



2025



ANNUAL REPORT

Parish Church of
St. Laurence Chorley

Annual Report 2025

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Canon Neil Kelley

Rector and Assistant Archdeacon
for Clergy Wellbeing



The Living Stone and a Chosen People (1 Peter 2)

As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Dear friends

As we reflect on 2025, the current redevelopment works represent a lot of hard work and planning over some years now. We started trying to think imaginatively before Covid about how we could use our building, and our post-covid ministry within the community had given us the extra push that we needed. Quite apart from the financial resources that have made the current works possible, the project itself has been skilfully managed by Jill Smith and we were very grateful to a grant for the diocese that brought her to us. Her hard work, strategic mind and attention to detail have made our dream possible. And thanks are due, also, to Alex and all those who have worked with him from the redevelopment team and wider congregation. It really has been a Team effort.

Like many Teams, we've been on tour! We have appreciated the generous and gracious hospitality of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Buckshaw Primary School. Numbers each weekend have held up pretty well. But here I must say a big thank you to all of you who, Sunday after Sunday, have helped the worshipping life of St. Laurence's to continue 'in another place'. You are the real stars of the show! Your dedication and commitment has been so pivotal and this must not be underestimated. You have shown just how important St. Laurence's is to you. If everyone had stayed away each Sunday, then we literally would have no church to come back to. Like all challenging chapters, it has shown where the strength and commitment of congregation members actually lies. You have demonstrated that the church is not the building, but the gathering of people to worship. You are the "living stones" which are spoken about in 1 Peter Chapter 2.

But of course, this is no time for complacency. Despite the repairs that have done, we know that the whole of the roof needs replacing at some stage – so we are not short of a challenge as we look ahead.

But thank you, all of you, for putting the worshipping life of St. Laurence's first Sunday by Sunday and helping to show the wider community that whilst St. Laurence's has been shut, the church (the worshipping community) is still very much open for business.

Fr. Neil Kelley



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VESTRY MEETING

19.00 | 24 April 2025

There were two candidates for the post of Churchwarden, Alex Barrack and Neal Bennet-Williams, who had been proposed and seconded. With no other candidates these were duly elected as wardens for the coming year.



APCM MEETING

19.05 | 24 April 2025

The meeting opened with prayer and an Easter hymn was sung.

Present:

Fr Neil Kelley – Chair, James Laidler - Treasurer, Joy Barrack, Alex Barrack, Cheryl Winstanley, Bernard Oakley, Alan Winstanley, Joan Davies, John Davies, Phil Hall, Chris Berry, Bob Berry, Margaret Shackleton, Stephanie Robinson, Joyce Fielding, Kirsty Marlton-Thomas, Lucy Hubberstey, Fr Cornelius Asghar, Matthew Lewis

Apologies:

Fiona Pattison, Chris Pryor, Betty Kelly, Tony Checker, Rob Kelly, Lynda Hall, Nicola Pilkington, Lyndsey Lynch, Brian Hall, Fraser Marlton-Thomas, Andrew Walkden, Joan Hayward, Emma Barraclough, David Thistlethwaite, Elspeth Butler

The meeting adopted the minutes from the meeting of 25 April 2024.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The APCM received the 2024 Annual Report – there were no issues raised on the body of the report. Its adoption was proposed by Phil Hall and seconded by Margaret Shackleton. Passed unanimously.

Electoral Roll

Currently stood at 161 but might be expected to increase in coming weeks.

Fabric Report

It was advised that one gas boiler had broken down and would need replacement. It was pointed out that this might be outside Diocese policy where eco-friendly options would need consideration. Advice would be sought from the Diocese.

Chairmans Remarks

I'd like to pay tribute to those of our membership who have died since the last APCM:

- Pat Sherwood
- Florence Halliwell
- Dorothy Hatton
- Martin Wray
- Freda Holding
- Brenda Ward
- Geoff Armstrong

The year 2024 saw a number of things happening to our building as a result of much needed work done, all part of our longer term strategy to deal with a long list of structural problems which has grown over quite some years now.

When I came to Chorley many people loved to refer to St. Laurence's as "the parish church" – but what does it mean to be a "parish church?" it means that we take seriously our call to care for everyone in our parish boundary, whether of the same faith as us, or a different faith or no faith at all". That's what it means to be a Parish Church.

As we continue our plans to grow our worshipping community as well as our weekday ministry, may we hear again that call to be a proper parish church – a church that reaches out to all in the name of Christ, especially the last, the least and the lost.



I wish to place on record my thanks to everyone who does anything in the church, volunteer role, PCC and Ministry Team, all our various admin staff and everyone who makes the place tick over.

We look forward to Cornelius's ordination to the priesthood and his first mass at the end of June.

We have a large body of volunteers - equating to a value of around £100,000 of time given based on minimum wage.



ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no candidates for the vacant position of Deanery Synod representative.

Retiring PCC members were thanked for their contributions.

The following had been proposed and seconded as new PCC members and were duly elected:

- Andrew Walkden (Sunday 9am congregation)
- Matthew Lewis (Sunday 9am congregation)
- Brian Hall (Saturday 5pm congregation)
- Lyndsey Lynch (Sunday 9am congregation)

Fr. Neil observed that no one from the 11am congregation had offered to stand for PCC.

Deputy wardens Tony Checker and Bernard Oakley were reelected.

