

# The Parish of St Martin of Tours, Exminster

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

## Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Vanessa Pestrige  
The Rectory, Milbury Lane, Exminster EX6 8AD



## Bank

National Westminster Bank  
59 High Street  
EXETER EX4 3DL

## Investment Funds

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
The CBF Church of England Funds  
ONE Angel Lane  
LONDON EC4R 3AB

## Independent Examiner

Belinda Newton  
59 Miller Way  
EXMINSTER EX6 8TH

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity



# **The Parochial Church Council of St Martin of Tours, Exminster**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

### **Aim and Purpose**

The Parochial Church Council of St Martin of Tours (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest in Charge, the Reverend Vanessa Pestrige, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church, which is a Grade I Listed Building. St Martin's is part of the "Five Red Churches" Mission Community comprising St Andrew's Kenn, All Saints' Kenton, St Thomas' Mamhead, St Clement's Powderham, and St Martin's Exminster. The church is part of the Deanery of Kenn and the Diocese of Exeter.

### **Objectives and Activities**

We are committed to:

- Enabling as many people as possible to encounter Jesus and explore faith. We are a church for the whole community of Exminster.
- Strengthening community and deepening relationships within the church family and wider community, taking seriously Jesus' words to love as we have received loved.
- Supporting people to live out their faith, equipping them to bring and be the good news of Jesus in their everyday lives.

We aim to do this by:

- Offering a diversity of ways of worship, prayer, sacraments, music and engaging with scripture together, both on Sundays and throughout the week.
- Equipping the church to live out their faith distinctively, confident to offer their own faith story to others as they share God's love with others.
- Growing a culture of serving one another, where all who are willing are invited to serve in some way within the church family and the wider community of Exminster.
- Engaging specifically with children and families, to encourage discipleship and support the church in growing younger.
- Offering pastoral support and care to those living in Exminster Parish.

### **Public Benefit**

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities, for the advancement of our religion.

## Worship and Mission

2025 has been a year of continued growth for St. Martins. We continue to be served by Rev. Vanessa Pestrige, who was licensed to us in September 24 as priest in charge across the Five Red Churches Benefice but with the diocesan directive to serve her ministry primarily in Exminster. The Bishops have also made her new role more pioneering with a clear remit to engage with those outside of church. The benefice continues to benefit from two non-stipendiary priests overseeing Kenton with Mamhead and Kenn.

Alongside Vanessa, the church is especially blessed to have a ministry team of Richard Jeffery and David Robinson as retired clergy and John Trickett as a licensed lay minister. In 2025 Faith Wood retired as our licensed lay minister after 23 years of faithful service. Richard has also been invaluable as our organist alongside Colin Ellis and the new music group led by Jo and Matt Wilkey. We have a dedicated team of PCC volunteers who give oversight and leadership for the church.

The congregation at St. Martin's serve one another in so many ways. Particular thanks go to those who serve in our Sunday services as welcomers, host refreshments, lead our prayers, offer prayer ministry and read scripture. Thank you to those who provide lifts for one another, clean the church, arrange flowers for special services and ensure the church is properly prepared for services. We now offer a range of volunteer led mid week groups and courses. This year we launched two alpha courses, for people exploring faith and our first Bereavement Journey accredited course, supporting those who have suffered a bereavement. Many commit to pray for the life of the church throughout the week alongside our weekly prayer meeting.

In response to our community feedback in 2024, our services now cater for a diversity of worship styles with Sunday mornings alternating between Eucharistic services (with traditional liturgy / choir led music) and All Together Morning worship with a more informal style and a music group). All our 10am Sunday services have provision for children, either within the service or through separate children's groups. We also offer Connect a fortnightly, informal, cafe style evening gathering, in Immanuel Chapel. By the end of 2025 we have seen our services grow by an average of 50% and to an average of 13 children attending by the end of the year. The Eucharist is also celebrated each Wednesday, attracting an average congregation of 15 and we support both care homes in the village with monthly praise services alongside our Methodist friends. Throughout the year we have also offered alternative services for Baby Loss Awareness week, Taize and Kingdom Come, a contemporary worship and prayer evening. We enjoy our ecumenical services with our Methodist friends as well as our Mission Community Celebrations across the Benefice. We love to serve the community for their Life Events and have had 5 baptisms, 5 funerals, 1 wedding and 1 wedding renewal in the church in 2025.

