

Holy Trinity Church Much Wenlock with Bourton



Annual Report 2025-2026

including Treasurer's report for year ending 31st December 2025

You are warmly invited to attend the

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

at 9.30 am on Sunday 12th April 2026 at Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock

AGENDA

- 1) Prayers and apologies
- 2) Minutes of previous year's APCM
- 3) Election of Churchwardens
- 4) To approve the Electoral Roll
- 5) To receive reports from:
 - a) Rector
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer – including presentation of accounts
 - d) Churchwardens
 - e) Deanery Synod representatives
 - f) Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Officer
 - g) Others
- 6) Election of Representatives to the Condover Deanery Synod
- 7) Election of Parochial Church Council
- 8) Appointment of Sides persons
- 9) Appointment of the Independent Examiner of the PCC accounts
- 10) Rector's comments
- 11) General resolutions and particular recommendations for the meeting to the PCC

Previous minutes for approval

Much Wenlock with Bourton PCC

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held at 09.45 am on Sunday 27th April 2025 at Holy Trinity Church

Present: 52

Apologies: 13

Revd Preb Matthew Stafford - Chair	Mr C Lawrence	Mrs J Stafford	Mr A Gainer
Mrs C Benbow	Dr L M Lawrence	Mrs R Stanley	Mrs E Gainer
Mr R Bifield	Mr M Laws - Vice Chair	Mrs J Stafford	Revd L Harper
Mrs S Bifield	Ms Angerite Oabel	Mr J Stephens	Mr R Hawthorne
Mrs J Bramwell	Mrs P Pardoe	Mrs M Tyms	Mrs M A Hiscocks
Mrs B Bull	Mrs E Pinder	Mr G Votsey	Mrs M Laws
Mrs F Coulson-Joy	Mr L Pinder	Mr A Walter	Mr P Lewis
Mrs A Craig	Mr B Quinn	Mrs J Walter	Revd S Rigby
Mrs S Croke-Williams	Mr A Ramsay - Treasurer	Mrs G Warrington	Mrs C de Souza
Mrs G Davis	Mrs J Ramsay	Mr N Warrington	Mr R Stanley
Mrs A Dixon - Secretary	Mrs J Ratcliffe	Mrs M Whiteman	Mrs D Walker
Miss E Downes	Mr T Ratcliffe	Mr M Whiteman	Mrs J Ward
Mrs S Gilling	Mrs G Reynolds	Mrs R Whiteman	Mrs J Quinn
Mrs S Grant	Ms S Roberts	Mrs P Williams	
Mrs P Harvey-Moment	Mrs V Roberts	Mr G Wood	
Mrs Caroline Hunt	Mr S Ross	Mrs J Wright	
Mr Robert Jones	Mrs R Schields	Mr R Wright	
Mrs E Keosh			

1. Prayers and apologies

The APCM was incorporated within the morning service, the formalities commencing at 9.45 am led by Revd Prebendary Matthew Stafford. Apologies were received as noted above.

2. Minutes of 2024 APCM

The minutes of last year's APCM held on 21st April 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, proposed by Susan Croke-Williams, seconded by Gill Davis and **unanimously approved** and duly received and signed by the Chair.

3. Election of churchwardens

Two nominations were received:

Mrs S J Croke-Williams was proposed by Mr Andrew Ramsay and seconded by Mrs Sue Gilling.

Mrs F Coulson-Joy was proposed by Mr Mark Laws and seconded by Mrs Ann Craig.

The Rector explained that normally church wardens serve for a term of up to five years. However, due to his sabbatical next year, it had been discussed and agreed by the PCC that Mrs Croke-Williams and Mrs Coulson-Joy would continue in the role during the sabbatical period to provide stability. Both were therefore standing for re-election and were **unanimously approved** and elected to serve as churchwardens, with sincere thanks for their dedication.

4. To approve the electoral roll

The Chairman presented the electoral roll prepared by Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs J Quinn, which reads as follows:

Please find enclosed the electoral roll for the Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton for 2025. I would be grateful if you could present the following report.

APCM Minutes 2025

This is an entirely new roll with 69 names listed. This represents a significant drop in number on roll, but is in line with the new roll renewal from previous revisions that I have overseen.

I am aware of some forms that have not been submitted before the closing date and I fully expect to receive others in due course which will be added to the draft 2026 Electoral Roll as they come in.

If it is the wish of the meeting, I am happy to continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

In an 'omission or error' two names had been left off the Roll but were added in accordance with Church Representation Rules and in agreement with the Area Dean, giving a total of 71 on the Electoral Roll.

The Roll was proposed by Mrs Gill Reynolds, seconded by Mr Gordon Votsey and Mrs Quinn was thanked for her continued diligence as Electoral Roll Officer.

