



2026

Annual Report

St Andrew's Finghall

For the Period January to December 2025

Aims and purposes.

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Robin David Christopher Lawton, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Andrew's Church, Finghall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Andrew's, Finghall.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Andrew's Church, Finghall belongs.

The PCC is proud of our history and heritage and holds Sunday services along with midweek services to commemorate historic dates and Saints days. These, along with our mid-week and Holy Communion services provided at Crakehall for the whole Benefice, offer a comprehensive choice of worship. As part of the Benefice of Lower Wensleydale, other services are available across the other five parish churches, including Simply Together, and Just Together, which reach out to families. Services with the offer of prayer for healing, patronal services, services to mark the agricultural year, along with services such as Vigils and Compline at specific occasions during the church year.

Our thanks go out to Myra, Pauline, and Julie, our Lay Worship Leaders, Sue, our Reader, Rev'd Roy, Rev'd Alison, and Fr Philip for assisting the Rector in providing a regular pattern of worship.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism, we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping.

Church Fabric Report

The fabric of the church building remains in exceedingly poor condition, following the failure of the roof and the removal of the internal plaster ceiling. We are also concerned that this lack of weatherproofing is damaging to the delicate nature of our Pipe Organ.

In 2025, we had visits from Spinks (retuning and replacement of key tops on church organ), Ranson's, (to patch the roof and Dave Cully to clear away disused wasp and bee nests. The Biffa bin in the churchyard was emptied by Jack Reynard.

We received the Quinquennial Inspection Survey Report by Alexa Stephens, Architect, and beyond the roof work, it outlined no urgent work requiring immediate attention although there were concerns about the vestry, boiler house, chancel, north aisle, nave, porch and roof, all of which require attention within the next 12 months (see full report.)

Repointing and de-rusting could be done by PCC with appropriate skills and materials.

The churchyard gate was rehung, the path to the main door maintained.

St Andrew's church was added to Historic England's "at risk" register due to urgent structural concerns, particularly regarding its roof. Although we are on the "at risk" register, this should, hopefully, enable us to apply for grants a little more easily in future.

An Inventory of St Andrew's contents is being prepared prior to a planned Archdeacons visitation sometime during 2027.

We hope to welcome more visitors into our historic building and have prepared pictorial guides as well as photographs to accompany the guided tour of the building. We hope to receive a plaque showing that we have war graves in the churchyard in due course.

The building was open for visitors every Thursday afternoon from 2 pm til 4 pm throughout the months of April to October and we will be doing the same again in 2026.

We have had some lovely comments from visitors to the building.

I am indebted to Nick Horn, who covered for me during my recent prolonged absence.

Marjorie Blake

Mission and evangelism

Along with the other parishes in our benefice, we have been able to reach out to our community on several occasions throughout the year at events such as; Village Fetes, The Wensleydale Agricultural Show, and Hunton Steam Gathering

St Andrew's opened nine times over the Easter period, both for services and to receive visitors.

We had a baptism on 11th May and our APCM on 12th May.

We ran a Lent course at Rose Cottage and had services twice a month throughout the summer.

There was another baptism in September, and we attended the Hunton Steam Gathering, making use of the 'Church About the Dale' trailer.

October was a particularly busy month – Marje undertook Leadership Safeguarding Training, and we held our annual Benefice Harvest Festival at "The Barn That Rocks" courtesy of hosts Peter and Barbara Fall, where 106 people attended. Perishable Harvest Donations went to the Chantry and Dales Centre, Bedale and non-perishables to the Food Bank at Northallerton.

A working party from Finghall village helped to clear vegetation and other folk from Finghall and elsewhere in the Benefice began rehearsals for the Benefice-wide Puppet Nativities.

In November, the Danvers family renewed their marriage vows (60 years not out!), and at the end of November, we had a Shepherds display in the porch as part of the activity Trail in the six churches. Again, there was some lovely feedback about this.

Rev'd Chris continued his role as a chaplain to the agricultural community through his membership of the 'Agricultural Chaplains Association' and 'Yorkshire Churches Rural Business Support'. Principally this is through the Mart at Leyburn but also includes visits to individual farms and businesses as well

as advocacy on farming issues. Rev'd Chris also sits as a board member on several local charities and supports the Deanery and Diocese in active membership of the Leeds Board of Patronage.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

The PCC has made good progress on DBS and Safeguarding Training.

Financial review

Our annual accounts have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.

