



2026

Annual Report

St Patrick's Patrick Brompton

For the Period January to December 2025

Aims and purposes.

St Patrick'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 Patrick's Church, Patrick Brompton.

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 Patrick's, Patrick Brompton.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Patrick's Church, Patrick Brompton 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. 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 Bridget for her help with digital music support.

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 Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in May 2024, which reported that St Patrick's "is generally in really good condition."

In 2025, as each year, it was necessary to replace a small number of failed roof slates to ensure that the roof remains watertight. A minor ingress of water was thereby resolved. The roofers also cleared the gutters, suction cleaned the fall-pipes, and completed a roof inspection.

The annual servicing of the clock and organ was completed with minor works of maintenance to both. The PCC decided to replace the three back radiators that have previously been identified as failing, and this work is scheduled for 2026.

The high-level lighting continued to be problematic, with many tubes now blown, and our normal contractor is now not able to access them via ladder. Advice is being sought from other contractors as the total replacement is not cost-effective.

The pest control unit from the county council attended as in previous years, to treat the building for our persistent issue with cluster flies.

Maintenance of the churchyard was awarded to a new contractor, and the PCC is delighted with the improved standard of upkeep.

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

We regard all our fundraising as mission opportunity and offer all who come into church for these events the warmest possible welcome, invariably catering for them and making them feel welcome.

At St Patrick's, we held a summer concert with Newton le Willows village choir and the Hunton Ladies choir. This was well attended and the feedback most positive.

In the autumn we had a coffee morning in Newton le Willows village hall and this, too was well attended with a wonderful, cheerful atmosphere throughout. Some of the proceeds went to the church and the remainder to chosen charities.

The annual Christmas Fair was again a success, although the money raised was slightly down on 2024. Many people commented on the lovely atmosphere which prevailed – a truly happy 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.

The PCC is compliant with training and DBS certification, apart from one member who has had difficulty accessing the online materials.

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	£ 30,110	(£30,114)
Total payments	£ 22,805	(£20,060)
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£ 43,129	(£35,824)
Comprising		
NatWest Current Account	£ 6,864	(£12,268)
NatWest Reserve account	£ 33,052	(£20,019)
NatWest Renovation account	£ 3,213	(£ 3,178)

Receipts

The church's day-to-day running costs could not be met without those people who give regularly to St Patrick's. We would like to express our thanks to the people who continue to support us in this way.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £30,075, of which £8,811 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £2,602 was from Gift Aid. Total income was almost identical to that of 2024.

Payments

£22,805 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Patrick's, including the £7,669 contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. This was only half of that being asked of St Patrick's but the PCC thought it would be wise to continue to build up the church's reserves.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £7,269 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at the 31st of December on unrestricted funds totalled £27,416. With the addition of the £3,213 being held in our ring-fenced Renovation Fund and the £12,500 in our ring-fenced Re-Ordering Fund, St Patrick's total financial assets were £43,129 at the end of the year.

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 equivalent to £5,701. The cash balance of £27,416 held on unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

The balance of £3,213 in the restricted renovation fund is retained towards meeting the cost of repairs to the fabric of the church building.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our church the place of peace and rest that it is. In particular, the flower arrangers, those who clean the church, the keyholders who open and lock the building daily and our warden Alistair, who does 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 Sue Bianco, and Bridgette Ormston. 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 Patrick's, Patrick Brompton 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 February, 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 meeting in person at St Gregory's, Crakehall to link PCCs across the Benefice.

Administrative information

St Patrick'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:

- Alistair Clark
- One Seat vacant

Deanery Synod

- Bridgette Ormston
- Susan Bianco

Elected members

- Brenda Jobling,
(Electoral Roll Officer)
- Hilary Clark
- Avie Ropner
- Sarah Heap
- 2 Vacant Seats

Officer

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

Electoral Roll

There were 19 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 3 are not resident within the parish. We thank Brenda for her work in maintaining the electoral roll.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 22nd April 2026