5. To receive reports

a. Rector

The Rector presented highlights of his report, which summarised in picture form how we have celebrated our Christian heritage over the past 12 months, including acknowledging:

- The support from the Diocesan staff and their visit in May
- The fine Church of England primary schools we have within our group of parishes
- God's faithfulness in blessing us with the arrival of curate Revd Sam Rigby and team vicar Revd Lisa Harper (joint vicar with Apedale and with a specific remit for supporting schools)
- Marking the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in the Priory grounds.
- The Annual Bereavement Service and the importance of our funeral ministry and bereavement care.
- The Remembrance Day service which incorporated both outdoor remembrance and the indoor service, attended by many.
- The Lantern Parade and lighting up of the Priory with free access to the community, marking the 60th Anniversary of our historic association with English Heritage, Wenlock Estates and the Wenlock Abbey.
- December events including links with the Primary Schools, the Christmas Tree festival, carols with the Salvation Army Band and a very well attended Nativity (further risk assessment will be carried out this year to ensure safety for the high numbers attending).
- The Plough Sunday service at Holy Trinity Bourton, showing appreciation to the farming community.
- The keeping of St Milburga's Day with presentation of a St Milburga Award to the family at Abbey Well House who decorated the Well, and thanking Paddy and Sue Ryan for their Milburga Pie.
- The Rector expressed gratitude to all who embraced the Lent initiative, enabling donations of clothing and toiletries to both the Shrewsbury Ark and Shropshire Refugee Action in Wellington. There was also a series of Lenten Reflections during the Wednesday Eucharist.

The Rector concluded his report by reiterating our desire to continue the message of John Wesley: "to do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, as long as ever we can."

b. Secretary

There were no comments or questions on the secretary's report which was duly **received**. Thanks were expressed to Alison Dixon for her diligence in the role.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer's report and draft 2024 Year End Accounts were presented. The Rector thanked Andrew Ramsay for all the work he does on the accounts.

The question was asked about the proportion of overall giving via the Parish Giving scheme, which the Treasurer advised was increasing while cash donations are decreasing. Achieving the giving levels required is a challenge and the Parish Giving scheme will be further promoted and encouraged in the parish. The Rector referred to a leaflet from Hereford Diocese which explains how spending is used and that there is currently a deficit of around £1 million in the Diocese.

The auditor had given last minute apologies for not being able to audit the accounts as planned. Mrs Mel Ellison has agreed at short notice to carry out the audit which should be completed next week.

The 2024 Year End Accounts as they stand were proposed by Mrs S Crooke-Williams, seconded by Mrs F Coulson-Joy and unanimously approved, pending completion of the audit.

The Treasurer, Finance Committee and Mel Ellison were thanked for their dedication.

d. Churchwardens

There were no comments or questions on the churchwardens' report which was duly **received** with sincere thanks.

e. Deanery Synod representatives

We are fortunate to have a newly appointed Chair and Secretary for the Deanery Synod, which is an important body and focussing on a more purposeful approach. Mrs Beryl Bull has stood down as a Deanery Synod representative and was thanked for her loyal service to both the Deanery Synod and the PCC.

There were no comments or questions on the Deanery Synod report which was duly **received**.

f. Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Officer Report

The Rector expressed how fortunate we are to have such an experienced Safeguarding Office in Mrs Sue Gilling, who was greatly thanked for her work in the role. A number of individuals have approached the church with very difficult and emotional safeguarding issues and have been signposted to sources of help. Sue thanked the Rector and churchwardens for their valued support, enabling people to feel safe in their approach for help.

Safeguarding is a statutory agenda item at every PCC meeting and DBS checks are regularly undertaken. The Safeguarding report was duly **received**.

g. Other reports to the meeting:

The Rector acknowledged and expressed thanks for the following reports contained in the Annual Report:

- Bellringers
- Bible Study Group
- Church Choir – we have an enthusiastic choir and look forward to the installation of the new organ. The faculty application was acknowledged and exemplary by the Diocese and will be shared as an example of good practice.
- Flower Guild with their lovely displays
- Environmental Group – with gratitude for keeping plastic-free Wenlock on the agenda
- Pray and Share for the Climate
- Mothers' Union
- Prayer Board – which is prayed over on a weekly basis
- Soup Lunch which supports local charities
- Wenlock Herald – now in a revised format and widely circulated. Grateful thanks were expressed to the Editor Eirwen Kinna.
- Churchwardens' Assistants – Joan Teece was thanked for her contribution as she stood down from the role.
- Servers and Chalice Assistants
- Sunday morning coffee team - encouraging people to stay and chat after services
- Bourton – the Rector thanked the members from Bourton, acknowledging the integral part of Bourton in the parish of Holy Trinity Much Wenlock with Bourton.

All reports were unanimously approved and duly received with grateful thanks.

7. Elections to the PCC

The size of the PCC depends on the size of the electoral role. For between 50 and 100 the PCC limit is 9 PCC members. Following the new Electoral Roll we now have 71 members on the Electoral Roll.

Three members of the PCC stood for a further term on the PCC:

Mrs Ann Craig was nominated by Mrs Caralyn Benbow, seconded by Mr Mark Laws

Mr Mark Laws was nominated by Mrs Ann Craig, seconded by Mrs Caralyn Benbow

Mrs Sue Gilling was proposed by Mrs Susan Crooke-Williams, seconded by Mrs Francine Coulson-Joy

All were **unanimously elected** to serve for a further 3-year term.

Mr Richard Hawthorne stood down from the PCC due to work commitments and gratitude was expressed for all he has given to the PCC over many years and his continued enthusiasm and ideas that he brings to the church family.

The PCC now consists of six members plus the two churchwardens and two Deanery Synod representatives.

