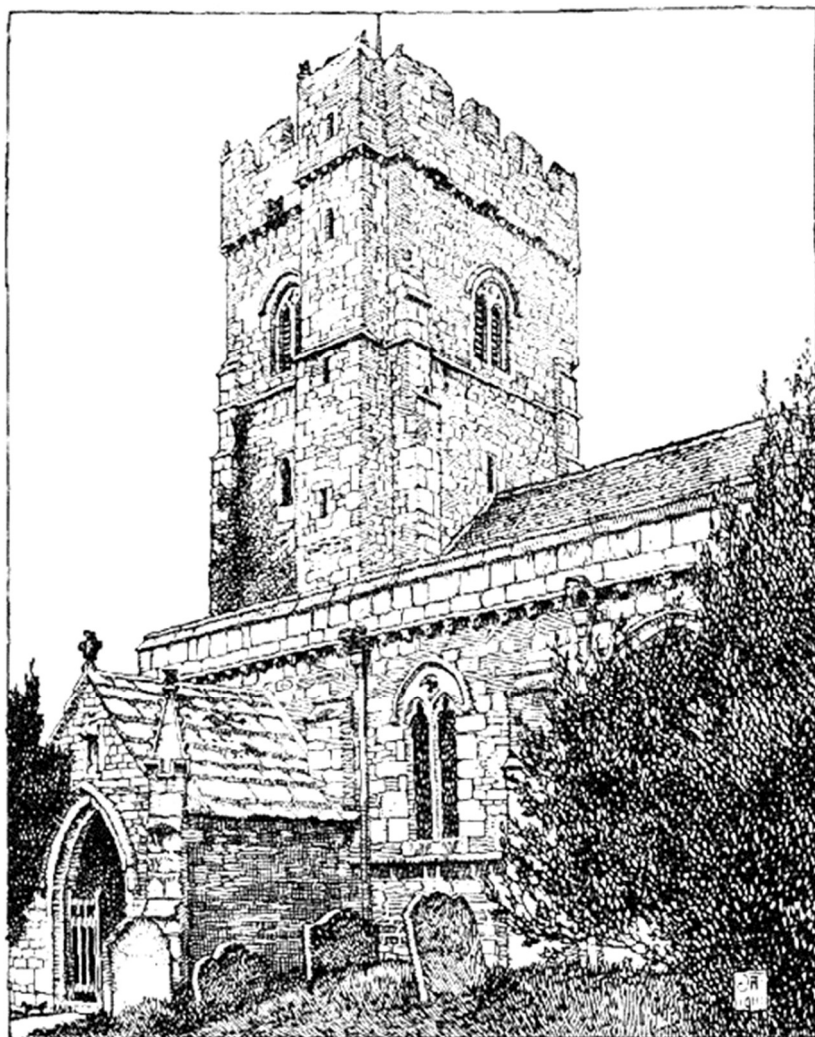




2026

Annual Report

St Michael and All Angels

Spennithorne

For the Period January to December 2025

Aims and purposes.

St Michael and All Angels 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 Michael and All Angels Church, Spennithorne.

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 Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne 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, Morning Prayer provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in different styles of worship through our family service. 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 incredibly grateful to Penny for her cheerful playing of the church organ.

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 overall sound condition. However as noted in the Quinquennial Inspection water ingress through the gable ends continues to cause drips and is damaging the internal plasterwork in places.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to complete repair work on the Vestry walls and redecorate them. The delay in replacing the tiles in the kitchen is mainly due to difficulties in getting Contractors to provide the necessary quotes. We are hopeful this work will be carried out in 2026. A swarm of cluster flies was found in the clock chamber and tower, and this was treated by the Council pest control team, but it will need to be monitored for several years.

Mission and evangelism

We thank everyone whose help over the year has been vital to help us move forward, because without all your help, our events would not have been successful, as we need volunteers as always to help in various capacities throughout the year. All this comes with a very big thank you to everyone involved in keeping our beautiful church running.

On March 11th we had Leyburn Ladies Choir and East Witton Male Voice Choir sing for us in Harmby Village Hall with refreshments afterwards, and £549.85 was raised. There were 77 in the audience, with 20 members in one choir and 22 in the other choir. Our most grateful thanks to both choirs.

We were fortunate to have three Swaledale Festival events running in our church this year, on the 25th 26th and 31st of May, with refreshments served by church members after each performance.

The next event on July 12th was the annual church fete. Again, it was successful in raising £774.31, with two donations bringing in another £100, making a grand total of £874.31. Most of our congregation helped with various jobs.

We also held two coffee mornings this year, both in the Methodist Hall in Leyburn. The first, on July 18th, raised £158.50. The second coffee morning was on November 14th raised £145.

On the 19th of July there was a wedding in church and on the 31st of July we held the funeral of Philip Dinsdale

On the 10th of October, we held a quiz night in Harmby Village Hall. Unfortunately, this was not well attended. A supper of pork pies, peas and quiches was available with tea and coffee as well as a raffle, with door takings of £143 and raffle and sale of leftover supper items of £119, bringing the total fundraising for the night to £132 after costs.

This year we had a benefice harvest thanksgiving for all six parishes in the Barn That Rocks. Our grateful thanks to Peter Fall and his family for hosting this event.

The final event of the year was the Christmas one. This year it was organised by Sue Dickins and Julie Morton-Lee and was an excellent one as well.

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.

