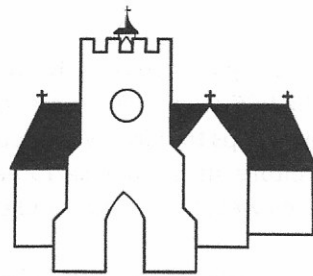


**The Parochial Church Council of
Abbas and Templecombe**

Diocese of Bath & Wells
Deanery of Bruton & Cary



St Mary's
Abbas & Templecombe

Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2025

Incumbent
Vacancy

Independent Examiner
Alison Chipping
Silverlands
Combe Hill
Templecombe
BA8 0LL



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary the Virgin, Abbas & Templecombe has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent 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 maintenance of the Church building of St Mary's.

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. Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship 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. The activities of the church are open to all and are advertised on the church website, via post and email, and the monthly news.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer;
- Learning about the Gospel;
- Developing their knowledge and trust in the Lord Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that the PCC maintains the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the Rector, churchwardens, deanery synod representatives, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the church electoral roll of the parish.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met in person 6 times during the year.

The PCC has just one committee, the Standing Committee, which is authorised to undertake PCC business between meetings of the full Council.

Administrative Information

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated on Church Hill, Templecombe. It is part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o Mrs Tina Chapman, 7 Slades Hill, Templecombe BA8 0HF. 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 served at any time from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2025 are:

Ex officio members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Mr Julian Kiddle | <i>Churchwarden & GDPR Officer</i> |
| • Mr Russell Hamblin-Boone | <i>Deanery Synod rep, Minutes Secretary
& School Foundation Governor</i> |

Elected members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Mrs Tina Chapman | <i>Correspondence Secretary</i> |
| • Mrs Brenda Ford | |
| • Mrs Sandra Kiddle | <i>Parish Safeguarding Officer
& Licensed Reader</i> |
| • Mr Jeremy Pratt | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| • Mrs Gemma Shave-Smythies | |

Electoral Roll

At the 2025 APCM the church Electoral Roll had 26 names on it, all but 2 of whom were resident in the parish.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC offers a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

We held one service at St Mary's each Sunday at 10.30am on the first, second and third Sundays of the month, then on the fourth and fifth (when applicable) Sundays, benefice services, normally Holy Communion, were held in rotation at the five churches in the benefice.

In addition, we held a Bubble Church service at Templecombe Village Hall (or at Templecombe Sports and Social Club when the hall was unavailable) every Sunday at 9:30am. During the course of the year, Bubble Church had an average of 5 young families attending. Bubble Church visited the village primary school as part of their collective worship on two occasions. Gemma Shave-Smythies, our "Bubble Church Champion" attended two Southwest Bubble Church Network days and appeared as part of the panel in the Vision C of E webinar "Bubble Church: Grow your families' ministry".

The first Sunday of the month was a service of Holy Communion, and the second and third Sundays were Services of the Word. Local retired clergy, particularly as we were in vacancy, and lay people played a very active role in these services and at least one of the Services of the Word each month was led by the Reader or by one of four Lay Worship Assistants. From July 2025, the second Sunday of the month was an all age

'Worship for Everyone' service, designed to give an opportunity for the Bubble Church congregation and wider congregation to worship together at the same time. This service replaced both Bubble Church and the Service of the Word on the second Sundays.

A Saturday morning homegroup, led by members of St Mary's Templecombe, meet on Zoom. A further benefice bible study group was held on alternate Wednesday afternoons in Horsington. A Lent Bible Study was led by a member of St Mary's Templecombe for Bubble Church parents to coincide with the Bubble Church 'Lent Challenge'.

Our festival services were Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle Service, Carol Service and the Christmas Day Service. Templecombe Scout and Henstridge Guide Groups were again able to hold their St George's Day Service in our church this year.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. We celebrated the baptism of 3 adults and 3 children, and held 4 funerals in church and 4 burials of ashes in the churchyard.