8. Appointment of Sides persons

The following members of the team were thanked and **unanimously appointed** to continue serving:

Beryl Bull	Rob Robertson
Gill Davis	Robert Stanley
Micky Hiscocks	Ros Stanley
Mark Laws	Lois Wagstaff-Robertson
Melinda Laws	Gill Warrington
Sid Perkes (Evensong)	Neil Warrington
Andrew Ramsay	Milner Whiteman
Judi Ramsay	Pam Williams
Gill Reynolds	Julian Walker
Sally Roberts	Marcia Wilson
Val Roberts (Evensong)	

9. Appointment of the independent examiner of the PCC accounts

Mrs Melanie Ellison was appointed as independent auditor of the Accounts, proposed by Mrs S Croke-Williams, seconded by Mrs F Coulson-Joy and unanimously agreed.

10. Rector's Comments

The Rector reiterated the importance of the APCM as an occasion to thank one another and show appreciation for the many complementary contributions made to the life of the church.

11. General resolutions and particular recommendations from the meeting to the PCC

There being no further matters raised, the formal part of the meeting was closed at 10.40 am and the church service concluded with prayer.

Signed:

Date:

RECTOR'S REPORT 2025-2026

The Rector will give a slide presentation to the APCM. The slide commentary is as follows:

- Slide 1: Ancient Norman Door of Holy Trinity
- Slide 2: What I believe as Rector our church stands for
- Slide 3: Giving thanks for our Wardens and the contribution that 'everyone' makes in the life of our church.
- Slide 4: Reflections on May
- Slide 5: Reflections on May continued
- Slide 6: Reflections on May continued.
- Slide 7: Reflections on June – New Organ
- Slide 8: Reflections on July
- Slide 9: Reflections on August
- Slide 10: Reflections on September – Heritage Day
- Slide 11: Reflections on October – Mother Theovouli
- Slide 12: Paisley Abbey
- Slide 13: Reflections on November – Bereavement Walk
- Slide 14: Thanking Hannah
- Slide 15: Woofit, HTMW Drop In & Much Wenlock Ecclesiastical Charity – New Trustees
- Slide 16: Confirmation
- Slide 17: Reflections on December – Christmas Tree Festival, Salvation Army & Church Choir
- Slide 18: Blessing of the Crib
- Slide 19: Reflections of January – Wenlock Priory in the Snow
- Slide 20: St Milburga's Day
- Slide 21: A Prayer to St Milburga

The full presentation is available to view on the church website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025-2026

The PCC is the body of trustees of the registered charity, the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock. Since 2018, Much Wenlock has given full duty of care to sister church Holy Trinity Bourton, with representation on the Much Wenlock with Bourton PCC. Bourton representatives attend PCC meetings to ensure inclusion and representation of views.

Since the 2025 APCM, six PCC meetings and one extraordinary meeting have been held. At the 2025 APCM, held during the morning service on 27th April, Francine Coulson-Joy and Susan Crooke-Williams were re-elected as churchwardens for a further year. Following Judi Ramsay's resignation in June 2025, there are currently five serving members on the PCC and two Deanery Synod representatives.

Alison Dixon
Hon Sec Much Wenlock with Bourton PCC
March 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025-2026

Overall, our income and expenditure were higher than normal because of some exceptional events. Thanks to a generous donor, the replacement organ project was completed with a third and final instalment.

The closure of the "Friends of Holy Trinity" charity resulted in a donation of £7,634 to the parish.

The Wenlock Herald returned to profitability thanks to a switch to a new print company. The resulting magazine print quality is also much better.

However, regular contributions have declined slightly, although Gift Day returned to being a successful event. At the end of the year, our total assets had risen from £105K to £116K, thanks in part to the successful reclaim of VAT on major projects.

Andrew Ramsay, Treasurer
February 2026

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT 2025-2026

The Church Wardens are pleased to present this annual report for the year ending 31 March 2026. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the activities encountered over the past year, as well as outline plans for the future. Our ongoing commitment is to serve the congregation and ensure the well-being, maintenance, and smooth running of the church.

This year has been characterised by both continuity and progress. We have maintained regular services, supported parish activities, and worked closely with the clergy and PCC. The church has remained a welcoming and supportive environment for worship, fellowship, and community engagement.

A few highlights during this year included:

1. The purchase of new Pew cushions for the nave and re-purposing the old ones to complete the South aisle pews. Feedback has been very favourable.
2. A new visitors' book and stand have been bought to replace the old one which is now full and archived.
3. We had a very successful heritage and gift aid day which included guided visits to the priest room and the belfry for the general public.
4. Provision of refreshments in the church for the Christmas fair. The trial of utilising eco-friendly disposable cups and plates instead of china was immensely successful and we raised over £2400 for the church funds.

5. The Diocese held a confirmation service in MWHTC where the Bishop of Hereford baptised 2 people and confirmed 5.
6. Thanks to Val Roberts our Terrier has been reviewed and updated. Val's eye for detail, diligence and tenacity ensured that this important work, to record our assets, has been carried out thoroughly and accurately.
7. Under the leadership of Mark Laws, a group of congregational volunteers raised all the iron gratings to clear years of dust and dirt from the underfloor heating pipes, resulting in a warmer church and increased efficiency.
8. We installed new and improved lighting to enhance that whole chancel area of the church.
9. The Much Wenlock Scouts provided manpower to clear the churchyard of fallen branches and twigs and filled a skip to enable us to dispose of the detritus.
10. Following a generous donation of 2 oak bookcases, we have rearranged the storage at the back of the church, improving accessibility to service books, hymn books and reading materials.

