



Called to be a
community of
mercy and kindness

2025 Annual Report and Accounts

(unaudited)

2025 Annual Report and Accounts



Registered Charity 1129784

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1. Legal and administrative details

Full Parochial Name	The Parish of Witney The churches of St John the Baptist, Curbridge; St John the Evangelist, Hailey; Holy Trinity, Witney; and St Mary the Virgin, Witney. The Windrush church is affiliated to the Parish.
Charity registration number	1129784
Church Office	St Mary the Virgin, Church Green, Witney, OX28 4AW Tel: 01993 779492 E-mail: office@witneyparish.org.uk
Bankers to the PCC	Barclays Bank PLC, 30 Market Square, Witney, OX28 6BJ
Independent examiner	Whitley Stimpson Limited, 13-15 High Street, Witney, OX28 6HW

The following are schools and charities associated with the Parish of Witney and whose transactions are not included in these accounts:

The Batt School Trust (excepted charity)	The Rector is a trustee on induction and Church Wardens are ex-officio trustees.
Hailey Church of England School Trust (excepted charity)	The Rector is an ex-officio trustee and the PCC appoints one ex-officio trustee.
Collier and Goose Ham (Witney Ecclesiastical Charity, no. 238857)	The Rector is an ex-officio trustee, the PCC nominates two trustees and the Rector and the two nominative trustees appoint two co-optative trustees.
Witney Ecumenical Youth Trust	The PCC appoints two trustees who are normally officers of the PCC.
St Mary's Church (Witney) Preservation Trust (Charity no. 284576)	The Rector is a trustee on induction or the priest in charge during an interregnum.
The Friends of Hailey Church (Charity no. 293821)	The "Vicar of Hailey" is an ex-officio member of the committee.

Membership of the Parish of Witney Parochial Church Council and Deputy Wardens

As elected at the Annual Meeting on 11 May 2025:

Clergy	The Rev'd Dr Hester Jones ¹ - Chair The Rev'd Dr Christopher Dingwall-Jones The Rev'd James Elward The Rev'd Preb Mark Thomas
Churchwardens	Ms Kate Banks ¹ Mr Jeremy Lasman ¹
Deputy Churchwardens	St Mary's Mr Ashley Arnold Mr Andrew Brown Holy Trinity Mrs Charlotte Tremain ¹ Hailey Ms Kirsty Morgan ¹ Curbridge Mr Ian Galletley ¹
Windrush Church Representative	Mrs Janice Staniland ¹
Deanery Synod (elected)	Ms Kate Banks Mrs Sue Hodges Mr Jeremy Lasman Mrs Linda Taft
Secretary (non-voting)	Mrs Kate Lockwood ²

¹ member of the Standing Committee

² not a member of the PCC

The Clergy, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members are all ex-officio members of the Council. Each church has places on the PCC for Deputy Wardens ex-officio but these places can be relinquished and another representative elected from the church.

2. Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements of The Parish of Witney Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and complies with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland published on 2 October 2019 and effective from 1 January 2019.

2.1 Reference and Administration Details

The charity's name is *The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Witney* and also operates under the name of *The Parish of Witney*.

Charity Registration Number: 1129784

Principal Office: St Mary the Virgin, Church Green, Witney, OX28 4AW

2.2 Trustees

The Trustees and officers who served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- Mr Ashley Arnold
- Ms Kate Banks
- Mr Andrew Brown
- The Rev'd Dr Christopher Dingwall-Jones
- The Rev'd James Elward (until 5 March 2026)
- Mr Ian Galletley
- Mrs Sue Hodges
- The Rev'd Dr Hester Jones (from 7 January 2025)
- Mr Jeremy Lasman
- Ms Kirsty Morgan
- Mrs Pippa Nash (from 25 February 2026)
- Mrs Ruth Sheppard (from 18 May 2025)
- Mrs Janice Staniland
- Mrs Linda Taft
- The Rev'd Preb Mark Thomas
- Mrs Charlotte Tremain
- Mr Richard Young

2.3 Objectives and Activities

The main objectives of the charity are:

1. promoting the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for cooperating with the Ministry Team to meet this objective;
2. 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 activities throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how we can involve the many groups that live within our parish; and
3. putting faith into practice in our services and worship 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 the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- a) Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and development of their knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord. There is also provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

In particular, our aims for 2025 were:

- to continue to embed our vision that we are called to be a community of mercy and kindness, and to progress supporting strategies which will enable the realization of this vision;
- to encourage spiritual growth for all those in the various communities we serve, through the creative use of technology, and other channels of communication;
- to continue to encourage regular pattern of daily prayer through the Daily Office and other spiritual disciplines;
- to sustain the appreciation of our Eucharistic ministry for all who worship with us; and
- to welcome and support our new Team Rector, Rev Dr Hester Jones, as she familiarised herself with the many aspects of the Parish of Witney.