James Laidler proposed John Schofield to continue as Independent Examiner. All in agreement.

Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.35pm with prayer.

OFFICERS

Deanery Synod Members

- Tony Checker
- Phil Hall
- Fiona Pattison

PCC Members

- Alan Winstanley
- Chris Pryor, resigned July
- Nicola Pilkington
- Fraser Marlton-Thomas
- Emma Barraclough
- Kirsty Marlton-Thomas
- Neal Bennet-Williams
- Lucy Hubberstey
- Andrew Walkden
- Matthew Lewis
- Brian Hall
- Lyndsey Lynch

Wardens

- Alex Barrack
- Neal Bennet-Williams

Deputy Wardens

- Tony Checker
- Bernard Oakley

Independent Examiner

- John Schofield

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STRUCTURE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

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

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC hold regular meetings during the year.

Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.

The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.

In 2024 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.



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COMMITTEES



PARISH FINANCE AND FABRIC COMMITTEE

Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, David Ward, Joy Barrack, Alex Barrack



SAFEGUARDING GROUP

Rector (ex-officio), Parish Safeguarding Officer, Nicola Pilkington, Fiona Pattison, Jim Prowse, Judith Hilton



HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUP

Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler, Joan Hayward, David Ward, Colin Christie



HOSPITALITY GROUP

Rector (ex-officio), Janet Prowse and and Brian Clarke (joint chair), Chris Hedges, Fiona Pattison, Margaret Shackleton, Alan Winstanley



REDEVELOPMENT GROUP

Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair), Rector (ex-officio), Churchwardens (ex-officio), James Laidler (ex-officio), Jill Smith, David Ward, Dan Hubberstey, Andrew Walkden, Alan Winstanley



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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PARISH OF CHORLEY ST LAURENCE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175130

THE PARISH IS PART OF THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN WITHIN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

THE CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS IS: ST LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY, PR7 1EB

Website	www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Rector	Canon Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Assistant Curate	Fr. Cornelius Asghar
Assisting Clergy	Rev David Ward, Fr. Edmund Straszak, Rev Mike Hatton
ALMs	Phil Hall, Tony Checker, Neal Bennet-Williams, Michelle Wareham
Parish Administrator	Natalie Print (resigned April 2025)
Rectors PA	Mandy Stanton
Ops Manager	Irene Preston (retired April 2025)
Project Administrator	Jill Smith
Church Co-ordinator	Lucy Wray (from April-October 2025), Sally Gregson (interim from November)
CAP Debt Centre Manager	Rachel Gilkes
Wellness Co-ordinator	Rachel Gilkes
PCC Treasurer	James Laidler
PCC Secretary	Tracy Earl
Churchwardens	Alex Barrack (ex-officio PCC), Neal Bennet-Williams (ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Churchwardens	Tony Checker, Bernard Oakley
Deanery Synod Reps	Phil Hall (2026), Tony Checker (2026), Fiona Pattison (2026)
Elected PCC Members	Alan Winstanley (2026), Chris Pryor (2026) (resigned July 2025), Fraser Marlton-Thomas (2026), Kirsty Marlton-Thomas (2026), Nicola Pilkington (2026), Tracy Earl (2026), Emma Barraclough (2026), Lucy Hubberstey (2027), Andrew Walkden (2028), Matthew Lewis (2028), Brian Hall (2028), Lyndsey Lynch (2028), Deanery Synod members that are ex-officio members of the PCC: Phil Hall (2026), Tony Checker (2026), Fiona Pattison (2026)
Electoral Roll Officer	Natalie Print (resigned April 2025), Lucy Wray (April-October), Sally Gregson (interim from November)
Finance and Fabric Group	James Laidler (chair)
Health and Safety	David Ward, James Laidler, Joan Hayward, Colin Christie
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Nicola Pilkington
Redevelopment Group	Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair)
Parish Bankers	Virgin Money
Independent Examiner	John Schofield BA (Oxon), 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect	John Coward Architects Ltd, 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, LA11 6PG

DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE CHURCH IS EXERCISED BY THE INCUMBENT, CANON NEIL KELLEY AND THE CHURCHWARDENS, ALEX BARRACK AND NEAL BENNET-WILLIAMS, CONTACTABLE THROUGH ST. LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY PR7 1EB, TEL: 01257 231360

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CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence, Chorley, under Section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

Another year has passed in the life of St Laurence's, and once again there have been many activities taking place.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to and supported the work that has been achieved.

Special thanks go to all the retired clergy who have supported services both in St. Laurence's and at St. Laurence's on Tour during the ongoing work in the main body of the Church.

Church services continued to be well attended throughout the year, including the on-tour services at Buckshaw Primary School and St Mary's Church. We have been blessed to welcome many new members and families and look forward to their involvement in various activities within our Church family. Our thanks also to St Peter's for hosting our Crib Service baptisms, funerals and for the joint Midnight Mass. We are also grateful to St George's, where the funeral of John Smith - a long-serving and much-loved member of our Church family - was held.

St Laurence's remains committed to serving the wider community, providing hot meals through Open Table on Monday evenings, and Taste Café on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. We also continue to offer courses and support through Christians Against Poverty, as well as the Wellness Hub, which includes talking table sessions, mindfulness, and other activities.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their wonderful contributions to every aspect of our activities. Last summer, volunteers were given a period of rest, during which many completed online training to ensure compliance with safeguarding, food hygiene, and health and safety requirements. We have also successfully transitioned to the St Laurence app, allowing volunteers to sign up more easily for their roles. As a token of our appreciation, a number of volunteers enjoyed a day trip to Lytham St Annes.