We wish to express our gratitude to the clergy, church council, volunteers, and all members of the congregation for their continued support and service. Special thanks go to those who have given their time to assist with maintenance, fundraising, and community events. None of the above work could have been carried out without the experience, generosity and diligent support to maintain and increase the standards of Holy Trinity Church with Bourton.

As we look forward to the coming year, we anticipate further improvements to the church premises and continued engagement with our community.

In particular, during our next and final year as Church Wardens, some of our projects will include the refurbishment of the Brookes room, purchase and install new cushions in the choir stalls and ministers pews and to review and update the Memorial Book. We remain committed to ensuring the church remains a place of worship, reflection, and fellowship for all.

Susan Crooke-Williams and Francine Coulson-Joy
Churchwardens,
February 2026

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOURTON REPORT 2025-2026

Representatives from Bourton Church have attended all the PCC and Finance Meetings in Much Wenlock. Bourton has had regular services including joint

services with the Much Wenlock congregation. These have included Holy Communion, Evensong and Seasonal Church Celebrations. While the new organ was being built in Much Wenlock, Bourton held four of the Wednesday Communion Services. Both the Harvest and Carol Services were very well attended by the local community and refreshments were organised.

Brockton Primary School held an Easter Service, Harvest Celebration and Christingle Service at Bourton Church which was well attended by local family and friends. The Brockton School Nativity Scene on display at the Much Wenlock Tree Festival was then brought to Holy Trinity Bourton for the Christingle and Carol Services. Bourton Church wishes to thank all the Officiants who have led the Services over the last year.

In the Autumn the repair of the plaster work was completed and the redecoration of the Chancel. The Gully on the church roof has been cleaned. The safety check on the gravestones has taken place. The church grounds continue to be well maintained. Following the snow storms in January, a yew tree was damaged and a Professional Tree Surgeon was contacted to make the tree safe and remove branches. All other conifer trees will now be checked for stability and safety. A St. Milburga sapling has been planted in the church grounds.

In the last year there has been one Christening.

Bourton Church has supported the Coffee Mornings and fundraising events held at Holy Trinity Much Wenlock. The partnership between both churches has been reflected throughout the events of the Church Year.

Sally Grant
February 2026

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2025-2026

Due to changes in the dates of meetings, Deanery Synod only met twice last year. A Saturday morning event is planned for April.

At the June meeting, we heard from Lesley Grady, who reported on the Hereford Diocese Support for Ukraine scheme. Up until the date of the meeting, 915 families had been hosted in Hereford and 765 in Shropshire. As well as hosting families, many social events take place at the Bishop's Palace. Lesley appealed for help.

The treasurer reported that payments for 2025 were progressing well. Bishop Richard was presenting a paper concerning the Church Commissioners regarding funding for dioceses at the synod being held in July.

Referring to the visualisation of the deanery as a hillside upon which trees and shrubs of differing sizes and types grow, the progress on the deanery MAP (mission action plan) was shared by the Lay Co-Chair, Andrea Graham, as a form of worship. She explained that she has prepared a draft that is to be shared with clergy before being presented to Deanery Synod. She did emphasise that it is a fluid working plan. Various issues were explored,

‘What is important?’ ‘What are we thankful for?’ – The history and beauty of our area; the welcome we give; the initiatives already in operation. There was a wish to extend this work and do more together.

‘What are the challenges?’ – Elderly congregations; lack of funding; maintenance of ancient buildings; difficulties of recruiting clergy; climate change. It was recognised that spiritual renewal can come through challenges.

During the October meeting, the treasurer reported that 81% of the parish share has been paid. However next year’s promises are down by 7.5% resulting in a shortfall of £28,000 for the pay of the stipendiary clergy. The treasurer appealed to parishes to consider increasing their offers.

Emily Hill reported from the General Synod that a decision was made to increase the money sent to dioceses for mission over the next three years as a ‘time-limited transformational fund’. She also reported that bespoke blessings for same sex couples were not agreed, however blessings within an existing service will continue.

The Rural Dean, Revd Chris Hargreaves explained that the Conover Deanery had adopted the Group Ministry Model in 2021. This model means that a group of benefices where the clergy are legally bound to assist each other for the benefit of the cure of souls across the area. Clergy are discussing how they can further support each other.

Lisa and Matthew described how the model worked in the Wenlock Team. They are building on each other’s gifts and experiences – a recent initiative being a drop-in with pizza and hot chocolate for young people after school on a Thursday.

It was reported that the MAP would be shared with PCCs and the diocese when it had been approved. Work is ongoing to improve collaborative working and communication. It is hoped that the group activity planned for April will help with this.

A newsletter is being developed by the Rural Dean who would appreciate help.

If anyone would like any further information regarding Deanery Synod meetings or about anything mentioned here, please get in touch with Sally Grant or Gill Davis.

