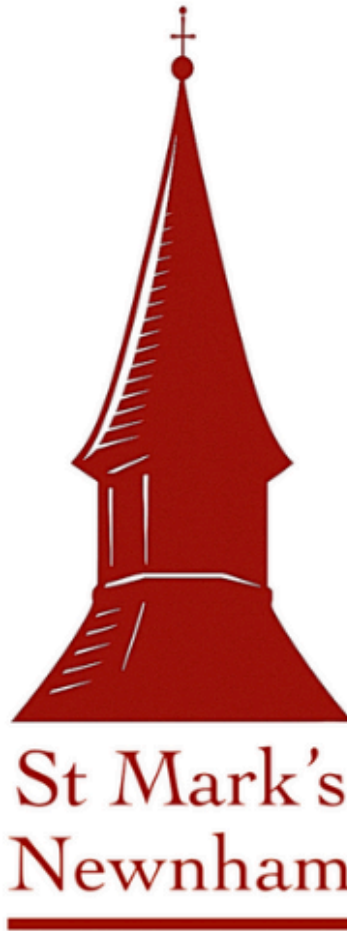


**Annual Report and Accounts  
for the Parochial Church Council of  
St Mark's, Newnham**



**For the year ended  
31st December 2025**



## Vicar's Report

'forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus'.

*Philippians 3.13-14*

The third chapter of St Paul's letter to the Philippians is certainly one to cherish. It speaks to us particularly in these days of Easter, as Paul is writing about the new life and open horizon - 'the heavenly call' - which 'the power of the Resurrection' has revealed. One of the images which he reached for to describe the fresh impulse which his faith has brought him was that of an athlete running a race. This report, and the annual meeting at which it will be 'received' by our Church family, is an attempt to reflect on where we are at in the race. How well are we travelling? Are our energies and resources being well deployed? What is helping us and what is challenging us? The beauty of the Christian life, of course, is that it is not one lived in competition with others, but in mutual love and support. So we ask these questions in order to make sure that as many people as possible are being carried along by the Gospel, as it is shared, lived and delighted in, in our corner of the kingdom.

I am not much of a runner myself, but as many of you know, I do love my horse racing. A good jockey will 'settle' his mount into the race as quickly as possible. This means, after the initial jump out the stalls, allowing the horse to get into a good, steady rhythm - not too quick and not too slow - and so give it the best chance of lasting the distance and making the right moves, when the opportunity allows. Speaking personally for the past year, it has felt like we have been in that part of the race. After the excitement and rush of the start, it has felt important to use my second year in office to try and establish a good rhythm, as a foundation for later stages.

Much of the focus in that regard has been given to the make-up of our team. In the first part of the year we said goodbye to Bethan, as our curate. It was a privilege for me to oversee Bethan's 'signing-off' process, although as her third training incumbent in as many years, I cannot claim much credit for her evident growth in ministry; and she taught me far more than I taught her! In March we saw her off in style on her last Sunday, and rejoiced in the birth of her son Samuel shortly after. During the maternity leave that followed Bethan was appointed as Pioneer Minister for Love's Farm, near St Neots, and we wish her well.

In June I had the enormous privilege of attending the ordination of our new curate, Kennedy Emokpaire - although I managed to mess up my part, by putting the stole on him the wrong way at the key moment. I think he has forgiven me. Since then, Kennedy, along with his wife Soraya, and daughters Emikhe and Ebony, have been a great blessing to us. It is no easy thing to begin a new ministry, in a new church setting, at the same time as moving house and schools. Not only that, but Kennedy is non-stipendiary, meaning his ministry is unwaged, and he earns a living teaching, Monday to Friday. Kennedy has risen to all these challenges with great commitment and humility, and brings many gifts. I do not doubt that he has been helped by having, in Tom, Andrew and Alison, three wonderful examples of non-stipendiary ministers as colleagues. I know I certainly have, and I think that the collective wisdom and variety of voices that we have, whether from the pulpit or in pastoral conversation, contributes something very special to our parish. The fact that we can also include Jeremy Begbie and Richard Bauckham in that list shows how blessed we are.

At the start of the year the PCC voted to place our Music Director Marcus Cox on a new contract, with the ambition of starting a junior choir. The launching of that choir, on St Mark's Day, is one of

the things that I am most proud of from 2025. The choir gathers after school on Fridays in term-time, for snacks and usually a fair bit of tearing around, before knuckling down to some singing. Marcus excels at this, keeping it fun, but providing a thorough introduction into choral singing and church life. We average around ten children, all of whom relished the chance to sing for the first time at a service on Remembrance Sunday. In this they have been brilliantly helped by our more senior singers, who continue to enhance our worship. A move to a more regular singing pattern - now singing all Sundays in term time - has hopefully helped to make our Sunday worship more consistent, which is such an important thing in helping new members of the Church feel at home.