- b) To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our four church buildings. In particular, our aims for 2025 were:

- To complete Quinquennial inspections for St John's Hailey, and St Mary's;
- To develop and implement plans for priority projects for the renewal of the fabric of St Mary's;
- To complete the repair of the roof at Holy Trinity; and
- to continue our programme of maintenance of all the churches as outlined in the most recent quinquennial inspections.

2.4 Achievements and Performance

The vision of the Parish continues to be that we should be a community of mercy and kindness. Our strategy is summarised in the diagram below :



In January 2025, we were delighted to welcome Rev Dr Hester Jones as our new Team Rector. We have greatly valued her exceptional work ethic, considered approach and compassionate active listening as she has engaged with not only the many and varied activities across the Parish but has also taken time to support so many individuals.

At a summer awayday, the Ministry Team was asked to reflect on our vision and strategy as outlined above. Although we agreed it was still appropriate, a number of actions came out of that meeting to give certain priority areas greater focus.

As such, the structure of our weekly Ministry team meetings have evolved, to allow for one session per month to be dedicated to the following :

- Outreach and Youth Ministry (including schools)
- Worship, Liturgy and Junior Church
- Pastoral Care and Support of Older people
- Strategy review

This approach, while still in its relative infancy, has enabled more substantive discussions to take place and has also had the benefit of widening those involved in each area beyond the membership of the leadership team.

Separate focus groups are either in place or are being formed to lead on other priority areas, e.g. the Benefice Environment group.

Greater detail of the continued wide ranging work of the Benefice, both in nurturing our worshipping communities and in playing an active and valued role in the life of our town can be found in our Annual Review.

We remain hugely grateful for the commitment and care of our two stipendiary priests, Rev Dr Hester Jones and Rev Dr Chris Dingwall-Jones, as they seek to evolve and strengthen our ministries, as well as to the wider Ministry Team and the large number of volunteers who contribute in so many ways.

2.5 Financial Review

The total income for the year end 31 December 2025 was £297,134 and total expenditure amounted to £296,170.

The unrestricted income for the Parish was £249,737 while core operating costs totalled £248,947, resulting in an operating surplus of £790. This outcome reflects the continued extraordinary generosity of our congregations who responded to a further appeal in 2025 for funds to support the operating costs of the Parish, to the tune of nearly £22,465 (net of Gift Aid). In addition, the Parish was able to host a number of major festivals and events through the year in support of Parish Funds which raised just over £28,000.

As a result, the Parish was able to cover its operating costs in full including 100% payment of our allocated Parish Share. Although our Parish Share allocation is substantial, it allows us to be enjoy the services of two full time stipendiary ministers, supported at times by a curate. This level of ordained leadership resource is essential to continue and grow the wise variety of ministries offered by the Parish not only to its congregations but importantly to the wider Witney community.

Our unrestricted expenditure reduced by 5% over 2024. This pleasing result was achieved through reduction in costs in a large number of areas. After the significant jump in energy costs in recent years, our heating and lighting costs reduced by £4,518 over 2024, as a result of a renegotiated tariff and much tighter control over energy usage in our churches.

With the completion of the majority of the works on the Holy Trinity roof, both restricted income and expenditure were significantly lower than in 2024. Our full time paid youth worker, Laverne Williams ended her 4 year fixed term contract in August, leading to a further reduction in both restricted income and expenditure going forward. An alternative approach to youth work both in church and in those schools which we serve has been implemented, with early signs of great success, without the financial burden of having to support a full time paid employee (a different remuneration model has been put in place for the two individuals now leading this work).

The Parish was able to continue to support both those in our local community in financial need, which has been hugely appreciated given the on going cost of living crisis. A total of nearly £2,000 was distributed via food vouchers from this source. The numbers of Asylum seekers housed in the hotel in Witney has continued to fall over the past year, and the hotel is scheduled to close in the Spring of 2026. The monies left in the Asylum fund have been increasingly used (in conjunction with Witney Ecclesiastical, a charity supported by all the Witney churches) to help those friends who are successful in their applications to remain in the UK to buy essential items for their more permanent accommodation. Donations totalling £1,850 were made from this fund last year. We expect the fund to close in 2026.

