



The Parish of Hethe, Bicester

Address for correspondence:

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Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2025

Rector:

The Reverend Alice Goodall (up to 10th August)

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford, Bicester

Our web site:

www.hethe.org/st-edmunds-st-georges-church/

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parochial Church Council of St Edmund and St George Hethe

Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December 2025

Aim and Purposes

Hethe Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This has been achieved with the assistance of the Shelswell Benefice team under the direction of the Rector, the Revd Alice Goodall, up to her retirement on 10th August. The position of Rector has been vacant since her retirement.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Grade II Listed Church of St Edmund and St George in Hethe. The Church is part of the Shelswell Benefice and works with other parishes in the Benefice to provide a variety of worship opportunities and other events.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the church community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve all who live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We are also committed to being fully part of the community and taking our place in the building of good relationships with all who reside in the Parish. To facilitate this work, it is important that the church building is maintained to as high a standard as is financially possible.

We are grateful to the Archdeacon of Dorchester, the Venerable David Tyler, for his involvement in an open village meeting held in June to gauge parish support for the future of the church. In summary, the meeting was useful as people took the opportunity to state how much they value the church and would not wish to see it close. It was stressed that, although there is a shortage of money, without people who are willing to help with the day to day running of the church it will not survive.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC, as part of the Shelswell Benefice, is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, early morning communion provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for families with younger children to worship in a more relaxed style, this includes a lay-led service held every second month.

The following were the services held in 2025 with the previous year's figures in brackets:

- Sixteen (twenty) regular Sunday services were held in our church with an average attendance of seven (seven)
- A Maundy Thursday service when thirteen attended
- Easter Sunday - sixteen attended (fourteen)
- Remembrance Day – twenty-six gathered at the War Memorial
- Christmas Day - thirty-seven (thirty-five).

Harvest Festival and Plough Sunday services were held in neighbouring villages in conjunction with other churches in the benefice.

The church was closed for services and visitors for part of the year while internal works were undertaken. Services were held in neighbouring churches, except for the lay led service which was held in the village hall.

All are welcome to attend our services. At present there are fourteen parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. 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 and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. There were three baptisms (an average attendance of 41), no weddings and one funeral (attendance of 44) in the church in 2025.

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC attends meetings of the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Church Fabric

We are pleased that internal render repairs over the Chancel Arch and general gutter & roofing repairs and alterations and improvements to rainwater management over the north and south aisles have been completed. More render repairs are required when the walls have fully dried. There were insufficient funds for further outstanding works – i.e. west window repairs including stonework (£15,495) and redecoration of the nave (cost of £13,389 including re-plastering).

Long term plans to improve the heating and installation of a water supply would be considered after repairs had been completed.

The last Quinquennial Inspection took place in January 2020 and the next has been delayed to 2026 due to the building works. Priority one repairs have been completed. Other repairs had not been undertaken due to lack of funds.

Churchyard

The long-term vision is to preserve the churchyard as a special, sacred place, remembering that if we turn it entirely over to nature, we forget the work of past generations who cared for it, and we could impede access to graves and for on-going burials. The churchyard was cut in October by a contractor. Limbs of the walnut tree had dropped during the dry summer.

Pastoral Care. Where members of our Parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age, a member of the Ministry Team has been available to visit all who have requested it, either at home or in hospital and where appropriate and possible, communion is celebrated.

Mission and Evangelism

The monthly Benefice magazine keeps parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and communities. Church services and news for the parish are recorded on the benefice, village and "A Church Near You" web sites and village Facebook pages and details of the church are included on the Explore Churches web site. A varied collection of books is available in the church for anyone to borrow. Food is also donated and is available in the church for anyone in need.

Ecumenical Relationships

A joint Christmas Carol service has been held for many years with worshipers from the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the village. In 2025 it was held in the Holy Trinity Church with an Anglican Licensed Lay Minister from the Shelswell Benefice and a Catholic priest from Bicester.

PCC members and members of the congregation from the Catholic Church organise and run monthly coffee mornings which rotate between Hethe Village Hall and St Philip's Hall at the Holy Trinity Church.

Eco Church

The church has a Silver Eco Church award. Prayers and hymns relating to God's earth were included in regular services.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. There had been no safeguarding issues raised during the year. All PCC members have been given Basic Awareness Training.

Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted General Fund were £14,740, and payments from this fund totalled £11,985, giving a small surplus of £2,754. We are grateful for a donation of £2,000 which was gift aided resulting in a gift of £2,500.

Total receipts on the restricted funds were £12,298, and payments from this fund totalled £13,142 resulting in a small deficit of £844. We have applied for a refund of £1,941 for VAT payments on building works but this was not paid in 2025.

Income from the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders and collections at services increased by £611. QR Codes are publicised to encourage on-line giving.

The contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share – which helps towards the cost of stipends and housing costs for the clergy – increased by 3% this year. So far we have been able maintain our practice of giving 100% of the amount requested.

The PCC are grateful to everyone involved in the increased activities to raise funds this year, although the total amount raised fell by £1,334.

The PCC are grateful to the eighteen people who contributed through regular giving, the thirty-one 100 Club members, those who attended services and gave to collections and additional one-off donations in 2025. We are also grateful to the Oxford Diocese for a grant under the Minor Repairs and Improvement Fund and the Benefact Trust under their Building Improvement Grants scheme.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to keep in reserves approximately three months running costs and a contingency for future maintenance of the fabric and contents of the church, totalling £10,550.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a special place in the community. They undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing flowers, to raising funds, to being members of the PCC – all are thanked for their work.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Edmund and St George, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), a churchwarden, a Deanery Synod Representative and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the parish. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and if appropriate to stand for election to the PCC.