We have further enhanced our offering to younger members, by providing junior church on every Sunday morning in term time. Huge thanks are due to Dani for overseeing this and for very much taking a lead in crafting and running the sessions. It is so important that we show how much we value having children among us, and that we help them and their families to enjoy being part of this wider family. The junior choir was founded with this in mind, in the hope that, as well as empowering children to take a leading part in our worship, it would also be a launchpad for other activities. This worked well at Christmas when, in place of the usual choir rehearsal, we had a 'church decorating party', at which about twenty-five children decorated the tree, created a crib scene within the altar, and consumed an awful lot of pizza. I hope that, as well as similar events in the future, this group can also form the basis of our next first communion preparation class.

A major challenge over the year has been the lack of a permanent treasurer, following the death of Stuart Lingard. We simply could not have coped without the intervention of Sandi Buss, who wanted to repay the help Stuart gave her when she took on the job at Grantchester, by stepping into the breach. You can imagine how difficult and time consuming it has been for Sandi, in our highly technologised age, just to track down and gain access to the various accounts and log-ins which Stuart had at his fingertips after thirty years in the job. But she has persevered, as well as bringing great financial acumen to the task. She has also trained up Xanthe Langley to take over, following her appointment by the PCC to the role of Treasurer, which she will do alongside managing the Community Centre. This dual role makes sense, as Xanthe was already doing a great job in overseeing the finances alongside the bookings, and increasingly the maintenance of the Community Centre. Now that Xanthe is in post, I am hopeful that we can begin to give some attention to the Centre. I am aware that there have been requests for new seating and flooring. Xanthe is looking into this, as well as canvassing views from our regular users about possible improvements. I hugely value the Centre, and consider it an important part of our parish ministry.

Although it happened just outside the calendar year which we are considering, I would also want to flag up at this point the new administrative arrangement we have put in place. I would like to thank Felicity for her help and support as administrator throughout the interregnum and my first year. We decided not to renew her contract on the basis that she could only be on site on a Friday, and I felt that the parish was best served by somebody running the office and being present at set times throughout the week. The appointment of Haden to that new role has already made a considerable difference in that regard. Felicity was extremely helpful in making the handover process run smoothly.

The most important thing to say at this time of year is thank you, and I as ever risk missing out people, for St Mark's is tended to by many hands. Hopefully those not mentioned here will be named in the more specific reports which follow, but I must thank my wardens, Nigel and Sarah, who are unfailing in their kindness and good humour. I would also like to pay tribute to our two

ordinands, who have been on attachment with us. Both brought great enthusiasm but also substantial experience. Adam Bak had previously served as a Roman Catholic priest and Amelia Turncliffe had worked at Lambeth Palace. Wherever their future ministries take them, I hope that they will always feel part of us.

Looking back over the year, and being limited by space here, I would pull out three further highlights. The first was the production of 'The Beloved Son', a dramatic and moving meditation on the theologian Henri Nouwen and the story of the Prodigal Son. This being Cambridge, of course, Henri Nouwen's niece happened to be in the audience, but she seemed to approve. The second was the Advent craft fair, which Ross Smythe really went to town on, creating a magical and warm atmosphere and bringing together some incredibly talented artists from across the city. The third was my first Holy Week amongst you; particularly the lively responses I got when carrying the cross back through the meadows after our Good Friday walk of witness, dressed in a black cassock under the blazing sun. Sometimes you have to risk looking a bit silly. What matters above all is that we are confident in the victory and relevance of that Cross. We are living through an age of uncertainty; and that includes a questioning of total rejection of religion which has been so prominent in recent decades. The world needs the Gospel, and we need make no apology for proclaiming it. I am daily inspired by the beautiful cross that sits on top of our church tower, watching over all God's people in this place, and inviting them to draw near. For this reason, we have adopted it as our new logo: an image to unite all our endeavours, under the banner of the Cross.

*Jim*

## **Worship and Prayer**

A service is held in church each Sunday at 9.30am. This is a communion service apart from on the second Sunday of the month when the service is Morning Worship, and is usually aided by the parish choir, who rehearse on Friday evenings.

In term-time Junior Church takes place during the 9.30am service.

A service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer is also held in church on Sundays at 8am and on Tuesdays at 11am.

It is our custom on 'fifth Sundays', when they occur in the month, to unite for a shared service with our sister parish of Grantchester.

Morning Prayer is said in church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9am. All our worship is a team effort, and our thanks are due to all who have opened up and set up for services, welcomed people and read the lessons and led intercessions. Particular thanks are due to Marie and to Hilary, who both give huge amounts of their time to make everything run smoothly!

## **Occasional Offices**

Weddings 0

Baptisms 1

Funerals and burials 9

## **Electoral Roll**

Over the past year, 4 people have been added to the electoral roll, and three members have died. The number on the roll is 105.

## **Communications**

The Parish Magazine 'Seek' is edited and produced by Jane Plows, through whose diligence and skill an important service is provided for the parish. Available on our website, in Church, and delivered to subscribers, the magazine is also put through every letterbox in the parish once a year, to widen its impact. Thanks to Jane, to those who help to deliver it, and to those who contribute to it, in content and in advertisements!

