between church funds and our Christmas Charity. This got our Advent and Christmas season off to an enjoyable and profitable start.

Our Lent Charity was BeSpace and at Christmas we supported the Be Free Young Carers. There was good support for Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride – with one family visiting churches and well sponsored. We also had welcomers at St Blaise for part of the day, who did a grand job tidying the churchyard and church during quiet periods!

Sutton Courtenay

The regular events such as Community Cafe, Community Brunch, Movie Matinee, WeCare2, Together in Stitches, Knit and Natter have continued and have reached out to the community.

There have been several fundraising events specifically to raise money for the Tower and Bells Appeal, these included: Lights, Camera, Action – a talk with photographs from around the country showing film locations given by Fred Cubbage; WWII film and talk given by producer Jonathon Drake; The Vicar's Funday on Spring Bank Holiday Monday; Flower Festival with the theme of Bells alongside the Orwell Society's annual visit with Cream teas; Opera Anywhere performed the Mikado; 'Mary does Marlow' a dramatic afternoon with tea and cake; and an Online Balloon Race.

The church was open for Ride and Stride in September, and one member of the congregation was sponsored.

Hampers were distributed again at Christmas, sending Love to those who may be alone, or bereaved and to families in need.

The collections at the Village Carol Singing and at the Torchlight Procession were split this year between Helen and Douglas House and the Tower and Bells Appeal.

The River Room has continued to be well used both for church activities and external bookings. It is being used by the wider church community, such as a Clergy Quiet Days, run by the diocese and retreat days. It is popular as a venue for Baptism parties and Wakes.

Steventon

The Lent lunches, were well supported, raising over £1000 for Christian Aid. Two pasty parties, a plant sale, a concert, a harvest supper, and the church fete all provided successful fund-raising opportunities for both the general fund and the church fabric fund. The annual TRUCK festival provided the opportunity of generating substantial funds this year the money went to Friends of St Micheal, though will be used by them to support the building project at St Michael's during 2026. We continue to support PACT and the Bateman Trust at Christmas.

Music

There are regular weekly choirs in Steventon and Sutton Courtenay. Singers from across the Parish regularly combine forces for weddings and funerals and for shared DAMASCUS Services.

Drayton

The former members of the choir join with other choirs from the DAMASCUS Parish for certain DAMASCUS services as well as for some weddings. Drayton and Sutton Courtenay held a joint 9 lessons and carols service at which the choirs combined. A big thank you to the organists who play for us at Sunday services as well as Brian Thompson who accompanies us on guitar. Also, to Kay Davies who leads the music at our Praise services and frequently teaches us new hymns.

Appleford

With no regular organist, Iris Ramkisson continues to choose and upload the hymns to the church iPod and the sound system is used to good effect. Organist support was provided for special services by John Napper.

Milton

We do not have a regular organist, so we have effectively used music from CDs. Through the year we have continued to experiment with using some of the less well known hymns in our hymn book with the support of choirs from around the world via YouTube.

Sutton Courtenay

We have been enjoying our new hymn book: 'Ancient and Modern – Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship'. It's good to be able to learn some of the hymns that have become so popular at other churches over recent years, and we're appreciating new and relevant words to some of the old tunes as well. As always, we are ever grateful to John Napper for playing the organ for us, and to Philip and Kieran Agg for helping us so much over the Christmas period.

Steventon

The church choir now consists of three sopranos, one alto, one tenor and one bass. All the members are very loyal and have all been with the choir and the church for very many years. The choir sings at three services a month leading the congregation in the singing of hymns. For special occasions we can call on members of Steventon Choral Society to help with singing. The Choral Society joins the church choir annually for the traditional Christmas carol service and performs a concert on Palm Sundays in the church. In 2025 they sang Faure's Requiem and Vivaldi's Gloria. Helen Pearce continues to serve as organist and Terry Pearce as choirmaster.

Bells

The bells in Drayton, Milton, and Steventon have all rung regularly for services during 2025 and Sutton Courtenay are rung on Sunday by arrangement. Practices have been held most weeks at all four churches. The bells at Appleford remain unringable.

In addition to services and weddings the bells have been rung for local and national events. All four towers were open for ringing as part of the Oxford Diocesan Guild Open Day in May, held in this area of the Guild once every 15 years. This attracted ringers from across the country. Milton, Steventon and Drayton all rang in May to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Steventon took part in the village VE80 weekend of celebrations with a portable ring of bells at the event so that villagers and visitors could have a go at bell ringing. Steventon ringers also contributed to the History Society's exhibition with a display which described what ringing took place during the Second World War. They rang a quarter peal as a Dakota and Spitfire roared overhead when they took off for home from the adjoining Aces High site. In August Milton rang to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. In September Steventon rang to mark Reverend Phil Sutton's retirement from ministry in the Parish. In November there was ringing at all the churches for Remembrance events in our villages.

