

APCM Reports of all teams and activities for 2025

Upper Fal Parishes: Incumbent's Report

Ow sos ger,

Over the past year, I have called on your patience on many occasions, as I have grappled to understand the differences between each parish and how they manage the work of the church during PCC meetings and Sunday by Sunday. I have also been getting to know churches and congregations, and, more importantly, the individuals that they are created by. I hope that this has been as rewarding for those wanting to get to know me better as it has been for me.

I have much to be thankful for and am grateful for the cooperation of churchwardens, treasurers, parish safeguarding officers, church leaders, and our fantastic ministers (lay and ordained) who serve the churches with care, time, prayer and enthusiasm. It is worth noting that the word enthusiasm is based on the Greek meaning 'filled with God'. Thank you to you all.

I give thanks for all who have supported our local schools, all who serve in the 'open the book' teams, and leading collective worship and end of term services. And for all who serve refreshments at various events, the lunch groups, Lent lunches, open days, fete's, coffee mornings as well as those who are opening the churches up to be used by a wider section of the local community.

Little Lights at Probus continues to support young families and now has a 'spillover' group on a Friday morning for those who cannot attend on Thursdays or those who would simply prefer a smaller group such as those with newborns.

The bell project at Ladock has brought many people together to promote and encourage bellringing and the newly hung bells are causing great delight amongst ringers who have previously found them a difficult ring. Well done and congratulations to Jonathan and the team for all their endeavours and enthusiasm for the project. It is heartwarming to think that this ancient tradition will continue across the generations.

Across the Upper Fal Parishes (we are still waiting for the legal pastoral reorganisation to take place) concern has been expressed about congregations growing older which is of course absolutely natural, however, the concern is about the missing generations from the church pews week by week. This is a challenge not only to our parishes but across many churches within the Diocese of Truro and beyond. Thankfully we have only to be concerned with our own parishes and are challenged to think about how our churches might 'grow younger'; in keeping with Bishop David's vision of a growing Church.

We have 5 schools, 3 of which are church schools, this gives us an incredible opportunity to share key Christian festivals with those schools, to give children and staff the opportunity to explore faith and to see how the local church might support them if they want to take that further. I continue to work towards developing a team of people who can coordinate and plan for these special acts of witness to our communities.

Across the parishes, we have opened up services to include breakfast, Tot's Praise, Messy church for those who like crafting, home groups, study groups, as well as walking (i.e. meeting with) with individuals as they seek to understand how Jesus is inviting them to go deeper with Him.

It is a privilege to live here, to make my home with you. I do not take these things for granted. But I recognise that as we go into a new year together that we do have some challenges:

1. Admin.

In a similar fashion to churchwardens and treasurers and parish safeguarding officers the administration involved for clergy increases steadily year by year. It is hard to see, but behind the scenes there is plenty of scheduling, meetings, rota's, email correspondence, planning and prep to be done. Despite various calls for some voluntary support with admin, thus far no one has come forward.

2. Accessibility

I have had it said, albeit tongue in cheek, that I only work part time and then only on the Sundays that I am in their church! It is difficult for church members let alone villagers to know how and when the parish priest is available.

I have a 'work' email address, this is open to everyone.

Email address: rector@probusteam.com

I receive enquiries from our various websites, as well as enquiries from our notice boards. I usually answer emails on a first come basis. Sometimes it takes more than a moment to reply. And sometimes I have in excess of 50 emails in a 24-hour period to reply to. In general, emails are used for items that do not require an immediate response however, they are a valuable way of connecting with people who are not known and therefore I make use of the out of office function to alert people that emails will not be replied to when I am away from the office such as when I am taking some holiday or study time.

For urgent matters I would expect people to telephone.

Telephone No: 01726 337730

I have a landline and an ansaphone for when I am unavailable. I will always phone the person back provided they leave a number. The church wardens have my mobile number for emergencies, which I have said they can use whenever they have need.

3. Service scheduling

I try to work out with our team of retired clergy and Linda, our associate priest, a fair way to distribute my time so that I attend all parishes. Together we have tried to ensure that every service is covered, we have had occasionally to seek extra support from the senior leadership team at the Diocese and other retired clergy from further afield. We are truly grateful to these people who come and support us on this very occasional basis.

4. Baptism, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals

I have been surprised by how few pastoral services there are across the Upper Fal Parishes, to me this represents a growing distance between Church and village. The challenge here is for us to consider how we reconnect with our neighbours so that they know that the Church is here for them. It is as much their church as it is ours (which is unique to the Church of England). For many families the importance of a church, grounding and rooting their family over the generations by being there for key life events, has played a large part in their journeying towards faith. It is essential that we look to ways of, once again, becoming the central pin to the life of the village and all those within.

5. Working together for Christian unity

As we continue to work together across the Upper Fal Parishes, it is my hope that we will find new ways to support each other, so that in the words of St Paul

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12: 4-5 NRSV)

This does not mean that each church has to become like another, only that we appreciate the gifts we ourselves have and put them at the disposal of the other, for example, each church may have 1-2 people who would be willing and suitable to work with children, but on their own it is too great a task, however, by linking up with the other ones and twos from other churches it might be possible to do something extraordinary!