A second publication, 'Whats On', is produced three times a year to advertise the programme in the Community Centre. Following the retirement of Peter Hampson as editor, the decision was made to pay for the services of an editor, whilst a decision about its long-term future could be properly made. Along with Mike, the aforementioned editor, a team of deliverers, coordinated by David Keeble, are owed our sincere thanks. After consideration, and mindful of rising costs, falling numbers of volunteers, and the opportunities that SEEK and online platforms provide for advertising, it was decided by the Community Centre Committee to discontinue Whats On in 2026.

On top of this, the Church, through the administrator, maintains a website and facebook page.

## **Young People**

It has been common practice for St Mark's to employ a youth worker. The position has been vacant since the interregnum, and the PCC has not sought to fill it this year. The reasons being partly because there has been a more pressing need to hire and employ a treasurer, and to assess the financial implications of this; and partly because the new ministry team wanted time to decide on the best use of such a person, if an appointment was to be made. Moreover, the market for such workers is not strong, and the responsibility for welcoming and nurturing the young should be shared across the whole church community. To this end, enormous thanks are due to the Toddles team (Barry, Amanda, and Angela, with wonderful support from Sue, Hilary, and Andrew), who, along with Jim and Bethan, have kept our Thursday morning stay and play group going. It is an important part of our ministry, highly valued by the families and carers who come along. At time of writing, Barry has just stepped down permanently, due to work commitments, and Jim will try to fill the void. The arrival of Rebecca as a full-time curate in June will be an additional help.

The decision was also taken to make Junior Church, which takes the form of Godly Play, within the time frame of the 9.30 Sunday service, a weekly offering during school term times; and to include clergy on the rota, in order to emphasise the importance of this ministry. The numbers attending have been good. Huge thanks are due to Dani for running the Junior Church, and to all those who have helped leading and assisting at the sessions.

The major innovation this year has been the formation of the junior choir. Whilst the nuts and bolts of this are discussed in other parts of this report, it is emphasised here that the project reflects our desire to involve young people in our worship, and place them at the

centre of things. To that end, we have also had children read the lesson during services, and held special events at which they prepare the Church for important festivals, such as the church decorating party before Christmas, and the Easter Garden making morning. The numbers attending at this year's Crib Service were a considerable improvement on last year.

We have good relations with the Newnham Scout group, who play an active part in our Remembrance Day service and have also had time with Jim in the Church working towards their Faith badges. The Reception class of the King's School also had a lively morning exploring the Church recently.

## **Music**

2025 has been a very exciting year for the St Mark's Choir, or should I say choirs. I have split my report in two as such:

The Adult choir continues to go from strength to strength, enhancing worship every Sunday morning during term time through the singing of hymns, psalms and an anthem. We have now established a pattern of Evensong services once a month, alternating between St Mark's and Grantchester, where we are joined by friends from Cambridge and further afield to sing the praises of God. We held our very first choir BBQ at the end of the academic year in July, an annual tradition which I hope to maintain for many years to come. Many thanks to Jon and Sarah Perry for their generosity in hosting this event. Our Carol Service in December was, as always, one of the great highlights of the year, where we joined a full congregation in singing famous Christmas Hymns and Carols alike. You will have noticed the new Choir Apparel in the form of Red Cassocks and White Surplices, kindly donated by Queen's College Chapel Choir--many thanks to Anna Jones for helping to coordinate this.

Our new Junior Choir, launched in April, has blossomed and grown very quickly, surpassing our expectations. We currently have 12 children on the register for the choir, the majority of whom attend services on a Sunday too. Our first service was Remembrance Day, where the Junior Choir were in fine voice, joining us too for the Carol Service in December. At present, we have a routine of the Junior Choir singing once a month with the Adult Choir on a Sunday morning. We will continue to grow this group, with the potential for exciting times ahead by attracting more young families and children to the wider St Mark's Family.

Let me finish by saying, as I always do, if you know anyone who enjoys singing (child or adult) or indeed yourself, we are always looking for new members of both choirs. If you fancy joining a supportive group of singers, where the emphasis is on fun, please do get in touch with me!

*Marcus Cox*

Enormous thanks are due to Marcus, and to our organist Jonathan, ably assisted by Hugh and others. And also to those who have helped 'chaperone' the junior choir, especially to Eleanor. I am also proud of the fact that St Mark's is increasingly becoming a place to nurture young musicians. Regular singing lessons take place on Mondays in term time, and a number of aspiring organists rehearse on our instrument throughout the week. Thanks to Jonathan for enabling this.

*Jim*

## **Eco Church**

The Eco-Church group has not met regularly this year. This was partly due to Bethan's departure, and also a challenging meeting with A-Rocha regarding our ambitions for 'Gold status'. But the measures which have been put in place, and for which we earned our 'Silver Status', continue, and in November we welcomed environmental campaigner, Anitha Davison who gave to the Sunday congregation a presentation on practical ways to make a difference to the environment.