Finally, the Parish made donations totalling £2,735 to external charities in the year. Note, a number of the restricted 'Charitable Giving' funds are showing an end of year deficit. This often arises as a timing issue between the receipt of funds and the expenditure, especially over the Christmas period and hence the end of the Parish financial year. The respective PCC/DCCs will be asked to monitor these deficits, and if not corrected via the expected inflow of funds, to cover any more 'structural' deficit from a transfer from their general funds.

2.6 Reserves Policy

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves taking account of the main risks to the organisation. In 2018, the trustees reviewed these requirements and adopted a new Funds and Reserves Policy. This requires that the PCC maintains an average of £7,000 over the year, to meet unexpected changes in cashflow, while each DCC (Hailey, Holy Trinity and St Mary's) maintains an average of £5,000, to cover minor maintenance issues. The policy assumes that unexpected major maintenance/repairs would be covered by emergency appeals to the respective congregations.

Therefore, in order to meet the agreed funding policy for the year ended 31 December 2025, the trustees consider that the amount required in reserves should be approximately £22,000. The level of general reserves as of 31 December 2025 amounted to £52,449 significantly in excess of the figure required by our agreed policy.

2.7 Financial Risk Assessment

The major financial risks to the Charity are considered to be the following:

1. Reduction in planned giving as a result of withdrawal of support from existing regular givers, potentially driven by on-going cost of living pressures. Although it remains possible that we will continue to have to hold an appeal for funds to cover our operating costs in 2026, we have launched a stewardship campaign in March 2026 with a target of increased giving from both regular donors, those on the electoral roll who are not yet regular donors and also the many who attend services less frequently.
2. Reduction in unplanned giving and income from festivals and other major events held in our churches, due to poor weather.
3. Operating Cost inflation, as a result of increased UK inflation.
4. Major project expenditure increasing during the execution phase of a project (e.g. mid-way through a building project, significant cost escalation from a supplier). Mitigated by the implementation of more rigorous supplier and contract management processes for major projects, and the creation and proactive management of funding contingency throughout the project's lifecycle.
5. Unexpected and unbudgeted expenditure, most likely related to the need for emergency repairs and restoration to one of our historic buildings, or as a result of recommendations from recent Quinquennial reports (Both Hailey and St Mary's were subject to Quinquennial inspections in 2025, with the reports now received). In particular, the St Mary's report highlights the need for sustained regular maintenance programme mostly relating restoration of masonry, as well as the development of a plan to replace the 30 year old boiler with heat sources in line with the Church's policy re Net Zero. The PCC and relevant DCC will retain oversight of any on-going plans to respond to the recommendations in these reports, but it is planned to form focused working groups to both develop cohesive packets of work and progress the necessary external funding applications.

2.8 Structure, Governance and Management

The Parish of Witney Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Trustees of the parish are the PCC, which has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting the whole work of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish. The PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures. These are the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended).

Overall responsibility for day-to-day management remains with the incumbent, working in close collaboration with the Ministry Team and the Standing Committee. The charity does not have paid employees with management responsibility.

2.9 Appointment of Trustees

The trustees keep the composition of the PCC under review and will seek to co-opt additional members with appropriate skills and expertise should the need arise. Interested parties are given details of the background of the charity in order to make them aware of current activities. Licensed members of the Ministry team are ex officio trustees. Churchwardens are elected at the Annual Parishioners Church Meeting. All other trustees are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Benefice CRR Scheme.

Approved by the trustees on *10 May 2022* and signed on its behalf by:

Hester Jones

The Rev'd Dr Hester Jones, Rector
St Mary the Virgin
Church Green
Witney
OX28 4AW

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF WITNEY

I report to the Parochial Church Council on the financial statements of The Parish of Witney for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts did 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.