Links with the local Church of England School are strong, and the school was able to use the church again for their special and end of term services. Links with the school are reinforced by Muddy Church. Muddy Church is a collaboration between the school and church, which allows children to engage with Scripture and Bible stories in an outdoor environment. Our Muddy Church has seen growth this year, with regular attendances of 20 plus children of all ages. Some children attend with their siblings and we encourage parents to join in too. The growth has been organic, starting with the after-school club children, but now sees many more children who have heard about Muddy Church and have asked to join. Although the school is responsible for the activity, the Muddy Church sessions are led by three members of the church with supervision from teaching staff. It has been a great success and strengthens ties between the church and school. We are grateful to Revd Lydia Avery and Mr Russell Hamblin-Boone for serving as foundation governors.

Sandi Kiddle is licensed by the bishop to exercise the office of Reader in the benefice of Abbas and Templecombe with Henstridge and Horsington. This can be extended to other parishes or Benefices within the Diocese if required, with the Bishop's authorisation. The ministry of Readers is a national ministry of lay people authorized by canon. In this Diocese Readers are now trained alongside Ordinands, to similar standards. It is a broad ministry. The role of a Reader has three strands: being a teacher of the Faith; being an enabler of mission; and being a leader in Church and Society, so it encompasses much more than leading services. It can include conducting funerals, pastoral care, outreach activities and teaching as well as preaching. Many Dioceses use the title Licensed Lay Minister rather than reader to reflect how the role has expanded since its introduction in 1886.

In 2025 Sandi led home group sessions, led and preached at services addressing those outside the Church as well as regular Sunday services within the Benefice and helped at Bubble Church and Muddy Church.

Deanery Synod

We are entitled to two elected representatives on the deanery synod, who are ex officio members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

We are grateful to Mr Russell Hamblin Boone for representing us on this body.

In June 2025, members of the PCC attended the Deanery Synod and gave a Bubble Church demonstration alongside a presentation of the impact that it has had in our Parish over the preceding 18 months.

Pastoral Reorganisation

In July 2023, Deanery Synod approved a Pastoral Reorganisation Plan which saw Abbas & Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington joined with North Cheriton and Holton to form a new benefice. The five parishes began working together from August 2024, though the new benefice will not be officially recognised until the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Church Commissioners complete the legal requirements for this change.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin

The PCC intend to continue to organise events and hold a longer-term aim to raise funds for future re-ordering projects which we hope will include a toilet, a servery, new lighting, and further new technology.

Due to a lack of volunteers, the church building was not opened daily in 2025, however a Community Larder food share scheme was run from the church by Templecombe Together until July 2025 and the church was open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for this purpose.

Tim Trenchard continues to maintain and tune the organ.

We continue with regular maintenance of the church and churchyard. We are grateful to Julian Kiddle who does many small DIY maintenance jobs and to Oscar Shave-Smythies who continues to wind and maintain the clock.

Pastoral Care

There is a fortnightly Community Coffee Morning held at the Templecombe Sports and Social Club. This enables fellowship and support for those who attend. This is not formally a church sponsored group but is supported by several members of the congregation. Beside this, the congregation offers a more general informal support network for each other.

Normally every other month, on the first Sunday of the month, a parish lunch is organised in the village hall. This is supported very well, and attracts people beyond the circle of the congregation. This happened less frequently in 2025 as the Village Hall wasn't always available due to refurbishment.

The church is also represented by church members who volunteer in the Templecombe Together activity that organises monthly free community lunches at the Templecombe Sports and Social Club

Spiritual care has continued through phone calls, and limited pastoral visits.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC gave £400 (1.9% of our General Fund income) to various charities and mission agencies and give support each year.

The sum quoted above is not just what we give from our own resources, but also includes sums raised through special collections, fund raising and other donations. The food collection at Harvest Festival was given to The Lord's Larder at Yeovil. The Christian Aid collection was supported during the service at the end of Christian Aid week, and we were able to accept cash gifts in our Christingle Service to raise funds for The Children's Society. Funds raised at our Service of Remembrance were given to the 'British Legion Poppy Fund', and 'Combat Stress'.

