

St Gabriel's Blackburn

Annual Report 2025

Priest in Charge	The Reverend Canon Andrew Raynes Christ Church Vicarage Brandy House Brow Blackburn, BB2 3EY
Curate in Charge (Incumbent)	The Reverend Joseph Harvey 14 York Crescent Blackburn, BB1 9NW
Bank	Santander Business Banking Operations Sunderland SR43 4FW
Independent Examiner	Mr Stephen Mace Booth
Background	St Gabriel's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the curate in charge in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the while mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Join Meeting of Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 26th of April, 12:15

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens (Vestry Meeting)
4. Minutes of the 2025 APCM to be confirmed and signed
5. Matters arising
6. Electoral Roll *Alison Neilson*
7. Presentation of annual parish report
8. Election of PCC members and 2 deanery synod reps
9. Financial Report *Carole Scadding / Alison Neilson*
10. Report of Safeguarding *Paul Adnitt*
11. Report on church fabric *Peter Smith*
12. Looking ahead to 2025-2026
13. Any other business (AOB to *Joseph Harvey* by April 23rd)
14. Closing Prayer

The Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Incumbent	The Revd. Joseph Harvey
Wardens	Mr Peter Smith
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Mr Mike Jackman
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Paul Addnit Mrs Kathryn Addnit
Elected Members	Mike Jackman Ian Macuslane Carole Scadding Christine Walker Sharon Wilson

PCC Review of the Year – *Mike Jackman (PCC Secretary)*

Since the last APCM in April 2025, the PCC has held six meetings. Two issues have largely dominated the PCC's time during the early meetings. Firstly, the transition from the ministry of Steve Corbett to the ministry of Joe Harvey and, secondly, the future of the Church building.

In many ways, issues were put on hold during the Summer of 2025 to enable the PCC to focus on the celebration of Steve Corbett's ministry and organise a fitting tribute and send off as he approached his retirement date. A service and celebratory meal was arranged for Steve's last Sunday in Church. This was a well-attended and successful event. Steve and Jo left St. Gabriel's with the grateful thanks of the PCC and congregation for their dedication and service to this Parish.

The PCC and congregation then welcomed Joe and Sarah, together with their children, to a special welcome service which, again, was well attended and a joyful occasion. Joe and Sarah quickly got down to work, and the PCC have been delighted with the immediate impact that they have had on our Church life.

We continue to have two services on a Sunday, one at 9am and one at 10:30. Our 10:30 service has continued to grow, with new faces as well as returning ones. There is a strong sense of community and shared meals have offered a chance to foster this. As will be noted in the All Stars report we are also seeing an increased in under 16s engaging in church. Our Christmas services were particularly well attended with several new families engaging for the first time.

The PCC decided to make a few changes to the charities we support under Mission Giving. The list of charities we are supporting is as follows: Blackburn Foodbank; Hope of Life; Jenga; and the Manara (Special Needs School in Egypt)

The PCC are hugely impressed with the impact that Joe and Sarah have had on the life of the Church. There is an overwhelming feeling that the Holy Spirit is at work in our Church and we have been delighted to see the growth in the congregation. The PCC is particularly happy to see more children in attendance.

The PCC wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of the Church over the past twelve months. A review of all ministry activities follows, and we hope you will join us in giving thanks for all God is doing at St Gabriel's.

Review of Church Activities

Marbles

The monthly Messy Church service, *Marbles*, held on the second Friday of each month (6pm – 7pm), has seen a welcome increase in participation. The group has successfully retained some families who (possibly) initially began attending to meet school admissions criteria, while also attracting several new families from the wider community, primarily due to connections made by Sarah and Joe. Since September, we have been working through a series on Fruit of the Spirit, looking at one each month and choosing a Bible story to unpack which links to the theme. The relaxed, interactive format which includes activities and games continues to provide an accessible and meaningful way for families to engage with church life, and its growth is an encouraging sign. A real strength of the group is the genuine relationships that have been formed, creating a strong sense of trust, belonging, and mutual support among those who attend. The Marbles team regularly create displays on the noticeboards in church which help to reinforce teaching, celebrate this church activity, and act as a visible sign to communicate what the group has been up to for the benefit of the wider congregation and other hall users.