Gill Davis, Deanery Synod Representative
March 2026

BELLRINGERS’ REPORT 2025-2026

The bellringers have been pleased that Sunday morning ringing has been maintained throughout the year. We are a small band but we are very pleased that three people have come forward and are being trained to join us very soon. At least one of these people was as a result of our tower open day at the Christmas Fayre. On that day we had a lot of people ascending the stairs to view the bells and hear about bellringing in general. One of our ringers has been attending a special course organised nationally for ringers to learn how to teach people to ring.

We belong to the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers and the Guild is celebrating 140 years during 2026. We will be ringing during the year to celebrate this event.

We have had the lighting in the tower replaced and, in addition to the room being better lit, the west wall of the church with its beautiful carving is now a joy to behold and I would invite anyone to come up and view.

Val Roberts, Tower Captain
March 2026

BIBLE STUDY REPORT 2025-2026

Our fellowship-based Bible study group continues to meet on Thursday mornings to read and talk about chapters and verses from the Bible, usually considering a single ‘book’ in its entirety. In this way we read, think about and discuss unedited sections of each book. By so doing we include the well-known, well-loved and comfortable verses along with lesser known, uncomfortable or confusing readings.

In Paul’s second letter to Timothy chapter 2, verse 7 after he has just written about serving Christ, Paul writes, “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this”. Therefore, our Bible study has the aim of giving each group member things to think about, or reflect on, and then for each individual to pray for insight and understanding from God.

As such we think that studying the Bible in a supportive, non-judgmental group helps us to have differing thoughts about Bible readings which may open our minds to understand what God is saying to us in this “God breathed” scripture. Therefore, I am confident in saying that Bible study is a vital part of trying to live a Christian life.

For further information about the meeting please phone Alan Gainer on 01952 727879.

Alan Gainer
February 2026

CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2025-2026

The church choir has continued to serve the parish Sunday by Sunday and for major festivals during the church year. Made up of a wide range of abilities and ages, the choir aims to enhance the worship offered and in particular to introduce young singers to the glories of the Anglican choral tradition.

Five of our young choristers took part in the Royal School of Church Music Summer School in Bath last summer. This was once again a great success and has enabled all who took part to build lasting friendships and grow in faith. I would like to say a big thank you all those members of the congregation who have contributed towards the cost of sending the choristers last year.

The church organ project was completed with the dedication by the Rector on Trinity Sunday 2025. The organ has generated considerable interest from other parishes both locally and nationally and I have been pleased to demonstrate it to numerous visiting organists. There are still some voicing details to be attended to and I am awaiting the delivery of the play back device.

We hosted an event for the whole of Key Stage 2 from Much Wenlock Primary School, introducing the children to the science behind sound and pipe organs. This was very well received, as was the session for grown-ups a little later on in the day. This event was funded by the Much Wenlock Ecclesiastical Charity.

The 'Saturday Live' concert series is now planned through till August with a wide range of instrumental, choral, sacred and secular music planned. Please try to support these events, most of which are free.

For a rural parish to have maintained a choral tradition such as ours is something that we should all value and be proud of. The choral tradition is not just an aid to prayer, or a place of encounter with God, but a missional tool for the Church that should be grasped and used. The diverse skill sets and experiences brought by each member contributes to the collective success of the choir, creating an atmosphere of intergenerational inclusivity, support and mutual respect.

Brendon Quinn
Organist and Director of Music
February 2026

FLOWER GUILD REPORT 2025-2026

It's been another busy year for the Flower Guild and I would once again like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Guild during the year.

We got off to a busy start in March with Mothering Sunday and the posies, as always, were very warmly received by the congregation on the day. This was closely followed by Easter and the traditional Palms and Lilies looked beautiful. We were also able to hang our containers on the pillars and put spring flowers in them which looked lovely.

On Saturday 7th June we had our Coffee morning to raise money for the church and thanks to Revd Matthew, we were able to sell plants outside to raise funds for the Guild. This was a resounding success and we raised £204. Gay continued to sell plants during the course of the summer and raised another £200. So a huge thank you to her.

There were only two weddings during the year and a big thank you again to Gay for organising the flowers.

During September we had Gift Aid Day and were invited to participate by offering the visitors the chance to help build an arrangement by donating £1 a flower. Although we didn't really make much after costs, it did help to raise awareness of what we do. On the same day, we were also invited into the plastic free community as a result of our efforts in reducing our use of oasis.

Sadly, we had 14 funerals during the year which put an additional strain on our finances. As most funerals occur midweek, it means that quite often, the arrangements are beginning to look weary and require refreshing. After voicing my concern to Matthew and supplying him with a snapshot of our cash flow, he took the information to the PCC meeting and we were given a one-off payment of £300 to help with the extra expenses. I would like to extend a big thank you to Matthew and the PCC for their help and understanding.

In December we had the Christmas Tree Festival and once again, Gay created a beautiful tree made out of all natural materials and dried flowers and Allium heads. It really was lovely and I would like to thank her for all her effort. This was swiftly followed by decorating the church for Christmas and our arrangements were very warmly received and admired by many.

At the close of 2025, as you can see from our accounts, it would be deemed a successful year financially. However, after keeping costs to a minimum, and

without the extra help from the church and the extra fundraising, it would be a totally different story. This highlights the need for us to be proactive and to find ways of raising more funds.

