



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

Stalmine, St. James' Parochial Church Council (PCC) Annual Report for 2025

1) Aims and Purposes.

To cooperate with the Incumbent and Pioneer Minister in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The mission of Stalmine St. James' Church PCC is:

To proclaim the good news of the Risen Christ to all people by worship, witness and teaching.

To pray for and bring comfort and healing to all in need.

To identify, develop and encourage the full use of the talents that all possess.

The mission of the Over Wyre benefice is:

Sharing Jesus in the everyday of everyone in Over Wyre.

2) Objectives and Activities.

i. Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:

Develops and revises regularly a Mission Statement for St James' Church with clear underlying definitions; that are communicated and understood by our congregation and community;

Makes recommendations to PCC of Mission and Outreach activities and engagements;

Ensures that the PCC's commitment to tithe our income is undertaken regularly and appropriately in line with our planned giving at home, abroad etc.

Develops and maintains links with the Diocese of Blackburn, in order that St James' is aware and involved in Diocesan mission and outreach activities;

Supports the promotion of the use of the church buildings as resources for mission and outreach.

ii. Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as his people. One of the glories of the Church of England is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted and governed by the Rules for Regulating Authorised Forms of Service. Therefore, the Worship and Liturgy group is to contribute to how the community prays, worships and celebrates our common faith and belief in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ensuring that what we do is accessible to all who pass through our doors.

The purposes of the Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee are to:

- Contribute to the planning and celebration of prayer, worship and liturgy in its various forms throughout the church's liturgical year, ensuring that the needs of the parish community are met.



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- Widen and enrich the worship and prayer life of the parish so that people may encounter the Risen Christ and are inspired to live and spread the Good News.
- Identify, support and utilise the variety of gifts, talents and resources that are available in the parish, diocese and wider church in order.
- Promote greater understanding and awareness of the richness and diversity of worship and liturgy, ensuring that St James' parish remains open to the breadth and variety of styles that exist within the parish and the Church of England in general.

iii. Communications and Social Subcommittee:

Ensures effective two-way communication between:

the PCC and the congregation

the PCC and supporting sub-committees.

The church; and the general public or any other interested parties.

Maintains a calendar of social events and activities designed to increase the social wellbeing of the current congregation and by means of fellowship endeavour to carry out the church's mission.

Interacts with other Over Wyre parishes to share best practice, minimise duplication, associated costs and share benefits.

iv. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:

Oversees the financial affairs and responsibilities of the PCC and makes recommendations about budgeting and the funding of expenditure.

Ensures the short-term and long-term upkeep and security of the church building and its contents, and the church grounds.

Manages the day-to-day running of the church as a public place of worship, ensuring comfort, cleanliness and safety.

Supports the promotion of the use of the church buildings as resources for prayer, worship and outreach.

v. Charities Subcommittee:

Plans and executes the donation of 10% of the Church's disposable income to charities.

3) Achievements and Performance.

Parish Priest:

Unfortunately, the Parish Priest, Fr Peter Walsh retired at the end of August on ill-health grounds, so this position is currently vacant. A new Parish Priest is being sought.

Pioneer Minister:

As Pioneer Priest across Over Wyre Benefice my calling is to help facilitate spaces where people might meet Jesus and know the overwhelming and transforming love of God in their lives. I love being around families, children, schools, congregations, and people of all ages in our churches and communities. It is an utter privilege to minister here where there are teams of talented and committed volunteers who are not only amazing at what they do as they serve God but genuinely wonderful, loving, supportive people.



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I honestly think this benefice has to be the best place to minister in the whole of the Church of England. Maybe the whole world (though a bit of sun would be nice).

Just after Easter 2025 Fr Peter became ill and subsequently retired. Fr Peter and Adele loved the benefice as much as I do and were both very sad to move away and step back from ministering here. They have made a big difference to the benefice with their presence, their ideas, their love, their joy. They are still very much missed.

We continue to pray for the future of the benefice, asking for God's will to be done and His kingdom to come in Over Wyre. We pray especially for the appointment of a new incumbent and ask that the Spirit might be nudging and encouraging someone to come and love the villages, communities and people Over Wyre.

Since Fr Peter's illness and retirement ministry has looked a little different for me. However, my heart and passion are still to share the love of God with everyone in their special moments and in the everyday ordinary times. I love sharing faith in all settings: classrooms, village halls, toddler groups, fields, cafés, gyms and churches. I long to cultivate communities where curiosity and questions are encouraged, where people can belong and where we can see the Holy Spirit at work in each other's lives.

2025 has had many highlights, the joyful Wonder Week holiday club, the bubble-tastic Duggie Dug Dug weekend, a carol service in a local gym, questions from school children, conversations while walking the dog, the privilege of being with people for key moments in life through baptisms, weddings and funerals, seeing all-ages develop and deepen their faith at God Outdoors and Raise and Praise, simply having fun together on the beach at our family day in summer. Through all the amazing things, one of the greatest joys are the people I share all this with: the retired clergy with permission to officiate (PTOs), lay-leaders, Church Wardens, PCCs and everyone who helps, supports and is involved. You are all amazing and this benefice would not be the joyful, learning, growing, loving place it is without you. We are *One Body* with many parts. Thank you!

God Outdoors!

The year began, in January, with a different type of God Outdoors. We met on a frosty afternoon early January, in the grounds of Out Rawcliffe Church, to look at the journey of the wise men. There was an obstacle course in a field where children and adults could carry a gift from one end to the other where twinkly lights and a star guided them forwards. There were star crafts and a trail around the church garden. We were also very grateful to have Chris come with his telescopes, so we were able to see the moon, stars and even Jupiter and Mars! *God Outdoors!* has continued through the year. We look at different stories from the Bible or truths about God using things found in nature to help us deepen our understanding and relationship with God. Often held outside St James's Church, we '*Meet in natures playground, in the wild cathedral, where the trees lift their arms in praise and the rocks cry out his name. We meet to find God Outdoors!*'

Craft & Cocktails

Recognising that adults like to find God in nature we began the year with a star gazing Craft & Cocktails at Out Rawcliffe. There were still the usual crafts and drinks which were accompanied this time by a meditation - thinking about how the wise men were guided by a star and asking ourselves what guides us and our decisions – followed by the opportunity to look to the skies as Chris set up his telescopes for us.



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Craft and Cocktails happen once each half-term and through 2025 we made wreaths, felt garlands, decorated candles and painted stones and plant pots. During Holy Week we held another meditative craft and cocktails using a stone to journey through the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. Each night follows a similar pattern – relaxed crafts and drinks, plenty of time to chat and get to know each other and we sometimes finish with the opportunity to pray through the day before we leave.

Wednesday Stay & Play

Now enjoying its fifth year, the Wednesday Stay and Play group at Pilling is a lovely community. The vision remains the same; to provide support for adults and children Over Wyre in a safe space where they can know they are loved. Our hope is that we ask every adult how they are and give them time to fully respond while the children are happy playing. The group, which is open to people from any parish, runs from St John's Church Hall in Pilling from 9.30-11 a.m. The mornings follow a similar format each week – toys, craft and conversation, snack time then towards the end we all help tidy up and have a song and sometimes a story. There is always the opportunity for prayer on a Wednesday or for people to ask us to pray for something through the week.

We are looking for volunteers from across the benefice who might be able to help us continue sharing love and fulfilling our vision, so if you would like to help please get in touch!

Raise & Praise

Raise and Praise is an informal service for people of all ages, with space to wiggle, create, explore and have fun. We gather on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 9.45-11.15 a.m. We start with a game, quiz or challenge as people arrive to help us get ready for worship. We then have prayers, songs, and a Bible story explored in an interactive way as we consider what it means for our lives today. At about 10.20, we set off around the hall to have breakfast and explore the story through science experiments, crafts, discussion or quiet space. Then at about 11 a.m. we gather back together to share, prayer and sing. It is wonderful to journey through a Bible story together and hear different people's thoughts, from three-year-olds to ninety-three-year-olds. The congregation is made up of families of all shapes and designs, as well as adults who come because they enjoy this way of worshipping or want to support some of our newer people.

This year we have looked at Jesus' life with stories like Simeon and Anna and the transfiguration, 'Scary Stories in the Bible' including Daniel in the Lion's Den, Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones, and Elijah and the Fire and a challenging series based on Michah 6:8 – 'what does our God ask us to do? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with Him'. We thought about how we can be bringers of justices, voices for the voiceless, and active participants in the upside-down kingdom of God that values the poor, oppressed and marginalised.

Raise and Praise is open to anyone and would love to welcome you and your neighbours or friends!

Ducklings/Adventures in Early Years

Once each half-term, three schools Over Wyre have a special session with their youngest pupils. Hambleton Primary Academy and Pilling St John School's nursery and reception go into their respective churches for a short service, while the same service is done in school for Fleetwood's Charity nursery and reception children.