We are pleased to report that learners recruited at Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon have all been making good progress. All four of our ringable towers have been pleased to be able to welcome visiting bands and to host branch practices for ringers from

the local area. During 2025 there were four peals and four quarter peals rung at Drayton; 20 peals and two quarter peals rung at Milton; and two quarter peals rung at Steventon. In November the 600th peal was rung on the bells at Milton.

Routine checks and maintenance of the bells have been carried out by the bellringers at each tower during the year. In 2024 an inspection of Sutton Courtenay bells revealed the 5th bell had a broken gudgeon and this bell could not be rung until this was repaired. Work began at Sutton Courtenay in March 2025 to remove the 4th and 5th bells from the tower, to replace the headstocks, gudgeons and clappers of both bells. The bells were rehung and ringing resumed in May. At Milton a new set of ropes was purchased, and a clapper staple and broken clapper pin were replaced. We are grateful to visiting ringers, peal, and quarter peal bands for the donations they make to our church bell funds which help with paying for ropes and necessary repair work on our bells.

Flowers

All the churches in the Parish are decorated for festivals and special occasions. We thank the many volunteer flower arrangers and those who organise flower rotas for all their efforts to make our churches look so beautiful.

Drayton

Sally Dixon and Val Cross decorate the church for the major festivals, with help from other members of the congregation. At Easter, Tony Allen and Sally create an Easter garden beneath the altar and at Christmas they create a nativity scene. If a member of the congregation would like a loved one remembered, then a pedestal arrangement is done.

Appleford

A team of people from the church and village ensure there are flowers each week in the church and come together to decorate the church for the major festivals. They are much appreciated by the congregation and visitors alike. We are grateful to Richard Mathews who maintains the two tubs outside the church door with all year around blooms.

Milton

Whilst there is no flower arranging group at St Blaise, a variety of volunteers organised decoration of the church for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day, and Christmas.

Sutton Courtenay

The Flower arranging team, under the leadership of Ann White, have continued to provide a dedicated service, with most providing the flowers at their own expense despite their being funds available to compensate them. We are grateful to Richard Mathews who maintains the two tubs outside the church door with all year around blooms. The Easter Lilies continue to be very popular, and several people support their purchase to dedicate lilies in memory of loved ones who have died. At Christmas some of the windows were decorated with Nativity Scenes, Owls and Christmas trees.

Steventon

St Michael's Church Flower Arrangers Team have continued to ensure that there are flowers in the Church every Sunday. Around twelve volunteers join together to decorate the Church for the main festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. During 2025 the Team joined with the families to provide floral decorations for special events such as weddings and funerals. The Church Flower Arrangers continue to provide only sustainable flowers and foliage, i.e. grown locally or in the UK and do not use floral foam as it is so damaging to the environment.

Schools

Within the DAMASCUS Parish there are four primary schools of which the three in Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon are Church of England schools. The clergy and lay people are actively involved in a variety of ways – as governors, taking assemblies, helping to deliver the RE curriculum, *Open the Book*, and as reading volunteers.

Drayton

During the autumn term The Reverend Dov Whittle was invited to take a harvest and an advent assembly at Drayton Community Primary School. It is hoped that this relationship with the school will continue to develop.

Appleford

There is no school in Appleford but links are maintained with families in the village who attend Europa; Long Wittenham, Sutton Courtenay and other local schools.

Milton

Links with Milton School have been strong. Until September Reverend Phil Sutton was a Governor of St Blaise School, was going into school regularly leading assemblies and other activity sessions. The difficulties of transporting children from Milton School to St Blaise Church have meant that Milton School have been unable to hold services at St Blaise church, but one year group spent a day at church splitting their time between St Blaise and the Methodist church. This was a very successful and something we hope to repeat. We try to maintain links with the school but week by week clergy visits to school passed to The Reverend Jeremy Parsons, rector of Harwell in October when Reverend Phil Sutton retired.

Sutton Courtenay

A small team has continued to take Open the Book assemblies to Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School. These are always well received and the Year 6's enjoy taking on roles too. Year 6 have also come to All Saints' for a variety of Experiences, including Holy week, Post Easter and Pentecost. The children have time to reflect and talk about the events surrounding the Easter stories. Years 3, 4 and 5 came to the Church for the Christmas Journey. The school continues to come to All Saints' for their end of term services at Easter, Summer Leavers' Service and Christmas.

