

THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2025

Aims and Purpose

The PCC and the Vicar have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

The United Parish is now, with the neighboring parishes of Compton Martin and All Saints North Mendip (Blagdon and Ubley), working together as the benefice of Chew Valley South. The formal creation of the Chew Valley South Benefice has not happened as yet.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the three churches (if appointed) and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree, and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett.

The number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll remains unchanged at 53 people.

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2025 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our Parish community and to be completely inclusive in who is involved and attends. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and considers how our services can involve the different people and groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. 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; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is also important that the PCC maintain the fabric of the three churches in our Parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the Parish although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with Faculty and Grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversee and ensure

that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets 5 times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked and this is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition, there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Parish is Church Farm, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bristol BS40 6BD.

Membership of the UP PCC in 2025

Chair	Rev Katrina Dykes
Vicar	Rev Katrina Dykes
Secretary	Elaine Avery (Elected representative from West Harptree)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Cookson
Electoral Roll Officer	Elaine Avery
Treasurer	Guy Stobart (Churchwarden East Harptree)
Other Members	Hazel Rider and Gill Stobart (Elected Representatives from East Harptree), Christopher Burt (Elected Representative from West Harptree). Graham Sage (Point of contact at Hinton Blewett) is copied into PCC papers and consulted where appropriate. Frances O'Donohoe, a lay reader in our benefice who lives in East Harptree, also attends

Others Supporting the UP PCC

Safeguarding Officer	Gill Stobart
Parish News Editor	Gill Stobart
House Group	Richard Martin
Open the Book	Mary Cookson
Messy Church	Mary Cookson, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider, Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny

Benefice APCM report from Rev'd Katrina Dykes

In January our new worship pattern began to take effect. A monthly joint benefice service at Compton Martin on third Sundays has been greatly appreciated and we have enjoyed getting to know one another better. We have also joined together to worship on other occasions including during Holy Week and Advent with a combined choir for a special Advent Carol Service at East Harptree.

People from across the benefice met to journey together through Lent and Advent (in addition to the 2024 Advent groups which continued into the New Year to complete the book Women of the Nativity).

Gene Joyner and I participated in the Diocesan training Launchpad, for starting youth clubs in rural contexts with no or very small numbers of young people. The input was excellent and very inspiring. As a result, we have joined the team of volunteers to run Ubley Youth Club (weekly in term time). We see potential and would love to do more for youth in our villages, but at this time we do not have additional volunteers to make such a venture sustainable.

In April Archdeacon Charlie visited for a weekday and toured the benefice visiting schools, churches and meeting a number of different people. He returned for Sunday worship and meetings with PCC members and Lay-readers. People appreciated the opportunity to share the opportunities and challenges we face. This visit was part of a new process of Ministry Development Reviews for the Clergy.

In the spring we started a new service at Compton Martin called Families@4. The format has been a hit with those who have come along, but attendance has been inconsistent. We are considering what we can learn from this experience and how to take the project forward. In another part of the benefice, we have been looking to enliven the engagement of villagers in Hinton Blewett with their church. Family friendly events and services, including Easter family activities, Rogation walk and Christmas Eve have been particularly successful, and an Iona Communion was also appreciated. We are committed to work with the community going forward to develop a sustainable and imaginative pattern for worship.

Separate church reports will record the many wonderful events specific to each church and village. One to mention here was the Blagdon Church Open Day in August. This event was simply about engaging the local community in the church building and associated activities and there was no fundraising aspect. We provided opportunity for people to go up the tower, have a go at bellringing, playing the organ and flower arranging. There was a display linked to the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 by the History Society and a quiz using photos of the widows and other details of the church building. All washed down with tea and homemade cakes. All activities were inclusive of all ages and accessible to young and old (although there was a lower age limit on the tower tours). The event provides a model for other churches to consider running on an occasional basis.

We again offered a benefice pilgrimage in September, taking in all the churches, much enjoyed by those who took part. Also in September Frances O'Donohoe was received as a

Lay Reader into the Diocese and welcomed to serve in our benefice alongside Lucy, Nikki and Gene. The ministry of all four Lay Readers is appreciated by all our congregations.