## **Education and Discipleship**

The E&D group is currently composed of Mike Thompson (chair since December 2024), David Keeble, Jim Robinson, Eleanor Toye Scott, Tim Verney and Andrew Watts. More members are always welcome!

Our three regular home study groups (Monday mornings and Tuesday & Thursday evenings) continued to meet and thrive this year. The Tuesday evening group now meets fortnightly instead of weekly. The holdings of the parish library continue to be used, as evidenced by the signout sheet.

For Lent 2025 we had a series of four Sunday afternoon sessions in church at 3 pm based on C.S. Lewis's classic *The Four Loves*. The speakers were Mike Thompson, Debbie Whitton-Spriggs, Andrew Hurst and Jim Robinson. The series was attended by an appreciative audience of about thirty people each week, and approximately two-thirds of the people stayed for tea and conversation afterwards. We are grateful to Tim Verney and the team who kindly provided tea and biscuits.

Encouraged by the success of the Lent series, we planned a series of four talks by biblical scholars on the four gospels for the first Sundays in September, October, November and December. Once again, we used the format of 3pm meetings in the church, followed by tea and biscuits. Our speakers were Richard Bauckham on Mark, Mike Thompson on Matthew, Steve Walton on Luke and David Ford on John. With the help of excellent posters designed by Jim Robinson, the 'According to...' series attracted larger crowds of fifty to sixty people (including a group from Bedford!) and the series was a great success. Once again, Tim Verney was a star, organizing tea with help from the team and contributing cake and biscuits! James Shakespeare kindly led a parish quiet day for us at Little Gidding on 27th September. The sixteen participants paid £25 each for tea, lunch and transport for the day. The weather was beautiful, and James gave us much to think about.

In late October, an informal men's group began to meet at Wolfson College's coffee bar every Monday morning at 10:30 for coffee and conversation. Over the following months it has continued to grow (usually 8-10 show up) and is ongoing; it is open to all men in the church.

The group continues to reflect on what can be done to enable us all to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus.

*Mike Thompson*

## **Visiting Group**

Within the group are people who have listening skills, empathy, a good knowledge of local services and activities, plus an appreciation of the need for discretion and dignity towards anybody who is sick, lonely, or unhappy for any reason. We support each other, encourage socialising and friendship, and help with transport when possible. There has been an increase in numbers attending the 11am Tuesday Communion service, and this forms the basis of much of our work in staying connected. The group help with transport to the service and provide coffee and biscuits afterwards. This has created a friendly lively social gathering which has benefitted from two visits from Edye Hoffmann of Dementia Compass. Her advice about caring for ourselves and caring for those with dementia is very much appreciated and we would like to become a more dementia friendly community. Jim is always keen to hear of people in need of a visit, and facilitated a meeting at which we were able to discuss good visiting practices.

The group has good relations with Lammas Court the local Residential Home. In 2025 we organised the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake party for residents there. At Christmas we had the Carols and Mince Pies gathering which was as usual led by Andrew and Angela Watts. Both these events included residents of Lammas Field bungalows behind Lammas Court .

## **Community Centre**

The Community Centre continues to be a highly valued and well-used venue, with the space in use daily and further regular bookings anticipated.

Income from bookings has increased due to the addition of a regular ballet class, extra BAWDS bookings, and continued interest in casual hire. A new invoice system has been implemented and documents are now generated directly from the financial software. This gives us a daily report of outstanding and paid invoices and makes the process more efficient.

No major work has been required this year; however, additional expenditure has been incurred for fire alarm maintenance. There are also plans to purchase new chairs, varnish the floor, and refresh the paintwork. Quotations for all of these works will be presented at the PCC when received.

Plans are in place for an updated fire safety report to be carried out, alongside the introduction of a revised set of terms and conditions for users of the Centre. Work is also planned to redesign and update the Community Centre website to improve accessibility and communication.

After 138 editions and nearly 50 years of being published, What's On in Newnham magazine will publish its final issue in Summer Term 2026. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to its success over the years, with special thanks to David Keeble for his dedication and support.

Looking ahead, there are plans for Community Centre information to be included in SEEK magazine. Income previously received from advertisements in What's On in Newnham is expected to continue through advertising opportunities within the parish magazine.