Steventon

The Open the Book team and Clergy continue to offer a whole school assembly every week. Reverend Phil Sutton continued to offer classroom assemblies as well as coordinating a pastoral support resource for families in crisis until he retired in September. Reverend Dov Whittle took over supporting the school from October.

Fabric

In all five churches routine maintenance has taken place, including clearance of drains and gutters and servicing of boilers, fire extinguishers, lightning conductors, roof alarms, CCTV, clocks, and organs. Two quinquennial inspections took place during this year. For each church other specific activity related to maintaining the building and churchyard is given in the following paragraphs.

Drayton

Only routine maintenance has been necessary during 2025.

Appleford

During 2025 the churchyard tap was repaired; the entrance gate was restored, and a small roof repair was carried out. A temporary reordering was carried out at the back of the church with removal of some pews to create a gathering and social space in the church. The churchyard boundary wall needs some rebuilding, and the church architect has drawn up a specification for the work which it is hoped will be carried out in the next year. General pruning and grass cutting was carried out throughout the churchyard, thanks to the team of volunteers headed up by Jacob Shepherd who carried out this work.

Milton

The church building and its interior are in good condition following the major projects in recent years. Some new altar linen was purchased in 2025. Work was carried out during the year includes repairs to the stonework of the west window in the tower and fitting a window grill, stonework repointing in the porch and back vestry, and painting of guttering, downpipes and the churchyard railings. Further work has been carried out clearing ivy from the churchyard walls and the fencing in the church car park has been repaired. We would like to record our thanks to the volunteers for the many tasks they have ably and enthusiastically carried out to maintain the church; to all those involved in cutting the churchyard grass and to the Churchyard Working Group that has done so much to keep the churchyard tidy.

Sutton Courtenay

Thanks go to Brian Blakeman, the All Saints' clerk of works, for continuing to help maintain the fabric of the church and the River Room. In March the 4th and 5th bell were lowered from the bell chamber removed by White's of Appleton to have their headstocks removed and replaced with metal headstocks, new gudgeons, and revised clappers. These bells were returned to the tower at the end of April. In December the Secondary Glazing was fitted in

the Parish Office which has made a difference to the temperature and removing all the drafts.

The Quinquennial Inspection was made in October. There is some stonework that needs some work but nothing of high priority. The churchyard wall was damaged probably due to a vehicle and needs repairing.

We have been working with the church architect on drawing up plans for the Tower and Bells Project and a Faculty application has been submitted, but the outcome is not yet known.

Steventon

A Faculty application was obtained for major repairs to the tower roof and external stonework of the tower and the south aisle. This work is scheduled to begin in the spring 2026. In October the boiler flue was replaced. The quinquennial was carried out in September 2025.

Deanery Synod

Abingdon Deanery met four times in 2025 chaired by Rob Glenny (area Dean) and Sue Scott (Lay Chair). Members considered the challenges presented by the large increase in housing and population in this area, incurring the need to provide further facilities for places of worship and church schools as well as the opportunities to welcome and regenerate congregations.

There were two guest speakers: Reverend Asa Humphreys, Parish Development and Planning Advisor, addressed Synod on ways of engaging effectively with new housing developments and Ann Perry outlined her role to help parishes in their fostering of mission and in improving communication and support with each other. The area Dean reported on parish initiatives to develop the work with “children, young people and families ministry” (CYPF) and members were invited to share examples of new initiatives within their own parishes.

A short Deanery Prayer Meeting on zoom has now been established for two mornings each month to support the ministry of all churches in the Deanery, as a practical way to focus on the work of the Deanery and its member churches.

Finance: the 2025 Parish Share for the Deanery has been paid in full by all its churches. Following consultation with parish treasurers and PCCs Martin Steel (Deanery Treasurer) invited Deanery reps to vote on four motions: to agree that the 2026 parish share is calculated on the same basis as last year, to approve allocation of share payments between the parishes and, taking account of mission grants and parish support funds, the proposed rebate for full payment is set at 4%. After discussion each motion was passed unanimously.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our five churches lively and vibrant communities. Particularly we thank welcomers, sidespeople, readers, intercessors, junior church leaders, refreshment providers and all those who assist with the financial processes, and all those who work behind the scenes who make for an efficient operation and ensuring we have well-presented buildings and churchyards.

Ministry Team

The Reverend Phil Sutton retired in September 2025.

The Reverend Peter Templeman and The Reverend Ann Templeman joined the ministry team with PTO in June 2025.