At Harvest time we partnered with Yeo Valley to offer a service in the yurt at Holt Farm. This was very successful at drawing in local families who don't normally come to church. This is another event it would be good to replicate around the benefice.

Our ancient church buildings host many wonderful services and events, but the responsibility of their upkeep can be great. Regretfully, West Harptree had to be closed for a number of months due to a failure of the old heating system. However, due to sterling efforts to raise funds locally as well as successful applications for grants, a new system has now been installed (as of April 2026).

During the autumn we began to run two programmes.

1. Training for Lay Worship Assistants – five began the course, led by Phil Dykes and Frances O'Donohoe supported as an assistant leader.
2. Growing Rural - Phil Dykes and Helen Fenn are leading this programme which is designed to support and encourage rural multi-parish benefices in developing mission and ministry in their churches, covering areas of journey, discipleship, leadership and mission.

I trust that these programmes will inspire us to move forward together as we continue to develop a benefice culture and the ability to try and sustain new ministries.

Behind the scenes a communications working group has been developing ideas to improve how we communicate between our churches and beyond to our communities. A new website and logo are on the way to completion, which will improve our online presence. We are also looking at ways to develop our printed materials.

The Children and Families working group has been developing ways to engage and involve children in our regular services and providing materials and resources in children's areas. They have also worked together with the leaders and preachers to inform and plan the intergenerational services and events at festival times. As a result, East Harptree are developing an area at the front of the church for children to enjoy during services or when families call in to visit the church. Carefully chosen activities help families with young children explore the Christian story in each church season.

We have continued to build on the strong links with our local Church of England schools. One exciting project has been the development of a Collective Worship group at East Harptree. In addition to helping plan the weekly worship with me, they have written a school prayer and attended the Community Christmas Lunch in West Harptree. We plan to continue this group in East Harptree and start one in Ubley next year.

Advent and Christmas were exceedingly busy with services and events, many seeing record attendance. We encouraged people to support Blagdon schools Shoe Box Appeal. The Christmas card with details of services for the benefice was delivered to almost every home in each of the villages and was greatly appreciated by many.

Looking ahead:

We will feel the loss of Rachel Branston keenly. Her dedication to supporting the worship of our churches has resulted in many memorable services and events. Her reach has been wide across all ages, and she has brought musicians together for ensembles, and choirs for special services and concerts. Rachel has given generously and freely of her time, skills, friendship and creativity. We have been so blessed and will greatly miss her.

There is no immediate replacement for Rachel and we need to be exploring new ways to bring music into our worship, whether that be local musicians in the villages, paying for occasional organists or using recorded resources. Saying that we are blessed in the benefice to enjoy the benefit of Tricia Rees-Jones, Musical Director for the United Parish and the choir she leads. Whilst there are no plans to extend Tricia's role more broadly, I hope there will be opportunities for her and the United Parish choir to bless services in other churches with their presence, during the coming year.

I look forward to hearing about the fruit of the Growing Rural conversations and how that aligns with my own learning and fresh thinking from time away on Sabbatical. We plan to meet on 3rd October, to discern priorities for the way forward together and what the next steps will be. Please come!

The autumn will also see new Lay Worship Assistants and a Lay Funeral Minister, commended at a special service. It will be great to see how they will enrich our benefice life.

We have a growing appetite for what we would like to see and do across our churches, but our resources are not up to meeting our ambitions. We have gaps in the roles and responsibilities we already need people to do, and the financial situation across the benefice is critical. I will therefore be working with others to lead Stewardship Programmes in the autumn for Blagdon and Compton Martin.

This only goes to highlight the need to develop and deepen the prayer life of the benefice this year with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, allowing it to fill our hearts and shape our lives.

Rev'd Katrina Dykes
April 2026

Activities

Outreach

Our monthly lunch club for seniors in West Harptree hall is still much appreciated by those who attend, albeit in fewer numbers than in the past. We started a new initiative in March 2025. *Thank Cake It's Friday* takes place every first Friday of the month in St. Laurence Church, East Harptree. Tea and cake is served and there are craft activities for children as well as our now permanent children's corner which is well-stocked with toys, games and books. Numbers vary, but it is proving popular with a good cross section of the community baking cakes, helping and coming along, including a decent number of families.