This report illustrates our financial position at our year-end 31st December 2025, with the comparative 2024 figures in brackets:

Total receipts	£ 10,352	(£17,096)
Total payments	£ 6,759	(£23,811)
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£ 42,214	(£38,621)
Comprising		
Barclays Current Account	£ 12,934	(£10,635)
Skipton Building Society account	£ 29,280	(£27,986)

Receipts

Income from Planned Giving was down slightly on 2024. There are only two donors giving regularly to St Andrew's; therefore, it would be an aid to future financial planning if more people would consider joining them, preferably by joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Having registered with the Scheme in 2023, we have yet to see anyone giving regularly this way, but we did receive a one-off gift of £50.00 via the scheme in the summer. We would strongly encourage newcomers to St Andrew's and those living within the Parish to become members of the PGS on a regular basis to support the work of the church. For more information on the PGS, please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk.

Voluntary donations were considerably lower than in 2024, but in that year a legacy of almost £9,000 was received. Save for that item, giving would have seen an increase of £3,317, thanks in the main to a very generous donation of £2,500 into the Designated Roof Fund.

Payments

In 2024, almost £18,000 was spent on remedial works, which meant that payments in 2025 were much lower. Less than a third, in fact.

The Parish Share Request was set at £5,022. The PCC took the reluctant decision to limit the amount being paid to 50%, seeking to increase church reserves rather than letting them decrease. This resulted in a very modest £691 increase in Unrestricted Funds, whereas paying the Request in full would have seen them dropping by almost £2,000.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. In 2024 this was £2,226. The balance of £29,867 more than adequately meets these aims.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our Church the place of peace and rest that it is and in particular Marje and especially Brian, who with a team of other volunteers, keep the churchyard so well cared for, and do so much to maintain the building and support the worship and mission of the church.

Deanery Synod Report

The Incumbent sits on the Wensley Deanery Synod, along with Nicholas Horn. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

There were four ordinary Synod meetings, although one meeting was virtual and one hybrid.

In February, a virtual meeting was held. The discussion topic was 'Becoming a Sustainable Church Flowers Deanery'. A motion had been circulated before the meeting and Standing Committee had recommended members adopt the policy. An amendment was added to include the 'addition of plastic and ribbon'. This motion would be circulated to PCC members; together with an informational video to help members decide whether to adopt the principles. With regards to the Barnabus Project, The Rural Change fund had offered an initial grant of £2000-£5000 and the working group would meet the Rural Change Enabler, Rev'd Caroline Pinchbeck to discuss how to manage the grant in the first phase. It was confirmed that funding for the Maintenance Collectives Pilot Project Phase 1 had been awarded and therefore each parish that signs up would have professional support with maintaining their church buildings.

The meeting in June was held at St Matthew's Church, Leyburn. The speaker was Rev'd Caroline Pinchbeck, the Diocese of Leeds Rural Change Enabler. Her role with the Diocese involved helping rural churches thrive and made suggestions of what churches could do to help communities have a better understanding of the church. She was willing to visit churches and offer advice and recommended the book 'How Village Churches Thrive: A Practical Guide'. Barnabus updates were given: The Rural Change Fund group were making progress and the Maintenance Collectives Pilot Project had recruited a coordinator to offer support to PCCs. A consultant architect had also been appointed to offer professional input.

The September meeting was held in the Village Hall at Newton-le-Willows. Suggestions were asked for Speakers for next year. Members were given an update on the use of the Rural Change Fund monies for the Pilgrimage trail. Following a request for more clarity on the plans from the Bishop before going ahead, a good discussion was held with 'Heritage and Spirituality' used as the headline for ideas for the trail which was very helpful.

The final meeting of the Synod was held at Leyburn Church and this was a hybrid meeting. The speaker was Rev'd Canon Sean Robertshaw, Diocesan Director of Vocations. He gave a helpful and encouraging presentation and led a discussion on vocations within the Diocese. Members were encouraged to reflect on how vocations could be identified nurtured and supported within parishes and benefices. Updates were given on The Wensley Deanery Pilgrimage and the Maintenance Collectives Pilot Project and there was a report on the Great Expectations Conference highlighting the challenges to secure the future of maintaining church buildings in good order, particularly in rural areas.

There were the following new appointments:-

Rev'd Stephen Hanscombe appointed Area Dean.

Rev'd James Gwyn-Thomas appointed Assistant Area Dean.

Rev'd Gillian Lunn appointed Rector of the East Dere Street Benefice.

Rev'd Lee Finnegan appointed Curate in the Bedale Benefice.

Rev'd Scott Lunn appointed Curate in the Penhill Benefice

Rev'd Canon Dr James Theodosius appointed Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

Rt Rev'd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford, appointed interim Bishop of Leeds.

Deanery Prayer meetings continued to be held on the 1st Monday of each month.