Mike Murray was licensed as a lay minister on 1 November 2025 and is sharing his ministry with the DAMASCUS Parsh and Hatford Church under the supervision of The Reverend Paul Eddy.

Financial review

This financial review covers the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025. Income has exceeded £250,000 so we continue to prepare and present the accounts using the accruals method. Income and expenditure are therefore recognised as soon as entitlement is established, e.g., gift aid must be recognised when the income is received even though the actual claim may be received in the subsequent year.

Accruals accounts consist of a SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities), a balance sheet, a cash flow statement, and further explanatory notes. The SOFA is on page 19, the balance sheet is on page 20, the cash flow statement is on page 21 and the notes on pages 22-33.

Total unrestricted income during 2025 was £186,758, a small increase on the previous year's income of £183,593 primarily due to an increase in tax efficient planned giving and one-off giving and the associated gift aid. There was a decrease in income to the unrestricted fund from fund raising. Total unrestricted expenditure increased slightly from £165,837 to £170,341; this increase is mainly due to an increase in the Parish share and an increase in the utility bills.

In 2025 there was a net gain in unrestricted funds of £17,888. Consequently, the unrestricted funds carried forward to 2026 are £150,589. The increase in unrestricted funds means we have a cushion above the limit set by our reserves policy (see below). We have agreement to increase our ministry staffing in 2026 and as we plan for the future, the modest gains in the unrestricted fund for previous four years, will allow us to cover the increased costs that the larger ministry team will incur.

A designated fund established in 2022 to handle short term grants for warm spaces projects, had sufficient funding remaining to cover the costs of continuing the projects in January to March and November to December 2025. The balance of £2,538 in the fund will continue to be used for Warm Spaces activities in 2026.

The overall income to the restricted funds during 2025 was £135,547, an increase on the previous year's income of £87,697. There were more voluntary donations and associated gift aid to restricted funds and the income from grants has been higher. There was less income from legacies in 2025. The increase in voluntary donations is mainly for building projects planned for three of the churches to commence in 2026 or 2027. The increase in grant money is partly for the building projects and partly to support Children and Families work in the Parish. The expenditure from the restricted funds was higher than in 2024 at £81,490 than in 2024 when it was £71,677. This increase in expenditure in the restricted funds is mostly in major capital expenditure and in church running costs because of several minor maintenance or fabric repair projects across the five churches and the start of a more major fabric project in Sutton Courtenay Church. Additionally, two quinquennial inspections took place in 2025 which is why other expenditure was higher in 2025. Overall, there was an increase in the balance of the restricted funds of £54,126, though this is largely an increase in the balance of three of the restricted funds, one of which was a new fund. All the church fabric funds have an adequate balance for day-to-day expenditure, but most would require fund raising if there are essential large building repairs required.

Investments have previously all been reported as endowment funds. However, further investigation of the origins of three investment has shown this to be incorrect. Two investments should have been classified as invested unrestricted funds and one as invested restricted funds for Steventon Fabric Fund. A prior year adjustment detailing this is in Note 14 in the accounts on page 33 and a prior year adjustment is shown in the SOFA on page 19 showing the adjusted 2025 opening balances. The two investments of unrestricted funds have, during 2025, been consolidated in one investment. During 2025 the investments decreased in value from £686,409 to £665,606, the majority of this loss £18,413 is for the endowment investments. All the investments that continue to be recorded as endowments in the accounts are permanent endowments.

In summary, we have had a successful year with modest increases in the overall balances of both the restricted and unrestricted funds despite high inflationary increases in costs, a poor performance from CCLA investments, considerable maintenance activity, and preparation costs for three more major maintenance projects. However, we must continue to pay close attention to the level of unrestricted funds as we proceed with increasing our ministry staffing. Considering the age profile of our committed regular givers, we need to continue regular stewardship campaigns if this important source of income is to be maintained into the next decade. Additional fund raising will continue to be required, particularly for the five church fabric funds, if we are to continue keeping the churches in good repair.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least two months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £30,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. It is our policy to invest short term balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund and longer-term reserves in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund.

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the DAMASCUS Parish the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, other members of the clergy team, churchwardens, licensed lay ministers, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the parish. All those who are members of the congregations are encouraged to register on the electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC met six times during the year all were in-person meetings. The Local Church Committees (LCC), with responsibility for considering local activity and provide local church feedback to the PCC and who act as a forum for the PCC to consult with the congregations of each of the five churches continued to meet in the alternative months to the PCC. Each of the five LCCs provide a report to every PCC meeting. For each church Pro-Wardens, elected at the APCM, carry out roles ensuring the smooth running of their church and maintain order in the church and grounds.