A monthly 'Benefice News e-mail' was sent from the Benefice account under control of its current custodian, Julian Kiddle, Churchwarden of Templecombe. Paper copies of this are available for those that request it, but are unable to receive e-mails.

Ecumenical Relationships

The advent of the new 5-church benefice has meant that our relationship with the Templecombe United Reformed Church has not been as close as in previous years. We traditionally support each other's events, and generally co-operate with each other and wish to re-build our co-operation in the future.

Volunteers

We are extremely grateful to the committed volunteers who work so hard to enable us to carry out our activities. We are grateful to our churchwarden, Julian Kiddle, and to all the others who serve on our PCC, especially those who fulfil special responsibility, e.g. Jeremy Pratt our Treasurer, Tina Chapman our Correspondence Secretary (who also serves at the church tea and coffee bar after services), and Russell Hamblin-Boone our Minute Secretary. We are grateful to David Chapman who is our Gift Aid Secretary and to Annemarie Lees who plays the Clavinova when required. Our thanks go to the retired clergy, reader and lay worship assistants who lead our worship from time to time, and all others who contribute to our services by being sidesmen and women, leading prayers, reading the lessons, cleaning the church, and decorating the church throughout the year and for festivals. We also acknowledge and thank our team of bell ringers, and Anna Joyce (who took over from Audrey Riley) the Tower Captain. We are also thankful for all the catering support and organisation that Jeannie Stevens takes the lead in, and for her fund raising activities such as the sale of cards, and the monthly quiz.

Reserves Policy

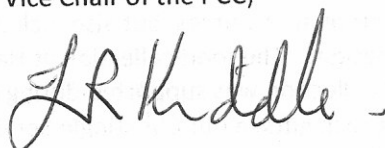
It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in the current account on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to between 1 and 2 months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. This balance is maintained by drawing on the CBF account funds that accrue higher interest, when necessary.

Financial Review

St Mary's church financial status is detailed in the Financial Statements that follow. Total receipts in the year (excluding the George Croyden Charity non-PCC receipts of £119.49) were £24,145 (being £22,095 unrestricted, and £2,050 restricted). Total payments in the year were £25,936, being £24,984 from the unrestricted funds, and £952 from the restricted funds. The largest items of expenditure were £16,542 for our portion of the Benefice Share which is a payment to the Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance to enable it provide the parish with clergy and support services, and £1,773 for Electricity. Excluding the George Croyden Charity receipts that are deemed to not be part of the church's finances, the overall result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £1,791, though for the (everyday working) General Fund portion of that there was an operating loss of £3,415.

Approved by the PCC on 20th April 2026, and signed on their behalf by

Mr Julian Kiddle (Lay Vice Chair of the PCC)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J R Kiddle', followed by a horizontal line.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		Year 2025				Year 2024
	Notes	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Planned giving		10,831	0	510	11,341	11,836
Collections		1,473	0	372	1,845	2,287
Unplanned giving		0	0	0	0	0
Grants		50	0	0	50	0
VAT recovery		0	0	0	0	0
Income tax recovered (gift aid)	3	2,693	0	120	2,813	2,959
Other voluntary receipts						
Legacies	4	0	0	0	0	0
Donations		580	0	229	809	908
Income and Investments						
Interest		8	526	577	1,111	1,078
Activities for raising funds						
Magazines and bookstall sales		0	0	0	0	0
Events	5	1,349	0	182	1,531	1,678
Benefice Administrator Wages		0	0	0	0	646
Other		1,976	0	60	2,036	1,003
Parochial fees	6	2,609	0	0	2,609	747
Totals		21,569	526	2,050	24,145	23,142
Resources expended						
Church Activities						
Donations/ grants to Charities	9	400	0	38	438	341
Benefice Share		16,542	0	0	16,542	15,041
Clergy Expenses & Deanery	10	1,203	0	0	1,203	1,164
Benefice Administrator Wages		0	0	0	0	948
Church running expenses		6,839	0	0	6,839	6,560
Major expenditure						
Misc expenditure	11	0	0	1,033	914	1,840
Enhancements to Church building		0	0	0	0	0
Repairs to Church building		0	0	0	0	0
Totals		24,984	0	1,071	25,936	25,894
Transfers between funds		3,000	-3,000	0	0	0
Movement of funds in the year						
Fund Balances at start of year		3,660	10,668	21,508	35,836	38,588
Monetary Assets Fund		3,245	8,194	22,606	34,045	35,837
Balances at end of year						

