



2026

Annual Report

St Oswald's Hauxwell

For the Period January to December 2025

Aims and purposes.

St Oswald'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 Oswald's Church, Hauxwell.

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 Oswald's, Hauxwell.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

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

The PCC is proud of our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) heritage, and reflecting this, most of our services are in this traditional language and format. We recognise that this will not suit all and are keen to promote worship across the benefice where a range of services are offered, for example, the Prayer and Praise service provides a quiet, intimate, and reflective environment for worship, whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in different styles of worship, such as Family services and Holy Communion. These, along with our mid-week and Holy Communion services provided at Crakehall for the whole Benefice, offer a comprehensive choice of worship. During the year, services with the offer of prayer for healing, patronal services, services to mark the agricultural year, along with services such as Vigils and Compline, are offered.

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. We are also grateful to Rosi for her help with our music.

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. As noted in the Quinquennial Inspection, water ingress through the failed Chancel roof is now causing ongoing and serious damage.

The building is now on the 'At Risk Register' as we have been advised that this may open up funding to assist with the estimated £150,000 needed to replace the roof. This figure has risen significantly due to both inflation and the removal of the government scheme that allowed churches to reclaim VAT.

40 plus years ago, the lead lining of the Chancel roof of the church (the eastern end - Altar and Choir) was stolen, and a temporary covering was employed. This has failed, and for the last 4 years the roof has no longer been weatherproof. More recently, at times of heavy and repetitive rainstorms, water is now consistently dripping down the walls and causing puddles to develop in the choir stalls area. Substantial staining has also developed around several of the historical wall monuments. Moreover, the polished stone floor in front of the altar has become dangerously slippery owing to the excess moisture.

If no ameliorative action is taken, the fabric may be severely threatened, and it will become unsafe for services to be performed. Already, communion services have only employed "Cathedral Style" distribution of the bread and wine in the body of the church. An initial architectural review has been conducted, and roof replacement has been recommended. We engaged our Inspecting architect, and she has provided a full specification for the work, which allowed us to proceed to tendering. Following the tendering, we appointed Ranson Roofing to undertake the work once funds became available.

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
- Hunton Steam Gathering

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 membership of the Leeds Board of Patronage.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

Only one current member of the PCC held a valid DBS check; three are still outstanding their certification and have not fully completed the safeguarding training. This falls short of the recommended best practice by the Diocese, the House of Bishops, and the Charity Commission. This is also a standard requirement of most grant funding bodies and therefore could bar the church from receiving the much-needed grants needed to repair the Chancel roof.

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	£ 8,779	(£ 23,828)
Total payments	£ 9,839	(£ 13,190)
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£ 32,642	(£ 33,945)
Comprising		
Barclays Current Account	£ 6,201	(£ 27,864)
CBF Deposit Fund	£ 20,603	(£ 0)
Investment Fund Shares	£ 5,838	(£ 6,081)

Receipts

Planned Giving rose slightly due to the two donors giving via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) both allowing their monthly donations to rise with inflation in September. Coupled with an increase in the Gift-Aid being claimed on their donations, monthly PGS receipts saw an increase of 3.5%. Regular giving helps a Parish with its financial stability. May we encourage all those who attend St Oswald's and all those on the church's Electoral Roll who do not already give to the church to consider joining our regular givers, either by setting up a bank Standing Order or by joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Our Treasurer would be very happy to provide details on request. For more information on the PGS, please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk. Total receipts were down to almost two-thirds of those in 2024, but in that year a £9,000 legacy was received.

Payments

This year the Parish Share Request was £7,206 and the PCC decided that they would pay 50% which resulted in a shortfall and a resultant drop in Unrestricted Funds of £2,076. Paying the Request in full would have seen these Unrestricted reserves dropping by another £3,603. Whilst these Requests are voluntary, failure to keep up to date with them is a strong indication of the viability of a Parish and can have consequences when seeking to appoint ministers in the future if not regularly paid in full. More information about the Diocesan Share system can be found by visiting www.leeds.anglican.org.

Almost twice as much was paid towards the Parish Share Request as was paid in the previous year, but maintenance costs were considerably less (there was a large architect's bill in 2024) so total payments ended up being down by 25%. However, at £1,584 our largest single payment continues to be for insuring St Oswald's.

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 2025 this would have been equivalent to £2,459. The cash balance of £10,627 (excluding Designated funds) held on unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

However, following a Quinquennial Inspection in 2023 the PCC is very conscious of the need to continue to build reserves in order to afford the urgent and costly work that is required on the building, particularly the Chancel roof.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our Church the place of peace and rest that it is and in particular the Keatinge's who do so much to maintain the building and support the worship and mission of the church. The Fundraising group have continued to support our effort to raise funds for the building and in particular we would like to thank Suzanne Stirke and the Bennison's along with Becky Duff and Gay Forth for their work with the church flowers.