A Standing Committee consisting of the incumbent, the churchwardens, the PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer and two other members of the PCC meet bi-monthly (in the months between PCC meetings) to transact business delegated to them by the PCC. The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Administrative information

The Ministry team

Clergy

Parish Rector – The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick

Associate Priest (Half-Time Stipendiary) – The Reverend Phil Sutton (until 28 Sept 2025)

Associate Priest (SSM) - The Reverend Rosie Bruce

Retired PTO – The Reverend Canon Dr Phillip Tovey

Retired PTO – The Reverend Ann Templeman (from June 2025)

Retired PTO – The Reverend Peter Templeman (from June 2025)

PTO – The Reverend Geoff Morgan
Assistant Curate – The Reverend Dov Whittle

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Mike Murray
Dr Tim Budd (PTO)
Mr Jack Jarvis (PTO)
Mrs Alex Landsbert (PTO)

Authorised Preacher

Mr Paul James
Mr Chris Leake (in training)

The DAMASCUS Parish is part of the Abingdon Deanery within the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, All Saints Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4AE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, with registered charity number 1175551.

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

Members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick (Chairman)
Associate Minister: The Reverend Phil Sutton (until September 2025)
Associate Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce
Assistant Curate – The Reverend Dov Whittle
Licenced Lay Minister: Mrs Alex Landsbert
Churchwarden: Alison Budd
Mr Anton King representative in Deanery Synod
Mr Michael Murray representative in Deanery Synod
Mrs Sue Harris, Secretary (Co-opted)
Mrs Sue Jenkins, Safeguarding Officer (Co-opted)

Elected members:

Mrs Valerie Cross
Mrs Nicola Turner (Hon. Treasurer)
Dr Elaine Maxwell (until Sept 2025)
Professor David King (until May 2025)
Mrs Caroline Miller
Mr Tony Sloggett

Local Church Committee members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Drayton LCC: Val Cross; Sally Dixon; Sue Harris; Sue Icke; Linda Johnson; Anton King; and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle

Appleford LCC: Elizabeth Duffield; William Finch; Sue Helby; Linda Payne; Iris Ramkissoo; Jacob Shepherd and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle

Milton LCC: Mike Blanch, Pat Capuzzimati, Elaine Maxwell (Pro-Warden until September 2025), Janet Money, Janet Taylor, Nicola Turner (Pro-Warden) and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick.

Sutton Courtenay: Alison Budd (Pro-Warden), Susan Jenkins, David King, Alex Landsbert, Chris Leake, Vivienne Maunders, Malcolm Ross, Phil Stubley, Mary Warrington (Pro-Warden) and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick.

Steventon: Alan Binning (Pro-Warden), Diana Bowder, Jack Jarvis, Andrew Loutit, Caroline Miller, Mike Murray, Hilary Otterburn (Pro-Warden), David Sanford, Tony Sloggett and The Reverend Phil Sutton (until Sept 2025) and The Reverend Dov Whittle.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the charity commission.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

H Kendrick

The Revd Canon Helen Kendrick (Chair)

9th March 2026

Date of approval by the Trustees:

DAMASCUS PARISH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DAMASCUS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 19 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed



Hannah Ormston, CIPFA ACA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park, OX14 1SY

Date:

26/03/2026

DAMASCUS PARISH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary income	2a	151,745	-	84,357	-	236,102	183,911
Activities for generating funds	2b	13,433	-	14,352	-	27,785	35,207
Church activities	2c	13,647	-	8,783	-	22,430	21,807
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	2d	3,525	-	27,780	-	31,305	32,230
Other incoming resources	2e	4,408	-	275	-	4,683	6,135
TOTAL INCOME		186,758	-	135,547	-	322,305	279,290
EXPENDITURE							
Church activities	3a	128,800	-	4,338	-	133,138	130,238
Church expenses	3b	38,444	257	60,251	-	98,952	95,958
Costs of generating income	3c	448	-	2,453	-	2,901	4,561
Major capital expenditure	3d	-	-	11,778	-	11,778	5,568
Other expenditure	3e	2,649	-	2,670	-	5,319	2,743
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		170,341	257	81,490	-	252,088	239,068
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		16,417	(257)	54,057	-	70,217	40,222
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	7	(1,404)		(986)	(18,413)	(20,803)	11,625
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		15,013	(257)	53,071	(18,413)	49,414	51,847
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	5	2,875	(3,930)	1,055	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		17,888	(4,187)	54,126	(18,413)	49,414	51,847
Total funds brought forward as previously stated		97,573	6,725	199,534	686,409	990,241	938,394
Prior year adjustment	14	35,128	-	24,653	(59,781)	-	-
Total funds brought forward as restated	*	132,701	6,725	224,187	626,628	990,241	938,394
Total fund carried forward		150,589	2,538	278,313	608,215	1,039,655	990,241

*The total funds brought forward have been adjusted to include the investment values as at 31 Dec 2024 within the correct fund type. In the accounts for 2017-2024 all investments were listed as endowment funds and that was incorrect.