As in previous years our festival services continue to be a core part of life in Exminster and this year numbers across our Christmas services (Christingle, Carols, Crib, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day) attracted 798 people, a significant increase from 2024.

The church community also meets outside of services and groups for monthly ladies' lunches, men's breakfasts and coffee mornings - all wonderful ways to love and care for each other. A highlight of the year was also our Summer Garden Party in the vicarage garden. This was not a fundraising event but a chance to enjoy time together and be open to the wider community. It was wonderfully attended, with activities for all ages including bell ringing, tower tours, live music and even a bouncy castle.

We continue to work closely with Exminster Green Spaces, to promote biodiversity through creating and preserving natural spaces for wildlife in the churchyard. Special thanks to Linda Thorley for overseeing the community allotments this year. We are delighted that, thanks to many hours of volunteering, many of the overgrown plots are now cleared and used by both private individuals and our newly formed and thriving Exminster Community Kitchen Garden project thriving. This project allows any members of the wider community to join in for outdoor connection, friendship and learning.

This year we have been working towards our plan to make our physical space more accessible and usable for a wider range of people and purposes. We have identified key areas as our greatest need: a toilet, kitchen facilities, more multi-use space, a more welcoming and accessible entrance, improved storage and improved audio visual provision. Through this time of transition, we have taken time to really listen to each other about our hopes and fears for the church as well as listening to our wider community through a community survey that received over 200 responses. This has really helped us see what we are doing well and new areas where we could explore in our services and wider ways we serve the community. We are using this to form our vision, values and prior

## **Connect**

Connect is a distinct registered CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) affiliated to St. Martins. Connect CIO has its own funds used especially for maintaining its outreach work. St. Martin's PCC work closely with Connect Trustees to best support the needs of the wider community. Connect, very generously, financially supported our new Children and Families Lead and have given to our summer vicarage garden party and holiday club as well. Connect also oversee the Immanuel chapel that they gift us to use rent free for mid week groups and courses. (See Connect Annual Report separately online for more information)



## **Children and Families**

Throughout the year, our children's ministry has continued to flourish, providing a safe and welcoming environment for children to learn about faith, friendship, and community. During the Sunday morning Explorers sessions, held at the vicarage, we have established a nice structure to the sessions that includes games, bible stories, crafts, discussion time, and interactive prayer. We now separate into two age groups for part of the session, enabling us to deliver the session more effectively and at an age appropriate level. Attendance is steadily increasing, with a few quieter Sundays, and positive feedback from families reflected the value of these sessions in nurturing both spiritual growth and social skills, with one parent commenting "It's so nice not to have to drag my children along to church, they are always excited and ready to go on a Sunday morning".

We have also enjoyed running a summer holiday club (3 days) and a light party (Halloween Alternative). Both were very well attended and enabled us to connect with families from our wider community.

Our under 5's and carers group, Little Treasures has continued to be a vital support for local families, meeting weekly for play, snacks, and informal conversation. The sessions provided opportunities for carers to connect, while children enjoyed free play, singing, and story time. The group has also organised seasonal parties and welcomed several new families during the year, some weeks almost 20 children attend with their carers, enhancing our sense of community and outreach.

Our aim for the coming year is to establish antenatal and new parent and baby groups, providing a continuum of support for families in our community.

We really appreciate the support and involvement of all who volunteer, giving their time and enthusiasm to make all this happen, and the support and encouragement we receive from the broader church, ensuring that every child and family feels valued and included in our church community.

## **Deanery Synod**

The PCC believes it is important to interact and share experiences with the Rural Dean and other churches in the Kenn Deanery of which Exminster is a part. The Deanery Synod met on three occasions during the year. The first was on 1st May in St. Clements church, Powderham. A talk was given by Rev'd David Wilkie, the children and families mission enabler. Jennifer Rowland reported on the Devon Historic Churches Trust. This has granted £41,000 in grants to churches including £1,000 to Exminster in 2025. Dr. Jane Richards, the Lay chair retired at the age of 92 - this was her last meeting.