Ministry in all its forms can become a lonely experience when we feel as though we are on our own. But working together and finding solutions, praying together and seeking God's leadership and vision will help us all to become more fully the Church He is calling us to be. It is to our benefit that we are not yet perfect and so must learn to practice becoming more relational and interdependent. This of course, is the model we receive from God our Father, Jesus His Son, and Holy Spirit the Paraclete.

Gras ha k̄res, Caroline

Churchwarden's Fabric Report 2025

(Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 – Section 50)

1. Introduction

This year we have made steady progress with regular maintenance, alongside dealing with some unexpected storm damage to the roof.

We want to remember with thanks **Steve Dalton**, who served faithfully as Churchwarden, and **Jen Pallet**, who was valued and Spirit-filled member of our church family.

Key work this year includes:

- Repairs to the flue stack in the South Transept (organ extension) by **Dawson Steeplejacks**, which had been letting in water
- DIY slate repairs to both roof valleys – thank you to **Paul Edwardes** and **Andy McCartney**
- Lead patching work on the South Valley and tower roof
- Interior painting begun
- Renovation of the Sexton Hut, carried out by Elisick Brothers, who have done a fantastic job, and was funded through:
 - The National Lottery Community Fund (around 40%)
 - The Benefact Trust
 - The Wilcox legacy
 - PCC and PEAT funds
 - Donations from the congregation and village

We also repaired the floor around the central heating vent and are in the process of obtaining quotes for a stainless-steel frame to prevent future damage.

A major highlight this year was the “**Give to Go Green**” fundraising campaign. Together, the church and village raised around **£24,000 (plus Gift Aid)** in just six weeks. This will help fund the move from gas to electric heating.

Thank you to **Eleanor McCartney** and everyone involved in organising events such as:

- Silent disco
- Concerts
- Garden safari
- Plant sales
- Games evenings
- Tower Open Day

2. Condition of the Church Building

Exterior

- The roof valleys remain our biggest concern.
- They are vulnerable and costly to repair.
- A full project (around £500,000) was unsuccessful for Lottery Heritage funding, but we plan to apply again for a smaller project focusing on the South Valley (c.£250,000).

Interior

- Painting has started, and we now need to push on while evenings are lighter. More volunteers are needed.
- The floor continues to deteriorate:
 - The concave area near the font is now worse than ever
- The revamped west end of the church is proving very useful, but progress depends on:
 - Moving the font
 - Creating a servery
 - Beginning the tower room toilet project
- The DAC visited in February to review these proposals

Other Maintenance

- Bells serviced by Nicholson's (funded by the bell ringers)
- Routine safety checks completed:
 - Heating system
 - Lightning conductor
 - PAT testing
 - Fire safety

3. Condition of the Churchyard

- The churchyard is in good condition and improving
- Thank you to **Nick Lauder** and **Steve Dalton** for their hard work and leadership, and to all volunteers who are:
 - Restoring order
 - Increasing biodiversity

Trees and Boundaries

- Permission has been granted to reduce the Holm Oak near the tower
- This tree is contributing to damp in both the tower and a neighbouring thatched cottage
- We are currently waiting for Cormac to carry out the work

4. Condition of the Contents

- The church inventory was checked and updated mid-2025 by **Steve Dalton** and **Andy McCartney**
- All items are present and in good order

5. Works Required or Planned

- The Quinquennial Inspection took place on **8 October 2024**

Outstanding Work

- Repair to the floor around the central heating grate
- Roof valley repairs

Planned Projects (subject to permissions)

- Floor repairs
- Roof works

6. Logbook and Inventory

The churchwardens confirm that the logbook and inventory have been reviewed, updated, and are available for inspection.

7. Health & Safety and Security

- There were **no incidents or near misses** reported during 2025

8. Environmental Considerations

- The building remains difficult to heat and is currently reliant on an ageing gas system
- Work is underway to move towards electric heating due the efforts of the team with the Give To Go Green funding
- The new heating equipment at the west end is already making a positive difference

Thank you to the **Creation Care Team** for their ongoing work, including progress towards the **A Rocha Silver Award**.

9. Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to everyone who gives their time and skills to care for the church and its life.

In particular:

- **Barbara Honey** and the flower team
- The Plant Sale on the Cobbles team (also led by Barbara)
- **Kev Cope, Ed Faul** and the team who created the illuminated crosses at Christmas
- **Delia** and the cleaning team (who would welcome more helpers)
- All those involved in events and hospitality
- **Cliff Husband** for taking on the role of PCC Treasurer
- **The Church Locking & Unlocking group** make sure the church is opened and closed every day. Special thanks go to Alan and Liz Horder, who have decided to step down after many years of being in the group.
- **The Probus Church congregation**, thank you to everyone for your support and participation, it really makes a difference to the life of our church.
- **Rev Caroline** for a great first year and for all the time, energy, and care you've given to our church and village