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CHURCHWARDENS REPORT CONT..

In June we celebrated the ordination of Fr. Cornelius Asghar as priest, at Blackburn Cathedral. A coach was organised to allow many of the congregation to join the ceremony.

The Friends of St. Laurence have continued to support the Church, and we thank our current Mayor Alistair Morwood and his team for their dedication in raising funds towards the upkeep of the building.

We are extremely fortunate to have a Church tower with a ring of eight bells. The tower has been silent since October due to scaffolding restricting access. We are grateful to the bell-ringers for calling people to worship on the Sunday mornings when ringing was possible. They have also been able to ring at St. Mary's for their 09.30 service. New learners are always welcome.

Our thanks go to the Standish Stitchers, who produced a beautiful display for the Flower Show inspired by Monet's famous garden paintings. The bridge featured in the display was constructed by David Jones. They continue to support St Laurence's, and new craft volunteers are always welcome.

The shop has continued to offer a variety of gifts throughout the year, including seasonal items, raising valuable funds towards the upkeep of the Church. Our thanks go to Anne Wray and her team of volunteers for their hard work and commitment.

There continues to be a great deal happening at St. Laurence's - church services, community activities, and wider outreach. We are deeply grateful to all who make this possible.

Since our last Churchwardens' Report, we have said farewell to our Events Coordinator, Irene Preston who retired, and to Lucy Wray, our Church Coordinator. We offer our thanks to them both for their contribution. We also extend a warm welcome to our new Church Office Coordinator Sally Gregson.

Mr. Alex Barrack
Mr. Neal Bennet-Williams
Churchwardens



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DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod Meeting. 19.00 - 03 March 2025

Clayton Brook Community Church, PR5 8HL

Meeting and discussion led by Bishop Jill and Carolyn Barton

Subject: 'Vision Refresh' to formulate 'Vision 2033'

Bishop Jill introduced the meeting explaining the 'Vision Refresh' that will be presented in November 2026 as an announcement of 'Vision 2033'.

Visions of the past – 'a shape of things to come' a vision for the natural decline of the church, that actually, never happened thankfully. Vision 2026 and recent news have shown a renewed interest in Christianity and interest in the Gospel.

Visions are important because they often provide a leverage for finance, generating money from the support of the national church.

Recently we have received £26m to support the growth of youth ministry.

Other groups of interest – Empower church and Choir church

Interestingly – there are 42 Diocese in the country, 38 of which are in the 'red', Blackburn Diocese is 1 of 4 that is not, so thank you everyone for your contributions towards this.

Another reason why they are important – Vision helps to generate HOPE.

Discussion re Diocesan Vision and the Local Parish – group discussion on the following questions:

1. What has the vision meant for your parish?
2. What are your hopes for the future?

Where are we in the process of 'Vision Refresh'?

- September – December 2024 – consultation with all parishes and CofE schools – feedback to follow.
- Currently – January – April 2025 – Consultation with Deanery Synods, Headteachers and Incumbents.
- There will be a Half Day Bishop's council meeting, and consultation with youth forums plus other key groups in the diocese.

When deciding on a vision we must focus on listening to God and his direction.

In May 2025 there will be a diocesan vision and strategy group residential and in July 2025 the overview of all consultations will be discussed at Diocesan synod.

**38 out of 42 Diocese in the country are in 'red',
Blackburn Diocese is 1 of 4 that is not.**

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DEANERY SYNOD

Working out the details of the new vision:

- September 2025 to April 2026 – Consultation
- July to October 2026 – Diocesan Synods
- Launch of the new Diocesan vision for 2033 – November 2026
- Presentation of Key Themes from the Parish Consultation

Vision 2026 – Healthy Churches Transforming Communities

- Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ
- Growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Inspiring Children and Young People

Support for vision 2026 and feedback

- Don't lose the importance of the current vision
- Do we need to change it?
- Good support from diocese on vision approach
- 2026 vision a helpful framework

The world is a different place now, and we need to adapt. Bishop Philip is encouraging all to look towards the future, to 2033, an important anniversary some 2,000 years since Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

All present were encouraged to think about the following during the presentation:

- Which of the areas of feedback most resonate with you/do you think are most relevant to us as a diocese?
- Do any concern you and if so, why?
- Is anything missing and/or what else needs to be considered?