*Xanthe Langley*

## Arts and Events

St Marks hosted a number of very well attended events throughout the year for the enjoyment of the congregation and our wider community, including:

- The Epiphany event 'Let There Be Light' on 5 January music and readings chosen to celebrate the new lighting system in the church
- Desert Island Picks in February featuring our then new Vicar, Jim; and later in the year, Sue Wagner and Ross Smythe
- 'The Beloved Son' in March, a one-man play by Andrew Watts telling the story of Henri Neuman followed by a Q&A
- Poetry Afternoon, with more than 20 people contributing readings
- 'Bread' a reflection in art, poetry and music of the role of bread in Christianity after our Harvest Festival
- Bawds 'A Christmas Miscellany' when an accomplished cast gave us a creative, polished mixture of theatre and unaccompanied singing to set the tone for Christmas

Looking forward:

1. Improved liaison with St Mark's which we hope will be helped by the appointment of the new administrator and other staffing changes introduced by the Vicar
2. Arts events are an important outreach activity for the church. Better and more effective publicity for our events would be appreciated on the St Mark's website and its social media channels both before and after they happen.
3. Technical help with erecting the temporary staging, managing sound and lighting during performances. It would be really helpful to have a small team of volunteers prepared to both manage the process and do the lifting and carrying. This could be drawn from the church congregation and the wider local community.

Lizzy Jarvis

A and E team:

Barry Domville, Hannelore Hagele, Lizzy Jarvis, Mike Thompson, Nick Warburton, Shevanti Roser, Wendy Walford.

## Wolfson College

Wolfson College is the only University College located within the parish. The College was founded without a chapel, but gathers together a multi-faith chaplaincy team, on which the vicar of St Mark's has traditionally served as the Anglican representative. This year Jim took on that role and has enjoyed the opportunities it has brought to engage with a significant part of the parish. He was part of the well-being welcome event for new students at the start of the academic year, and attends termly tutor meetings. He organises a termly service, which usually is held on the College site, but which this year took place in St Mark's, whilst building works took place at Wolfson. The annual Advent carol service for the College takes place in Church and is enjoyed by church members as well as college members - and there is some

overlap between the two groups. The services have led to Jim preparing two students for confirmation. Another fruitful outcome of this relationship was our Community Centre being used as a space for university students on their own on Christmas Day to gather for a Christmas lunch.

It has also been good to host services for Ridley Hall Theological College, and for the Cambridge Theological Federation.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding oversight during 2025 transitioned smoothly when I took up the role in November. I bring experience as a Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) in a school of over 550 pupils at St Faith's, and since my appointment Jim and I have been working steadily together to ensure that our parish safeguarding practice remains robust, compliant, and well-supported.

During the year, volunteers continued to complete the required diocesan training, and I have begun consolidating records within the Parish Safeguarding Hub. The new U-Check DBS system is operating efficiently as we embed it into our processes. The parish has also enrolled (April) in the Clearly Simpler Hub, which will store safeguarding documents electronically and provide automated prompts to support ongoing compliance with the Diocese of Ely.

Safeguarding is a shared Christian responsibility. As a church community, we are called to care for one another and to ensure that our parish remains a place where all can flourish safely.

If you ever have a safeguarding concern—about yourself, a child, or an adult—please speak to me, to Jim, or to any member of the ministry team. We are supported wonderfully by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in Ely. Safeguarding contact details are published on the pew sheet every Sunday and on the church website.

*James Gorick, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Fabric**

This year, all our repair works have centered around our doorways, which we take as a good sign that they are being well-used! Perhaps the biggest project was the replacement of the glass doors into the narthex. The driving motivation behind the project was to add a central lock, and thus save people the need to climb on a stool to unlock from the top. Whilst we initially hoped to simply add the lock to the existing doors, it became clear that we needed new doors. We also discovered, however, that the support mechanism holding the doors in place had failed, meaning the frame needed to be repaired as well. This has all now been carried out, with minimal disruption and almost no difference in appearance. The lower lock makes life an awful lot easier to our dedicated team of unlockers, to whom we are most

grateful for their commitment. Much of the cost for this project was covered by anonymous donation, for which we give sincere thanks.

There was also damage to the stonework around the vestry and the north-east doors, which was repaired.

Whilst Alan Jones did officially step down from being fabric officer last year, he kindly oversaw these projects, with his usual dedication and eye for detail. Thank you Alan!

We are forming a new fabric committee to share the responsibilities of maintaining our buildings. Particular thanks are due to Chris for keeping an eye on the heating, to Paul for getting to grips with the lights, and to Roy for his dogged sweeping and leaf-clearing through the winter!

*Jim*

### **Flower Team**

Apart from Lent, flowers appear at St Mark's every Sunday of the year. But, of course, not 'as if by magic...'. There are ten people on the flower rota who donate the flowers and their time towards the welcome and hospitality regularly offered by our church.

We do not have special or professional skills, we just believe that a vase of fresh flowers, plain or creative, is indicative of a hopeful, caring community.

For special events and church festivals the team come together to enjoy tea, cake and a chat. If you would like to join us, please contact Wendy Walford - details in Seek.

### **Deanery Synod**

Myself and Margaret who represents St Mark's at the Deanery Synod attended meetings during the year. Various presentations were done at the meeting plus a roundup of what is happening in the Deanery, plus updates on the development of the Marshalls Site and the involvement of the Rev Karin Voth Hariman to insure the church has a presence in the development from the beginning; it's a story of fellowship and hope, which we all need. And finally I would like to say thank you to Margaret for her long standing as a Deanery Synod representative for St Mark's.