Andy McCartney & Matthew Hodge
Church Wardens
April 2026

Parochial Church Council of St Probus and St Grace, Probus

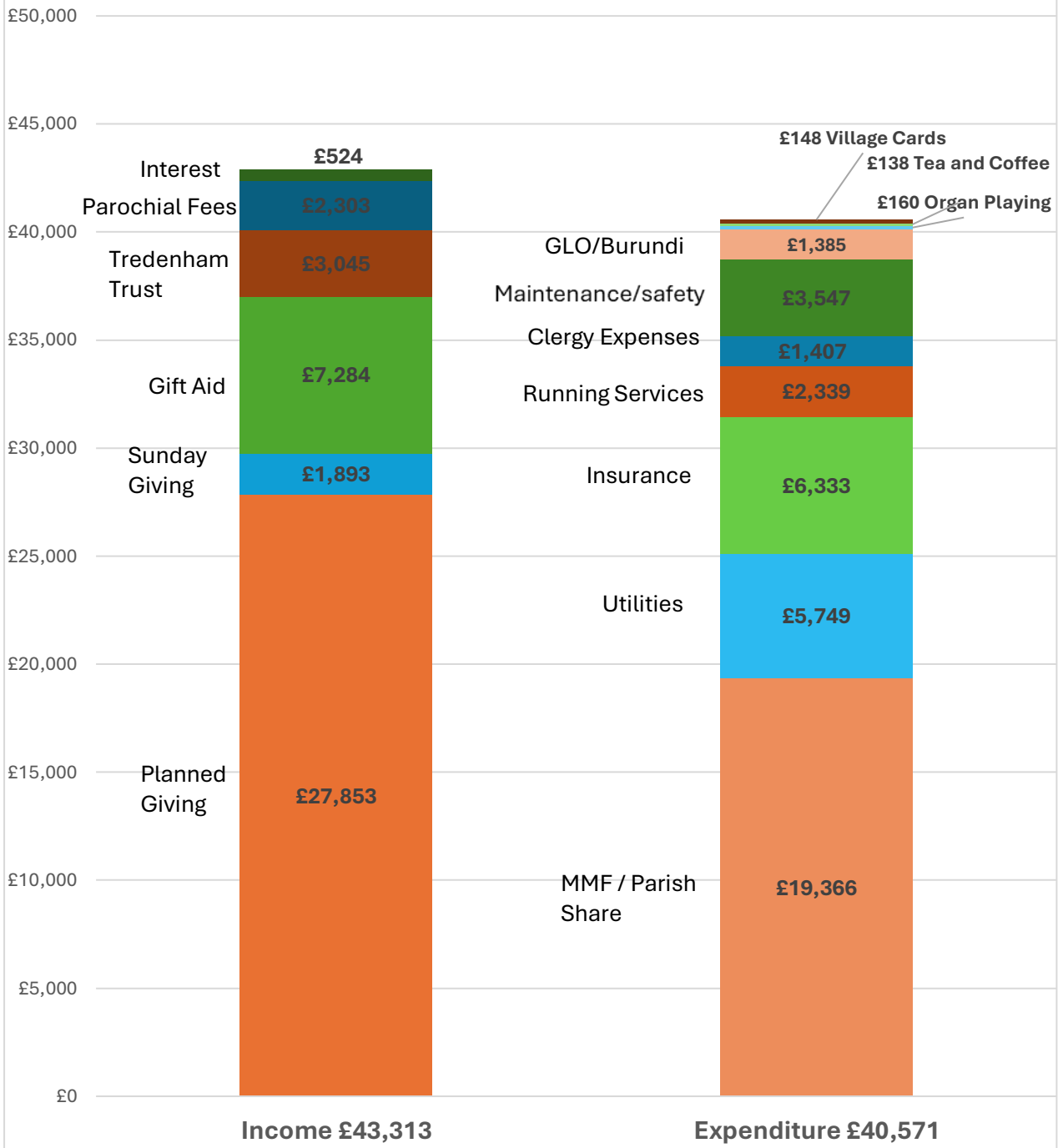
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Proverbs 3:9-10

New International Version

⁹ Honour the Lord with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine

Income and Expenditure 2025



Regular Giving

As ever the main income for the general running of the church has come from the planned regular giving by members of the congregation. This regular commitment to the church allows us to meet our MMF obligation as well as fund all our church activities, pay for heating and lighting and insure the building and we are extremely grateful for all your contributions. The amount of planned giving in 2025 was £27,852; an increase from 2024 of £4,700 which is fantastic although we do need to be aware that we remain very dependent on a small number of donors where only four are providing half this amount.

At the end of 2025 we had 29 regular givers to the church, with the majority paying through the Parish Giving Scheme. The Parish Giving Scheme provides us with the added benefit of receiving any gift aid from donations automatically in the month of payment, rather than having to apply manually to HMRC. This helps to increase the monthly income for the church to meet its expenditure. Donations can be set up anonymously if preferred.

