

THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS' MARCHAM WITH ST. LUKE'S GARFORD
(registered charity no. 1140057)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Administrative Information

The Parish of Marcham with Garford (**The Parish**) is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary
c/o All Saints' Church, Church Street, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6NP

Church members who have served from 27th April 2025 until the date of this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Vicar:	Rev Nick Weldon (licensed 20 October 2021)
Curate:	Rev Phil Rowlandson (licensed June 2025)
Permission to officiate:	Rev. Kevin Mentzel, Rev. Mark Newman, Rev Rosemary Siebert, Rev Campbell Paget
Authorised to lead and preach:	Professor James Allan, Mrs Debbie Flint, Mr. James Gilbert, Dr Tim Jack, Mr Martin Poon, Mrs Jill Rowe
Children and Families Minister:	Jill Rowe
Youth Worker:	Rob Finch
Parish Administrator:	Tamsin Gilbert
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Ruth Atkins
Electoral Roll Officer:	Tamsin Gilbert
Churchwardens (2):	Chrystal Poon (from May 2022) Neil Rowe (until April 2025) Alison Lyndon (from April 2025)
Deanery Synod Reps (up to 3):	Tim Jack Caroline Manders James Gilbert
Elected PCC Members (up to 12):	Catherine Mentzel (from April 2023) PCC Sec Jonathan Boardman (from April 2024) Tamsin Gilbert (from April 2025) Sue Lawton (from April 2025) Neil Rowe (from April 2025) John Scoble (from April 2023) Bryan Eccles (From April 2024) James Allan (From April 2024) Mike Worthing (From April 2024) Vicki Tinkler (From April 2024) Hugh Lawton (From April 2024)

PCC Officers:

Chairman	Rev Nick Weldon
Vice Chairman	Chrystal Poon
Secretary	Catherine Mentzel
Treasurer	Hugh Lawton

Independent Examiner:

Mike Greig (2020-)

Structure, Governance & 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 PCC was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 26 January 2011. Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church of England.

All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. In April 2026, the Electoral Roll stood at 128 members (2025: 127).

The PCC met monthly during the year and the churchwardens and staff team met with the Vicar regularly.

Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to. The PCC also encourages its members to attend training events and money is set aside in the budget to facilitate this.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a vital part of the PCC role. The PCC ensures that safeguarding training and DBS checks are in place for all necessary activities and personnel. They comply fully with the diocesan safeguarding requirements and report any issues or concerns to the Diocesan Safeguarding team. The PCC uses 31:8 as their umbrella body for doing DBS checks. The Parish Safeguarding officer completes an annual report for the APCM. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting

Objectives

The PCC has the primary responsibility of promoting with the Vicar the whole mission of the church in the parish of Marcham and Garford. This includes pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical ministries to all in the Parish by 'Serving Christ Together.'

The PCC seeks to be renewed and empowered by God's Spirit. Whilst recognising the responsibility to be prudent stewards of our resources, seeking and responding to God's will as revealed in the Bible and in line with the traditions and canons of the Church of England is a key component in how the PCC manages its affairs.

Reserves

The PCC aims to operate within a budget determined by its annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. The agreed reserves policy is to hold three months basic operating costs in the general fund. This is to allow the church to continue to meet its financial obligations in the event of a disruption to its income stream. The church family are invited annually to review their regular giving and special appeals are launched for special projects as appropriate.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and cooperate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Review of the Year – Activities and Achievements (1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025)

Services:

All Saints', Marcham: This year we have held a range of services every Sunday morning, including All-Age, Family Communion, Holy Communion and Morning Praise; regular Sunday evening services of Holy Communion or Service of the Word; and a regular mid-week Holy Communion at Duffield Place. This year we started a regular monthly informal evening service. Attendance on a Sunday morning is usually between 70-100 adults, with up to 20 pre-school and primary aged children, and up to 15 youth . In December we also held special services including our Carols by Candlelight. Most of our normal Sunday morning services were live-streamed for anyone unable to make church.

St Luke's Church, Garford: A sub-committee from St. Luke's in Garford work together to run a programme of regular monthly and special services throughout the year. Highlights include the sunrise service in the churchyard on Easter

Day and the Harvest festival in September. There were also a number of services in December, including both Advent and Christmas Carols. The church is open weekly on Sunday mornings to provide a quiet space for parishioners to reflect and pray. The choir at St Luke's continue to support most services.

Other regular activities:

Children & Youth Work: Involvement in Marcham School (governors, classroom, R.E. support, annual Prayer Space, assemblies and services); Friday Club for 5s-11s and termly Family Friday events; Monday night Youth activity session on the MUGA at Marcham Community Centre; Children's and Young people's groups on Sundays (during services and in the evening); Holiday Club during the summer for Primary-aged children, with a team of Secondary-aged Young Leaders. This summer some of our young people also went to Big Church Festival, supported by our Youth team.