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

Appendix 1 Receipts and Payments

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving	1a	7,872	-	7,872	7,942
Collections at Services	1b	3,860	-	3,860	2,554
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1c	8,811	-	8,811	10,010
Gift Aid recovered		2,602	-	2,602	3,524
		<u>23,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>24,030</u>
Activities for generating funds	1d	3,669	-	3,669	2,898
Investment income		256	35	292	290
Church activities	1e	3,004	-	3,004	2,896
Total receipts		<u>30,075</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>30,110</u>	<u>30,114</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Parish Share Request		7,669	-	7,669	7,745
Clergy and staffing costs	2a	2,391	-	2,391	2,093
Church running expenses	2b	10,407	-	10,407	7,797
Church Repairs & maintenance	2c	1,753	-	1,753	2,339
Mission giving and donations	2d	437	-	437	65
		<u>22,657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,657</u>	<u>20,039</u>
Cost of generating funds		148	-	148	21
Total payments		<u>22,805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,805</u>	<u>20,060</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		7,269	35	7,305	10,054
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	0
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>20,146</u>	<u>15,677</u>	<u>35,824</u>	<u>25,770</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>27,416</u>	<u>15,713</u>	<u>43,129</u>	<u>35,824</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Parochial Church Council of St. Patrick's, Patrick Brompton

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash Funds					
NatWest Current account	6,864	-	-	6,864	12,628
NatWest Reserve account	20,552	12,500	-	33,052	20,019
NatWest Renovation account	-	3,213	-	3,213	3,178
	27,416	15,713	0	43,129	35,824

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 restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/fwd
Restricted					
Renovation Fund	3,178	35	-	-	3,213
Re-Ordering Fund	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
	15,678	35	-	-	15,713

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments (1)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1a Planned Giving				
Standing Orders	5,171	-	5,171	5,156
Weekly Numbered Giving Envelopes	1,638	-	1,638	1,747
via the Parish Giving Scheme	1,064	-	1,064	1,039
	7,872	-	7,872	7,942
1b Collections at Services				
Regular Services	2,385	-	2,385	1,670
Funeral Collections	1,191	-	1,191	829
Baptism Collections	283	-	283	-
Wedding Collections	-	-	-	55
	3,860	-	3,860	2,554
1c All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations	3,886	-	3,886	4,610
Grants:				
Newton-le-Willows Educational Trust	4,500	-	4,500	3,500
Newton-le-Willows Parish Council	225	-	225	225
Hunton Parish Council	200	-	200	150
North Yorkshire Council (towards new lawnmower)	-	-	-	1,300
Darnbrough Trust Grant (portion of £1,000)	-	-	-	225
	8,811	-	8,811	10,010
1d Activities for generating funds				
Coffee mornings	963	-	963	853
June Concert	792	-	792	-
Christmas Fair	1,914	-	1,914	2,045
	3,669	-	3,669	2,898

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Parochial Church Council of St. Patrick's, Patrick Brompton

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments - 2025 (2)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1e Church activities				
Fees for weddings	290	-	290	789
Fees for funerals	2,486	-	2,486	1,747
Fees for monuments	228	-	228	360
	<u>3,004</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,004</u>	<u>2,896</u>
Payments				
2a Clergy and staffing costs				
Rector's expenses	592	-	592	631
Treasurer's fees	720	-	720	720
Administrator's Fees	1,079	-	1,079	742
	<u>2,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,391</u>	<u>2,093</u>
2b Church running expenses				
Utilities - electricity & kerosene	2,580	-	2,580	3,189
Church insurance	3,328	-	3,328	3,181
Upkeep of services	210	-	210	233
Upkeep of churchyard	3,000	-	3,000	-
Printing, Postage & Stationery	434	-	434	334
Other church running expenses	717	-	717	731
PCC costs	39	-	39	28
Independent Examiner's Fee	100	-	100	100
	<u>10,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,407</u>	<u>7,797</u>
2c Church repairs and maintenance				
Clock maintenance	234	-	234	234
Organ maintenance	658	-	658	162
Clearing gutters	432	-	432	312
Pest control	274	-	274	179
Repairs around oil tank	-	-	-	1,148
Small items	80	-	80	48
Boiler service and repairs	76	-	76	257
	<u>1,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,753</u>	<u>2,339</u>
2d Mission Giving & Donations				
Royal British Legion	20	-	20	25
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution	-	-	-	40
Farming Community Network	417	-	417	-
	<u>437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>65</u>

St Patrick's Church, Patrick Brompton Parochial Church Council

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

David Liddell

David Liddell
Elm Hill
Main Street
Askrigg
DL8 3HG

Date :

26-02-2026

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 Alistair, Sue, and Chris Iveson.

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.