A further benefit of the scheme is that it allows donors to choose to have their contribution automatically increased by inflation to ensure the payments keep up with increase in the cost of living. This is a great benefit to the church as standing orders can be set up and forgotten about, leading to a diminishing contribution over time as shown in the table below. Inflation over the past 20 years is just over 100%, and nearly 50% over ten years (101.84% and 49.38% respectively. Source – thisismoney website)

Effect of Inflation – how premiums would need to increase to match spending power

	Date Donation set up		
Premium	2006	2016	2021
£10	£20.18	£15.00	£13.20
£20	£40.37	£30.00	£26.40
£50	£100.92	£74.99	£66.00
£100	£201.84	£149.98	£132.00

Buildings and Maintenance

The Church received the following grants for building work and ongoing maintenance

Parish Council Gravel	£155.40
National Churches (Drains)	£3,430.00
EMBT Ltd LPW (inc. VAT rebate) (Drains)	£4,082.60
Cornwall Historic Churches (Flue)	£250.00
MR&I Chimney Stack	£1,630.00
Diocese Grant – Heaters	£739.36
Diocese Grant – Font Rugs	£460.16
TOTAL	£10,747.55

During 2025 the church also received the following donations to the church Building funds:

Sumup donations/payments via pay machines	£1,994.60
Cash Donations	£1,864.60
Charity match as part of Christmas Fayre	£500

Part of the income came from a number of events over the year including the Will Keating Concert, Mevagissey Male Choir, Roche Brass Band and Christmas Fayre.

The Christmas Fayre raised £1,797 including the charity match donation.

Payments were made for repairs to redesign of the wall drainage for work undertaken in 2024 and the chimney flue in Autumn 2025 was stabilised and repointed by Dawsons Steeplejacks. The total paid were £13,855. There were no other major buildings projects in 2025 apart from the repair of the Sexton Hut covered below.

Sexton's Hut

The main building project in 2025 was the repair to the Sexton's Hut.

The Sexton Hut received in 2025 grants/donations totalling £10,303 (detailed Below).

Friends of St Probus Church	£1,200
Lottery Grant	£8,568
Community Chest	£200
Individual donation	£335

The PCC had agreed to underwrite the cost of the work and at the end of the year £3,581 was transferred to the fund to ensure there were adequate funds for the work.

At the time of writing the repairs are being undertaken with the slate roof being added and it is hoped the hut will be fully completed and paid for in February.

Maintenance Fund

The Maintenance Fund is a designated account to assist with the upkeep of the church. Donations for the fund come from the Tuesday morning coffee mornings and any donations received from the Alms box. Thank you to Caroline John for continuing with the coffee mornings throughout the year.

In 2025 we received a total of £922.68 in donations, plus small donation gift aid and interest of £289.99. The fund was used to provide £1,344 towards the chimney stack repair.

Breakdown of where funds are held and for what purpose				
Account name	Purpose	Status	Balance end of 2024	Balance end of 2025
Treasurers account	General	U	£9,141.90	£8,464.26
CCLA General Fund	General	U	£6,317.82	£6,603.74
MMF fund	MMF	D	£116.64	£0.00
Bells@St Probus and St Grace	Bells	R	£10.00	£15.31
Churchyard Fund	Churchyard project	R	£382.00	£1.37
Sextons Hut Fund	Sextons Hut	D/R	£8,333.00	£24,108.00
Year End Over Reserves Fund	To be decided	U	£3,500.00	£1,080.00
NOGH@St Probus and St Grace	NOGH	R	£588.84	£2,159.72
CCLA Windows Project	Windows	R	£28.49	£1.02
CCLA Fabric Fund	Interior improvements	D	£3,651.73	£3,817.00
Flower Fund - Cash in hand held by BH	Flowers	D	£8.22	£58.22
Lloyds savings Building campaign fund	Building	D/R	£9,060.87	£5,404.46
Lloyds Building Commissioned Project	Building	R	£4,229.28	£0.00
CCLA Roof Fund	Roof architect fee	R	£4,521.33	£14,886.54
Routine Maintenance	Routine Maintenance	D	£790.05	£604.52
Poor Trust	Distribution by Rector/Poor Trust trustees	R	£0.00	£2,454.03
Youth/Children Mission		U	£0.00	2256.73
Give to Go Green Campaign	Removal of Gas	R	£0.00	24020.76
U = Unrestricted - PCC decides use, D = Designated - use ringfenced by the PCC, R = Restricted - use ringfenced by Donor		TOTAL	£50,680.17	£95,935.68