*Nigel Porter*

### **Charity of the Month**

The Church runs a 'Charity of the Month' scheme, whereby each month is allocated a charity, and church members invited to support it. To this end, a speaker introduces the charity at the second service of each month. All monies raised at that service go to the charity, and donations can be given at other times directly to the treasurer or electronically via that church website. People are invited to nominate charities each autumn. Huge thanks go to Sarah Squires for coordinating this and working with the treasurer to oversee its implementation.

Donations this year are as follows:

January ITAC/Crossways (Cambs Churches Homeless Project) £391.00

February The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity (ARHC) £952.00

March Cambridge Money Advice Centre £695.00

April Gombe £408.20

May Christian Aid £818.39

June Umoja £515.00

July CamSight £250.00

August Caring Together £612.03

September A Rocha (In Mem of Stuart Lingard) £495.00

October Gombe £475.82

November The Gurkha Welfare Trust £914.03

December Embrace The Mid East £509.54

## **Financial Report**

The financial statements show a deficit of £17,436 (2024: surplus of £24,312).

Community Centre lettings have improved, with a surplus of £8,979 (2024: £7,356).

There was an unrealised loss of £26,380 on investments at year-end, giving total investments of £633,500.41 (2024: £659,881).

Total funds were £762,703.98 (2024: £780,140).

## **Reserves policy**

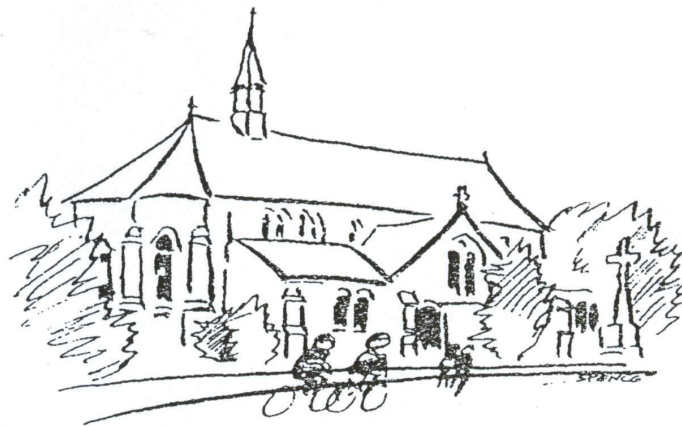
It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to a minimum of two months' unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time plus a further one and a half months' unrestricted payments to cover cashflow fluctuations. This equates to approximately £26,500 compared to £126,338.49 held at the year-end. Designated funds could be re-assigned as General Funds if approved by the PCC.

In addition, the Community Centre aims to hold a contingency fund of 20% of income in the Community Centre bank account. This equates to approximately £6,000 compared to £5477.29 held at the year end. It is the PCC policy to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Funds and the CAF Bank Ltd when appropriate.

**St Mark's Church, Cambridge.**

The Parochial Church Council of the  
Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mark, Cambridge  
Registered Charity No. 1134157

Annual Review  
and  
Financial Statements  
for the  
year ended  
31 December, 2025



# St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

## Annual Report for 2025

### Role of the PCC

St Mark's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in Charge, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church; liturgical, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mark's Church, St Mark's burial ground and St Mark's Community Centre.

### 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. During the year the following have served as members of the PCC:

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Rev Jim Robinson</b>
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	Revd Canon Tom Buchanan Revd Andrew Hurst Revd Kennedy Emokpaire
<b>Wardens</b>	Sarah Perry Nigel Porter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Xanthe Langley
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Margaret Banks Nigel Porter
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Haden Bell
<b>Community Centre Manager</b>	Xanthe Langley
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	James Gorick
<b>Members</b>	Jenny Doyle Frances Miller Hannelore Hägele Hilary Murray Jon Perry Lizzy Jarvis Alan Miller Ross Smythe Eleanor Toye Scott Richard Bauckham Susanna Buss

### Committees

The PCC had eight working groups - Eco Church, Education & Discipleship, Children and families,

Community Centre, Arts Events, Social Events, Visiting, Charities and two Deanery Synod members.

# Annual Report for 2025 - continued

## Church

During the year, Xanthe Langley has taken over as Treasurer, with continued guidance from Sandi Buss, Treasurer of Grantchester Church, who kindly stepped in as Interim Treasurer following Stuart's death. The Advent Fair was highly successful, and together with the Summer Fair, £1,812.13 was raised after costs. The Narthex Door project (£11,454.10) was successfully completed, with generous donations contributing towards the cost. The remaining balance will be covered by the Major Works and Development Fund.

## Community Centre

The Community Centre continues to be a highly valued and well-used venue, with the space in use daily and further regular bookings anticipated.