L Adkins BSc (Hons) BFP FCA
Whitley Stimpson Limited
Chartered Accountants
13-15 High Street
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6HW

Date: 01 May 2026

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Registered Charity 1129784

Witney Parish Group Statement of Financial Activities	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
GENERAL AND UNRESTRICTED INCOME		
Donations and legacies	196,141	213,523
Income from charitable activities	19,748	18,846
Investments	-	73
Other income	569	35
Other trading activities	33,279	34,768
Total General and Unrestricted income	249,737	267,245
RESTRICTED INCOME		
Donations and legacies	41,457	104,788
Investments	70	23
Other trading activities	5,870	8,483
Total Restricted income	47,397	113,294
Total income	297,134	380,539
GENERAL AND UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on charitable activities	242,349	244,606
Other expenditure	482	3,199
Raising funds	6,116	14,312
Total General and Unrestricted expenditure	248,947	262,117
Designated Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	18,000
Total Designated Expenditure	-	18,000
RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE		
All mission giving and charitable grants & donations	21,700	32,550
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,314	90,649
Other expenditure	14,209	8,305
Total Restricted expenditure	47,223	131,504
Total expenditure	296,170	411,621
GENERAL AND DESIGNATED FUNDS b/f	51,659	46,531
Surplus / (Deficit)	790	5,128
Transfers in	-	-
Transfers out	-	-
Gains and losses	-	-
General and Unrestricted funds c/f	52,449	51,659
RESTRICTED FUNDS b/f	43,458	79,668
Surplus / (Deficit)	174	(36,210)
Transfers in	-	-
Transfers out	-	-
Gains and losses	-	-
Restricted funds c/f	43,632	43,458
Total funds per financial return	96,081	95,117

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Witney Parish Group Fund Movement by Type	As at 31/12/24	Incoming funds	Outgoing Funds	Transfers	As at 31/12/25
General fund	51,659	249,737	248,947	-	52,449
PCC Restricted Funds					
Asylum Fund	1,068	2,974	1,850	-	2,192
Hardship Fund	2,243	754	1,971	-	1,026
Friends of Curbridge restricted	1,670	149	-	-	1,819
Pioneer Outreach	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Worker PCC	10,429	16,966	22,954	-	4,441
PCC Restricted Fund	210	-	-	-	210
PCC Charitable Giving	(626)	354	529	-	(801)
Total PCC Restricted Funds	14,994	21,197	27,304	-	8,887
Holy Trinity Rest/Des Funds					
HT Appeals for major renovations	5,395	10,070	5,329	-	10,136
HT Roof Appeal <i>Designated</i>	-	-	-	-	-
HT Charitable Giving	96	745	1,856	-	(1,015)
Total Holy Trinity Rest/Des Funds	5,491	10,815	7,185	-	9,121
St John Hailey Restricted Funds					
St John Hailey Rest Funds	2,604	-	-	-	2,604
St John Hailey Churchyard	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
St John Hailey Charitable Giving	(313)	255	350	-	(408)
St John Hailey Appeal Fund	9,291	255	350	-	9,196
St Mary's Appeal Fund	12,150	15,130	12,066	-	15,214
St Mary's Restricted Funds					
St Mary's Choir and Music Fund	1,234	-	318	-	916
St Mary's Charitable Giving	298	-	-	-	298
Total St Mary's Funds	1,532	-	318	-	1,214
Total Restricted Funds	43,458	47,397	47,223	-	43,632
Total Designated Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	95,117	297,134	296,170	-	96,081

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Registered Charity 1129784

Witney Parish Group Balance Sheet	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	5,993	7,985
Total Fixed assets	5,993	7,985
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	102,447	115,724
Debtors	3,953	13,300
Total Current assets	106,400	129,024
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	16,312	41,892
Total Liabilities	16,312	41,892
Net Assets	96,081	95,117
Reserves		
Excess / (Deficit)	964	(31,082)
Reserves	95,117	126,199
Total Reserves	96,081	95,117
Represented by		
Unrestricted	52,449	51,659
Designated	-	-
Restricted	43,632	43,458
No Endowment funds	-	-
Total	96,081	95,117

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st May 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Hester Jones

The Rev'd Dr Hester Jones, Rector
(PCC Chairman)

J. Lasman

Mr Jeremy Lasman
(PCC Treasurer)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 2 October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

b) Public Benefit Entity

The Parish of Witney meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

c) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

d) Income Recognition Policies

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when given.
- Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is received.
- Collections and sundry donations are recognised when they are received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Activities for generating funds:

- Proceeds from the sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall and from fundraising events are accounted for gross.
- Rental from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Investment income:

- Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Not currently applicable but, dividends will be accounted for when due and payable.