We also need to recruit new members and to look for new and less labour-intensive ways of running the Guild..... all food for thought during the year ahead.

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone for their contribution and support during 2025 and I would personally like to extend a special thank you to Margaret Fellows who has been such a huge help to me and has unfailingly been there for me throughout the year..... thank you.

**Terry Yates, chairperson
February 2026**

HOLY TRINITY PCC ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP 2025-26

The Committee for the Holy Trinity Environmental Group continues to guide us. We meet 4 times a year and continue to communicate via WhatsApp or in person. We are members of 'Surfers Against Sewage' a nationwide group who require us to encourage local businesses and groups etc within the town to stop using single use plastic. Our thanks to our Town Council and the Town Clerk for their support. Thank you to Linda West, who has resigned as our Council Representative, and we welcome Cherie Whiteman as our new Council representative.

A new group has been formed in Much Wenlock called 'Sustainable Wenlock' and they meet every 6 weeks approximately. It is a support group and open to anyone. We continue to be in contact with the Wenlock Schools. The Primary School have produced 'Plastic Free July' posters which are displayed in the local shops who welcome them. William Brookes School keep in contact with us and inform us what the gardening group are doing in and around the school, displaying plants even in the classrooms we are told!

Cuan Wildlife (Community Ally) ran an Open Day where we had a stall displaying leaflets and we had an activity for children. Whilst the children made origami animals we chatted to parents/carers about our aims.

On 01/11/2025 we ran a coffee morning in the Church to promote Plastic Free Much Wenlock and to raise money as a thank you to the Church for allowing us to use the Church premises. We raised over £200. On 15/11/2025 we ran a Biodiversity Workshop. For the 05/12/2025 Christmas Tree Festival in the Church, we borrowed a wooden tree with homemade decorations. An Angel was made out of cardboard as part of the display along with leaflets.

On 06/12/2025 at Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre we had a stall and a children's activity, displayed leaflets and talked to all who came to the stall.

Exciting news! We have received a grant from Veolia to fund a reusable cup for Much Wenlock to be used by cafes, festivals etc.

Jacky Walter, Plastic Free Much Wenlock
February 2026

PRAY AND SHARE FOR THE CLIMATE 2025-26

A small group of us have continued to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 12pm, in Holy Trinity church. We continue to pray for the ongoing threat of climate change and biodiversity loss. We include in our prayers, areas of the world which are being adversely affected by climate change, including many countries that have done the least to cause the carbon emissions but are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Join us if you believe that Christians owe it to future generations and those already impacted by climate change to respond to the climate crisis. We trust that God will use our prayers to influence politicians, build a powerful platform for change, strengthen our campaigning and inspire others.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Gill Davis 01952 727524, gillvdavis@gmail.com

Gill Davis
March 2026

MOTHERS UNION REPORT 2025-2026

Another year in which we have been able to meet again in joy and fellowship and have welcomed several visitors to our meetings. We sadly lost 2 more members this year, both having gone into care. The officers and committee members remained the same and Mrs. Nancy Owen continues her hard work as our Treasurer.

We had several interesting speakers during the year and many social get-togethers with members and friends. In March, 3 of us attended the Lady Day service held at Church Stretton where we paraded our banner and in August we went to the Mary Sumner Day service for the northern end of the diocese. This year it was hosted by Church Stretton.

Several members attended the Diocesan meetings held in Kimbolton where we get to hear of Mothers' Union work throughout the diocese.

The programme for the coming year has yet to be arranged. We still meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month and the venue is announced in the Herald. We will continue to meet in fellowship and friendship and hope to do so for many years to come.

Jean Gladstone, Secretary
February 2026

PRAYER BOARD 2025-2026

The prayer group meets every Monday morning at 10.00am as it has done for many years. The comments spoken and written show how much it is appreciated. All are welcome.

March 2026

SOUP LUNCH REPORT 2025-2026

Soup lunch continues to meet in the Church on the 2nd Friday of the month 12noon to 1.30pm (details in the Herald).

We serve a choice of 3 soups, bread, butter, cheese and biscuits and a choice of tea or coffee.

This is free - all we ask is for a donation to the charity of the month. Last year we organised 9 lunches and raised £2,762 for 9 charities.

The charities are a mixture of local, national and international organisations. In 2025 we included The Smile Train, Shropshire Inclusive Dance, Lend with Care, Wenlock Friendly Bus, The Ripple Effect and Shropshire Rural Support.

We would like to express our thanks to The Smoothie Bar and Tea on the Square for soup, Claire in the market for cheese and Duncan the Bread Man, all of whom donate food every month. Also many thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers.

And finally, our thanks to the 50 or 60 people who attend as diners or donators.

Neil and Gill Warrington
March 2026

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER REPORT 2025-2026

The Much Wenlock Safeguarding Team, comprising Revd Prebendary Matthew Stafford, Susan Crooke-Williams, Francine Coulson-Joy and Sue Gilling have continued to support parishioners under the Church of England and PCC's Safeguarding Policy.

The support has generally been in offering advice about signposting to relevant agencies in the area and working with the other agencies to support those who seek support from the Parish Safeguarding Team. This takes place confidentially and remains mostly unseen

or unheard of unless you are involved in the supporting or in making arrangements. This can also be a difficult and distressing time for those who do need or seek this support and the safeguarding team strives to ensure that all involved feel safe and comfortable.