Deanery Synod Report

The Incumbent sits on the Wensley Deanery Synod. There are currently no Lay representatives. 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 Oswald's, Hauxwell 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 in March, May (APCM), and June. Several other meetings had to be cancelled as not enough members were available to make the meeting quorate. This is now a critical issue and must be addressed!

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 Oswald'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 2025) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Ex-Officio Members

The Incumbent
Rev'd R D C Lawton

Wardens

2 Vacant Seats

Deanery Synod

1 Vacant Seat

Elected members

- Rosi Keatinge
- Gay Forth
- Judith Gowland
- 3 Vacant Seats

Officer

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

Electoral Roll

There were 13 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 8 are not resident within the parish.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 22/05/2026
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

Appendix 1

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving		1,691	-	1,691	1,170
Collections at Services		1,495	-	1,495	2,100
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1a	1,928	759	2,686	14,546
Gift Aid recovered		687	54	740	1,264
		<u>5,800</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>6,612</u>	<u>19,079</u>
Activities for generating funds		150	204	354	2,706
Investment income		772	-	772	165
Church activities	1b	1,040	-	1,040	1,878
Other Receipts		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts		<u>7,762</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>8,779</u>	<u>23,828</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		3,603	-	3,603	1,970
Clergy and staffing costs	2a	1,187	-	1,187	957
Church running expenses	2b	4,618	-	4,618	4,464
Church Repairs & maintenance	2c	431	-	431	5,798
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	-
		<u>9,839</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,839</u>	<u>13,189</u>
Cost of generating funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total payments		<u>9,839</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,839</u>	<u>13,190</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(2,076)	1,016	(1,060)	10,638
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>12,704</u>	<u>15,160</u>	<u>27,864</u>	<u>17,226</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>10,627</u>	<u>16,177</u>	<u>26,804</u>	<u>27,864</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Oswald's Church, Hauxwell

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash Funds				
Barclays Current Account	6,201	-	6,201	27,864
CBF Deposit Fund CB1008731	4,427	16,177	20,603	0
	10,627	16,177	26,804	27,864
Investment Assets				
Investment Fund Shares CB3013353	4,706	-	4,706	4,902
Investment Fund Shares CB3013359	1,132	-	1,132	1,179
	5,838	0	5,838	6,081
Total financial assets	16,466	16,177	32,642	33,945

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 the designated fund during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Roof Appeal Fund	15,160	1,016	-	-	16,177
	15,160	1,016	-	-	16,177

Receipts into Designated Roof Appeal Fund:

£759 Donations; £204 Fund-Raising; £54 Gift-Aid

Parochial Church Council of St. Oswald's Church, Hauxwell

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Roof Fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1a All other giving/voluntary receipts				
General donations	925	-	925	1,045
Donations Box	202	-	202	149
Donations to Roof Appeal Fund via the Parish Giving Scheme	-	759	759	3,466
Legacies	-	-	-	40
Portion of Grant from Darnbrough Trust	-	-	-	9,000
Gift from Bedale PCC to help pay Parish Share	800	-	800	95
	<u>1,928</u>	<u>759</u>	<u>2,686</u>	<u>14,546</u>
1b Church activities				
Fees for weddings	-	-	-	-
Fees for funerals	886	-	886	1,320
Fees for monuments	154	-	154	558
	<u>1,040</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,040</u>	<u>1,878</u>
Payments				
2a Clergy and staffing costs				
Vicar's expenses	272	-	272	248
Administrator fees	556	-	556	349
Treasurer fees	360	-	360	360
	<u>1,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,187</u>	<u>957</u>
2b Church running expenses				
Electricity	1,145	-	1,145	1,161
Oil	338	-	338	375
Insurance	1,659	-	1,659	1,584
Upkeep of services	60	-	60	74
Upkeep of Churchyard	945	-	945	750
Benefice expenses	-	-	-	180
Other church running expenses	470	-	470	340
	<u>4,618</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,618</u>	<u>4,464</u>
2c Church repairs and maintenance				
Electrical works	62	-	62	409
Plumbing works	330	-	330	-
Architect's fees (Chancel Roof)	-	-	-	5,304
Servicing fire equipment	39	-	39	85
	<u>431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>431</u>	<u>5,798</u>

St Oswald's Church, Hauxwell Parochial Church Council

Independent examiner's report to the members on the unaudited financial statements of St Oswald's Church, Hauxwell 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 1UF

Date : 7th 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 Rosi and Marje.

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.