St Probus and St Grace's Receipts & Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Planned giving	27,853	-	-	27,853	23,151
Collections, donations & other giving	5,555	923	41,220	47,698	53,753
Income tax recovered	7,284	231	3,921	11,436	9,053
Legacies	-	-	-	-	5,000
Activities for generating funds					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	24	-	104	128	120
Income from other Properties	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events	69	-	13,523	13,592	4,443
Investment income:					
Interest & dividends	297	227	732	1,256	1,070
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees	2,628	-	-	2,628	2,135
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	20,000
Other	100	-	1,872	1,972	2,307
Total incoming resources	43,810	1,381	61,372	106,563	121,032
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	(1,528)	-	(1,295)	(2,823)	(812)
Mission & Evangelism	(937)	-	(1,720)	(2,657)	(3,620)
Parish Share	(6,000)	(13,335)	(31)	(19,366)	(18,666)
Clergy expenses	(1,407)	-	-	(1,407)	(798)
Church running expenses	(10,846)	-	(1,354)	(12,200)	(10,628)
Churchyard maintenance	-	-	(155)	(155)	(572)
Cost of raising funds	(1,827)	-	(393)	(2,220)	(1,199)
Running costs:					
Support costs	(323)	-	(960)	(1,283)	(603)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	-	-	-	-	-
Other	(6,433)	-	-	(6,433)	(6,198)
Governance costs					
	-	-	-	-	-
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	(89)	-	(12,670)	(12,759)	(52,329)
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	(20,000)
Total resources expended	(29,390)	(13,335)	(18,578)	(61,303)	(115,425)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	14,420	(11,954)	42,794	45,260	5,607
<i>Transfers between funds</i>	(13,124)	(3,792)	16,916	-	-
<i>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains</i>	1,296	(15,746)	59,710	45,260	5,607
<i>Gains on investment assets</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Net movement in funds</i>	1,296	(15,746)	59,710	45,260	5,607
<i>Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2025</i>	18,436	20,227	12,018	50,680	45,073
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2025	19,731	4,481	71,728	95,940	50,680

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance relates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stipendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as legally the amount due to the DBF and other ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	£5,427.15	
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	£2,303.00	
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	£926.80	
Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	£1,383.20	
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	£125.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	£489.15	
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	£200.00	
		<i>Balance owed at year-end (inc. in Creditors)</i>
In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year		
Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	£926.80	(£0.00)
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£1,422.35	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£450.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	£0.00
(This excludes fees for Sunday Services)		

Worship Band –Nay Kennedy & Dean Jenkins

We hope you have enjoyed the past year of music during the morning services. We have been delighted to welcome both friends from St Nuns, Grampound to lead the music on the second Sunday and Jack to play the organ on the fourth Sunday. Jack says he's enjoying playing every month and this is building his skills and confidence, especially when he played for a baptism which had quite a few people in the congregation!

Members of the music team say they are grateful it exists and really enjoy bringing live music to every service each month. I also want to express my huge gratitude to the tech team who are so dedicated in getting the mics and cables ready, arriving early on a Sunday morning so we can rehearse at 0845, and again for any events.

We have also very much enjoyed providing the music for community events such as Assembly Bangers, Carols by Candlelight and Carols on the Cobbles - drawing hundreds of people to connect with the Church.

Going forward, we are trying a new way of being more prepared for services, asking the core preaching team to decide on songs in three-month blocks so that the learning of songs is less stressful and there is an opportunity to bring in harmonies and counter melodies. The phrase 'work in progress' has never been more apt as we navigate this! It also highlights that music doesn't just 'happen'; it takes practice and dedication and time.

We would welcome more people to join us at the front. The level of commitment is low... You commit to whatever you can with no pressure to be there every week as we fully understand the juggle of life. We try to rehearse for an hour at 6pm on the Thursday before the first and third Sundays of the month. I would especially welcome anyone who would be able to lead the singing as when Dean is away, I fill in for him, but currently there is no-one to fill in for me on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

To conclude, I would like to thank members of the music team who are a really dedicated and talented group. I am very grateful for what you bring week in, week out. And thank you to all of the congregation who join in from the pews each week or spread the word about events. Keep singing!

Sunday Children's activities – Gill Bonnell and Eleanor McCartney

We have 7 children in our church family who worship regularly, with other children attending intermittently. They enjoy coming, and feel loved and safe.

Children are full of curiosity, awe and big questions.

While all-age worship is vital for building intergenerational community, specific spaces for children can enable age-appropriate exploration of faith. So, over the last year, Eleanor and Gill have provided an area for 'play' during worship and also an area for bible-based activity related to the lectionary readings for the day. We use 'Roots on the Web', which provides lectionary-based worship resources to help churches nurture children in their faith.

Our church is part of the Diocese of Truro 'Growing Younger' initiative which has 2 objectives:

- 1) For every child and young person in the Diocese of Truro to have access to a community that meets in Jesus' name, to do Jesus' work, in which they can be at home and explore faith.

2) A tenfold increase in the number of young disciples in our churches over the next decade.

We are all part of this journey as our children encounter the love of God and actively participate in our worship, whilst also trying to be mindful of the various/diverse needs we, as a church family, all have when meeting together.

Friends of Probus Church– Richard Heath

The Friends continues to have a small but consistent income from regular donations and contributed funds to help with upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church as well as a contribution to the restoration of the Sexton's Hut.

I have not had the spare time to arrange any specific fund-raising activities and with that in mind we are still looking for someone with time to take over the Friends so it can resume fund-raising activities.

Creation Care Team - Gill Bonell, Laura Van Kempen-Wilson, Chris Marshman, Cliff Husband and Nick Lauder.

“If God loves the world, then the world is not disposable. Creation care is not an optional hobby for people who like birds and hedgerows. Rather it is one of the ways we learn to function in harmony with God’s Spirit. When we take seriously care for the air, the soil, the water, the lives of creatures seen and unseen, we are not wandering away from the gospel into a separate concern. We are staying close to what John says God has loved.” John 3v16

(Extract from our Lent 2026 study course, written by Revd. Michael Perry.)