Our musical tradition continues with a fine range of concerts in our churches which are well supported by the wider community, and which often serve to showcase and encourage younger musicians.

Hinton Blewett church, whilst hosting a smaller number of services, plays its part by hosting several village activities through the year.

Our fund raising across all three of the parish's churches continues – including fêtes, coffee mornings, lunches, suppers and pavement sales. Not only do they raise money to keep our church buildings open, they are an important part of our engagement with our communities.

House Group

The House Group continues to meet fortnightly and has benefitted from Gervaise and Frances O'Donohoe joining us and leading our discussions, together with Diana Martin. Since I last wrote we have studied John's Gospel and by the time you read this we will be into the Acts of the Apostles.

We meet at Sakura, Church Lane, East Harptree, we have plenty of chairs, so if you feel like joining us we can always find space.

We have fun!

Richard Martin

Reflective Prayer

A short period of Reflective Prayer takes place in St Laurence every Thursday. It is much appreciated by the loyal few who attend. We would be delighted if others could join us at 3.20pm for a short bible reflection after which we share some thoughts and prayers.

Open the Book and Messy Church

Open the Book and Messy Church continue to foster our outreach work with children alongside weekly Collective Worship sessions in church.

Our loyal OTB team continue to share a bible story with all the school children each term, encouraging them to join in. We believe that sharing bible teaching in this way is really important and the children enjoy responding to the stories, which we try to link to the school's termly value.

Messy Church, which follows on from OTB as an afterschool session at the school, continues to be very popular, with as many as half the school population participating on occasions.

We have a loyal team who have developed good relationships with the children. We were immensely saddened by the death of Tilly Joskey, who had been a valued member of the team for many years.

Mary Cookson.

St Laurence, East Harptree

The church is in generally good repair following the Project Newton capital works in 2023 and 2024 but being an old building there is never room for complacency. The church is frequently visited and is being used for a number of community events.

Services are consistently well attended, and we have been encouraged by the number of people who have come to special services, like Advent and Christmas carols, Christmas

Communion and Christmas Morning Celebration as well as Mothering Sunday and Easter services. The involvement of some children from the school singing at our Christmas Carol service was particularly joyful and we are glad to enjoy live music in all our services. We have improved provision for our children and families in a 'children's area' and we hope to improve this further once Project Newton is completed.

Significant historic stones discovered during the Project Newton works are now displayed in the north west corner of the church and the steps to the footpath on the northern border of the churchyard are also in place.

Work on the interpretation aspects of Project Newton continue, notably on the touchscreens and website as well as noticeboards in the churchyard and some information boards in the church. We are hoping that the project can finally come to an end during 2026.

The churchyard continues to be expertly managed by EHEG. It is encouraging to see the Spring bulbs which have been planted developing strongly and spreading.

The boiler is still working but we will need to consider a different heating system soon.

The School House Trust continues to support Christian Education in East Harptree and it is hoped that funds may also be able to support outreach work with children and families.

Certainly more funds should be available once Project Newton is complete and the support from the Trust is no longer needed.

Mary Cookson and Guy Stobart

St Mary's West Harptree

In a major move towards net zero, a Faculty was granted to decommission the old heating apparatus and install a new infra-red heating system. Final costs are expected to be c. £55k which it is hoped can be met from donations and fund raising, coupled with a West of England Combined Authority Green Business Grant and a Diocesan Quick Wins Grant. At the same time, low energy LED lamps will be fitted to all existing lights. In liaison with B&NES Council, steps are being taken to make the churchyard more wildlife friendly. It is planned to install an internet connection this Spring.

The QI was carried out in October. All Health & Safety policies were reviewed during the year and all required safety testing was carried out.

