



Trustees Annual Report
St Mary's Hornby 26
For the Period January to December 2025

Aims and purposes.

St Mary'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 Mary's Church, Hornby.

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 Mary's.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

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

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the month and over the course of the year, that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, our 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 through mid-week and Sunday Morning services, 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. 'Just Together' family services on the third Sunday of the month continues to be a significant success. These are very informal and interactive with a focus on a simple bible message for the children. These have resulted in an increase in the average attendance from one child per service to about 14 (along with their parents). As the pool of children in the parish is only about 20, to get 14 is a major move forward. Thanks to Donna Durrant, Lara Pike, Gemma Lord, and Sally Milverton for their energy and expertise.

As part of the Benefice of Lower Wensleydale other services are available across the other five parish churches in the benefice, 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. We are also grateful to Louise for organising the rota.

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 sound condition. The battle of the leaks thus continues as with intense northerly winds some water ingress still occurs. The Quinquennial Inspection report (QI) was completed in April 2024.

The spring cleaning by numerous enthusiastic volunteers has kept the general appearance of the church looking well cared for, for which I am most appreciative and thankful. It is noted that the refurbishment of the heating system maintained a usable, welcoming temperature during the winter (as the increasing in attendance observed last year has further improved), yet much reducing the overall heating bills!

Hospitality Area:

There has been progress with the Hospitality Area. Following the granting of a Temporary Minor Re-Ordering (TMRO) the back pews were removed in the north-west corner of the church and stored securely off site. Much work has gone in to preparing a full faculty and we await the outcome of discussions with the DAC. We are thankful to all who have assisted in this project.

Mission and evangelism

Maintaining the visibility of St Mary's within the community has remained a priority for the PCC. This is now beginning to result in a small but significant increase in weekly attendance at services, including families with children. As in previous years a number of community events were organised with the aim of engaging as many people as possible. During the reporting period the following events took place:

In February the now-traditional snowdrop walk around the grounds of Hornby Castle with teas at St Mary's took place; this event becomes ever more popular year on year with large numbers taking part. In June a traditional fete was held at Hornby Castle, with a number of stands and activities, and a tea tent. In December, a very well-attended (in fact sold out) wreath-making event was held in Hackforth Village Hall, and this was followed soon before Christmas by a Social Evening in the church with drinks and carols.

Monthly Coffee Mornings – held in the Village Hall in winter and the church in summer – have continued to prove popular and are well-attended.

These events enabled the church to engage with several hundred people. It is very encouraging to see the number of people from the parish at, for example, the Christmas Drinks and Carols. A further benefit is that the events help raise funds for the work of the church.

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 active membership of the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Leeds Board of Patronage.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.
All members of the PCC held valid DBS checks.

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	£ 18,457	(£16,371)
Total payments	£ 23,714	(£25,260)
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£ 92,159	(£95,529)
Comprising		
Unity Trust Current Account	£ 7,280	(£12,858)
CBF Deposit Funds	£ 7,577	(£7,257)
CBF Investment Fund Shares	£ 50,335	(£52,431)
M & G Charifund Units	£ 26,967	(£22,984)

Receipts

Planned Giving accounted for 16% of St Mary's total income in 2025. We would like to thank all those who support us financially on a regular basis, most of whom are members of the Parish Giving Scheme. We don't receive any regular income from the government or the Church of England, therefore in order to fund our mission and ministry in this Parish we rely on the generous support of our congregation and of our community. We would strongly encourage newcomers to St Mary'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.

Total receipts were up 13% on 2024, partly due to a higher level of donations but mainly due to the very successful 'Hornby Castle Revealed' event held in September. Along with the Snowdrop Walk, coffee mornings and other events, fund-raising activities accounted for just over a third of total income. Our grateful thanks go to all those who contributed their time and efforts to these events.

Payments

The 2025 Parish Share Request was £12,562. However, the year began with cash funds of only £20,115 so the PCC felt they were unable to make payment in full. They therefore made a contribution of £6,281 representing 50% of the total share requested.