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. The PCC held four regular meetings during the year, in addition to a Meeting of Parishioners (MOP) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The PCC has no sub-committees.

Administrative Information

The Church of St Edmund and St George is part of the Bicester and Islip Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester which is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate with code 627041 (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2025 are:

Ex Officio members:

Revd Alice Goodall (Chair) up to 10th August
Mrs Flora Skinner (Vice Chair, Churchwarden & Safeguarding Officer)
Mrs Helen Pritchard (Deanery Synod Representative)

Elected members:

Mr Michael Green (Secretary, Treasurer & Electoral Roll Officer)
Mrs Pauline O’Gorman
Mrs Helen Wood
Mrs June Nisbet

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Receipts and Payments a/c

	Note	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fabric fund £	Restricted Churchyard Maintenance £	Restricted 100 Cub £	Restricted 2025 Q1 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
RECEIPTS								
Voluntary receipts								
Regular giving	1	8,990	0	0	0	0	8,990	8,388
Other voluntary receipts	2	3,678	11,639	100	0	0	15,417	1,456
Activities for generating funds	3	1,551	0	0	559	0	2,110	3,444
			0	0	0	0	0	
Investment income		56	0	0	0	0	56	45
Income from church activities	4	464	0	0	0	0	464	0
Total receipts		14,740	11,639	100	559	0	27,038	13,333
PAYMENTS								
Cost of generating funds	5	269	0	0	517	0	786	908
Church activities	6	11,716	12,128	497	0	0	24,341	15,225
Total payments		11,985	12,128	497	517	0	25,127	16,133
Excess of receipts over payments								
		2,754	-489	-397	42	0	1,911	-2,800
TRANSFERS								
Transfers between funds		-200	0	0	0	200	0	0
Net movement in funds (after transfers)		2,554	-489	-397	42	200	1,911	0
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS								
Total cash funds at 1 January		9,474	933	0	70	800	11,277	12,944
Total cash funds at 31 December		12,029	445	-397	112	1,000	13,188	11,277

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fabric fund £	Restricted Churchyard Maintenance £	Restricted 100 Club	Restricted 2025 Q1	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
1 Regular giving							
Parish Giving	4,417	0	0	0	0	4,417	4,151
Planned giving by Standing Order	1,290	0	0	0	0	1,290	880
Collections at services	1,471	0	0	0	0	1,471	1,536
Other recurring donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid recovered	1,812	0	0	0	0	1,812	1,821
	8,990	0	0	0	0	8,990	8,388
2 Other voluntary receipts							
Grants	0	9,039	0	0	0	9,039	0
Non-recurring donations and appeals	3,178	2,600	100	0	0	5,878	1,456
Gift Aid recovered	500	0	0	0	0	500	
	3,678	11,639	100	0	0	15,417	1,456
3 Activities for generating funds							
100 Club	516	0	0	559	0	1,075	
Sale of Honey	120	0	0	0	0	120	
Spring Fair	29	0	0	0	0	29	
Village Fete Raffle	557	0	0	0	0	557	
Concert in Church	220	0	0	0	0	220	
Christmas Cards	60	0	0	0	0	60	
Raffle at Carol Service	50	0	0	0	0	50	
	1,551	0	0	559	0	2,110	3,444
4 Income from church activities							
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	464	0	0	0	0	464	0
	464	0	0	0	0	464	0
5 Cost of generating funds							
100 Club Prizes	0	0	0	517	0	517	
Raffle Prize	100	0	0	0	0	100	
Concert in Church	70	0	0	0	0	70	
Christmas Cards	99	0	0	0	0	99	
	269	0	0	517	0	786	908
6 Church activities							
Donation to OHCT	25	0	0	0	0	25	25
Parish Share	7,801	0	0	0	0	7,801	7544
Clergy and staff expenses	1,578	0	0	0	0	1,578	1578
Electricity	550	0	0	0	0	550	1460
Insurance	1,568	0	0	0	0	1,568	1,534
Fire Inspection	74	0	0	0	0	74	64
Gutter Clean	120	0	0	0	0	120	120
Restoration	0	12,128	0	0		12,128	0
Churchyard Maintenance	0	0	497	0	0	497	2,900
	11,716	12,128	497	0	0	24,341	15,225

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fabric fund £	Restricted Churchyard Maintenance £	Restricted 100 Club fund £	Restricted 2025 QI	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds							
Bank current account	10,306	336	-407	112	1,000	11,347	9,326
CBF Deposit Fund	1,235	0	0	0	0	1,235	1,179
Cash	488	109	10	0	0	607	772.77
	12,029	445	-397	112	1,000	13,188	11,277
Other monetary assets							
Gift aid to be claimed	839	0	0	0	0	839	863.26
Claim for refund of VAT	0	1,941	0	0	0	1,941	0
	839	1,941	0	0	0	2,780	863.26
Liabilities							
Hethe Village Hall Hire	16	0	0	0	0	16	0
	16	0	0	0	0	16	0

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the PCC on the 21 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Flora Skinner
(Church Warden/Vice Chair of PCC)

Mr Michael Green
(Secretary/Treasurer)