The PCC members have undertaken updated safeguarding training and those that require checks and references have had these completed. This is regularly reviewed and updated.

The Safeguarding Team work with the Diocese Safeguarding Officers and have continued to build links with local and national agencies who are able at times to offer information, guidance and practical support to those seeking support and help. There have been changes made in who processes DBS checks with the Diocese using 31:Eight, which is a respected organisation that is focused on safeguarding. We have directed links with this organisation and they are available to advise and support the process and the reassurance of increased robustness in IT security.

There is a current Safeguarding Action Plan in place and this is reviewed at least yearly. As part of the focus on ensuring that safeguarding is paramount, role descriptions for volunteers has been introduced and this is currently being worked on.

Contact information for support agencies is displayed in the Church porch alongside the Safeguarding Team's details. There is Safeguarding information on the Holy Trinity Church website including who to contact and agency information.

Most importantly safeguarding is welcomed in this Church and I feel that wherever possible parishioners feel safe and able to approach any of the Safeguarding Team.

Sue Gilling
Parish Safeguarding Officer
March 2026

WENLOCK HERALD REPORT 2025-2026

The Wenlock Herald is the church magazine of The Wenlock Team, 10 editions per year, to inform the wider community of the life of the Church and to serve the parishes of Much Wenlock and nearby villages by being a channel of communication for the churches and local communities, as well as a resource for finding local traders.

The Editor reserves the right to monitor received items and, with the Management Committee, point out that they accept no responsibility for the quality or reliability of Advertisers work or their products and editorial content is not necessary the views of the Committee.

The current print run is 1925 copies, allowing a plentiful supply at the back of Holy Trinity Church for any visitors to take away, leaving a donation in the collection box.

Advertisements: The annual renewal is April. 2026 has shown a slight increase, the last being two years ago. We thank the advertisers for their support. I thank Andrew Ramsay, our Treasurer, who has willingly assisted me with various queries over advertisers and editorial content.

Thanks to those who give donations towards the expenses of the Wenlock Herald and thank you to the folk who submit items for inclusion each month.

As usual thank you to our distribution team. If you are aware of someone not receiving a copy, please let the distribution team know – details can be found in the Herald.

I also need to thank Tom Quinn for always being on hand solving any IT problems.

Finally, as Microsoft Publisher is coming to an end in October, I have decided that this will be the time for me to hang up my laptop! It's a shame, as I have been more than happy to put the magazine together each month, chase advertisers, etc and I thank everyone for their kind comments to me as editor. To end with an award from the High Sheriff of Shropshire is much appreciated. I hope whoever takes over will enjoy being editor just as much.

Eirwen Kinna – Editor
Email: editor@wenlockherald.co.uk
March 2026

CHURCHWARDENS' ASSISTANTS REPORT 2025-2026

The following have served as the Churchwardens' team of assistants during the past year:

Andrew Ramsay	Gill Davis
Micky Hiscocks	Pam Williams
Melinda Laws	Mark Laws
Sally Roberts	Milner Whiteman
Rob Stanley	Ros Stanley
Marcia Wilson	Gill Reynolds
Neil Warrington	Gill Warrington
Rod Robertson	Lois Wagstaff-Robertson
Val Roberts (evensong)	Sid Perkes (evensong)
Julian Walker (evensong)	

Mrs B Bull and Mrs J Ramsay stood down after serving as a Sidesperson, for which we thank them.

The above mentioned provide support to the clergy and churchwardens at all services held throughout the year.

S J Crooke-Williams and F Coulson-Joy
Churchwardens, February 2026

SERVERS AND CHALICE ASSISTANTS REPORT 2025 – 2026

Holy Communion continues to be held on Sundays, Wednesdays and as requested at other times by the clergy.

It remains a privilege to assist in Holy Communion and we would like to acknowledge the support of Paul Lewis, Nick Norbury and Simon Ross as servers. Simon Ross continues to support Holy Communion on Sunday Mornings.

Also to be acknowledged is the support of Emma Norbury and Pam Williams as Chalice Assistants.

If any member of the congregation is interested in becoming a server/chalice assistant, please do speak to the churchwardens.

S J Crooke-Williams and F Coulson-Joy
Churchwardens, February 2026

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TEAM 2025 – 2026

Coffee after Sunday Morning's Church Service is provided by 16 members of the congregation on a rota basis. They also support when requested other Church Functions.

Due to this team now having the equipment to provide filtered coffee more people staying for coffee and longer after completion of the service.

To those who have been on this rota or joined thank you for your support.

S J Crooke-Williams and F Coulson-Joy
Churchwardens, February 2026

OPENING/CLOSING CHURCH ROTA 2025–2026

Holy Trinity Church is, apart from Christmas Day, opened daily to the community and general public. This is made possible due to 10 members of the congregation agreeing to open and close the church on a weekly rota basis.

Without this commitment it would be challenging to achieve this aim, so we give thanks to this small group of people for their time and support.