In 2025, Probus Church was awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award which recognises the things that we do as a church and the work done by PEAT in our ‘Living Churchyard’, along with the development of the Community Larder and the use of Fairtrade products, to ‘Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up’.

The award enabled us to apply for a ‘Quick Win’ grant to buy portable infrared heaters and to take part in the ‘Give to Go Green’ scheme, which match-funded our income over a 6 week period, in order to raise the money that we will need to replace the old oil-fired heating system with the provision of 3 phase electricity and then overhead infrared heaters in the Nave. We are grateful to Steve Dalton who led the team with great enthusiasm. His ‘can do’ attitude got things done, even when he was very unwell. He is missed by us all.

So far this year, Chris and Liz have visited South Hill Parish Church to see an example of what can be done to provide more eco-friendly heating, so that we can move forward with this in 2026.

And in March, we had a presentation in church, open to all, by Dr Sharon Willoughby, Diocesan Environment Officer, who spoke of her role working in Botanical Gardens in Australia and Britain and described her current role within Creation Care for Truro Diocese. "Churches have important roles to play as places for worship and reflection, community connection and active creation care – cutting carbon, building biodiversity and our capacity to work together to create a sustainable future."

We currently have 4 members in our Creation Care team who have links with the wider Diocesan Creation Care initiative and Nick Lauder who represents PEAT. We plan to further promote the care of creation within our community with an 'Eco Day' in the autumn, when a variety of organisations will be invited to take part to inform/advise plus provide activities for children, to help us all become better stewards of God's world.

Gill Bonell on behalf of Laura Van Kempen-Wilson, Chris Marshman, Cliff Husband and Nick Lauder.

Pastoral Visiting – Sara Edwardes

The Pastoral visiting team has not yet been fully formed. Pat Brokenshire has stepped down, and we greatly miss the work being done by Jen Pallet who was commissioned in September 2024. My own ministry in this area has been adversely affected by the need to be in Bristol with my parents.

At the time of writing Sara Schofield is completing the Pastoral visitor's course. If anyone else feels called to this ministry, please let Caroline or myself know. We would like to see a team of people, suitably trained, to be available when anyone in our Parish requires a pastoral visit.

Caroline and Linda have visited many people during the year, taking time to meet people where they are. This has been greatly appreciated.

My vision for 2026/2027 is to see at least 4 lay people trained and active for pastoral visiting backed up by our ordained clergy.

St Probus and St Grace Churchyard Annual Report (PEAT)

Annual Report for the Year Ending 2025

1. Introduction

This report summarises the condition, care, and management of the churchyard over the past year. The churchyard continues to serve as a place of remembrance,

reflection, and local heritage. Its upkeep is supported through regular maintenance, volunteer involvement, and careful stewardship.

2. General Condition of the Churchyard

Throughout the year, the churchyard has been maintained in a tidy and respectful condition. Routine grass cutting, path clearance, and general grounds maintenance were carried out regularly. Boundary walls, gates, and pathways remain structurally sound, with no significant safety issues identified.

Periods of heavy rainfall led to increased seasonal growth in some areas; this was managed through scheduled maintenance.

3. Memorials and Monuments

Headstones and memorials were monitored during the year for stability and safety. No major remedial work was required, although some memorials show expected weathering consistent with their age.

4. Grounds Maintenance and Biodiversity

Maintenance activities aimed to balance accessibility with environmental responsibility. Selected areas were allowed to grow naturally during the spring and summer to support biodiversity. Increased numbers of wildflowers, insects, and birds were observed, reinforcing the churchyard's value as a local green space.

The South Drive boundary hedge, consisting mainly of sycamore trees, was reduced to standard hedge height. Cut material was reused to create a dead hedge, improving habitat opportunities for small nesting birds and allowing more light into this area of the churchyard.

5. Health and Safety

Routine visual inspections were undertaken to identify potential hazards, including uneven paths, overhanging branches, and unstable memorials. No serious incidents were reported. Paths and entrances were kept clear to ensure safe access for all visitors, including those with limited mobility.

6. Volunteers and Community Support

The ongoing care of the churchyard relies heavily on the dedication of volunteers. Their contributions to grass cutting, litter collection, light maintenance, and planting are greatly appreciated.

During 2025, three Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants successfully completed their volunteering within the churchyard. It is hoped they will continue to be involved

during 2026. Thanks, are also extended to those who contributed through reporting issues and supporting fundraising activities.

7. Expenditure and Resources

Expenditure during the year related primarily to routine maintenance, equipment upkeep, and waste disposal. Costs remained broadly in line with previous years. Volunteer support continued to play an important role in maintaining standards while managing expenditure.

8. Challenges and Considerations

Key challenges during the year included:

- Managing increased vegetation growth due to weather conditions
- Balancing routine maintenance with biodiversity objectives
- Ensuring ongoing memorial safety within limited resources
- Completing fundraising for the restoration of the former sexton's hut

Restoration work on the sexton's hut commenced late in 2025 and is expected to be completed in early 2026. This project represents a significant long-term achievement and demonstrates what can be accomplished through sustained commitment.