Elaine Avery on behalf of St Mary's VCC

St Margaret's Hinton Blewett

The building remains in good order and well cared for, whilst the volunteers on the flower rota ensure that the church looks welcoming even though there are less regular services held. As reported last year, the organ is due to be removed, once this can be arranged. The churchyard has continued to be sensitively cared for by nearly 20 volunteers and to assist a new mower and strimmer were purchased during the year, as it is important to make the job of maintaining the churchyard as easy as possible. The church has had the relevant inspections carried out during the year and has recently appointed a new architect to succeed Alan Thomas.

The church has enjoyed playing host to a number of one-off services, some more successful than others, and was once again the beneficiary of a successful fete. A full programme of

services and events for 2026 is already well advanced in terms of planning and it is hoped that members of the benefice can be persuaded to come and find St Margaret's.

Graham Sage

Music

The choir has continued to support the regular pattern of weekly services. Building on the plans expressed in last year's report, we have established a much closer connection with the school with the Director of Music working with the KS2 classes to produce an outstanding school carol concert with 20 of the pupils then repeating their favourite song at the parish Carol Service after the end of term. It is hoped to build on this relationship further embedding the link between school and parish music. The successful partnership with the choir of North Mendip continued with a combined choir for the Advent Carol service and it is hoped that this fruitful relationship will continue in the future. In July we held our first Come and Sing evensong event which was very successful, drawing 100 singers from the benefice and beyond. With many of those singers requesting a repeat, we hope to do just that in 2026, demonstrating that liturgical choral music is very much alive and well locally.

Tricia Rees-Jones

Safeguarding

We will all be aware, more than ever before, how important it is that, not only do all of those in our church family feel safe but are safe. This means creating a culture where all understand what safeguarding is, how abuse might present itself and what to do if there are concerns. This means that safeguarding is the responsibility of all within the Church family, not just those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults. It's important to note that safeguarding is not only about children and young people. The majority of referrals to the diocesan safeguarding team are to do with adults and are around domestic abuse, mental health and dementia.

We do this by making sure that all those working with children and young people and, if appropriate, certain work with vulnerable adults, are safely recruited and have the necessary DBS checks. Training is paramount and all those who have any role within the church family are asked to undertake the appropriate level of training for their role every three years.

Our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed on an annual basis, the appropriate safeguarding notices are displayed in all our three churches and the appropriate information is on websites where we have a presence.

The United Parish is working with the other two parishes in our benefice to ensure that there is a consistent approach to safeguarding, including the adoption of benefice safeguarding policies.

Parish News

It's important that our local Church serves the whole community, not only those who regularly worship in our church buildings. Part of our service is to produce Parish News

once a month (as a printed magazine), giving all subscribers (approx. 300 households across the United Parish) information about church and community activities as well as articles of church and local interest. Numbers of subscribers do fall each year and we will get to a point where we need to consider a different approach and start to shift, at least in part, to a digital offer.

Gill Stobart

Financial Review

This is covered in the separate financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
set out on pages 2 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed..... *K Milh* Dated..... *15/04/26*

Name: *KUMA MILBOURN @ Klm Accounting Services Limited.*

Qualification: *CA at Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland*

Address: *Klm Accounting Services Limited,
Little Gables, Battle Lane, Chew Magna, Bristol, BS40 9PX.*

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree
and Hinton Blewett.**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis					
<u>Voluntary receipts</u>					
Planned giving	19,040	1,080		20,120	19,710
Collections at services	3,340	-		3,340	4,497
All other giving	6,468	31,747	90	38,305	14,045
Grants	-	72,404		72,404	36,670
Gift Aid recovered	5,565	271		5,836	6,280
	<u>34,413</u>	<u>105,502</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>140,005</u>	<u>81,202</u>
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>	1,012	13,004		14,016	15,228
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>	9,369	790		10,160	7,999
<u>Investment Income</u>	389	2,721		3,110	3,936
<u>Other Receipts</u>	-	-			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>45,183</u>	<u>122,017</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>167,200</u>	<u>108,365</u>
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	31,573			31,573	21,200
Clergy, organists and administration	12,496			12,496	7,506
Church running expenses	6,343	103,334		109,677	76,969
Outward giving	1,305	853		2,158	1,184
Costs of generating funds	-	317		317	1,919
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>51,717</u>	<u>104,504</u>		<u>156,222</u>	<u>108,778</u>
Net receipts / (payments)	<u>(6,534)</u>	<u>17,513</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>10,978</u>	<u>(413)</u>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	(1,169)	(1,490)		-2659	9,092
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	<u>(7,703)</u>	<u>16,023</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>8,319</u>	<u>8,679</u>
Fund balances at 1 January	126,382	134,852	479	261,713	253,032
Transfers between funds					
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	<u>118,679</u>	<u>150,875</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>270,033</u>	<u>261,713</u>