Bridgette Ormston

Structure, governance and management.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's, Finghall the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Churchwarden and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The PCC met on in March, May (APCM), July, and October.

There were also gathered PCC meetings for all 6 parishes of the Benefice in January, June, and October. Each month, there have been Leader's meetings at St Gregory's, Crakehall to link PCCs across the Benefice.

Administrative information

St Andrew's Church is part of the Wensley Deanery in the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Patrick Brompton, DL8 1JN. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2024) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Ex-Officio Members

The Incumbent

- Rev'd R D C Lawton

Churchwarden

- Marjorie Blake
- One Seat vacant

Deanery Synod

- Nicholas Horn

Elected members

- Richard Selwyn Sharpe
- Charles Wyvill
- D'Arcy Wyvill
- Three Seats Vacant

Officers

- Paul Carnell (Treasurer)
- Jan Carnell (Secretary)

Electoral Roll

There were 15 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, all of whom are resident within the parish.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 26/04/20256

and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

Appendix 1 Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving		575	-	575	705
Collections at Services		1,710	-	1,710	1,153
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1a	1,584	3,153	4,737	10,365
Gift Aid recovered		1,374	24	1,397	1,406
		<u>5,243</u>	<u>3,177</u>	<u>8,420</u>	<u>13,629</u>
Activities for generating funds		-	90	90	-
Investment income		1,294	-	1,294	1,303
Church activities	1b	548	-	548	2,164
Other Receipts		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts		<u>7,085</u>	<u>3,267</u>	<u>10,352</u>	<u>17,096</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		2,511		2,511	3,403
Clergy and staffing costs		1,051	-	1,051	170
Church running expenses	2a	2,709	-	2,709	2,385
Church Repairs & maintenance	2b	120	365	485	17,854
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	-
		<u>6,391</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>6,756</u>	<u>23,811</u>
Cost of generating funds		<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>6,394</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>6,759</u>	<u>23,811</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		691	2,902	3,593	(6,715)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>29,176</u>	<u>9,445</u>	<u>38,621</u>	<u>45,336</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>29,867</u>	<u>12,347</u>	<u>42,214</u>	<u>38,621</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew's Church, Finghall

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash Funds				
Barclays Current Account	12,934	-	12,934	10,635
Skipton Building Society account	16,933	12,347	29,280	27,986
	29,867	12,347	42,214	38,621

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The movements in Designated funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/fwd
Roof Fund	9,445	3,267	(365)	-	12,347

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1a All other giving/voluntary receipts				
General donations	1,584	-	1,584	1,091
Donations to Roof Fund	-	2,653	2,653	220
Legacy placed in Roof Fund	-	500	500	8,945
Darnbrough Trust Grant	-	-	-	66
Donations Box	-	-	-	42
	1,584	3,153	4,737	10,365
1b Church activities				
Fees for funerals	357	-	357	1,414
Fees for monuments	191	-	191	750
	548	-	548	2,164
2a Church running expenses				
Electricity	-	-	-	-
Oil	635	-	635	-
Insurance	1,493	-	1,493	1,464
Benefice expenses	-	-	-	406
Other church running expenses	582	-	582	515
	2,709	-	2,709	2,385
2b Church repairs and maintenance				
Churchyard maintenance	120	-	120	120
Rebuilding churchyard wall	-	-	-	2,398
Works to Roof slates	-	365	365	-
Works to porch ceiling	-	-	-	4,532
Works to Nave & Chancel ceilings	-	-	-	10,804
	120	365	485	17,854

St Andrew's Church, Finghall Parochial Church Council**Independent examiner's report to the members on the unaudited financial statements of
St Andrew's Church, Finghall
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the regulations) and the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed :



Dr John Critchlow
19 Oak Tree Drive
Bedale
North Yorkshire
DL8 1UL

Date :

4th January 2026

Appendix 2

Rectors Report

As a benefice, we continue to grow together and for that I am deeply grateful. Occasional offices continue to be an important part of our ministry and mission. This year saw 18 baptisms, 2 renewals of wedding vows, 4 weddings, and 28 funeral ministries. I am very grateful to all who have helped with these important services, especially Marj and Nick.

We continued in our effort to achieve full safeguarding training and certification, and for that I am thankful to our PCC's and especially Julie and Jan. In terms of governance, we are still desperately short of officers and role holders, and this is now beyond a pressing need that must be addressed. Several of the PCC's will need to consider the future of worship in their buildings due to very low numbers, failure of the church fabric, and the inability to maintain financial stability.

I am once again thankful to all who come together to be the church here in Lower Wensleydale and recognise the immense privilege it is to continue to serve this community.