Older Persons support: Care for the older people within our Parish has continued through volunteers. The Games morning has now moved to meeting weekly. The Vicar also makes a point of visiting some of our older congregation.

Spiritual study and prayer: Home groups (9 of them) which meet weekly or fortnightly; Monthly whole-church prayer meetings; the Prayer Chain; Prayer for the persecuted church; A monthly women's Bible Study. 63% of adult church members attended homegroups this year.

Community activities: The Parish has continued to run a variety of activities open to the whole community including Men's Drinks & Breakfasts, Women's Evenings, Tiddlypeeps (baby and toddler group) and Remembrance and Christmas Events and Services. Church members provide the bulk of volunteers at Thirsty Café (the community café started by the church in 2020).

Other Church activities: a website (www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk); a Facebook page managed by Ruth Atkins. Funerals, weddings and baptisms were conducted as needed.

Charitable Fundraising: The church has continued to be involved in charitable fundraising, namely Ripple Effect (formerly Send a Cow) and Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Church Maintenance: The PCC has undertaken routine maintenance and improvement works to the church buildings during the year as needed. We have begun work to upgrade our electricity supply. The PCC is investigating how spaces at the east end of the church and at the west end (first floor) could be enlarged to better accommodate our various groups.

Financial Review of 2025

The PCC seeks to be good stewards of the financial resources placed in its care through the generous giving of church members and other income it receives in the form of grants and fees. Unless separately detailed below, Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

	2025	2024	
Surplus / (Deficit)	(35,973)	(£1,065)	
Unrestricted Funds	(22,346)	(£1,218)	
Restricted Funds	(13,627)	£153	Building, Ripple Effect, MML, Pastoral Funds
Total income	187,176	£289,639	
Unrestricted Funds	170,988	£180,235	
Restricted Funds	16,188	£109,404	Mainly Building
Total Expenditure	223,148	£290,704	
Unrestricted Funds	193,334	£181,452	
Restricted Funds	29,814	£109,252	Mainly Building

Unrestricted Expenditure Comments - % shown is of total expenditure in each year.

Parish Share 31% 59,284 34% £62,201 % of Unrestricted (General) Expenditure

The Vicar was appointed as Vicar of Fyfield and Tubney during 2024 and 2025 is the first full year of reduced

Parish Share allocation, which reflects in a reduction year-on-year, while the general trend in the deanery is upwards.

28% (£54,315) of the Unrestricted General expenditure in 2025 related to staff costs (2024 23% £41,603). The major change has been the cost of accommodation for the curate who commenced his appointment in June 2025. The Diocese contributes one quarter of the accommodation cost (rent & rates). Against this net accommodation cost of £10,606, we received Restricted grants of £6,250 and gifts of £1,000 so that the net accommodation cost was £3,356. Additionally, the cost of staff training is now included in reporting total staff costs.

Building Work

The Building for Community (BFC) Phase 1, developing an amazing new fully equipped kitchen, servery and new toilets, was completed part way through 2025. The PCC had designated £50,000 as being available to the work. After all the BFC income and expenses had been completed, £43,348 was transferred back into General Funds.

The building also required a new porch roof and door mat £12,200, repainting (incl Porch) £4,200 and we started the path to 3-Phase electric supply in anticipation of future electric needs £4,176. Those were the major items contributing to the General Fund deficit for the year of £22,346.

Cash Balances

The reduction in cash of approximately £35,000 reflects the £22,346 of building works and the completion of the Development work.

Overall planned unrestricted giving eligible for gift aid was £89,146 during 2025 (2024 £91,742). Generally, changes are as a result of donors moving out of the Parish and some passing away, replaced by new donors moving in, and changes in donations amounts from existing donors. In the first 4 months of 2026, we have seen material increases from new regular giving.

One-off unrestricted giving was £7,493 (2024 £2,724). By its very nature, this varies from year to year.

Gift Aid received on unrestricted gifts was £26,715 (2024 £24,908).

No legacies were received during 2025 or 2024.

We are extremely grateful for all donations and grants (see financial statements for grant details) received.

Risks and Uncertainties

The main financial risks to the church are perceived to be where:

- a) Giving to the church reduces or stops
- b) One or more significant donors stop giving
- c) unexpected damage to the church buildings occurs

The PCC takes a prayerful approach to managing these risks and holds reserves and appropriate insurance policies. The PCC also looks out for extra expenditure in the year and further ahead.

Approved by the Trustees on 22/04/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

N Weldon

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