Theme 1

Abiding in Jesus, reliant on his direction and His empowering

- Less doing and more being with Jesus
- Prayer and more prayer
- Faith as an integrated way of life not just for Sunday

Related Readings

- John 15 v4
- Isaiah 40 v31

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DEANERY SYNOD

Theme 2

A vibrant, Christ-centred, growing family

- Jesus at the centre
- Welcoming where all can feel at home
- Strong theme – people love the focus on children’s ministry, but how about we also ensure to focus on ‘All Age’ and don’t forget to include the older generations too.
- Safe
- United
- Giving and receiving between churches, deaneries, the diocese

Theme 3

Missional and outward focused

- ‘As a diocese we need to be missional. We should seek to make Jesus famous and challenge the pre-conceived ideas that people have of the church’
- Confident people of faith – there was mention of people having a lack of confidence to share their faith
- Discipleship takes time

Theme 4

At the heart of our communities and central to the whole community

- Jesus’ main task was to grow God’s kingdom, he was relentless, we must do the same
- Embracing internet & social media and utilising these well
- Buildings will be more practical spaces for community engagement

Theme 5

A voice for justice

- Speaking truth to power
- Encouraging Christian business leaders
- Creation care
- Addressing societal challenges

Theme 6

Liberated and enabled: Reduced bureaucracy and administration

- Reduce information overload
- Less administration
- Simpler processes
- Buildings need to be fit for purpose and use by community

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DEANERY SYNOD

Not losing sight of:

- Be confident and go for growth
- Lose 'but that's the way its always been done'
- De-stuffing the churches image
- Headline of the whole consultation – HOPE
- 'God is wanting us to maintain out hope'
- 'Remain hopeful'
- 'More hope for the future'
- 'A place of hope, of comfort'

The room split into groups to discuss the key themes and we encouraged to think about:

- Which of the areas of feedback most resonate with you/ do you think are most relevant to us as a diocese?
- Do any concern you and if so, why?
- Is anything missing and/or what else needs to be considered?

Feedback

Each group presented a key reflection from their discussions

- Focus on hope and Jesus
- Practical help re: buildings would be appreciated
- Theme 6 – may be a little aspirational
- Overall – don't change the current vision too much. Small tweaks to move it onto the next ten years may be better
- Biggest impact theme would be to be relieved of admin which would help to focus more on ministry
- Adapting church buildings to meet the needs of the community. Services times to meet the needs of the community.
- Embrace the community, help people to understand that church is an 'Embrace of Love'
- Reaching out to and connecting with all ages. Connecting Facebook 'likes' to people coming into church. Live streaming services, school connections.
- All age – an important theme
- All age and inclusive, mutual support and nurturing - 'Spirit led, Christ centred, Hope filled, Intergenerational, Inclusive Church'
- Vision should be Christ centred and outward focused
- Growth – theological growth and growth in learning is as important as numerical growth

Carolyn and Bishop Jill thanked everyone for their contributions. Carolyn informed us that all feedback from tonight will be collated, along with other Deanery Synod feedback and used in the Vision consultation.

Closing Comments and Prayer

Fr. Neil informed everyone of Stef's retirement and thanked him on behalf of everyone for all of his hard work. Bishop Jill thanked Stef for his ministry and that he will be missed.

Year of Growth and Renewal Prayer



God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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FABRIC REPORT

Standish Room and Lady Chapel

Following the successful infrared drying of the drainage gully between the Lady Chapel and the Standish Room, Ornate Interiors replaced and plastered all the affected ceiling panels and repaired several areas of historical ceiling damage. The holes created in the Lady Chapel ceiling to test for moisture were also repaired. The loft and the Standish Room were cleaned, and carpet tiles were installed in the loft to support future maintenance.

A significant portion of the room had been used for food storage during the expansion of our support network. Shelving installed during Covid became redundant as our outreach changed. Some of this shelving was securely fixed to the walls to store paperwork and other items previously kept in the loft.

Roof of the Taste Cafe

The roof above the Taste Cafe was used for storage during the loft refurbishment and was later cleared to allow for rebuilding work.

Lighting

The project to replace all Church lighting with LED fittings was completed throughout the Church, tower, and external areas.

Plumbing

New plumbing was installed for the Church kitchen hot water geyser. The refectory geyser became unrepairable, and thanks to a kind donation, a new unit was installed.

The long-standing leak in the central heating pipe by the organ was repaired with a bespoke fitting. At the same time, the radiator opposite the kitchen was removed to allow the pew to be taken out. As the Church water supply is metered, a new meter was installed in February 2026.

The attempt to repair boiler number three was unsuccessful, and the boiler was condemned. A faculty application was submitted to the DAC at Blackburn, and a notice of intent was posted publicly. The faculty was granted and a new boiler was installed in March 2026.

Pews

In preparation for the replacement of pews, all pews - whether remaining or being removed - were measured, mapped, and catalogued. This included all pew-related items, whether inside the main Church or stored elsewhere.

Some pews had been removed earlier and were stored behind the art screens, on the refectory roof, in the loft, and in both the Rector's and Curate's garages.

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FABRIC CONT..

A number were sold to individuals, and the remainder from this tranche were sold to a dealer. Although more sales had been hoped for, most pews are larger than typical room sizes, and dark wood furniture is currently out of fashion.

Chairs

New chairs were ordered and delivered to replace the seating lost with the removal of the pews.

Parquet Flooring

Some sections near the refectory kitchen door had become loose due to dried-out glue. These were lifted, cleaned, and reglued. This remains an ongoing task, particularly as newly exposed areas formerly covered by pews are assessed.

Store Room off the Upper Room

This room has been cleared and fitted with some of the redundant shelving.

Radiator Grids

These allow heat to escape from central-heating pipes embedded in the Church floor. Most were previously beneath the pews in the main aisle. Now exposed to foot traffic, the slatted grids are prone to cracking. Many have been repaired so they will no longer crack when walked on. This remains an ongoing task. We may need to consider the balance between heat output and the risk of heels becoming trapped.