S J Crooke-Williams and F Coulson-Joy
Churchwardens, February 2026



Statement of Financial Affairs

For year ending 31st December 2025

			2025	2024
	Unrestricted & Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Income From:				
Donations & legacies	127,611	33,658	161,269	120,026
Charitable Activities	4,136	472	4,608	3,446
Other related activities	19,844	2,532	22,376	22,815
Investment	5,705		5,705	5,439
Other income	17,452		17,452	27,980
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	174,748	36,662	211,410	177,108
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	520		520	1,682
Charitable activities		5,135	5,135	8,018
Other expenditure	127,746	66,606	194,295	192,069
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	128,587	71,741	199,950	201,767
Net income/exp.	46,161	(35,079)	11,460	(24,659)
Totals B/F.	30,380	75,383	105,763	130,799
Nett accruals			(1,019)	
Totals C/F.	75,900	40,304	116,204	105,763

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton
Registered Charity No. 1142708

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

CURRENT ASSETS	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank Current accounts	3,780	1,445
Bank Deposit account	21,935	17,147
Bank CCLA account	91,468	87,507
Cash in Hand	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
	117,223	106,140
Debtors & Prepayments	<u>458</u>	<u>1,148</u>
	117,681	107,278
Less Current Liabilities	(1,477)	<u>(1,524)</u>
	<u>116,204</u>	<u>105,764</u>
Represented by: -		
General	36,961	22,151
Designated		
Mission	2,119	2,119
Fabric	3,591	4,735
	5,710	6,854
Restricted		
Bourton	5,065	7,984
Sharpen	3,500	3,700
Fabric	64,968	65,075
	73,533	76,759
	<u>116,204</u>	<u>105,764</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton

Registered Charity No. 1142708

Statement of Financial Affairs for year ending 31st December 2025

	General Unrestricted	2025 Designated Unrestricted	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Giving	41,531			41,531	47,022
Charitable collections			5,136	5,136	5,277
Tax refunds	12,432			12,432	13,348
Donations	65,570		31,053	96,623	49,992
Grants		7,634		7,634	1,600
Fees	4,136		472	4,608	3,446
Events	5,361			5,361	7,865
Herald	14,482			14,482	14,950
Sundry	641			641	291
Bank Interest	5,705			5,705	5,439
Loan repayment					2,500
VAT Refund	17,252			17,252	3,867
Total	167,110	7,634	36,662	211,410	155,597
Expenditure					
Distribute Charities			6,491	6,491	8,018
Parish Promise	60,000			60,000	60,000
Staff	9,379			9,379	9,238
Team expenses	4,300			4,300	4,525
Mission expenses	-			-	-
Utilities	9,051		597	9,648	9,787
Insurance	4,822			4,822	4,296
Cleaning	616			616	136
Repair & Replace		21,247	62,701	83,948	75,340
Churchyard Maint.	3,204		1,552	4,756	9,786
Sanctuary exp.	983			983	847
Bellringers exp.	32			32	32
Choir exp.	137			137	270
Admin exp.	1,037			1,037	657
Herald exp.	11,563			11,563	15,039
Fund raising	519			519	1,682
Sundry	<u>1,319</u>	<u> </u>	<u>400</u>	<u>1,719</u>	<u>2,115</u>
Total expenditure	106,962	21,248	71,741	199,950	201,676
Movement				11,460	(46,079)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton
Registered Charity No. 1142708

Notes to the Financial Statement or year ended 31st December 2025

Notes to the 2025 accounts:

- A. The replacement organ project was completed thanks to a third and final donation a generous donor. We successfully applied for a VAT refund for the project, and this amounted to £17,252.
- B. The closure of the separate “Friends of Holy Trinity”, resulted in them donating £7,634 to us.
- C. The Wenlock Herald returned to profitability thanks to a switch to a new print company. In 2025. The publication made a profit of £2,719.

- 1) The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, governing the accounts of PCCs and with the Regulations "true and fair view" provisions.

2) Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for its own use or spending on a future project.

3) Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes.

Sharpen restricted fund is a legacy that must be spent on the upkeep of a grave in the Town Cemetery.

The Much Wenlock Fabric fund is a legacy from one parishioner to be spent on the upkeep of the building.

The Bourton restricted fund was a legacy for the upkeep of the churchyard.

4) Designated and Restricted Funds

	As at 01/01/25 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31/12/25 £	NOTES
Designated					
Fabric	4,735			3,591	
Mission	<u>2,119</u>	_____	_____	<u>2,119</u>	
Total	6,854			5,710	
Restricted					
Sharpen	3,600		100	3,500	
Fabric Much Wenlock	65,075	63,479	63,586	64,968	
Fabric Bourton	<u>7,984</u>	_____	<u>2,919</u>	<u>5,065</u>	
Total	76,659	63,479	66,605	73,533	

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton

Registered Charity No. 1142708

5) Staff Costs

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Wages and salaries	£9,237	£8,694
Average no. of employees	2	2

During the year, the PCC employed a Director of Music and a cleaner (both part-time) but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs and no pension contributions were made.

6) Related Parties

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the current or previous years.
No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related persons.

7) Analysis of Transfer between Funds

There were no transfers between funds.

8) Current Assets and Prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors (unrestricted funds)		
Tax recoverable	458	
Other debtors	<u> </u>	<u>2,500</u>
Liabilities falling due in one year.		
Accruals utilities	<u>1,477</u>	<u>1,584</u>