DAMASCUS PARISH BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		2025 Total £	Restated 2024* Total £
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	6	620	1,240
Investments	7	665,606	686,409
		<u>666,226</u>	<u>687,649</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	8	18,776	15,340
Short-term deposits		269,504	200,434
Cash at bank and in hand		88,254	89,812
		<u>376,534</u>	<u>305,586</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	9	3,105	2,994
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>373,429</u>	<u>302,592</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,039,655	990,241
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	10	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>1,039,655</u>	<u>990,241</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	11	153,127	139,427
Restricted	12	278,313	224,187
Endowment		608,215	626,628
		<u>1,039,655</u>	<u>990,241</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

The Revd Canon Helen Kendrick (Chair) HG Kendrick

Nicola Turner (Treasurer) Nicola Turner

* The analysis of funds at 31 December 2024 has been restated as detailed in note 14

DAMASCUS PARISH
CASH FLOW STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Net cash from operating activities		36,207		4,506
Cash flows from investing activities				
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	31,305		32,230	
Interest paid	-		-	
Proceeds from sale of:				
Tangible fixed assets	-		-	
Tangible fixed investments	-		-	
Purchase of:				
Tangible fixed assets for the use of the PCC	-		(1,860)	
Fixed asset investments	-		-	
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans (outstanding balances)	-		-	
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities		31,305		30,370
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		67,512		34,876
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		290,246		255,370
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		<u>357,758</u>		<u>290,246</u>
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) before investment gains				
Net income before investment gains 31 December		70,217		40,222
Adjustment for:				
Depreciation charges		620		620
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		(31,305)		(32,230)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(3,436)		(2,069)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors		111		(2,037)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>36,207</u>		<u>4,506</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		88,254		89,812
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)		269,504		200,434
		<u>357,758</u>		<u>290,246</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS 102 as the applicable accounting standard and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown as fair value.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties in respect of the charities ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life (normally 20 years) other than when insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. The Parish photocopier comes within this scope and has been depreciated over 3 years.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC available for spending on general purposes of the PCC. They include designated funds that have been set aside by the PCC for specific purposes.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income.