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The vision is to introduce some of the students early on to the church building (where possible), to the structure of a church service and to people they might find at church. The sessions follow a similar order to a Sunday service, and we talk about the different aspects of church they might find – music, prayer, stories and time to reflect or ask questions. This is followed by the chance to play in church, with people from the congregations and to have a ‘take home’ craft to remind them of the story. It is a lovely time with the children and has been a great way to develop relationships with pupils, staff and schools.

School Involvement

As well as Ducklings /Adventures in Early Years, clergy colleagues, congregation members and I try to keep in contact with many of the schools Over Wyre through the year. We speak to staff, try to support events, chat to headteachers, host school services, open churches for their use, act as Governors, and go in to help with lesson observations or teaching. We are blessed Over Wyre with excellent schools, and it is always a joy to be involved with them in any capacity.

Duggie Dug Dug

March 2025 saw the culmination of a year of planning as we welcomed Duggie Dug Dug to the benefice for a three-day mission weekend. It was a joyful, high-energy time that placed schools, families and church at the heart of a shared experience of faith and fun. On the Friday morning, St Aidan’s Church of England High School kindly hosted us as pupils from Fleetwood’s Charity CE School and St John’s CE Primary School Pilling gathered for the much- anticipated ‘Crazy Science’ show. This was then repeated in the afternoon at Hambleton Primary Academy. The shows, which were led by Duggie Dug Dug and his assistant, blended dramatic experiments, action songs and clear links to Scripture. The sessions were vibrant, imaginative and deeply engaging: bubbling liquids, dry ice and laughter created an atmosphere where children were both entertained and thoughtfully introduced to the good news of Jesus. Staff and pupils responded warmly, and feedback from schools and parents suggested the day was nothing short of “brilliant”.

Day Two’s sold-out Bubble Praise Party filled St Oswald’s Church Hall with spacecraft bubbles, smoke bubbles and even children inside bubbles — a simple yet powerful expression of praise and delight that drew families together.

The weekend culminated in a lively ‘All Together Service’ at St Oswald’s Church, Preesall marked by role play, energetic worship, dancing and wholehearted participation across generations. Throughout the weekend, we witnessed not only enthusiastic community engagement but also the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers and clergy. The weekend was more than a programme of events; it was a tangible expression of the Benefice’s loving heart — strengthening relationships with our schools, encouraging families, and proclaiming Christ with creativity, confidence and joy.

Wonder Week Holiday Club

Summer 2025 saw the first holiday club for primary aged children in the Over Wyre Benefice (at least since I have been here). It was three joy-filled days of creativity, curiosity and connection, drawing children and helpers into God’s story through science, storytelling and play.



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The three days took inspiration from Solids, Liquids and Gases — Rock Day (building on the firm foundation), Water Day (Jesus Christ calming the storm), and Wind/Breath Day (Jesus sending His disciples out). These stories and themes were then brought to life through four zones: Challenge, Create, Curiosity and Chill.

The much-loved Professor and his assistant Sparky turned up each day with drama and experiments. The children and helpers were able to join in with journals, badges, team games, crafts, film time and plenty of laughter. The atmosphere was warm, energetic and deeply encouraging, with children soaking up the joy and forming new friendships across our villages.

The week culminated in a joyful Sunday Takeover at St. James' Church, Stalmine, where the Wonder Week families joined the congregation for an all-age celebration full of action songs, a youth-led drama, a science illustration of small actions making a big difference, and a lively picnic with bouncy castle to follow.

The whole week was a wonderful chance to build relationships, to get to know people, to be silly and to meet with God. It is fair to say the adults had as much fun as the kids. The dedicated team of volunteers came from all around the benefice, from Sunday congregations, God Outdoors and Raise & Praise congregations as well as volunteers who come to toddler groups. Each one of them was incredible, their imagination, faith and teamwork made Wonder Week not just an event, but a glimpse of a growing, joy-filled church community.

Diocesan Renewal Programme (DRP)/Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG)

Blackburn Diocesan Renewal Programme (DRP) is a long-term vision to see healthy churches growing across Lancashire. One of the ways of doing this is to invite parishes to participate in Leading Your Church into Growth (LyCiG).

LyCiG is a twelve-to-eighteen-month, national Church of England course designed to help local churches grow in depth, number and service to the local community. Blending biblical reflection, practical teaching and honest conversation, it equips churches to nurture healthy discipleship, celebrate the good, and create welcoming, outward-looking congregations. It encourages churches to pray, think strategically and take simple, faithful steps towards sustainable growth in their own context.

Just before summer, we were invited to be on the second cohort of rural benefices on the course. The LyCiG material has been adapted to be more useful for rural settings. In November people from every parish went on a three-day conference looking at all the material from LyCiG. There are then a number of follow up sessions where we are able to look in more details at each of the sessions and prayerfully consider what impact they may have in our own contexts. The conference itself was a really interesting time together that was full of celebration of what we are doing well, lots of ideas and time to pray and reflect on our future.

These sessions are now gradually being shared with the congregations across the parishes. One of the things the course emphasises is that we cannot do anything in our own strength but through prayer, listening to God and seeking His kingdom. Aware of the power of prayer, one outcome was to introduce the LyCiG prayer to be used in every service, Bible study or gathering.

Another development was the decision to start an Alpha course in January 2026.

Simply doing the course itself, even with all the investment from the diocese, will make no difference in our parishes.



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However, if we come together in prayer, if we have a desire for growth, if we have a vision and we make a plan that is put into action, who knows what a difference it will make and where we might see God at work!

Gala

In 2025, the Over Wyre Benefice Gala float was full of flowers! People of all ages from toddler groups to Craft & Cocktails created flowers to contribute to the float. It was teeming with blooms and there were even flowers with faces! We took part on Hambleton Gala, (where we won first prize), Preesall and Knott End Gala (where we came third), and Pilling Coffee Feast. So much fun was had, from making the flowers, to decorating the float to singing assembly bangers as we drove round! We will need a float for the 2026 galas. If anyone has a trailer we can borrow for July, please let us know!

Over Wyre Children and Families Community Group

In 2024, we began setting up the Over Wyre Children and Families Community Group (OWCh). This was suggested as a way of gathering all the many different things we do with children, young people and families into one place. We have finally managed to sort out a bank account, set up our constitution and are now able to function as a community group! The group exists in order to support the work and ministry of the Over Wyre Benefice specifically in relation to its outreach to children and families in the community.

It aims to:

Create community spaces where the people of Over Wyre are welcomed, accepted and supported with space to explore the Christian faith.

Build and deepen relationships with one another, with the community and with God.

Consolidate outreach activities that happen across the benefice for families and those connected to them.

If you would like to be part of the committee, please let me know.

Rev Naomi Barraclough.

Licensed Lay Minister:

God is on the move in Over Wyre! This has been an exciting year. God is doing so much both in church and in people's lives. I sense a freedom across the benefice that I have never seen before. People are moving from church to church instead of only ever attending their own church. And there has been so much to attend from Duggie Dug Dug to Deanery Choral Evensong. Something for everyone, whichever is their particular favourite. God has been present in it all.

I continue to take services monthly at Stalmine and Out Rawcliffe and it's a privilege to do so. The services are very different, but I feel God's presence in them both. I do try to challenge and make people think about their faith and what they actually do believe. I love it when people come to me at the end of a service and ask questions or make comments. I know then that I have really made them think.

I have enjoyed going to lots of different things this year, from training days to Spring Harvest, spending a few days at Whalley Abbey and the follow up meetings, Bible study and the Alpha course that we are currently doing. God is truly at work.



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I want to thank all those who come to all we prepare for and plan, pray continually for the growth of our parishes, our leaders and a deepening of our faith and discipleship. And a massive thank you to Naomi for everything she does. Thank you for all your prayers, love and support. God bless you all.

Nicola Smith.

Churchwardens:

See also Finance and Facilities report.

Sadly, ill health resulted in Fr. Peter Walsh retiring in September and so we ended 2025 in yet another interregnum. This has resulted in an additional workload on our diminishing bank of “retired” clergy across the benefice, some of whom have stepped up, despite recovering from serious illnesses and we are so grateful for their efforts. This is unsustainable in the long term, and we continue to encourage, search and pray for replacements to come forward. The recruitment process for a replacement priest is currently ongoing, and we express our thanks to all those individuals from across the benefice who have contributed to a much improved and more concise Benefice profile, which we hope and pray will enhance our chances of attracting a suitable replacement incumbent to lead us forward.

The past twelve months have seen small but continued increases in attendances and we continue to have a regular attendance of children in our congregation. The Sunday Group continues to meet, enabling some quieter time during more formal communion services. The monthly Morning Worship services led by Nicola, ditto the All-Age services led by Elaine, Pam and Sara continue to be popular and well supported.

Once again, the Churchwardens wish to thank Naomi for maintaining her enthusiasm, whilst experiencing a greatly increased workload without an incumbent, plus all the visiting clergy and Lay leaders who conduct and assist in the services at St James. Again, it is appropriate to once again mention our “retired” SSM, Dyllis, who still leads so many services at St James and is always available for help and advice; together with our Treasurer and Director of Music, Paul, who has taken on the management of the service rota across the benefice.

Communions at home, Coffee and Prayer mornings have continued on Thursdays and the Men’s group continues to meet on a regular basis, together with the Ladies Bible study.

Again, the wardens wish to thank all those involved, not only those leading services, but our Verger, Publicity and Safeguarding officers and all those who carry out numerous duties and tasks, often unnoticed, without asking, but essential to the continuity of our St James’ church ministry.

Sadly, our churchwarden Sandra has announced her intention not to seek re-election next year. She will be sadly missed and on behalf of all at St James, I would like to thank her for all her efforts and support during the past ten years.

P Derek Wolstenholme and Sandra Bourne.



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Safeguarding:

The year under review was one where several new volunteers joined the ranks of those who care for children and young people. However, while people are keen to volunteer, there has been a reluctance to complete the required courses and DBS certification within the agreed time frame. All volunteers working with children must have an enhanced DBS certificate and pass the Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse courses within three months. Anyone who fails to do this should not be working with children. Additionally, there should be at least one person with a Leadership Certificate present during Club meetings. We need more people with Leadership Certificates to help with our Sunday Club.

Nationally PSOs have received an assurance that changes to the Dashboard will only be made in January each year without any loss of progress score. Previously they made them with little or no warning and affected a parish's score. I believe being able to see the Dashboard live, making changes, helps PCC members understand what is happening. Our score dropped from 100 percent to 96 percent largely because of member's reluctance to complete courses on time, or pass details of DBS certificates, with serial numbers where relevant, when received.

Several members attended Pilling, St John the Baptist's, and Hambleton, Blessed Virgin Mary churches to complete courses in group sessions arranged by the Diocesan Training Officer. The church regards going through learning more important than passing a formal exam.

On Safeguarding Sunday (November 16) Rev. Jeff Finch presented fifteen certificates to volunteers who completed courses during the year. On Safeguarding Sunday, we say a public 'Thank you' to all our volunteers. This Sunday also raised awareness among the congregation that safeguarding is an important action and involves several people.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to attend local SGO meetings, diocesan PSO's get-togethers, and the monthly SGO's drop-in session videoconferences with the safeguarding staff at Clayton House. His work with the Archbishop's Council's national committee, charged with revising the Church's safeguarding documents, continues. Publication of the first of these documents, aimed at supporting PSOs, will be early in 2026. Peter Swarbrick.



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Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:

This subcommittee has not met in 2025. Both the “contemporary” and “traditional” orders of Eucharist service continue to be used at Stalmine. The former Parish Priest produced a quarterly rota of services in consultation with the parishes: I have taken on this role pro tem. It is intended that the role of this Subcommittee should be examined, with a view to its future direction once a new Incumbent is appointed.

Paul E Buckmaster.

All-Age Services:

We continue to find different ways to try and engage children into a church service while still including their parents and our older congregation. We tell the Gospel story in a simplified way and include games and action songs to help to get to the heart of the message.

In September, we hosted our annual Pet service which still remains very popular with our regulars and with many new people. We also held our third Community Christmas Carol service at the Village Hall, which included Pilling Band and The Over Wyre Community Choir, with the Nativity story being read by people involved in different organisations in Stalmine. It seems to attract many different people who would not normally come to Church. Our final event of the year was the Crib Service. As Dyllis and Naomi were unavailable, we asked Louise to help lead the service. We had put together a full Nativity and asked via social media if people would like to dress up and join in with the story. The response was amazing. We had a full church with lots of willing people getting fully involved.

Pam Jackson, Elaine and Sara Duke.

Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:

See also the Pioneer Minister’s, Communications and Social Subcommittee’s, and “Little Fishes” reports.

This Subcommittee also did not meet in 2025. More members are needed. Would anyone who feels called in this area, please contact me.

Nicola Smith.

Stay and Play:

See the Pioneer Minister’s report.

“Little Fishes”:

Little Fishes has seen a dramatic rise in attendance which gives us a wonderful opportunity to support new parents in a welcoming environment with a brew at the ready. For the children we offer an interesting selection of age-appropriate toys and crafts and after tidying everything away, we sing nursery rhymes together which are led by the children’s choices. To ensure that we offer a safe place for everyone we have updated our Safeguarding training and always keep a register of attendance.

Pam and Gill.



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Sunday Club:

St James' Sunday Club aims to offer a welcoming space where children can explore faith in a fun and meaningful way. Generally, we focus on the day's Gospel, bringing it to life through storytelling, creative crafts, activity sheets and song, and we finish with a short time of reflective prayer.

Although we draw on a wide range of Christian resources when planning our sessions, ROOTS—a lectionary-based programme—is especially valuable. It offers a rich variety of up-to-date materials suitable for everyone, from our youngest children through to adults. A thread of 'living out our faith' runs throughout the resources - helping everyone, young and old, make connections between what is learned on a Sunday and our daily lives.

Our group includes children of various ages, and we do our best to ensure everyone feels included and engaged. Parents and carers are welcome to stay in the main service or join us in the club room, depending on what suits their family best. After our session we return to the service, and at the end of which the children are invited to share what they've been learning with the congregation.

Our Sunday Club is run by a small caring team of volunteers, who are enthusiastic to help children explore and grow in their Christian faith.

Gill Keighley.

Ladies Bible Study:

We continued meeting on a Wednesday evening and particularly enjoyed focusing on the Old Testament and understanding the culture of the times. As a group of ladies, we have been moved by the difficulties and the incredible bravery of women like Esther, and it has sparked some fascinating discussions. We were delighted to be joined by a new member and are always open to others interested in learning more.

Pam and Nicola.

Men's Group:

The Men's Group continued meeting on Monday evenings during spring and autumn, to enjoy fellowship and informal Bible study (using "Cover to Cover" study guides) over a "pie and a pint". There were usually six members: more members would be welcome. In the spring, we looked at 'Esther', and 'The Armour of God'. In the autumn, we followed 'The Second Coming – Living in the Light of Jesus' Return.'

Paul E Buckmaster.

Communications and Social Subcommittee:

At the heart of our work is a commitment to outreach ministry that brings people together. We create opportunities for connection through social gatherings, fund-raising events, and community activities that encourage participation from our church family and the wider community.

Clear, consistent communication is essential to this mission. Our Facebook page and church website play a vital role in sharing the ethos of St James' and celebrating the many events taking place here and across the Over Wyre Benefice.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



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These platforms help us extend a warm invitation, strengthen relationships, and ensure everyone feels included in the life of our church. We are deeply grateful to Louise and Paul for their efficient, creative, and consistently wonderful graphics, which bring our stories to life and help our community feel connected. We endeavour to keep our notice boards current and also include information which may be of interest for our Christian way of life. A simple, 'Welcome to St James' leaflet was produced and copies are available in church. We continue to deliver 'Welcome' packs to everyone who moves into the parish, as they provide a helpful first point of connection with new residents. The delivery of Easter and Christmas cards has continued, despite fewer people coming forward to volunteer. Many thanks to Paul for the preparation and printing.

Our social events throughout the year are designed to bring people together, strengthen community bonds, and offer something for everyone.

Our February Parish Lunch in the church meeting room was warmly received, bringing people together for a relaxed and enjoyable time.

Our Agape meal is centred around our Maundy Thursday service, offering us a shared time of food, fellowship, and reflection as we remember Jesus' command to love one another.

The Pre-Loved Fashion Show, held in April, once again brought the Over Wyre community together in a spirit of camaraderie and fun. Both models and audience enjoyed a fantastic evening, with proceeds going to support CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Brian House Children's Hospice.

Although we no longer collect Christian Aid envelopes, we continue to promote the charity.

The sunshine was a gift to the gathering, during which a warm welcome was given to our community and the garden buzzed with laughter as children enjoyed the activities prepared for them. We were all treated to an array of delicious strawberry delights.

To mark St. James' Day, our parish gathered for a walk and picnic. Despite drizzle, children and adults cheerfully made their way to "Springfield" Moss Side Lane, where homemade picnics were shared and spirits stayed bright despite the dull weather. Some then enjoyed a gentle tractor ride to John and Dyllis' lake, nestled among the trees — a beautiful spot for children to run free, explore, and let off steam, while the less-agile grown-ups were left in peace on the patio to relax and chat. It was a simple, happy time of community, laughter, and togetherness.

We once again hosted our much-loved Pamper Event with Afternoon Tea. The afternoon was relaxed and friendly, filled with heavenly scents and a wonderful buzz of enjoyment.

Thanks to everyone's kindness and support, we were able to raise valuable funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Autumn brought us together once again for a relaxed Parish Lunch at the Seven Stars — a lovely way to support our village pub and enjoy unhurried time in each other's company.

As in previous years we concluded the year with our usual Christmas celebrations, when the community came together. The village Christmas Tree Lighting is just one such occasion.

There is something lovely about villagers gathering to sing carols and enjoy the festive season together. The music from Over Wyre Brass adds a special touch to the celebrations. It's always heartwarming to hear that everyone, from children to adults, enjoy participating. Thank you to Stalmine Parish Council for their financial support towards our Tree Lighting festivities.

After the Community Carol Service in the village hall, more than sixty parishioners shared a delicious lunch, rounding off the morning with conversation, laughter, and a real sense of belonging. Many thanks to Brenda for her culinary contributions!



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

We are grateful for all the volunteers give their time and talent to help in so many different ways. “Behind the scenes” a great deal of work takes place. However, despite all our successes we must not allow ourselves to become complacent: by welcoming people, listening well, and sharing kindly we hope we can leave a lasting mark on their journey. Gill Keighley.

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:

See also Section 4.

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met three times in 2025, and much essential maintenance and repair work has been progressed, namely:

Completion of re-rendering of some two-thirds of the North church wall, during which advantage of the scaffolding was taken to repair the pointing of the stairwell ridge, and cleaning and painting of the gutters and downpipes in that area.

Remaining boiler house doors have been repaired and re-painted after the rendering work.

Additional decorating to the porch is complete, external painting to the extension woodwork is 50% complete, ditto the church steel glazing bars. Both will continue in 2026, together with repairs to the cracked glass panes,

Six damaged slates have been replaced, together with re-pointing of the church coping stones and lead flashings, which should resolve the damp issues at the North and South ends of the gallery. Once fully dried out, the affected areas will be redecorated.

Work has taken place to identify sources of dampness in the quiet/prayer room / storage area. Remedial work has been carried out and the floor covered with lino.

The broken bell rope has been replaced.

Additional warning posts, in keeping with the lectern legs have been procured and fitted: rope barriers are in progress.

Quinquennial Inspection report completed, reviewed in house, amended accordingly and will be issued in January 2026. No unknown, or major items were reported. Recommendations are listed in time order: 1. within twelve months, 2. within the inspection period (five years) and 3. long term and will be progressed and monitored via the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

Routine testing of fire extinguishers, and maintenance of the grounds progressed as normal. The fluctuating price of heating oil has been closely monitored throughout the year, and the tank refilled at opportune moments.

There have been no reportable Health and Safety issues.

Grateful thanks are again due to Simon Currier who does most of the grass cutting.

P Derek Wolstenholme / Paul E Buckmaster.

Deanery Synod:

There were two meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2025, on 4th April and 20th October. These were concerned with Vision 2026 – see below.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



**Vision Deanery Synods
2025**

**Garstang
7th April 2025**

1. Discerning High Level Vision

- *Sept – Dec 24:* Consultation with all parishes and also CofE schools
 - *Jan – April 25:*
 - Deanery Synods
 - Headteachers & Incumbents
 - Half-day Bishop's Council meeting
 - Youth Forum
- ...plus other key groups across the diocese.



Listening to God & Discerning His Direction

- *May 2025:* Diocesan Vision and Strategy Group Residential
- *July 2025:* Diocesan Synod

2. Working out the Detail – how will we get there?

- *Sept 2025 to April 2026:* Consultation
- *July / October 2026:* Diocesan Synods



Launch of New Diocesan Vision:

November 2026

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



Now we are looking ahead to

2033

Be thinking 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?



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



1. Abiding in Jesus, reliant on His direction and His empowering.

- Less doing and more being with Jesus
- Prayer and more prayer
- Living free from anxiety
- Repentance and humbling ourselves before God. We need Him to renew us.
- Develop a sense of the holiness and presence of God.
- Faith as an integrated way of life not just for Sunday fellowship and worship.
- Clergy and lay people leading from a point of spiritual maturity and healthiness within themselves.

John 15 v4:

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

Isaiah 40 v31:

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary they will walk and not be faint."



2. A vibrant, Christ-centred, growing family

- **Jesus Christ at the centre**, prayer, growing in knowledge of scripture, sharing in the Eucharist, growing in faith together.
- **Learning to love as Jesus does**, Aware of each others' needs, helping each other, warm, generous, joyous.
- **'Bursting with people'** and growing – with that growth reflecting the diversity of our communities
- **Welcoming** where all can feel 'at home'

- **All-Age:** relevant and accessible for children and young people but also working age people and older people too.

...massive support for reaching out to and engaging with children, young people and families but remember to consider the needs of older, loyal members of the congregations, honour this cohort and realise and utilise their gifts.

Accommodating traditional and modern worship so the whole family is served.

- **Safe**
- **United**



- **Giving and receiving between churches, deaneries and the diocese.** *"We felt, through prayer, that our diocese needs to foster an increased sense of belonging to one another, as opposed to parishes working in isolation to simply build up their own congregations."*
- Linking with ecumenical partners.
- *Noting that our diocesan schools (and others) are part of the 'diocesan family' but 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' doesn't reference them in its strapline.*

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."

"We should look to keep absolutely central and as first priority the church's call to make Christ known so that people put their faith in him and are saved for eternity."

- Confident people of faith, eager to witness and 'spread the good news'.



- There was strong support to be missional and all that means in our parishes – many replies referenced 'growth' and 'growing' eg a continuation of support for new local congregations, parish missions etc – however, a theme of some replies was also:

"The issue of lack of confidence in sharing our faith is frequently raised."

...with counsel to guard against time being consumed by 'social stuff' that has no missional outcome. ...and several replies referencing that one of the challenges following the joy of people finding faith is that they, "stay in the early phase of Christian life for some time".

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

- "Jesus' main task was to grow God's kingdom and He was relentless in reaching out to and meeting the needs of the poor. We must do the same."
- "Communities would be happier and more neighbourly. They would see the church as a real community hub and resource and see God's light shining out of it"
- "An expansion of providing for the needs of the local community – not just food banks but helping with the aged, isolated, disabled, those with mental health problems."



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Practically speaking in terms of previous 2 points:

- We will be embracing the **internet and social media**, utilising these well.
- And our **buildings** will be more practical spaces for community engagement and evangelism.

5. A voice for justice

- Speaking truth to power – from corruption to AI ethics
- Engaging with local democracy
- Encouraging Christian business leaders
- Creation care
- Addressing societal challenges eg lack of youth provision, environmental issues, poverty, health care, social services, reducing crime and violence, more affordable housing, continued integration of diverse communities.

"We see that Blackburn Diocese can be an active player in social concern, not just practically but spiritually and as a compassionate voice."



6. Liberated and enabled: Reduced bureaucracy and administration.

- Reduce information overload
- Less administration
- Simpler processes

Buildings:

- Need to be "fit for purpose" and "fit for use by the community"
- "Do we need as many?" "While we are focussed on propping up our ageing buildings, our focus is pulled from helping people to walk with God."

Not losing sight of:

- Be confident/go for growth! Strike out to the deeper end. Get on with it! No time to lose. Keep going – fulfil your potential.
- Lose "but that's the way we've always done it"; "some things must die if growth is to come alive".
- Be more celebratory about what we do and positive stories about the church, 'de-stuffify' our image.



The headline of the whole consultation: **HOPE**

*"I think God is wanting us to maintain our **hope**."
"Remain **hopeful**."*

*"Communities of **hope** – not grieving for the past but looking to the future."*

*"More **hope** for the future as more people come to have a living faith in Jesus."*

*"A place of **hope**, of comfort, of coming together in the name of Jesus."*

*"It is essential to nurture each parish team to grow in **hope**."*

1. Abiding in Jesus, reliant on His direction and His empowering.
2. A vibrant, Christ-centred, growing family
3. Missional and Outward-Focussed
4. At the heart of our communities and central to the whole community
5. A voice for justice
6. Liberated and enabled with reduced bureaucracy and admin

Hopeful and Hope-filled



- 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?

AND

Bearing in mind your group's conversation, decide on the one, key reflection or insight relating to the discernment of our new diocesan vision that you want to communicate from your group's conversation this evening.

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



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

There was also an invitation from Bishop Joe, vis.

“Dear Friends,

2026 Diocesan Centenary Parish Mission Weekends

As part of the celebration of our Diocesan Centenary in 2026, Bishop Philip has called for a Diocesan-wide weekend of parish mission and outreach, between 11th and 13th September 2026. The invitation is for every parish across the diocese to put on a weekend in which simple events are held, to which both Christians and non-Christians can be invited, to enjoy themselves and to engage together - and at which there will be an accessible presentation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. These centenary weekends also offer us an opportunity to do something special with Sunday morning services, and to invite along those who perhaps haven't yet experienced the worship of the Church.

To help prepare and support parishes to make the most of this wonderful opportunity, our Diocesan Renewal Lead, the Rev'd Steve Haskett, will be attending a meeting of your Deanery Synod. During that meeting, Steve and his team will share video messages from Bishop Philip and myself and will help parishes begin to think how they might engage with this exciting initiative and what kinds of things might be possible in their context.

To help reach as many people as possible, we have arranged with Area Deans for these meetings to be 'Open Synods' - so that Churchwardens, Vision Champions, Licensed Lay Ministers, and Authorised Lay Ministers are all invited to attend. I hope very much that these open synods will be a source of energy and joy for your deanery. Please be assured that this comes with my prayer for you and for the parishes that you serve with such faithfulness and love.

Warmest good wishes,

+Joe”

Paul E Buckmaster, pp. Nicola Smith.

Prayer Chain:

The Prayer Chain continues to be an invaluable method of offering immediate prayer and support for us personally and for those we know who have reached out for support.

Pam Jackson.

Baptism:

In 2025, there were three baptisms.

Janice Baines, Gill Keighley.

Choir:

In 2025, Easter was very late. On Good Friday (18th April), we were joined by Ian Wright, veteran organist (but in this case, singing tenor) from St. Oswald's for the Choral Meditation on the Passion which was well received by the small congregation: one member commented, "This is the best one you have done – I went away feeling quite different!". During Communion on Easter Day, we sang Stephen Spencer's 'Mary and the Stone', along with 'This Joyful Eastertide'.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

On Sunday 18th May, nine choristers from Preesall St. Oswald, Churchtown St. Helen, and Garstang St. Thomas joined seven from St James to sing Deanery Choral Evensong here. Choir and congregation numbered forty-seven: a joyful service followed by excellent refreshments ensued. On the Sunday after Ascension, during the Communion service presided over by Canon Dr Jenny Gaffin, (Precentor, Blackburn Cathedral), we sang Thomas Tallis' 'If ye love me, keep my commandments'. We were joined by six from Preesall for the joint service at St James' on 29th June: three members of Pilling choir sang in the congregation. Sadly, we assembled a joint choir for Father Peter's leaving service on 14th September. Four from St. Oswald's and one from Hambleton joined us to sing music chosen by Father Peter. The usual Harvest Choral Evensong was celebrated on 21st September, and we were joined by three choristers from Preesall St Oswald. We sang the anthem, "Green was the earth", a lament on man's disregard for the natural world, with prayer and hope for improvement in attitudes. The joint service on Advent Sunday (30th November) was held at Hambleton, Blessed Virgin Mary church. Nine of our choristers were augmented by three from Preesall and one from Hambleton to lead the singing: I played the organ. On 21st December, the Nine Lessons and Carols service was well attended, and the choir was delighted to welcome Sue Fleming to the ranks of the tenors: now three including TJ Singleton. Jonathan Bellingham joined the basses, and once again, Oliver Ralph also returned to sing bass with us. This year's new (to us) carol was 'Sir Christèmas', with anonymous 15th century words and music composed in 1970 by Welsh Professor of Music, William Matthias. On 28th December, three St James choristers joined others from Hambleton, Pilling and Preesall at the Benefice joint 'Come and Sing Carols' at Pilling, St John the Baptist.

Sylvia Jenkinson, a very long-standing choir member has been suffering a serious illness and a very long recovery period: we still hope that she may be able to rejoin choir in future. Despite the additional choristers mentioned above, we would still welcome new members in all departments.

Paul E Buckmaster.

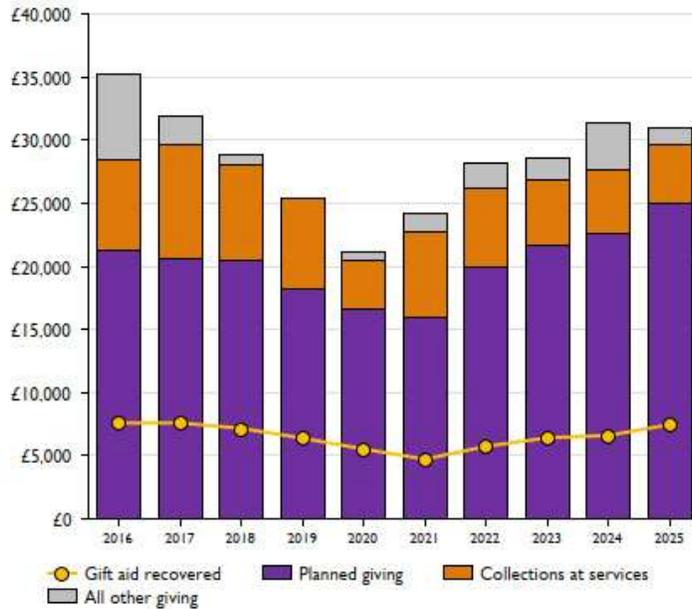


(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

4) Financial Review – see Appendix 1: Receipts and Payments Accounts.

The headlines (figures correct at 31st December 2025):

- In 2025, total receipts were £48,785, £2,871 more (+6.3%) than in 2024 (£45,914). Payments were £57,165 (2024: £58,707, -2.7%), and thus payments exceeded receipts by £8,381. At year-end, the church funds totalled £105,057.
- £7,390 was received from HM Revenue and Customs as Gift Aid Tax returns (+13.07% compared with the previous year.)

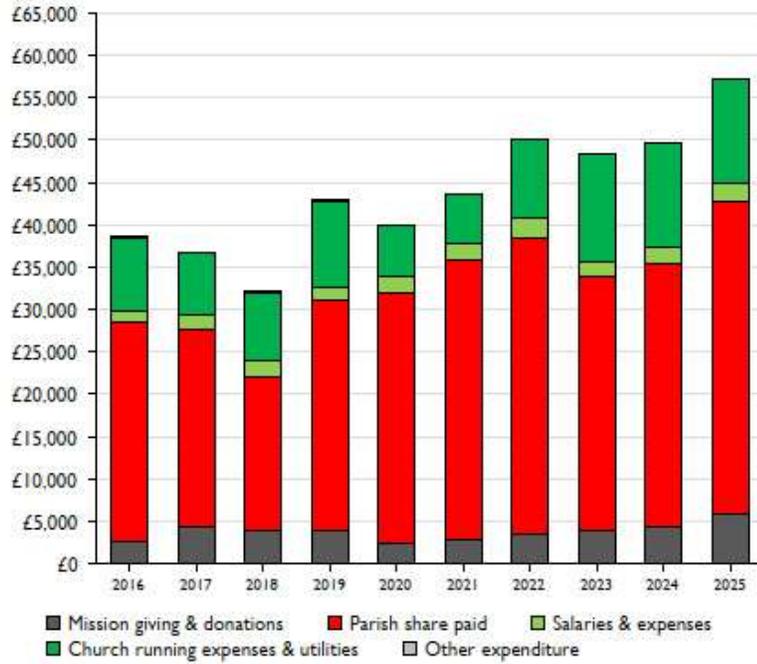
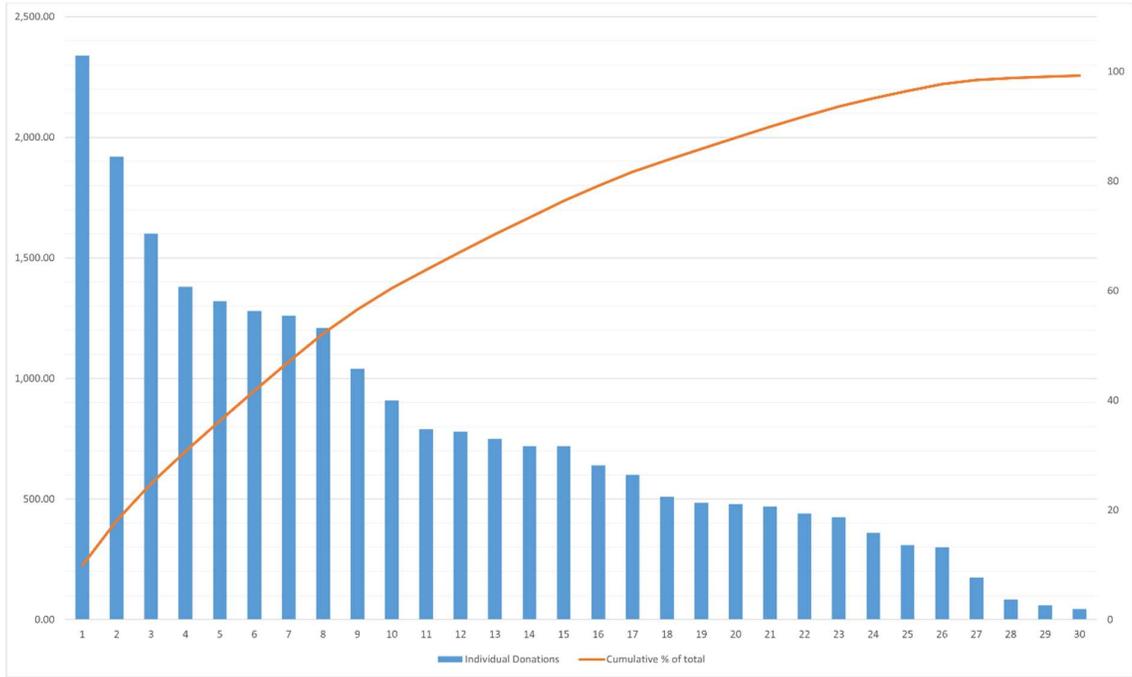


- The Parish Share in 2024 requested by the Diocese at the beginning of the year was £36,902, £1,205 more than 2024 (£35,697; +3.38%). This was paid in full, as usual.
- Our Regular Weekly Attendance (RWA) figure has increased as anticipated and now stands at 37: thankfully it is still increasing, although it does mean that Stalmine St James’ pays an increasing amount of Parish Share, clergy expenses, etc.
- Payments in 2025 were £57,165 – the number of Electoral Roll members at year-end was 51. This means that an income equivalent to £1,121 per roll member per annum (£19.61 per week) is needed if we are not to deplete our reserves. However, the following chart (for the financial year 2024/2025) shows that of our regular ‘donors’ who Gift Aid, only eight exceed this amount (three of these ‘donors’ being couples who both appear on the roll.) These eight ‘donors’ provided 52.21% of our Gift-Aided income.
- The NatWest branch in Thornton-Cleveleys where the current and deposit accounts were held closed during 2025, and the accounts were transferred to the NatWest branch at 20 Corporation Street, Blackpool.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Charitable donations made in 2025 in line with the PCC’s policy of donating 10% of disposable income to charity, in addition to the usual Christian Aid collection (not shown in this table) included:

Charity	Amount
Brian House Children’s Hospice – collection at the Fashion Show	£500
Cardiac Risk in the Young – collection at the Fashion Show	£500
Doug Horley visit	£181
WaterAid collection (Lent)	£400
Sponsorship of Lex and Alex Hamilton, missionaries in SE Asia.	£1,200
Child Sponsorship	£180
ActionAid Myanmar Earthquake appeal	£250
Christian Aid Myanmar Earthquake appeal	£250
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution – Harvest appeal	£300
Macmillan Cancer Support – Pamper afternoon	£500
Trinity Hospice	£200
British Red Cross – Jamaican Hurricane appeal	£250
TOTAL	£4,711

- In September 2024, Rev. Naomi obtained a grant of £600 for the Over Wyre Benefice Community Group. Although not belonging specifically to St James’, this was paid into the church’s bank account until such time as the Over Wyre Benefice Community Group had its own account. This sum was repaid in 2025.
- A request was made from PCC to produce a written Financial Policy – this will be finalised early in 2026.
- The annual accounts for 2025 were submitted to the Independent Examiner (Mrs Shona Beresford) in January 2026 and were approved by her without comment.
- I have checked with Shona, and she is happy to continue, so I propose that we reappoint her as our Independent Examiner for 2026.

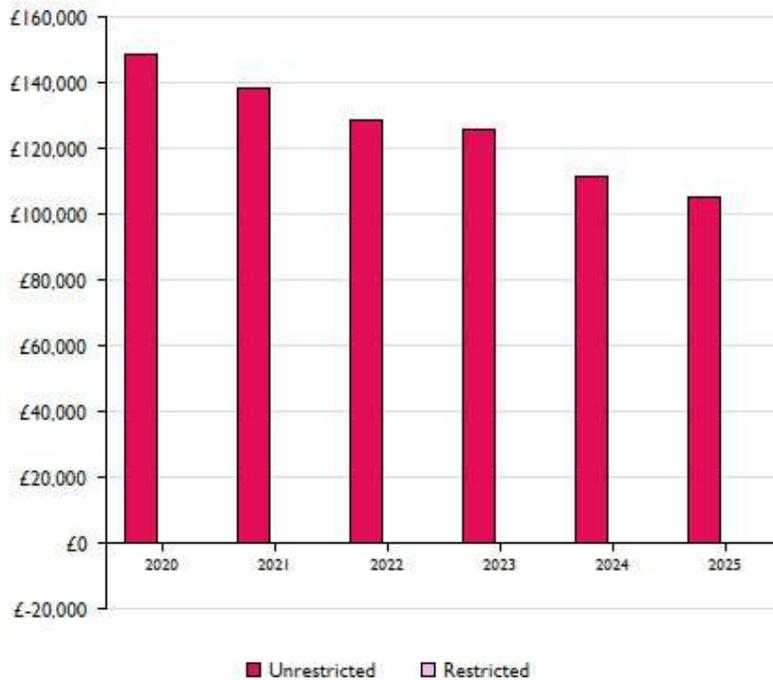
Paul E Buckmaster.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

5) Reserves Policy.

In view of the fact that at the end of 2025 the PCC has £105,057 the bank / investments, and no significant outstanding debts, we have assets greater than any suggested reserves level, and no immediate action is required, other than to keep the congregation periodically informed of the church's declining financial position.





(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

6) Structure, Governance and Management.

a. Membership:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is a Charity with Exempted Status given by the Charities Commission.

b. Bank:

The PCC's Bankers are:

NatWest
20 Corporation Street
Blackpool
FY1 1EJ

Account Numbers: 22312714 and 22312722
Sort Code: 01 – 02 – 11

CCLA, PO Box 12892, Dunmow, Essex CM6 9DL

Account Numbers: CB1007317-001 and CB1007316-001

c. Subcommittees:

The PCC operates through a number of subcommittees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

i. Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer, and Secretary.

ii. Charities Subcommittee:

This Subcommittee consists of the Treasurer, plus other members appointed from within the church, currently Mesdames Keighley, ME Duke and Pickersgill. See Section 4 for a list of donations made in 2025.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

iii. Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:

The Mission and Outreach Committee currently only comprises Nicola Smith. The Mission and Outreach Subcommittee does not currently have a named chairperson at present.

Responsibilities:

To

- pray together for God's guidance;
- develop the Mission Statement of St James' Church;
- take forward the 'Going for Growth' and Vision 2026 Diocesan initiatives;
- awareness of environmental issues and how St James' take these forward;
- consider and sustain 'Fresh expressions' of worship i.e. Mother and Toddlers, Thursday Morning Coffee;
- work with the Over Wyre Parishes to share mission and outreach activities;
- maintain an active Charities committee;
- support the 'Baptism Preparation Lead';
- identify and support a 'Wedding Preparation Lead';
- look for ways to practically support our wider community i.e. Harvest giving, Food Bank;
- promote outreach through Alpha, Discipleship or appropriate teaching;
- identify and support a pastoral assistant/bereavement visitor;
- pray for and highlight the Persecuted Church.

iv. Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:

This Subcommittee consists of: Elaine Duke (Secretary), Revd. Dyllis Dickinson, Nicola Smith, and Paul E Buckmaster.

Responsibilities:

To

- Pray for God's guidance, support, affirm and encourage the parish's worship leaders - ordained and lay.
- Contribute to the planning and format of parish services during the liturgical year, including special occasions.
- Contribute to the selection of the hymns, music and audio-visual resources that enrich and support worship and liturgy.
- Seek ways of identifying, encouraging and using the gifts and talents that exist in the parish to enhance worship, liturgy and ministry in all their aspects.
- Assess and review the services, their worship styles, music and other resources, always seeking to develop and improve how we pray and worship God.
- Explore and develop new opportunities for formal and informal prayer and worship within and outside of the parish buildings e.g. 'fresh expressions', 'messy', 'traditional', youth, sick and housebound, 'follow up' services, healing, mission, praying with the Over Wyre sister churches, praying with other Christian denominations etc.
- Plan and promote prayer days, retreats and other appropriate events.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Provide access and funding for appropriate training and education events to discover new resources, and to improve and develop understanding, awareness and practise for members of the ministry team, PCC and congregation.
- Support, assess and review children's and youth worship provisions in the parish.

v. Communications and Social Subcommittee:

The members of this Subcommittee are currently Shirley Arthur, Lesley Baker, Carol Bellingham, Sandra Bourne, Sue Cardwell, Dyllis Dickinson, Sue Fleming, Kim Ford, Gill Keighley (Secretary), Louise Morgan and Sue Pelham.

Responsibilities:

To

- Promote active participation and involvement of the congregation and wider community.
- Review continuously the effectiveness of the material and media, including local and diocesan web sites.
- Monitor and reviews continuously all forms of responses and feedback to ensure the PCC is delivering both its diocesan and parishioner obligations.
- Contribute to the outreach ministry by providing social interaction.
- Recommend both social and fund-raising events and activities and progress those approved by the PCC.
- Publicise and promote regular and “one-off” acts of worship and fellowship.
- Co-ordinate and issue weekly notices.

vi. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:

This Subcommittee consists of Mrs Jackie Pickersgill; and Messrs Paul Buckmaster (Secretary), Tom Handforth, Ken Jenkinson, and P Derek Wolstenholme (Chair).

Responsibilities:

To

- Ensure that financial controls are in place and adhered to.
- Approve the record keeping arrangements.
- Make and oversee the banking arrangements.
- Ensure that PCC funds are invested appropriately and reviewed regularly.
- Prepare an annual budget for approval by the PCC, monitor performance against budget and take or recommend corrective action, when necessary, through regular reviews.
- Provide financial data to the Charities Subcommittee to enable the PCC to tithe its disposable income.
- Recommend Parish Share payments.
- Ensure comprehensive insurance arrangements are in place.
- Arrange the electricity supply contract with authority to sign as necessary.
- Select the supplier of heating oil, based on price and service.
- Arrange maintenance and service contracts recommended by other relevant committees, with authority to sign as necessary.
- Set charges for hire of the church and/or annexe.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Make recommendations to the PCC on the funding of one-off items of expenditure, including major projects.
- Recommend the appointment of an Independent Examiner.
- Undertake any additional finance-related tasks agreed with the PCC.
- Bring any areas of concern to the attention of the PCC.
- Ensure the upkeep of the fabric of the church, its fixtures and fittings and the fixed equipment therein, to include any special cleaning required and any repair or re-decoration as may become necessary.
- Ensure the upkeep of the grounds, to include all aspects of gardening and the maintenance of footpaths, boundary walls, car park, etc.
- Ensure that those modifications, installations or changes requiring permissions to be obtained, for instance the granting of a Faculty, are authorised before the modification, installation or change is carried out.
- Ensure that a Quinquennial survey is carried out in the due year by a qualified individual and that the recommendations in the resulting survey report are implemented.
- Arrange, where appropriate, for the maintenance of all moveable equipment, to include the sound system, copy printer, and any other similar equipment; and religious accoutrements (to include vestments (clergy and choir), altar furnishings and banners).
- Ensure, in consultation with the Director of Music, that contracts are in place for the regular maintenance of the organ and arrange for the tuning of the piano when necessary.
- Determine and implement a church heating regime.
- Ensure that the internal and external lighting is kept in good working order.
- Devise and maintain a Safety, Health and Environmental policy, and supporting plan.
- Appoint a Safety Officer and to ensure that the necessary equipment and procedures are in place for the safety and security of the church, its possessions and all users thereof, including fire extinguishers and blankets.
- Consider future improvements in security.
- Liaise with the appointed Under-18s Coordinator on matters relating to use of the church facilities by children.
- Decide on the timing of the daily un-locking and locking the church, the procedures for doing that, and to appoint responsible person(s) to that task.
- Be responsible for the caretaking and cleaning of the church and the grounds. In particular, to ensure that the regular cleaning of the church takes place to the required standards and to provide any necessary cleaning equipment and materials for that purpose.

Reports of the work of all of the above Subcommittees, and other parish organisations can be found in the minutes of the appropriate PCC meetings.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE

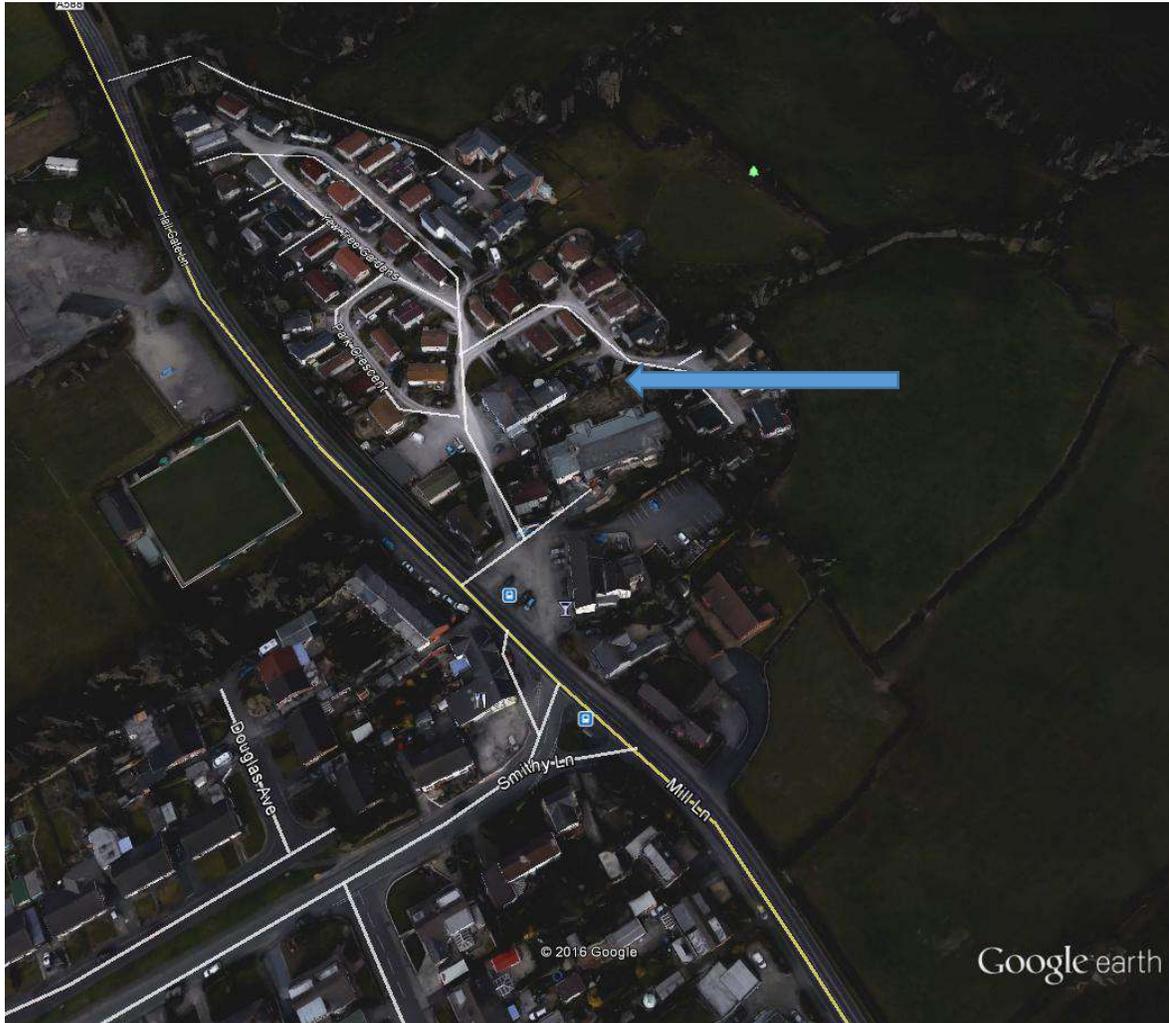


(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

7) Administrative Information:

Location: The church building is located beside Hall Gate Lane, Stalmine (the A588), between the “Seven Stars” Public House, and Stalmine Hall Park (FY6 0LD).

“What3words”: soups.revision.crouches.



Addresses for Correspondence / Contact Details:

Incumbent	PCC Secretary	Safeguarding Officer	Diocesan Safeguarding Team
Vacant	Mrs Gill Keighley	Mr Peter Swarbrick	01254 503080
The Vicarage	“North View”	Old Post Office House	01254 550224
27 Little Tongues Lane	Smithy Lane	Hall Gate Lane	01254 485170
Preesall	Stalmine	Stalmine	
Poulton-le-Fylde	Poulton-le-Fylde	Poulton-le-Fylde	
Lancashire	Lancashire	Lancashire	
FY6 0PD	FY6 0LE	FY6 0LA	



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

Church Websites:

<http://www.stjames.stalmine.net/>

https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchStalmine/?locale=en_GB

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/stalmine-st-james/>

PCC:

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Parish Priest: Rev'd Peter Walsh (resigned due to ill health.)

Pioneer Minister: Rev'd Naomi HS Barraclough

Wardens: Mrs Sandra Bourne

Mr P Derek Wolstenholme (Health and Safety Officer)

Representative on the Deanery Synod

Mrs Nicola J Smith (LLM)

Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Peter W Swarbrick

Elected members:

Mrs Susan J Fleming

Mrs Gillian M Keighley (Secretary)

Mrs Susan J Pelham

Mr Jonathan Bellingham (Data Protection Officer)

Mr Paul E Buckmaster (Treasurer)

The Benefice Council did not meet in 2025.

Electoral Roll:

The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. It is revised annually but is replaced in its entirety every six years. The Roll was renewed in 2025.

At the end of 2024, numbers on the Electoral Roll stood at fifty-nine. After the revision in 2025, and at the year-end, numbers stood at fifty-one.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

ix 1: Receipts and Payments Accounts.

	Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC		No (if any) Excepted				
	Receipts and payments accounts						
	For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2025	To	Period end date 31 December 2025			
Section A Receipts and payments							
	Note	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
A1 Receipts							
Voluntary Receipts						-	-
Regular Giving							
<i>Planned giving (tax efficient)</i>		23,267				23,267	21,183
<i>Planned giving (other)</i>		1,663				1,663	1,420
<i>Collections at services</i>		4,687				4,687	4,417
Other voluntary receipts	5a	1,289	-			1,289	2,087
Gift Aid Recovered		7,390				7,390	6,536
Activities for generating funds	5b	1,813	3,116			4,930	4,327
Receipts from Church Activities	5c	5,239				5,239	2,075
Investment income	5d	320				320	3,869
Sub total		45,668	3,116	-	-	48,785	45,914
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.						-	
Total receipts		45,668	3,116	-	-	48,785	45,914
A3 Payments							
Cost of Generation Voluntary income						-	
Fund-raising trading costs						-	-
Church Activities						-	
<i>Diocesan Parish Share</i>		36,902				36,902	31,037
<i>Other Payments</i>	5e	13,839	464			14,302	23,280
<i>Mission giving and charitable donations</i>	5f	3,208	2,703			5,911	4,340
Governance Costs		50				50	50
Sub total		53,998	3,167	-	-	57,165	58,707
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.						-	
Total payments		53,998	3,167	-	-	57,165	58,707
Net of receipts/(payments)		(8,330)	- 51	-	-	- 8,381	- 12,793
A5 Transfers between funds						-	
A6 Cash funds last year end		113,438	-			113,438	125,630
Cash funds this year end		105,108	- 51	-	-	105,057	

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC	No (if any) Excepted
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2025	To	Period end date 31 December 2025
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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		105,108	- 51		
	Total cash funds	105,108	- 51	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details				
B3 Investment assets	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	COIF Charity Funds		Unrestricted		
	CCLA		Unrestricted		90,718
	NatWest Accounts		Unrestricted		14,338
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

The notes attached on page 3 form part of these financial statements

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	NAOMI H S BARRACLOUGH	16/03/26
	PAUL E BUCKMASTER	16/03/26

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

<p>THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE</p>	Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC	No (if any) Excepted	
	Receipts and payments accounts		
For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2025	To	Period end date 31 December 2025

Section C Notes

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments Basis

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds in the year were:

	Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Restricted:	-				-
					-
					-
					-
Designated:	-	3,116	3,167		51

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
Receipts						
Other voluntary receipts	5a					
Legacy					-	500
Donations	1,289				1,289	1,587
	1,289	-	-	-	1,289	2,087
Activities for generating funds	5b					
Hire of Parish Office to Post Office	1,799				1,799	1,996
WaterAid Lent Collection		349			349	475
Hire of Church by Pilling Band	15				15	40
Christians Against Poverty - Harvest Appeal					-	172
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution - Harvest Appeal		286				
Trinity Hospice All Souls Collection		196			196	171
Macmillan Cancer Support pamper afternoon		482			482	465
Fashion Show		785			785	1,000
Poppy sales					-	9
Christian Aid collection		554			554	
Collection for Fr Peter's retirement		464			464	
	1,813	3,116	-	-	4,930	4,327
Receipts from Church Activities	5c					
Fees paid to the PCC	5,239				5,239	2,075
	5,239	-	-	-	5,239	2,075
Investment income	5d					
COIF	5				5	5
Bank Deposit Accounts	211				211	606
Shawbrook Bank					-	804
Scottish Widows					-	367
CCLA	55				55	2,012
easyfundraising	49				49	76
	320	-	-	-	320	3,869

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC		No (if any) Excepted	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2025	To	Period end date 31 December 2025



Section C Notes continued

3. Receipts and Payments analysis		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
Payments							
Church Activities							
Other Payments	5e						
Assigned Fees		2,133				2,133	1,119
Working expenses of clergy		2,033				2,033	1,781
Expenses		6,539	464			7,003	7,805
Church Maintenance		1,347				1,347	1,955
Upkeep of Services		1,682				1,682	1,440
Upkeep of Churchyard		105				105	110
Support Costs - Training and Sunday School		-				-	-
Major Repairs		-				-	9,070
Bank Charges		-				-	-
		13,839	464	-	-	14,302	23,280
Mission giving and donations							
(Lent)	5f		400			400	400
Brian House Children's Hospice		108	393			500	500
Cardiac Risk in the Young		108	393			500	500
Doug Horley Visit		181				181	100
Trinity Hospice		4	196			200	200
Sponsorship of Missionaries in SE Asia via CMS		1,200				1,200	1,200
ActionAid Myanmar Earthquake Appeal		250				250	250
Christian Aid Myanmar Earthquake appeal		250				250	250
Christian Aid		46	554			600	
Child Sponsorship		180				180	180
Macmillan Cancer Support		18	482			500	500
Harvest Appeal - Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution		14	286			300	250
British Red Cross - Jamaican Hurricane Appeal		250				250	
Over Wyre Children - reversal of last year's grant		600				600	
		3,208	2,703	-	-	5,911	4,330



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025

Receipts and Payment Account

Receipts		2025	2024
		£	£
Incoming resources from donors	2a	38,296	35,643
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	4,929	4,327
Income from investments	2c	320	3,870
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2d	<u>5,239</u>	<u>2,075</u>
		<u>48,784</u>	<u>45,915</u>
Payments			
Grants	3a	5,311	4,340
Activities directly relating to The work of the church	3b	51,205	54,316
Church management and Administration	3c	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
		<u>56,566</u>	<u>58,706</u>
Excess of receipts over		(7,782)	(12,791)
Bank balances at start of year		<u>112, 838</u>	<u>125,629</u>
Bank balances at end of year		<u>105,056</u>	<u>112,838</u>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025

Receipts	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>2a Incoming resources from donors</u>		
Planned giving - covenants	24,930	22,603
Income tax received thereon	7,390	6,536
Collections at services	4,687	4,417
Gift day and sundry donations	1,289	1,587
Legacy	<u> </u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>38,296</u>	<u>35,643</u>
 <u>2b Other voluntary incoming resources</u>		
Hire of extension etc	1,813	2,036
Fashion show	785	1,000
Other activities and appeals	<u>2,331</u>	<u>1,291</u>
	<u>4,929</u>	<u>4,327</u>
 <u>2c Income from investments</u>		
Easy fundraising	49	76
COIF charity funds	5	5
Bank interest	211	606
Shawbrook interest		804
Scottish Widows		367
CCLA	<u>55</u>	<u>2,012</u>
	<u>320</u>	<u>3,870</u>
 <u>2d Income from charitable & ancillary trading</u>		
Fees paid to PCC	<u>5,239</u>	<u>2,075</u>
	<u>5,239</u>	<u>2,075</u>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025

Payments	2025	2024
	£	£
3a Grants		
Missionary & Church overseas	1,200	1,200
Relief & development agencies	1,750	1,150
Secular charity	2,180	1,890
Home missions & other Church	<u>181</u>	<u>100</u>
	<u>5,311</u>	<u>4,340</u>
<u>3b Activities directly relating to</u>		
<u>The work of Church</u>		
Ministry:		
Diocesan Parish Share	36,902	31,037
Assigned fees	2,133	1,119
Working expenses of incumbent	2,033	1,781
Church running expenses	7,003	7,804
Church maintenance	1,347	1,955
Cost of services	1,682	1,440
Upkeep of Churchyard	105	110
Major repairs	<u> </u>	<u>9,070</u>
	<u>51,205</u>	<u>54,316</u>
<u>3c Church Management & Administration</u>		
Admin costs _	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025

Balances as at 31st December 2025

	General Funds	Designated Funds
Nat West	£14,287	51
CCLA	£90,718	

Signed for and on behalf of the Parochial Church Council who have approved the accounts

This SIXTEENTH day of MARCH 2026

Chairman

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

Independent examiners statement

To the Church Council of St James Stalmine

Year ended 31st December 2025

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and the accounts have been prepared from those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters

No matter has come to my attention from my examination of the accounts for the year which requires further explanation .

Shona M Beresford
Premiere accounting
6 Rydal Rd
Hambleton
Poulton le Fylde
13th February 2026