Approved online by the PCC

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value						
Accumulation units	98,940				98,940	100,108
Income units				35,093	35,093	36,854
	98,940			35,093	134,033	136,962
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	36,237	53,182	6,170	2,736	98,324	94,303
CBF Deposit Fund		2	18,696	18,977	37,675	39,053
	36,237	53,184	24,866	21,714	135,999	133,356
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loan from Diocese						(8,334)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	135,176	53,184	24,866	56,807	270,032	261,714
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
<u>Opening balances</u>						
Restricted	479				479	817
Designated	1,405	48,813	27,142	57,492	134,852	137,756
Unrestricted	126,382				126,382	114,459
	128,266	48,813	27,142	57,492	261,713	253,032
Result for the year	8,079	4,371	(2,276)	805	10,979	(412)
Investment gains/(losses)	(1,169)		-	(1,490)	(2,659)	9,092
	135,176	53,184	24,866	56,807	270,033	261,713
<u>Closing balances</u>						
Restricted	569				569	479
Designated	28,242	53,184	24,866	56,807	163,099	134,852
Unrestricted	106,365				106,365	126,382
	135,176	53,184	24,866	56,807	270,033	261,713
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	100,108			36,583	136,691	127,599
Investments sold						
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(1,168)			(1,490)	-2658	9,092
Market values 31 December	98,940			35,093	134,033	136,691

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree
and Hinton Blewett**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted</u>						
Planned givings - STOs	19,040			1,080	20,120	19,710
Collections at services	3,340				3340	4,497
Other donations	870				870	4,778
CM/All Saints contributions	5,598				5598	1,988
Gift Aid recovered	5,565				5565	5,232
	34,413			1,080	35,493	36,205
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated</u>						
Other donations	17,718	11,115	2,178	736	31,747	7,279
Gift Aid recovered	271				271	1,048
Grants	8,163	64,141		100	72404	36,670
	26,152	75,256	2,178	836	104,422	44,997
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Magazine advertising	1,012				1012	1,526
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Fund raising	379	4,528	6,041	2,056	13,004	13,702
<u>Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Fees	6,590	235	555		7,380	5,647
Magazine sales	2,780				2780	2,352
	9,369	235	555		10,160	7,999
<u>Investment income - Unrestricted</u>						
Realised gains on disposal						
Interest & dividends	389	0	914	1,807	3,110	3,936
	389	0	914	1,807	3,110	3,936
Total Receipts	71,715	80,019	9,687	5,779	167,200	108,365

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
<u>Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Diocesan parish share	31,573				31,573	21,200
<u>Clergy, organists & administration</u>						
UP Administrator						504
Benefice Administrator	5,820				5,820	2,021
Organists	3,611				3,611	3,146
Rector's expenses	1,555				1,555	1,378
Benefice Expenses	1,510				1,510	457
	12,497				12,496	7,506
<u>Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted</u>						
Equipment purchases	186			905	1,091	
Magazine printing	3,025				3,025	2,968
Phone, copier, stationery etc						144
Other church running costs	2,227				2,227	2,468
	5,438			905	6,343	5,580
<u>Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Donations/Events distributed	2,515				2,515	
Heat, light, water, insurance		3,881	2,648	2,463	8,991	8,687
Equipment purchases		2,184			2,184	940
Maintenance		1,966	9,150	1,408	12,524	6,107
Other church running costs		79		198	277	4,451
E Harptree - Newton project		67,309			67,309	48,783
WH Heating Project	8,322				8,322	
Visiting Clergy	493				493	412
Professional fees	720				720	2,009
	12,050	75,417	11,798	4,069	103,334	71,389
<u>Outward giving - Unrestricted</u>						
Charitable donations	1,305				1,305	170
<u>Outward giving - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Charitable donations	773	80			853	1,014
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Fund raising expenses		152	165		317	1,919
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Total Payments	63,636	75,649	11,963	4,974	156,222	108,778
Receipts from page 4	71,715	80,019	9,687	5,779	167,200	108,365
Net Result for the year	8,079	4,370	(2,276)	805	10,978	(413)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree & Hinton Blewett