9. Plans for the Coming Year

Priorities for the year ahead include:

- Continued regular maintenance of paths and grassed areas
- Ongoing monitoring of memorial safety
- Further development of wildlife-friendly practices
- Continued engagement with volunteers and the wider community

10. Conclusion

The churchyard remains a well-maintained and valued space, reflecting the commitment of the church, volunteers, and the wider community. With continued care and support, it will remain a place of dignity, remembrance, and peace for future generations.

Audio Visual Team

Dear Church family,

Last year, we were again blessed to have the gift of two new speakers from the Friends of Probus Church we also have installed the projector which are now permanently left out, we have also made some tweaks to the music group set up too, this has meant that we have less to get out and put away on a Sunday morning. We have had both Chris Marshman and Cliff Husband join the team, who between them look after second Sunday morning set up and running the service, this has been a real blessing to both me and Paul Edwardes and means we get a Sunday off each month.

With the band practice starting at 8:45 each Sunday Paul and/or myself arrive around 7:45 – 08:00 on a Sunday morning to set up we then pack away after the service, with the band also helping to take down and put away some of the equipment which is a great help and allows us to also benefit from refreshments and a chat with the congregation after the service.

With the permanent set up of some of the equipment this has enabled the tech to be used for in church activities /events i.e. Move More on a Wednesday morning.

If you are interested in getting more involved and have some knowledge of operating a computer or would like to help with sound operation during services, we would love to hear from you.

Don't be intimidated by all the lights and dials; it's not as complicated as it looks.

Full training will be provided.

Please come and have a chat to find out more.

Nigel Morris

Church Electoral Roll

In April 2025, after preparing a completely new Electoral Roll for Probus Church, there were 53 people on the Electoral Roll.

For information, the Electoral Roll was updated at the beginning of April 2026, in readiness for this meeting. There are now 49 people on the updated Electoral Roll, which is displayed at the back of the church.

Ann Pattison

Events report - Andy McCartney

This year has seen the church host several community events and special days designed to increase our presence in the community, give cultural opportunities for the community to see performances at a much reduced cost and give our congregation a chance to invite their friends to our church and have an enjoyable time.

From the tower open day at accession to brass bands at Christmas and string quartets and choirs in the summer these events have enriched the community of Probus and given many people a positive visit to our church.

Thank you to the refreshment helpers, cake makers, raffle donators, biscuits platers, stall runners, tower step sweepers, queue organisers, ticket sellers and lately the refreshment team who have all helped these events to run smoothly ...and also to those that have arrived early to set up and those that have stayed late to tidy, Hoover and reset the furniture and church ready for the following day's uses - it is all quite a labour intensive operation and many hands make light work.

Thanks also to those congregation members that have taken the time and shown interest to buy tickets and attended these various events in 2025

Special thanks to Eleanor who has, for several years, arranged these events and special days and has been the main contact point and rota builder for the help needed on the day.... Eleanor has also found and booked the various performers to come and organised ticket pre-sales and ticket sales on the door etc.

From early 2026 it has been clear that this role can no longer be undertaken by Eleanor due to time pressures at both home and work and so we are asking for someone to take this role on going forwards. Full help will be given to allow the **new events coordinator** to find their feet in this important role.

These events have crucially raised funds for the repair of our church building and have allowed the various repairs that have been undertaken to be done.. very approximately these events have raised around £5000-£7000 each year for the building and I hope that the events coordinator role is picked up by someone with enthusiasm and confidence and a strong desire that hosting events for the community here at St Probus and St Grace continues to be something we are keen to do as a church.

I also hope that as a congregation we try to redouble our efforts to help ensure these events are well supported by both volunteering to help and also by simply attending the ones that interest you and perhaps coming with your friends.

Please speak to Andy or Matthew about the events coordinator role if you feel you could take this on.

Messy church - Eleanor McCartney

Messy Church is led by Sara Schofield and Eleanor and has been run with fewer dates over recent years and is now focused on Easter, Harvest and Christmas time. The attendance at the last service was 35 children and their adults and was a good fun time with lots of conversations and community connections being made. Every Messy Church relies on volunteers to run the craft stations and to provide food that is part of the service...Please look out for the dates of the next Messy Church and see if you can help.

Little Lights / Tot's Praise - Eleanor McCartney

Little lights / Tot's praise has seen growing attendance throughout 2025 and continues to benefit from the new floor coverings and the investment in new toys... This is a free to attend stay and play session that runs every Thursday in term time from 9:30 until 11:30. It has been consistently attended by ~20 children and their adults

The toddlers have a sit-down snack lunch together every week in the lady chapel and on the third Thursday of the month the session is called Tot's Praise and the story time led by Rev Caroline leads the group through a bible story often with props!

Thanks again to the team volunteers that allow this session to run safely... if you would like to get involved, please talk to Eleanor.

In 2026 the Friday morning coffee session is gradually becoming a baby and parent meeting time, and this is hopefully going to grow in 2026 and encourage more links between parents with similar aged children and the church.