Stopcock

The stopcock is located near the north wall by the organ, behind the display boards. An extension tool is positioned nearby so the valve may be operated without moving the boards.



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FABRIC CONT..

Toilet Door

The men's/women's signs were removed some time ago, and the toilet nearest the stairs was designated as the baby-change and disabled toilet. After testing with a wheelchair, it was determined that the inward-opening door made access difficult.

When the door required repair, the opportunity was taken to rehang it on the opposite side so it now opens outwards. The frame was removed, rotated 180°, and refitted. Access is now significantly easier for wheelchair users, those using mobility aids, or those with an assistant.

The next step is to explore installing an assistance alarm.

Both toilets suffer from poor ventilation due to the long, complex pipework from the roof vents to the outside.

Boiler House and Door

The boiler house had become a dumping area but has now been cleared. When weather permits, the door and the adjacent one will be sanded and revarnished. The emergency exit door from the upper room may also require internal attention.

Front Door

The front door expanded during cold, wet weather and has been planed down to prevent sticking. The wood-grain painted finish is ageing and will need refreshing in the near future.

Fire Alarm

The fire alarm was serviced in May 2025, and the extinguishers were serviced in November, with two replaced. The fire alarm system was upgraded to a three-zone configuration to include the Church kitchen.

Donation Box

A recent incident involved the donation box being taken outside and destroyed. Insurance covered the replacement, which has now arrived and will be secured once the main Church area reopens.

North Tower Gate

The gate bolt was broken off due to vandalism and will need to be welded back on in the future.

Banner of Crosses

The banner formerly displayed in the Church has been cleaned, repaired, and is now displayed in the Standish Room.

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FABRIC CONT...

The American Flag

The post-World War II flag has been temporarily removed ahead of planned works in the Church.

Churchyard

The Churchyard was closed in September in preparation for major roof works and the installation of a new Church kitchen.

The gates were taken away for restoration by Chorley Council. We thank the Council for arranging this. They will be returned when current building works are complete.

The memorial benches on the south side of the Church were moved indoors for protection during the works, and the stone memorial was boxed to avoid damage.

Several wasp nests were removed from the south side of the building over the summer and autumn.



The Council has been informed that several trees at the rear of the Church continue to pose issues of private nuisance and trespass, including a dead tree near the Union Street entrance. Some work was carried out in 2024, but further action is required.

Warning signs have been placed on the northeast gate to improve security at the rear of the building.

Building Works

Work began in October to install a new Church kitchen and address structural issues with the central roof valleys and the north aisle gutter. The work is expected to be completed in March, with scaffolding scheduled for removal in April. We extend our thanks to everyone involved in this major project.

Chris Pryor and Alex Barrack

Fabric Committee

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STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT



The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc.) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, supporting the homeless and street pastors)

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OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES



- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan Vision 2026 programme which focuses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

See Churchwardens Report.

Approved by the PCC at the meeting on 19 March 2026.

Signed on their behalf by

CANON NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

Approved by the APCM on 23 April 2026.

To be signed after ratification at the APCM

CANON NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

JAMES LAIDLER, TREASURER

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SAFEGUARDING

In 2025 we have developed our Safeguarding team to include:



Nicola Pilkington
Parish
Safeguarding Officer



Fiona Pattinson
DBS
Verifier



Judith Hilton
Safeguarding and
Volunteer Support



Jim Prowse
Safeguarding
Clerk

This team meets regularly to discuss safeguarding at St Laurence's, review policies and procedures and look at ways to strength this areas across all aspects of church.

Training/DBS as of December 2025

- All PCC members were up to date with the safeguarding training (having completed three modules; Churchwardens do four).
- All volunteers receive an induction, which includes how to handle safeguarding concerns and who to speak to.
- All DBS's are up to date for PCC and Volunteers.

Display

On display in Church we have the following:

1. A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'
2. Contact details of the PSO, Churchwarden and any other local leaders
3. Contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team – including phone, email and website details
4. Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. ChildLine (See separate 'Model Safeguarding in parishes-who's who')
5. Provide access to a hard copy Parish Safeguarding Handbook (see separate Handbook)
6. Provide access to a hard copy of the Diocese Safeguarding Manual

Safeguarding Concerns/Actions

There have been 14 safeguarding referrals within the past 12 months which have involved referral to other agencies or further safeguarding support from St Laurence's Church. One safety plan has been reviewed with the Diocese Safeguarding officer. A Safety Plan sets out expectations, actions and arrangements that will be delivered by named members of the Church body and the subject of the Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the church community, including the person named in the Plan. The Parish Safeguarding Officer also responds to calls from volunteers and signposts them to the relevant people or agencies. Summary Action Plans from the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard are shared regularly with the PCC to ensure they are up to date. Further templates and documents can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding>

Nicola Pilkington

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Annual Report 2025

CHURCH ATTENDANCE



ELECTORAL ROLL

187

This is an increase of 26 from 2024 (161)



AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

241

This is a decrease of 5 from 2024 (246)



AVERAGE WEEKDAY ATTENDANCE

37

This is an increase of 07 from 2024 (30)

10

FUNERALS

01

BURIAL OF ASHES

00

WEDDINGS

19

BAPTISMS



Annual Report 2025

2025 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The consolidated statement of financial activities shows our total funds increased over the year by £10,988. Our total resources comprising unrestricted, designated and restricted funds at the year-end stood at £500,281.