Gains and losses on investments (not currently applicable):

- Realised gains or losses will be recognised when the investments are finally sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses will be accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December each year.

e) Fund Accounting

The trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. It has been policy to invest surplus funds with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, but given the minimal interest rates on deposits, it has been our practice to invest any surplus in the Business Reserve Account held with Barclays Bank.

f) Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Charitable activities:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.
- The Diocesan quota and Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance sheet.

g) Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits at call with banks.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and Machinery – 25% reducing balance

Fixtures and Fittings – 10% reducing balance

i) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets, which include accrued income and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

2. Fixed assets

Witney Parish Group Depreciation summary for the year 2025	Plant and Machinery 25%	Fixtures and Fittings 10%	Total
Cost			
Brought forward	5,679	29,520	35,199
Additions/Disposals	-	-	-
Total	5,679	29,520	35,199
Depreciation			
Brought forward	5,651	21,563	27,214
For the year 2025	3	1,989	1,992
Cumulative total	5,654	23,552	29,206
Net Asset Value 31/12/2025	25	5,968	5,993

3. Debtors

Debtors	2025	2024
Accrued income	£3,953	£13,300
Total	£3,953	£13,300

Delayed receipt of December Gift Aid reclaim from HMRC, received in January 2026 - £969.

Delayed receipt of 2025 Beer festival contribution from Witney Round Table, received in January 2026 - £2,984.

4. Creditors

Creditors	2025	2024
Deferred Income	£1,512	£1,512
Accruals	£14,800	£40,380
Total	£16,312	£41,892

Deferred income relates to wedding deposits received in the year for weddings that will be held in future years. All of the deferred income brought forward from 2024 is included in the 2025 closing balance.

5. Legal Status of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Witney is a registered charity and was formed under a Deed of Trust dated 21 May 2009.

6. Staff costs

During 2025 the Parish of Witney employed two salaried employees:

- Michelle Bailey-Wells as Parish Administrator and Gift Aid Secretary, salary costs funded through the PCC account (unrestricted) totalling £13,704 gross.
- Laverne Williams, Schools Chaplain and Youth Worker, salary costs funded from the Youth Worker restricted Fund, totalling £21,700 gross. Laverne's 4 year fixed term contract ended in August 2025, and she left the Parish.

Reimbursements totalling £3,585 (2024: £8,687) were paid to the clergy to cover their administrative and travelling expenses. This significant reduction reflects, in part the generosity of some members of the Ministry Team choosing to fund such expenses themselves.

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of the members of the Witney PCC or persons closely related to them or other related parties.

There were no employees who received employee benefits of more than £60,000.

Trustees do not receive any remuneration or other benefits.

7. Connected Charities

The following charities are connected charities of the Parish of Witney:

- St Mary's Preservation Trust (Charity number 284576)
- The Friends of Hailey Church (Charity number 293821)
- The Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Curbridge (registered as a charity with HMRC, reference XT32258)

The transactions of these charities are not included in these accounts.

8. Restricted and Designated Funds

The purposes for material funds held are:

Asylum Fund

Funds donated to provide financial support to the 200+ Asylum seekers who were moved into the Oxford Witney hotel in November 2022. Now focused on helping with the costs of transitioning from the hotel into more permanent accommodation (whether or not in Witney).

Hardship Fund

Funds (normally in the form of Sainsbury's vouchers) to allow us to help those in our local community in most need.

Youth Worker PCC

Funds donated to cover the salary and associated expenditure of the Witney Parish Schools Chaplain and Youth Worker. This will continue beyond 2025 as a vehicle to provide funding for the alternative approach that has been put in place to progress this important ministry.

Friends of Curbridge

Funds used for the upkeep of the church and maintenance of the churchyard.

HT Appeals for major renovations

Funds donated to enable major repairs to the roof of Holy Trinity to be carried out

HT Roof Appeal (designated)

Transfer of funds from the General Fund to a Designated Fund in support of the major renovations to be carried out in Holy Trinity church (as above).

St Mary's Appeal Fund

Funds donated to enable major renovations to the fabric and facilities of St Mary's to be carried out.

St Mary's Choir and Music Fund

Funds given to enable the purchase of required musical scores, hymn books as well as robes in support of all the activities of the choir, both as part of services and also concerts and events.

Charitable Giving Funds

Although not material in the context of either the General Funds or the total Restricted Funds held by the charity, a number of Charitable Giving restricted funds have been created for the Parochial Church Council and for each of the three District Church Councils to ensure the correct accounting for monies raised by the charity on behalf of other charities.

Hailey Churchyard

As stated, a legacy of £7,000 was received in 2024 to enable the upkeep of the churchyard at St John's Church Hailey.

Hailey Restoration Fund

Funds originally donated to fund the repairs and restoration of the church floor. Donors are being contacted to seek approval for the residual funds to be used in support of the maintenance needs arising from the QI inspection.