Alpha

Starting on January the 8th and running every Thursday until Holy Week, St Gabriel's ran an Alpha course. The course was well attended with roughly twenty both from within the church community and guests sitting down to eat, watch a video, and then enter in to group discussion. Alpha offers an introduction to the Christian faith for newcomers as well as long-time believers seeking to revisit their beliefs and address important life questions. Each week eating together was a particular highlight with a deepening of relationships taking place as the weeks went by. Many people have shared how the course has been impact to them and their faith. We have now begun the Bible Society's *Bible Course* as way of a follow up and to ensure the continuation of both spiritual growth within the group and providing a space for ongoing fellowship.

Open Arms

Following Holy Communion on a Thursday Open Arms is a soup lunch aimed at providing a place of hospitality for those within the local community where they can join with church members and enjoy food and fellowship. After taking a break in August Open Arms restarted in September reducing its frequency from weekly to monthly. This was due to limited numbers of volunteers. The PCC expresses thanks to those who have sustained this ministry over a number of years, and those still serving. The hope is to continue running Open Arms on the first Thursday of every month. Open Arms attracts a number of regular guests who are not part of our worshipping community, we

hope to see this number increase as we continue to offer Christian hospitality to our community.

Homegroups

There are currently two homegroups in operation at St Gabriel's, where discipleship and fellowship take place during the week. It is hoped that more people will become connected to such groups, with a vision developed for them, and that these groups will become a more important part of church life for those in the church.

Mission Partners

As a PCC it has been decided that we will commit to giving financially to a number of mission partners. Using un-used designated funds we hope to be able to give this year to three separate organizations working overseas; Jenga, Hope of Life and The Manara (a special needs school in the Nile Delta, Egypt). This hopefully will be the precedent of giving 10% of our income towards mission work. We were delighted to welcome the principal of Hope of Life School Juan Manuel and his wife Rosa to St Gabriel's in December when they were able to share about their work. We hope to arrange a visit from Jenga in the coming year so as to familiarise the congregation with their work, and Joe will introduce The Manara School to the congregation. Alongside these overseas charities we continue to partner with the Blackburn Foodbank.

Fundraisers

Throughout the year there have been several fundraisers. Notably, the Quiz and Curry night which was aimed at raising general funds for the church and more recently a musical extravaganza at which members of the congregation performed as well as the Jane Smith Quartet. This event raised money for Hope of Life School and a refugee whom the church knows and supports. As well these events have provided spaces of fellowship and a chance to socialise together as church family.

Children and Youth

All Stars – *Barbara Foster*

Our All Stars group meets on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 am service. The introduction of a monthly all-age family worship service (*3rd Sunday of each month*) has been a positive change, allowing children and families to worship together. The inclusion of more creative elements within these services has enriched Sunday mornings and supported greater participation across generations.

- ❖ We have a team of people who work in pairs on a rota basis:

- ❖ At the moment we are using teaching materials called MOSAIC, which has resources for a range of ages and covers various Bible Stories which provides us with consistency in our teaching.
- ❖ We are currently revising and updating our Safeguarding Policy, and also our Children & Youth Policy.
- ❖ A risk assessment will shortly be undertaken.
- ❖ The team meets regularly to plan teaching sessions, agree a teaching rota and work on any special events (e.g. Easter, Christmas,) that require our input.

It was suggested that a sign is placed near the serving hatch to alert people to contact a member of the team if they have any allergies.

We are encouraged to see an increase in the number of children attending on a Sunday morning. Since last April (at our APCM) we rarely had any children attending and All Stars was on the brink of finishing. However, since Joe & Sarah's arrival last August, we instantly had 4 children each week. There is now a more welcoming environment and a core group of weekly attenders which naturally makes it easier for newcomers to participate. We currently have 8 to 10 children on our register, which is wonderful!

We pray that we will continue to grow in numbers and thank the PCC for supporting us in our efforts to bring God's Word to the next generation.

Tiddlywinks

Tiddlywinks has continued to serve our local community by providing a safe and fun place for 0-4 year olds to come and play along with their carers.