On 15th July, we met at St. Peter's church Shaldon. A talk with slides was given by Sarah Charker who is the Creation Care and Environment Officer for the diocese of Exeter. Finally on 22nd October we met in St. Paul's church Starcross. A talk with slides

was given by Mike Harrison, the Bishop of Exeter. This was followed by the Bishop answering questions that had been sent to him from Deanery synod members.

This year we elect two new lay deanery representatives to serve for a three year term. Many thanks to Faith Wood who is our current rep and Patricia Doling (who was nominated by PCC to cover a vacancy).

## **Safeguarding**

At St Martins, we are committed to ensuring that our church is a safe place for everyone, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We follow the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England and adhere to the guidance set out by our diocese.

2025 has been a year of committing to getting our procedures and processes up to date to provide us with a good safeguarding foundation on which to build. This can feel like an administrative challenge for all involved, so thank you to everyone for their patience with it. We now have clear agreed processes for recruitment of staff and volunteers, role descriptions for a number of our volunteer positions (with more to come), relevant policies in line with Church of England guidance and almost all our volunteers are now DBS checked (where appropriate) and up to date with safeguarding training.

Alongside these administrative tasks we are now focussing on ensuring staff and volunteers feel they have the confidence and practical skills to manage safeguarding situations appropriately. If any volunteers are aware of particular aspects they would like more practical training/input on please do get in contact at [safeguarding@exminster.church](mailto:safeguarding@exminster.church).

We participated in Safeguarding Sunday for the first time in November this year, with our service focussed on talking about what Safeguarding means for us all. This appeared to be well received and it would be good to continue to make this an annual point where we can formally take time to consider our commitment to protect those around us, both in and outside the church. We strive to be a place that is known for its competent and compassionate approach to safeguarding and supporting those who need it in our community. To that end we would continue to echo what we shared on that Sunday that it would be great if everyone in our church community, regardless of whether or not they are a formal volunteer, would complete the basic safeguarding training provided by the Church of England which can be accessed for free at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> - do let us know if you have completed it and what you think or have learned as a result.

We continue to be well supported by the diocese and local statutory services where we have had to make safeguarding referrals and share disclosures this year. Do continue to contact Vanessa and myself with any safeguarding queries, questions or ideas for

further development using the safeguarding address above. We really do need and value everyone's input in creating a church environment that provides safety, sanctuary and support for all.

Jo Kirkcaldy, Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **Financial Review 2025**

The financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 together with accompanying notes is contained in pages 11-13 of this Annual Report. This return has been checked and agreed with Belinda Newton, our independent examiner, and the PCC is very grateful to Belinda for examining the accounts this year. Her certificate appears on page 14.

The PCC's unrestricted accounts, where resources can be used for any legitimate church purposes, are principally made up of its Natwest Current Account (known as the General Account) and a deposit account held with CCLA (Churches Charities and Local Authorities). In stark contrast to recent years, the balance in the General Account shows a very steep increase standing at £49412.80 at the year end compared with £7663.71 at its beginning. While technically about £10000 of the balance is restricted, this still represents a really marked change in the financial position of the PCC.

The main reasons for this increase in income are easy to spot in the financial statement with regular free will offerings jumping by more than 50% over 2024 following a steady decline over recent years. In addition, other one off donations totalled a very substantial sum of over £20000. This income line includes an increasing number of online donations together with a number of substantial one-off donations and the money raised online for the PCC's Give 2 Go Green Appeal (See church fabric section of this report). The level of giving also meant that reclaimed tax on donations doubled compared with 2024. Moreover, the PCC was also the recipient of two very substantial legacies which totalled £16250. All this meant that the PCC was able to pay its Common Fund Request in full for the first time since 2022 and is in a good position to pay its Common Fund Request in full in 2026 too. (Note this goes to the Diocese to cover clergy costs and central resources like safeguarding and legal support.)

While the increase in the balance in the General account is the headline, it is noteworthy that payments from the General Account went up by over £9000. Principally, this was due to the hire and subsequent purchase of a portaloos together with paying the salary of a part time Children and Families Worker though in the case of the latter the PCC was also given funds from outside bodies (hence the rise in the income column under grants) and generous donations from individuals.

It is always useful to have an unrestricted fund in case of unexpected expenses and the closing balance in the PCC's deposit account stood at 12836.84, which amounts to about three months of normal expenditure, a suitable target for a safety net for the PCC and one which the PCC has sought to maintain in the past few years.

The financial statement also shows details of the PCC's restricted funds. The Junior Church account now funds the utility bill for Connect (which has become more closely aligned with St Martins) and the activities related to our Children and Families work. The Development Account contains funds intended to maintain and improve the church building of St Martins from which resources can be taken as necessary for these purposes.

Finally the financial statements contain a statement of assets and liabilities which shows total gross assets of 123415.39. This is a rise from £80774.88 last year essentially because of the increased balance in the general account.

## **Fundraising & Giving**

The Annual Gift Day, held in September was again a great success with the sum raised of £6108.85, another record for the event. When you take into account the gift aid claimed back on the donations, the sum raised for St Martins was over £7500. This sum has been vital for church finances in 2025. Donations were received from over 100 individuals and families and the PCC is grateful to all those who gave so willingly. St. Martin's is now also a part of Cornerstone, a National Initiative through the Church of England to support churches in fundraising and receiving grants. As a church we recognise that all we have is a gift from God and encourage generosity as a spiritual practice. We are so grateful to all who share the vision for what we are doing here in Exminster and give so generously to help us achieve it.

After having to cancel the Christmas Fayre in 2024, we hosted a Spring Fayre raising £665.60 and we were also delighted to raise £1211.92 from our Christmas Fayre this year, gathering the wider community for festive cheer while also raising much needed funds.

As ever, thanks is due to all the volunteers who give freely of their time and talents to help to make these events happen.

## **Church Fabric**

At the start of the year we were delighted to be awarded a Give to Go Green Match funding grant which enabled us to replace all our internal and external path lights with LED lighting. This has been a great improvement, resolving the issue of regular power cuts in the building. We have also been experimenting with our Audio and Visual solutions. We have added new speakers that can amplify music as well as voices, improving the microphones for those leading services and adding a facility to connect laptops and tablets to play music. We have reintroduced the church projector and screen in such a way as not to affect the fabric of the church longterm.

In addition to the lighting we have funded a portaloos as a temporary solution until we have a plumbed in toilet. We also invested in a marquee to provide a space for the growing number of children in the church. Sadly this was badly damaged in the January storm that caused so much damage in the South West and so we are now

looking at a better all weather solution for our children, especially when services are taking place.

This year our quinquennial inspection was due on the church. This has highlighted a range of maintenance works that will need to be addressed over the coming years while also being very reassuring that there are no large scale problems with the building that we need to be concerned about. This can give us confidence as we move forward with our plans to improve our facilities at the church. We now have a Site Team who will be working closely with Churchwardens to oversee the building's needs.

We will be affected by the removal of the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme where we have been able to claim back a sum equivalent to the VAT element on the works done within the church as such assistance has saved significant funds. Maintaining a centuries old Grade 1 church building in good repair requires good stewardship and we hope that our hoped for renovations will ensure the church is more widely used and able to even generate some funds going forward.

## **Exminster Bellringers Tower Captain Report**

Ringling at St. Martin's has continued uninterrupted throughout the year thanks to the support of our band and the long-standing reciprocal arrangements with ringers from Kenton. The number of regular ringers remains at 16, with 9 living in the village. A core group of 10 forms the basis of Sunday ringling, although all 10 are rarely present at the same time. Typical Sunday attendance is between 5 and 7, which means ringling the full peal of eight bells, as in the past, is no longer possible. Without the assistance of Kenton ringers, Sunday service ringling would not be sustainable so we are looking for more ringers to join our band. Thursday practice nights, are well supported, with ringers from outside the village and two travel regularly from Tiverton. The bells and fittings have been regularly checked throughout the year.

We love to ring for the community. This year the full peal of eight bells was rung to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, for a beautiful September wedding, rung half-muffled before the Remembrance Sunday service and in memory of long standing resident Mrs. Harper.

It was wonderful to give people a taster of bellringing at the Summer Vicarage & Church party as well as and to show Exminster Brownies the tower, where they enjoyed a demonstration, asked many questions, and each had the chance to chime a bell.

## **Structure and Management of the Parochial Church Council**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Priest, the Churchwardens, those elected to the

Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by those on the Electoral Roll or co-opted by the PCC. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met six times during the year always attracting a majority of the membership. The PCC has a number of sub-teams, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish life and during the course of the year these met as necessary and reported to the subsequent PCC meeting.

The Standing Committee consists of the Priest in Charge, Churchwardens, the PCC Secretary, the Treasurer and one other PCC member. This is the only committee required by law and has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction of the Council.

### **PCC Membership for the period 1st January - 31st December 2025**

Priest and Chair - Rev Vanessa Pestridge

Vice Chair - Mrs Barbara Edmund

Churchwardens - Mrs Barbara Edmund & Mrs Joan Markham

Deanery Synod Representative - Mrs Faith Wood & Mrs Patricia Doling

Treasurer - Mr Philip Markham

Secretary - Mrs Anne Staley

Lay elected members - Mrs Patricia Doling, Mr Francis Jeffree, (until APCM 25) Dr Jo Kirkcaldy (From APCM 25), Mrs Sheila Laxton, Professor Jenny Harrow, Mrs Anne Staley & Mr Kevin Sterrett (From APCM 25) Mr John Trickett, Mrs Linda Thorley

Co-opted Members - Mr James Laker and Mr Phil Markham

Safeguarding Officer - Dr Jo Kirkcaldy (From APCM 25)

Electoral Roll Officer - Mrs Faith Wood

Allotment Officer - Mrs Linda Thorley

Annual Report Approved by the PCC on 18th March and signed on its behalf by :  
Rev Vanessa Pestridge (Chair)

Mrs Barbara Edmund (Churchwarden and Vice Chair)

Mrs Joan Markham (Churchwarden)

**EXMINSTER PCC FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025**

**UNRESTRICTED PCC ACCOUNTS COMBINING NATWEST CURRENT ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AND CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

Receipts	2024		2025		Payments	2024		2025	
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Regular Free Will Offerings (taxable).	10373.08	16715.46			Fund raising costs	213.50	204.47		
Regular Free Will Offerings (non taxable)	1597.20	1437.00			Mission/Donations	854.88	4885.66		
Plate Collections (cash)	3739.29	3925.51			Exeter Cath /Devon Historic Churches	140.00	140.00		
Plate Collections (gift aid envelopes)	3016.40	2024.50			Common Fund	20000.00	21471.00		
Collections at special services.	847.62	612.55			Organist's Fees	370.00	420.00		
Special Collections.	0.00	0.00			Clergy Expenses	880.97	2335.16		
Other Donations (non recurring).	2529.63	20593.35			Overseas missions.	0.00	0.00		
Church Box.	121.16	128.65			Maintenance (Routine)	1143.75	2600.58		
Gift Day	5454.09	6108.85			Insurance	4165.43	4264.00		
Coffee.	309.48	293.94			Upkeep of Services	396.29	3989.88		
Tax Reclaimed (see note 1)	5908.57	13512.91			Churchyard.	55.00	160.00		
Legacies.	0.00	16250.00			Music	418.00	290.00		
Grants.	4091.35	8004.29			Paper / Copying / Printing.	56.66	120.54		
Fund Raising	389.28	2015.19			Postage & Stationery.	0.00	0.00		
Interest on Trust Funds (see note 6)	77.17	79.04			Envelopes & cards.	210.34	103.07		
Interest on deposit account (see note 4)	618.38	555.77			Sunday School, Safeguarding & Training.	39.84	21.50		
Allotments.	96.00	228.00			Utilities	3451.43	3043.34		
Parochial Fees Retained (see note 2)	2936.00	1631.00			Bank Charges.	0.00	0.00		
Miscellaneous	518.00	100.00			Major Maintenance & Capital Works	9888.18	7512.95		
					Miscellaneous.	87.00	19.00		
					<b>Total</b>		<b>51581.15</b>		
Plus									
Transfers in from Junior Church A/C (seen note 1)		410.00			Transfers out to Junior Church Account (see Note 1)		650.00		
					PLUS Unpresented Cheques from 2024 (see note 3)		90.00		
					<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>52321.15</b>		

**PCC ACCOUNTS : SUMMARY MOVEMENTS**

	Unrestricted Accounts	Restricted Junior Church	Restricted CCLA Dep Account (Development Account)	Totals
<b>Opening balances at 1/1/25</b>				
Current account	7663.71	2272.53		9936.24
<b>Deposit Account</b>	<b>12280.57</b>		16823.78	<b>29104.35</b>
Plus Receipts and transfers in (see note 4)	94626.01	1850.00	761.37	97237.38
Minus Payments, Transfers Out and unrepresented cheques	52321.15	1739.50		54060.65
<b>Closing balances at 31/12/25</b>				
Made up of:				
Current account	49412.80	2383.03		51795.83
Deposit Account	12836.34		17585.15	30421.49

**OTHER ASSETS at 31/12/25**

**Investment Funds held by Crediton Church Corporation (see Note 5)**

Chancel Fund (Restricted)

Residue Fund (Unrestricted)

**Trust Funds held by Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance (see Note 6)**

D M Barrow Legacy (Restricted)

R Lewis Legacy (Restricted)

**Total assets**

36319.68				36319.68
2148.00				2148.00
1997.85				1997.85
732.54				732.54
123415.39				123415.39

**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Total Gross Assets

Liabilities

Net Assets

123415.39				123415.39
0.00				0.00
123415.39				123415.39



## Notes on Exminster PCC Financial Statement 2025

1 During the year, a number of transfers were made between the General Account and the Junior Church Account. Normally these involve the distribution of gift aid receipts to the appropriate account but on one occasion for convenience, a Junior Church bill was paid out of the General account and then reimbursed by transfer to the general account. The gross values of these transfers are shown as below the line transactions to enable resolution with the respective bank statements. However, they involve merely moving money between the two accounts and do not represent true income and expenditure.

2 The PCC levies statutory fees for such things as wedding and funeral services and a proportion of the fees is passed on to the diocese as well as the fees paid out to the vergers for the ceremony and for the organist. The advice from the diocese is that for the purposes of the accounts, only the sum retained by the PCC should be shown in the financial statement as to include these disbursements would be to overstate income.

3 Two cheques written in 2024 were not presented until 2025. They totalled £90 and the value of these cheques have been shown as a below the line addition to 2025 payments to enable resolution with bank statements

4 The PCC has two deposit accounts with CCLA. These are reserve ie savings accounts. The development fund resources are restricted to works to repair and improve St Martins. The only movements in each of the accounts is the interest gained during the year which is paid quarterly and retained within the respective accounts.

5 Other than its own accounts, the PCC has access to two investment funds which are held on its behalf by the Crediton Church Corporation, The Chancel fund is restricted to works to the chancel. The residue fund is unrestricted.

6 The financial statement identifies two trusts that the Diocese manages on behalf of the PCC. These relate to bequests that have been made on the basis that the bequest should be invested and the interest used for specific purposes. In both cases the money is restricted to uses that are for the benefit of the churchyard. The interest is paid quarterly into the General Account

PM



**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees of** Exminster St Martins Parochial Church Council

**On accounts for the year ended** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 **Charity no (if any)** An Excepted Charity

**Set out on pages** 11-13

**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,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me 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:**  **Date:** 20/03/2026

**Name:** BELINDA NEWTON

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:** 59 MILLERWAY, EXMINSTER EX6 8TH