9. Income and expenditure analysis for the year ended 31 December 2025

Witney Parish Group Income and Expenditure	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
GENERAL AND UNRESTRICTED INCOME		
0101 Gift aid - bank	107,225	102,382
0201 Other planned giving	5,514	6,170
0301 Loose plate collections	16,482	16,836
0550 Donations appeals & reg Gift days etc	33,052	34,738
0601 Tax recoverable on gift aid	31,815	34,932
0701 Legacies	-	13,300
0801 Recurring grants	450	450
08A1 Non-recurring one-off grants	1,108	4,080
0901 Other funds generated	10	-
0902 Income from refreshments	486	634
0910 Fundraising events own funds	28,130	31,069
0915 Subscriptions income 200 club	1,706	1,684
0917 Income from sale of goods	4	81
1020 Banka and deposit account interest	-	73
1101 Fees for weddings and funerals	19,188	18,846
1105 Fees for use of church organ	560	-
1240 Church lettings - fund raising	3,440	1,935
1310 Insurance claims	567	-
Prior year adjustment	-	35
Total General and Unrestricted income	249,737	267,245
RESTRICTED INCOME		
0101 Gift aid - bank	800	720
0301 Loose plate collections	107	260
0550 Donations appeals etc	10,572	25,375
0601 Tax recoverable on gift aid	1,051	433
0701 Legacies	-	7,000
0801 Recurring grants	12,667	15,000
08A1 Non-recurring one-off grants	16,261	56,000
0910 Fundraising events own funds	4,360	5,677
0912 Fundraising for other charities	1,509	2,806
1020 Bank and deposit account interest	70	23
Total Restricted income	47,397	113,294
Total income	297,134	380,539

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Witney Parish Group Income and Expenditure	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
GENERAL AND UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURE		
1730 Costs of fetes & other events	5,002	12,653
1732 Cost of goods purchased for resale	1,114	1,659
1801 Giving to missionary societies	-	100
1830 Giving - relief and development agencies	250	-
1850 Home mission	1,541	1,386
1852 Ministry fees + subscriptions	3,395	3,249
1910 Parish share	117,256	113,500
2001 Organists staff	8,975	9,180
2005 Other organists	315	625
2050 Salary of parish administrator	13,704	13,572
2101 Clergy expenses	3,585	8,687
2201 Parish training	-	50
2301 Church running - insurance	18,503	17,899
2305 Office costs	4,697	4,509
2310 Church office - telephone	1,039	3,631
2320 Organ / piano tuning	1,123	900
2330 Church maintenance	12,235	6,319
2331 Cleaning	4,610	3,620
2340 Upkeep of services	3,213	3,294
2342 Upkeep of services flowers	460	519
2350 Upkeep of churchyard	1,175	3,024
2360 Administration	3,621	3,474
2362 Software & IT equipment	1,521	1,789
2365 Catering costs	103	223
2401 Funeral expenses	2,049	3,011
2402 Wedding expenses	1,900	1,020
2403 Odbf fees	4,901	4,357
2420 Church running - water & waste disposal	2,202	2,186
2440 Church running - heating and lighting	23,141	27,659
2450 Depreciation charge	1,992	893
2601 Governance costs examination/audit fee	2,640	2,820
2701 Church major repairs - structure	42	-
2710 Church major repairs - installation	2,161	3,020
2852 Architects & other professional fees	482	3,199
Total General and Unrestricted expenditure	248,947	262,117

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Registered Charity 1129784

Witney Parish Group Income and Expenditure	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Designated Expenditure		
2701 Church major repairs - structure	-	18,000

RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE		
1830 Giving - relief and development agencies	2,451	2,579
1850 Home mission	5,000	7,323
1870 Giving to secular charities	-	1,164
2051 Youth worker salary and related expenditure	21,700	32,550
2201 Parish training	-	750
2320 Organ and piano tuning	-	122
2330 Church maintenance	-	125
2101 Clergy expenses	358	-
2340 Upkeep of services	319	75
2350 Upkeep of churchyard	-	145
2360 Administration	102	160
2362 Software & IT equipment	-	60
2701 Church major repairs - structure	3,084	78,146
2852 Architects & other professional fees	14,209	8,305
Total Restricted expenditure	47,223	131,504

Total Expenditure	296,170	411,621
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Witney Parish Group Summary Surplus/Deficit	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
General/Unrestricted	790	5,128
Designated	-	(18,000)
Restricted	174	(18,210)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	964	(31,082)