The faithful core team of volunteers have supported many of the mums through challenging and transitional times this year by offering encouragement and kindness as well as practical support. Generous and thoughtful gifts were given to all the families at Christmas time which was very much appreciated.

The last few months saw Tiddlywinks have a brief pause before starting again with a few new faces on the team. Having used social media as well as local connections we have seen the average weekly attendance significantly increase. Many of the new families are from the local area and have described struggling to find things to do with their little ones as well as a loneliness of being a new mum and not knowing any other mums. We hope to continue to build an environment where people feel they can connect with others and break some of the isolation that is felt. We also hope to continue to provide a safe and fun play environment with engaging craft activities, as well as a music and story time. We are aware that many secular groups offer these things at a cost and we hope to fill the gap for some of those families for whom those costs are unfeasible. Our

pricing structure has changed and we now just ask for a £2 donation per family if they feel able.

We have applied for some grant funding in the hope to update and refresh some of our bigger toys and are currently awaiting that response.

Youth Alpha/Youth Group

This year we have started investing in our young people through running a Youth Alpha and then continuing this time of discipleship once the course finished through starting a Bible Study. We hope to see this group continue to develop and grow. We have been meeting most Sunday evenings, but more recently moved to a pattern of bi-weekly.

St Gabriel's School

We continue to value our partnership with St Gabriel's School. Clergy visits have increased from bi-weekly to weekly and we hope to continue to strengthen this relationship and make the most of opportunities to interact with the school. A particular highlight this year was the visit of the Beacon's to Open Arms to serve food and play games with the guests. Following this visit we also hosted the St Gabriel's school choir, ukelele orchestra and parents who came to watch.

We also offer our congratulations to St Gabriel's headteacher Belinda Haigh who was made an honorary canon

Safeguarding – *Paul Adnitt (PSO)*

St Gabriels church uses the Parish Dashboard system to record, monitor and update all aspects of safeguarding in the church. This data system generates Action Plans and Updates which the PCC regularly discuss.

The Dashboard is based on the mandatory requirements of the Church of England in all matters of Safeguarding. This includes ensuring that: -

- (a) Current DBS guidelines are followed.
- (b) Appropriate safeguarding training is in place.
- (c) Appropriate Parish Officers are Safer Recruitment trained.
- (d) Full Risk Assessments are in place for all authorised church activities
- (e) Appropriate insurance is in place for all parish activities

What is currently in place

1. All people in responsible roles/working with children & vulnerable adults have received an enhanced DBS check. Additionally, 79% of these have received new

- enhanced DBS checks. This is in line with the new requirement for all DBS checks to be renewed every 3 years. The parish DBS Administrator is Paul Adnitt.
2. The PCC has adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' as its own Safeguarding policy. This is publicised and promoted.
 3. The PCC last reviewed their Safeguarding Action plan on 09/02/2026 and their policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders on 13/10/2025. They are also following guidance regarding lone working with children/vulnerable adults & appropriate boundaries with children and vulnerable adults
 4. Safeguarding Information is displayed in each building, with contact details.
Safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of our parish website.
 5. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting
 6. The PCC has regularly reviewed the list of church activities (last at 09/02/2026 meeting)

What needs to be completed

1. Complete the last of the DBS renewals
2. Ensure safeguarding training is completed by all members of the new PCC
3. Re-assess all risk assessments for church activities to ensure they are still correct and relevant
4. Ensure all safeguarding training is up to date.
5. Check that appropriate officers receive up to date Safer Recruitment training

Warden's Report - *Peter Smith*

At this moment in time, I'm delighted to say that the Church is a very happy place to be. There has been a renewed sense of family and a feeling of togetherness amongst the congregation. I think it's safe to say that the Church is going from strength to strength and long may it continue in this way with Joe, Sarah and the children.

Regarding the Church Organ, we have successfully applied for a faculty to enable us to remove the organ from Church. Although this is still ongoing, we are hopeful that it will be successfully removed and headed down to the Portsmouth Diocese.