Church running expenses were higher but church maintenance costs were lower, resulting in total payments being 6% less than in 2024

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 was £5,929. The cash balance of £14,856 held on unrestricted (including designated) funds at the year-end adequately meets this target.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our church the lively and vibrant community it is, in particular the churchwarden, Roger Clutterbuck and the PCC.

We offer special thanks to Lara Pike for her work to support the church and PCC and Gordon for his generous support to keep us 'online'.

We are also indebted to everyone who assists when special events are held and those who clean and decorate the church with flowers.

Deanery Synod Report

The Incumbent sits on the Wensley Deanery Synod, along with Sally Milverton. 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 Mary's 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 five occasions during the year in March, May (APCM), July and November. 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 meeting/Conference calls via PhoneChurch and in person at St Gregory's to link PCCs across the Benefice.

Administrative information

St Mary'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

Wardens

- Mr Roger Clutterbuck
- One seat vacant

Deanery Synod Representative

- Sally Elizabeth Milverton
- One seat vacant

Elected Members

- Nigel John Milverton
- Five seats vacant

Officers:

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

Electoral Roll

There were 39 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 13 are not resident within the parish.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 23/04/2026
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

Appendix 1

Receipts and Payments

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Hornby

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving	1a	2,968	-	2,968	3,296
Collections at Services	1b	2,439	-	2,439	2,360
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1c	1,366	-	1,366	283
Gift Aid recovered		1,304	-	1,304	2,171
		<u>8,077</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,077</u>	<u>8,110</u>
Activities for generating funds	1d	5,754	-	5,754	4,024
Investment income		3,260	-	3,260	3,458
Church activities	1e	1,366	-	1,366	779
Total receipts		<u>18,457</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,457</u>	<u>16,371</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Parish Share Request		6,281	-	6,281	6,098
Clergy and staffing costs	2a	2,115	-	2,115	1,745
Church running expenses	2b	9,041	-	9,041	7,819
Church Repairs & maintenance	2c	4,774	-	4,774	9,127
Mission giving and donations		814	-	814	172
		<u>23,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,025</u>	<u>24,962</u>
Cost of generating funds		689	-	689	297
Total payments		<u>23,714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,714</u>	<u>25,259</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(5,258)	0	(5,258)	(8,888)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	0
Exceptional Item - Sale of Shares		-	-	-	10,000
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>20,115</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20,115</u>	<u>19,004</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>14,856</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>14,857</u>	<u>20,115</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Hornby

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash Funds				
Unity Trust current account	7,280	-	7,280	12,858
CBF Deposit Funds				
General CB3032790	1,439	-	1,439	1,377
G A Lamming Trust CB3032791	156	-	156	156
Fabric Appeal CB3032792	0	1	1	1
School House Fund CB3032793	5,982	-	5,982	5,723
	<u>14,856</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>14,857</u>	<u>20,114</u>
Investment Assets				
2,267.52 CBF Investment Fund Shares CB3013429	50,335	-	50,335	52,431
1561 M & G Charifund Units	26,967	-	26,967	22,984
	<u>77,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,302</u>	<u>75,415</u>
Total financial assets	<u>92,158</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>92,159</u>	<u>95,529</u>

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 and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Realisation of shares & unrealised Increase In value	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd
Restricted					
Church Fabric Fund (Tower)	1	-	-	-	1
Designated					
Pastoral Team Funds	131	-	-	-	131
Hornby 'School House' Fund	58,154	(2,096)	259	-	56,317
	<u>58,286</u>	<u>(2,096)</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56,449</u>

The Restricted Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance which can only be spent for that purpose.