TR2 Community Hub - Eleanor McCartney

St Probus and St Grace is one of the hub sites (alongside GR hall) which run various community sessions through the month. These currently include

- Move more - falls prevention for the over 65s
- Digital hub
- Pain clinic
- Carers cafe
- Support and information Hub

All these sessions rely on volunteers to host the sessions and provide refreshments. Many of these volunteers are not congregation members.

No One Goes Hungry - Eleanor McCartney

No one Goes Hungry i.e. the larder project and the Christmas hamper project and has been running since 2020

The Larder runs on Mondays, Wednesdays Fridays and Saturdays and relies on a army of volunteers to run the sessions, collect and deliver the supermarket surplus food throughout the week, transport this to church, put the food out for the sessions and pack everything away afterwards. There are supermarket surplus collections on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and this is a considerable effort from all involved. Thank you to everyone who donates their time and fuel money to help this project

Alongside each larder session, there is free hospitality offered ...tea, coffee and biscuits and an opportunity to chat and make new friends. The church, during larder sessions, is often full of activity and larder users chatting and catching up.

On a typical week there are approx. 80-90 visits to the larder (some people come to each session) many are collecting food for families or as part of a couple, so we estimate 300 people in our community are benefiting from this food on a weekly basis

The majority of volunteers come from the village or from neighbouring villages and mostly are not our regular congregation...the “footprint” of NOGH is considerable.

We are particularly short of volunteers to return the supermarket crates to the supermarkets so if you have some spare time and a car, please consider volunteering for this.

The Christmas hamper project has continued to show it is needed and valued and in 2025 provided Christmas dinner ingredients for 75 families from the area. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who make this process possible and for the donations of seasonal food when requested ...this project helps show the generosity of our Church in its community and also the generosity of the community for the community and I think shows how many people are keen to help donate their time and money to help people in difficult circumstances when given the opportunity and framework to do so.

The Christmas hamper outreach project costs approximately £3500 to deliver each year on top of the donated food items. This is only possible if the project receives donations throughout the year by those who want to see the success of this initiative. The project buys all fresh meat, vegetables and cream for the hampers from the Trudgian Farm shop in Probus who are amazingly helpful and flexible every year.

Please talk to Eleanor or Cliff if you would like to make a financial donation this year to the Christmas hamper project 2026.

Safeguarding - Eleanor McCartney

I am pleased to present my annual report in the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for the Parish.

I can report that there was one safeguarding issue during 2025 which required discussion with the diocesan safeguarding team and which was shared with the PCC for action and learning.

During the year I have continued to work through the parish safeguarding dashboard, and we have now completed the level 3 dashboard.

The safeguarding hub has been well used to ensure that job roles are matched to safeguarding requirements and to keep track on the training records of those volunteering within the church.

I continue to act as the local DBS co-Ordinator for the Parish and can confirm the PCC, Clergy and Children / Youth Teams have appropriate DBS checks in place.

You will be aware that there are three levels of Safeguarding skills: Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership. Everyone having a role within the Church, should have completed Basic awareness training, and dependent on their specific role, should aim to complete the Foundation course.

Along with the Grampound PSO I ran an in person basic awareness SG session and we are looking towards a foundation's session in 2026.

I have been taking part in Safeguarding Huddles with other PSOs from the Upper Fal Parishes which were commenced by Rev Husband following her coming into post.

Safeguarding is the concern of everyone, and an enquiring mind, and observation are essential. If you see something that is not quite right or is of concern to you then please contact either me as the PSO or a member of the clergy. You should avoid becoming personally involved. Once reported, the incumbent or the PSO will lead any investigation.

Thank you for your continued support. I will continue to give support and guidance in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Eleanor McCartney
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Powder Deanery Synod.

Rural Dean – Revd Penny Leach

Lay Chair – Jonny Alford

In May Synod looked at How churches can serve children in our parishes? We heard from Matthew Richards from Gerrans School and heard (via prerecorded video from the young people at St Kea on what makes them happy. We spent time in mission areas looking at what had changed since we were teenagers and what we are doing to meet the needs of children and young people.

In November synod heard from Isaac McNish – Head of Ministry for Truro Diocese about the new Growing Younger Strategy and the support that churches could expect from the diocese over the coming years. We spent time in pastoral areas looking at the discipleship pathways for 0-18 year olds.

In May synod started with a communion service to celebrate the end of this synod term (3 years). After which members looked at Becoming a more generous church and how this was not just about finances but creating a more generous mindset. We spent time reflecting on various Bible passages.

Parish Reorganisations: Over the year there were three pastoral reorganisations in progress in the deanery. Upper Fal Benefices, The Trinity Churches (Truro) and St Clement & St Allen.

Finances: Andy McCartney has taken over as Deanery Treasurer. Parishes had generally responded well to the MMF call and achieved 87% payment as a deanery. There were variations in how much individual parishes had paid. Parishes were encouraged to be more generous in their commitment to MMF.

Clergy Changes: Janette Mullen had retired from All Saints Highertown – a new appointment has been made but yet to start.

Owen Edwards was appointed to St George's Truro and Penwerris Falmouth.

The Waterside Parishes remain in transition.

Sarah Hodge