Work has continued to renovate and re-order the Church building with a contract placed with Walker Conservation Specialists Ltd in September. The total sum committed, including professional fees and non-reclaimable VAT, was £599,323. Additional grants have been secured to ensure the work is completed within our available resources. We expect the works to be completed by Easter 2026.

Challenges remain as we strive to fund our continuing community services including the structure and offering of Taste Café once the refurbished kitchen is in use. We also need to continue to grow to cover ever increasing day to day costs of ministry.



£10,988

The consolidated statement of financial activities shows our total funds increased over the year by.



£500,281

Total resources comprising unrestricted, designated and restricted funds at the year-end.



£599,323

The total sum of current renovations works committed, including professional fees and non-reclaimable VAT.

Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Churches financial resources are contained within five funds.

The Emergency Food Parcel Fund

After five years of serving the community with the Emergency Food Parcels, provision for the service came to a close as we began to re-think provision and resources for a new chapter in our church's life.

At local government level, Chorley Council had advised that financial support was being diverted to addressing more 'root cause issues' and a more sustainable model of support going forwards.

Thanks are due to the vast team of volunteers (some from other Chorley Churches) led by Cheryl Winstanley and Karen Pemberton for their service in this ministry, Chorley BC, Jigsaw Homes and other organisations for their financial support and the many individual donations of food and money.

All grants received during the time of the service have been fully expended.

The remaining balance of the fund was transferred to the community fund at the year end.



Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Community Fund

This fund is in place to finance the Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, Wellness Hub, Taste Café and Monday Open Table. Due to the building works, we were unable to offer Christmas lunch in 2025.

The fund has also been used to a small extent to grant emergency funds to those in critical need through the Rector’s discretionary fund.

The fund finances the employment costs of the CAP Manager, Wellness Hub Manager and 50% of the salary of the Church Co-Ordinator.

As agreed by the PCC the fund shares the costs of utilities and insurance with the general fund.



Grants totalling £37,049 received during the year include:

● Lancashire CC	£250
● Chorley Relief Fund	£1,500
● Asda	£1,000
● Tesco	£1,125
● VolkerStevin	£500
● Maurice & Hilda Laing Trust	£1,000
● National Lottery Community Fund	£19,524
● Chorley BC	£13,150

Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As at the year end the fund had a balance of £20,419. Funds however totalling £24,263 have been received from specific grantors, which have not yet been expended to the following items:

- National Lottery for Kitchen Manager salary £5,661
- Chorley BC for food provision through Taste and Open table £3,379
- National Lottery for utilities £7,259
- National Lottery for Wellness Hub Manager salary £7,964

The fund is therefore £3,844 in deficit at the year end. The PCC however agreed in March 2025 that restricted funds in the sum of £50,000 might be made available to underwrite the continuing of community services. The Charity Commission agreed to the proposal in April 2025. These funds will be utilised in 2026 as required.

We thank Jill Smith, Project Administrator, for the work in building relationships with our funders and undertaking considerable work with grant applications.



Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Fabric Fund

The fund was established at the start of 2023 to finance the repair and re-ordering of the Church. It has also been used to fund continued renovation works to the organ.

During the year the following expenditures were made:

- Purchase of new chairs
- Three stage payments to the contractor including Vat
- Associated professional fees
- Insurance costs

Grants have been received from:

- Duchy of Lancashire benevolent fund - £1,000
- Groundwork UK £10,386 (for installation of LED lighting in 2024)
- Beatrice Laing Trust - £2,500
- Lancashire Environmental Fund - £20,000
- Albert Gubay Trust - £125,000
- Congregational & General Charitable Trust - £15,000
- LPW Grants Scheme re Vat paid in 2024 - £28,087

Thanks again must go to Jill Smith, Project Administrator for the work in sourcing this funding and undertaking considerable work with grant applications.

Balance of the fund at the year-end stood at £310,098.

All grants will be expended on the completion of roof and kitchen works.

PCC agreed that interest accrued on the Fabric Fund should be applied to the General Funds of the Church.



Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

General Fund



The accounts for the year show a deficit on the general fund of £13,488.



Total income for the year was £193,205 a decrease of £22,639 in 2024.



Parish Giving Scheme increased by 40%

Following a successful stewardship campaign during Lent, planned giving has increased by an estimated 23%. Giving through the Parish Giving Scheme increased by 40% which is most encouraging.



Shop sales:

The figure includes gross art/craft sales. The shop continued to make a significant contribution to Church funds although sales reduced following the closure of Taste in the summer and the commencement of building work in October.

**Our costs totalled
£206,693,
a decrease of
£14,638.**

Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

General funds as at the
year-end stood at **£32,631**

General Fund Cont.



Parish share payments were met in full. The Diocese granted Parish Share Support of £19,792.



A redundancy payment of £3,030 was made on the early retirement of the Operations Administrator.



Gas and electricity costs of £16,470 reduced by 38% on the previous year as general prices fell and we received significant benefit of the LED lighting installation.



Repairs to the Standish Room ceiling totalling £7,908 which had been expended through the Fabric Fund in 2024 were applied to general funds as the work was outside the scope of the redevelopment project.



Other costs were in line with budget.

Annual Report 2025

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Restricted Funds

These are investments held from historical legacies.

The value of the investments has reduced to £137,131 from £142,842 at the start of the year. The balance sheet figure is shown net of the amount of the withdrawal above.