The Hornby 'School House' Fund fluctuates in value as a result of the requirement that the fund represents the value of 2,267.52 shares in the CBF Investment Fund plus the balance of CBF School House Deposit Fund.

r Analysis of Receipts and Payments (1)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
ts				
Planned Giving				
Standing Orders	360	-	360	480
via the Parish Giving Scheme	2,608	-	2,608	2,816
	<u>2,968</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,968</u>	<u>3,296</u>
Collections at Services				
Regular Services	1,797	-	1,797	1,885
Baptism Collections	376	-	376	115
Funeral Collections	-	-	-	174
Wedding Collections	265	-	265	186
	<u>2,439</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,439</u>	<u>2,360</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Hornby

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments (2)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1c All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations	1,035	-	1,035	101
Contactless donations	331	-	331	-
One-Off via the PGS	-	-	-	5
Portion of Darnbrough Trust Grant	-	-	-	177
	<u>1,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,366</u>	<u>283</u>
1d Activities for generating funds				
Coffee mornings	384	-	384	266
Snowdrop Walk	1,871	-	1,871	1,401
Family event	79	-	79	-
Plant Stall	265	-	265	-
Midsummer Festival	-	-	-	1,365
Christmas drinks	421	-	421	-
Drinks & Carols	-	-	-	311
Wreath making	505	-	505	681
Hornby Castle Revealed	2,228	-	2,228	-
	<u>5,754</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,754</u>	<u>4,024</u>
1e Church activities				
Fees for weddings	823	-	823	461
Fees for funerals	469	-	469	246
Fees for monuments	74	-	74	72
	<u>1,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,366</u>	<u>779</u>
Payments				
2a Clergy and staffing costs				
Rector's expenses	480	-	480	488
Administrator's Fees	914	-	914	537
Treasurer's fees	720	-	720	720
	<u>2,115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,115</u>	<u>1,745</u>
2b Church running expenses				
Electricity	921	-	921	1,606
Oil	692	-	692	673
Insurance	4,159	-	4,159	4,031
Upkeep of services	260	-	260	296
Upkeep of churchyard	850	-	850	-
Bank charges	90	-	90	80
Deanery levy	83	-	83	80
Independent Examiner fee	100	-	100	100
Benefice expenses & Other running costs	1,886	-	1,886	953
	<u>9,041</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,041</u>	<u>7,819</u>
2c Church repairs and maintenance				
Organ maintenance	-	-	-	155
Tower repairs	-	-	-	7,246
Quinquennial Inspection	1,199	-	1,199	-
Servicing the clock	234	-	234	234
Lightning protection	-	-	-	151
Fire equipment inspection	49	-	49	116
Roof alarm costs	838	-	838	1,226
Creation of hospitality area	1,768	-	1,768	-
Repairs to internal wall	686	-	686	-
	<u>4,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,774</u>	<u>9,127</u>

St Mary's Church, Hornby Parochial Church Council

Independent examiner's report to the members on the unaudited financial statements of St Mary's Church, Hornby 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 :

Mr G Baragwanath FCA
C & G B Associates
8-10 Millgate
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1AA

Date : 16 April 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 Roger, Sally & Nigel.

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.

Hackforth & Hornby School Report

Closing Statement by the Governing Body of Hackforth and Hornby Church of England Primary School July 2nd 2025

Founded by the Church, this historic school has nurtured children and families and has continued to work with the church and wider community for over 150 years. Although it was mentioned in the early nineteenth century, since 1871 it served and supported the Hornby Castle Estate families under the owners, the Dukes of Leeds.

As it widened its role in the 1900s, everyone connected with the school has worked hard to foster a delight and desire for learning. Children have been helped to develop their talents along with an understanding of the wider world. In a Christian context they have developed Values for Life. In a supportive and caring community they are encouraged to become independent and ready to respond to the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Records show that many facets of school life have led to a happy and successful school as an integral part of a wider community.

The dedicated team, under the present leadership, has ensured that our children today have continued to flourish.

It is, therefore, with great sadness that we accept that the school must now close. We hope that the members of the community continue to support each other, including the children, during good and challenging times.

Doreen Longstaff