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	Year 2025				2024
	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Assets					
Cash Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Account	9,082	0	8,273	17,355	14,074
CBF deposit a/c	192	8,194	13,407	21,793	21,763
Monetary Assets Fund Balances	9,274	8,194	21,680	39,148	35,837
Other monetary Assets					
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	1,137	0	0	1,137	1,251
Total monetary assets	10,411	8,194	21,680	40,285	37,088
Investment Assets					
	0	0	0	0	0
Total Investment Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	10,411	8,194	21,680	40,285	37,088

Approved by the PCC on 20th April 2026 and signed on their behalf
by Mr Julian Kiddle (PCC Lay Vice Chair) and Mr Jeremy Pratt (PCC Treasurer)

Julian Kiddle

Jeremy Pratt

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025:

1. Presentation of financial information

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body (e.g. the Scouts and the Mothers' Union), nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members. Receipts are included as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Restricted funds must be used for the purposes for which the money was given or donated. General funds represent unrestricted money that can be used for the general charitable purposes of the PCC. Designated funds represent unrestricted money that has been earmarked for a specific purpose by the PCC. This money may be undesignated by the PCC at anytime. The origin and purpose of each fund within the fund classifications are given in note 17 below.

3. Income tax recovered (Gift Aid)

Income tax recovered included in the 'receipts and payments account' represents the claims for the period 1st January 2025 to 30th June 2025. The claim for 1st July 2025 to 31st December 2025 will be made during 2026 and the amount that will be recovered is shown in the 'statement of assets and liabilities'.

4. Legacies

No legacies were received in 2025.

5. Fund Raising

5. Fund raising:		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Quiz Nights	946	1,194
Ladies Choir Concert	119	180
Parish Lunches / BBQ	297	150
Christmas Tree Festival	0	139
Easy Fundraising	108	
Sale of Cards	60	
Other	0	16
Total	1,530	1,679

6. Parochial Fees

The PCC received parochial fees totalling £2,609.00 in the year.

7. Churchyard

There is income to this restricted account from a dividend on War Stock, and interest from another account. The income from the Punnet Trust was £59.76; and there was no interest on the War Stock. These amounts are included under "Dividends and Interest".

8. Sale of fixed assets

No fixed assets were sold in 2025.

9. Donations & Grants to Charities

9. Donations and Grants to Charities		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Christians Against Poverty	120	120
Combat Stress	85	80
British Legion Poppy Appeal	113	105
The Children's Society	82	
Books for School	0	36
Total	400	341

10. Clergy Expenses

There were no Clergy Parochial Working Expenses in 2025 because the parish was in vacancy for the whole year.

Service Fees and Travelling Expenses for Retired Clergy taking services were reclaimed from the Diocese.

11. Major Expenditure

There were no major items of expenditure during the year:

11. Major items of expenditure		
	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>Carpet runners for the aisles</i>	0	1,840
Total	0	1,840

12. Transfer between Funds

£3,000 from the project fund to the general fund.

13. Cash Funds

Endowment funds represent money that must be retained and cannot be spent, although the income arising from the fund may be used for either restricted or unrestricted purposes as expressed in the governing document. The interest is included in the 'receipts and payments account'.

14. Benefice Administrator Wages Receipts

There was no Benefice Administrator employed in 2025.

15. Benefice Administrator Wages Payments

There was no Benefice Administrator employed in 2025.

16. Tangible assets

Assets recognised but not valued in the 'statement of assets and liabilities' include: Computer, Printer, 3in1Printer/Scanner, sound equipment, Inventory Assets vested in the Churchwardens on special trust.