As mentioned earlier up to £50,000 of these funds have been committed to support our community work going forward.

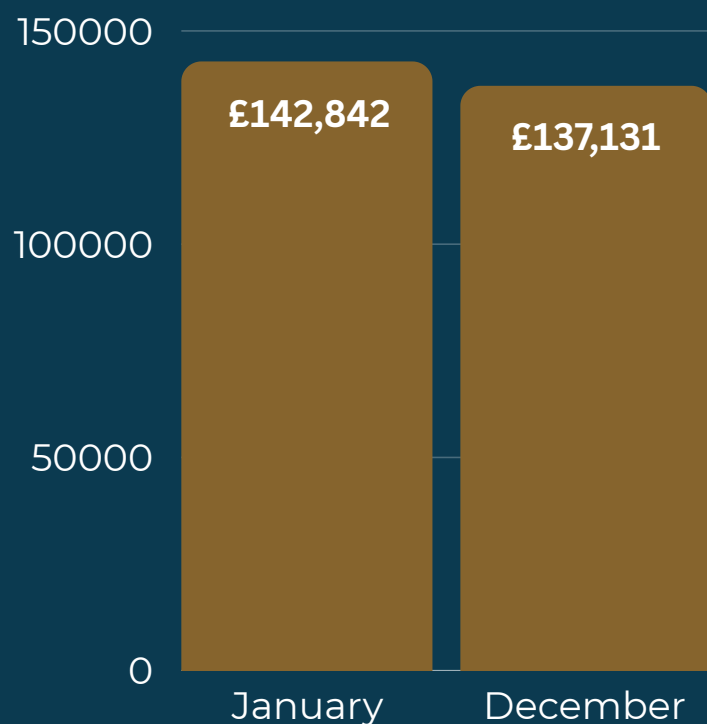
The revaluation reserve has been released and added to the restricted fund. This corresponds to the total for investments in the balance sheet.

Appreciation

I would like to record my continued thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of the report and accounts.

James Laidler

Parish Treasurer



Annual Report 2025

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP

The Finance Group held four quarterly meetings over the past 12 months. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met with quarterly accounts reviewed and submitted to PCC. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC
- Review quotations for significant expenditure outside items dealt with by the Fabric Group.
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside to normal day to day running expenses of up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances.
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

With regard to payments, the issues with regard to using the bank debit card for online purchases, were resolved. Re-imburement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC by staff and parishioners, were made immediately on production of receipts.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Joy Barrack and Barbara Coates for undertaking cash reconciliation and banking during the year.

I would like to record our thanks to Ian Knell of Mike Hankey and Co Ltd, of Bamber Bridge, who had generously provided payroll services to the Church over many years up to October 2025.

James Laidler

Parish Treasurer

February 2026

Annual Report 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Consolidated Receipts and Payments

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	468,863	—	—	468,863	358,437
Income from charitable activities	1,834	—	—	1,834	4,987
Other trading activities	22,280	—	—	22,280	28,312
Investments	21,781	—	—	21,781	24,014
Other income	367	—	—	367	—
Total income and endowments from:	515,126	—	—	515,126	415,752
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	1,172	—	—	1,172	4,409
Expenditure on charitable activities	464,737	—	—	464,737	460,180
Other expenditure	32,517	—	—	32,517	25,425
Total expenditure on:	498,428	—	—	498,428	490,014
Net income / (expenditure)	16,698	—	—	16,698	(74,262)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	15,682	30,634	—	46,316	42,936
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,769)	(43,547)	—	(46,316)	(42,936)
Net income / (expenditure)	29,612	(12,913)	—	16,698	(74,262)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	(5,710)	—	(5,710)	3,784
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	29,612	(18,624)	—	10,988	(70,477)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	333,537	155,756	—	489,293	559,771
Total funds carried forward	363,149	137,132	—	500,281	489,293

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

Annual Report 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
EFP - Emergency Food Parcels (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		110	60
Non-recurring one-off grants		—	6,000
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>110</u>	<u>6,060</u>
Total income and endowments		110	6,060
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Church office - telephone and WIFI		25	41
Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		40	—
Emergency Food parcels		3,105	5,276
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>3,171</u>	<u>5,318</u>
Total expenditure		3,171	5,318
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(3,061)	742
	Transfers to/(from)	(2,769)	—
	Brought forward balance	5,831	5,089
Total carried forward balance		<u>0</u>	<u>5,831</u>
HF - Community Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		1,510	2,513
Taste Cafe donations		2,928	6,099
Fund Raising - other activities		—	3,698
Non-recurring one-off grants		37,049	56,023
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>41,487</u>	<u>68,336</u>
Total income and endowments		41,487	68,336
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		—	921
	<i>Total Raising funds</i>	<u>—</u>	<u>921</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Parish Co-Ordinator		747	—
CAP Salary		12,374	—
CAP expenses		8,860	—
Kitchen Manager		2,138	5,258
Church Co-Ordinator		6,581	—
Operations administrator		3,330	8,905
Parish Nurse salary		—	2,496
Parish Nurse - expenses		—	308
Wellness Hub Manager		8,804	3,569
Wellness Hub Expenses		3,596	8,546
Rector's Discretionary Fund		510	450
Church equipment and office purchases		674	225