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

2. Fund accounting - unrestricted / designated funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church.

3. Fund accounting - restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor. There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree, West Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which has involved major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project also involves a number of activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group and Learning Partnership West (an Alternative Learning Provider based in South Bristol). The project is ongoing and not due to complete until later in 2026. However practical completion of the capital works was achieved in 2023 and snagging was completed in January 2025. The National Heritage Lottery Fund have increased their financial support to the project to cover a large part of the cost overruns on the capital works and to enable some small additional and complementary works to be undertaken. The final payment to the main contractor, Ellis and Co, for the principal capital works was made in February 2025.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses and started 2025 with a balance of £479. During 2025 there was a receipt from a funeral of £90 so the balance at the end of the year totalled £569.

West Harptree Heating Project

During 2025 fund raising started in earnest towards a new heating system for West Harptree church. A grant from the Diocese of Bath and Wells Quick Wins Fund of £8163 was received by the PCC towards the costs, plus other donations from individuals. The PCC paid an invoice in relation to this project of £8322.

4. Outward giving by PCC during 2025

International Nepal Fellowship	£548
Royal British Legion	£225
Friends of Somerset Churches	£50
Bath and Wells Bell Ringers Association	£40
InHope	£574
Tear Fund	£641

6. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2025

Results

For the overall United Parish, receipts exceeded payments, with an overall surplus of £10,978 (for 2024 there was a deficit of £413). These continue, however, to be exceptional figures which continue to be distorted by the donations and grants and expenditure on Project Newton and more recently the grants and donations in relation to the new West Harptree heating system. Unrealised losses on investments amounting to £2,659 (compared to unrealised gains in 2024 of £9,092) as at the year end further distorted the situation.

Excluding investment losses, the PCC alone showed a net surplus of £8,079 (there was a surplus of £6,723 in 2024), East Harptree showed a net surplus of £4,370 (it was a net deficit of £15,839 in 2024), West Harptree made a loss of £2,276 (there was a surplus of £5,339 in 2024) and Hinton Blewett a surplus of £805 (it was a surplus of £3,366 in 2024).

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £167,200 (2024 - £108,365) with Project Newton and the West Harptree heating project distorting these figures.

Planned giving appears stable at £20,120 (£19,710 in 2024), but this masks a further decline as £1,080 of the planned giving is in fact designated for one of our churches. Church collections decreased to £3,340 (£4,497 in 2024).

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £156,222 (£108,778 in 2024), with £75,631 of this relating to Project Newton and the West Harptree heating project. It is also worth noting that due to a timing issue the parish share figure in these accounts is £2870 less than the overall Parish Share attributable to 2025 with £2870 attributable to December 2025 being paid in January 2026.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2026

Combined reserves appear strong at £270,033 (£261,713 at the end of 2024) but they will decline in 2026 with further expenditure on Project Newton and the West Harptree heating project and the anticipated ongoing shortfall of receipts against payments in 2026 for the PCC – the PCC has committed to pay Parish Share of at least £34,443 in 2026 which is more than Planned Giving, Collections and Gift Aid recovered in 2025 and takes no account of other expenses borne by the PCC (Rector's expenses, Benefice Administrator, Organist, Outward Giving etc). The reduction in the unrestricted fund balances of the PCC by £7.7k during 2025 is further evidence of the decline in the financial position of the PCC.

As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all. That giving is the backbone of the PCC financing and the payment of our Parish Share and PCC expenses. If anyone is considering giving to the PCC it would be hugely appreciated: please do get in touch with me about this. Likewise if any current donors were minded to increase their giving that also would be hugely appreciated.

Guy Stobart
April, 2026