In the Jubilee Lounge we have had a boiler refit and have also improved the children's changing facilities. The latter has been particularly important for those attending 'Tiddywinks'.

In the Church Hall we have improved the TV and projector and I'm grateful to all those who helped with this.

St. Gabriel's Church, Blackburn

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Incumbent

**Rev Joe Harvey
c/o The Parish Office
Church Walk
Blackburn
BB1 9QS**

Bank

Santander - Bootle

Independent Examiner

**Mr Stephen Mace Booth Dip Mgmt (Open)
c/o St. Gabriel's Parish Office
Church Walk
Blackburn
BB1 9QS**

St Gabriel's Church, Blackburn

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St. Gabriel, Blackburn

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 9 is in respect of an examination carried out under the Church of England PCC Accountability Guide Chapter 11 and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply [i.e. gross income is <£1 million]. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and guidance from the Church of England PCC Accountability Guide Chapter 11 para 11.12. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the regulations; as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Summary Financial Situation [excluding shares held in trust]

	2025	2024
Cash on Account [Total]	£73,465	£69,639
Total Liabilities	£445	£8,126
Balance	£73,020	£61,513

The Accounts set out on the following pages have been inspected and approved by Mr. Stephen M. Booth Dip Mgt (Open):

Signed:  Date: 4/3/2026

The Accounts set out on the following pages were approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Peter Smith / Mr. Alan McKechnie (Churchwarden)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

St. Gabriel's Church Blackburn

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	Total
Receipts							
Incoming Resources from Donors							
5011 - Regular - Planned Giving	33,746.21	-	-	-	33,746.21	38,556.56	
5012 - Regular - All Tax Recovered	7,553.47	-	-	-	7,553.47	8,940.62	
5013 - Occasional - CAF Vouchers	-	-	-	-	-	1,500.00	
5014 - Occasional - Loose Plate Collections	1,374.77	-	-	-	1,374.77	343.67	
5015 - Occasional - Special Purpose (Campaigns / Gift Days)	-	-	-	-	-	2,911.25	
5016 - Occasional - Special Purpose (Harvest / Christmas)	2,080.00	-	-	-	2,080.00	947.00	
5017 - Card Receipts (Sumup)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Incoming Resources from Donors Totals	44,754.45	-	-	-	44,754.45	53,199.10	
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources							
5021 - Bequests / Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Incoming Resources from Operating Activities							
5032 - Church Group Donations for Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5033 - Incumbent Fees	127.00	-	-	-	127.00	217.00	
5034 - PCC Wedding & Funeral Fees	-	-	-	-	-	323.18	
Incoming Resources from Operating Activities Totals	127.00	-	-	-	127.00	540.18	
Activities for Generating Funds							
5041 - Hall rent for outside functions	365.00	-	-	-	365.00	180.00	
Activities for Generating Funds Totals	365.00	-	-	-	365.00	180.00	
Other Incoming Resources							
5051 - Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5052 - Miscellaneous Income (See Page 7)	2,398.99	3,199.00	108.00	-	5,705.99	4,322.60	
5053 - Capital Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5054 - Organist Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5055 - Verger Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5058 - Funeral Facility Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5060 - Refugee Support	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5073 - Shares Value Increase	-	-	-	-	-	2,576.13	
Other Incoming Resources Totals	2,398.99	3,199.00	108.00	-	5,705.99	6,898.73	
Grants							
5022 - Grant - PAIS (From Diocese)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grants Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Receipts Grand Totals	47,645.44	3,199.00	108.00	-	50,952.44	60,818.01	

Payments

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Costs of Generating Funds						
Costs of Generating Funds Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Mission & Charitable Giving)						
7011 - PCC Giving	613.29	-	23.00	-	636.29	5,075.00
7014 - Refugee Support Giving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Mission & Charitable Giving) Totals	613.29	-	23.00	-	636.29	5,075.00
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church						
7021 - Parish Share	16,280.00	-	-	-	16,280.00	39,220.00
7022 - Clergy Expenses	997.58	-	-	-	997.58	1,500.00
7023 - Vicarage Upkeep	4,603.84	-	-	-	4,603.84	4,915.38
7025 - Incumbents Fees paid to Diocese	-	-	-	-	-	-
7031 - Utilities (Gas, Elec, Water + Consumables)	5,822.44	-	-	-	5,822.44	7,042.54
7032 - Insurance	4,658.52	-	-	-	4,658.52	4,761.41
7033 - Cost of Worship	1,235.71	-	-	-	1,235.71	1,013.27
7034 - Photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	-
7035 - Education & Training	89.08	-	-	-	89.08	-
7036 - Routine Building Repairs	366.72	-	-	-	366.72	222.52
7037 - Ground Maintenance	890.16	-	95.00	-	985.16	792.45
7038 - Building Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	600.00
7039 - Parish Office	1,332.31	-	-	-	1,332.31	1,091.93
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church Totals	36,276.36	-	95.00	-	36,371.36	61,159.50
Salaries & Support Costs						
7061 - Organist Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
7062 - Verger Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
7063 - Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries & Support Costs Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church PCC Management and Administration						
7071 - Stewardship Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	-
7072 - Misc admin/expenses (see Page 9)	1,519.58	-	27.98	-	1,547.56	136.42
7073 - Shares Value Reduction	-	-	4,602.58	-	4,602.58	-
Church PCC Management and Administration Totals	1,519.58	-	4,630.56	-	6,150.14	136.42
PAIS Project						
PAIS Project Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments Grand Totals	38,409.23	-	4,748.56	-	43,157.79	66,370.92

St. Gabriel's Church Blackburn

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Investments	-	-	110,525.34	-	110,525.34	115,127.92
Cash At Bank And In Hand	7,163.02	21,688.28	44,614.02	-	73,465.32	69,638.68
	7,163.02	21,688.28	155,139.36	-	183,990.66	184,766.60
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	(444.72)	-	-	-	(444.72)	8,125.87
	(444.72)	-	-	-	(444.72)	8,125.87
Net current assets less current liabilities	7,607.74	21,688.28	155,139.36	-	184,435.38	176,640.73
Total assets less current liabilities	7,607.74	21,688.28	155,139.36	-	184,435.38	176,640.73
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	7,607.74	21,688.28	155,139.36	-	184,435.38	176,640.73
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	7,607.74	-	-	-	7,607.74	(1,628.47)
Designated						
Designated - Reserve	-	18,489.28	-	-	18,489.28	18,489.28
Designated - St. Chad's	-	3,199.00	-	-	3,199.00	-
Restricted						
Restricted - Blackburn Youth Work (YFC)	-	-	8,431.03	-	8,431.03	8,431.03
Restricted - Capital	-	-	10.44	-	10.44	10.44
Restricted - Flower	-	-	421.88	-	421.88	479.86
Restricted - New Building Fund	-	-	29,120.95	-	29,120.95	29,100.95
Restricted - PCC Mission	-	-	4,300.00	-	4,300.00	4,300.00
Restricted - Shares	-	-	110,525.34	-	110,525.34	115,127.92
Restricted - Sponsorship Fund	-	-	2,112.00	-	2,112.00	2,112.00
Restricted - Tiddlywinks	-	-	217.72	-	217.72	217.72
Fund Totals	7,607.74	21,688.28	155,139.36	-	184,435.38	176,640.73

St. Gabriel's Church Blackburn

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets		
1200: Giro Bank General Account	73,193.51	69,366.87
1210: Sponsorship Deposit Account	-	-
1230: Cash Box	271.81	271.81
1240: Sponsorship Account	-	-
1250: CBF Deposit Fund	-	-
1260: New Building Fund	-	-
1270: Shares	110,525.34	115,127.92
Total Current assets	183,990.66	184,766.60
Liabilities		
Z04: Accounts Payable	(444.72)	8,125.87
Total Liabilities	(444.72)	8,125.87
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	184,435.38	176,640.73
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	7,794.65	(5,552.91)
Z01: Starting balances	176,640.73	182,193.64
Total Reserves	184,435.38	176,640.73

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	7,607.74	(1,628.47)
Designated	21,688.28	18,489.28
Restricted	155,139.36	159,779.92
Total	184,435.38	176,640.73

**Parochial Church Council of
St. Gabriel's Church Blackburn**

**Independent Examiners Supplementary Information to the PCC of St. Gabriel's Church,
Blackburn**

This information does not form part of the formal Accounts but is provided as advice and for continuous improvement purposes only.