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Note	From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
Church office - telephone and WIFI		164	185
Cleaning		5,010	3,306
Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		1,293	264
Monday Open Kitchen and Christmas lunch		2,275	4,794
Taste Cafe expenses		3,421	7,104
Church running Health & Safety		321	246
		<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>45,661</i>
Other expenditure			
Contribution to Church overheads		12,663	14,288
		<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>14,288</i>
Total expenditure		72,769	60,870
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(31,282)	7,465
Transfers to/(from)		15,682	—
Brought forward balance		36,018	28,553
Total carried forward balance		20,419	36,018

Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Donations appeals etc	74,507	1,440
Fund Raising - other activities	—	9,390
Fund Raising Church Fayres	—	1,648
Legacies	1,945	—
Non-recurring one-off grants	201,971	113,032
Other funds generated	1,900	—
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>125,512</i>

Total income and endowments

280,324 **125,512**

Expenditure

Raising funds

Costs of fetes & other events	—	1,408
	<i>Total Raising funds</i>	<i>1,408</i>

Expenditure on charitable activities

Church equipment and office purchases	19,804	1,491
Church running - insurance	2,152	—
Organ / piano tuning	—	13,153
Church maintenance	—	745
Church major repairs - structure	172,912	159,090
Church major repairs - installation	1,070	15,469
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>189,949</i>

Other expenditure

Church Major Structure - Fees	19,853	11,137
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>11,137</i>

Total expenditure

215,792 **202,494**

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	64,531	(76,982)
Brought forward balance	245,566	322,548

Total carried forward balance

310,098 **245,566**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Note	From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
		10,896	13,170
		6,175	8,138
		77,178	55,136
		4,059	4,798
		7,473	5,353
		3,887	8,411
		210	2,128
		1,561	1,609
		15	50
		24,822	20,737
		0	124
		5,252	15,000
		—	17,965
		250	1,320
		2,674	2,257
		244	70
		207	1,470
		2,034	787
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>146,941</u>	<u>158,529</u>
Income from charitable activities			
		1,834	4,987
	<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<u>1,834</u>	<u>4,987</u>
Other trading activities			
		6,258	10,713
		2,768	3,161
		590	150
		12,663	14,288
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<u>22,280</u>	<u>28,312</u>
Investments			
		4,149	5,140
		17,631	18,874
	<i>Total Investments</i>	<u>21,781</u>	<u>24,014</u>
Other income			
		367	—
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<u>367</u>	<u>—</u>
Total income and endowments		<u>193,205</u>	<u>215,844</u>
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
		18	—
		1,153	2,079
	<i>Total Raising funds</i>	<u>1,172</u>	<u>2,079</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities			
		300	30
		90,000	85,515
		747	1,047
		408	89
		—	12,100
		—	9,249
		8,320	6,979
		13,005	8,405
		1,815	991

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
		—	198
		12,515	12,138
		3,030	—
		2,516	2,674
		1,241	1,070
		2,492	2,378
		90	37
		3,236	4,568
		1,075	868
		2,005	1,921
		1,137	1,183
		1,058	—
		62	442
		6,236	6,168
		2,324	1,684
		1,396	1,012
		2,142	1,524
		752	932
		462	—
		2,994	3,399
		1,942	6,067
		3,678	3,519
		5,522	5,632
		30	50
		4,717	8,088
		1,873	2,519
		1,141	2,835
		11,753	14,257
		800	437
		249	192
		900	2,009
		—	270
		3,637	6,760
		7,908	—
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>205,521</u>	<u>219,251</u>
Total expenditure		206,693	221,331
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(13,488)	(5,487)
	Transfers to/(from)	—	42,936
	Brought forward balance	46,119	8,671
Total carried forward balance		32,631	46,119

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

Annual Report 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
Restric - Restricted Fund Endowments held by Diocese (Restricted) Fund			
		17,720	(42,936)
		(5,710)	3,784
		125,122	164,274
		137,132	125,122
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund			
		(30,634)	—
		30,633	30,633
		0	30,633
TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund			
		—	—
		—	—
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
		—	—
		—	—
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund			
		—	—
		—	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown.

Annual Report 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2025

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
6435: Curate's House	—	—
6440: Investments held at Diocese	137,131.13	142,841.66
Total Fixed assets	137,131.13	142,841.66
Current assets		
1510: HMRC	1,400.00	1,500.00
6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	10,322.24	14,309.15
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	—	—
6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	351,396.42	318,820.44
6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	—	12,913.74
6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	31.89	26.64
Total Current assets	363,150.55	347,569.97
Liabilities		
6699: Agency collections	—	1,118.00
Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
Total Liabilities	—	1,118.00
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	500,281.68	489,293.63
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) to date	16,698.58	(74,262.20)
Z01: Starting balances	489,293.63	546,725.17
Z02: Other gains/(losses)	(5,710.53)	16,830.66
Total Reserves	500,281.68	489,293.63

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	32,631.17	46,119.86
Designated	330,518.38	287,417.37
Restricted	137,132.13	155,756.40
Endowment	—	—
Total	500,281.68	489,293.63

Annual Report 2025**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LAURENCE CHORLEY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO
THE PCC OF ST LAURENCE'S**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE 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 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to

- keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon)**

126 Deerfold
Chorley
Lancashire

13 March 2026

Parish Church of Chorley

St. Laurence

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB