

## Treasurer's Report 2025

The following summary of issues and achievements is noted during 2025: -

- This is the second year in a row that the Parish of Norton has noted a loss of close to £13k.
- In 2025 we have been unable to pay our Parish Share without significantly depleting our cash reserves. We therefore took the difficult decision to carry forward a sum of £13,000 owing to the Diocese of St Albans to avoid a significant reduction to the bank balance/ reserves held by the Parish.
- We paid £55,571 towards a total Parish Share of £68,571. We also received a Pastoral Aid Grant of £6,000 towards the Parish Share without which the sum owing to the Diocese would have been even higher.
- Parish Hall/ Clulow Room income was down again in 2025 (reduced from £26.7k to £22.7k.) as the full impact of the closure of the Priory Nursery is evident in the 2025 accounts.
- Hall income in 2022/ 2023 was c£32k so we are now receiving around £9k less in letting income - recovering about a quarter of the income lost following the Nursery closure in 2024.
- There is some way to go to improve income in the Parish Centre to help the Parish bridge the current income shortfall.
- We continue to invest money in our buildings where possible or necessary as financial constraints have limited the money available for all but essential items again in 2025. Notwithstanding this, property costs were higher in 2025 due to a number of emergency/ H&S repairs required.
- Planned Giving/ donations have increased in 2025 after a mid-year stewardship campaign with the Parish looking to fund the significant current gap between income and outgoings.
- Fundraising efforts in 2025 boosted income with social and event income up from £5.6k to £11.3k – an ongoing commitment to raise additional income via fundraising and social events as well as stewardship increases is expected in the coming years.
- We have some way to go to reach breakeven on the Parish accounts although monthly income/ outgoings towards the end of 2025 were significantly better than at the beginning of 2025 with some notable efforts and achievements in fundraising (jigsaw sales and bingo night) and stewardship efforts.
- These challenges continue for 2026:
  - Further increases in planned giving are required from (hopefully) a growing congregation to support both St Georges and St Nicholas Churches.
  - Fundraising and other activities to enhance additional income required throughout 2026.
  - Continued efforts to increase daytime lettings/income at the Parish Centre.
- It is noted that we continue to have the support and services of Robin Mead as Auditor. This work is undertaken as an ex-gratia role; the PCC are extremely fortunate to benefit from this long-standing arrangement.

Carol Greatorex  
Treasurer Norton PCC  
April 2026

## Summary of Accounts 2025 v2024

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Profitability</b>	<b>-£12,321</b>	<b>-£12,929</b>	The loss in 2025 is very similar to 2024 with the Parish facing a number of challenges to return to a breakeven position.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>£139,003</b>	<b>£133,583</b>	Total income (2025 v 2024) increased by 4.06%
<i>Planned Giving</i>	£56.1k	£49k	The support from the congregation was welcome and impressive in 2025 with planned giving up 14% v 2024 whilst the number of regular planned givers is broadly level at approx. 70. This reflects some large one-off donations in 2025 so continued efforts to boost regular planned giving will be required.
<i>Gift Aid</i>	£12.3k	£12k	Gift aid income increased slightly this year as we continue to enhance our gift aid receipts with a separate claim for small ad-hoc "un-named" donations.
<i>Hall Income</i>	£22.7k	£26.7k	Letting income at the Hall/ Clulow Room dropped following the closure of the Priory Nursery in 2024. Some daytime bookings achieved to offset the loss of the nursely income. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hiring rates for regular users have been held in 2024/25; the next hiring rate increase is set for April 2026.</li> <li>The Hall and Clulow Room are available for ad-hoc bookings (min. 2 hours) with new rates set in 2025 with booking via the Parish Office/ Parish Administrator.</li> </ul>
<i>Fees &amp; Donations</i>	£6.2k	£10.6k	In 2025, fee income was down to £6.2k (1 wedding, 13 funerals, and 5 Internment of Ashes.)  2024 had higher income from a similar level of activity due to income from 3 weddings and a greater number of the funerals included services in church.
<i>Social Activities &amp; Event Donations</i>	£11.3k	£5.6k	Coffee shop, Norton Nippers & Parish coffees ran during 2025 adding £2.6k to Parish funds (an increase from £2.3k in 2024).  Parish Events & Event donations - £2.27k of which a significant proportion of these supported charitable donations – see below.  2025 Fundraising – one off donations and events - £7.3k reflecting the majority of the increase v 2024. This included Easter egg/Christmas decorations & Quilt squares - £300, Jigsaw sales (2) £970 & Bingo night £550.
<i>Trading Income</i>	£21.6k	£22k	Trading income in 2024 and 2025 has been received from the letting of 2 Common view. The new letting agreed in October 2023 continued throughout 2024 & 2025.
<i>Grant &amp; Legacies</i>	£4.3k	£4k	Legacy and grant income was stable in 2024 and 2005 including an NHDC Grant for the maintenance of the St Nichoas Graveyard and a LGC Hertiage Grant contributing to the cost of insuring the historic St Nicholas Church.
<i>Other Income/ Group</i>	£4.5k	£3.5k	Income from Group activity fell in 2024 but, in 2025, it is above £4k again.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£151,177</b>	<b>£146,512</b>	Total costs have increased by 3.18%.
<i>Parish Share</i>	£55.6k with £13k debt (Total £68.6k)	£70k	The Parish Share did not increase in 2025 (we received a £6k grant from the Diocese). We were however unable to fund the full Parish Share payment in the year having already funded part of the 2024 payment from cash reserves. A sum of £13k is carried forward to 2026.
<i>Church Admin</i>	£15.7k	£8.5k	In 2025 we continue to benefit from the expansion of the administrative support for Parish ministry and ad-hoc bookings at the Parish Centre. Inflation and government legislative changes have also increased employment costs again in 2025.  We have incurred costs working on a new website and transferring this function to a new website provider – going “live” shortly.
<i>Parish Ministry Costs</i>	£7.6k	£10.7k	Ministry costs were lower in 2025 which is offset (in part) by the reduction in Fee Income noted above.
<i>Property Costs</i>	£50.8k	£47.9k	Given current financial constraints we have been unable to invest in our buildings except for urgent repairs:  2025 – boiler replaced at 2 Common View, repairs to Parish Hall floor and electrical repairs/work to Parish Centre & St Georges - £6.9k.  We reduced the utilities costs again in 2025; costs are now closer to the level paid in 2022: this remains a significant outgoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Utilities costs - £13.4k</li> <li>• 2024 Utilities costs - £15.8k</li> <li>• 2023 Utilities costs - £19.5k</li> </ul>
<i>Charitable Giving</i>	£2.0k	£2.5k	In 2025 charitable giving remained high with donations paid as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trembaths: £177 (funeral donations shared with PCC)</li> <li>• Garden House Hospice: £1,101 (Coffee shop &amp; Events)</li> <li>• Resolve: £251 (Coffee shop)</li> <li>• Air Ambulance: £251 (Coffee shop)</li> </ul> 2024 was the first year we worked with the local community to host events which support our nominated charities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letchworth Food Bank: £1,144 (Coffee shop/Events)</li> <li>• Christian Blind Mission: £1,144 Coffee shop/ Events)</li> <li>• Others: £171 between Chemo bags, Ordinants Fund &amp; PCC Flower Group.</li> </ul> The PCC continues to support the Foodbank and the Uniform Bank with direct donations of cash, food and clothes. We are also holding restricted donations for the Uniform Back (year ending 2025).
<i>Other Costs</i>	£6.4k	£6.9k	Diocese Fee payments: £1.6k in 2025 down from £1.9 in 2024; Other/ Group costs at £4.8k (2025) and £4.9k (2024).