INCOME

Collections and planned giving are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Parish. Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the church are accounted for as soon as the Parish is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due. Funds raised by fund-raising events are accounted for as gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for as gross.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Interest on bank balances is accounted for on an accruals basis with interest recognised in the period to which the interest relates.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the share interest becomes ex-dividend or when the right to the dividend can be established.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
2(a) Voluntary income						
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	13,597	-	46,125	-	59,722	20,513
Collections at services	15,124	-	2,976	-	18,100	16,727
Collections at services for charity	4,625	-	694	-	5,319	4,973
Gift Aid recovered	27,349	-	11,058	-	38,407	26,412
Grants (include recurring and one-off)	4,221	-	21,985	-	26,206	17,309
Other planned giving	3,720	-	-	-	3,720	4,347
Legacies received (capital value)	279	-	279	-	558	10,000
Tax efficient planned giving	82,830	-	1,240	-	84,070	83,630
	<u>151,745</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,357</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236,102</u>	<u>183,911</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	13,433	-	14,352	-	27,785	35,207
	<u>13,433</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,785</u>	<u>35,207</u>
2(c) Church activities						
Additional wedding and funeral fees	2,325	-	11	-	2,336	2,327
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	4,340	-	4,376	-	8,716	8,978
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	6,982	-	4,396	-	11,378	10,502
	<u>13,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,430</u>	<u>21,807</u>
2(d) Dividends, interest, income from property etc.						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	3,525	-	27,780	-	31,305	32,230
	<u>3,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,305</u>	<u>32,230</u>
2(e) Other incoming resources						
Other incoming resources	4,408	-	275	-	4,683	6,135
	<u>4,408</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,683</u>	<u>6,135</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>186,758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,547</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>322,305</u>	<u>279,290</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
3(a) Church activities						
<i>Clergy and staff expenses</i>	3,100	-	-	-	3,100	2,977
<i>Diocesan parish share contribution</i>	108,082	-	-	-	108,082	105,785
<i>Mission giving and donations</i>	10,413	-	1,313	-	11,726	11,546
<i>Salaries, wages and honoraria</i>	7,205	-	3,025	-	10,230	9,930
	<u>128,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,338</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133,138</u>	<u>130,238</u>
3(b) Church expenses						
<i>Mission and evangelism costs</i>	221	257	4,556	-	5,034	6,117
<i>Church running expenses</i>	20,066	-	53,541	-	73,607	71,434
<i>Church utility bills</i>	16,170	-	1,717	-	17,887	16,150
<i>Cost of trading</i>	77	-	437	-	514	437
<i>Independent examiner's costs</i>	1,290	-	-	-	1,290	1,200
<i>Depreciation on church equipment</i>	620	-	-	-	620	620
	<u>38,444</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>60,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,952</u>	<u>95,958</u>
3(c) Costs of generating income						
<i>Costs of fundraising activities</i>	448	-	2,453	-	2,901	4,561
	<u>448</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,901</u>	<u>4,561</u>
3(d) Major capital expenditure						
<i>Major repairs to the church building</i>	-	-	11,778	-	11,778	5,568
<i>New building work</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,778</u>	<u>5,568</u>
3(e) Other expenditure						
<i>Other outgoing resources/ payments</i>	2,602	-	2,670	-	5,272	2,708
<i>Governance costs</i>	47	-	-	-	47	35
	<u>2,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,319</u>	<u>2,743</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>170,341</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>81,490</u>		<u>252,088</u>	<u>239,068</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Parish administrator	7,050	6,760
Cleaner	1,500	1,590
Groundsman	650	615
Gravedigger	-	-
Organist	970	935
Vergers	60	30
Bell ringers	-	-
	<u>10,230</u>	<u>9,930</u>

Note: All staff above are self-employed

Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
Groundsman	1	1
Gravedigger	-	-
Organist	2	3
Vergers	2	1
Bellringers	-	-

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

There were no related party transactions.

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

5 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
From Warm Spaces Grant (Designated Fund WARM) to General and restricted funds depending on the expenditure	2,875	(3,930)	1,055	-

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost of valuation		
At 1 January 2025	1,860	1,860
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,860</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2025	620	620
Charge for the year	620	620
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,240</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2025	<u>620</u>	<u>620</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2024	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,240</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7 INVESTMENTS

		Market value at 31st December 2024 £	Additions £	Disposals £	Market value at 31st December 2025 £	Change in value Jan 1 to Dec 31 2025 £
Milton Milton - Church Lands	1	611,253	-	-	593,487	(17,766)
Drayton Bradfield Trust	1	10,850	-	-	10,416	(434)
Drayton Clerk's Piece CO3056670	1	954	-	-	912	(42)
Drayton Miss Emma Hyde for maintenance of church fabric CO3055160-001	1	2,658	-	-	2,531	(127)
Drayton Hyde's charity for psalmody CO3057211	1	913	-	-	869	(44)
Steventon CB3031650 - ENDOWMENT FUND	4	35,115	-	34,470	-	(35,115)
Steventon CB3031648 - N01 INVESTMENT FUND	3	24,653	-	-	23,667	(986)
DAMASCUS PCC CB3030966	2	13	34,470	-	33,724	33,711
		686,409	34,470	34,470	665,606	(20,803)

1 These investments are endowments

2 This is an investment of unrestricted funds

3 This is an investment of restricted funds belonging to Steventon Fabric Fund

4 This investment is unrestricted funds and was transferred to DAMASCUS PCC CB3030966 on 13 Nov 2025

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
HMRC Gift Aid	10,043	3,025
Statutory fees due	-	160
Collections to be banked	50	2,282
Fund raising to be banked	-	793
Parish share rebate	4,403	4,274
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	4,226	4,299
Miscellaneous debtors	54	507
TOTAL	<u>18,776</u>	<u>15,340</u>

9 CREDITORS falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accounts examination costs	1,290	1,200
Mission and evangelism costs	804	-
Clergy expenses	-	146
Church running expenses	965	863
Mission giving	34	-
Parish Administrator	-	600
Organist	-	25
Cleaner	-	150
Miscellaneous creditors	12	10
TOTAL	<u>3,105</u>	<u>2,994</u>

10 CREDITORS falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
	-	-
TOTAL	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restated brought Forward*	Income	Expenditure	Net gains on investments	Transfer	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	132,701	186,758	170,341	(1,404)	2,875	150,589
Designated funds						
DAMASCUS Warm Spaces	6,725	-	257	-	(3,930)	2,538
	<u>6,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,930)</u>	<u>2,538</u>