17. Funds

Funds balances at 31 December 2025 were as follows

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
General Fund	3,245.10	0.00	0.00	3,245.10
Fabric Fund	0.00	0.00	18,081.68	18,081.68
Project Fund	0.00	8,194.39	0.00	8,194.39
Churchyard	0.00	0.00	925.33	925.33
Bell Fund	0.00	0.00	3,598.81	3,598.81
Charities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inter-fund indebtedness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monetry Assets c/f	3,245.10	8,194.39	22,605.82	34,045.31
Reconciliation of movement in funds				
Monetary assets b/f	3,660.04	10,668.35	21,508.35	35,836.74
Net Receipts Payments in year	-414.94	-2,473.96	1,097.47	-1,791.43
	3,245.10	8,194.39	22,605.82	34,045.31

The description of each fund is as follows:

The General Fund:

The General Fund is the normal working fund for the day to day running of the church and represents monies that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use. The fund comprises money held in a Treasurers account at Lloyds Bank and money held in a Deposit account at the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF).

St Mary's Fabric Fund (Restricted).

The fabric fund was set up during the year 2000 to cover Re-ordering during 2001 and 2002 and also to administer Quinquennial repairs and other Fabric expenditure in following years. Two accounts exist for the Fabric Fund. A Lloyds bank account for ease of administration and a Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) deposit account for longer term holdings and higher interest. Church members and villagers were asked to donate regularly to this fund and Fund raising activities are also carried out.

Project Fund (Designated).

The project fund was set up during the year 2006 to cover major projects. The PCC was anticipating a move to install a toilet and other facilities at the church premises, monies to be held under this fund. The fund is designated to allow money to be transferred to other funds with agreement of the PCC.

Churchyard Fund (Restricted).

The Churchyard Fund receives dividends from the EMFC Punnet trust (trustees are Bath & Wells DBF) and dividends from 3.5% War stock (a fund set up to cover upkeep of Gale family plot). (trustees are Rector and Churchwardens), given solely for upkeep of the churchyard.

As the 3.5% War Stock is used for the Church and Churchyard and the trustees are the Rector and Churchwardens, this holding is deemed an asset of the PCC of Templecombe and appears in the Assets and Liabilities table as a stock holding.

Bell Fund (Restricted)

The Bell Fund holds funds raised or given, solely for the upkeep of the bells and was originally set up to raise funds for the rehangings of the bells that occurred in 2015. The fund now covers ongoing maintenance costs.

Charities Fund (Restricted).

This Fund covers collections for charities for which the PCC acts as an agent, all monies collected being passed to the named charity. On occasion, the PCC has chosen to boost a collection with an additional amount from the General fund.

Non-PCC Receipts

George Croyden Charity. The PCC current account at Lloyds Bank, Yeovil, also receives dividends from the George Croyden Charity. This charity was established in 1663. Some land was settled upon trust, the rents and profits to be applied "for the learning and instructing of the poorest men's sons of the parish of Abbas Combe to read English and to write and to (word missing) and for no other intent, use or purpose whatsoever".

In 1972, the Secretary of State for Education and Science made an order appointing the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being as trustees of the charity. Also in 1972, the land was sold and the proceeds of £250.00 invested by the Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance at the request of the trustees. By 31/12/2000, this capital had grown to £2,205.33, the dividend received in year 2025 was £119.49.

After seeking advice from the Deanery Treasurer in year 2000, it has been determined that this income, although administered through the PCC, as a result of receiving the dividends in their bank account, does not constitute part of the PCC's income, nor part of the Church's business. However, whilst it is administered through the PCC accounts, the PCC will take instructions from the trustees, the Rector and Churchwardens, as to the distribution of this dividend.

Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees of: Abbas and Templecombe Parochial Church Council

On accounts for the year ended: 31-12-2025 Charity Number (if applicable):

Set out on pages

7-12

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of trustees and
examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

A. Chipping

Date:

9/6/2026

Name:

ALISON CHIPPING.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

ACCA part qualified.
20 years as a Business Manager.

Address:

Silverlands, Combe Hill
Templecombe
BAS 0LL

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.