Income from bookings has increased due to the addition of a regular ballet class, extra BAWDS bookings, and continued interest in casual hire. A new invoice system has been implemented and documents are now generated directly from the financial software. This gives us a daily report of outstanding and paid invoices and makes the process for more efficient.

No major work has been required this year; however, additional expenditure has been incurred for fire alarm maintenance. There are also plans to purchase new chairs, varnish the floor, and refresh the paintwork. Quotations for all of these works will be presented at the PCC when received.

Plans are in place for an updated fire safety report to be carried out, alongside the introduction of a revised set of terms and conditions for users of the Centre. Work is also planned to redesign and update the Community Centre website to improve accessibility and communication.

After many editions, What's On in Newnham magazine will publish its final issue in Summer Term 2026. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to its success over the years, with special thanks to David Keeble for his dedication and support.

Looking ahead, there are plans for Community Centre information to be included in SEEK magazine. Income previously received from advertisements in What's On in Newnham is expected to continue through advertising opportunities within the parish magazine.

## Financial Review

The financial statements show a deficit of £17,437 (2024: surplus of £24,312).

Community Centre lettings have improved, with a surplus of £8,988 (2024: £7,356).

There was an unrealised loss of £26,380 on investments at year-end, giving total investments of £633,500.41 (2024: £659,881).

Total funds were £762,703.98 (2024: £780,140).

## Reserves policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to a minimum of two months' unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time plus a further one and a half months' unrestricted payments to cover cashflow fluctuations. This equates to approximately £26,500 compared to £126,338.49 held at the year-end. Designated funds could be re-assigned as General Funds if approved by the PCC.

In addition, the Community Centre aim to hold a contingency fund of 20% of income in the Community Centre bank account. This equates to approximately £6,000 compared to £5477.29 held at the year end. It is the PCC policy to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Funds and the CAF Bank Ltd when appropriate.

# St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT – CHARITABLE TRUST

### Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of St Mark's Church, Cambridge

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

#### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;  
to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and  
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### *Basis of independent examiner's report*

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

#### *Independent examiner's statement*

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Lisa King  
Burdett King Accountancy Limited  
8 The Hamiltons  
Newmarket  
CB8 0NF

Date: 24 April 2026

# St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mark, Cambridge.

Registered Charity No.1134157

Annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

## Section A Statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	96,211	2,500	7,971	106,682	120,134
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	5,717	-	-	5,717	1,255
Income from investments	2(c)	21,659	-	-	21,659	21,061
Church activities	2(d)	2,880	29,645	-	32,525	29,380
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>126,467</b>	<b>32,145</b>	<b>7,971</b>	<b>166,583</b>	<b>171,830</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
Church activities	3(a)	114,090	32,937	7,583	154,611	161,596
Generating voluntary income	3(b)	1,004	-	-	1,004	398
Governance costs	3(c)	2,025	-	-	2,025	300
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>117,118</b>	<b>32,937</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>157,639</b>	<b>162,294</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>9,349</b>	<b>(793)</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>9,536</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	7	11,519	(11,385)	(134)	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>20,868</b>	<b>(12,178)</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>9,536</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Gains and (losses) on investment assets	5	-	(26,381)	-	(26,381)	14,766
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>20,868</b>	<b>(38,559)</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>(17,437)</b>	<b>24,302</b>
<b>Balances b/fwd 1 January</b>		<b>145,788</b>	<b>625,698</b>	<b>8,654</b>	<b>780,140</b>	<b>755,838</b>
<b>Balances c/fwd 31 December</b>		<b>166,656</b>	<b>587,139</b>	<b>8,908</b>	<b>762,703</b>	<b>780,140</b>

# St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mark, Cambridge.

Registered Charity No.1134157

## Section B Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>						
Investments	5		633,500		633,500	659,881
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		-	633,500	-	633,500	659,881
<b>Current assets</b>						
Debtors		2,457	1,218		3,675	2,875
CCLA deposit account		75,684			75,684	54,711
Cash at bank and in hand		16,407	5,477	28,770	50,654	69,302
<b>Total current assets</b>		94,548	6,695	28,770	130,013	126,888
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	6	811			811	6,629
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		93,737	6,695	28,770	129,202	120,259
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		93,737	640,196	28,770	762,703	780,140
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>						-
<b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>						-
<b>Net assets</b>		£ 93,737	£ 640,196	£ 28,770	£ 762,703	£ 780,140
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>						
Unrestricted funds	7	166,655			166,655	145,788
Designated funds	7		587,140		587,140	625,698
Restricted income funds	7			8,908	8,908	8,654
<b>Total funds</b>		£ 166,655	£ 587,140	£ 8,908	£ 762,703	£ 780,140

**Other Monetary Assets**

Signature

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

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# St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

## Section C

## Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025

### Note 1

### Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

### Funds

**Unrestricted funds** are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

**Designated funds** are general funds which have been designated for a particular purpose.

**Restricted funds** consist of donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

### Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

### Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Assets purchased are written off during the year of acquisition.