* The brought forward General funds has been restated as detailed in note 14

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS AS REPORTED IN 2024

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	77,387	183,593	165,837	2,430	97,573
Designated funds					
DAMASCUS Warm Spaces	3,677	8,000	1,554	(3,398)	6,725
	<u>3,677</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>1,554</u>	<u>(3,398)</u>	<u>6,725</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

12 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restated brought Forward*	Income	Expenditure	Net gains on investments	Transfer	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
** DAMASCUS Children and Families	-	5,039	-	-	-	5,039
Drayton fabric	8,406	5,283	2,788	-	180	11,081
Drayton Carpenters legacy	1,368	46	-	-	-	1,414
Drayton Bells	2,222	374	-	-	-	2,596
Drayton Clerk's Piece	450	26	-	-	-	476
Drayton Hydes for Psalmody	715	26	-	-	-	741
Appleford fabric fund	12,886	42,299	3,636	-	-	51,549
Milton bells	15,549	1,598	3,124	-	-	14,023
Milton building	10,784	3,115	1,292	-	-	12,607
Milton Church Lands	84,096	25,140	16,967	-	275	92,544
Sutton Courtenay Fabric	27,636	32,193	35,162	-	2,249	26,916
Sutton Courtenay Ringers	1,116	278	1,100	-	-	294
Sutton Courtenay Fun Day	7,649	6,823	7,345	-	(1,649)	5,478
Steventon Fabric	32,797	12,545	10,001	(986)	-	34,355
Steventon Churchyard	15,396	516	-	-	-	15,912
Steventon Tower	3,117	246	75	-	-	3,288
	224,187	135,547	81,490	(986)	1,055	278,313

* The brought forward funds have been restated as detailed in note 14. This affects the opening balance of Steventon Fabric Fund and the total of the Restricted Funds only.

** DAMASCUS Children and Families is a new restricted fund established during 2025 with money from St Blaise Religious Education Trust. This can be used for activities in the Parish that are for Children and Families and include Milton children (a restriction from the funding source)

RESTRICTED FUNDS AS REPORTED IN 2024

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Drayton fabric	9,316	4,181	5,279	188	8,406
Drayton Carpenters legacy	1,314	54	-	-	1,368
Drayton Bells	3,602	605	1,985	-	2,222
Drayton Clerk's Piece	424	26	-	-	450
Drayton Hydes for Psalmody	690	25	-	-	715
Appleford fabric fund	13,779	1,622	2,515	-	12,886
Milton bells	14,461	1,322	234	-	15,549
Milton building	14,486	3,454	7,156	-	10,784
Milton Church Lands	70,078	24,023	10,200	195	84,096
Sutton Courtenay Fabric	21,240	34,333	28,414	477	27,636
Sutton Courtenay Ringers	246	155	-	715	1,116
Sutton Courtenay Fun Day	8,162	7,260	7,058	(715)	7,649
Steventon Fabric	7,021	9,792	8,777	108	8,144
Steventon Churchyard	14,787	609	-	-	15,396
Steventon Tower	2,940	236	59	-	3,117
	182,546	87,697	71,677	968	199,534

SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	620	-	-	620
Investment fixed assets	33,724	23,667	608,215	665,606
Current assets	120,295	256,239	-	376,534
Liabilities				
<i>Amounts falling due in one year</i>	(1,512)	(1,593)	-	(3,105)
<i>Amounts falling due after one year</i>	-	-	-	-
	153,127	278,313	608,215	1,039,655

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The analysis of the opening funds has been restated to correct the analysis of three investments that were previously reported as endowment funds which should have been categorised as follows and as presented in the Statement of Financial Activities for 2025

- 1 Steventon CB3031648 - N01 INVESTMENT FUND is an investment of money that is part of Steventon Fabric Fund which is a restricted fund. The value at 31 December 2024 was £24, 653
- 2 Steventon CB3031650 - ENDOWMENT FUND is an investment of money that is part of General Fund which is a unrestricted fund. The value at 31 December 2024 was £35,115
- 3 DAMASCUS PCC CB3030966 is an investment of money that is part of General Fund which is a unrestricted fund. The value at 31 December 2024 was £13

The adjustments are shown in the Prior adjustment row of the Statement of Financial activities. The adjustments also have an impact on parts of the balance sheet, Note 11 Unrestricted funds and Note 12 Restricted funds. All these places have a reference to this note, Note 14.