- 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 Leeds Board of Patronage.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report. All members of the PCC need to reapply for their DBS, and some are still to refresh their 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	£ 19,160	(£17,667)
Total payments	£ 17,283	(£11,747)
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£ 32,463	(£30,586)
Comprising		
HSBC Current Account	£ 1,723	(£ 551)
Unity Trust current account	£ 3,957	(£ 5,608)
Unity Trust deposit account	£ 13,386	(£12,040)
CBF Deposit Fund	£ 12,948	(£12,387)

Receipts

We are fortunate to have sixteen donors giving regularly by bank standing order and by the Parish Giving Scheme, a scheme designed to support churches in funding their mission and ministry. The church's day to day running costs could not be met without those who give regularly to St Michael & All Angels and in 2025 their giving accounted for 47% of the church's total Unrestricted income. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the people who continue to support us in this way.

The retiring collection at a funeral in September amounted to £398 and was placed into our Restricted Fabric Fund.

Gift-aid receipts were unusually high. This was because the claim to HMRC Charities made in this year covered 18 months, from November 2023 to July 2025.

Total receipts were up by £1,493 or 8%.

Payments

£16,462 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Michael & All Angels, including a £7,207 contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. This was 50% of that being asked of the Parish, but paying the £14,413 Request in full would have resulted in our end-of-year Unrestricted reserves being diminished by over £5,000 rather than being increased by almost £2,000.

Insurance costs were £1,831 higher than in 2024. This was due to the changeover from making annual payments in previous years to paying in monthly instalments from August 2024 onwards.

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 £4,115. The cash balance of £18,922 held in unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our church the lively and vibrant community it is, in particular the choir and the PCC. We are most grateful to our organist, who does not accept payment for normal weekly services, also to the 'bell ringer' and the two 'clock winders'-greatly appreciated.

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 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 Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne, 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 four 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 or meeting in person at St Gregory's, Crakehall to link PCCs across the Benefice.

Administrative information

St Michael and All Angels 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

- 2 Vacant Seats

Deanery Synod

- Norma Croft
- 1 Vacant Seat

Elected members:

- Digby Angus
- Margaret Crocker (resigned November)
- Graham Crocker
- 3 Vacant Seats

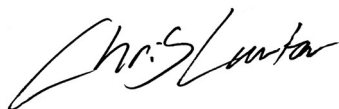
Officer

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

Electoral Roll

There were 24 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 7 are not resident within the parish.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 10/05/2026
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

Appendix 1

Parochial Church Council of St Michael & All Angels, Spennithorne

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving		8,575	-	8,575	7,440
Collections at Services		2,302	398	2,700	3,723
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1a	820	-	820	2,512
Gift Aid recovered		3,339	-	3,339	606
		<u>15,037</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>15,435</u>	<u>14,282</u>
Activities for generating funds		2,132	-	2,132	1,307
Investment income		287	561	847	687
Church activities	1b	746	-	746	1,391
Other Receipts		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts		<u>18,202</u>	<u>959</u>	<u>19,160</u>	<u>17,667</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		7,207		7,207	5,750
Clergy and staffing costs		1,875	-	1,875	1,480
Church running expenses	2a	6,113	-	6,113	4,000
Church Repairs & maintenance	2b	537	821	1,358	369
Mission giving and donations		155	-	155	77
		<u>15,887</u>	<u>821</u>	<u>16,707</u>	<u>11,676</u>
Cost of generating funds		<u>576</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>70</u>
Total payments		<u>16,462</u>	<u>821</u>	<u>17,283</u>	<u>11,747</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		1,739	138	1,877	5,921
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>17,182</u>	<u>13,404</u>	<u>30,586</u>	<u>24,666</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>18,922</u>	<u>13,542</u>	<u>32,464</u>	<u>30,586</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael & All Angels, Spennithorne

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash Funds				
HSBC Current Account	1,723	-	1,723	551
Unity Trust current account	3,957	-	3,957	5,608
Unity Trust deposit account	13,242	594	13,836	12,040
CBF Deposit Fund	-	12,948	12,948	12,387
	18,922	13,542	32,463	30,586

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	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/fwd
Restricted					
Organ Fund	2,411	129	-	-	2,540
Fabric Fund	10,993	830	(821)	-	11,002
	13,404	959	(821)	-	13,542

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts				
1a All other giving/voluntary receipts				
General donations	690	-	690	1,486
Donations Box	-	-	-	69
One-Offs donations via the PGS	130	-	130	-
Darnbrough Trust grant	-	-	-	207
Gift from Bedale PCC to help pay Parish Share	-	-	-	750
	820	-	820	2,512
1b Church activities				
Fees for weddings	390	-	390	371
Fees for funerals	356	-	356	1,020
	746	-	746	1,391
2a Church running expenses				
Electricity	494	-	494	488
Oil	1,308	-	1,308	1,112
Insurance	3,135	-	3,135	1,304
Upkeep of services	107	-	107	100
Bank Charges	114	-	114	126
Administration	954	-	954	507
Other church running expenses	-	-	-	362
	6,113	-	6,113	4,000
2b Church repairs and maintenance				
Servicing the clock	234	-	234	234
Roof repairs	-	485	485	-
Gutter cleaning	-	336	336	-
Boiler repairs	303	-	303	50
Servicing fire equipment	-	-	-	85
	537	821	1,358	369

St Michael & All Angels, Spennithorne Parochial Church Council**Independent examiner's report to the members on the unaudited financial statements of
St Michael & All Angels, Spennithorne
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 : John E Critchlow

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

Date : 18th 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.

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.

School Governors Report

None submitted as we continue to seek a volunteer to take on this role on behalf of the Rector.