**Investments** are valued at market value at 31 December.2025

## St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

**the accounts - 31 December 2025 (cont)**

<b>2. INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total this year</b>	<b>Total last year</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>					
Tax efficient planned giving	57,125		935	58,060	63,236
Other planned giving	4,140			4,140	4,960
Collections at services	4,040			4,040	2,449
Charity collections			7,036	7,036	10,488
All other giving					
General donations	2,906	2,500	-	5,406	6,746
War Memorial				-	-
Lighting Appeal				-	6,859
Gift Aid recovered	17,350			17,350	18,660
Legacies	10,000			10,000	5,400
Warm Spaces				-	-
Other income	650			650	1,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,211</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>7,971</b>	<b>106,682</b>	<b>120,134</b>
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
SEEK magazine (advertising)	1,315			1,315	330
SEEK magazine (sales)	451			451	726
Events and fundraising	3,951			3,951	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,717</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,717</b>	<b>1,255</b>
<b>2(c) Income from investments</b>					
Dividend income	18,336			18,336	17,908
Interest	3,323			3,323	3,153
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,659</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,659</b>	<b>21,061</b>
<b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>					
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,880			2,880	3,432
Community Centre income		29,645		29,645	25,948
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>29,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,525</b>	<b>29,380</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£ 126,466</b>	<b>£ 32,145</b>	<b>£ 7,971</b>	<b>£ 166,582</b>	<b>£ 171,830</b>

## St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

### the accounts - 31 December 2025 (cont)

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total this year	Total last year
3(a) Church activities	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary and charitable giving			7,036	7,036	11,914
Ministry: Parish share	54,663			54,663	52,286
Clergy	1,159			1,159	404
Licences & music	922			922	897
Salaries and fees <i>(see note below)</i>	19,016			19,016	10,976
Organists and Music Director	5,643			5,643	4,248
Youth work expenses	157			157	134
Church running	7,379		204	7,582	5,481
Church utility costs	5,132			5,132	3,217
Printing, post & stationery	1,062			1,062	1,696
Church building maintenance	5,098			5,098	1,590
Insurance	3,375			3,375	2,493
SEEK magazine costs	2,627			2,627	2,043
Burial ground	5,955			5,955	142
Warm Spaces				-	-
Churchyard & gardens	1,903			1,903	2,168
Church Major works		12,280	344	12,624	43,315
Community centre running costs		20,657		20,657	18,592
Community centre major works				-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,090</b>	<b>32,937</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>154,611</b>	<b>161,596</b>
<b>3(b) Generation of voluntary income</b>					
Events and appeal costs	1,004			1,004	398
<b>3(c) Governance costs</b>					
Independent Examination + HR	2,025			2,025	300
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£ 117,118</b>	<b>£ 32,937</b>	<b>£ 7,583</b>	<b>£ 157,639</b>	<b>£ 162,294</b>

#### Salaries and fees

1. Salaries and fees relate to administration, Choir Director and youth/families work.
2. No payments were made to PCC members other than the reimbursement of expenses paid on behalf of the PCC.

## St Mark's Church, Cambridge.

### Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025 (cont)

#### Labour Costs and Payments to PCC members

Salaries, wages and honoraria relate to Youth Workers, and Administrator

Any payments made to PCC members relate to the re-imbursement of Church/Community Centre costs.

#### Note 5 Investment assets

Fixed assets investments relate to 28,538.24 units of CBF Church of England Investment Fund

Value at 31 December 2024: £659,881

Value at 31 December 2024: £633,500 - £659,881 = unrealised gain £26,381

#### Note 6 Creditors and accruals

##### Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	This year £	Last year £	This year £		Last year £
Other creditors	811	6,629	-		-
			-		-
<b>Total</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>6,629</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>

#### Note 7 Fund movements

	Fund balances b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers	Fund balances c/fwd £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<i>General Fund</i>	£ 145,788	£ 126,466	£ (117,118)	£ 11,519	£ 166,655
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Community Centre Fund	12,540	29,645	(20,657)	(9,714)	11,814
Narthex Doors		2,500	(11,454)	8,954	-
Major Works & Development Fund	611,487		(27,207)	(8,954)	575,326
Arts & Events Fund	1,671			(1,671)	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	£ 625,698	£ 32,145	£ (59,318)	£ (11,385)	£ 587,140
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Mission to Gombe	(226)		-		(226)
Charity of the Month	(1,342)	7,036	(7,036)		(1,342)
Flower Fund	(329)		(204)		(533)
Travel Fund	-				-
War Memorial	-				-
Warm Spaces	134			(134)	-
Music Fund	8,199				8,199
Lighting Appeal	1,236		(343)		893
Burial Ground	982	935	-		1,917
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	£ 8,654	£ 7,971	£ (7,583)	£ (134)	£ 8,908
<b>Total Funds</b>	£ 780,140	£ 166,582	£ (184,019)	£ -	£ 762,703