1. The scope and descriptions of the Expenditure 'Nominal Codes [NC]' should be reviewed and amended to ensure that they facilitate easier allocation of spend to a more appropriate code. This observation follows a detailed examination of a range of allocations and review of 'Misc Admin/Expenses' and 'Parish Office' NCs.

For Example, Code 7033 'Cost of Worship' may be better titled 'Cost of Ministry and Worship' and therefore the new TV screen could have been allocated there [as worship may imply the music group].

2. Misc Admin/Expenses for 2025 is over 10x more than 2024 and therefore may raise questions at the APCM. My suggestion would be to minimise the use of this NC and endeavour to use the more detailed NCs amended/created as per point 1 above.

3, Use of MyFundAccounting accounting software is good and provides for easy access for Independent Examiners to review the accounts in detail and to formulate opinion. Also, the auto creation of Receipt and Expense reports ensures that errors are minimised, if not eliminated.

4. The dedication of Alison Nielson in maintaining the church accounts and providing the necessary information to support my examination is recognised and appreciated.

If you require any further clarifications, please contact me.



Stephen Mace Booth Dip Mgmt (Open)

18th February 2026

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 27th April 2025

28 people attended the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2024 Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

2. Adoption of the Electoral Roll

This was adopted unanimously by the meeting. Total on the Roll – 61.

3. Reception of Statutory Reports

Churchwardens' Report

A question was asked about the present electricity contract. It was explained that we are unable to get out the contract until the renewal date.

PCC Report

PA gave an update on the proposals for a new Church building.

Treasurer's Report

SC informed the meeting that we had not had a Treasurer for the past year. The PCC had formed a team with four, with SB helping out, to oversee things. SC stressed the need for a Treasurer as well as a small team. It was also reported that PS would not be carrying on the independent examiner. Thus, we will need to find a new independent examiner. It was agreed that the PCC should send a letter of thanks to PS for all his hard work over the years.

In answer to a question AN informed the meeting that the Parish Share would not be paid in full this year. Due to a number of issues there would be £7,700 that would not be paid. AN explained that we don't have the money to pay this sum.

SC proposed that we redo the exercise we did a few years ago when members of the congregation ticked a form indicating their gross income – anonymously and the figures given would be within certain bands. It was felt that this would give a more accurate figure of what the Diocese could expect from this Parish.

It was agreed to redo this exercise in the next few weeks.

Deanery Synod Report

KA gave a brief report on the 3 Deanery Synod meetings since our last APCM. (Note only two of these meetings had been held in 2024).

The June 2024 meeting had discussed initiatives that two Parishes had begun. The meeting had also been provided with an overview of the current Diocesan SMMI bid.

The October 2024 meeting was addressed by the recently appointed Bishop of Burnley.

The March 2025 meeting was the Diocesan Vision Review meeting.

Safeguarding Report

PA gave a brief report and stressed that St. Gabriel's is committed to safeguarding. The safeguarding Policy Statement written in 2019 still remains in place.

All the reports were put to the meeting for acceptance.

All the reports were accepted unanimously.

4. Elections to PCC

Jeanette McKechnie was the only nomination for PCC membership and was duly elected.

6. Vicar's Observations

SC informed the meeting that the Diocese had a succession plan for his forthcoming retirement. The Bishop of Lancaster would oversee this process.

The Diocese have a candidate in mind who comes from outside of this Diocese. The candidate was ordained in another Anglican Province and, as a result, must go through a certain Church of England process.

Initially the candidate would be a curate in charge of the Parish with Andrew Raines being the supervising incumbent. Eventually it would be hoped the curate becomes the vicar for this Parish. The candidate also has to go through a National Panel in May.

SC strongly recommended that the PCC to work with this proposal. SC said the from what he had heard the candidate had the experience necessary for this Parish.

SC recorded his thanks to everyone who has worked to support the Church.

7. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with The Grace.